

B P L

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

WWW.BANFFSHIREPARTNERS.CO.UK

ISSUE 15 - 2013



FREE INSIDE THIS ISSUE . . . NEWS FROM AROUND THE
AREA . . . TRANSPORT NEWS . . . AND LOTS MORE

developing communities



“support for an active community”

community development

marketing support

project development advice

fund-raising advice

local networking & gatherings

research & consultation

... a voice for the area



BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB452JT
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PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Banffshire Partnership Ltd.
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Directors can be contacted
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01261 843598.*

Directors meet bi-monthly
(or more often if necessary).

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is recognised as a Local Rural
Partnership by the Scottish
Government.*



Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the new edition of the Banffshire Partnership Yearbook. As expected last year, it has been a very challenging year for everybody at the Partnership and I would like to thank Duncan Leece, his staff and especially the volunteers for all their efforts in meeting those challenges.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Since the Community Transport side of the business started in 1999 it has grown steadily and is now the main activity of Banffshire Partnership.

The dial-a-bus service is very well used. The annual survey of our passengers shows how valuable this service is to them, not just getting them to the shops and on outings, but in terms of social interaction and helping to alleviate social exclusion. Community hire activity has held up well during the year and we would like to remind all local groups that our vehicles are available at very reasonable cost for outings, meetings, etc.

As well, above half of the funding for Community Transport comes from Aberdeenshire Council grants and we are always looking at ways to make the operation

more cost-effective. This is even more important now, as we saw a 10% reduction in our budget allocation for 2012, and while we don't expect anything as radical as that again for the coming year, money is bound to be tight.

TRAINING

For many years we have provided transport-related training to minibus drivers and Passenger Assistants. In an effort to broaden our range, we are now able to offer a range of training courses in HSE accredited First Aid, Health & Safety At Work and Manual Handling.

We have already delivered training for local and national companies and community organisations and feedback from our customers has been excellent.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Although now the smallest part of the activities of Banffshire Partnership in financial terms, the Community Economic Development side plays a very large role in the communities that it serves.

BPL is an active member of the Local Community Planning



Partnership and it has assisted many community groups with projects, business plans and funding applications over the years.

We have a paid contract with Aberdeenshire Council to provide this resource and without that income we would be unable to help community groups. Even so, we get more enquiries than we currently have resources, both human and financial to handle, so please be patient with us! This financial year saw a 20% cut in our CED funding.

The board is very well aware that we face tightening budgets in the next few years. However, it is our wish to continue with the broad range of activities that we currently undertake and where possible expand them to meet the needs of our community.

Robin Maddock
Robin Maddock, Chairman
contact me at
bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

A COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS AVAILABLE IN LARGE FORMAT TEXT IF REQUIRED.

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Developing Communities - 01261 843598



Duncan Leece
Director of
Operations



Roger Smart



Kay Beaton

Community Transport - 01261 843598



Jan Maddock
Transport Manager



Derek Anthony



Heike Wilson



Daniel Wilson



Fiona Alexander



Geoff Smart



Jim Esslemont



Alan Thomson



Janice Laing



Scott Ord Jones



Jenna Wilson

Our Valued Volunteers

Many of our passenger assistants and drivers - whether for the Dial-A-Bus or community groups - are volunteers, whose contribution is greatly valued by all who benefit. If you would like to join them, it's necessary to register with us and take up appropriate training.

If you think you can help please contact us:

Banffshire Partnership Community Transport, The Old School, Boyndie, Banff. AB45 2JT
Tel: 01261 843598 E-mail: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

A Word From Our DOO!

It is always a pleasure to be involved in production of Partnership Update, our yearbook. Like so many people, we are always snowed under with work here at BPL, and writing this is a rare opportunity to take a moment to look at what we have achieved.

My favourite task is reading the pieces from all the community groups we work with, as there really is an impressive range of projects being done, mainly by

volunteers, many of whom just keep working year after year for the benefit of us all. I can't see how anyone reading 'Update' from cover to cover, could fail to agree that our communities have stories to be proud of and excited about.

BPL could not exist without my great team of volunteers and paid staff, and I make no apology for using this magazine as a way of thanking them publicly.

In the 'Chairman's Letter' Robin has explained the financial climate we are working in, and it is not an easy one. It is frustrating that we can't help all the individuals and group projects we are aware of, to the depth we would like, but what I know for sure is that BPL is needed as much now, or maybe more, than when it started back in 1999. We are all determined to carry on the good work.



Duncan D Leece,
Director of Operations
(DOO)

contact me at
bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

All departments of Banffshire Partnership are now accessed via a single telephone number 01261 843598.

Scottish Community Transport Association
Volunteer Of The Year

A presentation was made to Roy Makepeace, "Scottish Community Transport Association" Volunteer of the year, by our Chairman Robin Maddock on Thursday 29th November at the Boyndie Visitor Centre.

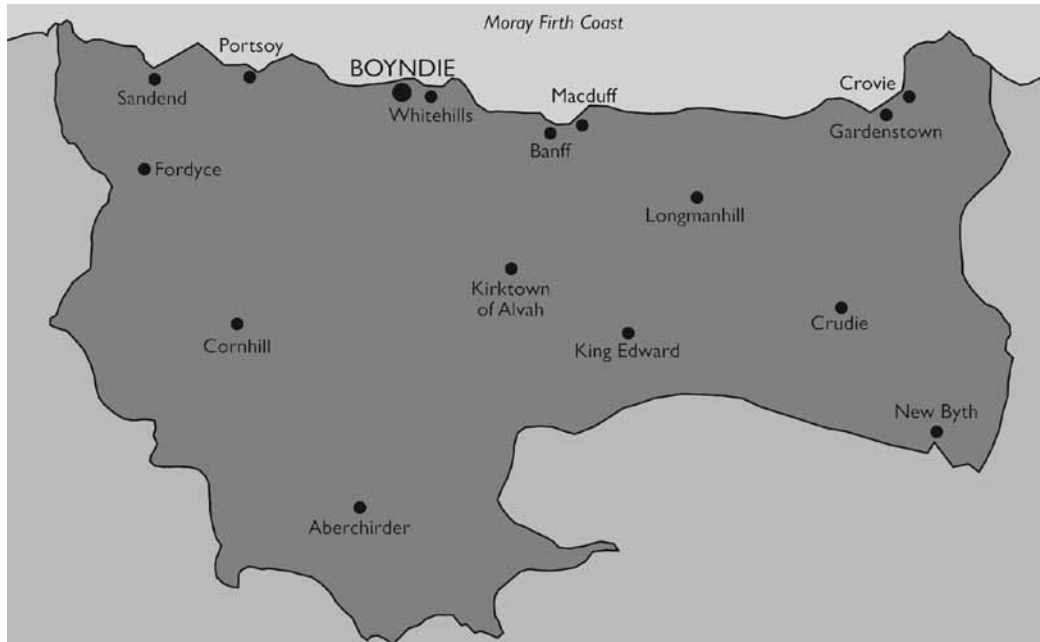
The presentation was attended by Roy's wife and his colleagues. Roy recently retired as a volunteer after five years with BPL.

