

seatonscene

Summer 2025



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TALL SHIPS

WALLACE TOWER

VOLUNTEERING

DONMOUTH

www.shmu.org.uk/press

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Seaton Community Centre



Seaton Community Centre is located next to the primary school on Seaton Place East and is open for residents to use. Get in touch with the staff team for more information about the activities they have on offer.



editorial

How we get it all together

Seaton Scene is YOUR quarterly full-colour community magazine produced by Station House Media Unit (shmu) and is one of seven community magazines produced for Aberdeen's seven regeneration areas with the printing costs being met by the Fairer Aberdeen Fund.

It's been a lively summer and we're keeping you up to date with it all in th Seaton Scene. We have news from Wallace Tower, the latest housing information and exciting stories from the Tall Ships Aberdeen.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for articles, you can easily get in touch with us. Please contact Rose at rose.ross@shmu.org.uk or call 07752586312, if you are interested in getting involved. The staff at shmu are able to support and train anyone living in Seaton who are interested in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading.

Seaton Scene is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

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Wallace Tower Update

The Tillydrone Community Development Trust want to share with you what has been happening recently at the Wallace Tower. You may have noticed, as you passed, that there has been some activity!

Amazing progress has been made over the last year, and the first phase is very nearly complete.

The ground floor extension brings an exciting modern look to the building. It will house our new café, and is shaping up to be a warm, bright, and inviting space. Windows overlook the river and park, and glazed doors lead to a patio seating area.

This phase has seen the restoration of all the windows in the tower and we feel this has transformed the look of the tower and 'brought it back to life'.

Work is also being done on the heritage features on the outside of the building. These are being repaired and restored to how they would have looked originally, when the tower was built.

We are currently fundraising for phase two which will see community and office space in the 1st and 2nd floors.

We have been asked about disabled access, and the ground floor has been designed to be wheelchair accessible, with an accessible entrance through the main doors of the extension.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to fit a lift due to the age and size of the building, so access to the upper floors will be restricted to the original staircase.

The café is being offered to a local business on a long term lease, and we hope it will be open in late summer this year. Seaton Park will at long last have a café and we know the Wallace Tower will be an attractive and popular destination for locals and visitors to the area.

Come along, see inside the tower and meet the volunteers who have been involved with the project. We will happily tell you all about the tower, its remarkable history, and about the journey that a group of local volunteers have been on to make it all possible.

It's so exciting to see our vision for the Wallace Tower taking shape after over a decade of work from many residents, volunteers and supporters! We hope to see you in the Tower soon, and you can find out more by following our Facebook page www.facebook.com/TillydroneCommunityDevelopmentTrust. If you'd like to make a financial contribution, all donations are very welcome at www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/tillydrone-community-development-trust-scio-sc050475



Housing Information

TENANTS TOGETHER (SCOTLAND)

What is Tenants Together?

We are a national network of tenants from across Scotland, committed to empowering the tenants of today and tomorrow, ensuring their voices are heard and influence decisions within the Scottish social housing sector, to protect tenants' rights and make a positive difference. As well as working alongside the Scottish Government.

They have a number of active groups such as:

Accessibility Group

Communication Group

Housing to 2040

Housing Revenue Accounts (HRAs)

Scottish Housing Regulator Liaison Group

If you would like to find out more about Tenants Together (Scotland), you find more information on their website: **www.tenantsaltogether.scot**

ABERDEEN TENANTS & RESIDENTS PARTNERSHIP

We have been asked by the Sheltered & Amenity Housing Group to help compile a list of entertainers, places to visit and coach hire companies for the tenants associations within sheltered housing complexes across Aberdeen. If you have any suggestions, please email them to us at: **info@aberdeentenantsresidents.co.uk**

We will be starting the Community Safety Review in August. Where we review the service and give recommendations in a report back to the senior officers at Aberdeen City Council in hopes to improve this service for everyone. We are looking to make this a joint effort with NETRALT (North East Tenants Residents and Landlords Together).

Tenants of Aberdeen City Council, Langstane Housing Association, Grampian Housing Association and Castlehill Housing Association are welcome to take part in this review.

You can find details of our meetings on our Facebook page **[@aberdeentenantsresidents](https://www.facebook.com/aberdeentenantsresidents)** or you can visit our website at **www.aberdeentenantsresidents.org.uk**

LANGSTANE HOUSING ASSOCIATION - MY VOICE COUNTS

Langstane Housing Association's tenant group known as 'Your Voice Counts'. Tenant meetings are regularly organised for a variety of reasons, including helping us design surveys, review policies and procedures or to help us design our tenant facing publications such as the Annual Performance Report.

Please note that being an involved tenant does not necessarily mean attending meetings. You can simply complete a few questions from home. Whatever your preference we would love to hear from you as your feedback helps us to constantly improve how we shape the services we provide.

For more information please contact Samantha Housing - Customer Participation Officer at **samantha.hough@langstane-ha.co.uk** or you can call on **01224 423120**.

CASTLEHILL HOUSING ASSOCIATION REGISTERED TENANT ORGANISATION - CARTO

Castlehill Housing Association's - CaRTO are looking for more tenants to be involved.

They meet on a regular basis at one of their accessible venues at 11 Waverley Place in Rosemount.

They meet at 2pm on the first Thursday of the month.

For more information please contact Catherine Coutts (Tenant Participation Officer) at: **catherine.coutts@castlehillha.co.uk** or call on **01224 62582**



Operation Armour

Operation Armour is an intelligence led operation relating to the criminal and anti-social use of Electric Bikes and Electric off-road motorcycles across Aberdeen City.

For the past few years Police Scotland has been inundated with calls from the public in relation to the use of Electric pushbikes, scooters and Electric off-road motorcycles that are being used on pavements, roads and in public places illegally. This anti-social behaviour is intimidating communities and posing serious dangers to both pedestrians and road users.

Electric pushbikes, or E-bikes in common language, must meet a particular criterion to have the same legal standing as regular non-assisted bicycles. These are required for E-bikes to be permitted on the roads, cycle paths and other places where bicycles are allowed under UK law. Electric assistance can only be provided to a maximum of 25kph (15.5mph). The motor

used must be of no more than 250 Watts (maximum continuous rated power). The E-bike's pedals must be in motion for motor assistance to be provided. The rider must be 14 years of age or over.

Trial areas have been set up for e-scooter rental companies throughout the UK however not in Scotland. Due to this E-Scooters here are illegal to use. To ride one you must have the category Q entitlement on your licence. A full or provisional licence for categories AM, A or B includes the entitlement for category Q. Provisional licence holders do not need to show L plates, and you do not need to wear a cycle helmet by law, however it is recommended. You must have insurance for an e-scooter. However, unless it's within a trial area, it's very unlikely the rider will have any in place. The most common charges you will come across in relation to E-scooters are no licence or no insurance.

Electric-off-road motorcycles are capable of high speeds and are illegal to use on roads. The

rider must have insurance, a driving licence and must wear a helmet. Most of these electric off-road motorcycles are not registered for road use and therefore cannot be insured.

The riders routinely conceal their identity and do not have registration plates on the bikes, making them difficult to trace. The riders will also 'goad' Police to take chase, however Police Scotland tend not to pursue them given the risk of serious injury or worse.

Throughout the month of May, the Community Action Team have been making efforts to identify those that own these E-motorcycles and identify where they are being stored. Various people and addresses have been identified throughout the city with help from the public.

To date several E-motorcycles and E-Scooters have been seized by the Community Action Team, and various people have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal and Children's reporter for various Road Traffic and Misuse of Drugs Offences.

Book a bulky Uplift

Fly tipping and the leaving of items on the street are issues that keep on arising across Aberdeen. Did you know that **Council Tenants are entitled to have 4 standard household items collected for free each year as part of their Tenancy agreement?**

Booking an uplift is easier than you may think. Go to **www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/bins-waste-and-recycling/book-bulky-uplift** - to book an uplift or find out more.

