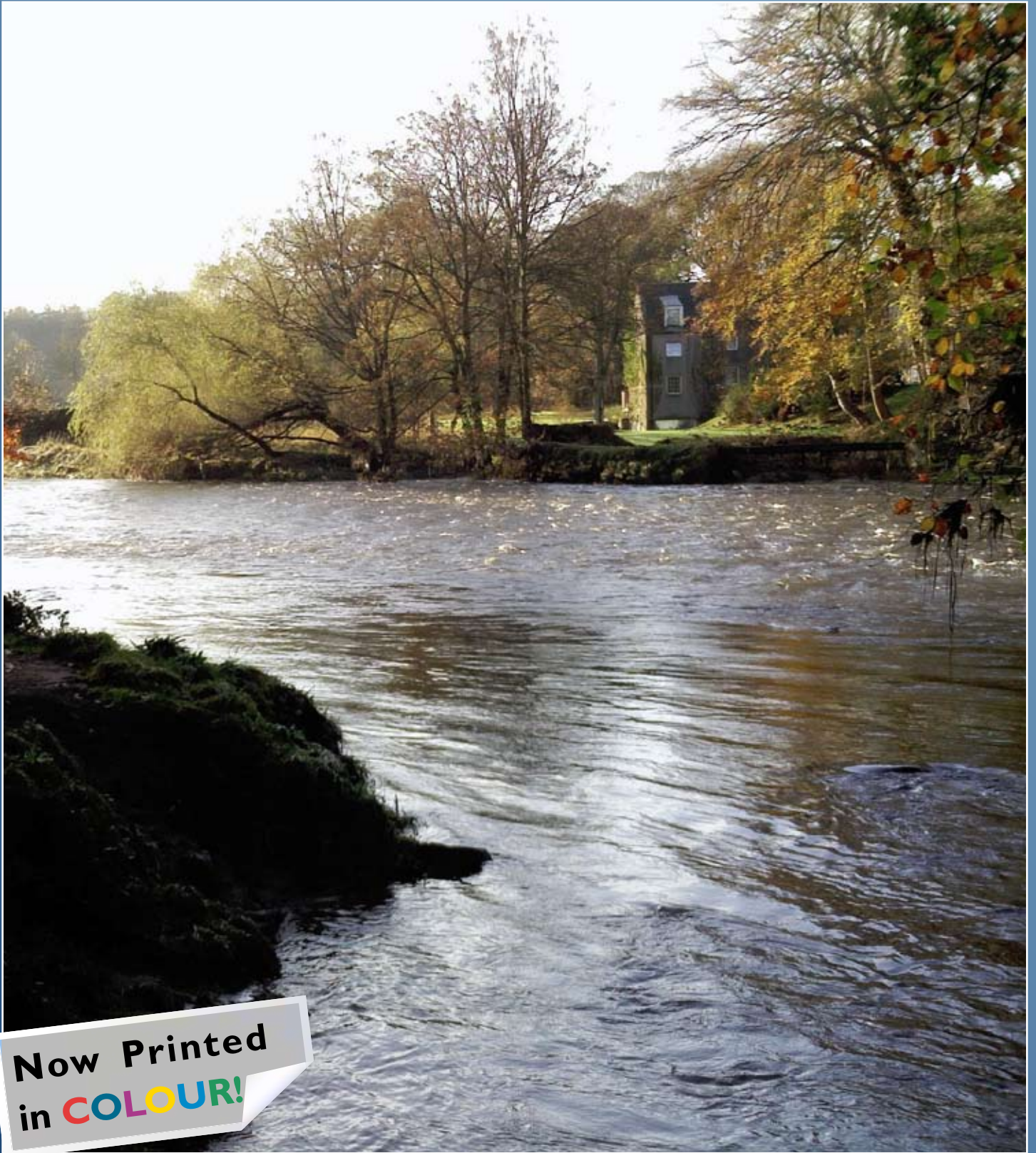


YOUR NEWS

seatonscene

Winter Edition 2011



Now Printed
in **COLOUR!**

BACKIES

Local Success Story

SURF

Urban Fringes

S.T.A.R.S

Latest News

DUTHIE PARK

Restoration



CONTENTS

3	Red Letter Day
4 & 5	SURF
5	Sports Village
6	Seaton Arts & History Health Issues
7	Communication & Growth
8 & 9	Seaton Backies Project
10	S.T.A.R.S. Flat News Silver City Surfers Auricular Acupuncture
11	Silver City Soul
12	Poetry Primary School
13	Councillors Comment Community News & Quiz
14	Shmu News
15	Seaton Speaks ARI Bus Route Update
16	Duthie Park



Editorial

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Seaton Scene!

