

# Torry's **Vision**

Summer 2022

Image: Laura Sandison



## In this issue:

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BIG LUNCH TORRY

GREYHOPE BAY

LOCHSIDE ACADEMY

[www.shmu.org.uk/press](http://www.shmu.org.uk/press)

# Torry's Vision

Spring Edition 2022

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## editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of Torry's Vision community magazine.

Read on to find out more about the Big Lunch Torry, Mr Noon, the new head teacher at Lochside Academy and proposals for more houses on the site of Victoria Road School.

If you would like to get involved and join the editorial team or if you have ideas for the 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 in developing their ideas and skills in either writing, photography or proof reading. So please don't be shy, this is your magazine written, edited and designed by the good folk of Torry.

If you live in Torry and would like to come along to the editorial meetings or submit an article then get in touch with Rose at SHMU on **0752586312** or you can email her on **rose.ross@shmu.org.uk**.

You can also view this magazine alongside previous editions on the SHMU website **www.shmu.org.uk** then click the 'PRESS' option.

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

Torry's Vision is a community publication and the views expressed are not necessarily those of the editorial team or of shmu.

happy reading.

Supported by



Laura Young



Goodbye Laura

# MEET THE NEW COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

All good things come to an end, with that sentiment, shmu sadly bid farewell to Laura Young. Laura has been behind the scenes making the delivery of community magazines possible for several years.

After doing such an amazing job for the past 7 years, Laura has left behind big shoes to fill. Hoping to fill those shoes is Rose Ross, the new Community Media Support Worker. Rose will be supporting the dedicated volunteers on the editorial committee who bring this magazine to life.

Rose commented saying, *"I've enjoyed putting together this magazine with the brilliant Torry's Vision volunteers and look forward to getting involved with the community. I look forward to meeting many more people from the area and getting even more people involved!"*

Rose Ross



## Denis Law Legacy Trust confirmed as Volunteer Friendly

Denis Law Legacy Trust has recently been awarded the Volunteer Friendly Award in recognition of their value, use and support of volunteers.

The Trust, which has Streetsport as its flagship programme, operates in Aberdeen City and improves the lives of young people through their free sport and creative activity sessions.

Streetsport, which is delivered in partnership with Robert Gordon University, is operated with the help of many volunteers who assist in all aspects of the programme.

From sessions, to fundraising and more, volunteers from as young as 14 and as old as 60+ are involved in Denis Law Legacy Trust, with their generosity and efforts hugely important to the success of the children's charity.

Volunteers' Week was recently hosted in June and gave organisations a chance to voice their thanks to volunteers – a campaign which was successfully executed up and down the country.

The benefits of volunteering are vast and can help individuals in many ways; from enhancing their CV; making new friends; improving mental wellbeing; and much more.

If you'd be interested in volunteering, please visit [denislawlegacytrust.org](http://denislawlegacytrust.org). or email [streetsport@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:streetsport@rgu.ac.uk)



## Dee United celebrate successful first season

Torry-based youth football team Dee United celebrated their first year together in style by enjoying an awards and quiz night on Friday night.

The under-17's squad finished their inaugural season with a comfortable mid-table finish, a great achievement for a group of players who had not been tested at that level before.

Hosted at local sponsors Nigg Bay Golf Club, the end of season celebration included a fundraising quiz which the team and guests took part in, a raffle at the end of the night and player awards which were handed out throughout.

Congratulations to all the squad and management and in particular Grant, Owen, Farhan, Ben, Calum and Louis for their awards.

Dee United was established last year to provide a local group of friends with a free-to-access football

team. Findlay Harkins, Volunteer Coordinator for Denis Law Legacy Trust, launched the club with help from Streetsport coaches Elliot and Donnie.

From there, they received sponsorship from Nigg Bay Golf Club and entered the local leagues, training at Cruyff Court Neale Cooper by Tullos Primary. Findlay now runs the club alongside fellow coaches Barry and Taylor with Hannah Clews, Streetsport Development Officer, being Treasurer (and quiz creator!).

You can read more about the club's beginning on the Denis Law Legacy Trust website. From all at Denis Law Legacy Trust, well done to Findlay and everyone involved for their successful launch and subsequent performance in the league. If you'd be interested in helping or sponsoring the club, you can contact Findlay at [f.harkins@rgu.ac.uk](mailto:f.harkins@rgu.ac.uk).



## The Silver City becomes The Silver Food City

### Aberdeen has won a Sustainable Food Place Award becoming a Silver Food City

The prestigious award recognizes the work done by Granite City Good Food (GCGF) to tackle food poverty, diet-related ill-health and promoting sustainable and healthy local food.

Aberdeen is one of three Silver City Food award winners in the UK in 2022, alongside Edinburgh and Greenwich.

On awarding Granite City Good Food the honour, Leon Ballin, Sustainable Food Places Programme Manager, said: "Granite City Good Food has shown just what can be achieved when creative and committed people work together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live. While there is still much to do and many challenges to overcome, Granite City Good Food has helped to set a benchmark for the other 80+ members of the UK Sustainable Food Places Network to follow."

Lesley Dunbar, Granite City Good Food Chair, commented on the achievement. "It's a great achievement for the city where much of our focus remains on the mitigations for the climate crisis and cost of living crisis.

"I would like to thank all partners who worked towards achieving our Silver

Award including all internal partners at ACC and CFINE. I'd like to also thank Martin Carle, our local Granite City Good Food Coordinator who has worked tirelessly to bring all this together."

Funded by Aberdeen City Council, NHS Grampian Public Health Directorate and Sustainable Food places, and partnered by CFINE, GCGF is committed to creating systems to make food good for people, the planet, and the economy.

Martin Carle, Sustainable Food Coordinator, CFINE, said:

"Granite City Good Food demonstrates that transforming food systems towards sustainability is possible, and the partners of Granite City Good Food have been committed voices in acting at a strategic level around this agenda, as have the wider organisations and businesses who engaged with the application process."

Granite City Good Food are striving to become Scotland's first city to achieve Gold Food City status by 2025. They wish to welcome any food businesses and organisations who have not yet started the journey to sustainability.





# Touch of Love

Touch of Love is a charitable organisation supporting low-income families in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. This is what we do:

**Tackling hunger:** We support Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire families experiencing real hardship and struggling with severe food insecurity by providing weekly 3-day food supplies while a longer-term solution is developed. Since 2020, we have distributed over 130,000 food items delivered through 7,000 food parcels to support over 3,000 persons in need within Aberdeen.

Feel free to join us every Wednesday to distribute food parcel to Aberdeen's families in need.

**Time: 9am - 11.30am**

**Venue: Sacred Heart RC Church, 15 Grampian Road, Torry AB11 8ED**

Drop in at this time to collect a parcel. Parcels are for anyone who is struggling, no proof of dependents or income required.

**Promote Positive Health & Wellbeing:** We deliver community-based activities and programmes to help address the impact of distress and mental ill health caused by isolation and loneliness, as well as addressing the mental health inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in order

to get our Aberdeen community reconnected and revitalised.

**TOL Achievers' Club:** We deliver community-based youth work through the support of young people aged 8+ within Aberdeen to bring about positive change in their lives through impacting values and core principles including Inclusion, Self-determination, Empowerment, Collaboration and Learning. This is achieved through activities that create safe spaces for the young people to engage in conversations around anti-sectarian awareness-raising and action. Activities include sports events, arts, games and ice-breakers.

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## Penumbra

Aberdeen 1st Response can provide you with short term support when you feel at crisis point. If you are feeling overwhelmed, we can provide support tailored to your individual needs when you feel you need it most. You will receive sensitive and non-judgmental support, information, and signposting. Aberdeen 1st Response will support you to find ways to successfully

resolve the crisis situation and to plan for your own future.

**Contact Us Freephone: 0800 234 3695**

**Email [aberdeen1stresponse@penumbra.org.uk](mailto:aberdeen1stresponse@penumbra.org.uk)**

**Aberdeen 1st Response provides support between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.**

# Pathways in Torry

## It's Time!

**It's time to get the help you need.**

**It's time to get your CV reviewed and ready to go.**

**It's time to discover how to complete online applications.**

**It's time to improve your interview skills.**

It's time to find out how Pathways can help you do all this and more.

This is how we helped one client (Name changed for confidentiality)

James was 17 and in full time education at North East Scotland College studying Automotive Maintenance & Repair Principles SCQF Level 5. He had heard about Pathways from a family member and how Pathways had helped them with creating a CV, job search and interview skills. James was looking for an apprenticeship or position with training within the motor trade.

We created a CV for James with his work experience in

school, exam results and his course at North East Scotland College. We also assisted him with job searching and found an apprenticeship for a position with local garage as an Auto Care Technician.

James was invited for an interview, and we coached him on some interview skills that he felt he lacked. James was just a bit unsure of himself and just needed some reassurance to boost his confidence. This was his first interview for the first job he has applied for.

James informed us that he secured the position and started employment.

James said, "I am glad I contacted Stan and got the help I needed. I would have struggled to secure this job".

It's time to call Stan at Pathways on **01224 682 939** or email **s.smith@pathways-online.org** to make an appointment. It's time, and the time is now!

**Pathways – Helping You to Find Work**

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## Torry Library Opening hours

Torry Library have recently updated their opening hours.

The Library is now open;

**Monday + Thursday – 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm**

**Wednesday – 1pm to 7pm.**

**Located on Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9NJ**

You can browse, borrow and use the PC's and WIFI.

**Contact [torrylibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:torrylibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or call 01224 879037**

## The NESCAN Hub welcome new additions

NESCAN Hub, North East Scotland Climate Action Network, is working to unite community groups and individuals across Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. Whatever your focus, whether you are a community garden, hosting nearly new sales, local climate action project or a stitch and fix group, we can help you to grow.

We can guide you to become more sustainable and build carbon reduction into your existing projects. NESCAN Hub seek out funding opportunities, provide training, advice, support and an established network of contacts for our members.

NESCAN Hub is also delighted to announce we are expanding our team early June with the addition of three new NESCAN Hub team members.

Joining our team will be:

**Karina Emslie, Office Co-Ordinator**

**Christine Bodingham, Community Development Officer**

**Rachel Smith, Funding & Development Officer.**

The new team members will be a huge asset, and put straight to work, as we annually host a variety of events, including Climate Week North East which takes place annually in March. CWNE has over 80 events across the City and Shire, it is a fantastic showcase of the climate action across the area, that encourages everyone to get involved and have fun doing so. Events include green family fun days, tree planting, upcycling, movie nights, retrofit tours and so much more, for further info visit Climate Week North East – Take action for a sustainable future

**Join us today and become a member by visiting [www.nescan.org](http://www.nescan.org) and add your community project to our map <https://www.nescan.org/ongoing-projects>**



# BLUE SKIES, BUNTING THE BIG LUNCH TORRY

*Saturday 4th June 2022!*

St Fittick's Community Park, Greyhope Bay and The St Fittick's Edible Garden, three of the city's and Torry's most scenic locations were the host venues for the first Big Lunch Torry (BLT). The Big Lunch is a simple idea connecting people by sharing food or a cuppa. The Big Lunch is celebrated annually all over the UK and is supported by Eden Project Communities.

The sun shone and visitors were treated to a full program, starting off with elevenses at the Edible Garden on St Fittick's Road. Folk had a chance to see the great progress which has been made at the community garden whilst enjoying a free pastry, a cuppa and a blether.

12.30pm hailed lunch across the road at St Fittick's Park and 100 very tasty free packed lunches were quickly snapped up and enjoyed! It was just a treat to see families enjoying the sunshine and a picnic. A walk round the park and a nature treasure hunt after lunch

added more outdoor fun ending with bunting stencilling and a badge for those who took part. Scoop the dog was on patrol chatting about the poop watch campaign and our very own St Fittick joined the fun too! Tullos primary school pupils decorated bunting around the theme of Torry. The bunting artwork was much admired and added a finishing touch to the gazebo.

2.30pm at Greyhope Bay the last stop but by no means least for a coffee and cake. Visitors enjoyed pre booked tours, dolphin spotting, the café and coffees for £1, not to mention the amazing views. Folk flocked to see the fabulous Walker Road Dancers and a piper played as a finale to the most wonderful day.