To report fly tipping go to www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/environment/report-flytipping

Items that can be uplifted - Beds, Mattresses, Furniture, Cookers, Fridges, Freezers, Electrical items, Internal doors

Please note any items that need to be connected to any power or water supply must be disconnected before the collection can be done. Any item that requires liquid fuel to power it must have fuel removed prior to collection. Also note that large items should be dismantled where possible.

If you are not a council tenant, you can still book a collection but the following charges apply and you must make payment before a collection can be scheduled.

£45 for four standard household items (certain items have an additional charge)

£22.50 for four standard household items if you receive Housing benefit or Council Tax benefits (you must

provide your benefit reference number when booking)

Items with additional charges

£90 per item includes –

American style fridge freezer, Piano, Kitchen Units, Bathroom suite (toilet, bath, sink), Sheds and greenhouses (must be dismantled), Built in Cupboards, Window frames (without the glass), Fencing, Garden toys (e.g. slides, sandpits).

£45 per item –

Industrial BBQ/grills, Sun bed without tubes – tubes must be taken to the recycling centres at Tullos or Hazlehead (addresses below).

Items which can't be collected

Restrictions due to health and safety legislation means we can't collect any of the following items:

Asbestos, Builder's rubble and materials, Car engines, Central heating boiler, Glass and shards of glass, Chemicals, Liquids of any type, e.g. paints, varnishes, oils (fuels required to power any items must be removed before collection), Motorcycles, Tyres, Tree stumps, Gas cylinders

Recycling Centres

Tullos Recycling Centre,
Greenbank Crescent, AB12 3BC

Hazehead Recycling Centre,
Hazlehead Avenue, AB15 8BJ





Where are the defibrillators on the local area?

There are several defibrillators across the area that are accessible to the public, in case of emergency.

A defibrillator is a device used when a person is in cardiac arrest and their heart has stopped. It is used to give a jolt of energy to the heart to get it beating.

There are a few different names for it such as public access defibrillator (pad) and AED which means automated external defibrillator.

While we hope that you never have to use one of these devices, it is handy to know where they are should an emergency ever take place.

There are 12 defibs located across the North area.

The local defibrillators are located:

COMMUNITY CENTRES

Northfield Community Centre
Cairncry Community Centre

SCHOOLS

Middlefield Community Project

West Park School

Heathryburn School

Orchardbrae School

Quarryhill School

Manor Park School

Northfield Academy

OTHER LOCATIONS

Ogilvie Construction

Cala Homes North

17 Hutcheon Low Drive

What to do if you need a defibrillator

Call 999, ask for an ambulance and start CPR if someone is in cardiac arrest. The 999 operator will talk you through CPR and locating a defib.

If you're alone don't stop CPR to track down a defib – try and get someone else to go and find one.

The British Heart Foundation's defib finder can help you find your nearest defibrillator. It uses data from the national defibrillator network.

<https://www.defibfinder.uk/>

When looking for your nearest defib – look for signs that say AED or have a green heart image.

Once you find a defib, it may be in a locked box – the emergency services operator will be able to provide the code for you.

Defibs are designed to be used by anyone, without training and clear instructions will be given by the device. It will talk you through the whole process.



aberdeens young voyagers return!

The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen was a huge success drawing over 400,000 visitors to the festival over the four-day event.

Event organisers, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Inspired and the Port of Aberdeen boast a fantastic cultural and economic impact on the city. Hailing the four-day event as “an outstanding success, boosting the economy and re-energising the Granite City with a renewed sense of pride and confidence in the future”.

But perhaps the most profound effect it will have will be on Aberdeen's youngsters who were lucky enough to take part in the races themselves.

244 16- to 25-year-olds from Aberdeen secured the one in a lifetime opportunity to take part in the races as Sail Trainees, crewing the Tall Ships. The youngsters received training from not for profit organisation Sail Training International and half joined the crews on the Dunkirk to Aberdeen leg before their counterparts took over on the Aberdeen to Kristiansand journey.

shmu's Multimedia Mob caught up with a few of Aberdeen's impressive Sail Trainee's.