The Seaton Scene Editorial Group would like to say a massive thank-you to everyone who contributed content for this years magazines, and to the SHMU team who helped us put the magazines together, we could not have done it without you all.

If you want to get involved in your community magazine or find out more, please contact **Mary Clare** at SHMU on (01224) 515013 or email: maryclare@shmu.org.uk

Finally, the team would like to take the opportunity to wish all our readers a **Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**, how better to kick off your festive season with the very first colour edition of your **Seaton Scene!**



FUNDED BY



RED LETTER DAY



I got the surprise of my life when I got a phone call from the Scottish Parliament asking me if I would accept a nomination for 'Local Hero' little knowing what it would lead to. I accepted thinking 'I wonder who nominated me?' (It's still a mystery).

On the 26th of June my invitation came from the Scottish Parliament to participate in the riding of the royal mile as a 'Local Hero' on Friday the 1st of July. The members of the Scottish Parliament were eager to share this special occasion and all the other guests and 'Local Heroes' from all over Scotland.

The theme of the Riding of the Royal Mile was 'Wisdom, Justice, Compassion and Integrity' representing the Aspirations of the Scottish for the new session of the Scottish Parliament.

We were informed that a bus would be available to take us to Edinburgh at 5:30am at the Gordon's College Schoolhill where I met 16 other 'Local Heroes'. Then after heading south we picked up another 20 participants who

were all volunteers working in their communities for Children's charities, care for the elderly, handicapped, boys brigade, Retirement Homes and also a former colleague, Councillor Ronnie Webster.

Our bus dropped us at East Market Street where we were greeted by Riding Ushers who directed us on our walk down the Royal Mile. Television cameras were filming, people cheering and waving flags. The sun shone the whole day and the local people made us feel very honoured. Pipe bands playing, Highland bands and dancers in full rig out, playing all the way, kept our spirits at an all time high.

On arriving at the Scottish Parliament we were welcomed by Alex Salmond, our Scottish Parliament Aberdeen M.S.P, Lewis McDonald, his wife and two daughters and Richard Baker, a member of the Scottish parliament. They welcomed us and we had a marvellous picnic lunch in the grounds.

We were then shown round the magnificent building which is the home of the Scottish Parliament. It is the most

unusual building because it is a modern building set on its own among old traditional buildings. Although, do not make up your mind about it until you see how they have cleverly used the space within the building, so staff and councillors can work together. On first sight there seems to be a dizzying array of angles, corners and lifts, but as you walk through, the building begins to grow on you and you appreciate the fact that it is the first of its kind. Even the committee who recommended the plans for the First Scottish Government made sure the that this building bears no comparison to any other and when you look back at it, it is majestic it's grassy frontage in front of a backdrop of trees and hills.

We were in the most modern of debating chambers and were encouraged to use microphones, recording systems, and inbox forms written and visuals. It certainly was a day to remember and appreciate, and I do feel honoured that I received the 'Local Hero' award for my work in Aberdeen.

- Christina Wood.



SURF - SUSTAINABLE URBAN FRINGES

How well do you know Aberdeen's 'River Don Corridor'? It's a very beautiful area right on your doorstep – made up of the River Don and surrounding open spaces, from 'Sea to 'Shire'. It's has vibrant communities; wonderful open spaces; fantastic industrial heritage; and inspiring wildlife. However, in places it also has disjointed access; poor maintenance; loss of wildlife; and loss of heritage.

SURF Aberdeen is a project that aims to improve the quality of the 'River Don corridor'. We are bringing people and information together to collectively plan and manage open spaces along this corridor. We hope to help deliver real long-term environmental, community and economic benefits to the area.

We want to understand how communities identify with the Don and surrounding spaces, to understand what is there now and how it could be improved. We are also considering how the major developments along the Don may change the area, exploring ways of linking them into existing open spaces to bring benefits for people and wildlife.

The project is in two key parts. In the first part we have been working with communities to develop an outline plan for the open spaces across the area. In the second part we aim to identify and deliver a selection of on-the-ground improvements.

A word from our Ranger

"It's been a busy summer! We've meet with over 200 users of the Don corridor to discuss their hopes and fears for the area. What stood out most was the passion for the Don Corridor and a commitment to its well being.

I've carried out over 50 hours of practical work with volunteers. Together we've improved access along the paths from Grandholm Village to Donmouth. We've also worked with Dyce Playgroup, Tillydrone Family Centre and made planters / digging pits. Please let me know if you are a service provider that could make use of these, they are **free!**

Part of my job is also raising awareness of the Don corridor and what it has to offer. Tenants First staff and I spent an exciting day exploring the open spaces near their Donside Urban Village. This helped them to better appreciate and understand the area where they work and see the opportunities available for their new tenants". - **Stephen Bly**

Ways to get involved:

The project's success rests on the involvement of communities, businesses, land owners and developers. There are many ways to get involved; as a part of our group, by joining in the discussion online or contacting us directly.



Aberdeen Sports Village
Aberdeen Sports Village
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Aberdeen Sports Village
Aberdeen Sports Village

River Don Communities Network - A project network for representatives of local groups and organisations. We meet at several key stages throughout the project.

Facebook group - River Don - SURF Aberdeen - The place for online conversation where anyone can join in and make connections, share memories and ideas or report any 'on the ground' issues.

Contact us to ask questions, make suggestions or find out how to get involved at a more practical level:

Project Team:

Sinclair Laing, Project Manager – SURF Aberdeen
silaing@aberdeencity.gov.uk - 01224 522 793

Stephen Bly, Woodlands Community Ranger
stephenbly@aberdeencity.gov.uk

The SURF Aberdeen project is being funded by Aberdeen City Council and the European Union's European Regional Development Fund's Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme.

Aberdeen Sports Village has set up a children's program with the support of local company Hydrasun. It allows children to access the facility to try various different sports at only £1 per session.

They have an Athletics, Hockey and Table Tennis Club and are also set to launch a Fit Fun Friday class after the October holidays. The programme has been very successful and has seen some great good news stories with many children gaining access to our Academies for talented athletes.

They are also running teenage gym sessions and other fun events including a football tournament. It is a great way for children of all ages and abilities to get involved in sport. Visit our website www.aberdeensportsvillage.com to see the full program.

Aberdeen Sports Village also have a new free Fitstars session for children aged 3 – 5 years old.

The Fitstars programme uses inspirational ways for children to express themselves through imaginary play to get the maximum benefit from physical activities.

To book visit Aberdeen Sports Village or call us on 01224 438900





Seaton Art and History Group

It is nice to be back with the group after the summer break, meeting up with old friends and also some young ones. First off I am sure we all wish to welcome Graeme Milne as our replacement mentor while Margaret is on maternity leave. We will send congratulations to Margaret and Bruce on the birth of their son Charlie.

The first week back we discussed plans for the future including whether we have a need for a constitution, and decided to invite Sandy Mathers along to our next meeting for further information on the subject. Sandy gave us so much details about setting up a committee and all it involves and lots more. In the end after a discussion we decided to put it on hold for the time being.

Two of the events Graeme suggested were guided walking

tours around Old Aberdeen or Oultoun as it was formerly. The first of these was mainly about architecture and was very enlightening, entering the Snow Kirk, Kings College Quad, The MacRoberts Memorial in Cluny's Court along The Chanory to St Machar Cathedral. Our second tour, the Oultoun Ghost Tour, although in daylight was still thought provoking in the listening to the gory details of some of the happenings in and around Old Aberdeen over the centuries. I would recommend anyone with an interest in the history of Old Aberdeen to book their place.