Everyone who attended seemed to really soak up the nature, the atmosphere and all the activities on offer. It was indeed a great way to showcase some of Torry's positive community projects and bring folk together with a family day out, free

food and fantastic venues to explore on the doorstep!

This event was a fantastic example of working together and connecting our local community projects and businesses. Thank you to everyone who volunteered, supported and helped fund the event, it wouldn't have happened without you!

## **BLT 2 anyone?**







## The Greyhope Bay Centre – Torry Battery's newest attraction

Residents of Torry have always been grateful to have the natural beauty of Greyhope Bay on their doorstep. Known locally as the site of the Torry Battery, due to its historical 1860 artillery battery, the area is a popular place to walk, appreciate the wildlife, and take a breather away from the bustle of the city centre.

Now, the area is part of a charity development to draw in more visitors to the area. Situated just outside of the Torry Battery, the Greyhope Bay Centre lies within sight of the South Breakwater Lighthouse. The views from the centre, which includes a café, are spectacular. The café is open from 10am to 4pm, Wednesday to Sunday. The centre also holds a variety of events, you check out the full calendar at <https://www.greyhopebay.com/events>

With the town laid out before you, the Sir Duncan Rice library

winking at you in the sunlight. Binoculars are available to appreciate this view or spot a variety of wildlife, particularly the dolphins, which have long drawn people from all over to appreciate their antics.

According to the RSPB's Dolphinwatch, Aberdeen is one of the best places to spot Bottlenose Dolphins. The RSPB also offer a variety of activities to appreciate the coastline, such as rock pooling when the tide is low at Torry Beach, a short walk from the centre.

Walking along the coastal path from the centre, you will come upon Girdle Ness Lighthouse, built by Robert Stevenson in 1833, and location of the foghorn known as the Torry Coo, no longer in operation.

**Laura Sandison**



## TORRY MEMORIES & HERITAGE SOCIETY

We held our 'Indoor Jubilee Street Party' on Wednesday the 8th of June at Provost Hogg Court.

We had a great day, good party food, fun bingo, a 1950's British film stars quiz and a sing song. There was also a Celebration Cake cut by our oldest member and a wee toast to the Queen.



## TORRY LISTED MONUMENTS

### *Railway Viaduct Over The River Dee At Ferryhill Junction*

The building of the "C" listed 11 span railway viaduct over the River Dee was started in 1848 by Lock and Errington.

In 1850 the first railway train (from the Caledonian Railway) crossed the River Dee and stopped at the Ferryhill Station, where the line then terminated. This line linked Aberdeen to London, and 'was to change the travelling and commercial habit of the town in the space of a few years'.

By 1854 the line began to extend northwards, over 'The Arches' to Guild Street Station. On 4th November 1867 Aberdeen Joint Station opened to replace Aberdeen Guild Street Station and Waterloo Station. Between 1913 and 1916 Aberdeen Joint Station was totally rebuilt.

*By Patrick Robertson*



# Revised plans approved for former Victoria Road School to create additional affordable housing

Aberdeen City Council have approved revised plans to introduce additional affordable housing to be built on the site of the former Victoria Road School.

Project Partners Grampian Housing Association and Torry Development Trust previously had approval to build 50 units on the site, this has now increased to 55.

The five additional homes will be possible by restructuring plans for the internal courtyard and community facilities. The Courtyard area will cover two stories to provide space for an upper floor.

Grampian Housing Association purchased the former Victoria Road School in 2019, GHA are working with the Torry Development Trust to deliver a residential-led mixed use community regeneration project.

Work has begun on the site in preparation for the project to remove loose granite masonry, this has been laid aside for building during the contract.

Site safety is being monitored throughout the project as exposure to elements and vandalism are causing deterioration. The partners have appealed for parents to remind children that the site is dangerous and should not be entered.

Technical Design are also working towards the final building warrant approval and production of

tender documents and aim to have these returned for review by late Autumn. The documents will be reviewed in discussion with the Scottish Government and Aberdeen City Council for the grant required to complete the project. It is expected that construction costs will rise due to the economic crisis caused by Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The partnership are also in discussions with the council provide affordable heating to the development by connecting with the Torry Heat Network.

Craig Stirrat, chief executive officer at Grampian Housing Association said: "We are pleased to be moving forward with this important regeneration project. We have a scheme with which will provide additional high quality, energy efficient residential accommodation for social rent, set within a mixed-use site containing community facilities.

David Fryer, lead trustee with TDT said: "Despite the many world-wide factors that have affected communities everywhere, the design team of our partnership project is steadily making up for time lost in the last few years. Consent is already in place for a small nursery and spaces for local community use and we are also looking for options to create additional offsite benefits for Torry on adjoining sites."

## MY VISIT TO ST FITTICKS EDIBLE GARDEN

I recently had the opportunity to attend St Fittick's community garden. It was very quiet when I first arrived but soon, I started seeing families and couples emerge on the path and soon the park garden was bustling with all sorts of people from all over Torry.

I took the opportunity to have a look at the allotments to see twelve planters all growing a range of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The project is run by Cultivate Aberdeen and officially was launched on 1st March 2021 and refurbished old planters as well as adding new ones. The project is linked by a green walk with other projects in Torry such as the Torry Allotments, Balnagask Golf Course, Greyhope Bay Project, and the new harbour expansion. The project aims to encourage families and individuals to make good choices with food and provides a dedicated outdoor learning space to be used by children and young people. Residents will be able to help themselves to the produce once it is fully grown.

During my visit the plants were newly sprouting and weren't yet producing fruits and vegetables, but I could still identify from the labels which had lovely illustrations. My personal favourite was seeing the little white flowers which were due to start blooming into strawberries.

It was great to watch so many families come together and interact after the events of the past two years.

**Stacey Harkins**



## Councillor Comments

### Michael Kuszniir

Having been elected on 5th May to represent Torry/Ferryhill on Aberdeen City Council for the Scottish Conservatives, I am enjoying getting into the swing of Council and ensuring I am well equipped to support residents across Torry.

As Councillors we have two roles: (1) to represent our Wards (think fly-tipping, housing, potholes, and the like) and (2) sitting on Council

Committees of concern to the wider City.

Aberdeen is at a turning point. Can we transition effectively to harness the energy expertise that we have and also redevelop our city space to keep pace with other Scottish cities? These are the big questions we must grapple with.

Locally I have been hammering away on local enquiries: getting

damaged drain covers fixed, reporting potholes and looking forward to meeting more businesses and residents over the next few months.

For everyday queries, I am contactable at **MKuszniir@aberdeencity.gov.uk** or **07877399 542**.

**Michael Kuszniir**

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### Lee Fairfull

Hello everyone, I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself as one of the new faces at Aberdeen City Council this term, representing Torry and Ferryhill. My sincere thanks to all of those who voted in the local elections this year and allowed for me to take on this exciting role; please be assured I will work hard for every resident of Torry, and am happy to help with all matters, whether you feel it is big or small.

As I have been settling into my role, I have had the opportunity meet with

residents and businesses throughout Torry and discuss the issues they are having. It comes as no surprise that the current rise in the cost of living is forefront on most people's minds. It is making things incredibly difficult, and if you feel I can provide any help or support, please don't hesitate to get in touch for a chat. You can email me [lfairfull@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:lfairfull@aberdeencity.gov.uk) and we can arrange a meeting or a call.

In the council chamber, my colleagues and I are determined to get stuck in, and we are optimistic of

the next five years ahead of us.

Our aim is to get Aberdeen back to the vibrant town it once was. Of course, there are many challenges that face us, but we will always ensure to act in the interest of the people of Aberdeen.

Wishing you all a great summer. If you see me out and about, please don't hesitate to say hello.

**Best wishes,  
Lee Fairfull**

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### Christian Allard

It is a new dawn for Aberdeen with the SNP heading the partnership with our Liberal Democrat colleagues at Aberdeen City Council, our thanks to all of you who voted in the local elections this year. We will work hard for everyone in Torry, whatever you voted or not. We will set up our program for the next five years as early as August this year.

I was disappointed that not enough residents in Torry put their names

forward to get our Torry Community Council re-established. If you want to make a difference in our community or if you know someone who could, please contact Aberdeen City Council or me directly at [callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk). Volunteers are getting things done in Torry, now that the covid restrictions are lifted, I would urge you to get involved.

The Greyhope Centre is a great example of what volunteers can

achieve to make our community a better place. A few weeks back, I was delighted to welcome our First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, to the Torry Battery for a coffee, a scone and a wee blether. There is much to talk about with the cost-of-living crisis hitting us all. People are needing help and support like never before and for no fault of their own. Please get in touch if you need help and advice.

**Christian Allard**

## Stephen Flynn MP

People in Aberdeen are paying a heavy price for the cost-of-living crisis - with austerity, Westminster tax hikes, cuts to universal credit and Brexit piling on the pressure.

The Scottish Government is doing all it can to ease the burden on households with energy bill support payments and new benefits like the Scottish Child Payment.

Many hard-working families in Torry and across Aberdeen need this support immediately to meet

spiralling energy and foods costs, but with the main economic powers held in Westminster, it is critical the UK Government acts now.

On a more positive note, it has been brilliant to see pupils at Walker Road Primary School getting involved in their joint campaign with the parent council to help improve road safety outside the school. As many of you may have noticed, ribbons have been tied to the school gates to show drivers how many lives are at risk.

The campaign follows concerns about the safety of pupils due to families parking on the zig zag lines and cars speeding nearby. I am hopeful that ongoing discussions between the parent council, the school and local councillors mean that a solution is found soon.

Should you feel that I can be of assistance with any issue at all, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can do so by emailing [stephen.flynn.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:stephen.flynn.mp@parliament.uk) or by calling **01224 213114**.

## 20th Aberdeen Boys Brigade: Tribute

We were all extremely shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Sherry Bruce, on the 3rd of April this year. Sherry was not only a dear friend, but also a Lieutenant in our BB Company, working particularly with our Anchor Boys, on Friday nights.

Sherry was born and raised in Torry, and was a great supporter of this area, and in particular of our young folks. She was an active member of Torry UF Church, and also a PSA at Orchard Brae School, a job she loved so much.

At Sherry's funeral, the amazing sum of £1120 was raised, showing just how highly thought of she was. This will be shared between 20th Aberdeen BB and Orchard Brae School, and we extend our grateful thanks to the family for this generous gesture.

Sherry was involved with our BB for 20 years and will be much missed. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with her family, whom she adored.

**Ian Duff (Captain) and all at 20th Co. BB**



## shmuFM

Radio has been busy with lots of planning going into new shows as well as more live shows being back on the schedule. We welcomed Sarah Burns and Kerry Cheyne back into the studios as well as new shows from our past shmuTRAIN participants and Dave White's Country music show County Folk. A new live slot for The Moshpit has been a success with a lot of new listeners tuning in on Saturday evenings." We are launching a new slot in the schedule for local charities and the first one started on Thursday (26th May), presented by Dave Ironside with Aberdeen FC Football Community Trust (AFCCT). We also look forward to having input from Family Learning and WeToo, for future shows. Thursday (26th May), presented by Dave Ironside with Aberdeen FC Football Community Trust (AFCCT). We also look forward to having input from Family Learning and Wetoo, for future shows. We also are working on having our community shows return on air once the teams for the shows have been set up and we will be looking for suggestions on how to enhance these shows. Our next step is to complete the phase 2 return to the building by having all volunteers back live in the studio and launch our new recruitment drive for presenters.



## shmuTRAIN

Positive Transition young people have had an eventful month with outings to Instant Neighbour and Farrans construction site at Haudagain. At Instant Neighbour we chatted with the ever-helpful Susan who told us about her journey and what her current role at Instant Neighbour entails alongside an excellent tour of the premises and furniture shop. At Farrans, we learned a lot about what goes into building a road and how it impacts the local area. We discovered the various job roles in Farrans and routes into working for them. They highlighted how work experience can be invaluable but also how important it is to set reasonable goals and expectations. We have also had a blast scripting, preparing, and filming the horror movie Killer Clown with Laura dressed up as a scary clown and running around the bushes in Woodside – a standard workday at shmu! The young people are extremely excited to see the finished product and so are we! Finally, Laura and Michelle had the pleasure of attending the opening of the road at Haudagain on the 16th of May, where they chatted with the Minister for Transport Scotland Jenny Gilruth!



# Lochside Academy's new editions

**Every year, millions of students make the daunting move up to secondary school, packing their bags, filling their pencil cases, and dressing in uniform.**

One of these schools is Lochside Academy, built in 2018 for £47 million, it is a gleaming white building with state-of-the-art learning facilities and opportunities for its students. Recently, the primary sevens from Abbotswell, Charleston, Kirkhill, Loirston, Tullos and Walker Road primary schools have spent two induction days at Lochside Academy and readied themselves for the thrilling experience of S1, which is just around the corner. During this time, they got to meet the selfless staff members alongside the crucial roles of our school police officer and head teacher.

In April, Mr Noon joined the school as the new head teacher and was committed to making Lochside Academy an even better place. He chose Lochside after being "blown away with the friendly welcome I received from young people and staff in both school and at Aberdeen City Council". We sat down with Mr Noon to ask about his plans for the school and development of Lochside academy's relationship with the wider community. His ambition for the school is clear "My vision is for Lochside Academy to be the best school in Scotland. By

the best school I mean the quality of our teaching and learning, how we challenge and support young people to achieve their best." He then goes on to say what he is currently working on "Having joined the school just after the Easter holiday, a lot of my time has been developing the School Improvement Plan for 2022-23. It is coming together and absolutely captures the voice of our young people, families, and staff." This is no surprise as Mr Noon was quick to express his passion for ensuring the voices of the school are heard. "Listening to the people and giving them a voice is really important to me. I have spent a significant amount of time listening to young people, families, and staff about where we are as a school community." Mr Noon has enlightened students by delivering assemblies that inform them how to make the most out of their curriculum. During these, he inspired students as he talked about his own experience of struggling to achieve his true potential while at school yet still going on to be successful. This is ultimately what drives him to fight for his students to overcome their obstacles, continue achieving and pave the way for a brighter future. He states "when our pupils leave Lochside Academy I want them to have the knowledge, skills and attributes to go onto a positive destination in terms of employment, education or training."

Another fairly new member of staff is Police Constable Jackson who joined the Lochside community as its full-time police officer in June last year with the aim of making the school a safer environment for students. Scotland has been placing police officers within schools across the country for the purpose of building stronger relationships between the public and police, giving schools a way of tackling criminal activity within the building, and improving the behaviour and attitude of students. Lochside Academy has had an on-site police officer since its opening, and while at first some parents and pupils were sceptical about the idea, the school community has now become mostly unphased and comforted by this presence. PC Jackson tackles a range of issues within the school and is someone who students are able to turn to with any serious problems or concerns. Recently, he has been teaching classes through slideshows and interactive activities about non-tolerated behaviours and hate crimes, spreading awareness on the issues and encouraging students to avoid them and reflect on their own behaviours. The response from students on these lessons have been highly positive, many noting that it has pushed them to make better choices.

**Lana Watson-Geddes (S2),  
Millie Hamill (S3)**



# 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

**SEPA Odour Reporting Hotline** - 0800 80 70 60

*(for reporting odours believed to be linked to Nigg Waste Water Treatment Works)*

## 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 Carers Support 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

**Penumbra First Reponse** 0800 234 3695

**Torry Medical Practice**

8am – 6pm

**Contact:** 0345 337 9977

**Holburn Medical Practice**

01224 400800

**Local Councillors**

**Councillor Lee Fairfull**

01224 346652, lfairfull@aberdeencity.gov.uk

**Councillor Christian Allard**

01224 346642, callard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

**Councillor Micheal Kuszniir**

01224 346653, mkuszniir@aberdeencity.gov.uk

**Councillor Simon Watson**

01224 346654, simwatson@aberdeencity.gov.uk

**Audrey Nicoll MSP**

audrey.nicoll.msp@parliament.scot

**Stephen Flynn MP**

01224 213114, stephen.flynn.mp@parliament.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:

### Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999. For non-emergencies call 101

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline Free** and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day.

Telephone: 0800 027 1234. Website: [sdafmh.org.uk](http://sdafmh.org.uk)

### Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381. Website: [grampian-womens-aid.com](http://grampian-womens-aid.com)

**Rape Crisis Grampian** Telephone: 01224 590932. Website: [rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk](http://rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk)