

seatonscene

Winter 2022



In this issue:

CHALLENGE POVERTY

STAR FLAT

FRESH COMMUNITY

WARM SPACES

www.shmu.org.uk/press

Photo Credit - Emma Johnson

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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. Read on to find out all about what's going on in Seaton at the moment. We have updates from Seaton Star flat, the Community Centre Warm space, the newly established community council and much more!

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.

You can be reassured that our distribution company is taking every measure to ensure they are delivering your magazine safely and within government guidelines.

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Photo Credit: Mike Arthur

WELCOMING WARM SPACE OPEN IN SEATON

Monday the 31st of October saw the opening of the Seaton Warm Space. But what is it I hear you ask? Well to be fair it kind of defies definition, it is or can be whatever we choose to make it.

The Seaton warm space is based at the Seaton Community Centre, on Seaton Place East. It's open from 9.00am till 8.00pm Monday to Thursday and we aim to offer at the very least, a warm place to come and rest during the cold weather. Let's be blunt folks, the cost of the fuel we use to heat our homes has become too much for many of us to afford, hence the "Warm Space" initiative. This is open to absolutely everybody and if you need to keep warm, please come and join us.

Now at the very least we'll offer you tea and coffee and hopefully soup, our plan is to offer a lot more but it's early days. We're also starting to make the place a bit more inviting and will be offering a library service and plans are afoot to offer entertainment and courses in all sorts of things. Now listen up folks this is for all of us so it's important you talk to us and tell us what you'd like to see and do as well as what you need. All the staff and volunteers are working hard to make this a happy and inviting

space, not just a warm one so be patient with us and let's help each other to achieve this. It's going to be a long winter and by working together perhaps we can have some fun along the way, so we need your ideas and support as well.

Oh, and by the way there is of course no charge for any of this, just a pile of ordinary people doing their best to help each other in a time of need, so come along and join us.

Some time ago a group of us applied for funding to create a Community Kitchen at the Community Centre, well by the time you're reading this we will know if our application has been successful. If we are successful, you'll be the second to know, me first! With that funding we will be able to create a community café where you can pop in for coffee and home bakes with friends or indeed to make new friends. There will be fully catered community events, celebrations, and parties. It will give us all a chance to meet and promote the many groups you have been telling us about. A great opportunity for the community to get talking and make their thoughts and voices heard.

In addition, we are working to increase the food offer at the pantry,

offering help, guidance, and support for all our customers, regular and new alike. Remember this is your pantry and we need your input to know what you want and need, our aim is of course to reduce food wastage but there is no reason why we can't have a bit of fun along the way.

If all goes well then, we can have a big party to celebrate the launch, not just of our new café but of the beginning of creating a fresh and vibrant community space for all of Seaton. This will probably happen in January, and I imagine that by then we'll all be ready for a damn good knees up. Keep up to date, pop into the pantry, take advantage of the warm space or drop in to say hello, you will be most welcome.

Seaton Speaks has been missing from the radio schedule recently and I apologise for that, but we are working on a new format, new presenters, and a greater community involvement. If you fancy getting involved in the radio or the magazine, please give us a shout at shmu. Share your stories, air your grievances and tell us all about Seaton. See you soon folks.

Tim Brown



wild swimming

Chances are, if you live in Seaton, you go to the beach occasionally. But do you ever think about going swimming other than on the hottest days of the year? I was recently introduced to the 'Swim Free Aberdeen' group by a friend, and it turns out they swim in the sea all year round.

The group has been active since 2017, but really took hold during lockdown. As swimming pools were closed, people had to look for other ways to go swimming, and a lot of people realised how exhilarating swimming in the sea is.

The fun of swimming is not the only benefit. After going for a dip in the sea, there is always a flask with a hot drink to share as well as some biscuits or snacks. You get to chat and make new friends. It is an opportunity to talk about anything to do with swimming as well as anything else and is a great way of making new friends. Fast friendships are also helped by the trust that is built by relying on other people in the group to look out for you if there is any trouble.

The members of the group are also exceptionally friendly and welcoming to newcomers. There is always an offer to borrow any equipment, so there is no need to make any investments until you are sure you enjoy it. So don't worry if you don't

have a tow float or a bright-coloured swimming hat to make you visible. The same goes for swimming gloves and even wetsuits. And if you decide to get any equipment yourself there is always someone who can point you towards some good deals.

