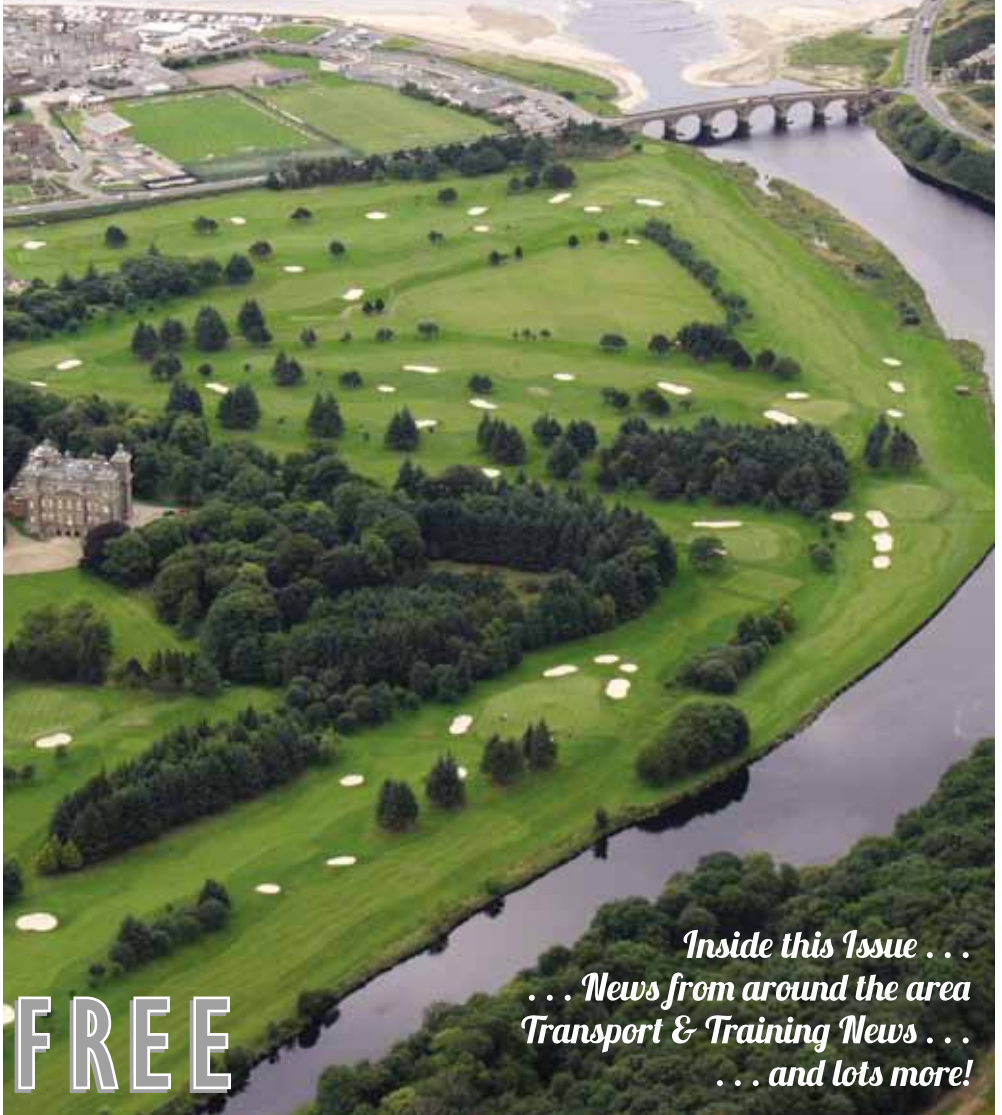




BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
PARTNERSHIP
UPDATE

WWW.BANFFSHIREPARTNERS.CO.UK

ISSUE 17 - 2015



FREE

*Inside this Issue . . .
. . . News from around the area
Transport & Training 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 AB45 2JT
T & F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Banffshire Partnership Ltd.
The Old School, Boyndie,
Banff, AB45 2JT
T & F: 01261 843598
E: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors can be contacted through
the Partnership office -
01261 843598.

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

CHAIR Robin Maddock

Iain Taylor
Ross Balharry
Sandy Duncan
Roger Goodyear
Ian Gray
Dr Anne McArthur

DESIGN Kay Beaton

PURPLEcreativdesign

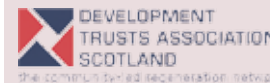
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as a Local Rural Partnership by the
Scottish Government.*



Chairman's Letter

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

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Since the Community Transport side of the business started, it has grown steadily and is now the main activity of Banffshire Partnership. We have three minibuses, two of which are wheelchair accessible and towards the end of last year we replaced one of the wheelchair accessible minibuses with a new Iveco accessible minibus. This was partly possible through the very generous donations from our Dial-a-Bus clients.

The Dial-a-Bus service is very well used on a daily basis. Our 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. All our buses are available for community hire and this activity continues to thrive. I would like to remind all local groups that our vehicles are available for hire at a very reasonable cost for outings, meetings, etc.

Well above half of the funding for our Community Transport comes from grants from Aberdeenshire Council. However with the Council's budget being tightened each year, our priority is to provide a friendly, reliable but cost effective service for all our clients.

We are all aware that within our operating area and throughout Scotland we have an ever increasing aging population so we are sure that the need for this type of service will not diminish.

TRAINING

For many years we have provided transport related training to minibus drivers and Passenger Assistants. We have broadened our range of available courses and we are now able to offer a range of training courses in First Aid, Health & Safety at Work and Manual Handling. These are usually held at the



Banffshire Suite at Boyndie but if appropriate they can be held at customers' premises.

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

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community Economic Development side of the Partnership although small in financial terms 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 service, and without that income we would be unable to help community groups. Funding for this work in 2014/15 was the same as the previous year. This continued level of funding is very welcome but we are still receiving more requests for assistance than we can comfortably handle with our limited resources.

The board is very well aware that we face tightening budgets in the coming 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 communities.

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.

CONTENTS

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 3 Chairman's Letter
- 4 Meet The Staff
- 5 A Word From Duncan
- 5 Our Valued Volunteers
- 6 Where Is Banffshire Partnership Based / Aims And Values
- 26 Useful Funding Sources
- 27 Community Action Plans
- 28 Transport For All The Community
- 29 Training In The Community
- 30 Useful Community Contact Numbers

FEATURED GROUPS

- 7 Alvah & Forglan Community Council
- 8 Banff & Maduff Community Council
 - 9 Banff Preservation & Heritage Society
- 10-11 Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership - Banffshire Coast Is On The Map
 - 12 Boyndie Visitor Centre
 - 13 Brighter Horizons
- 14 Fordyce Community Association
 - 15 Friends Of Tarlair
- 16 Gardenstown: Encouraging Community Spirit
 - 17 Harvest Ministries
- 18 Portsoy 75 Club: Supporting The Local Community
- 19 Portsoy Links Caravan Park & Backgreen Bunkhouse
- 20 Portsoy Organisation for Restoration and Training (PORT)
 - 21 Portsoy Past & Present
 - 21 Portsoy Thrift Shop
 - 22 Portsoy Salmon Bothy
 - 23 RAF Banff Project
- 24 Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
 - 25 Whitehills & District Community Council

... Meet The Staff

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES - 01261 843598



Duncan Leece
Director of
Operations



Kay Beaton

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT & TRAINING - 01261 843598



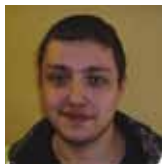
Jan Maddock
Transport Manager



Derek Anthony



Heike Wilson



Daniel Wilson



Jim Esslemont



Alan Thomson



Fiona Alexander



Janice Laing



Scott Ord-Jones



Coral Pirie



Michael Moloney

A Word From Duncan

This is my annual chance to give my personal thanks to my staff and all the volunteers who keep Banffshire Partnership running. As ever, feedback from our Dial-a-Bus clients shows what a good job we do, and how much our service is appreciated. We know the community groups we work with are very appreciative of our support too, and the main purpose of this book is to showcase their work, via a series of articles written by the groups themselves.

If you read their stories, one after another, I am certain you will learn something you didn't know, and finish the book with the same feeling I get, which is pride in the sheer effort local people put in to making our community such a great place to live.

The scale of activity and enthusiasm was brought home to me during 2014, when I hosted a number of visitors to Banffshire on guided tours of local projects.

My guests included people involved in community activity elsewhere in the UK, a party of folk from Denmark, and a member of the Scottish Government. They all left with a mixture of admiration and envy.

The best news of all, however, is that community activity and development have not reached a plateau.

There are still lots of project ideas under development, and I am sure funding opportunities such as the new LEADER programme, will facilitate some of these, and we will



have a whole new story to tell in our 2016 book.

Long may it continue.

Duncan D Leece,
Director of Operations (DOO)
contact me at
bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

High St, Banff - Photo courtesy of the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership.



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
E: bpl.transport@banffdb.org.uk
T: 01261 843598

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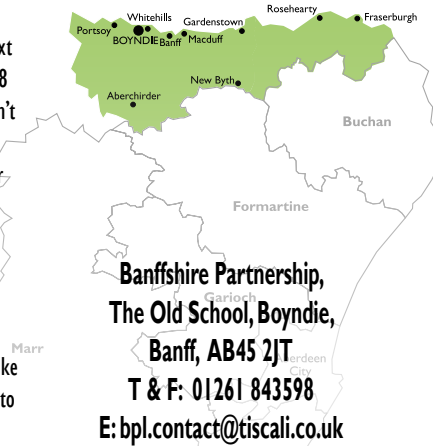
Where Is Banffshire Partnership Based?

The Banffshire Partnership is based at Boyndie on the Moray Firth coast and is delighted to work with community groups throughout the Banff & Buchan area.

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 throughout this year.

It is our intention to publish an annual Partnership Update. The next edition of the newsletter - Issue 18 - will appear in early 2016 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 Aims And Values

OUR PURPOSE:

Within our area 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:

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.

ALVAH & FORGLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Re-established in August 2014, Alvah & Forglen Community Council covers a large rural area of some 2,000 inhabitants.

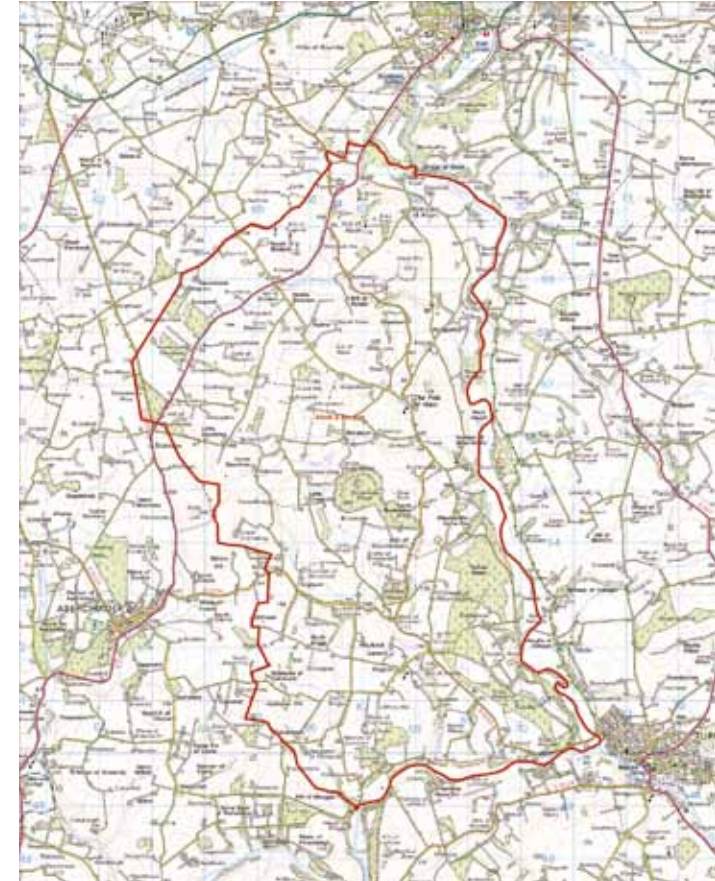
Our role is to represent the views of our residents and to promote their interests. From assisting with environmental projects to campaigning on local issues, our Community Council is dedicated to assisting our residents.

Our immediate challenge is to engage with our residents in order to discover what is of importance to them. With this in mind, it is our intention in May 2015 to work with Banffshire Partnership to facilitate the development of a Community Action Plan.

It is hoped that the plan will provide us with a number of projects which the majority of our residents deem to be of importance.

We have already established a variety of ways to become involved.

We hold meetings on the last Tuesday of each month from February to November in either



Alvah or Forglen parish halls and we encourage our residents to attend and serve on the committee.

Details of meetings and other information can be found on our website www.alvahforglencouncil.wordpress.com, Facebook and Twitter.

You can also contact us directly at chair.alvahforglencouncil@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Alvah & Forglen
Community Council
chair.alvahforglencouncil@gmail.com
www.alvahforglencouncil.wordpress.com**

"Our role is to represent the views of our residents and to promote their interests."

BANFF & MACDUFF COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Banff and Macduff Community Council, of 14 members, has been active throughout 2014; we believe we live in towns that are already fantastic but have even greater potential and we work towards that target.

Some of the issues we have been, and in many cases still are, involved with include:

- a large number of discussions about Town Centre Regeneration. Specifically we have formed a forum with many other community organisations in the towns to hopefully work with Aberdeenshire Council to find ways to continue to improve both towns;
- part of this is replacement Sports and Community Facilities which we are supporting in any way we can think of, plus an upcoming Business Plan for each of the harbours;
- we consider Macduff harbour as a vital part of the town and have actively taken our seat at the Harbour Advisory Board, fighting

for fair dues and facilities. We continue to monitor the increasing use of the Macduff offshore anchorage that we created two years ago;

- we have had discussions with Roads, including input into various traffic issues; perhaps most notably a detailed review with Roads of a possible pedestrian crossing by St Mary's Church, and recently are pushing for another review of Banff Bridge vehicular and pedestrian traffic;
- with other Community Councils across the Shire we have successfully pushed for improvements in the new electronic planning system;
- requested a replacement Banff sign now erected, and correction of the visitor signing around the towns;
- reviewed and given input on various Marine Scotland proposals, on the A947 safety review, on the upcoming Community Empowerment Bill, the 2016 Local Development Plan, as well as many of the larger planning applications;
- for one specific site we have represented the community against Aberdeenshire Council as regards the sale of common good land, while on others have supported them in their planned use of common good land;

“... we believe we live in towns that are already fantastic but have even greater potential and we work towards that target.”

- lobbied, in conjunction with our local MP and MSP, for an improvement of the local ambulance provision.

We have also undertaken some physical tasks ourselves, including:

- repairing various notice boards around town, now managing and keeping them tidy;
- repairing the floodlights at Macduff War Memorial;
- designing, printing and distributing an updated leaflet of “Motorcaravanners’ Guide to Banff and Macduff”;
- co-ordinating the Queen’s Baton Relay coming through both of our towns and across Banff Bay; the turnout of local people was truly tremendous - thank you.

**Banff & Macduff
Community Council
Ian Williams, Secretary
07939 647574
bandmcommunitycouncil
@gmail.com**

BANFF PRESERVATION & HERITAGE SOCIETY

2015 is a significant date in the history of the BPHS, as fifty years ago, in 1965, the Banff Preservation Society was founded. We hope to mark the anniversary appropriately. One wonderful thing is that some of those who were active in the founding of the Society are still around. And a whole cluster of historic buildings that were then seriously at risk are now loved and looked after.

On the right is 1 High Shore, before its restoration. Our Society, all its days, will be proud of that restoration, which won us international awards. The sharp-eyed can see in the picture that the building needs some care and attention, and it was worse inside. But now those who have been round the house on Doors Open Days will know that Mrs Tacon and her family have kept the house inside and out in beautiful order, with loving affection and good taste.

We haven’t added ‘Heritage’ to our name for nothing. Look at the signs. Each of them tells us a story. There at waist level is a road sign for Inverness. In those days the main traffic went through the low town of Banff. Was it still going up Strait Path when this photograph was taken? And there on 1 High

Shore is the sign for “Joseph Donald, Butcherer, Poulterer, Frozen Foods” (I know Mr Donald’s daughter). One gift that many old people have is that of remembering every shop on a street in order. I would like to have a permanent display of all the buildings on High Street and Low Street with lists and pictures of who was in them when. There’s a project.

We haven’t time to talk about the old Post Office and its sticking-out sign. Old photographs (this one came from Alan Davis) and shops are an exciting part of our heritage.



**Banff Preservation
& Heritage Society
Alistair Mason, Secretary,
14 Old Castlegate,
Banff AB45 1DE
01261 812941
www.banffpreservation
andheritagesociety.org.uk**

“... fifty years ago, in 1965, the Banff Preservation Society was founded. We hope to mark the anniversary appropriately.”



1 High Shore, Banff.

BANFFSHIRE COAST TOURISM PARTNERSHIP



Top 18 Coastline Destinations in the World; we are recognised regionally as a key tourism body in Aberdeenshire and working in close collaboration with Moray Speyside Tourism. We were recognised locally with two awards in the 2014 Aberdeen City and Shire Tourism Awards - with two businesses finalists in 2015. And in 2015 we will be working closely with other similar organisations across Scotland to ensure on-going promotion of our key tourism assets.

Following a particularly successful 2013, the Year of Homecoming 2014 has proved not only a great year for Scotland, but also for the Banffshire Coast. The area is now well and truly on the tourist map - internationally, regionally, locally and nationally.



A combination of our own promotional campaigns and significant collaboration with other Aberdeenshire tourism agencies has resulted in all our expectations being exceeded. We are on the map internationally - rated by National Geographic in the

Our ever-popular Area Guide (2nd edition) has once again flown off the shelves both locally and across an increased

“The area is now well and truly on the tourist map - internationally, regionally, locally and nationally.”



number of popular Scottish tourist destinations; by the end of 2015, 40,000 copies will have been distributed.

In response to our visitor feedback survey, our own promotional campaigns have focussed on Harbours, The Traditional Seaside Holiday, Shopping, and Food and Drink - including printed material, interactive website maps, press coverage and social media campaigns. Seaside in the City was a promotion with a difference - and Glasgow certainly knew we were there - including handing out over 800 branded balloons and sticks of rock.

Inclusion in Aberdeenshire Council-funded promotional campaigns, delivered by VisitScotland, has meant coverage beyond all

BANFFSHIRE COAST IS ON THE MAP

expectations, including ad campaigns in a broad range of newspapers, high quality publications and websites, direct mail campaigns, and even this year TV ads in primetime slots. VisitAberdeen also continue to be very supportive, with a dedicated Banffshire Coast website section.



2015 is already looking busy, with initiatives designed to help member businesses develop and work together. A further two promotional campaigns - Cycling and Activities on the Coast - are planned for early 2015; we will be working on these alongside our tourism colleagues in Moray Speyside and Fraserburgh. In the Year of Food and Drink 2015, we will be contributing to a pan-Aberdeenshire project to promote our rich food and drink offering. We will also be



encouraging our members to take up subsidised WorldHost Customer Service training. And we will continue to work with Aberdeenshire Council, VisitAberdeen and VisitScotland - with a direct mail campaign and the launch of a Coastal Trail leaflet already planned. And that is just for starters!

We are very grateful to our supportive funders - Aberdeenshire European Fisheries Fund, Aberdeenshire Council and Scottish Enterprise. We would also thank our membership base

which now exceeds the magic 100 figure. And not forgetting our volunteer Directors and Committee Members.

Whether a visitor or a resident in the area, please visit www.banffshirecoast.com for lots of useful information for days out, overnight visits, shopping and dining.

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

Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership Programme is funded by:-



BOYNDIE VISITOR CENTRE



For those who are regular customers at Boyndie Visitor Centre, you will be well aware how busy the place is.

Whether it is in the restaurant, shops or garden centre, there is always a lot going on.

What may not be so apparent, however, is how busy we are with our training and work placements too, which after all, is the reason we set up the Boyndie Trust as a charity back in 1999. In all the public-facing departments, plus our woodworking and craft workshops, we have seen many new colleagues join us, and we face the challenge now of looking once again at the building and ensuring we are squeezing every bit of space out of the former school, and using every corner to best effect.

It has also been noticeable that we have more people with mobility impairments wanting to join our team. Our

task has been to collectively apply some creative thinking to be able to welcome them, and to maximise their training opportunities. We have all enjoyed the challenge, and it has been a good learning experience for everyone.

So while being so busy, it came as something of a shock that the tenth birthday of our Visitor Centre building had crept upon us, in May 2014. A well-earned party was enjoyed, and we were pleased to have two ladies cut our cake, Margaret Morrison and Margaret Burton, both of whom have association with Boyndie School, going back more years than it would be polite for me to publish!

Our restaurant received a new award in 2014, and now can boast the VisitScotland 'Taste our Best' logo. This joins our previous accolade, entry in the Scottish Food Guide, and recognises the work done to build a great team



of local suppliers, and to feature good Scottish seasonal food on our menu.

Another welcome development has been the nature trails in our gardens, supplemented by live television pictures of birds feeding on our bird tables. Claire Matthews from Macduff Marine Aquarium was kind enough to officially open the trails, and there has been considerable interest from visitors of all ages. Sales of our own-label wild bird food have gone through the roof!

So for those of you who are not yet customers, please make 2015 the year to come to see us.

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

BRIGHTER HORIZONS

Brighter Horizons, the not for profit arm of local company Bachlaw Projects, has been delivering projects to support local young people and their families since 2005 but has changed and expanded significantly in the last two years to include Brighter Horizons Youth, Brighter Horizons Fostering and Brighter Horizons Community.

Brighter Horizons Youth currently supports approximately 100 local young people through projects like Friday Night Football, the Scotland Supporters group, planned group work, young peoples' advisory forums and a lunchtime group at the local Academy.

Brighter Horizons has recently become registered to provide specialist foster placements with the aim of providing high quality placements and offering children and young people support and nurturing within a family environment and as part of the community.



“Brighter Horizons is keen for the hall to become a community hub where individuals and groups can access local information and facilities . . .”

Brighter Horizons Community includes an exchange programme with a community in Zimbabwe and the purchase and renovation of a disused hall in Institution Street Macduff which has fallen into disrepair. Brighter Horizons is keen for the hall to become a community hub where individuals and groups can access local information and facilities such as computing and internet services as well as training courses to increase employment opportunities. There will be space to hold meetings, and for groups such as parent and baby groups and community events.

Within the hall, it is also planned to create a community café which will serve refreshments made with locally sourced ingredients where possible. The café will create jobs and opportunities for work placements.



The plans for the hall have been made available to the local community and feedback from individuals and groups has been taken into account as part of the development process.

Brighter Horizons has already secured half of the funding required to complete the renovations in the hall and are in the process of exploring other funding options. All funding accessed by Brighter Horizons will be used to support the Brighter Horizons Projects. Once the hall has been renovated, the projects will be fully self-funding.

If you are interested in learning more, becoming involved in or supporting our organisation please contact Sarah Christie on 07738 949344 or brighterhorizons@bachlawprojects.co.uk

Brighter Horizons
Sarah Christie
07738 949344
brighterhorizons@bachlawprojects.co.uk

FORDYCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Community Hall Project: Since 2002 much of the Community Association Management Committee's effort, both in terms of volunteer work and fundraising, has been directed towards the upgrade of Fordyce Community Hall. A 'ring-fenced' Development Fund was set up specifically for the redevelopment project. This year we have continued to hold our own fund-raising events and have continued to be supported by The Portsoy Thrift Shop. Coupled with the award of £10,000 from the Banff & Buchan Area Initiatives Fund, this has allowed the completion of the following:

- The refurbishment of the kitchen.
- The installation of the storage facility, including the link to the main hall.
- The fitting of the hall banners.
- The installation of an improved ventilation system.

We have recently been successful in gaining awards from Awards for All (£10,000) and The Co-operative

“... we are grateful for all the support given, by both those who have made donations and grants toward the Association's efforts ...”



Refurbished kitchen.

Community Fund (£2,000); with a further £5,000 from the Banff & Buchan Area Initiatives Fund, the Association is now in a position to complete the final phase of the redevelopment of the Community Hall during 2015. This comprises:

- New disabled toilets and baby changing facility.
- New female and male toilet areas.
- Enhanced disabled access and further storage accommodation.

Fordyce Joiners' Workshop & Museum: Having been leaseholders of the Workshop part, the Association has been in discussions with Aberdeenshire Council with a view to taking over responsibility for the whole of the Museum complex.



Hall decked out for wedding.

A sub-group has been set up and a team of volunteers recruited to maintain the facility; the group will be responsible for manning, generating new initiatives, general housekeeping, fund-raising, etc.

With this expanding remit we are grateful for all the support given, by both those who have made donations and grants toward the Association's efforts and the tireless work of the committee and volunteers who have worked so hard to make the project a success.

Fordyce Community Association

Bookings:

Mr Sid Grant, Hallkeeper,
01261 842350 or

Mrs Dorothy Hutcheson,
Treasurer, 01261 842658

General Info:

Mr Brian Anderson, Secretary,
01261 843098 / 07933 201299

briananderson03@
btinternet.com

FRIENDS OF TARLAIR

In the 1930s, outdoor swimming pools were all the rage and there can't be many that can boast such a dramatic setting as Tarlair Pool in Macduff. Architect Mr. Miller and the Burgh Surveyor of Macduff designed the triple pool structure of Tarlair to fit in to the Loch Craig area of Tarlair Bay. The Pavilion Cafe, with roof terrace and changing rooms, was designed around the curves of the pool, complementing its shape. Today, the building is a listed structure of historic significance.

Visitors came from far and near, and still today, the area holds fond memories for many. Although long disused for swimming, The Model Boat Club managed to maintain Tarlair until the last seven years or so when the sea became more determined in its destructive capabilities. The structure became cracked and unstable, play equipment was removed, and it was difficult to psychologically revive the ideals set into the "great memories" of the past.

Left with a choice to give Tarlair up to nature, or try to revive it, a number of people gathered two years ago, and decided to work for restoration and conservation. The structure's 'A' listed status had

“With the modern interest in outdoor pursuits and fitness activities, Tarlair is an ideal venue.”

not guaranteed its protection, but with John Addison Conservation & Design working with Aberdeenshire Council, a Conservation Plan was presented and accepted.

The renovation of the whole pool area has moved forward to a huge degree. A decision had to be made to tackle the worst ravaged areas first. Thanks to £300k from Aberdeenshire Council, Covanburn Contractors have created a reinforced encapsulation of cement over all the terraces, walls and base of the boating pool, and the central division between it and the big pool. This part of the Conservation Plan was completed in December 2014.

We are now ready to concentrate on practical ways we can move on. With the modern interest in outdoor pursuits and fitness activities, Tarlair is an ideal venue. Our ideas include reinstating the Pavilion and Café, adding a heritage centre, climbing walls, zip wires, adult outdoor fitness equipment, canoeing, archery and open water swimming. We want to work with the Council to move forward and welcome more volunteers joining us.

Friends of Tarlair
Patricia Wain
patwain51@hotmail.co.uk



GARDENSTOWN: ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY SPIRIT



The Gardenstown Village Action Committee (GVAC), formed in early 2013, continues to act as a focus encouraging the community spirit in the village and co-ordinating village activities. GVAC provides a link between the Aberdeenshire Council, the King Edward and Gamrie Community Council, local groups and individuals.

Everyone is enjoying the village planting and decorated half barrels, and thanks for this goes to the small planting group and to the council for providing plants and spring bulbs. In addition to our summer plants we recently organised a 'daffodil day' planting bulbs which we all hope will provide more displays in the spring.

“... two decorated boats and an anchor feature are helping to ensure that we demonstrate to all that there is a love of the village.”

GVAC have organised new village features - two decorated boats at the village entrances, named following a competition arranged with Bracoden school children, and an anchor feature in the centre of the village.

These are helping to ensure that we demonstrate to all that there is a love of the village.

The harbour, owned by the Harbour Trustees, has been full this year with all 70 berths taken up, and alteration works with grant funding has been carried out to the West Pier to maximise the potential for mooring at all times of the tide. The annual Harbour Gala and Fry Up in August was organised jointly by the Gala Committee and GVAC this year, and was another success - a social activity always enjoyed by all!

August also saw the establishment of a Gamrie Creatives Weekend, with many local artists and crafters opening their doors for four days. This was very successful and the plan is now to make this an annual event.

The Gardenstown Public Hall (locally known as The Dreel Hall) provides a venue for indoor activities and the hall committee has organised a variety of well supported

functions. Alteration works including refurbishment of the small meeting room and storage areas have been completed, and there is an aspiration to develop a community café in the hall in the future.

A new tourist information leaflet has been produced and circulated through tourist information offices, with the assistance of the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership, and through venues locally. If anyone requires further information on village activities please use the following contact information:

Gardenstown Village Action Committee (GVAC)
Andy Sturdy, Secretary
 01261 851339
 GVAC@outlook.com

The Dreel Hall
Nicola Watt, Chair/Sec
 01261 851411

Gardenstown Harbour Trustees
Ian Moir, Secretary
 07736 157317

Facebook:
Gardenstown Village Community,
The Dreel Hall and
I Love Gardenstown

HARVEST MINISTRIES

It has been a hectic year and we are delighted to announce that upon completion of all the work outlined in the last 'Partnership Update' the Trinity Church building (now renamed Harvest Centre Trinity) was officially opened on 6th September 2014.

This special event was the culmination of three years hard work involving a relentless program of in-church fund-raising activities, sacrificial giving by members in both time and money, external support in the form of grants and donations from local businesses, Aberdeenshire Council, The Heritage Lottery Fund/Historic Scotland and a host of other grant providers.

Our thanks and appreciation go to all concerned, and of course to Duncan

“Our thanks and appreciation go to all concerned, and of course to Duncan Leece and the staff of The Partnership for business advice and guidance readily given at various stages throughout.”

Leece and the staff of The Partnership for business advice and guidance readily given at various stages throughout.

Sunday morning services at 10am and now organised by the Riverside Christian Church have commenced after a break of twenty years, and the first community sponsored event held on the premises was when the eighty-strong Dutch Youth Orchestra delivered a highly enjoyable concert in the summer.

For information, our very successful monthly Cinema Nights are now being held in

Harvest Centre Trinity and, as before, details of films and tickets can be obtained from Strachan Pharmacies at either Banff (01261 812404) or Turriff (01888 562403).

Furthermore, with the introduction of a stage, underfloor heating and 'state of the art' sound and audio equipment, the premises also make a highly suitable venue for conferencing, musical and choral concerts and theatrical productions. (For details of our low cost rental terms please contact the church office, mornings, on 01261 815790.)



For film information and tickets, contact:
Strachan Pharmacies
at Banff 01261 812404
or Turriff on 01888 562403

General Enquiries:
01261 815790

PORTSOY 75 CLUB: SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



In 2015 Portsoy 75 Club celebrates 40 years of supporting the local community in the parish of Portsoy, which includes Fordyce and Sandend. Plans for a 40th anniversary party in the Autumn of 2015 are underway.

From the early days of dances at the Commercial Hotel the 75 Club has expanded to provide a wide range of social activities as well as supporting those run by other organisations. In fact a strong social network between community groups has evolved with many organisations helping and supporting each other throughout the year. Meetings are mostly held at the Station Hotel who support the 75 Club by allowing use of their facilities for fund raising events. The 75 Club is best known for the annual Gala, the 75 Club Singers, Hogmanay

“Plans for a 40th anniversary party in the Autumn of 2015 are underway.”

Firework Display, organising the Christmas Lights and Bairns Christmas Party for the town, and there is plenty of work done behind the scenes helping others too. The 75 Club hold monthly Bingo Nights at the Station Hotel which are used to raise funds for local organisations and good causes.

Many other organisations and individuals send donations to the 75 Club, in particular the Portsoy Thrift Shop regularly contribute towards the cost of the Christmas lights and Hogmanay Firework Display. It was also equally involved with the cost of providing the granite welcome signs at each end of the town. Portsoy 75 Club members are also involved in the town's largest event, the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, and staff the temporary bar ‘The Welcome Inn’ on the harbour.

At the 2014 Boat Festival a magnificent dolphin sculpture displayed at the harbour by local artist Carn Standing was admired by visitors and locals alike. Lee Wenman and David Crichton from Beggars Belief Coffee Cove began a campaign to raise funds to ensure the dolphin sculpture remained in Portsoy and both the 75 Club and Thrift Shop made significant contributions



towards securing this sculpture for the town, which should soon have a permanent site close to the harbour.

The 75 Club has over 40 members and the majority participate in club events but we are always seeking new members from the Portsoy area. Anyone over 18 wishing to support their local community, and have a lot of fun doing so, are welcome to contact the Secretary, Brian Sutherland, on 01261 843070. Potential members can ‘try before you buy’ by attending meetings or events as a guest before committing. Annual membership is minimal at just £15.00 per annum and there is no obligation to attend every event - just helping out occasionally will make a big difference in the community.

Thank you to all those people who have helped to maintain the strong community spirit that Portsoy residents enjoy.

**Portsoy 75 Club
Brian Sutherland, Secretary
01261 843070**

PORTSOY LINKS CARAVAN PARK & THE BACK GREEN BUNKHOUSE

With a successful third year of trading completed, developments include the extension of use of the Park through the winter for static van owners and maintenance and preparation for the 2015 season.



However, a major development project is being worked on to restore the derelict Back Green buildings into bunkhouse accommodation for visitors to the area. Progress is good with the project recently being awarded a grant of £873,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the first project in Scotland to be awarded funding through HLF's Heritage Enterprise scheme. The project is being undertaken by the North East Scotland Preservation Trust (NESPT) and once completed, will be operated as a community business by the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival.

A comprehensive programme of renovation and repair work is required to convert the buildings into a 4 star bunkhouse accommodating 25 visitors. The work will be overseen by award winning company LDN Architects of Forres.

The project has already received funding from Historic Scotland through the Portsoy Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme and from the Architectural Heritage Fund. The outcome of a funding application to the Coastal Communities Fund will be known in January 2015. All being well, work will start on site in May 2015 with completion of the project in the summer of 2016.

The Festival company has carried out considerable research and business planning work to demonstrate that the bunkhouse will be a viable business providing much needed accommodation for visitors and an income stream to help the viability of the Salmon Bothy and the PORT Boatshed. The bunkhouse will also provide accommodation for participants on the residential boat building courses that will be running at the Boatshed.

Marcus Humphrey, Chairman of NESPT, said “We acquired these wonderful, iconic buildings in 2007 and have been working tirelessly ever since to find a way of preserving them for future generations. Our partnership



with the Boat Festival has been crucial in progressing the project and I am most grateful for their help and support.”

Colin McLean, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, added: “This is a landmark project in that it's the first one in Scotland to be awarded a grant through our Heritage Enterprise programme, a programme which will help turn around the fortunes of many more neglected old buildings and help make them commercially viable.

“I am thrilled that the historic link these buildings had with the sea will not be lost as they provide accommodation to people coming to Portsoy to learn boat-building skills. Their new lease of life will be a great improvement to the village's conservation area and a welcome boost to its tourist economy.”

**For further information contact
Paul Higson, NESPT Project
Manager, on 07831 580165 or
email info@nespt.org
www.portsoylinks.co.uk or call
01261 842695 for bookings.**

PORTSOY ORGANISATION FOR RESTORATION AND TRAINING (PORT)



Passing Portsoy's Old Harbour it's hard to miss the building work going on at the Boatshed by the Shore Inn. Progress has been slow due to the usual issues which arise with restoring an old building, however the project is still on schedule to meet completion in the spring of a permanent workshop for boat building and restoration.

In the meantime, PORT, the boat building and restoration arm of the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, has been very active. A programme of building small boats with local primary schools has been going since 2011, building a total of 46 boats with over 500 children. Planning is under way for 2015 when another nine boats will be built and then



“... the course is an integral part of the curriculum leading to SQA approved qualifications...”

paddled by their builders in a regatta on Loch Soy.

This work has now been extended into Banff Academy with 20 students building three boats. Developed from scratch by PORT and the Academy Technical staff, the course is an integral part of the curriculum leading to SQA approved qualifications, and hopefully for National 4 for this first course and on to National 5 next year. The project looks set to be even more popular in 2015 when the first of the primary school boat builders will be eligible to apply.

All this work with local schools will help develop the interest of young people in boats and the sea. We expect to capitalise on that interest when the Boatshed opens next year, enabling us to expand our building and restoration work. The layout of the Boatshed will allow work on at least two boats at a time. The larger area will be for the restoration of one of the fifies in our collection, several of which are about the same size as our scaffie yawl Obair na

Ghaol. The smaller workspace will concentrate on projects for young people, starting with completion of a zulu skiff that is currently sitting part-built.

Another major project, made possible by Heritage Lottery Fund support, is the recreation of a traditional wooden salmon coble, being undertaken by another group of PORT volunteers.

Once common all around Scotland, no wooden cobbles have been built on the Moray Firth since the 1970s. Traditionally created by skilled boat builders, with plans and methods of construction seldom recorded, the Coble Project aims to fully document the whole building process to the highest professional standards.

It is planned to feature the Coble at the 2015 Boat Festival, together with an exhibition of information and artefacts. The Coble will then become a workboat for the Festival featured at the Salmon Bothy, as a classic example of our seafaring heritage.

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

PORTSOY PAST & PRESENT: LIBERTY GARDEN



The Liberty Garden in Portsoy is one of the more obvious products of the Portsoy Past & Present Community Group.

The community group evolved in early 2012 following the amazing success of a Facebook page set up by Colin Murray of Portsoy. A committee was formed in April 2012 and a

website was launched at the Open Day in June when an exhibition of old photographs, memorabilia and music was held as part of the celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The group has gone from strength to strength and, as of November 2014, has 2,099 members.

The Liberty Garden Project came about following discussions with Seafeld Estates who leased a piece of land to develop a community garden. Coincidentally the group heard that a decommissioned Portsoy boat, 'Liberty', was lying in farmland and fast deteriorating.

Following more discussions the boat was donated to the project and, with the support of Aberdeenshire Council and a local farmer, was moved to its new site overlooking the 320 year old harbour in Portsoy.

A garden is now being created on the plot - presently by way of wooden tubs. Seating is in place and the group will continue to develop the plot by enabling wheelchair access.

www.portsoypastandpresent.co.uk and www.facebook.com/PortsoyPast&Present

PORTSOY THRIFT SHOP

Now in its 15th year, the Portsoy Thrift Shop in the Square continues to flourish. We are now fifteen ladies, plus one man who is managing to cope very well with the challenges of being the sole male (and proving to be a great asset).

Another recent development has been the Shop joining the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership: we know that visitors to the area love coming by, so we are determined to ensure that as many visitors as possible know where we are and what we sell!

2014 has been another very successful year with a wonderful variety and value of donations made to many causes in the town and surrounding area. All of this is made possible by the very good sales, in turn made possible by the generosity of our donors.

Once again, we would like to thank all our customers and the people who generously provide the wide range of products we are able to offer. Thank you one and all.



Open every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 12 noon and from 2pm to 4pm.
Give us a visit - you never know what you might find!

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

PORTSOY SALMON BOTHY

18  34
PORTSOY SALMON BOTHY

Portsoy Salmon Bothy has now been open for six years. There have been lots of visitors but what is it for those who have not ventured down to the shore between the caravan park and the new harbour at Portsoy?

There is an inviting museum displaying the history of the area and placing particular emphasis on the salmon fishing industry. There is no entrance fee although the fiberglass salmon gratefully accepts donations. Volunteers are on duty at the museum to welcome visitors and show them around. Groups of visitors are also welcome to visit by appointment by email.

The small bothy is an intimate setting for family history research with a trained genealogist. Alison has drop-in sessions on a Wednesday morning during the summer months. Appointments can also be arranged.

There is an interesting collection

of bespoke merchandise at affordable prices including the opportunity to buy online.

The Bothy has a group of enthusiastic volunteers from a variety of backgrounds intent on developing into a team of knowledgeable, sociable and experienced 'Bothy folk'. There is induction, an annual training day and an annual 'day out' for anyone thinking they might like to volunteer. This year the volunteers went to Glenfarclas Distillery, the woollen mill at Knockando and the cooperage at Craiggellachie.

Upstairs at the Bothy is an atmospheric venue for concerts, parties, dances, classes, workshops, seminars and conferences. There are quality exhibitions and events that focus on the geography, history, traditions and culture of Portsoy and the surrounding area.

This year, Upstairs at the Bothy presented an exhibition to commemorate the beginning of WW1. It focused on the local position, how it was on the homefront and the folk

"The Bothy has a group of enthusiastic volunteers from a variety of backgrounds . . ."

who went to war from Portsoy. There was a series of excellent talks, films and the theatre show, My Friend the Enemy, to complement the exhibition.

At present the STBF Exhibition is on show Upstairs at the Bothy and next spring the Coble Exhibition will be on show following its visit to the Scottish Parliament.

There continues to be varied 'user' groups who come together to share and develop their interests and hobbies. At present, the Knitters meet on Mondays at 10.00, the Pilates Group meets on Monday evenings, and the Art Group meets on Fridays at 14.00. Folk at the Bothy meets on the third Friday of every month and the Skiffettes meet on the last Friday of the month.

Portsoy Salmon Bothy
Links Road, Portsoy
01261 842951
contact@salmonbothy.org.uk
www.salmonbothy.org.uk



Knockando Woollen Mill



Glenfarclas Distillery

RAF BANFF PROJECT



Last year we said the new RAF Banff Heritage Trail would open during 2014, and guess what . . . it did, thanks to a grant from Aberdeenshire Council!

It has proved to be a long and hard slog to achieve what, at first, looked as though it would be simple, but projects can be like that.

So pick a nice day, get your coat on, and come and explore a bit of Banffshire you may not have seen before.

The trail starts at Boyndie Visitor Centre, where you can fortify yourself with a bacon roll, and read the permanent history display about RAF Banff, before setting off.

Take the Turbine Walk from the Watergardens, and that

gets you up on to the old RAF Banff site. From the end of that walk you can pick up signs for the Heritage Trail.

