

# TillyTattle

LOCAL NEWS DEDICATED TO YOUR COMMUNITY

Spring Edition 2011

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**New Library Takes Shape**

**Homelessness: The Truth**

**Riverbank School**

**Housing Updates**

**Tilly Youth Project**



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## Editorial

### Welcome to your Winter edition of Tilly Tattle.

Keep an eye out for an interesting article about homeless, and new people in the community. We also have actual news about Donside Urban Village and info about local groups and events, our regular stories and article as well. Remember if you would like to join the editorial team or have any ideas for your community publication, you can easily get in touch with us. The staff at shmu are able to support and train anyone living in the area who is interested to develop their ideas and skills, whether it is design or content based. So please, don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Tillydrone!

If you have any articles or ideas for the Summer edition please get in touch with either the Tillydrone Community Flat on 01224 486641 or Station House Media Unit (SHMU) 01224 515013

**Happy Reading**

To view the new  
Tilly Tattle in colour  
Please visit  
[www.shmu.org.uk](http://www.shmu.org.uk)  
& click on the  
print page

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# New Library takes shape...

During the last year, you may have seen a tall glass building taking shape on the University of Aberdeen's campus opposite St Machar Academy's playing fields.

This distinctive addition to the local skyline is the University's new Library and Special Collections Centre. With the structure of the Library's main 'tower' complete and visible far beyond the campus, great progress has been made on the installation of the building's distinctive façade which will allow the building to reflect light during the day and glow at night.

So why has the University decided to construct a nine-floor building of

glass, concrete and metal? There are two main reasons. Firstly, our existing Queen Mother Library, which was completed in the late 1970s, has struggled to meet the new demands placed upon it by our growing student and staff population in recent years.

Also, over the past 500 years the University has accumulated some of the country's best collections of old books and historic manuscripts. However, these collections are currently stored in conditions which are not ideal for such fragile items, and the University does not have the accessible, welcoming facilities it needs to allow local people to see and enjoy these treasures. Our

new building will include a range of public areas to allow members of the community from Tillydrone (and the rest of the world!) to take part in informative new activities such as seminars, exhibitions and book readings for schoolchildren, families, community groups and lifelong learners.

The construction works, which will continue until the building opens in late 2011, are enabling our campus to be re-shaped and made far more accessible to the local community. We look forward to welcoming you to the building – we hope it will receive over 700,000 visits every year, so feel free to come in and look around!

## From Iran to Tartan: Samira's story



It is estimated that about 5 million Iranians are living abroad and many with post-secondary education continue leaving Iran every year due to high unemployment rate, lack of intellectual and social security and censorship preventing people from thinking and writing freely (which makes scientific and social science research extremely difficult). Iranian citizens living

abroad are also referred as the Iranian diaspora. Most of Samira's family is abroad but her mother and sisters in law are still in Iran.

Samira moved to the UK in 2000 in sunny Bournemouth and met her husband-to-be Magid there. They married in 2002 and then came Daniel (now in P5), Diana (now in P3) and Sara (now in P1). The family stayed in Bournemouth up until Samira was offered a University place in Aberdeen she could not refuse. She is currently studying medical microbiology. There are a lot of exams and a lot of long nights studying but Samira was thrilled to tell us she had passed the first term with flying colours. Well done, Samira! Meanwhile, Magid is enjoying being a househusband but as we all know, looking after 3 children under 10 is no easy task!

They all so far enjoy Aberdeen and Tillydrone but it is a bit of a climate shock for the children compared to Bournemouth. The children like their new school (Riverbank Primary) but it is far busier than their previous school. Magid is quickly becoming familiar with his surrounding but do say hello when you see him at school and make them all feel welcome in our community!

**Name:** Iran ((known as Persia until 1935)

**Capital city:** Tehran

**Language:** Farsi

**Location:** between Iraq on one side, Afghanistan and Pakistan on the other

**Population:** 76 million (Scotland: 5.1 million – UK:62 million)

## Homeless but not Hopeless, Nancy's story.



Nancy and her 13-year old daughter Heather were evicted from their home one cold morning in December last year. It was not a very festive start but Nancy and Heather were soon offered temporary accommodation in our area. Mum and daughter were introduced to life à la Tillydrone and its unprecedented community

support and spirit. Helen Polson at the community flat gave Nancy a warm welcome while Heather was introduced to TYP by her friends. Their flat worker as well as the St Machar Parent Support Group also assisted them.