But the advantages of wild swimming go way beyond having some fun and meeting new people. Studies show a growing body of evidence for the physical and mental health benefits. It strengthens your immune system, brings down high blood pressure and cholesterol, helps your blood circulation, metabolism and sleep as well as flushing toxins out of your system, which leads to better skin. The mental health benefits are also extensive. It helps clear your mind and unwind, especially after a bad week at work. It also leads to an increased stress response, which helps reduce anxiety and depression. This is backed up by the Blue Mind Theory, which Wallace J. Nicholls defines as "the mildly meditative state we fall into when near, in, on or under water". To me, the motion of the sea is really relaxing, the way it carries you is a very comforting experience.

While wild swimming has many benefits, there are also risks associated. I am sure everyone remembers being taught about

the dangers of the sea when they were younger. Tides can be strong; currents can be unpredictable, and the sea is cold. One thing you might not have thought of is that it is best to wait for a couple of days after strong rains, as this can lead to sewage in the sea.


Due to this, Swim Free Aberdeen has various safety mechanisms in place. The most important one is to always go as a group and know where you are swimming and what the tide is doing. It is best to swim when the tide is coming in. It is also important to stay visible, so take a tow float and wear a bright swimming hat. The group also has a buddy system in place within the group, which means that there is always someone looking out for you. Additionally, they collaborate with the surf club at the beach to organise sea safety trainings.

There are also apps that can help with safety by the sea, one of which is called Absafe and is designed specifically for Aberdeen. Apps like this can also help you stay safe, but they are not a replacement for other safety precautions.

If you see someone struggling in the sea, call 999, do not join them in the sea.

Emma Johnson

Seaton & Linksfield Community Council



After over 15 years, the Seaton & Linksfield Community Council has been re-established with a new spark, new members and new ideas for the area.

The purpose of the community council is bringing local people together to help make things happen, and to protect and promote the identity of their community. They advise, petition, influence and advocate numerous causes and cases of concern on behalf of local communities.

This diverse group of community-minded residents, hope to achieve this by working alongside council officers, local councillors, businesses and most of all, THE COMMUNITY, to help improve and regenerate the areas for future generations.

If you are interested, there are a few ways you can get involved in the community council. All these options allow you to have a say in how your local area will change and develop. Firstly, you can contact the community council with any ideas or concerns you have in Seaton and Linksfield (seatonandlinksfieldcc@gmail.com). Secondly, there are three spaces for co-opted members available, which allow you to be a member of the community council after a vote by the current members. Thirdly, you can become an associate member, which requires less of a time commitment and means you can decide to help out with specific projects or represent other local organisations. Lastly, you can go to any events arranged by the community council.

This community council wouldn't have been possible without the help of Karen Finch (Community Council Liaison Officer) at Aberdeen City Council, who contacted residents to promote these elections and see the areas without community councils being established for the next three years.

The (now disbanded) Seaton Network had tried to get this going a few years ago but the group didn't want to move forward with it at the time. Karen had contacted one of the Seaton Network members and Seaton School Parent Council members. And within a few weeks, enough residents had signed up to be part of something that can make a difference to both Seaton & Linksfield.

With this ongoing and speaking with local councillors, they have shown us their support for the community council and are looking forward to working with us in the future. We know that there are a number of issues in Seaton & Linksfield. And we hope to tackle them or at the very least, get some answers from the right people.

Over the years, Seaton and Linksfield has seen numerous changes to the areas, which has helped towards regeneration. Such as the multi-storeys over cladding and heating, redevelopment of Mrs. Murrays, the new Seaton Community Church, Aberdeen Sports Village and Aquatics Centre. And with the community council, we hope to see more regeneration being made in the future.

Lewis McGill

St Machar Credit Union

Jodie's Review, "I knew my dad had a St Machar credit union account, but I didn't know what it was all about. He suddenly passed away and not only did we have to deal with losing him, we also had to pay the costs of the funeral.

"St Machar Credit Union offers free life assurance on members savings and loans. If it wasn't for the credit union's bereavement policy paying out a bonus claim on his savings, I don't think my family would have been in the position to give my dad the send-off he deserved. Life can be so cruel sometimes, but it can also give you a glimmer of hope that in your time of need a helping hand is out there in the most unexpected places."

