

## Help spread the word about the Mobile Library

If you, or someone you know, isn't able to get to the Central Library or one of the 17 local libraries then let the library come to you!

The Mobile Library regularly visits a number of Sheltered Housing sites throughout the city and a site at Kingswells. This is ideal for anyone who isn't able to get out and about and means they can choose items to borrow for themselves without relying on friends or family to do this on their behalf.

The mobile library stock includes fiction and non-fiction books, large print and talking books as well as CDs, videos and DVDs. Reservations can be taken for items available at any library in the city.

For those who are housebound our Home Service staff can pay you a visit and arrange a monthly delivery of books and tapes of your choice.

**To find out the visiting times and locations Tel: 01224 652514 or Email: MobileLibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk**

## Equipment hire from the Library

Gone are the days of gathering round at Christmas to watch slide shows of past family holidays. With only digital cameras and camcorders available in the shops now, and turntables only being used by DJ's in nightclubs, finding equipment that still works to view 35mm slides or listen to 45rpm records you've got stored in the loft is a challenge.

Hiring a 35mm slide and film converter is perfect for converting your old film footage from days gone by onto CD to keep for future generations. USB turntables are also available to convert your 33, 45 or 78 RPM record to play on a CD or MP3 player.

Booking fees range from £5 to £15 and once converted you and your family will be able to enjoy your memories for years to come easily. Staff are happy to answer any questions about hiring this or any equipment.

**To find out more Tel: 01224 652505/06 or Email: audiovisuallibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk**



# COMPETITION

## Accord Card Competition

Your chance to win 3 DVDs!

### Premonition (12)

### Hidalgo (12)

### Wind That Shakes The Barley (15)

To enter simply answer the following question:

**Which section of the Central Library can you research your family history?**

Answer: .....

Name: .....

Address:.....

Tel: .....

Accord Card Number: .....

Closing date for the competition is **Friday 30th January 2009**. Please note this competition is for Accord Card holders only.

**Send your entry to: Accord Card Competition (Citizen), c/o Marketing Team, Aberdeen City Council, Town House, Broad Street, Aberdeen AB10 1AQ.**

# SHOPPING

Accord card holders are entitled to discounts in the following shops, so don't forget to show them your card before you pay!

### ONE UP RECORDS

17 Belmont Street, Aberdeen,  
Tel (01224) 642662

- 10% discount for all Accord cardholders; excludes sale items

### BRUCE MILLER'S

363 Union Street, Aberdeen  
Tel (01224) 592211

- for the over 60's - join the special Bruce Miller Club

DISCOUNTS



# Accord A Newsletter

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR CITIZENS

## The Ideal Christmas Present for Keen Golfers

**Fed up with your friends and family asking what you'd like for Christmas, but you can't think of anything you actually need or want? If the thought of opening yet more smellies or socks on Christmas Day isn't appealing then how about an Aberdeen City Council Golf Season Pass!**

If you're a keen golfer but your clubs are busy gathering dust in the garage it's a great way to get back in the swing! You could ask your friends and family to contribute or simply treat yourself with your Christmas money.

A Golf Season Pass enables you to unlimited use of the City Council's five 18 hole, one 9 hole and one 6 hole courses, two 9 hole pitch and putt courses and all putting greens and practice areas.

Season pass holders can also book tee-times up to six days in advance where normal pay and play customers can only book on the day of play unless they hold a priority bookings pass.

Golf passes can be paid for in full or the cost can be spread over 12 months by Direct Debit. Whilst a Golf Season Pass offers great value for money, Access to Leisure (A2L) members will also benefit from large discounts. For example, a Full Annual Adult pass costs £286 but A2L members pay just £171.60. That's an impressive saving of £114.40!



It'll be no time at all before you've got your monies worth.

To be eligible for the Access to Leisure Membership, you must live in Aberdeen, be 60 years or over, or in receipt of a relevant benefit. Once you've got your Golf Season Pass and insurance (Adult Golf insurance £8, Junior Golf insurance £3.50) you're all set to play. For further information visit our new website [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/golf](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/golf) or contact the Membership Administrator on **01224 814771**.



# RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

**Jackie Leith shares how using the Local Studies section of the Central Library when tracing her family tree, has revealed some intriguing discoveries.**

I became interested in family history when as a child I was asked to create my family tree. I discovered on asking my late grandmother that I was related to the Duthie family who bequeathed the money and land to create the Duthie Park, which was given to the citizens of Aberdeen.

It was only when I was older that I decided to investigate the family tree further. I went to the Local Studies section of the Central Library to see what I could find.

One of my greatest finds was a reference to a portrait of Elizabeth Crombie Duthie that was donated to the Aberdeen Town Council after her death in 1885 and was, for a time, on show within the Lord Provosts office. I was able to track down the portrait fifteen years ago and the portrait itself was restored in time for the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Duthie Park this year. I found the reference to the portrait within the Town Council minutes which the Central Library have on their shelves dating back to 1883 – a great reference tool especially if you are researching the area or even the house you live in or in my case my family history. Street directories are very useful reference tools and the library has Aberdeen Street directories from 1824.

When I really got my teeth into researching my family history four years ago, I used the library for my research and this continues to this day. I like a challenge and enjoy the detective work that is needed to undertake this type of work – my nickname being Miss Marple.



Jackie Leith

Why pay someone to research your family tree – do it yourself, it is fun and all the tools are there at your fingertips, however you have to be prepared that you might unearth some long forgotten family skeletons.

The library has microfiche for births, deaths and marriages prior to 1855, which anyone can access and if you get stuck the staff will happily help out and this service is absolutely free.

Another great source of information is newspapers and Local Studies holds a vast selection on microfilm. Recently, I came across a reference in a newspaper article to a volume of newspaper cuttings that belonged to the Duthie family and had been donated to Aberdeen Central Library in the 1890s. I asked a member of the Local Studies team if the volume still existed.

I left the enquiry in their capable hands and within a week was informed that the book had been found. I viewed the bound volume which dated from 1823 and had belonged to Walter Duthie on my next visit.

It is amazing what Local Studies have in their collection waiting to be rediscovered and I would recommend anyone who is interested in researching their family tree, their home or their local area take the time and visit Aberdeen Central Library Local Studies section. Who knows what you could find and where it might lead.

Library membership is free and included in the Accord Card. The Local Studies service is also free and available to non-members for reference purposes only.

**Call 01224 652512, email [localstudieslibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:localstudieslibrary@aberdeencity.gov.uk) or visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/library](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/library)**



## New ticket machines on buses for reading Accord Cards

If you have travelled on Stagecoach or FIRST buses in Aberdeen recently you may have noticed new electronic ticket machines are being used on some Aberdeen City routes. The vast majority of Accord Card holders will be unaffected by these new machines. However, in the unlikely event that your card cannot be read, either because it is faulty or the old style, it is easy to obtain a replacement.

When boarding the bus place your Accord Card on the smart card reader as directed by the driver.

If the card works, the driver will issue you with a ticket for travel as normal.

If your card cannot be read by the ticket machine, you have the option of handing over your card in exchange for a free temporary seven day bus pass, which will be accepted on all bus services throughout Scotland. In this situation you should contact the Accord Card office as soon as possible to request a replacement card.

Alternatively, you can choose to keep the card and pay full fare for your travel.



**To request a new card or for more information, call the Accord Card office on 0845 345 2789.**

### Christmas Recycling Tips

Follow our helpful hints to reduce, reuse and recycle this Christmas. It's easy to cut down on the amount of waste and save some money too.

Buy a reusable Christmas tree or one grown in a sustainable forest. If you have a real tree, don't forget to put it out with your wheeled bin or take it to a recycling centre after the festivities.

Buy loose fruit and vegetables and only buy what you need. Remember most people won't eat their weight in sprouts! Compost your fruit and vegetable peelings to make great garden fertiliser, absolutely free.

Surprise your family and friends by treating them to a spa pampering day, a new hairdo, a golf season pass, or concert tickets to see their favourite artist. The options are endless and none require wrapping which saves paper!

To find out about changes to your refuse and kerbside collections times at Christmas and New Year, or for more useful festive tips, visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/wasteaware](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/wasteaware)



## GET THE NEW YEAR OFF TO A HEALTHY START

Research and experience has shown that regular exercise can reduce the risk of having a stroke or developing diabetes, and can help lower your blood pressure. Aberdeen City Council can help you get active and stay fit with one of the many sports and recreational facilities it has to offer.

Some of the exciting activities available from Aberdeen City Council include aqua aerobics, line dancing, golf and tennis.

All classes are taken by fully qualified instructors and equipment and music are included as standard, so all you need is motivation, comfortable clothing and you are ready to go!!! And don't forget to use the Access to Leisure entitlement on your Accord Card to receive up to 50% off activities and classes.

**For a complete list of sports centres, fitness classes and prices visit [www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sports](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/sports) or call 01224 814771.**