Nancy is positive about the future and they are hoping that soon they will drop anchor and receive a permanent flat in Tillydrone.

Like most in Tillydrone, Nancy and Heather have interesting tales to share. Nancy spent her childhood in the Netherlands and her itchy feet then took her to Canada for 7 years. She studied in Ontario and received a Phd in Philosophy. Meanwhile Heather attended a

French immersion school. So, for the best recipe of maple syrup pancakes or how to survive a Canadian winter, you now know where to turn to!

When the family returned to Scotland, Nancy started teaching at the University of Aberdeen. A few years on, Nancy decided on a career change and now works for a charity which assists adults with autism. She loves her job: 'I really enjoy my work, it is challenging but immensely rewarding'. Meanwhile, Heather is aiming to be a forensic scientist and is working hard at school.

**We wish them both the very best luck!**

# The truth about homelessness

When I became homeless I thought there would be a huge stigma about it, as misconceptions come across in statements I have heard in the past, such as 'why should my taxes go to these people'. Or 'why should I have to work when they get everything free'. I began to wonder who this 'them' and 'I' was. I pay taxes, I don't get my flat for free, but I am homeless. But then I also began to discover that a lot of people I know have been in my position in the past, and some still are.

So, to begin, I sought the definition of homelessness and some statistics associated with it. The types of homelessness are most obviously classified as intentional and unintentional (although technically there are further distinctions (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk>)). Although Aberdeen recognises 17 out of 1000 households as homeless (2005/06-2007/8 average) this leaves out potentially a huge number of people who are 'sofa surfing' with friends or relatives (the hidden homeless) ([http://www.crisis.org.uk/policywatch/pages/about\\_homelessness.html](http://www.crisis.org.uk/policywatch/pages/about_homelessness.html)). As these are the most up to date figures that I could find, with the economy being as it is, we can only guess what the statistics are for 2010/11.

By Scottish law, if you present

at the homeless office, you are entitled to temporary accommodation either in a Bed and Breakfast, Hostel, or a temporary flat – if you are deemed to be in priority need (information from Shelter). Whether or not you are then entitled to permanent accommodation depends on circumstances. But looking on the bright side, as of 2012 there will be no distinction between those in priority need vs. those who are not (2003 Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act). So a single man in good health will be entitled to temporary accommodation as much as a person with children. There is a 'but' though and that is, how are they going to house everyone? The wait for a council flat is long enough already and there is not enough temporary accommodation available as it is. So, as much as everyone being treated equally is a good thing, if there isn't enough accommodation available we have to wonder how they are going to make good on the change in legislation.

But to remain upbeat, there are many advocates out there who will help anyone who is homeless. Sometimes these advocates can get better accommodation (e.g., a flat close to dependents school, a flat close to the person's support network, etc.) and help access other support that might be needed ranging from finding a

job, managing substance misuse, establishing a team to help with mental health issues, and even suggest babysitters for those struggling to stay in employment while being homeless.

Also, one good source that we as a community might want to use is <http://www.emptyhomes.com/>. On this site you can list and view empty properties in the area. Currently there are none listed for Tilly – so if you know of a flat or house that is empty or soon will be, please post it on the website. It is free to join and has been a valuable source for many looking for a place to live. And, under the Freedom of Information Act you can request a list of empty Goodapple homes. To do so, you have to submit a letter to the council (check out the empty homes website for information on what information you need to include).

My conclusion is that homelessness can, but need not, be devastating – and to make this specific to Tillydrone, if you find yourself in temporary accommodation here try and get out and about. The community is friendly and the community services are great and too many to list. To name a few, we have a community flat, several youth groups, sports facilities, and shmu radio.

