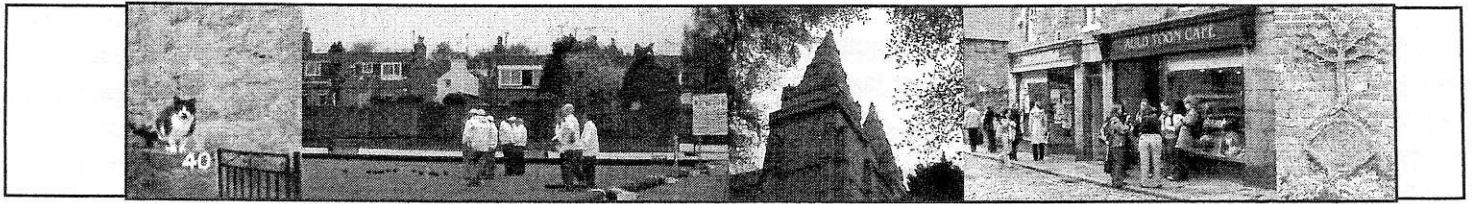


The Auld Toon News



WORD 06

(12- 14 May)

We are very fortunate here in Old Aberdeen to be so close to what has become one of the major events in the Scottish literary calendar. Many of the main events are already oversubscribed but if you take a chance, there may well be available seating on the day. For full details check out www.abdn.ac.uk/word

Dunbar Hall of Residence appeal

Notification has just been received in a letter dated 5 May that the University and Unite Group have now appealed to the Scottish Executive against the refusal of planning permission for the above application. (contd page 3)

Small improvements

St Peter's PTA have received a grant from the Community Council's small improvements budget to help fund the cost of new playground equipment. We are delighted to have been able to help them in this way. There is still around £1,000 in this fund and we are still welcoming ideas.

Help urgently required

The Community Council urgently requires a Minutes Secretary. If you can use a laptop, spare a couple of hours a month for the meeting and some extra time to polish up the minutes and circulate them, please contact our Chair, Morag Paterson. You can be assured of a very warm welcome!

Traffic on the High Street - so what's new !

Parts of Old Aberdeen are beginning to feel like an island under siege by the motor vehicle at the rush hour with ribbons of metal stretching along King Street, St Machar Drive and Bedford Road. Inevitably the problem of too many cars and not enough road is spilling on to the High Street. Few would argue that we need to preserve the unique character of Old Aberdeen, yet traffic issues plague residents, businesses and visitors alike. The Community Council has been researching a way forward by talking to interested parties and we are now engaging the City Council to find an acceptable solution.

So what are the issues?

Pedestrian safety has to be top of the list: students, staff, visitors, residents spill off the narrow pavements on to the street. Accidents have so far been rare but carefree pedestrians, contra-flow cyclists, legal and illegal parking, double decker buses and an old narrow cobbled street need careful management. This already potent mix is compounded by cars openly flouting the restricted access signs at the University Road/College Bounds entrance and using the road as a 'rat run' down the Spital and along the High Street. The police now tell us the only solution here is a permanent traffic barrier.