Once more we have a break for two weeks and I for one look forward to discussing plans up until Christmas.

From the Seaton Art and History Group
Merry Christmas!

HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY

Pathways are running this health course at a variety of locations. Here in Seaton a lively group has got together to look at the "social model of health".

"What's that mean?" I hear you ask. Well it's exploring what health really means to us and our community. It's looking beyond a trip to the doctor and taking a pill for every ill. It acknowledges that we know about our own bodies and that there are many ways of looking at health and illness. These have varied over history and differ between cultures. We also look at the impact of poverty and disadvantage on health and what we can do to challenge all of this.

The group has been very interactive. People have shared their own experiences in a confidential manner. So far we've discussed a lot of issues and have even had a laugh discussing old wives tales. We are to start a group project linked to a community health issues. Members of the group identified stress as an issue for them and for their community so the group project is going to look at the stress busting value of laughter. Recent medical research has highlighted laughter as extremely beneficial for mental and physical health. At the very least, it should be a hoot!

- Teresa Lamb



POOR COMMUNICATION CAN DAMAGE YOUR GROWTH LETS GET TOGETHER AND BE ALRIGHT

Just how important is it to be able to understand each other? What is the best way for us to communicate? What does communication mean? What will happen to us if we don't get the chance to be heard and understood? Why is it so difficult to be understood?

Communication is the activity of the conveying meaningful information. The communication process is complete once the receiver has understood the message of the sender. (The meaning of Communication from Wikipedia.)

Sounds simple but how easy is it for you to be understood? What are the barriers that hold you back from being understood? How do you feel inside when you can't explain what it is you want to say but just cannot find the correct words to explain yourself? What can we do to communicate better? How much better would you feel if you could be understood? How does all this affect your health and wellbeing?

Everyone need to be heard, we all have a role to play in this game of life, we are all human beings and have the right to live on planet earth. So why is it some of us feel so empty, lonely, isolated and

less valued than others appear to be? Good communication requires many things to come together and from a very young age it is actions that speak louder than the WORDS.

Let's think about babies for a minute, how do they communicate? They will cry when their needs are not meet, so how do we know what their needs are without words? Babies needs are simple they need food when hungry, dry nappies when wet and uncomfortable, warm blanket when cold but most of all they need human touch to know they are safe. They communicate by making sounds, facial and body expressions. By listening and looking at the baby we adults can make a guess at what is upsetting them. By hearing and responding to the sounds and body language of the healthy baby we are communicating, and no words are required at this stage for the baby to communicate back.

However, when the child becomes a little older we adults are delighted to hear the first words spoken, we are on the next level of communication, we are happy, we smile clap, we encourage them to practice more words then sentences then get them to write their name then just as they have mastered

all this hard work, what do we do next?

Well for some of us it all goes wrong and as our little communicators become inquisitive and explore we turn on them as our lifestyle begins to change, they begin to demand more information more support their needs are never fulfilled and we adults become tired, drained and low on energy as we are being constantly challenged by our offspring.

Our children do not know what we are going through because they have no understanding of our world as it is. Yet we adults demand their respect. With this entire breakdown in communication going on, is it any wonder there is a degree of insecurity going on in the world.

Look out for the next edition of the Seaton Scene when we talk more about communication and how it can damage your Health and Wellbeing.

If you have any stories you would like to share about your experience with poor communication, please send them to: **Sandra Paterson, Seaton Coach** at the **Star Flat 14A, Seaton Drive Aberdeen.**



The Seaton Backies Project: A Local-action Success Story in the Making!

Last year, the Parents Group in Seaton met to discuss the play spaces in their area, which were in desperate need of improvement. The group approached the then Community Learning Worker, who in turn approached a Play Development Worker at the Aberdeen Play Forum, who approached Aberdeen Greenspace and other agencies; Seaton Backies Group in the making.

There are four large spaces to the rear of the blocks of flats that are neglected. There is a huge opportunity to create a “community space” that meets the needs of local people. Around 370 households border these greenspaces.

In June this year, the group got hands on; using brushes and paints supplied by the Grounds Maintenance Department at Aberdeen City Council. The group worked hard to scrub and re-paint the play equipment, installed planters and benches. To round-off the day, the Aberdeen Play Forum delivered the first in a series of free play sessions; the children couldn't wait to have a go on the now brightly coloured play equipment!

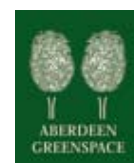
Parents have since commented on the marked improvement and have noticed a significant increase in the number

of children using the play areas. Since October more work has been carried out to re-vamp a neighbouring play space, this time with the assistance of Graduate Trainees from Total who will work with Aberdeen Greenspace Volunteer Group and local people. The group have also been donated tools from Speedy Tool Hire and plants from Dobbies which will be put to good use at this event.

The group looks forward to seeing a dramatic make-over of their local play spaces in 2012!

If you are interested in finding out more about the work of the Seaton Backies project, please contact: **Soozy Lai, Aberdeen Play Forum, soozy.lai@aberlour.org.uk or Emma McPherson, Capacity Building Officer emcpherson@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

The Backies Project is supported by The Communities Team, Aberdeen Play Forum, Aberdeen Greenspace, Seaton Arts and History Project, Seaton Parents Group and STAR Community Flat.





Seaton Backies Project would like to say a big thank you to:

- Aberdeen City Council for donating paint and tools
- Aberdeen Green Space for donating volunteers and a van
- Dobbies for the plants and soil
- Aberdeen Play Forum for the play sessions
- Speedy Tool Hire for all the tools they donated.

SILVER CITY SURFERS

Silver City Surfers are running free, drop-in, sessions at the STAR Flat; 14a Seaton Drive, for the over 55's to learn basic computing.

Our friendly, experienced Volunteers will teach people at their own pace the essentials to get online, keep in touch, find information and learn basic computer skills.

Sessions will be every Monday from 11am until 1pm. A warm welcome and tea/coffee will also be provided.

For more information please call on **524209**

AURICULAR ACUPUNCTURE

Acupuncture has been offered in Seaton for about four years. Many people have participated in group or individual sessions with varying degrees of success. The more frequently this is provided, the better the outcome. Up to five small needles are inserted into each ear in specific locations. The intended outcome is relaxation and detoxification.

Benefits reported back have been relaxation at the time, relaxation for the rest of the day, and improved sleep patterns, particularly on the evening of the same day it is administered.

We have recently been offered the use of the chill out/relaxation room at the STAR Flat on Thursdays between 11 and 12. This will add to the expected outcome, five people from across the community being the maximum number in the room.

So book your place weekly by phoning 01224 494706. This open session can foster good relationships in the community.

- Anne McKensie

STARS COMMUNITY FLAT NEWS

Activities

The flat is as busy if not busier than ever. If you are a local resident why don't you come along and see what's happening? Besides the Silver City Surfers on Monday and the Auricular Acupuncture sessions on Thursday (see left panel) we have a host of activities taking place.

If you have a query or problem regarding the local area why not drop in on the last Monday of the month between 10-11 to see Cllr Norman Collie who holds his surgery here as he will be happy to advise you.

On a Tuesday evening why not come along to the Holistic Health Group, it's from 6-8 and covers any health and well-being issues that the group want to explore. Sandra would be delighted to see you.

Now the nights are getting longer why not snuggle up with a good book. Come and join the library at the flat, it's open on a Wednesday afternoon and it's free. We have a good range of books to choose from and you might even discover a new favourite author.

On a Friday morning the Credit Union are at the flat and you can save or borrow money with them. We also have C-Fine on a Friday morning selling reasonably priced fruit and vegetables.

Our Chill Out Room is very popular, with our youngest user only 6 months old! If you're feeling stressed and need some time out, come and book yourself a slot.

If you need hearing aid batteries then you can drop by and collect them. We have a computer that is available on a drop in basis and we have facilities to photocopy at 5p per sheet. For any other queries, please feel free to drop in and say hello.

S.T.A.R Flat
14a Seaton Drive
Aberdeen, AB24 1UX
Tel 01224 524209
E-mail: Info@stargroup.org.uk



Silver City Soul

On the 28th April, this year, the first phase of the Silver City Soul project was opened at the National Galleries of Scotland (NGS) in Edinburgh. This opening was attended by the film's director and producer, Adam Proctor, and a group of contributors to the project, including members of Seaton's Art and History Group. The exhibition, which ran till June 6th, featured a short film by Adam plus a collection of still images which were sent in by various local photographers. A website was also created, which is still ongoing, and features the film, some smaller video portraits and a blog with photography from Aberdeen.

Taking as its initial inspiration, the work of 19th century Aberdonian artists William Dyce and John Phillip, the aim of the project is to create a 'collaborative film portrait of the city and its people' and to 'reveal Aberdeen's past, present and future, its character and its role in Scottish and world history'. Robin Baillie, NGS Senior Outreach Officer, said, "This partnership is a major opportunity to bring the people of Aberdeen into our Portrait of the Nation: Live! Education project as major contributors to Scotland's history, and its future. Our projection will light up the northern sky and hopefully inspire people in the city to get involved and shape the image of their city for a

national audience."

Work on phase two of the project, to expand on the existing material, is now under way and the finished product will be on exhibition at Aberdeen Art Gallery from 11th February to 11th March next year. The film and website are both visually very impressive, the idea being to impress upon the viewer the character of our city and its people, without relying upon lengthy documentary style explanations. The film uses many visual techniques, including stop-motion views of Aberdeen and a succession of video portraits of its people at work and play, including scenes from a bakery, the harbour and football fans attending a match at Pittodrie.

The website is up on www.silvercitysoul.me and anyone wishing to contribute material to, or simply find out more, about the project should email silvercitysoul@gmail.com or contact the National Galleries of Scotland press office on 0131 624 6314/6325/6332/6247 or pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org.

The Aberdeen beach photos are by Dinar Maharsi and the view of Aberdeen was by Jim Allison.

'Read all About it!' 'There's Nae Beaton in Seaton'

Seaton Scene you know what I mean
Comes through the door, lands on the floor
Look at a photo, read, who's interested in that?
Next time it arrives, I'm leaving it on the mat.

Winter edition now in my hand.

What's happening in my community?

Beginning to understand.

Volunteers do need support, as they try to create
A great live and let live outlook to life.

In times of financial, emotional, community strife

Art and History there's a mystery.

Who are they and what do they do?

Would like to be a member

There is a waiting list – Join the Queue.

Am I really living in Seaton Scene Land?

So much activity, so well planned

Yoga, sewing, a friendly face

All going on in Seaton Land,

Star Flat in the Drive

Chill-out room makes you feel good to be alive

Welcoming – Wise advice.

You may not get the whole of the cake

But believe me, you'll get a big slice.

School Road Hut, 63 years young
Rehab, sorting out the rights and wrongs
Of people who at the moment are listening
To one of life's sad songs

Avril, Ann, Janet and Nick

Wield a big stick – For stirring the soup.

Support like theirs, makes it a powerful,
loving and listening group.

Seaton Scene, beginning to get quite enthusiastic

Will I do some volunteering?

Wait a minute, for me that's a bit drastic

I widna volunteer if they paid me

One Seatonese gold coin

Art and History, Van Gogh's ear eureka moment!

I'm gonna' be a volunteer

Unity in the community

As more, more will be cut

Can you hear the senior citizens?

Singing in the Hut?

Richest Blessings!

Yea, but for how much longer?

SEATON PRIMARY SCHOOL

To raise funds to support the combined children's Christmas party, we plan to collect items and put together some Festive Hampers. If you could send us food or toiletries to enable us to make up the hampers that would be very much appreciated.

Raffle tickets will be on sale in the PSASN Office at a cost of £1.00 per strip. For parents who wish to purchase raffle tickets please contact Judith Adam, School Administrator by Friday the 16th of December.

The festive hampers will be drawn on Tuesday the 20th of December 2011.