**By Nancy Davies**

# Riverbank School

As always the staff, pupils and parent helpers have been very busy! We now have a number of lunchtime and after school clubs for the children – these cover a wide range of sporting, curricula and cultural activities such as French, science, maths games, basketball, dancing, art, music....and many more! Thanks to all the staff, coaches and parent volunteers who help run these activities.

Riverbank school has at the core of its ethos the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and this is reflected in our Code of Conduct and our Vision to 'Learn Together, Play Together, Achieve Together'. We aim to promote this through the learning that takes place in school. On Thursday 10th February the whole school took part in UNICEF's Day For Change, to raise funds for children in Guyana whose lives have been affected by climate change. A number of activities were

running throughout the day, and a visitor to the school commented on the positive, lively atmosphere. Other exciting projects in school at the moment include a P3/4 planting project, P1s are learning about nursery rhymes, P5/6 have written to the tourist office of various countries and received lots of information back, P2 have been receiving postcards from Flat Stanley, Nursery have learnt about Chinese New Year, P4/5 are studying Chinese contemporary art, P6 are involved in a project on the Wallace Tower and some of the Link Room children are setting up a smoothie bar! As always we are keen to work with other organisations to give the children a wide range of experiences, and we are delighted that NISA have agreed to become sponsors and business partners with the school – we look forward to working with them in the near future.



## MUSIC, MAGIC & MAYHEM!!

### Fa's in their **Eyes**

Friday April the 22nd 2011  
@ the Forum in Aberdeen

Come along and enjoy a night of music, magic and mayhem.... as our stars take to the stage for the second year running as part of Family Learnings/ Peer Projects fundraising event 'Fa's in their Eye's'.

Last years event raised over £1,300, which has helped to support local parents to volunteer with the PEER Project, gain skills and access training in their move towards further education or employment.



So why not come along, sit back and enjoy an evening of star studded entertainment with some of the best of Aberdeens local talent. From comedy to magic this show has it all.....

For more information and ticket sales please contact Louise at Family Learning on 487822 or email [enquires@familylearning.org.uk](mailto:enquires@familylearning.org.uk)

### Whose Money Is It Anyway?

As we all know money is tight and getting tighter. Does trying to make ends meet make you want to cry? Would you like to get some tips on solving your own personal credit crunch?

If the answer is yes, then our 3 week course will offer you the practical help and tips on how to manage your financial affairs. There is a free crèche available for this course.

To book onto the nearest course to you or for more information phone the Family Learning team on 487822.

## The Aberdeen Play Forum's Come & Play Pilot Project in Tillydrone



I'm Soozy Lai, I work for the Aberdeen Play Forum on "The Come & Play Pilot", which simply aims to see more children playing outside.

Last Summer-Autumn, on Sunday afternoons I cycled along to the grassy area outside the Lad's Club, with bags full of basic play things – bats, balls (and stockings!), skipping ropes and so on.

I don't lead games, the idea is for the children to lead their own play – it's called "Free Play". This kind of play is really important for their development and is something we're seeing less and less of, due to factors such as stranger danger, increased traffic, dogs and dog fouling, TV, games

consoles and fewer trees to climb.

Dog fouling is a sadly major problem which restricts where children can play. I'll be doing some stencilling on the ground outside play areas to high-light the issue and hopefully reduce the illegal use of play spaces as dog toileting zones.

I'm now working with Riverbank Primary, playing out with the kids at lunch and working with the P5 Play Pals – an energetic bunch doing the honourable job of maintaining a friendly playground environment. A couple of parents have been stars and come along as well, which is fantastic - the kids love it when grown-ups join in the play.

After Easter I hope to have a group of children and parents helping to run out-of-school sessions. The 'Kit' will consist of bits n bobs - old sheets (dens), used milk cartons (towers), cardboard boxes (pretty much anything)!

Around Easter, please look out for leaflets through the school, saying when sessions will be...

KIDS, PLEASE DO COME & PLAY... DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR ADULTS!!!

**Soozy Lai, Play Development Worker, Aberdeen Play Forum**  
[soozy.lai@aberlour.org.uk](mailto:soozy.lai@aberlour.org.uk);  
 07772226617

### ST MACHAR PARENT SUPPORT

## Coping with Kids

We are funded through the Big Lottery and Aberdeen City Council to work with parents, we primarily support them with their children, we can work with groups of parents looking at issues such as healthy eating, challenging behaviour amongst other things. We also offer one to one support for parents that cannot manage the groups. Alongside this we can attend meetings with parents

at schools etc. We are currently offering drop in sessions in areas depending on demand there has been an increase on our workload with form filling, staff at the project can help parents with Housing forms Council tax, D.L.A. amongst many others.

#### Management committee

Our committee consists of local people who have children either from the schools within the St

Machar school area or have children within the area. The committee help look at things like funding, fundraising, and also the future of the project

**If you would like more information on the project contact us on 487813. We are based behind St Machar Academy.**

[www.parentsupport.co.uk](http://www.parentsupport.co.uk)

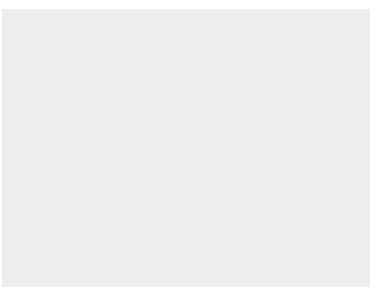


Winners left to right - Marley Callum Age 5, Liwia Wilianowska Age 10, Heather Polson Age 10

Apparently it is now spring? The seagulls know its spring because they are nesting so why is it so cold and dull .... and it still feels like winter!

We, the Tilly Tattle Editorial Team decided to add the weather seasons into the community magazine to try brighten things up.

You may have seen our weather flyers in the local shops and businesses around Tillydrone encouraging local people to take part in our weather competition. The response was overwhelming with people of all ages submitting entries. These ranged from poems, drawings and stories covering all the weather seasons. All entries were greatly appreciated and you can see in the picture below that a lot of time and effort went into all entries.



We, the Editorial Team had a hard job deciding on the winner therefore we decided to choose 3 as it was just too difficult to pick one!

The 3 that were chosen by the judging panel received 'community goody bags' filled with donations from The Family Learning Team, Tillydrone Community Flat, Tillydrone Library and some treats from members of the Editorial Team.

The bags all had books, pens, stencils and other goodies.

Heather's mum told us that she loved her prize and has even took her stencils along to the Breakfast Club to share with some of her friends.

All entries were given a certificate for taking part so really everyone was a winner.

A big thank you to all those who helped make the competition a roaring success and to all those who kindly gave donations.

Look out for future competitions..... you could be the Tilly Tattle competition winner!

**The Tilly Tattle  
Editorial Team**



### SNOWY DAY BUILDING A SNOWMAN

One day my brother and I saw the snow and we went into the back garden.

My mum said you could build a snowman. My brother said I will do the body and then my brother started to roll the snow into a ball to make a body. Then I said I will do the head and I started to roll the snow into a ball to make a head. I went into the house and got a carrot for its nose and I got 3 potatoes for its eyes and mouth and my brother went to get a Aberdeen scarf and hat. We had a good time.

**By Heather Polson  
Age 10**



## Weather Seasons

I've to write about the weather and I'm only one year old! Thinking back since October, the weather has been so cold.

There's been snow and ice, which looked so nice, but remember I was getting pushed about in a stroller.

I'm glad I wasn't able to walk on it yet, After seeing others sliding all over.

Hopefully, I've seen that season pass, I'm now looking forward to Spring.

When the ground will start to warm up, Birds will then start to nest and sing.

The following season it will be Summer, I'll be dressed in beautiful Summer frocks.

Chasing about in Seaton Park after my brothers and sisters, Barefoot kicking off both, shoes and socks.

Long may the Summer last, before Autumn again comes round, When leaves start falling from the trees and conkers can be found.

Then we'll be back to Winter again, This time I'll have to walk, 'which should be fun'?

Probably you'll see me sliding about everywhere, Landing on my bum!

*By Sofia Zarzoso*

## Winters Grip

This winter I can feel the icy grasp of the frost creeping slowly over land and sea.

Like death's grip it slowly covers all in its path with a white freezing glove.

It glistens in the soft glow of a silver shimmering moon sparkling like diamonds. It covers the land plunging Nature into a hypnotic sleep.