It takes you across the southern perimeter of 'Boyndie Drome' to the ruin of the former Operations Block. There is also a spur off to the Control Tower viewpoint.

In addition to boards giving some more fascinating history of RAF Banff, the route gives great views of the huge turbines and the chance to spot the wildlife. Be prepared for walking at least a couple of miles.

Legalities are progressing to transfer ownership of the Operations Block and Control Tower to community ownership, as a gift from Lord Seafeld, the current owner, and

" . . . So pick a nice day, get your coat on, and come and explore a bit of Banffshire you may not have seen before."

once done, it is hoped to tidy the buildings and perhaps even make them safe enough for an occasional tour. Sadly for now, though, for sensible health and safety, they have to remain fenced off.

If you would like to become more involved in this ongoing project, please contact the Airfield Trust via Boyndie Visitors Centre.

For further information contact Duncan Leece on 01261 843249

SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL



Soy Quine team and signing countless numbers of autographs for local primary school children.

Rowing played a key part in the maritime programme with teams competing from far and wide including 'Groot & grut 1' from the Netherlands. Historic vessels were also well represented, including no less than five Fifies - a sight probably not seen since the last war.

As ever, the programme included a wide range of maritime and rural craft demonstrations, a great music, song and dance programme with several international performers, delicious regional food and drink at the Food Fayre and around the town, and plenty for the more active at Loch Soy and with the Sunday Fun and Road Runs. All in all another great weekend

made possible by our sponsors and, as ever, the people of Portsoy.

Following the Festival however, the need for greater support was highlighted at an exhibition held to present to the folk of Portsoy full information about the Festival itself, the Salmon Bothy, PORT and the caravan park. The response was very encouraging with some 40 new volunteers stepping forward and their involvement is hugely appreciated.

More are always welcome, so if you feel you can help, please call 01261 842951 or email contact@stbfportsoy.com

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
 Portsoy Salmon Bothy
 Links Road, Portsoy
 01261 842951
www.stbfportsoy.com

The twenty first Boat Festival was thankfully blessed with good weather, the previous two years having been poor. Consequently attendance was well up with circa 18,000 participants and visitors over the weekend, with some 12% coming from overseas. Celebrations got off to a great start with Olympic Gold Medallist Katherine Grainger unveiling the foundation stone to the PORT Boatshed, as well as rowing with Portsoy's



“... the programme included a wide range of maritime and rural craft demonstrations, great music, song and dance...”

WHITEHILLS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Our active team of Community Councillors continue to respond wherever possible to the requests and thoughts of our local community and have endeavoured to carry out the various activities highlighted in our most recent Community Action Plan as drawn up on our behalf by Banffshire Partnership Ltd. Maintenance of our lovely area is a priority and to this end my personal thanks go out to them all for their willingness and help throughout the year.

Our Community Council website (www.whitehillsanddistrict.co.uk) continues to field a large number of 'hits' and provides details of the numerous activities undertaken throughout the year and includes the minutes of our monthly meetings for your information. You will notice from those that a great deal of endeavour has gone in to trying to get agreement with Aberdeenshire Council to provide a safe pedestrian pathway between Whitehills and Ladysbridge and regrettably discussions continue. We shall continue

“... we have been able to assist a number of local projects throughout the year with financial assistance...”

to press and would like to think that some action will be forthcoming in 2015.

Brief details of other activities carried out through the year include:-

- Attractive flower displays round the village throughout the summer months.
- High quality maintenance of our local Public Toilets by a team of volunteers resulting in a 'Gold Loo Award' for 2014.
- Completion of the 'RAF Banff Project' creating a visitor attraction at the WW2 'drome with a themed walk from Boyndie Visitor Centre round the WW2 buildings. Legal transfer of ownership is on course.
- Creation of a new permanent solid pathway down the 'Braes' to the harbour is presently underway.
- Ongoing efforts to resolve the dog-fouling issue are being actively pursued in addition to our provision of 'Dog Gloves' around the village.

- The 'Heritage Trail' boards round the village have been renewed.

These are a few highlights of our ongoing activities and additionally we have been able to assist a number of local projects throughout the year with financial assistance from the 'Boyndie Windfarm Community Fund' with awards totalling £23,095.

We continue to be open to applications from bodies within our Community Council boundary for funding that sits within our laid down guidelines.

Use our website to find an application form and to keep up with our activities.

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

Useful Funding Sources

LEADER 2015 - 2020



Building on the success of previous programmes, an exciting new LEADER fund is coming soon, and will support projects demonstrating "community-led local development". At the time of publishing this book, full details of the 2015 - 2020 programme are not finalised, but if you are planning a community project, please be sure to check the LEADER website for the latest news www.aberdeenshireleader.org

ABERDEENSHIRE EUROPEAN FISHERIES FUND

As with LEADER, a new AEFF programme is under development at the time of publishing this book, and if you are planning a project in a coastal community, this is another website you should be sure to investigate www.aeff.co.uk



SUPPORT FOR ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESS SCHEME

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

Banff & Buchan Area: June Burnett, Banff
T: 01261 813221 E: business.support@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/finance/sab.asp



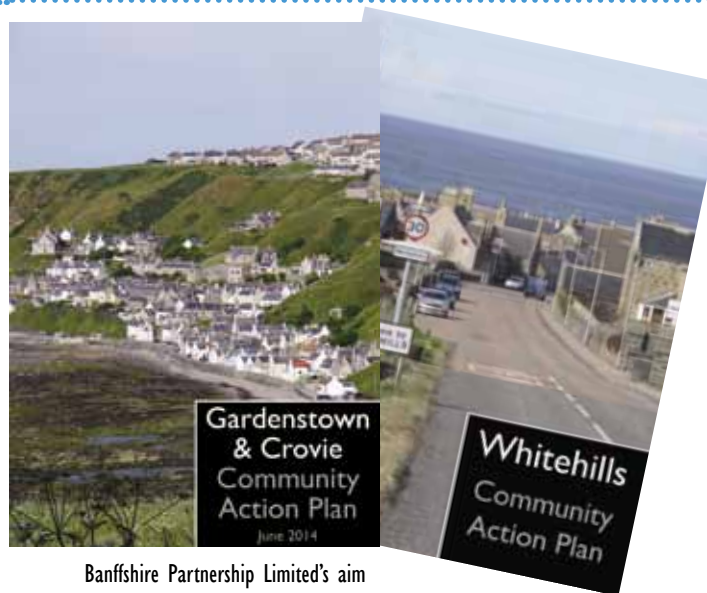
Do you know of a Scottish charity with premises on which they pay water rates?

The law has changed, and new deals are available from April 2015. Investigate: www.business-stream.co.uk/water-rates-charges/water-charge-exemption-scheme



When did you last look at Social Investment Scotland? They have a considerable range of finance options, including match-funding and cashflow facilities for projects accessing LEADER funding. SIS is itself a social enterprise, and works by offering loan finance to your organisation, with affordable repayment plans tailored to suit. Well worth investigating: www.socialinvestmentscotland.com

Community Action Plans



Banffshire Partnership Limited's aim is to help community groups or whole communities, plan, develop and deliver projects, large or small. These projects may be things that create jobs, boost the economy, or just improve the quality of life for locals and visitors.

We will not take your project over and do it for you, but we will gladly support, advise and mentor you to get the skills and knowledge to make your own ideas work.

In return, all we ask is that you will be willing to share that experience with future newcomers. All BPL's paid staff and volunteers have been involved in community projects, and made that commitment to pass their skills and knowledge on to others.

More and more, potential funders look for your organisation or

community to have developed partnerships with others. They will want proof that your idea really does have community support too. BPL can help you with both.

We would encourage you to have a Community Action Plan. This plan should contain and record the views, ideas and priorities of local people, and we will happily assist you to compile one, if your community does not already have one. Working with a lead group, which may be a single body such as a Community Council, or an alliance of smaller organisations, we collect residents' ideas and opinions using methods designed to avoid the arguments and hostilities that can arise in traditional public meetings. Everyone's view will be heard, and not just those with the loudest voices!

There will be little, if any, financial cost to you in the process of getting a plan, but you will need to be prepared to put in some time. Specifically, the lead group will need to:

- Be prepared to distribute publicity material and twist a few arms, so that both a good number and a true cross section of local people take part in the exercise.
- Hire a suitable hall or venue for a public meeting and arrange for teas and coffees to be supplied to those attending (the cost of both can usually be met via BPL).
- Work with the BPL team to help them put the data and ideas collected into a plan that will be realistic, deliverable and make sense to local people.

It really is not a daunting exercise, and many communities have enjoyed the exercise enough to repeat it. We feel a plan has a valuable life of roughly three or four years, before it is out of date.

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

Transport For All The Community

Banffshire Partnership has been providing a Dial-a-Bus service in the community for many years. We currently have 215 clients who use the service at least once a month.

Shopping is the main demand for our Dial-a-Bus service and we take our clients to places where they cannot get to on the normal bus service. To be eligible for the Dial-a-Bus service you need to have difficulty 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 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. Our third bus is a Ford Transit.

We serve the communities of: Aberchirder, Alvah, Banff, Boyndie, Cornhill, Crudie, Fordyce, Forglen, Gamrie, Gardenstown, Hilton, King Edward, Macduff, New Byth, Ordiquhill, Portsoy, Sandend and 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 service a week. 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. Two of the 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 whom 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.



Above: Inside new Iveco minibus.

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; 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 service running to support 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@banffdab.org.uk

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

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 an approved training provider and now offer the following courses:

- First Aid at Work (3 Days)
- First Aid at Work Re-qualifier (2 Days)
- Emergency First Aid at Work (1 Day)
- Manual Handling (Core Module)
- Manual Handling (Assisting with Mobility)
- Wheelchairs, Hoists and Stand Aids
- Disability awareness.

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 client's 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@
banffdab.org.uk](mailto:bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk)



Left: New Iveco minibus.

Useful Community Contact Numbers

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Alvah & Forglen Community Council
 E: chair.alvahforglenc@ gmail.com
 W: www.alvahforglencwordpress.com

Banff & Macduff Community Council
 T: 07939 647574
 E: bandmcommunitycouncil@ gmail.com

Banff Preservation & Heritage Society
 T: 01261 812941
 W: www.banffpreservationandheritage
 society.org.uk

Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership
 E: contact@ banffshirecoast.com
 W: www.banffshirecoast.com

Boyndie Trust Limited
 T: 01261 843249
 E: boyndietrust@ hotmail.com
 W: www.boyndietrust.co.uk

Brighter Horizons
 T: 07738 949344
 E: brighterhorizons@
 bachlawprojects.co.uk

Fordyce Community Association
 T: 01261 842350/842658 (Bookings)
 T: 01261 843098/07933 201299 (General)

Friends of Tarlair
 E: patwain51@ hotmail.co.uk

Gardenstown Village Action Committee (GVAC)
 T: 01261 851339
 E: GVAC@ outlook.com
 F: www.facebook.com/GardenstownVillage
 Community

The Dreel Hall, Gardenstown
 T: 01261 851411
 F: www.facebook.com/TheDreelHall

Gardenstown Harbour Trustees
 T: 07736 157317

Harvest Ministries
 T: 01261 815790 (General)

Portsoy 75 Club
 T: 01261 843070

Portsoy Links Caravan Park
 T: 01261 842695
 W: www.portsoylinks.co.uk

**Portsoy Organisation for Restoration
 and Training (PORT)**
 T: 01261 842951
 E: thestbf@ gmail.com

Portsoy Past & Present
 W: www.portsoypastandpresent.co.uk
 F: www.facebook.com/PortsoyPast&Present

Portsoy Salmon Bothy
 T: 01261 842951
 E: contact@ salmonbothy.org.uk
 W: www.salmonbothy.org.uk

Portsoy Thrift Shop
 T: 07870 536776

RAF Banff Project c/o Boyndie Visitor Centre
 T: 01261 843249
 E: boyndietrust@ hotmail.com

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
 T: 01261 842951
 E: admin@ stbportsoy.com
 W: www.stbportsoy.com

LOCAL RURAL PARTNERSHIP

Banffshire Partnership
 T: 01261 843598
 E: bpl.contact@ tiscali.co.uk
 W: www.banffshirepartners.co.uk

- **Community Transport**
 E: bpl.transport@ banffdab.org.uk
 - **Developing Communities**
 E: bpl.contact@ tiscali.co.uk
 - **Training**
 E: bpl.transport@ banffdab.org.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Alvah & Forglen Community Council
 E: chair.alvahforglenc@ gmail.com

Banff & Macduff Community Council
 T: 07939 647574
 E: bandmcommunitycouncil@ gmail.com

Cornhill & Ordiquill Community Council
 T: 01466 751326

**Fordyce, Sandend & District
 Community Council**
 T: 01261 843782 / 07917 800134

King Edward & Gamrie Community Council
 T: 01888 544836

Portsoy & District Community Council
 T: 07982 721917

Whitehills & District Community Council
 T: 01261 861882

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

**BANFF & DISTRICT
 Councillor John Cox**
 T: 07917 734774
 E: cllr.j.cox@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Ian Gray
 T: 07749 487617
 E: cllr.i.gray@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Michael Roy
 T: 07876 475497
 E: cllr.m.roy@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**TROUP
 Councillor Ross Cassie**
 T: 07795 612721
 E: cllr.r.cassie@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Mark Findlater
 T: 07876 475129
 E: cllr.m.findlater@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Hamish Partridge
 T: 07876 475126
 E: cllr.h.partridge@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

**FRASERBURGH & DISTRICT
 Councillor Charles Buchan**
 T: 07876 475319
 E: cllr.c.buchan@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Ian Tait
 T: 07768 536864
 E: cllr.i.tait@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Brian Topping
 T: 07768 704507
 E: cllr.b.topping@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Michael Watt
 T: 07768 863076
 E: cllr.m.watt@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk

community transport



“keeping the community moving”

community use minibus

dial-a-bus

drivers & passenger assistants

transport information

training

... for your transport needs



**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB45 2JT
 T & F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
TRAINING**



See
page 29
for further
details

**ALL YOUR TRAINING NEEDS
COVERED BY JUST ONE CALL**

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB45 2JT
T & F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk