



The lighthouse at Portsoy.

## Cancer charity lights the north

THE charity CLAN Cancer Support now has 140 mini lighthouses positioned all around the north of Scotland.

Decorated by both professional artists and school children, their aim is to provide "a light in the dark" for people hit by cancer.

Fiona Fernie, the cancer charity's head of income generation said: "After two years of hard work, we're delighted to launch Light the North.

"We can't wait to take you on a journey across the north-east and Northern Isles to discover our lighthouses.

"You'll see artworks that have been inspired by lighthouses, the sea, our local communities and more.

"Fifty 9ft lighthouses and 90 smaller lighthouses will be on display, giving you plenty to collect and enjoy on the trail."

The larger lighthouses have all been sponsored by organisations across the country.

Fiona added: "It's been an incredibly challenging year for everyone, which is why it has been so humbling to have the support of so many businesses.

"We've often heard people affected by cancer describe CLAN as a light in the dark during their cancer journey. It makes the symbolism of a lighthouse the perfect fit."

There are light houses in Banff, Portsoy and Buckie.

There are three in Elgin, on the Plainstones, in Cooper Park and at Johnstons.

The lighthouse at Johnstons was designed and decorated by five pupils from Buckie High School who chose to depict a sunrise as a symbol of hope.

The bunting on their lighthouse represents the coloured ribbons of awareness for different types of cancers.

Find out more about taking part in the trail at [www.lighthousenorth.co.uk](http://www.lighthousenorth.co.uk)

# One man band on a mega trek

By Pat Scott

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A MAN pulling a piano from John O'Groats to Land's End popped has made his way through Huntly.

James Tofalli started his journey in April and expects it to take him six months to reach his final destination.

His aim is to raise funds for mental health and autism charities after being diagnosed with severe ADHD as a child and battling depression,

anxiety and addiction throughout his life.

He said: "This journey is to show those who feel like they have been labelled with something negative they can turn it into something positive. Absolutely anything is possible when you put your mind to it."

James, who is logging his journey on social media, happily plays the piano for anyone willing to listen when he stops.

Pauline Buchan, at Cairnie, went out to help him when he

encountered mechanical problems as he passed her home.

She said: "I gave him some sweets and snacks, I would have offered him a shower too. He played an Elton John tune for me. Such a lovely guy, but some drivers weren't very kind to him. It's such an amazing thing he is doing for people with poor mental health."

James is on his second piano – the first fell off and smashed at Fort William. It is mounted on a trailer and when he got to Dores at Loch

Ness, people there added a small petrol engine to it to help him on his travels.

At Huntly, James spent some time at Tesco before making his way back onto the A96 enroute for Inverurie. He camped overnight and by lunchtime the next day was at Roy's Pit Stop bus at Pitcaple where he tucked into a hearty breakfast. To date he has raised £4752 of his £250,000 target. Details of how to donate can be found on the TofalliMusic Facebook page.



James Tofalli, with his piano trailer, taking a break at Tesco.



The live bronze pour last weekend of waymarkers for the route to the White Wood. Picture: Ruth Mitchell

## Final step taken in wood project

WAYMARKERS for the White Wood, planted during a Deveron Projects residency, were created at a Live Bronze Pour event recently.

The event at the Scottish Sculpture Workshop (SSW) in Lumsden, was timed to coincide with artist Caroline Wendling's residency at the arts organisation.

In Ms Wendling's first project, over 1000 trees, shrubs and flowers were planted in a wood to create peace.

Recently she has been in Huntly to focus on

signage, marking routes to enable people to find the White Wood.

Working with the SSW and pupils from The Gordon Schools over 40 waymarkers, intricate bronze sculptures which will be placed along the route between Huntly Station and the White Wood were created.

The audience were also invited to be a part of the making process, helping out with finishing touches – pupils from The Gordon Schools inscribed their names on waymarkers they had made.

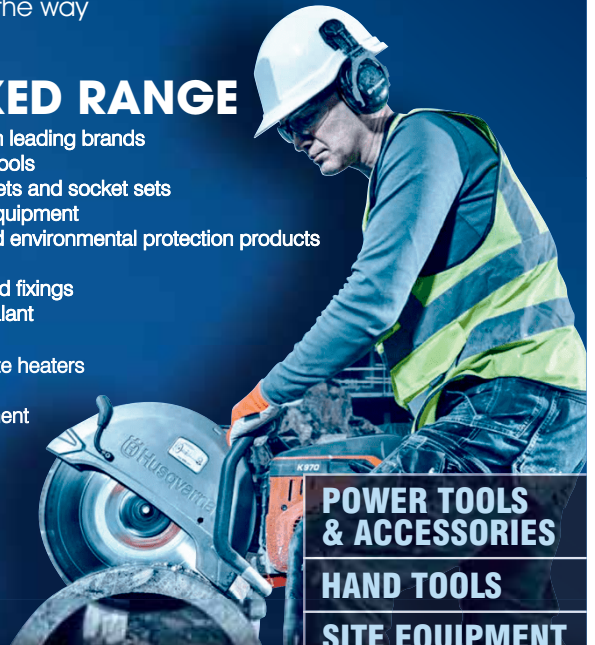
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