Riley sailed on the Ocean Scout, one of the smaller ships with a crew of 11.

Riley signed up for sail training after hearing about the opportunity when

Tall Ships representatives visited shmu's Youth Media group. He and his friend Ross were hopeful that they may be able to sail together. While both their applications were successful, the friends ended up on different ships, however both still had fantastic experiences.

He said, “I'm glad that I was assigned Ocean Scout because, it's relatively small compared to all the other tall ships and I feel like it's more fun, you know?

“There's more personality to it because we're just a small crew, so it's like everyone's getting to know each other.”

Riley shared how he found the experience. “At first I was quite nervous because, I didn't know what to expect because it was a whole new experience to me. I've really enjoyed it and I feel like it's a great experience and I've met some wonderful people as well. The people are the most unique part of the experience.”

Ross, another of shmu's young people took on the Tall Ships this year. Ross was crew onboard the Christian Radich, one of the larger ships. Ross said “There were 115

people on the ship, it's 230 feet long and 240 feet tall.”

Despite the size of the boat, Ross didn't have a fear of getting stuck in. “ My favourite part was climbing up the mast, going right to the top. It's kind of cool, especially when the boat swings. And so it gets to the point where you're over the water even though you're right up at the top because it's swaying that much.”

For Ross, arriving back in Aberdeen after being on the boat for a week was strange.

“It's weird. Coming in felt like it was a foreign place almost. I've never been on the dock of the harbour before and there's never people like this here. You don't feel like you've travelled when you're on the ship because it's like you're just staying in the same place because the ground's not moving. It felt like if we had stepped off, we should be in Dunkirk. But then we were in Aberdeen, and we're not going home, we're still sleeping in the ship for a wee bit. It feels still like we're away still.”

One of Woodside's young people, Brogan, sailed on the Morgenster, part of a crew of 40 on the Netherlands ship.

Brogan found the atmosphere out at sea quite calming. "I was really intrigued by the weather, one day we experienced every type of weather apart from snow. It was quite windy and rainy and the ship was rocking as quite significant angles. The chaos of it was quite intriguing to be honest."

Her favourite part was meeting lots of new people too. "My favourite part was becoming friends with different people. It was interesting how connections can just spark, going from strangers on a boat to hopefully lifelong friends. I'll definitely stay in touch with some of the people I've met on the boat."

Cadet Thomas Mill has been training with the Cadets for three years and has always hoped to join the navy. He sailed from Dunkirk to Aberdeen with the Cadets.

"I was sceptical at first, I went on it and it was the best experience of my life. I would do it again if I had the chance. I would love to see tall ships in Aberdeen again. It's good entertainment as you can see and if anyone who wants to join, I'd just say, go for it."

So the message is clear from all the young people, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, not to be passed up if it comes your way. You can meet and make countless new friends, build skills and have experiences you never thought you'd have.

Fingers crossed the Tall Ships return to Aberdeen sooner than another 28 years and more of the city's young people can enjoy the experience of a lifetime!



riley



brogan



ross

ARRRRR me Hearty's!



shmu's Multimedia Mob have been on a fantastic voyage, covering the Tall Ships Festival in Aberdeen.

The team was awarded media accreditation at the festival, and took full advantage of the opportunity, filming, interviewing and more across the weekend!

The volunteers had a brilliant time seeing behind the scenes of the festival, including the morning media briefings, getting an early look at the ships before the harbour was open to the public and a particular highlight, enjoying a trip on the media boat round Blaikies Quay. The team were professionals at work, interviewing

sailing crew, festival goers and even delivering pieces to camera on the media boat.

This was a perfect opportunity to get real life, practical industry experience, use their skills and boost their confidence in their ability. Staff at shmu were impressed with the group and would like to thank the Multimedia Mob for their hard work throughout the festival.

Multimedia volunteer Maggie shared her experience. "It was a fantastic atmosphere, with the opportunity to see so many different beautiful boats close up. The BAP Union had a very interesting display of Peruvian culture/cuisine/customs. It was such

an uplifting feeling of seeing so many enthusiastic young people from so many different countries/cultures united in their passion for sailing and adventure, seeing Aberdeen buzzing and full of life.

"I would love to cover more of these kinds of events as the Multimedia Team if they were to happen in The 'Deen. I thought it was a very moving Parade of Sail with Aberdonians waving and pipers piping boats away..."

You can find our reels and videos on shmu's social media and our YouTube channel, shmuTV or listen out on shmuFM to catch our audio package!





STREETSPORT

There has been a new successful sport initiative started in Seaton. It was initiated by the housing and support office for the skyers in Seaton and our own Lucy from the Community Centre/council.

A number of organisations were invited to a meeting in the Beechview common room back in the winter/spring. This included the Community Council, Fresh Community Wellness, RGU and last but not least the Dennis Law Legacy Trust Street Sport initiative. We asked local kids

what they would like to see for their area and tried to help to facilitate this.

As a starter to our new Seaton youth initiative the Dennis Law Legacy Trust have over the last six weeks or so put a series of Street Sport soccer sessions on a Thursday night at the astro turf pitch at the back of Seaton Primary! Over the six weeks they engaged with 26 young people. 24 boys and two girls.

In the future there is nothing within the next couple months that will allow them to return to Seaton, they are currently trying to expand the team

with an extra full time member of staff which would allow them to offer more sessions but it was to be approved by trustees and then advertised etc.

If and when that does happen Seaton would be high up, if not first on the list to look at!

Hopefully they can pick this back up toward the end of the year and are hoping other organisation with the capacity to assist will make things easier. We will hold our breath, as Seaton needs something for the kids and young people in the evenings.



STREETSPORT

FROM JUNE 19TH, **STREETSPORT** WILL BE AT SEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL ASTRO EVERY THURSDAY FOR 6 WEEKS FROM **19:30-21:00**



STREETSPORT X SEATON

SESSIONS ARE **FREE** AND **YOUTH-LED** WITH LOTS OF SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM...
SEE YOU THERE!



WWW.DENISLAWLEGACYTRUST.ORG

DONMOUTH LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

The Donmouth Local Nature Reserve and surrounding area is one of the most beautiful areas of Aberdeen. As I'm sure you will know, living in the surrounding areas, it's one of the best kept secrets in town and is as beautiful as it is tranquil. It's wonderful to see it change with the seasons, the weather and the tides.

First made into a Nature Reserve in 1992, this seaside estuary is in the ancient Old Aberdeen area. It is where the beautiful river Don ends its journey after beginning in the Grampians by meeting the North Sea. Most experts agree that the name derives from the Brittonic word Dana which meant "water" or "river".

However, it is also thought that the name is linked to the Celtic/Gaelic mother goddess Don or Danu in Irish mythology. We are talking the root of the word here linguistically. I for one find it odd that the name Don is female in the ancient tongues! However, there are Don rivers from Russia to Canada via Poland and Estonia.

Anyone who has ever walked the mouth of the estuary at a very low tide or spring tide will have noticed how the powerful river has, over time, altered how the beach looks. It is a surreal experience to be standing so far out to sea where you would normally be under 15 feet or more water, at least! This is also the mouth of the river where Lord Byron

the poet famously swam across for a bet whilst attending the Grammar School in his teens. It's famously tidal with strong rips and currents making it very treacherous!

When relaxing and enjoying a walk on the many routes, soak in the beauty of the area and keep an eye out for Seals, Kingfishers (by the Ellon bridge in the morning shhhh), Herons and Sand Martin nests, Otters if your very lucky, and a range of seabirds. With excellent pathways, it is perfect for buggies and wheelchairs. You can walk both sides of the river all the way to Persley Bridge taking in Seaton Park on the way. There loads to see and explore.



Summer Film School



Summer has been in full swing at shmu, and we have had a variety of activities to entertain our young people over the holidays.

One of these exciting activities is Summer Film School. Our incredible young filmmakers had just 5 days to come up with a concept, script, shoot, and edit their own original short films!

Two fantastic short films were made over the course of the week.

The first of the two films, first by 'Weak Bridge Productions' and their powerful coming-of-age short, "See You Around, Kid".

This moving story follows two brothers as they relive summer memories but for one of them, everything has changed forever. Through Kyle's journey of remembering and letting go of his older brother Logan, the film captures the bittersweet beauty of growing up and moving on.

The second film, 'How Not To Make A Short Film' later this week! The film follows a documentary crew attempting to make a short film, when things spiral out of control.

Huge well done to everyone involved including our staff team - Lex, Zoe, Kane, Tanya and Hannah - who supported and worked alongside the groups last week!

And of course, well done to the brilliant young filmmakers too! One young filmmaker enjoyed summer film school, they said "thank you for recommending this to me, it's one of the best things I've ever done".

We can't wait to see what our young filmmakers create next! Both films can be found on your YouTube Channel, shmuTV.



SEATON SCENE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Seaton Scene is looking for volunteers to join our editorial team!

The Seaton Scene is your community magazine, and for it to be truly representative of the community, we need residents to get involved and help out with the production of the magazine.

The magazine is put together by a local editorial team of volunteers, with the support of shmu's Community Media Development Worker, Rose. This is the community's platform to celebrate their successes, share their news, raise awareness of issues affecting them and anything that is important to them.

How does the editorial team work?

We produce three editions of The Seaton Scene per year. The

Editorial team meet three times during the production of each edition to discuss ideas, plan content and plan the page layouts of the magazine.

We currently meet at shmu in Woodside for editorial meetings, however we are looking for a space local to Seaton. The next magazine we will be producing will be the Autumn edition and meetings will begin in September/October.

What can I do as part of the editorial team?

There are a variety of things that editorial team members can get involved in. There is no pressure to do everything, just what you are interested in doing. Rose is also available to support volunteers to help them to contribute.

Here's some of the things you can do:

Join the meetings, share your thoughts and ideas.

Connect with other community members.

Write articles.

Photography – we always need photos for front covers and for content within the magazine.

Proofreading/editing.

Attending community events.

To make Seaton Scene as representative of the community as possible we need your help! Please get in touch with Rose by emailing rose.ross@shmu.org.uk or calling **01224 515 013** to enquire and/or arrange a time to chat further. Or if you'd like to chat to our current fantastic volunteers, we can organise a meeting of the team.

seatonscene



Cllr Kairin Van Sweeden

In April, I celebrated the Harvest festival at the Seaton Gurudwara with the Aberdeen Sikh community. I love meeting new people, it always brings a greater level of knowledge, and I learned a great deal from meeting Richika Thakur.

Richika is a Hindu woman who is married to a Sikh man, and she told me that they have decided they will bring up their children to be both bilingual and bithiest, which is truly a gift for any child. Gaining that early understanding, that we can be the same but different, gifts any child or adult an invaluable philosophical armoury to help navigate the huge, and often overwhelming, complexities of life. I too was lucky to have a similar experience as

the child of a Glasgow Protestant and a Motherwell Catholic and also learning Doric in very swift order. I quickly understood that 'one' can also be 'wan' or 'een' and when to use them.

During my conversation with Richika, I discovered she had also read a book called 'Invisible Women' by Caroline Criado Perez. 'Invisible Women' is huge eye-opener, and I would recommend it to all. Criado Perez teaches us how the world is just not designed around, or for women, whether that be cars, seat belts, gym equipment, smart phones or smart watches. The bottom line is that much needs to change for women, and to make that happen women must be present in larger numbers in the places of democratic power.

Politics is not an easy life, but it is open to all via the political party route, and we still need many more women in Council Chambers, the Scottish Parliament and in the UK Parliament. So, if you are a woman who cares about social justice and wants to do something about it, then joining the political party which most closely represents your views will give you the knowledge and the support you will need to go forward onto the political representative path.

Our democracy needs to be balanced and representative for it to be supported and valued by all. So, can you stand? Or do you think one of your friends should stand? Then tell them and support them on that journey, just as many supported me, and let's make all of the democratic spaces truly representative.

Councillor Kairin van Sweeden