As always your Support is appreciated,

Sheila MacGregor
Head Teacher

COUNCILLOR'S COMMENT



The demolition of the old Linksfield Academy is progressing well, making way for the development of the new fifty metre pool. It is fantastic that this is the chosen site for the new pool and that everyone, not only the elite swimmers, will be able to use this new facility.

The funding for the new pool has come from a variety of sources including £8million from Aberdeen

City Council, £8million from the University of Aberdeen, £5million from Sports Scotland and £1 million from Aberdeen Sports Village, however, there are still concerns surrounding the £134,000 revenue from Aberdeenshire Council.

We are all looking forward to the opening of the new pool in January 2014 and I will keep you updated on its progress.

Please contact me on **522682** should you wish to discuss this or any other issue.

- Councillor Norman Collie

Seaton Community Christmas Party

Seaton Community Christmas Party will be held at the School Hut at 7pm on Thursday the 15th of December.

Seaton management Group, Adult learning, Raden, Seaton Editorial Team, SHMU and all the members of Seaton Community are all welcome!

Bring your own nibbles and refreshments.

For more details call **Melissa** at the Seaton Community Project on **277930**.

Seaton Quiz

Questions:

1. What is a Misomaniac?
2. What is a Suriphobe?
3. How many muscles do you have in your ear? Go on have a feel.
4. If you count things Compulsively you are a
5. How long would it take to count off a billion seconds?

Answers: (1) Someone who hates everything. (2) Someone who is afraid of mice. (3) 9 (4) Arithmomaniac. (5) 31.7 years.

Seaton: a Garden Suburb



Have we any readers who would be willing to help put together a Bloom in Seaton Show? 'I fought the lawn and the lawn won'.

Wake up and smell the roses in your community and don't assume all wardrobes lead to Narnia. Contact the Seaton Scene – The Garden of Eden is said to have some cracking flower borders, let's cultivate.

Bloom in Seaton

I am letting my garden grow into a wilderness. As a wilderness it will generate a little more oxygen. I am hoping everyone in Seaton will follow my example. Let Seaton become the new rainforest of the regeneration areas. Leave your gardens alone. No weeding, no pruning, no mowing. I mean, in a time of crisis, you can't stand idly by and do nothing.

Garden Gnome



Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Northern Road in the old Station House Community Centre, Woodside. We offer free access to, and training in, video and radio production and magazine and online publications to residents of all ages living in Seaton, Woodside, Middlefield, Tillydrone, Torry, Northfield and Cummings Park.

t 01224 515013 | e info@shmu.org.uk | w www.shmu.org.uk

shmuDESIGN

Fancy getting involved in the **Seaton Scene**? The editorial team are on the look-out for volunteers to take part. This is your chance to gain new skills, meet new friends and a chance to make a **difference in your community**. You don't need experience to be part of the **editorial team**, **SHMU** will give you all the support and help you need. So if you are interested call **Mary Clare** at **SHMU** on **515013** or email maryclare@shmu.org.uk

SHMU is running a six week journalism course in January. The course will run for two hours a day and will give the participants an exciting opportunity to gain an understanding of the basics of journalism.

Topics covered in the course will include: What makes a good story, **news and feature writing**, sourcing content, **style guides**, interview techniques, research skills, writing workshops and create **engaging, lively copy**.

SHMU is always hunting for fresh volunteers... Why not sign up? You could put your newly acquired **writing prowess** to the test by writing an article for the **Seaton Scene**! If you are interested please contact **Stevie** on **01224 515013** or email steven@shmu.org.uk

Improve your WORD POWER



shmuTRAIN

shmuTRAIN delivers employability & skills development courses to support people into work, education or training using digital media, including radio and film making to help develop core skills.

Employability training supports people to **produce a CV**, develop job search and interview skills, meet with local employers, **increasing motivation** and the chances of sustaining either **work, training or education**.



positiveTRANSITIONS is a 12 week course including radio & video training for **16-19 year olds** who are not in education, employment or training. The next course begins on 9th January 2012.

shmuWORKS is a 6 week course including radio training for **18-25 year olds** who are not in education, employment or training.

If you are interested in any of our courses please contact **Chrissie Simpson**, on **01224 515013**, or email chrissie@shmu.org.uk

Seaton Speaks

Since it is coming for my two year anniversary working for SHMU, I would like to take this opportunity to say that my first experience volunteering in Aberdeen has been an immensely enjoyable and fulfilling one. I would also like to thank John Minty, who has recently offered to provide studio cover, Ann Minty, who did a fantastic job co-presenting her first ever show and Murdoch Macleod for continuing to support me behind the scenes.

Although I look forward to continue broadcasting into the foreseeable future, Seaton Speaks could do with more guests and presenters from the local community. SHMU FM offers prospective community presenters full training and even the chance to produce and present their own shows and I cannot recommend this experience highly enough. To be a guest on Seaton Speaks, or to volunteer



as a presenter, contact **Hayleigh Stables** on **01224 515013** for more details.

Seaton Speaks is live on shmuFM every Friday morning from 10 to 11am and is repeated from 7-8pm the same evening.

-Richard Wood

ARI Bus Routes: Update

Earlier this year, First Bus decided to use the no. 6 service to drive through Seaton. This was in response to concerns about elderly and disabled people not being able to get to ARI in a single bus journey. Since then there have been further concerns about new restrictions being placed on this service. A recent discussion brought up the following points:

"The ARI bus only comes through Seaton during term-time. It also doesn't come through Seaton evenings or weekends and doesn't start till after nine in the morning" enquired Steve Campbell and Acky Stewart wants to know *"why is it cheaper to take a country bus into town than a First bus?"*

Objections were also raised about the no. 14 service no longer going to the crematorium. *Steve Campbell pointed out that "people have still been dying since the 14 stopped going to the crematorium and a lot of people around here can't afford taxis."* Acky Stewart added that *"people can't get to the crematorium to pay their respects and are really cut up about it."*

Peter Chappell of Donview house told us that *"although the service could be more frequent, I've not had any problems with the service's time keeping."* However, Wilma Main, who voiced her concerns in last spring's edition of Seaton Scene, and her partner, Alistair Aitken, who both use the service regularly have not been so lucky. Wilma stated *"people are missing their appointments as busses are usually late (up to an hour in some cases). A couple of women I've spoken to recently have missed appointments. People are also having trouble getting to the ARI for visiting times as buses don't run to and from Seaton later in the afternoon."* Meanwhile Alistair noted that *"an inexperienced foreign driver missed out Seaton completely one afternoon. By the time a driver who was familiar with the route turned up, our appointments were missed."*

I will be giving First Bus the chance to respond to these and more complaints in the next issue of Seaton Scene.

- Richard Wood



DUTHIE PARK RESTORATION

Aberdeen City Council has been successful in its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for restoration and improvement of Duthie Park. Through their Parks for People programme, the Heritage Lottery Fund provides a range of funding to improve and restore parks throughout the country.

Duthie Park is both regionally and nationally important, as it is one of the best purposely designed public parks in Scotland. Despite many changes over the course of its history, Duthie Park remains a park of national significance with sufficient heritage merit to be considered for grant funding.

It is intended that the works at Duthie Park will restore many of the historic features of the original park design, and reinstate the quality of a number of original important Victorian features. The park and its living heritage will be conserved for future generations.

As well as the restoration of Duthie Park, part of the Heritage Lottery Fund aims to widen and develop its visitors market, also provide more volunteering opportunities in the Park.

Duthie Park and the David Welch Winter Gardens are open all year round and are accessible for all ages and abilities. We will be developing our activities at the park with community events, guided walks, allotment demonstrations, improved play areas for all ages and will enhance the visitor experience by providing more interpretation facilities. We will also encourage schools and colleges to use Duthie Park as a place of learning and will support their involvement by providing educational resources.

By becoming a volunteer at the Park you will develop new skills, learn about the natural heritage environment and forge new friendships. You can also become a volunteer member of "The Friends of Duthie Park", which works in partnership with Aberdeen City Council to promote and maintain Duthie Park. For more information about the Friends Group please check their website; www.friendsofduthiepark.co.uk

For more information about volunteering or educational opportunities please contact **Arthur Gill, Outreach & Training Officer** on **01224 585310**