ST MACHAR CREDIT UNION's main office is located on 433 Great Northern Road, Woodside, Aberdeen, AB24 2EU

OPENING TIMES

Monday to Friday 9.30 am to 3 pm
(Wednesdays close at 12.30 lunchtime)
You can contact St Machar Credit Union on (01224) 276994 or by emailing f-credit@fersands.org

More information can be found by visiting our Facebook page, [yourcreditunioninaberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/yourcreditunioninaberdeen), or via our Website - stmacharcreditunion.co.uk

To open your own St Machar Credit Union account, bring along identification of who you are, where you live and proof of your income. Start your credit union pay in plan, as once you kick start your savings you also have access to loans based on your affordability.

You can also open Junior credit union savings accounts for your children or grandchildren. For more information contact the office and ask for Jodie or Michelle or look at our website stmacharcreditunion.co.uk

All adult members aged over between 16 and 80 years old are included without charge within St Machar Credit Union's free life assurance based on savings and loans

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE S.T.A.R. FLAT TODAY



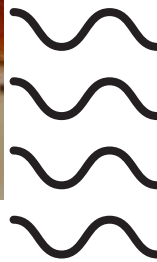
You're sure of a big surprise..... as lots of our activities and services have restarted.


On a Monday we have Adult Learners who come and are supported by Lead Scotland. On a Monday afternoon we have a sewing class so if you fancy learning to use a sewing machine to do your own alterations, this is the class for you. Our teacher is happy to help, and no experience is necessary, the class runs from 1-3pm and is free.

Tuesday's, we have Jacob from Shelter with us. If you are experiencing housing issues, Jacob is the man to see for support and ideas. Jacob is here at the Flat from 10-12. Also, on a Tuesday we run a free Cookery Class between 1-3pm. Some of you might already know our cookery teacher who is known as "The Foodie Quine" on social media and the "Cooking Wife" at the Flat. Some of the recent tasty recipes we have made include, Sunny Vegetable Pasties, Marvellous Meatballs and an enormous Victoria Sponge.

Stan from Pathways is with us on a Wednesday between 10-12. Stan has worked with the residents of Seaton for many years providing employability support through assistance with C.V. writing and advice on available training and courses.

Thursday's sees Andrew the Art and Craft teacher take class, they meet for fun, chatter, company and all things crafty. Due to space limitations, they currently meet up off site at Lord Hay's Court. Thank you, Janice, for facilitating this.





On a Friday morning between 10.30-11.30 we have banking services provided by the staff of the St Machar Credit Union. They are happy to advise and support on savings and loans.

We are delighted to be once again able to welcome folk back to our Sensory Chill Out Room. From Pensioners to under 5's you are all welcome. Our slot availability is still limited due to Covid mitigations but if you want to find out more about booking a slot call us.

We distribute Food Vouchers through the Trussell Trust Food Bank Scheme; these can be issued in person and over the phone. Your four-legged friends haven't been forgotten either as in conjunction with Mrs Murry's Rehoming Centre issue emergency pet food vouchers, you need to pop in past the flat for those.

We have free sanitary products available, green food waste aware bags and hearing aid batteries are available to pick up.

You may have noticed that the garden at the front of the Flat now has some nifty wooden raised planters. We got these set up with help gratefully received from Cfine, One Seed Forward and Fresh Community Wellness. We recently held a successful propagation workshop and the folks who attended went home with free plants. This year we grew some strawberries and onions which we excitedly used in the Cooking Class. If you fancy helping in the garden, we would be happy to see you.

Also, at the Flat we can assist with computer use, making phone calls and photo copying (a small charge for the photo copying) and with general help and advice. If we don't know, we will signpost you on to someone who does.

Contact us through our Facebook page – STAR Community Flat, where updates are posted on the Flat and local Seaton activities. Call us on **01224 524209**, or Email – **info@stargroup.org.uk**

Our current opening hours are – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday between 10-1

Please feel free to pop in and say hello.

Gillian Urquhart
Star Flat Administrator

Pathways in Seaton

MEET THE KEYWORKER – Stan Smith

Stan has been with Pathways for 12 years, working in the Seaton area, helping people to find work.

Stan began his working life as a trainee on the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) before working as a refuse collector, security guard, labourer, and machine operator. Stan was also a full-time parent for a few years before he started work in the third sector as a support worker for Aberdeen Cyrenians in their crisis drop-in centre. He then became a consultant for Working Links helping to people to find employment, before joining Pathways in 2010.

In his spare time, Stan enjoys working on classic scooters like Lambretta and Vespa, and then attending meetings with fellow enthusiasts across the UK. He also enjoys camping on a regular basis.

Stan brings all this experience and knowledge to his work with Pathways clients, helping them find suitable employment, even when the person cannot see a way forward!

Stan is always in demand so please make an appointment.

To contact Stan call Pathways on **01224 682 939** or email **s.smith@pathways-online.org** to make an appointment.





The restoration of St Machar Cathedral

Sitting on a small hill above a bend on the river Don, in Seaton Park, the St Machar Cathedral is Aberdeen's oldest building still in use. Although hardly anything exists of the original building from 1131. There has, according to legend, been a church on the site since 580. When St Machar himself, a companion of St Columba, of Iona founded it.

A permanent landmark for many, a feature of a walk, or just something in the peripheral vision? The Cathedral has a rich history and beautiful interior, not to mention the fascinating graveyard to ramble around. Inside there are interactive exhibits for children, rich history for adults or you can find a quiet contemplative space to reflect.

In 2018, a team led by retired Regus professor of English from Aberdeen University, Dr David Hewitt, undertook the task of restoring the ancient cathedral. Dr Hewitt, an elder at the church for the last 30 years, took on the challenging and involved task as both project facilitator and project champion!

After hiring the renowned Scottish conservation Architect Mark Hopton LDN. Who is an expert in the field of advanced conservation. An assessment phase was undertaken, and competitive bids were sought from contractors. Thus, the project was formulated.

The plan came in two phases. The first phase was to remove the concrete plinth or flooring. Then to renovate the interior. The floor or plinth which was 100 years old was a trip hazard and inappropriate to the look of the ancient monument. The sandstone was locally sourced at a very competitive rate from the Clachnash Hopeman quarry near Elgin. Furniture was sourced from Windsor chapel furniture maker Luke Hughes, only the best for our local cathedral. This was undertaken in 2018.

The second phase was more complex. The roof needed reslating and the lightning rods were to be fixed. The stained glass needed reworked, and the roof and ceiling needed refurbished. Firstly, local slaters and roof experts were contracted to sort the roof and lighting rods out. Once this phase was completed, it meant that the cathedral was safe from the elements and the complex interior restoration could begin.

The first still surviving stained glass window was installed in 1870 and the last in 1943 after an air raid.

These needed to be cleaned and to be glued with a special epoxy resin. Next the roof shield had to be refurbished using specific complex techniques. After this the roof was found to be at the mercy of a moisture problem. This was fixed by the adding of a second membrane

type layer to the ceiling which solved the problem.

The entire project cost 1.8million pounds plus £300,000 to floor the cathedral. The money for this came from the Heritage lottery fund and Historical environment Scotland, both of which specifically deal with this type of project. Also, to a lesser extent from the common good fund and the Garfield western foundation. However, the largest amount was from the congregation itself, donations and raising funds in the community to the sum of £650,000.

The Cathedral and the university have formed an integral part of the Seaton, Tillydrone and Old Aberdeen community's, for many hundreds of years and the interactions between these integral parts of Aberdeen life and the local community will continue to for many years to come.

The Tillydrone mott or hill has served as a place where people have met before written records, according to university experts. The local lairds and clergy holding court and solving the problems of the local community. Times have changed. However, the cathedral with its new restoration will prove a meeting place, open and accessible to all in the local community for many years to come. So, congratulations the Professor Hewitt and his dynamic team!

Mike Arthur

Strengthening Our Democracy



How to be active in politics and strengthen our democracy.

Since Brexit, democracy in the UK has had a much brighter light shone upon it and even seasoned political pundits have been taken by surprise by some events. From the attempted lengthy proroguing of the UK Parliament to the recent election of Liz Truss by a very small section of the UK population. Events like these demonstrate that we all need to keep a close eye on those who represent us, because when pandemics or wars come to your land you really do need strong, thoughtful leaders who care about their country.

'Broadsheet' newspapers seemed to be a good way of paying attention to politics and for many years I thought I was doing a good job of keeping myself informed, so I had opinions and lots of them. I passionately discussed and debated the inadequacies of the status quo with friends, colleagues and also complete strangers. Eventually though, I realised that just expressing my discontent wasn't very effective, so I decided to join a political party.

This is a big step for anyone.

This is because when you join you must sacrifice your personal, politically pure thinking to both the

greater intent and the policies of 'The Party', and you certainly won't agree with all of them. However, if you want to be really politically active, then party politics is the way. You will learn a great deal and make strong, lasting friendships with like-minded folk, but what is more challenging is that you must learn to be patient because party politics is usually a very slow-moving process.

One your most important jobs as a party member is to attend candidate Hustings. This is the arena where you choose your candidates and where you get the chance to question and scrutinise them before you set them out into the world as one of your representatives. Bad candidate choices reflect badly both on your party but also on democracy in general.

If you still feel you just can't make the leap into party politics, it is important that you vote, and that you know how to vote. Results from the last election told us that Tillydrone, Seaton and Old Aberdeen had a percentage poll of 30.7%, whereas in Lower Deeside it was 55.5%. Moreover, with the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) system used in the council elections, we often saw Xs beside candidates'

names instead of numbers, so those ballots didn't count.

However, voting and party membership are not the only ways to be politically active. Helping at a food bank, delivering food parcels and even guerrilla gardening are all political acts and, if you prefer a lower profile and more personal privacy, actions like these are important for the wellbeing and cohesion of your community.

Lastly, some think there are too many politicians, but I disagree, I think we need more community leaders. Here is a quote from the www.ourdemocracy.scot website.

"Aberdeen local authority covers an area of 185.7 km², when the EU average is 50 km². Your ward, Tillydrone/Seaton/Old Aberdeen Ward, has one councillor per every 4986 residents, when England has an average of 2814, Denmark has an average of 2216 and Norway has 572."

Personally, I think we should be more like Norway, don't you?

**Kairin van Sweeden, SNP
Councillor for Tillydrone,
Seaton, Old Aberdeen (also
Powis and Sunnybank)**

CHALLENGE POVERTY

We asked 6 young people to interview each other about their thoughts and feelings on poverty.

This is what they said. Thank you to all the young people who took part.

My mum is like my best friend, so she'll tell me if she's stressed or had a bad day.

She comes to me quite a lot and tells me she's worrying about things, with money and she's really stressed. So, I worry about her quite a lot.

The amount of homeless people that you see on the streets, even just as your walking past. People presume that they're bad people, that got caught up in bad things. But you never know what they're going through.

It means we have to have quicker showers or colder showers, using the airfryer instead of the oven. I have to make sure all my plugs and the telly is off, to make sure we're not wasting money when we're not using them.

In the future, I'd like to think that we've gotten better as people and as a society, to help people that might be not as fortunate as us.



RILEY

I don't feel enough is being done to support people in poverty. Even with the cost-of-living grant that you get from the government.

Personally, I think my mum is only getting £120 which is not even enough to pay for the cost of electricity and the cost of gas. I think the government needs to do more to help.

My mum used to buy shopping for a week. But now she has to plan a month ahead. Last winter she would keep the heating on all the time, but now she doesn't have the money to keep it on.

What I would like to see in the future is, a taxation of bigger companies. If we tax companies like that more, and give it to the people, it would be way better for the economy.

CHLOE





TANYA

You won't get people who are financially stable, and able to spend that extra money, you won't get them helping out people who are struggling and living on the streets.

You will get people who are slightly less poor, giving those people money, because they are more understanding of what it is like to be in that situation.

More people need to know more about the circumstances.

I don't think enough people understand. You always hear people say, 'people are scamming the benefits system', but you don't hear people talk about those who actually need the benefits system. I think there is a lack of knowledge about how much money people get.



MOLLY

I think generally the way the system is structured, makes it very hard for people to make their way through life, easily. The way that capitalism works and the way that the government doesn't actually help those who are in poverty get out of poverty – causes more poverty.

I'd definitely like to see more support for people and families living in poverty would be great. And the levels of poverty reducing, a lot.

MYAH



It is impacting my life, if I go food shopping with my mum, I can see the struggle of paying for food but trying to keep it under a certain amount of money.

And having to use less energy and not put the heating on.

HARVEY



There's a lot of stigma around poverty. People say 'people in poverty or people living on benefits just don't want jobs or can't find jobs' but that's not really that true. It's mostly because people don't get paid enough or the government aren't giving enough to help people.

All of our leaders, for the longest time, have been upper class. We need someone who knows people are experiencing, instead of those who just want power and money. We also need them to distribute wealth better.

How to have your say in Northeast Scotland Climate Action



Residents from Aberdeen City will have the chance to come together in the New Year to co-create a climate action plan designed to bring positive change to their communities.

Local communities will have a chance to come together early next year to discuss solutions to local issues. Residents of Seaton, Tillydrone, Woodside, and Linkfield are invited to register for the Northeast Climate Action Network (NESCOAN) Hub's Community Assemblies.

The events will run every Wednesday evening between the 11th of January 2023 and the 22nd of February, from 6:30pm to 9pm, with a hot meal provided. Together, residents will discuss climate related challenges directly important to them and create a community action plan to help make their community happier, healthier, and more sustainable. Outcomes developed through the collective process will also provide suggestions for positive change from policy makers.

'The workshops will equip community members with the knowledge to develop and realise their community's vision and empower them to have a say in the big changes we are facing in the North East of Scotland. And it's not just the workshops, but the ongoing support from NESCOAN Hub that will ensure these projects are taken forward. We want those within communities to be enabled to determine what happens within their community,' said Chris Bodington, Community Development Officer, NESCOAN Hub.

Community Assemblies are a great opportunity to have your say on the direction your community develops in, but if you cannot take part, your voice still deserves to be heard. For the remainder of 2022, members of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire can vote on 'green' community project proposals they think should be funded from the Just Transition Fund. Community groups across the region have submitted applications for up to £50,000 for equipment and/or infrastructure costs for local projects that will help communities while facilitating sustainable change. You can vote on which projects you think should be funded in Aberdeen City, keep an eye out from mid-November on www.nescan.org or NESCOAN Hub's social media for more information.

Maggie Chapman, Scottish Greens MSP for North East Scotland, and Woodside resident, said:

"I'm really excited about the community assembly that is coming to Woodside. It is so important that local people are directly involved in the discussions about their areas, and how to take action to make them happier, healthier and more sustainable places to live, work, learn and play. I hope that people living in Woodside, Tillydrone, Seaton and Linkfield will take the opportunity that NESCOAN is providing to make their voices heard: to tell us politicians what they want in their communities, and to help make that happen.

"The climate emergency and cost of living crisis are linked: our broken economic system does not work for people or planet. Only by engaging communities will be able to build a better future together. The Community Assemblies are an important part of that – giving power to local people, making their voices heard, and supporting them to create that better future for their neighbourhoods and for their future."

NESCOAN Hub is a regional climate action support hub, fully funded by the Scottish Government. We invite and encourage members to discuss their current challenges and successes and call for different perspectives. We want to help communities to access money from the Just Transition Fund, where £500M has been committed to the North-East of Scotland over the next 10 years and use their voice to show where and how part of that fund could be spent.

Whether you only have a few minutes, or can commit to participating in several assemblies, there are opportunities for you to play your part in positive change. Head to NESCOAN.org/community-assembly to learn more about how to register for the series of workshops. If you have any questions about the registration, or how to be part of action in your community, please contact **Community Development Officer, Chris at Christine@NESCOAN.org**.

The King Street Triumphal Arch

Sourced by Alan Johnstone

Having stayed overnight at Haddo House, Queen Victoria ended her 1857 visit to the north-east by returning to Aberdeen along King Street, where a magnificent triumphal arch awaited her arrival. She was presented with the keys to Aberdeen at the then city boundary before proceeding to Guild Street Station to travel to Holyrood House in Edinburgh. The Aberdeen Journal of Wednesday 14th October informed readers of the upcoming event.

"On Thursday morning at 11 o'clock, her Majesty will leave Haddo House, travelling by Ellon, and changing horses at Craigie, nine miles from Aberdeen. A very tasteful arch has been erected by the Town Council of Old Aberdeen and Mr Nicol jointly, at Seaton, the boundary of the burgh of Old Aberdeen, where the authorities of that ancient city will meet the Queen, accompanying the Royal cortege to the south boundary of their burgh. The journey from Haddo is about 20 miles, and will be performed, as near as may be, in two hours with Aberdeen being reached at one o'clock. The authorities, however, have very properly made all the arrangements for an hour earlier.

At the south corner of the cattle market stance, near Nelson Street (not far from the boundary of the city royalty), will take place the ceremony of presenting to the Queen the silver keys of her Majesty's ancient and loyal burgh of Aberdeen. Here has been erected, in honour of the occasion, a triumphal arch of welcome. It is a bold and massive structure, designed by Mr W. Smith, the city architect, and consists of a centre arch or opening, 15 feet wide by 26 feet high, and two smaller arches. The centre arch is surmounted by the Royal Arms, with flags and banners, including the

Union Jack, the Prussian colours, and a banner bearing the Town's Arms, &co. Over this arch, too, on the north side, is the loyal motto "God Save the Queen" in large gilt letters, twined by heather; on the town side will be the word "Victoria." Over each of the side arches is a neat floral crown, with the letters forming the word "Bon-Accord" in the frieze, with banners. The arches are tastefully decorated with flowers, evergreens, and heather, the general effect appropriately being of a rustic character.



At this point, the civic authorities will be waiting in carriages to receive the Queen. On its arrival the Royal cortege will stop, when the Lord Provost will, present the keys of the city to her Majesty. The carriages of the authorities will then join the Royal cortege and precede the Queen - the Lord Provost's carriage being next to that of her Majesty. The approach of her Majesty will be announced by the ringing of the city bells, and the hoisting of the Royal Standard on the bartizan of the Town House. On reaching Castle Street, part of which will be railed off to prevent confusion, the two Russian trophies are to be brought forward within the sweep of the protected space. This line is to include and lie to the eastward of the Duke of Gordon's statue. Col. Fairtlough has kindly promised to

allow some of the decorated Crimean heroes to be in charge of the guns, and they and the Duke's Statue will be fairly in her Majesty's view. The whole of Market Street will be railed off, with a view to keep order and prevent crowding. There will, in like manner, be barriers at Guild Street; and here again a guard of honour of the military will be assembled. The guard of honour of the citizens will, of course, be stationed along the whole line of route. We can as yet of course say little as to the decorations along the line of streets traversed;

but the preparations on this head are, we know, being carried on with a great deal of spirit, and we anticipate a grand display. At the principal points especially - the residence of the Chief Magistrate, the Town House, the banks, hotels, clubs, the shipping, &co there will be special emblems of respect and welcome.

The procession will probably reach Guild Street about one o'clock. Here Her Majesty will be joined by the younger members of the Royal Family, with Colonel Phipps, and the Royal suite. The Royal travellers and their attendants will partake of luncheon in the handsome new apartments of the Scottish North-Eastern Railway Co. After the luncheon, her Majesty will proceed along the South platform to the Waiting-Room, and at 2 o'clock the Royal train will start. Edinburgh will be reached a few minutes before seven, where her Majesty will rest for the night in her ancient palace of Holyrood."

Note : The "two Russian trophies" were cannons captured at Sebastopol during the Crimean War. They were displayed in the Castlegate until being scrapped as part of the Second World War metal salvage campaign.

Rooted premiere

shmuTV's first documentary film team have completed their first documentary, 'Rooted'. The film which is a wonderful celebration and a heart-warming and thought-provoking film about community gardens across Aberdeen was premiered at shmuHQ on the 3rd of November.

The team did an amazing job, shooting, editing, producing, and interviewing for their film and have hinted at doing another documentary together... so watch this space!

Thank YOU to the amazing filmmakers and those who let us come to their community garden and interview them about all the amazing work they are doing in their community

If you'd like to watch Rooted, keep an eye out as the group are planning to tour the film to Community Centres in Aberdeen.



New courses at shmu

There has been lots going on here at shmu since the previous edition of the Seaton Scene.

We have introduced many exciting new courses across the strands.

shmuTV have been busy with three new 12-week courses. The TV Studio Production course, are already stuck in and learning all about operating a TV Studio and working the autocue's.

The new Documentary film team have started working on their documentary about fuel poverty.

And lastly the Community Microfilm course have begun learning how to edit video footage and are excited to get started filming!

shmuFM and shmuPRESS have also had great courses starting. Adele has welcomed new radio volunteers who are undergoing their radio training and will be gracing our airwaves soon!

We have also recently started a new Storytelling photography course for shmuPRESS and are on our way to becoming photographers with the help of amazing volunteer Mark Wyness.

Fresh Community Wellness SC10



There have been some changes in the past few months. Sam has chosen to step away from the charity to concentrate on his health and everyone wishes him well for the future. Kristina Wood is now acting as our Trustee and Interim Chair.

We are reliant on resident participation, this is a vital part of what we do, many hands make light work and with your help we can take forward the many projects in the pipeline, before settling down for the winter and planning for 2023.

Chair's Comments – Fresh Community Wellness SC10 is one year old! Thank you to everyone who has volunteered with us over the past year, supported our projects and been part of the change in our community.

The world around us is changing, in many ways it's not good change, but we can only focus on our immediate surroundings and strive to make every day better than the last. It's more important than ever we build strong community relationships and are part of a positive movement.

Fresh have several ongoing projects that you can join in with, we are fully inclusive and aim to provide activities that inspire you. Everyone should have the opportunity to thrive, and our hobby groups are a great way to meet people, share your own knowledge and stories as well as learning new skills.

I'm incredibly proud of our volunteers and what they have achieved this year. As we head into winter (and the urge to hibernate is strong!) there's still lots to do, if you would like to be involved in any way, please contact me at Chair@freshcom.org.uk.

Follow our Facebook page to keep up to date with any regular or up and coming activities such as craft evenings, Family friendly sports and our Little Buzzers group, our parents and child craft group which has moved to the Seaton community centre.

SNUG (Seaton Neighbourhood United Garden) –

Elaine is delighted that there are new volunteers who have worked so hard this year, to get the garden off the ground. They were all delighted with a fabulous crop of potatoes, beetroot, garlic, onions, herbs, a few strawberries and the start of colour in what was previously a sparse area.

They have been lucky to have the support of Steven Shaw, Aberdeen City Council, St. Nicholas Rotary, Morrisons, Tesco, Shell and so many more individuals too many to mention.

A shout out also must go to Colin, who has created the most beautiful wee garden. Everyone comments on this area and love the bursts of colour and his achievements.

Work is currently being done to investigate/purchase a water system and composting options to make the work of the volunteers easier, especially in the summer.

It would be incredible to have more volunteers and Elaine and Dave are keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved or share ideas. You can contact them via email at Secretary@freshcom.org.uk / Dave@freshcom.org.uk

Underpass – Those in the local area will have seen some light, quite literally. One of the early issues we raised with the Council was the fact there was no lighting in the underpass. This has now been resolved, new lights and protective casings around them have been installed. Watch this space for an exciting project where the walls will be cleaned up, whitewashed and artwork added. We are working to bring interested parties together to get this project moving forward.



Community Contacts

Aberdeen City Council Helpline - 0800 0304 713

ALCOHOL

Alcoholics Anonymous - 0800 9177 650

Drinkline - 0300 123 1110

CRIME

Crimestoppers - 0800 555 111

DRUGS

Alcohol and Drugs Action Helpline

01224 594700 or 07927192706

Narcotics Anonymous

0300 999 1212

DENTIST

Emergency - G-Dens - 111

DOCTORS

NHS 24 Emergency - 111

POLICE

Non-Emergency - 101

ELECTRICITY

If you have a power-cut - 105

GAS

Gas Emergency - 0800 111 999

WATER

Scottish Water Emergency - 0800 0778 778

HOUSING

Emergency Repairs - 03000 200 292

Family Planning - 0345 337 9900

Mental Health Aberdeen - 01224 573892

Breathing Space - 0800 838 587

Samaritans - Need to talk

01224 574 488 or 116 123

SOCIAL WORK

Adult Protection - 0800 731 5520

Joint Child Protection Team

01224 306877 or 0800 731 5520

Aberdeen City Carers Service- 01224 914036

Age Scotland - 0800 1244 222

CFINE 01224 596156

Financial Advice at **CFINE** 01224 531386

Pathways 01224 682 939

Citizens Advice 01224 586255

St Machar Credit Union 01224 276994

Penumbra First Response 01224 276994

Oldmachar Medical Practice

0345-337-0510

Old Aberdeen Medical Practice

01224 486702

Tillydrone Clinic

01224 276723

Woodside Medical Group

01224 492828

LOCAL COUNCILLORS:

Councillor Alex McLellan

07500 999522

amclellan@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councilor Kairin Van Sweeden

07977399586

KVSweeden@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Councillor Ross Grant

07738688458

rossgrant@aberdeencity.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT

Domestic Abuse is not acceptable. It is not your fault and you are not alone. Domestic Abuse is when you are hurt, bullied or frightened by:

Your husband or wife. Your boyfriend or girlfriend
Your current or ex-partner

Their behaviour can be; controlling, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust or contact:

National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day. Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: sdfmh.org.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Rape Crisis Grampian Telephone: 01224 590932.

Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk

LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline

Telephone: 0300 999 5428 or email info@galop.org.uk

Men's Advice Line

Telephone: 0808 801 0327