The nights seem longer now I throw a log onto the fire and close my eyes slipping into the comfort of unconscious bliss.

*By Peter Robertson*

## Alone

I'm all alone in Tillydrone  
There's no one there but me –  
I wish there was someone here  
to care and look after me  
but this is not to be  
For I am all alone in Tillydrone  
you see

*By Elsie Rennie*

# Donside Urban Village Update

**The partners in the Donside Urban Village project have today confirmed that the project is progressing well, despite being hampered by the severe weather.**

Consisting of some 300 homes, the Donside Urban Village is being developed by Chap Construction in partnership with Tenants First Housing Co-operative and Langstane Housing Association.

Douglas Thomson, Managing Director of Chap Construction commented:

“There is a lot of work involved in creating the infrastructure for large complex projects such as this, and much of this initial work is underground and hidden from view.

“For example there has been

considerable work involved with the diversion of a very large, very deep existing underground sewer. This work was completed prior to Christmas.

“The first house foundations were cast ahead of programme before Christmas and erection of house structures will commence as originally programmed before Easter. Access road construction is also progressing as well as the severe weather conditions allow.”

With a mix of housing from flats through to town houses, the Donside Urban Village is planned

as a sustainable community, with business start-up units, office space, shops and a children’s nursery planned for the village.

Donside Urban Village will include homes for rent, for sale on a shared-equity basis and for outright sale. Chap Homes have entered into a Joint Venture Development Partnership for the private housing for sale in the Donside Urban Village.

Construction is planned over a 40-month programme, with anticipated completion during 2013.

## New Housing At Hayton Road Moving Forward!

With the severe weather behind us at least for the time being, we are once again making good progress on our new build homes at the Hayton Road site.

When the weather gets as bad as it was there are many ways it affects building operations. Like many people some of our operatives had difficulty getting to the site and therefore work pace was slowed down. Also certain types of work can’t be carried out in sub-zero temperatures and at all times we must maintain a safe working environment and this was a major issue. As a result we have unfortunately experienced some delays.

Now however all the homes are wind and weathertight allowing works to proceed internally while

most of the roof coverings are complete and the bricklayers are progressing with the outer walls. Recently we have had to work through some adjoining areas to lay sewers but the off-site work is now complete and we are finishing the sewer and drainage works within the site.

Installation of the Solar Panels (for hot water) and Photo Voltaic Panels (for electricity) on the roof have commenced, these combined with the high insulation standards will help make these new homes very economical to run and maintain.

Because of the wide range of operations and works there’s a lot of activity on site but we are hopeful that once this is complete we can arrange a visit for some

pupils from Riverbank School and community representatives to have an overview of the work to date.

Aberdeen City Council is looking forward to welcoming its’ first tenants to the Phase 1 of the New Build Homes this summer.

**Paula Mann & Maria Thies  
(New Build Project Managers)  
Tel: 523155/522147.**





## A week in the life of Richard Robertson

Councillor for Tillydrone, Seaton and Old Aberdeen

Your Tilly Tattle team met Councillor Richard Robertson on a very wet Monday at the Tillydrone Community Flat. We had planned to meet for an hour but were there for almost two! We felt privileged that he talked to us for that length of time because he is a very busy man indeed. As a councillor, he is involved in many committees (including Housing, Education, Licensing etc) and his weeks are literally packed with meetings (see copy of his diary).

Richard Robertson became the councillor for our ward in 2007 and is delighted to work in Tillydrone, Seaton and Old Aberdeen. He decided to stand for there because it is a regeneration area and most

importantly, 'because there is a great deal of satisfaction helping people in that community. I have great admiration for members of the community who work tirelessly, week in week out, with no real recognition from anyone for the work they do, all for the good of Tillydrone'.

Cllr. Robertson said the most disheartening part of his work is Housing: 'we have so few houses or flats available and with the chronic amount of homeless within the city, all are competing for properties, this makes our job very difficult'. On a positive note, he commented that the modernisation programme of the Kitchens and Bathrooms in older properties was on target to be finished by 2015. He was also very proud to be connected with

the Hayton Road Housing project: 'these houses are family-friendly with a front and back door and an enclosed garden for the children to play in'. He was equally delighted with the Don Urban Village but questioned the size of Riverbank school and how they would cope with the dozens of new pupils moving into the area. Talking about schools, we asked about the teaching assistants jobs cuts and this certainly caused long and difficult discussions amongst Cllr. Robertson's group and fellow councillors: 'we've got to try and do a balancing act because every service face cuts, but we are trying to do this with as little damage to services as possible. We had to make the best of a bad job'.

How to contact Richard Robertson - Phone: 01224 595 525 (home) or 523438 (office)  
Mob: 0771 751 6270 Email: rirobertson@aberdeencity.gov.uk



Monday: Meeting with members of the Liberal Democrats to discuss committee meetings.

Tuesday: 10am to 3pm: Meeting of the Licensing Board.

7pm to 9pm: Meeting with the Grampian Housing Association Board.

Wednesday: Councillors training (Housing issues, car parking policies, planning training).

Thursday: Education, Culture & Sports Committee meeting.

Evening Surgery meeting with constituents.

Friday: 10am to 1pm: meeting of Joint Fire Board. Rest of day in office to catch up with case work etc.

### Richard Robertson in one minute



**TV?:**

I hate soaps.

**Radio?:**

'Any questions' on Radio 4 or anything on current affairs.

**Food?:**

I love chicken

**Holidays?:**

Just been on a cruise to South America.

**Smoking?:**

I stopped 20 years ago, best thing I ever did.

**Job?:**

I worked for 30 years as a fireman.

**Next councillors election?:**

May 2012.

**Any talent?:**

I speak German.



# Tilly Youth Project

## Girls Group Trip to Birmingham

*Dec 6th – 8th*

**Very early on the morning of Saturday 6th December '10, the girls group met outside Tilly Youth Project for an exciting weekend away to Birmingham.**

Prior to the event the girls had participated in an eight week project which covered topics such as smoking, alcohol and drug awareness. We also looked at topics such as body image and self-esteem. The girls worked very hard during the workshops and thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Birmingham.

For one of the girls it was her first time on an aeroplane and she absolutely loved it and asked loads of questions on the way there, it was good to see her so excited and enjoying a really worthwhile opportunity.

It's fair to say that both the girls and staff thoroughly enjoyed the trip to the Chocolate Factory. Not only was it an educational trip, travelling back 1000 years in time and learning all about the cocoa tree and it's journey to Europe, but we

were given chocolate in almost every different room that we went into and in the last room we had hot liquid chocolate with either rice krispies or marshmallows, yummy.

The highlight of the trip was the Clothes Show Live event. It was much more fun than any of us had anticipated. Gok Wan was presenting and there was lots of singing, dancing and fabulous clothes.

The girls are now working towards either a Dynamic Youth Award or a bronze level Youth Achievement Award.

The trip was such a success that we are setting our sights on travelling further afield this year. The group have been researching Aberdeen's twin cities and dependant on funding we are hoping to take a group of girls and boys from Tillydrone to Norway in the Summer.

**Tilly Youth Project continues to go from strength to strength.**

Many of our young people have been successful recently. Richard Henderson and Andrew Heighway gained excellence awards from the Scottish First Minister for completing 200 hours of voluntary work in the project. Reece Harrison has also been accepted at Stow Music College as a result of gaining his Grade Two Drum Kit Exam with the help of one of our tutors Patrick Keenan. Our Pool Competition was won by Sebastian Byczynski – well done champ!

We have recently started working on Youth Achievement and Dynamic Youth Awards at the project and the race is on to see who gets theirs first. If you are a young person living in Tillydrone, get in touch and come along to see what we are all about. It would be great to see you. We are also open at lunchtimes for pupils who attend St Machar Academy.

# Ranger Led Health Walks

Hi, my name is Ruth Bone, I'm a Countryside Ranger with Aberdeen City Council. This Spring and Summer I will be leading a series of short walks around 9 areas in Aberdeen. I will be using the Health Walk Map Packs devised by Woodland Community Ranger Stephen Bly in conjunction with NHS Grampian and Forestry Commission Scotland.

The health benefits of walking are well documented and include disease prevention, weight management and positive mental health promotion.

So why not join me for an easy-paced 2 mile walk around **Seaton Park on Thursday 16th of June at 2pm?** We will meet at the **car park** beside the **play area**. We will also seek out the nearest café afterwards for an optional cuppa.

Please wear sensible shoes and bring waterproofs and/or sun cream depending on the weather, a bottle of water and any medication (eg. inhalers) that you may require. If you have any health issues please speak to your GP before signing up for the walk.

For more information about the walks and/or map packs or to book on to the walk please call the Ranger service on 01224 897400. Our full list of events can be seen at [www.aberdecnity.gov.uk/rangerservice](http://www.aberdecnity.gov.uk/rangerservice).

The map packs are due to be published and distributed to health professionals in April and distributed to selected health professionals, we also hope to have the Map Packs available on-line so that anyone can access them and download one or more of the 27 routes that they cover.



## M26 GROUP NEWS

Everyone enjoys a good Christmas meal and the M26's one, held on 14th December 2010 in St George's Church, was a very good one. What made it extra special was the ladies' group of pensioners who were also there.

You may not think a group of men in their twenties, thirties and forties would get on too well with lady pensioners, but we all did! The Bingo was a new experience for most of the M26 members but we soon realised why people find it exciting.

The pensioners all said they really enjoyed meeting us and getting to know the people behind the faces they had seen around Tillydrone for years.

2 large plots are available in Tillydrone (behind the Community Flat). If you want to grow your own veg, flowers etc, please ring 486 641 and ask for Helen Polson. Tools can be borrowed with a £10 returnable deposit. People need to ring before the 30th April 11.



## LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Ed Fitzgibbon, Team Inspector for Tillydrone and Gary Winter, Sergeant for Tillydrone, both took the time to answer our Tilly Tattle questions and are committed to provide the best possible service in our community and keep it safe.

In our previous edition, we reported about over 20 windows being broken at Riverbank Primary School from mid August to mid September. The crimes were collated and investigated by the Proactive Vandalism Investigation Unit and following information provided by the members of the public, a number of juveniles were interviewed in the presence of their parents. One adolescent was charged with vandalism and since the last broken windows on 11th September, no other damage has been reported at the school.

In the January edition of the

Tillydrone Local Policing Update (see [www.grampian.police.uk](http://www.grampian.police.uk) for the full version), Ed Fitzgibbon reports that his team have executed over 34 Drug Search Warrants and were successful in finding drugs and reporting individuals on 13 occasions.

They also tackled youth issues in Sandilands Drive by carrying out additional patrols, home visits with staff from St Machar Academy and several enquiries resulting in a number of youth appearing at Aberdeen Sheriff Court. They also progressed with Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs). The Tillydrone team has also worked hard with issues in Tillydrone Court, St Machar Court and Hayton Road and carried out various drug searches and are giving these areas extra police patrol attention, including plain

clothes patrol.

You may wonder what will happen to Anti-Social Behaviour and Drugs issues when cuts hit the police. Ed Fitzgibbon is very keen to let our community know that, while the police will also be affected, it will not impact on front line policing. Meanwhile, if you want to help the police stop drug crime in Tillydrone, but want to remain anonymous, fill in one of the 'Ditch the Dealer' form (and freepost envelope) available at the police station in Tillydrone or at the Community Flat on Alexander Terrace.

**For any emergency situation, please dial 999.**

**For non-emergency matters, call 0845 600 5 700, text 07739 93 4444 or email [mylocalpolicingteam@grampian.pnn.police.uk](mailto:mylocalpolicingteam@grampian.pnn.police.uk)**

## LOCAL NEWS

### Bookbug

Hi my name is Louise, the Senior Library Assistant at Tillydrone Library. I would like to try and set up regular monthly Bookbug Sessions in the Library.

Bookbug sessions are free fun and friendly events for babies, toddlers and their families to enjoy together.

Each session lasts around 30 minutes and includes songs, stories and rhymes. There is usually no need to book; they take place in a very relaxed environment and are a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your little one. They are



also a good way to meet other parents and children in the local area.

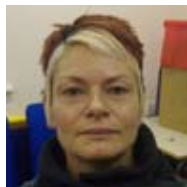
The first session took place on Tuesday 22nd February and was well attended, so it would be great to make this a regular event.

The next Bookbug session will take place at Tillydrone Library on Tuesday 22nd March from 10.30 am – 11.00am.

We look forward to seeing you there.



*If you were not here now, where would you like to be?*



**Sam Phillips, 37**

I would like to be in Louisiana to visit my best friend.



**Sofia Sheikh, 25**

Anywhere hot apart from Aberdeen because the weather is very depressing!



**Louise Simpson, 36 and bump!**

I really don't know where I would like to be. I love it here!



**Joyce Patterson, 44**

Australia. It would be great to see my cousin again.

I haven't seen her for years.



**Laura Anderson, 21 and Alanna, 8 months**

Inverurie. Just because it's easier access to get to the shops with my kids. It's a much nicer community and there's a lot more parks. The schools look more appropriate and safe for my children.



**Louise McGettigan, 25**

Probably Australia! Christmas on the beach, sunshine and easier lifestyle from what it is here!



**Adam Skiba, 43**

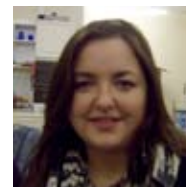
I would like to go to Tanzania if we had a long holiday.

That's where my wife comes from. If it was a short holiday, I would go to the Highlands, maybe Aviemore.



**Elaine Henderson, 63**

I would emigrate to Cyprus because I've been there for 2 years before. I was a nurse in the Army there.



**Caroline Crombie, 36**

I love being here and I'm meant to be here, but my next place will be Brazil. I am planning to go next year for a busman's holiday. That means doing a similar work but in a different place. I am a community chaplain working towards breaking the cycle of offending behaviour.



**Carolann Kindness, 50**

Canada. I would like to see my brother who lives in Toronto. I haven't seen him since I was 24.



**Paula Booth, 53**

I would like to be in a house looking over the water in Stonehaven, watching the waves crashing as it's so calming.

**Dawn Stewart, 51**

I would like to live in Elgin because I used to live there. Before that, I used to live in Wales but I am originally from London. I came up here to visit my niece Gemma and that was over 3 years ago!



**Kelly-Marie Murray, 29**

Edinburgh. I would like to be there because it's the capital city and has the best hogmanay parties!

I would like to move there because there's lots more to do for the kids, like the zoo and the parks and of course the shops. It's also easily accessible by train to Glasgow etc.



**Jenna Booth, 22**

Somewhere hot. I am sick of the weather here! I would stay in an inland country cottage where my wee boy will be safe.



Station House Media Unit (shmu) is situated just off Great Nothern 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 | www.shmu.org.uk

## shmuFM

**Elsie is a volunteer at shmu who co-presents the Tillydrone Community radio show (Tilly Talks) on a Thursday morning between 10am – 11am with Gary on 99.8 FM**

Elsie has just finished a 12 week radio training course at shmu, and has passed with flying colours.

(I've enjoyed my radio training at shmu, and everyone has been very helpful. It's a good way in getting involved in the community. Being older doesn't make any difference.)

If you are interested in taking part in radio training then contact Hayleigh on 01224 515013 or email hayleigh@shmu.org.uk



On the morning of Monday 21st February some parents and carers and I involved in PEEP Groups celebrated the achievements at a special event at the Town House.

The aim of 'A Celebration of Achievement' -Parents as Early Education Partners (peep) was to acknowledge the parents achievements and showcase a DVD which has been made by PEEP parents and carers

## TT PEEP Event

with the support of Station House Media Unit (SHMU) in Aberdeen.

The DVD entitled Creating Confident Communities shows the way in which the PEEP programme supports parents and carers as their children's first educator and the work that has been developed in Aberdeen and across Scotland.

There was a short ceremony. After the DVD show several mums and I had the opportunity to share our experiences and talk about the confidence we and our children had gained through PEEP. Lastly, individuals were presented with a Certificate of Achievement for successfully gaining an SQA accreditation.

By Alina.