Speaking to Roy at the award ceremony, Robin said that Roy's help over the years had been invaluable and that he would be sorely missed by the clients and his colleagues. This award showed how volunteers like Roy really do make the difference.



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Banffshire Partnership Area



The Banffshire Partnership area covers the Community Council areas of:

- ***Aberchirder & Marnoch***
- ***Alvah & Forglan***
- ***Banff & Macduff***
- ***Cornhill & Ordiquhill***
- ***Fordyce & Sandend***
- ***King Edward & Gamrie***
- ***Portsoy***
- ***Whitehills***

The following pages highlight some of the activities and events which have been happening throughout the area over the past months, as well as giving an insight into some of the events which will be taking place next year.

It is our intention to publish an annual Partnership Update. The next edition of the newsletter - Issue 16 - will appear in late 2013, so don't miss out on a great opportunity to get some free publicity for your group's activities or forthcoming events.

Please send us any articles, photographs, adverts or announcements which you would like to be included - we look forward to hearing from you!

**Banffshire Partnership,
The Old School, Boyndie, Banff, AB45 2JT
T & F: 01261 843598
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Banffshire Partnership Aims And Values

OUR PURPOSE:

Within our area (*Aberchirder & Marnoch, Alvah & Forglan, Banff & Macduff, Cornhill & Ordiquhill, Fordyce & Sandend, King Edward & Gamrie, Portsoy, Whitehills*), to contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of local communities by;

- valuing the work of volunteers
- creating opportunities for employment based on the sustainable use of local culture, skills and resources,
- enabling and encouraging lifelong learning amongst local people.

We also aim to encourage and support partnership working between community groups and private, public and voluntary organisations.

VALUES: We try to:

- encourage participation and consensus
- be open and transparent in our dealings
- maximise resources - human, physical and financial
- remain people focused

OBJECTIVES:

To encourage and support communities to run and participate in activity that will help them develop.

Provide rural transport solutions to individuals and communities, where mainstream public transport is inaccessible.

Specific encouragement will be given to projects that have an economic benefit and/or develop partnership working with other groups and public agencies, such as the Local Authority.

The Partnership has a particular interest in tourism initiatives and ideas to promote the use of local products and local suppliers.

It is Banffshire Partnership's observation and belief that the more local people participate in and take ownership of activities within their communities, the better that place will become to live in.

Practical ways in which Banffshire Partnership supports projects include:

- Project management advice, and capacity building of groups as a whole, and individual members.
- Assistance with funding applications, or development of financial management packages.
- Putting groups in contact with others who have done similar projects, and helping the sharing of knowledge.
- Reducing rural isolation, and social exclusion, through transport initiatives and opportunities for individuals to access community activity.
- Facilitating two-way communication between local communities, and public agencies, or policy makers at regional and national level.



There are two Banffs, and here's a Canadian Mountie visiting our's to remind you of the other one. Every now and again our Society gets queries from people who think that we are in the Rockies, and sometimes they then get grumpy, as if we are pretending to be the real Banff. We are very proud of Banffshire's part in the making of Canada, and this year a Canadian friend gave us some Banff silver to display in Banff Community Museum, which we have kept open, once a week, all year round.

But there is something else we want you to notice in the picture. The Mountie is in front of the old George Ellis the chemist's. The shop had the name, in lovely defined three-dimensional Victorian lettering, and that has gone. One of the many things we could bless Vinay for was leaving the old name above his shop. The new chemists have another plastic fascia. Lots of little changes like that imperceptibly take the character away from a street, and people will just drive through, only faster. Some towns take trouble over signage. It's amazing the difference you can make to a historic street by arranging that the shop-fronts are in keeping. The visitor, sometimes subliminally, senses that he is in a special and interesting place, and spends longer there.

Banff Preservation & Heritage Society

The name-change happened just when we'd finished *Banff Through Time*, a book of contrasted pictures of Banff then and now, including the Mountie. We plan to launch this at the end of November, and we hope lots of people will buy it. Looking closely at pictures made us aware of small silent changes, as well as of

major demolitions, and we hope it will open our readers' eyes too.

Banff Preservation & Heritage Society
Alistair Mason, Secretary,
14 Old Castlegate,
Banff AB45 IDE
01261 812941
www.banffpreservationandheritagesociety.org.uk



Banff, Macduff & District Business Association



During the past year the Business Association Committee have tried to focus all their efforts and work to deliver the aims and objectives of the Association.

One of our most important tasks is communicating with our members and we have actively encouraged all members to share information with us about their businesses. The website www.banff-macduff.com continues to be a useful communication tool and we intend to develop this further by making it more interactive.

The majority of our communications with members is via e-mail and we circulate a wide variety of up to date local and national information including invitations to business events and training.

Personal contact is of course the most effective way to get to know people and hear

about their business achievements and challenges and our networking events have attracted current members and business people from Moray, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City. We have designed these events to include invited guest speakers and 'a supper' to allow plenty of time for people to meet each other and have a good blether. The feedback and evaluations from these events are very valuable in terms of measuring their success and gathering new ideas and suggestions.

Committee members have been invited to local community planning events and have attended to listen, learn and raise awareness of local business issues and activities, including input to the local community planning processes.

There have been three meetings between local shop owners/managers and the police to discuss the possible development of a new

Shop Watch scheme. This included dialogue with community safety partners and a radio technology group.

The new Shop Watch Scheme has its own committee and the full support of the local police that includes information sharing protocols. They will soon be fully operational with radio technology to connect up each retail member from Banff and Macduff and allow them to share information and safe guard their staff and stock.

This scheme has the potential to link with the local Pub Watch Scheme in the future.

We have also co-ordinated and facilitated initial 'project' information meetings on behalf of the Banff and Macduff Community Council in relation to their new Macduff Economic Regeneration Plan.

We continue to work with Life Skills Centres

and promote their training initiatives to support local retail full time and part time staff.

This year we have developed further links with Banff Academy Management Team to offer business support to both staff and pupils. A joint engagement plan has been designed which includes working in partnership with the school and a number of external partners.

In June a very successful Jubilee networking event was held at the Banff Springs Hotel. This was attended by 50 members and guests who received excellent presentations from Valerie Cheyne of ACE Winches and Reena Hay of Homestart Deveron.

In October ACAS training was held in order to explain current employment issues to members.

Banff, Macduff & District Business Association
www.banff-macduff.com



Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership A Very Successful Year - With Lots More To Come!

2012 was a year of fantastic results in our pursuit of promoting our wonderful area and assisting member businesses to grow and develop.

Following re-branding to "Scotland's Dolphin Coast", the Banffshire Coast Area Guide - a high-quality publication promoting the key features of the area and offering advertising opportunities for tourism businesses - flew off the shelves, with a pick-up rate almost three times the industry average; a reprint was required within three months of its launch.

Our website - www.banffshirecoast.com - underwent a radical restructure, and, with its mobile-friendly version, now offers returning and new visitors easily accessible information on both the area and our member businesses. The world-wide web continues to be a critical element in modern-day marketing, including social media - and we will embrace them all.

Three key marketing campaigns - focussing on the area's strengths of Marine Wildlife, Ancestral Tourism and Walking and Birdwatching - were initiated. The Marine Wildlife marketing campaign increased website traffic by over 300%, and resulted in significant press coverage in leading newspapers and publications. The same sorts of results are anticipated from the remaining campaigns. These initiatives put the area in a prime position to take advantage of the

Year of Natural Scotland in 2013. The Tell Us What You Think visitor survey is now recognised as being one of the most all-encompassing visitor surveys in Scotland - and it provides valuable information on what visitors think about the area and what they are looking for.

Scotland is a beautiful country, with lots of areas vying for the attention of potential visitors - so we cannot rest on our laurels; we need to keep up a high level of effective promotion and, most significantly, ensure that we have a quality tourism product to capture new and returning visitors.

Having welcomed members' feedback during the year, we now have a 3-year plan reflecting their priorities comprising innovative tourism development initiatives, further cost-effective, wide-

reaching marketing opportunities and a series of development workshops.

The Partnership has seen a fantastic rise in membership numbers - growing by 50% over the last 18 months to 90. We would like to thank all our members for their continuing support, and look forward to further growth. We would also like to thank all our funders for their on-going support of our activities.

Please visit our website at www.banffshirecoast.com. Whether a visitor or a resident in the area, you will find lots of useful information for days out and short or long visits. You will also find full details of how to become a member of the Partnership.

**Banffshire Coast
Tourism Partnership
01261 815641
contact@
banffshirecoast.com
www.banffshirecoast.com**



Boyndie Trust Limited



2013 will see yet more significant physical changes and improvements to Boyndie Visitor Centre, as well as improvements to the structure and method of delivery of our training and development services. It will be an important year for Boyndie Trust, and builds on the huge amount of work done in 2012.

Very early in 2013 our new retail area will open, and this will add a whole new dimension to the experience of visiting Boyndie. We know our customers will love it, and that it will provide exciting new work placement opportunities for those training with us. In the spring of 2013 the new part of our garden centre will open too, finally giving us the

space we need, in order to stock the range of locally-grown plants our customers expect. Our improved car parking has already removed the hassle of searching for a space, which had become an unwelcome feature of every visit to Boyndie!

We are very grateful for capital grants received from Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development and from LEADER. These roughly halved the sum we had to find from reserves to make the improvements affordable. In short, it made the expansion project viable, despite these difficult economic times and has created new jobs.

Much of the work building these facilities has been carried out by our staff and trainees in the horticulture and woodwork departments and I know you will be impressed to see what they have done. Whitehills and District Community Council granted money from its

windfarm fund in order to help us re-equip our workshop for the project.

We have worked with many local community organisations in one way or another. We are pleased to be part of the project with Banff Airfield Trust, as described elsewhere in this book. Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership facilitated access to advice from respected Scottish food writer and creator of the Scottish Food Guide, Wendy Barrie. Time with her enabled us to raise our game in the visitor centre's restaurant. In truth, Wendy was already a Boyndie fan, having had lunch with us many times before when she had visited the area, but working with her in a professional capacity was great fun. As Wendy said, Boyndie is loved so much by its loyal customers that making changes was going to be tricky, but we have achieved it while keeping

the character of the place. Response from customers has been very favourable.

I want to finish by mentioning our superb new training and meeting facility, The Banffshire Suite. We built it to enable us to deliver our in-house training, but there are times when it is available for hire to outside organisations, and response from those who have used it thus far has been very positive indeed. Come and have a look for yourself, and at the same time, we will be delighted to give you a tour of all our departments, old and new.

**Boyndie Trust Limited
Duncan Leece
The Old School, Boyndie,
Banff, AB45 2JT
01261 843249
boyndietrust@
hotmail.com
www.boyndietrust.co.uk**

COAST

FESTIVAL OF THE VISUAL ARTS

Coast Festival, 25th & 26th May 2013

Coast Festival is heading for its sixth event, the third run by a community association of local residents.

We believe a cultural event on the calendar is of great benefit to the area, for community identity, for tourism and simply to celebrate

our people and places. In the coming year we will be planning a weekend of exhibitions, workshops and performances that will focus on how we respond to nature and the dynamic elements around us.

Our core events remain visual arts, but as



in the last two years we welcome other artforms to enhance the weekend.

Community groups of all kinds are welcome to join us, on 25th and

26th May 2013. Please contact us at info@coastfestival.org.uk

Coast Festival
info@coastfestival.org.uk
www.coastfestival.org.uk



Harvest Ministries

In January 2012 Harvest Ministries on behalf of the Riverside Christian Church, Castle Street, Banff signed a 175 year lease on the Trinity & Alvah Church with Aberdeenshire Council. Securing that lease was greatly influenced by the production of a highly comprehensive and well-illustrated Community Action Plan compiled by The Banffshire Partnership.

The Trinity Church, as it was originally named, was built for the Free Church circa 1843, but from 1914 until 1992 was in ownership of The Church of Scotland. During 1992 the main Church and adjacent hall were sold to Aberdeenshire Council, who, having no use for the hall, in turn

sold it to the Riverside Christian Church who refurbished the premises and renamed them Harvest Centre.

Plans by Aberdeenshire Council to convert and develop the main Church building into either a library or Job Centre had not been realised and the building, that had fallen into dereliction during the interim 20 years, was then offered to Harvest Ministries.

Sadly, in addition to general deterioration of the building's fabric, the once beautiful stained-glass windows had been vandalised, thus exposing the interior to the elements and enabling occupancy by the town's pigeon population.

Working in teams throughout January and

February volunteers from the church began the long and unpleasant task of cleaning up and sanitising the premises. Plans had already been drawn up with an architect to restore and extend the building and the next step was to generate funds to make the vision of Pastor Joseph Ewen and the membership a reality.

The vision is threefold: firstly to restore the building to and beyond its former glory as a prominent feature in the town centre (which in turn will maintain the heritage for future generations): to then develop it once again as a thriving place of worship and finally - to extend the facilities for wider use by the local community. To that end it is intended to establish partitioned



rooms for conferencing, a stage for concerts and theatrical productions, a larger space for the many local organisations that currently hold their meetings and activities in Harvest Centre and eventually to add an extension to house offices and a café.

Through sustained fund raising activities and contributions from church members we have managed to keep abreast of the on-going professional fees. Then, most recently, we have been greatly blessed by the award of a substantial grant from Aberdeenshire Council, the application for which would not have been made had it not been for the encouragement and astuteness of Duncan Leece and the Banffshire Partnership in fielding our cause.

Riverside Christian Church
The Harvest Centre,
Castle Street, Banff

Home Start

Support and friendship for families

Home-Start is a nationwide registered charity which supports families who have at least one child under the age of five years. Home-Start Deveron operates throughout the Deveron valley area, serving Aberchirder, Banff, Huntly, Macduff, Portsoy, Turriff and surrounding areas. Trained volunteers provide support to parents in their own homes or in group settings.

During this year volunteers have continued to provide support to families in their own homes and we are currently supporting approximately 15 families. Some 40

families are attending our group sessions, with Baby massage and Bookbug classes continuing to be very popular.

Home-Start Deveron relies heavily on donations and fundraising activities to fund the work we do. Fundraising activities this year have included provision of a crèche at Turriff Show, a breastfeeding and baby changing area at The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, Nearly New Sales and quiz nights. The Coop Store on High Street Banff have chosen Home-Start Deveron as their local charity to support this year, and have already made generous donations from their customers and have held a successful quiz night. We thank everyone for their generosity and support to date.



Home-Start Deveron

If you would like to help Home-Start Deveron raise funds, please use www.easyfundraising.org.uk and select Home-Start Deveron when shopping online - it doesn't cost you a penny extra, but raises valuable funds for us! Home-Start Deveron are currently looking for Trustees or Advisors to the Board, to assist with the running of the organisation. Our trustees come from all walks of life, bringing their experience and individual skills to the scheme. Skills may include business experience, finance, fundraising, information technology or personnel management. However, you don't need special qualifications to be a trustee - common sense, an understanding of the pressures facing parents today and a genuine interest in supporting parents in the local

community are just as important to us!

Please get in touch if you are able to offer your time, skills or knowledge and you wish to benefit families in the Deveron community. Just a few hours per week really can make all the difference to a family and you can boost your own experience and CV too.

Home-Start Deveron
5-7 Strait Path, Banff,
AB45 1AD.
01261 819964
info@homestartdeveron.org.uk
www.homestartdeveron.org.uk

Join us on Facebook to keep up to date with all the news, views and upcoming events.



King Edward & Gamrie Community Council

Playing Field Drainage
In the late 1970s an area of rough land behind Crudie Primary School was earmarked as a playing field. The local community raised funds for its purchase, scrub clearance, levelling and seeding.

Over the years various activities were added - swings, a roundabout, picnic tables and an obstacle course. Users have ranged from individual families to

organised feeder school sports days. Its sheltered location, large size and parking were major advantages.

However, several wet areas have developed in the last 10 years. Early cost estimates varied from £16k to £24k but no specific plans were made available. These costs were quite off-putting and so the exercise went into abeyance.

Two summers ago, a surface slitting exercise was undertaken with the slits filled with sand.

Bad weather conditions have brought the drainage problems to the fore again. The recent "Making it Real" exercise in Crudie highlighted the need for improvements. Quotes from local contractors are being collated and seem much more realistic and achievable.

Trying to find funds to cover the work has thrown up new problems. Where and who has the title to the playing field?! I suppose the moral to the story is - "Never Give Up!"

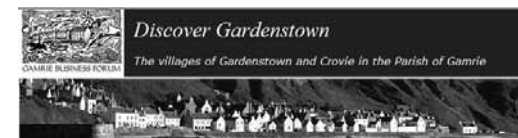
King Edward & Gamrie Community Council
Iain Taylor, Secretary
01261 851416
iain.taylor5@btopenworld.com

Discover Gardenstown Website

Since its launch in 2005 the www.discovergardenstown.co.uk website has proved an extremely useful marketing tool for Gardenstown and the surrounding areas of Crovie, Pennan and Gamrie - indeed, the website consistently appears high up search engine rankings. Developed with the assistance of local businesses and Banffshire Partnership Limited, the main aim of the website is to ensure continuity of information regarding local services and facilities, and to help

keep the area alive. The site also ensures that the culture and history of the area is preserved for future generations.

To ensure that information within the site is kept current it is essential that listings in the Directory are regularly updated and any businesses not listed can be added. So, if you own, or know someone who owns, a business operating within the Parish of Gamrie, who would like to advertise their business within the Business Directory - get them to send us their details. Listings



are included within an appropriate section of the Directory and contain Business Name, Contact Name, Business Address, Telephone Number, E-mail Address, Web Address and a brief Description of the Business Activity (approx. 30 words). Other businesses of a tourist nature with strong links to the area can be added to the Links section.

We're aiming to add further value to the site with the inclusion of

local interest articles and news stories. These could be local walks, sealife, bird watching, activities, day trips or even more general information about the area, such as local events. We welcome any contributions so please send any articles or ideas to info@discovergardenstown.co.uk

Gamrie Business Forum
info@discovergardenstown.co.uk
www.discovergardenstown.co.uk

Portsoy Thrift Shop

The Ladies of the Portsoy Thrift Shop have been delighted to mark the start of the second decade of the shop's existence with a wide range of donations for causes in the community.

Beneficiaries have included Portsoy's Primary School, McCrae Court, the Salmon Bothy, Fordyce Village Hall, Portsoy Out of School Club, Green Fingers, Banff Community Small Schools Sailing Project, The Skiffettes, the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival and funding support for

the 75 Club's brilliant Christmas Lights and their great Portsoy New Year Fireworks Display. And if variety is the spice of life, the actual projects clearly reflect that and have included books, chairs, card tables, bench seats and boat building, plus funding for a huge range of activities.

The grand total of donations made since the Thrift Shop started is now well in excess of £100,000. Remarkable when you consider that the average purchase is no more than just a pound or so, or that it all depends on the donations made to the shop by so many people from far and wide. Equally that it depends

Portsoy Thrift Shop

entirely on the support of so many wonderful customers who also come from far and wide. It is also thanks to the hard work put in by the volunteer team: the Thrift Shop Ladies who do their very best to present the stock as attractively as possible and provide every customer with the very warmest of welcomes.

So whatever you might be looking for, be it ladies, men's or children's clothes; glassware and ornaments, toys and books or bric-a-brac and jewellery, you'll find something to meet your pocket and taste. Or equally if it's something you no longer want or need at home, please

take it along to the shop in the Square in Portsoy: it all adds up to wonderful support for community causes. And whether you're calling as a customer or donor you can be sure that the Ladies will be delighted to see you!

Open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm, please come along to the Thrift Shop in Portsoy for a great range of quality goods.

You can also contact the ladies during opening hours on 07870 536776. Portsoy Thrift Shop The Square, Portsoy



Some of the Thrift Shop Ladies preparing for the Christmas rush.

Portsoy Links Caravan Park

Following lengthy discussions and the submission and acceptance of a comprehensive business plan, agreement was reached with Aberdeenshire Council for the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival to take over the management of Portsoy Links Caravan Park on a long lease.

As a registered charity, it was necessary for the Festival to create a trading subsidiary - The Portsoy Links Caravan Park Limited - to operate the site. We were delighted that Violet Richmond was

able to take up the role of warden once again and she and members of her family have done an excellent job looking after the site for the 2012 season. It has also been very apparent how many of the regular visitors have been delighted to see Violet again and have recognised the great job she does, not least in maintaining the facilities to the highest possible standard.

On that subject, with thanks to Aberdeenshire Council, a shower and toilet with facilities for disabled visitors will be completed over the winter. In the longer term it is planned to

create a new facilities block, although this may not be possible for some time. In the meantime, the Park team will work hard to promote the site and ensure that it provides the best possible welcome. An immediate move was made to introduce a small shop providing supplies for visitors and a leaflet was produced promoting the shops, catering outlets and facilities in the town.

The Park will create important income for the Boat Festival, providing support for the Festival itself, the Salmon Bothy and the PORT Boatshed.

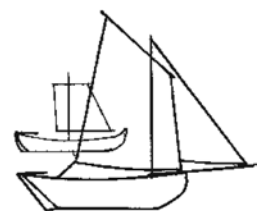


Portsoy Links Caravan Park

The company is also determined that the Park will be developed and promoted for the benefit of the businesses and the community of Portsoy and the surrounding district.

Portsoy Links Caravan Park will open at Easter for the 2013 season. Please let visitors know about the site and full information can be found on www.portsoylinks.co.uk or call 01261 842695 for bookings.

Portsoy Organisation for Restoration and Training (PORT)



PORT

Portsoy Organisation for Restoration and Training

The Portsoy Organisation for Restoration and Training (PORT)

was formed by combining the assets of the Portsoy Maritime Heritage with the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival's Portsoy Faering Project. Bringing these two complimentary activities together under one banner has given Portsoy a unique capability in training young people to build small boats before they graduate to assisting adult volunteers to restore our collection of traditional craft.

In a unique and ground breaking project, for the past 2 years members of PORT have worked with pupils from 7 local primary schools to build small sailing dinghies. During that time nearly 200 pupils have helped to build a total of 18 boats that the pupils have then sailed on Loch Soy. Building the boats has allowed us to set up a sailing capability that will enable year-round sail training for local children. The development of their skills will lead them to be able to crew the traditional craft that they will have helped restore as they graduate from stage to stage with PORT.

We're delighted to report that funding from several sources including the Portsoy Community Asset

Restoration Scheme, an Aberdeenshire Regeneration grant and most recently a European Fisheries Fund Axis 4 grant have been secured. Totalling £374,000, this will allow us to start work on the restoration and development of PORT's Boatshed next to The Shore Inn by Portsoy's Old Harbour. Developing the Boatshed will give PORT a spacious workshop that may allow its training and restoration arms to work side by side in full view of the public. Second stage plans for the building will include bunkhouse accommodation thus providing facilities for residential courses.

And it is with such courses that PORT has ambitious plans for the

future, developing a comprehensive package of boat building, restoration and sailing that will be unique in Scotland and that will see today's primary pupils and visitors from far and wide sailing traditional craft that they have helped restore.

We are looking for more people to help in this project and if you would like to join us, these are some of the skills we need: boat builder or restorer, sailor or sail trainer, safety boat crew, fund raiser and administrator.

For more for details, contact us at the Salmon Bothy or e-mail thestbf@googlemail.com



The Salmon Bothy, Portsoy

The Salmon Bothy is a fascinating local museum, a venue brimming with rustic charm, a place to start your ancestral search and a community meeting space - a place where the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts.

The museum housed in the ice chambers offers a distinct visitor experience with its vaulted ceilings and cobbled floors. Upstairs @the Bothy provides a characterful venue well suited to any number of activities.

This summer saw two weddings, as well as the monthly 'Folk at the Salmon Bothy' nights and a dazzling array of talent at a

Ceilidh performance by a group of young musicians through the Feis Rois Trad Trails.

The theme of this year's temporary exhibition was 'Our Fishing Heritage' and included a fantastic array of artefacts including the Prunier Trophy, awarded to the vessel that made the largest catch of herring during the year and won in the inaugural year by the Portsoy boat *The Boy Andrew* in 1936.


The community groups are key to the success of the upstairs space and include the Knitters, Pilates, the Camera Club, the Craft Club, the Art Club and the particularly successful Folk Club. These give the public a real opportunity to come

together to share and develop interests and hobbies. To find out more, go to the website or e-mail contact@salmonbothy.co.uk.

We also have family history research with a trained genealogist, Alison Smith who is on site on a Wednesday afternoon during summer months and otherwise by appointment.

Links with local schools have been fostered through various projects including the production by children of a DVD - on sale at the museum shop - that tells the story of the Fishing, Farming and Railways in Portsoy.

Key to its success are the enthusiastic group

18  34
Portsoy Salmon Bothy

of volunteers who run the museum, archive the collection and organise the event programme. This year we enjoyed an action packed 'Day Oor' at the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, the Fraserburgh Heritage Centre and Maggie's Hoosie. We are always on the lookout for new volunteers, young and old, male and female, so if you enjoy meeting people and promoting Portsoy please contact the Bothy on 01261 842951.

Portsoy Salmon Bothy
Links Road, Portsoy
Nessie Gray
Administrator
01261 842951
www.salmonbothy.org.uk





Well: it had to happen! Following two years of perfect weather, in common with many other events across the country, the 2012 Festival was hit by two days of steady to heavy rain. The result was that visitor numbers were well down and we incurred a serious financial loss. Thanks however to many years of careful financial management and the building up of reserves, the organisation was able to absorb the losses. These too were significantly reduced thanks to the generous support of the title sponsors Aberdeen Asset Management, to whom we extend our sincere thanks.

And despite the weather, the attendance was remarkably good: in excess of 10,000 over the two days. Equally the Visitor Survey clearly showed that everyone scored the

whole weekend highly for its unique mix of sights, sounds, tastes and activities.

On the maritime front the racing regatta held for Scottish Coastal Rowing Project teams from across the country proved a success for the second year running, although Sunday's programme had to be cancelled. Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Mrs Clare Russell welcomed Obar-Na-Ghaol back from her participation in the Diamond Jubilee Pageant in London and the harbour was again filled with visiting craft including a new visitor: the Watson Class Lifeboat, Thomas McCunn from Longhope in Orkney.

The range of craft demonstrators was as wide as ever with skills ranging from rigging to sail making and from weaving to coracle building. Being under cover, the craft marquees at the Old Harbour and Salmon Bothy proved especially popular - as did the Food Fayre at the Wally

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

Green. Proving ever more popular, the Fayre grows every year and the Cookery Demonstration Programme drew full houses over the whole weekend.

The weather certainly didn't stop the major programme of musicians, singers and dancers putting smiles on the faces of the crowds that gathered in the various venues to watch, listen or participate. It isn't often you witness rock and rollers wearing wellies, wax coats, hats and gloves, but that was the sight from the harbour stage on Sunday afternoon, as The De Kinkels had the crowd dancing to their lively brand of jazz and blues fused rock. Music plays a huge part in the Festival's appeal and Bob Philips and Moira Stewart pulled out all the stops to make the 2012 programme quite exceptional. Local talent plays an important part with the Friday afternoon children's concert, the Anne McArthur Dancers, Skip to the Beat and many high quality buskers

being just some of the highlights.

Loch Soy was hit hard by the weather, but its growing range of activities still did well and thanks go to the Aberdeenshire Active Schools team for their excellent support. The rain also failed to put off the runners who took part in the seventeenth Sunday morning Follow the Herring 10K Road and accompanying 2K Fun Run.

As ever, the Festival Committee's sincere thanks go to our many sponsors and supporters and all the local companies and organisations who give so much generous help. And last but not least our very warmest thanks go to the people of Portsoy without whose support the Festival simply would not happen!

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, Salmon Bothy, Links Road, Portsoy
01261 842951
www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.org.uk

Portsoy Pavilion

Want to change your life-style, get fit and improve your health? Then Portsoy Pavilion has everything you need! A spacious, well equipped gymnasium

includes all the modern weight training and cardio-vascular machines for your fitness needs. Whether you're a fitness fanatic or just a beginner, everything you need is under one roof here. Membership is gained

through a gym induction and it's up to you from there on to achieve the fitness you want!

There is also a large all-weather Astroturf pitch on offer, available for all kinds of sports - football and tennis being most popular. All equipment is provided and a booking is required. So, if you fancy 5-a-side football with your friends, or a relaxing

game of tennis, Portsoy Pavilion is only a short distance away.

Open: *Mon, Wed, Fri:* 9.00am - 12.00noon & 2.00pm - 8.00pm
Tues & Thurs: 5.00pm - 8.00pm; *Sat:* 10.00am - 1.00pm

Portsoy Pavilion
Seafield Terrace, Portsoy
(opposite Portsoy Motors)
01261 843555



RAF Banff Association

2013 will be an exciting year for the Banff Airfield Trust, as funding is in place to begin the practical tasks of creating an educational heritage trail on the former RAF Banff site - better known locally as Boyndie Drome.

During 2012, much valuable foundation work was carried out by consultants, looking at the design and feasibility of the trail, in addition to assessing the condition of the two key former RAF buildings, the

Operations Block and the Control Tower.

Late in 2012, a successful bid was made for £23k of funding under an Aberdeenshire Council programme headed Investing In Our Towns & Villages and that sum brought money available to deliver the project to £30k, which is sufficient to make a very worthwhile and attractive new facility.

The proposed trail will start and finish at Boyndie Visitor Centre, and a welcome

development there was an increase in car parking space as part of a larger improvement of the centre. This has solved another potential problem for the heritage trail.

BAT will be working with Seafield Estates, Whitehills & District Community Council, RAF Banff Association, Boyndie Trust and Aberdeenshire Council, and the result of these efforts will be a fabulous new walking trail, which makes accessible, scenery and history within our community hitherto

known only to very few people. We know it will become a popular attraction.

If you would like to know more about the project, or get involved with some of the practical tasks in creating the trail and conserving the key buildings, please contact BAT via Duncan Leece at Boyndie Visitor Centre (01261 843249)

Whitehills & District Community Council



Another busy year has passed during which time numerous local projects have been continued and/or instigated for the benefit of our local community. In the interests of print space I have detailed a selection of these projects in bullet-point format highlighting the diversity of actions undertaken.

- Continuing dialogue with Aberdeenshire Council re a direct footpath between Ladysbridge Village and Whitehills (B9121).
- Popular footpath from Boyndie Visitor Centre to the Turbines cleared, and weed-killer applied.
- Steps up the "Braes" to the new Flagpole restored.
- Community Council involvement with the ongoing Boyndie 'Drome' project.
- Continuing upkeep of the Public Toilets by our greatly appreciated team of volunteers, achieving a 2012 Four Star "Loo of the Year" Award, plus numerous letters of appreciation from grateful visitors!!
- New Gates to replace the aged and rusty gates at Whitehills Cemetery.
- Armistice Remembrance Day wreath-laying ceremonies at the Cemetery and in the village.
- Completion of the attractive Illuminated Anchor project at Redwell Court.

- Untidy garden area at the foot of Seafield Street cleared and mesh and stone chips laid.
- Ongoing distribution of "Doggy Bags" round the village.
- A new "Making it Real" community action plan conducted by Banffshire Partnership.
- Festive Xmas Lights display.
- An extensive and successful "Broadband for Boyndie" exercise completed with 45 take-ups.
- Flooding at the Red Well resolved and repainted internally. Now the subject of an ongoing maintenance contract. The Car Park has undergone substantial improvements with access now limited to ensure no Travellers' caravans can park up.

- Flower Tubs round the village and the display in the "Cartie" at "Annie's Wood" enhanced the village through the Summer months.

Additionally, via funding received through the Boyndie Windfarm Community Fund, administered by Whitehills & District Community Council, we have been able to support numerous local projects to the extent of £16,000.

As always we are open to applications from bodies within our Community Council area for funding complying with the laid down criteria.

Whitehills & District Community Council
Ross Balharry, Chairman
 01261 861882
 jrbalharry123@btinternet.com
 www.whitehillsanddistrict.co.uk

Whitehills Marina

Whitehills Harbour & Marina is one of the few harbours in Scotland to be owned and run by the community (a board of elected Harbour Commissioners), rather than the council, and continues to go from strength to strength. Now in its 12th year of operating as a Marina, Whitehills has developed to become one of the most popular destinations for berthing along the Moray Firth coast, with regular visitors from all over the world.

Whitehills Harbour Trust was incorporated by an Act of Parliament in 1895, and the harbour itself was completed in 1900, providing safe haven for the village's fishing fleet. The harbour was a highly successful fishing port until the 1990s, but changes in the industry led to the Commissioners voting to develop it as a leisure marina in 1999. And, as befits a harbour that was once such an important

fishing port, the harbour still provides berthing for a number of small fishing boats, catching the likes of mackerel, lobsters and crabs, as well as the yachts.

According to Harbour Master Bertie Milne, the 2012 season has been a strong one, despite the current economic climate. Yachts and their crews from all over Europe, France and Norway, and (landlocked countries) Switzerland and Luxemburg, were all given a warm Whitehills welcome at the harbour and in the village itself. In fact, Whitehills Marina is certainly getting a reputation as the friendliest harbour around - even a young basking shark stopped by the pontoons in September to check out the hospitality for himself.

The annual Whitehills Harbour Regatta, which has been a highlight of the season for the last six years, was a huge success - previous years have seen around 15 boats enter the days' races,

but this year a record breaking 26 boats took part on the day.

The Harbour Commissioners, and Harbour Master, are very much looking forward to building on the successes of 2012 in the coming year. As well as the regular and visiting berths to deal with, they're currently waiting for a decision from Aberdeenshire Council on the awarding of a grant, and, if successful, this money will be used to fund the forward-thinking Commissioners newest plan to convert an unused harbour building into a seafood restaurant.

Whitehills Marina is a great example of how community ownership can be a successful model

for a viable business. Thanks to the driving force of the Harbour Commissioners; the Harbour will flourish and have a lifespan for many more generations to come. We'll never know what the first Harbour Commissioners in 1900 would make of today's Marina, where the yachts outnumber the fishing boats, but we can be sure that they would be fair chuffed to see the Harbour such a success!

Bertie Milne, Harbour Master,
Whitehills Harbour & Marina, Harbour Office,
Harbour Place, Whitehills
AB45 2NQ
01261 861291/07906 135786
Fax: 01261 861291
harbourmaster@whitehillsharbour.co.uk
www.whitehillsharbour.co.uk



Photo: Colin Haggie

2012 in Cullen - A Successful Year, With More To Come

The small community of Cullen has once again enjoyed a successful year, with some projects coming to fruition and others in the wings for 2013. These developments are down to the very hard work and commitment of a large number of community groups who not only deliver services for local residents and visitors, but also raise significant sums for charity.

Both the Cullen Dirt Cycle Track and the Cullen Community Allotments were officially opened - testament to the hard work put in by many volunteers and, in the case of the Dirt Cycle Track, magnificent fund-raising activity and generosity from local community groups and residents. Watch this space for more developments on both.



Cullen Dirt Cycle Track - competitors on their marks.

The Cullen Summer Festival in July saw even more community groups working together to produce a weekend of varied and highly enjoyable fun, games and entertainment, including a BMX competition, Cullen's very own "Alternative Olympics" and a JCB Digger competition. Guided walks around Cullen and along the coastline, complementing the guided tours of Cullen Auld Kirk, proved very popular. And the harbour saw a flotilla of boats from neighbouring Findochty and Whitehills and VIP visits from the RNLI Lifeboat and the Obair-Na-Ghaol. The Heritage Group once again supported the weekend with their annual summer display. The Festival weekend also saw the inaugural Cullen Skink World Championship which was won by a Cullen

loon now residing in Aberdeen.

The Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group worked closely with the Cullen Voluntary Tourist Initiative over the summer to provide a valuable volunteer-run heritage display and tourist information service, attracting over 2,000 visitors from near and far.

The construction of the Crannoch Hill Path, coupled with repairs to the Salmon Bothy Path, ensured that the Leisure Trails promoted to visitors and residents alike are in good condition.

The community website - www.discovercullen.com - and the Cullen and Deskford Calendar continue to offer opportunities to promote Cullen and area to visitors and "friends" from all over the world.



Inaugural Cullen Skink World Championship - the finalists.

The website provides an invaluable information source on everything local, including events, community groups and businesses; a mobile-friendly version was launched during the year in order to keep up with the latest technological advances. In addition to being sent all over the world, the 2012 calendar raised just over £1,500 for community projects.

Some of the key initiatives for 2013 will include potential asset transfer projects for the Cullen Community and Residential Centre and the Cullen Town Hall. In addition, the 3 Harbours Association (Cullen, Portknockie and Findochty) is working on a project to establish a sailing school at Cullen Harbour. Exciting times!

For more information, please visit www.discovercullen.com

Developing Communities

Banffshire Partnership Limited (BPL) is a network of community groups formed in 1999. Although entirely independent, it is supported financially by Aberdeenshire Council, and maintains good relationships and links with various departments of that organisation.

We exist to help community groups, or whole communities, plan and develop projects, large or small. These projects may be things that create jobs, boost the local economy, or perhaps just improve the quality of life for local people and visitors to our area.

Practical examples of what we do include:

- Helping and advising you how to draw up a business or project plan.
- Assisting you to market or publicise your idea.
- Working with you when writing funding bids and filling in forms.
- Putting you in touch with others who have done similar projects before.
- Liaising with local Council Officers, so that they know about your plans, and you know what services they may be able to offer.

What we will not do is take your project over and run it for you. Our help is all aimed at advising, supporting and mentoring and equipping you with the knowledge and skills to make your own idea work.

Of course, what we hope is that, when you have been successful and completed a project, you will be willing to share that experience with future newcomers. BPL's paid staff and volunteer Directors, have all been involved in community projects, and made that commitment to hand their knowledge on to others.



More and more, potential funders of your project will look for your organisation or community, to develop partnerships with other relevant groups. They will want proof that your project really does have the support of your community too. BPL is well placed to help in both cases.

Best of all, the help you get from us is nearly always free of charge, thanks to the continued valued support from Aberdeenshire Council.

For more information contact:

**Banffshire Partnership -
Developing Communities**
on 01261 843598

or E-mail bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk



Support for Aberdeenshire Business Scheme

To find out more about whether Aberdeenshire Council can help your business grow contact:

Christine Webster (Banff and Buchan Area)
10 Commerce Street, Fraserburgh, AB43 9QA
T: 01346 519881
E: christine.webster@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/finance/sab.asp

Community Action Plans

Banffshire Partnership Limited offers to assist Community Councils, or other such organisations, to formulate a Community Action Plan, from the views, ideas and priorities of local people.

Our methods avoid hostilities or arguments that can arise in traditional public meetings and allows everyone's view to be heard . . . not just those with the loudest voices.

BPL has secured grant funding under an Aberdeenshire-wide project called 'Making it Real', and this pays for most of the key costs.

BPL will run the event, collate the ideas and data generated, help you to prioritise it into achievable projects, form it into a clear and professional document and get copies of it printed for you.

You will find it useful in helping you choose projects to do, that meet the needs of your community and can demonstrate that they have the backing of local residents.

We recommend that your Community Action Plan be given a life of about three years, as by that time, projects may have been achieved and priorities or opportunities may have changed. Time to do it again!

For more information contact:
Banffshire Partnership - Developing Communities
 on 01261 843598 or
 E-mail bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk



You will need to:

- **Be prepared to distribute publicity material, and twist a few arms, so that a public meeting is attended by a good number, and cross section of local residents.**
- **Hire a suitable hall for the evening and muster some volunteers to serve teas and coffees, and a couple more to assist the BPL staff manage the crowds!**
- **Be prepared to spend a little time after the event helping BPL word the final report and supply a few photos to illustrate it.**

Community Planning in Aberdeenshire

What is Community Planning?

The Scottish Government defines Community Planning as 'a process which helps public agencies to work together with the community to plan and deliver better services which make a real difference to people's lives'.

In Banff and Buchan the Local Community Planning Group (LCPG) is committed to working together to deliver the best possible outcomes for our communities. Through partnership working we can contribute to realising the vision of The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership - that of 'Working together for the best quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire'

Working in partnership provides the members of the Banff & Buchan LCPG with a shared understanding of local issues. This in turn enables us to work together with other services, agencies, and community groups and organisations to deliver services and support to the communities that make up Banff and Buchan.

It is important to recognise the role that community planning partners and communities have played in taking forward actions across the Banff & Buchan area. This hard work on behalf of our communities has seen many benefits over the last two years and these include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The completion of the redevelopment of Chalmers Hospital and Health Centre in Banff.
- The development of a new Healthpoint facility in Fraserburgh.
- The establishment of Café Connect in Fraserburgh - set up in response to an identified need within Fraserburgh for employment and personal development opportunities for adults with disabilities in an environment integrated into the community.



- The development of Partnerships across Banff & Buchan to identify, co-ordinate and deliver youth work opportunities with and for young people.
- Community Action Plans - On behalf of community groups in the Banff & Buchan area (such as Community Councils and Village Associations) the Banffshire Partnership have facilitated a series of community engagement events designed to highlight issues of concern to communities in Banff & Buchan. These events have resulted in the production of Community Action Plans which enable the community groups to take forward those actions which are of greatest concern to their respective communities. The Banff & Buchan LCPG are supportive of the actions contained within these documents and will work with communities to address any issues raised as a result of these events.

The Banff & Buchan LCPG currently consists of representatives from Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership, Aberdeenshire Drug & Alcohol Partnership, the Banffshire Partnership, Banff & Buchan Area Committee, Banff & Macduff Business Association, Banff & Macduff Community Safety Group, Bridge CVS, Fraserburgh Community Safety Group, Fraserburgh Development Trust, Fraserburgh Older People's Forum, Grampian Fire & Rescue Service, Grampian Police, NHS Grampian, Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust, and the Reaching Out Project Fraserburgh.

For further information on Community Planning in Banff & Buchan please contact: -
Fiona Alderson, Community Planning Officer,
 01261 813305
www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/banffbuchan

Modern New Transport For All The Community

Banffshire Partnership has been providing a dial-a-bus service in the community for over ten years. In that time we have signed up over 500 clients. Currently, around 120 clients use the service at least once a month.

Shopping is the main request from our dial-a-bus services and we take our clients to and from places where they cannot get to on the normal bus service. To be eligible for the dial-a-bus service you need to have trouble getting to the shops. This may be because you don't have a car or the nearest bus stop is too far for you to walk to. We pick you up at your front door, take you to the shops (help you shop if you need help), pack your shopping in the bus and bring you and your shopping home to your front door. We are not in competition with the normal bus service, so you need to register with us before using the buses.

We also hire out our buses to community groups when they are not being used for the dial-a-bus service. The buses are available most afternoons, evenings and at weekends.

We provide a service in our

community in many ways:

Dial-a-bus

We have two buses which have been specially built with the shopping trips in mind. Both buses have internal tail lifts and plenty of storage space for all our clients' shopping bags!

We serve the communities of:

- **Aberchirder**
- **Alvah**
- **Banff**
- **Boyndie**
- **Cornhill**
- **Crudie**
- **Fordyce**
- **Forglen**
- **Gamrie**
- **Gardenstown**
- **Hilton**
- **King Edward**
- **Macduff**
- **New Byth**
- **Ordiquhill**
- **Portsoy**
- **Sandend**
- **Whitehills**

We cater for people who have difficulty using the normal bus service for various reasons including: living more than a ½ mile from the nearest bus stop, being unable to carry shopping, being disabled or infirm. For many of our clients the service also means a social outing as it may be

the only time from week to week that they get the chance to talk to others. All our dial-a-bus services operate with a driver and passenger assistant. They are there to help.

The buses are out every day and depending on where you live you may have more than one opportunity to shop. We operate a first come first served booking service and you must book in advance. Please phone the office on 01261 843598 for more information or to register with us. We will then ask one of our staff to visit you at home. They will explain the service in more detail and make sure it suits your needs.

Community Minibuses

We run our operations with three minibuses. All three are available for hire by community groups who are registered with us. Two of the three buses can accommodate wheelchair passengers. These two buses also have a large capacity for shopping/luggage and can take up to 12 passengers or 11 passengers and one wheelchair. Our third bus can take 16 passengers. All three buses have side steps. We encourage the community groups to have their own driver. However, we

currently have a pool of paid and volunteer drivers who we can rely on.

As members of the Community Transport Association, we provide the nationally accredited Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training to everyone who drives our buses. Our charges are very competitive; please call us to find out the current charges.

If you would like to find out more or register your group, please call us on 01261 843598. We'd be delighted to give you more information.

Volunteers

A few committed and enthusiastic volunteers support our paid staff that drive the minibuses and act as passenger assistants. They all say that they find the work fun, sociable and rewarding and not in the least bit boring or difficult.

If you have any spare time and like to interact with others, we would be delighted to welcome you to our team. Please don't think you would have to work every day, even the odd morning or afternoon will make a difference. We will make sure you get all

the training and support you need to do the job. With your help we can keep the dial-a-bus services running in all our communities, benefitting a large number of people. We are able to reimburse our volunteers with any out of pocket expenses. Anyone interested should phone us on 01261 843598 for more information. We will be happy to answer all your questions. You can call us on the number given or email us at bpl.transport@banffdb.org.uk

For further info contact:
Banffshire Partnership -
Community Transport
on 01261 843598
or e-mail
[bpl.transport@
banffdb.org.uk](mailto:bpl.transport@banffdb.org.uk)



Above: Mercedes Sprinter - the largest bus we have ever had, which will be perfect for Dial-a-Bus, given its extra luggage space for shopping and wider seats.



Left: Fiat Ducato - a clever combination of low floor and extra wide body, but in a lightweight shell, that enables it to be driven by those who do not have category 'D1' on their licence.

Training In The Community

For a number of years now we have provided minibus Driver and Passenger Assistant training, along with emergency evacuation (Out in Three) and MiDAS for Car and MPV training. These courses are delivered free to all our volunteers and at a small charge for persons who are part of a community group or commercial organisation.

Over the previous two years we have been building steadily on our First Aid training portfolio. We are a Health and Safety Executive approved training provider and now offer the following courses:

First Aid at Work:
First Aid at Work re-qualifier:
Emergency First Aid at Work:
Manual Handling:
Manual Handling:
Wheelchairs, Hoists and Stand Aids
Disability awareness

3 Days
2 Days
1 Day
(core module)
(assisting with mobility)

The above list is not exhaustive; we can, and do build bespoke courses for organisations. We are currently working with a sister

organisation to provide Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) training. Our training courses are delivered at our state of the art training venue (The Banffshire Suite) at The Old School Boyndie. BPL training is also happy to provide courses at clients own venues.

For further information or a list of our current prices and course dates, please contact:
Alan Thomson, Banffshire Partnership - Training
**on 01261 843598 or e-mail [bpl.transport@
banffdb.org.uk](mailto:bpl.transport@banffdb.org.uk)**



Summary Of Contact Details For Community Groups Featured In This Book

BANFF PRESERVATION & HERITAGE SOCIETY
01261 812941
www.banffpreservationandheritagesociety.org.uk

BANFF, MACDUFF & DISTRICT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
www.banff-macduff.com

BANFFSHIRE COAST TOURISM PARTNERSHIP
01261 815641
contact@banffshirecoast.com
www.banffshirecoast.com

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP LIMITED - DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES
01261 843598
bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP LIMITED - COMMUNITY TRANSPORT
01261 843598
bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP LIMITED - TRAINING
01261 843598
bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

BOYNDIE TRUST LIMITED
01261 843249
boyndietrust@hotmail.com
www.boyndietrust.co.uk

COAST FESTIVAL
info@coastfestival.org.uk
www.coastfestival.org.uk

COMMUNITY PLANNING, BANFF & BUCHAN
01261 813305
www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/banffbuchan

CULLEN & DESKFORD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
www.discovercullen.com

GAMRIE BUSINESS FORUM
info@discovergardenstown.co.uk
www.discovergardenstown.co.uk

HOME-START DEVERON
01261 819964
info@homestartdeveron.org.uk
www.homestartdeveron.org.uk

KING EDWARD & GAMRIE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
01261 851416
iain.taylor5@btopenworld.com

PORTSOY LINKS CARAVAN PARK
01261 842695
www.portsoylinks.co.uk

PORTSOY ORGANISATION FOR RESTORATION AND TRAINING (PORT)
thestbf@googlemail.com

PORTSOY PAVILION
01261 843555

PORTSOY SALMON BOTHY
01261 842951
www.salmonbothy.org.uk

PORTSOY THRIFT SHOP
07870 536776

RAF BANFF ASSOCIATION
c/o Boyndie Trust Limited
01261 843249

RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
The Harvest Centre, Castle Street, Banff

SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL
01261 842951
www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.org.uk

WHITEHILLS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
01261 861882
jrbalharry123@btinternet.com
www.whitehillsanddistrict.co.uk

WHITEHILLS HARBOUR & MARINA
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**See
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details**

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