

B P L

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

WWW.BANFFSHIREPARTNERS.CO.UK

ISSUE 18 - 2016



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.
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Directors can be contacted through
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01261 843598.*

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

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as a Local Rural Partnership by the
Scottish Government.*



Green
Butterfly
Award

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. We receive very generous donations from our Dial-A-Bus clients which enables us to regularly renew our bus fleet.

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 can now 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.

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP LIMITED



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 2015/16 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 Community Empowerment Act, which should come into force this summer, will provide significant opportunities for community groups and we are anticipating an increase in the demand for our services, which we shall try to accommodate.

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.

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... 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

2016 sees Banffshire Partnership as busy as ever, and for yet another year I am delighted to be able to thank publicly all our staff, both paid and volunteers.

Our volunteer numbers have increased a lot this year as we have welcomed over twenty new people to help with our ability to supply affordable first aid cover at events, large or small. See page 26 for details of this popular new service. We started it by request, knowing that many of the people we train in first aid wanted a practical way of keeping their skills current, and also that local groups who organise events were finding it a challenge to meet their first aid requirement. Our job - matching a local resource with a local demand.

Dial-a-Bus and our other transport services continue to be the bulk of what we do, and it is with great pleasure that we have welcomed three stalwarts of these services on to BPL board of directors. Welcome Pat, Janice and Mavis.



Of course, we have not forgotten our origins in working with and assisting a wide range of community organisations in fulfilling their projects and activities. The main purpose of this book is to showcase what they do. Read their stories and I will be amazed if you don't join me in being impressed by the sheer scale and quality of community-led activity here in Banffshire.

Duncan D Leece,
Director of Operations (D00)
contact me at
bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

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
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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 19 - will appear in early 2017 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,
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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.

ABERCHIRDER & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

After an absence of some years from Partnership Update we are happy to provide an account of community activities in Aberchirder during 2015. At the AGM of Aberchirder & District Community Association in March several new faces joined the committee, which has been revitalised and has worked well as a team to contribute to the wellbeing of the village.

An important event was the publication of Foggie's fifth Community Action Plan since 1999 following a public consultation organised by Banffshire Partnership in May. As on previous occasions this document will provide a framework to guide the community and partners in addressing the issues raised by local people.

Much of the time and energy expended by the Association is devoted to the village environment and we now have an energetic team of committee members and other volunteers who have worked hard to expand our floral displays and contribute to the care and maintenance of Cleanhill Wood. Volunteers also made their invaluable annual input to the festive lights display.

The Community Pavilion in McRobert Park continues



The Square is looking good since its enhancement in 2010.

to offer facilities to the young members of St Marnan's Sports Club as well as St Marnan's FC and - for several weeks during summer - Deveronvale FC. Meanwhile the Gym in the Pavilion has been reorganised and upgraded, and membership has recovered to around seventy. (At £70 a year, the facility offers excellent value, so why not join? - contact Richard Waters on 07910 532876).

The Association has also made improvements to communications, with a Community News display in the Library window and a Facebook page as a source of community adverts and news.

In the coming year a start will be made to implementing the Community Action Plan, where the top issues concern dealing with derelict properties, problems of traffic speed and parking, and development of a sports/community hall - although two hall projects continue to compete with each other! We have already addressed another perennial issue - dog fouling - by

working in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council to provide more waste bins and dog glove dispensers.

An exciting development which emerged last year was a proposal for a Men's Shed. A group of interested men has been formed and the Association will provide support while they arrange for charitable status and look for suitable premises.

The other major project for 2016 is to relaunch the foggieioan website which has been in abeyance for the last two years. A new volunteer webmaster has come forward and will be working to have at least some of the new site live early in the year. The Association is grateful to those businesses which contributed to the costs of the relaunch.

“An important event was the publication of Foggie's fifth Community Action Plan . . .”

**Aberchirder & District
Community Association**
Bob Peden, Secretary
bobpeden1@sky.com
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www.foggieioan.co.uk



The new look Banffshire Business Association (formerly known as the Banff, Macduff & District Business Association) was launched at a special informal event held in November.

The evening was attended by a number of local businesses from the area to find out about the Business Associations' aims for the coming year. A comprehensive action plan was also presented setting out the objectives of the organisation.

The plan states that the Business Associations' aims and objectives are: "To encourage the use of members products and services by residents, visitors and the larger business community; to encourage and develop new business opportunities in the area; to develop a forum for the discussion of issues of importance to members; and to raise the profile of the area as a business location.

BANFFSHIRE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

"Also to improve local employment opportunities; to provide training and educational opportunities for members; and to assist members to meet and exchange ideas with other like-minded people."

Businesses who join the Association will receive a number of benefits including a minimum of two seminars per year on business topics; a website to promote both the area and members products and services; networking opportunities; and access to business associations throughout Aberdeenshire.

At the informal event held in November attendees were given the chance to speak to the new committee and network with other businesses.

The area that the Business Association covers stretches

from Sandend to Crovie and inland as far as Aberchirder and New Byth.

The committee members comprise of chairwoman Jill Clark of Sparkle & Shine Housekeeping & Laundry Services; vice-chairwoman Kay Beaton of Purple Creative Design; secretary David Duguid of DA & M Duguid Joinery Services; treasurer Arlene Anderson of Anderson & Co Chartered Accountants and committee members Sandy and Alison Buchan of Tuleni; Diane Wood of DW Home Furnishings and Michael Ritchie of Mantell Ritchie Chartered Architects.

Banffshire Business Association
 info@banff-macduff.com
 www.banff-macduff.com

“. . . aims to encourage the use of members, products and services by residents, visitors and the larger business community . . .”



At the launch evening of the new Banffshire Business Association are the committee with Banff and District Councillor John Cox.

Words and photo courtesy of Banffshire Journal.

BRIGHTER HORIZONS CENTRE

The Brighter Horizons Centre opened its doors in August 2015. Since then we have welcomed many local people and hosted



“The modern, light and airy hall space can also be hired by the public for a nominal fee.”

community events such as our Christmas fayre and Christmas Eve carol service. These were well supported and will now be annual events.

The Brighter Horizons Centre was set up as a community venue and we hope it will develop into a thriving hub within the local town. We aim to provide a needs-led service and welcome the input from our local residents. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our current projects and these are:

Monday Night Youth Drop-In Session - 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Monthly Soup & Sweet Event - 12.00 noon - 2.00pm first Saturday of every month.

Friday Night Football Drop-In Session - 7.30 pm - 9.00pm at Princess Royal Astro Turf

Young Board of Advisors, a group formed to provide our local young people with a say in what happens locally.

Global Exchange Project supporting a community in Zimbabwe and providing a platform enabling young people and local volunteers to

experience the wider world, cultivate a positive attitude toward difference and diversity.

Specialist Fostering Service providing high quality placements and offering



children and young people support and nurturing within a family environment and as part of the community.

Lillies Kindergarten continue to hire part of the building providing nursery education from 0-5 they are open 7.00am - 7.00pm, Monday to Friday.

The modern, light and airy hall space can also be hired by the public for a nominal fee.

Brighter Horizons Centre

Sarah Christie

07738 949344

brighterhorizons@

bachlawprojects.co.uk

Bachlaw Projects

Upper Seaview, Glenbarry

Cornhill. AB45 2HJ

01466 771395

admin@bachlawprojects.co.uk

www.bachlawprojects.co.uk

BANFFSHIRE COAST TOURISM PARTNERSHIP



VisitAberdeenshire

There are major developments with the organisation for promoting tourism on the Banffshire Coast and the whole of Aberdeenshire.

Just over two years ago it was recognised that the current tourism organisation for the region was fragmented and lacked a cohesive way of presenting the huge appeal of the shire and city. It was also recognised that the way this fragmented organisation was funded could not continue.

That Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have a fantastic tourism product was not in doubt including of course, the Banffshire Coast - but how to present it all a new approach? There was also the matter of funding: where was the money going to come from to make all this possible?

A report was commissioned, out of which has been produced a business plan and plans for marketing leisure and business tourism: all to be carried out by a new, single body. To make this happen required the uniting of all the tourism bodies in the shire and

city: Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen City Council, Visit Aberdeen, Visit Royal Deeside and the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership, plus all the independent tourism organisations across the region - Stonehaven, Fraserburgh, Turriff, Huntly and so on.

Altogether, quite a task, but remarkably it has happened.

As of the beginning of April 2016, the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Tourism Company will be the officially recognised as the lead body for tourism serving Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Its primary purpose is to deliver the tourism strategy for the area and its remit embraces both destination marketing and destination development.

AATC will be a 'not-for-profit' company limited by guarantee; transparent, accountable to its stakeholders and reinvesting any trading surplus in the destination tourism offer. It will have a new Board of Directors, including one from the Banffshire Coast.

The funding has also been secured: Aberdeen City and

Aberdeenshire Councils have agreed the transfer of all their tourism budgets to the new company. Sir Ian Wood has created a new trust "Opportunity North East" - ONE - which will work through four key sectors including tourism and Scottish Enterprise will support the new company, as will VisitScotland.

That adds up to an annual budget of £1.5 million - far more than has ever been put behind the promotion and development of tourism in the shire and city and in fact makes the region having the second largest financial investment in tourism in Scotland - more than for Edinburgh!

These are exciting days for Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen tourism - not least, here on the Banffshire Coast.

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

**VisitAberdeenshire
01224 900491**

BOYNDIE VISITOR CENTRE

Boyndie Visitor Centre continues to be a popular place to come, whether it is for lunch, a walk round the gardens, or to buy gifts and plants.

It is always gratifying to get good reviews from our customers, and a notable trend is seeing people come from further afield for day trips, with the Forres and Elgin being a prime example.

We made a conscious effort during 2015 to up our game a touch in various areas, and for example, our extended range of home-baked cakes is going down a treat!

Lots of new developments in the gardens too.

Many of our regular customers know that the Visitor Centre is the training tool for Boyndie Trust's main purpose: its skills development services aimed at people who have special needs.

We have introduced better methods to measure and evaluate the progress and outcomes of that training, and that has helped us see what a great service it is.

Here too, we have been gratified by some lovely feedback, which is very motivational for the Job Coaches and Training Leaders.



We were honoured to be the chosen local charity by some pupils from both Banff and Turriff Academies, as part of their engagement with the Wood Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Initiative.

This entails pupils picking a charity, studying it to find out what it does, then making a presentation as to why the charity deserves support. There is a £3000 prize per school for the winning group to donate to their charity.

The quality of work done by these young people was really excellent, and it is nice to be able to thank them publicly on behalf of Boyndie Trust . . . particularly the Turriff team, who won!

Boyndie will be engaging with



THE OLD SCHOOL, BOYNDIE
VISITOR CENTRE
& RESTAURANT

YPI again in 2016, and we very much support the idea of getting those of secondary school-age to find out about, and engage with, charitable activity in their community.

These are the people who will be running Boyndie Trust, and similar organisations, in the future.

2016 is already off to a busy start, and we invite you to come to see us.

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

The previous year saw:

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

The grants from Awards for All (£10,000), The Co-operative Community Fund (£2,000) and Age Scotland (£1500), with a further £5,000 from the Banff & Buchan Area Initiatives Fund, have enabled us to complete the final phase of the redevelopment of the Community Hall during 2015.

This comprised:

- New disabled toilet and baby changing facility.
- New female and male toilet areas.
- Enhanced disabled access with a new corridor into the Meeting Room.
- Further storage accommodation



- and a display cabinet.
- Kitchen hand-wash facility and additional secure storage.
- New corridor and emergency lighting

Hall users' comments on the vastly improved facilities have been very positive. We have to complete the laying of new flooring and intend to upgrade aspects of the hot-water system in the very near future. We will begin fund-raising for work on the exterior of the building; this will include pointing the stonework and bell-tower and cladding the storage unit.

Volunteers continue to work regularly on enhancing the village environment including the Community Woodland. The annual Open Village makes a significant contribution to the association's fund-raising efforts along with the regular car boot sales.

Fordyce Joiners' Workshop & Museum: The Association completed the discussions



with Aberdeenshire Council and took over management responsibility for the whole Museum & Workshop complex. A free-standing sub-group with responsibility for day to day running of the facility was formed and a team of volunteers recruited. 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 bring the initial phases of the project to a successful conclusion.

Fordyce Community Association

Hall Keeper: Mr Sid Grant

01261 842350

Treasurer: Mrs Dorothy Hutcheson

01261 842658

Secretary: Mr Brian Anderson

01261 843098

briananderson03@btinternet.com

“Volunteers continue to work regularly on enhancing the village environment . . .”

GAMRIE BUSINESS FORUM

Since its original 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 has consistently appeared high up search engine rankings. The old website was beginning to look a little dated, and along with major changes in internet technology, meant that the site wasn't compatible with mobile browsing, which is being used by more and more people.

A new look responsive site has been 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.

“... the main aim is to ensure continuity of information regarding local services and facilities, and to help keep the area alive.”

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, Business Address, Short Introduction (50 - 60 words), Full Description (up to 350 words - please, no prices!), E-mail Address, Telephone Number, Web Address, Twitter URL/Web Address, Facebook URL/Web Address and up to a maximum of eight photos. 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



GARDENSTOWN VILLAGE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



We were again lucky enough to enjoy a fine day for the annual Harbour Gala, organised by a committee consisting of members of each of the village community groups - Gardenstown Village Action Committee (GVAC), The Harbour Trustees, The Dreel Hall Committee, Bracoden School and Bracoden Playschool. We enjoyed music from the Turriff Pipe Band, the Strathbogie Fiddlers and the Guarana Street Drummers from Aberdeen. In addition to the usual events around the harbour there were also a number of stalls to add to the fun.

In the second week of August the second Gamrie Creatives

“Events around the harbour included . . . 5k runs, walks and community carol singing.”

Weekend was a great success. Local artists and crafters opened their studios and living rooms to display their skills, and many new visitors were able to explore the village. We hope this will continue annually.

The community were generously donated the former infant school building (known locally as the Little Schoolie) by the Christian Brethren. The building retains many of the original features of the school including blackboard and cloakroom pegs. A reunion of the classes of 1948 brought together many of the former schoolchildren from far and wide, and the building is now being used for village activities. These included a children’s art project to design a mural for the sea wall next to the Crovie footpath which we hope will be painted in the spring. The building supplements the Public Hall, providing a variety of spaces available to all.

Events around the harbour have been able to utilise the kitchen facilities available in the old Salmon House adjacent to the Heritage Centre, and these have included 5k runs, walks and community carol singing.

We managed, at last, to have some Christmas lights in the village - at the harbour and outside the Public Hall, and these were supplemented by two Christmas trees and lighting on the village entrance features.

GVAC continues to act as a focus for ideas and would welcome additional committee members.

Gardenstown Village Action Committee (GVAC)

Andy Sturdy, Secretary
01261 851339
GVAC@outlook.com

The Dreel Hall
Nicola Watt, Secretary
01261 851411

Gardenstown Harbour Trustees
Ian Moir, Secretary
07736 157317

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

BOATSHED, PORTSOY

Walking by Portsoy's beautiful seventeenth century harbour is delightful at any time, in any weather! As you stroll, be sure to drop into the new, purpose built Boatshed. This stunning building, once a derelict shell is now home to boatbuilding activities in the town and surrounding area and as such, a valuable asset for the community.

Inspired by the annual Boat Festival, many in Portsoy have become involved in traditional boatbuilding. From local primary and secondary school youngsters to lady skiff builders and senior citizens, these enterprising folk have committed themselves to building and crewing their own boats - Optimists, Pessimists, Faerings, Curraghs, St Ayles Skiffs, a Salmon Coble and a Scaffie-Yawl to name but a few.

All of these were constructed by volunteers, often with little previous experience in temporary premises around the town. What better then, than to provide a unique base which will ensure the preservation and development of boatbuilding skills while encouraging both enthusiasts and novices to join in this fascinating activity.

In 2009 the Portsoy Maritime Heritage Group decided to gift the derelict former warehouse by the Old Harbour to the Boat Festival charity. Much work went into securing funding, principally from Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Scotland and the European Fisheries Fund,

appointing architect Andrew Brown (who gave his design service pro bono), skilled builders and masons, and ensuring everything was delivered on time and to the highest standards. It's fair to say that achieving this created its challenges, only overcome by perseverance and dedication of those involved.

The result has been the creation of an outstanding building, based squarely in the Scottish vernacular style of this area. While the Boatshed's thoughtful design incorporates the rugged stonework of the original structure, its spacious well-lit interior is modern, attractive and functional. In addition, inventive use of the adjoining rockface has created a vital teaching area, complete with raked benches and lit by a huge plate glass viewing window. A useful kitchen/office area together with toilets and showers completes the facilities.

Well stocked with boatbuilding tools of all descriptions, this is a perfect learning environment for anyone who wants to understand traditional techniques or has a specific boatbuilding project in mind.

The STBF team was delighted when their hard work was recognized

when on October 26th last year, the Boatshed was officially opened by HRH the Duke of Kent who expressed his admiration of what had been achieved.

At present, the Boatshed is home to an exciting project which is recreating a 26ft. wooden salmon coble in the original style. Since few plans of this important, though often overlooked Scottish vessel exist, a valuable and challenging learning process arose for those working on her. She is now almost complete and certainly worth a visit. Although her name is secret, this will be revealed at the launch and naming ceremony, planned for this year's Boat Festival, 25th-26th June.

Boatbuilders can be seen working in the Boatshed on most week day mornings and would be pleased to show you around. If your visit to Portsoy doesn't coincide with a boatbuilding day, don't worry! Please contact 01261 832935 and you will be made welcome by one of STBF's volunteers. We look forward to seeing you at the Boatshed.

Boatshed
01261 832935



PORTSOY SKIFFETTES



Who would have thought, when Anstruther's Fisheries Museum launched its "Scottish Coastal Rowing Project" in 2009 that such an exciting new sport would soon follow? Since the first regatta in May 2010 interest and enthusiasm for the St Ayles Skiff has grown exponentially! Skiffs were first seen locally when the then small skiff community was invited to race at the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in 2011 and soon after, the Festival bought a kit. All the boats start in this way to ensure that they are essentially the same, ensuring that crews win because of their rowing prowess rather than their ability to buy high tech gadgets to improve performance!

However it wasn't until 2012 that a group of local ladies formed the Portsoy Skiffettes to build the pink *Soy Quine*

- the 43rd skiff when she was launched in 2013. Just in time for the Portsoy Coastal Rowing club to be able to compete in the inaugural 'Skiffie Worlds' - an event held in Ullapool with 30 clubs attending. Whilst most were from Scotland, there were representatives from the USA, Australia, New Zealand and the southern shire . . .

Since then, she has been joined by the *Soy Loon* so the mannies didn't feel excluded. Clubs are popping up all along the coast as communities see the benefits of building their own

"Reasons for the success of the St Ayles skiff is its sturdiness, how they ride the waves . . . and how rarely you'll get wet . . ."

boat. They range from Wick and Helmsdale, Chanonry and Avoch on the Black Isle, Ardersier, Findhorn, Burghhead, and Findochty to the most recent Deveron club in Banff, rowing in 'Banac', the skiff built by Academy pupils. There are also skiffs in build at the new Cullen Sea School and Whitehills and, rumour has it, that the pupils at Meldrum Academy are planning a build - perhaps stretching 'coastal rowing' a little!

Reasons for the success of the St Ayles skiff is its sturdiness, how they ride the waves beautifully and how you'll rarely get wet - apart from the odd splash, or if the water goes over the top of your wellies when launching! We have guidelines on safe weather conditions and we always wear life jackets. Skiffing is accessible to all ages, with the Portsoy club currently welcoming rowers from 14 to 70 - so long as you are fit enough to climb into the boat! And 2016 is the year of the 2nd Skiffie Worlds. Just think - start rowing now,

and you could be competing in Northern Ireland at the end of July, or rowing at the Boat Festival in June. Once we get the longer days, weather permitting, we have club rowing sessions most Tuesday and Thursday evenings and whenever we can at weekends.

Our Facebook page has details of when we are going out. If we know you are planning to come along, we can advise you should the outing be cancelled for whatever reason. Hope to see you on the water soon.



Portsoy Skiffettes
 Wendy - 07717 220018
www.facebook.com/PortsoySkiffettes

PORTSOY LINKS CARAVAN PARK & SAIL LOFT BUNKHOUSE




 Portsoy Links
 Caravan Park



It's a year of change at Portsoy's Caravan Park, the trading subsidiary of the Boat Festival company.

to complete at the end of June with fitting out over the following weeks and the target opening in mid-September.

“Plans are in hand for improvements to the Caravan Park and . . . the Sail Loft construction is well under way.”

After 14 years amazing service as Warden, Violet Richmond has taken well deserved retirement and whilst she will be sadly missed, we're delighted that her daughter- in-law, Irene Thompson is continuing as Assistant Warden, working with the newly appointed Manager/ Warden, Ian Tillet. Ian and Irene are the team responsible for the caravan park and the 25 bed Sail Loft Bunkhouse.

Plans are in hand for improvements to the Caravan Park and at time of going to print, the Sail Loft construction is well under way. The contractors, A D Walker of Banff are scheduled

The facility will include accommodation for up to 25 people in 2, 4 and 6 bedrooms. A communal kitchen, dining area and lounge make up the living area and other facilities include a laundrette, drying room and cycle store. The target standard is 4 star with Green Tourism accreditation - something that more and more tourists are demanding. The architects, LDN have ensured that the external appearance of the building is going to be very attractive and a great deal of careful planning is being undertaken to ensure that the grounds will be an attraction in themselves.

The North East of Scotland Preservation Trust, owners of the property, working in conjunction with the Festival company have done an amazing job in fund raising and, with the architects overseeing the project and there can be no question that it will provide Portsoy with another splendid asset to add to the Salmon Bothy and The Boatshed.

**Portsoy Links Caravan Park &
 Sail Loft Bunkhouse**
 01261 842695
www.portsoylinks.co.uk



PORTSOY SALMON BOTHY

18 34 PORTSOY SALMON BOTHY

We are an asset of the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in two parts, an accredited museum rated as a 4* attraction and a venue for a variety of activities of some renown.

The Salmon Bothy has just been awarded full accreditation from Museums and Galleries Scotland for the second time. Visit Scotland rated it a 4* attraction in 2014. Although presently the closed season, plans are in place to reinvigorate the museum for an Easter Opening. This year's temporary exhibition will be a collection of old photographs presently housed in Aberdeenshire Council's museum service.



The Upstairs Area continues to be a popular venue. The Bothy Knitters go from strength to strength often raising money for charity and community activities. They meet on a Monday morning from 10 - 12. Other community groups have completed their life cycle. We don't have a paid worker to set up projects for the

“The Salmon Bothy has just been awarded full accreditation from Museums and Galleries Scotland for the second time.”

community but anyone who would like to set up a group should make direct contact with us and we will negotiate rates. This last year we have had a wedding, children's parties, corporate meetings. Please consider us as a possible venue for your event.

The Salmon Bothy acquired professional film equipment for community use. We have had a some recent sell outs - The Second Marigold Hotel, Singalong Frozen and a DVD pre release of Sunset Song. Look at the website for a programme of films run by the Bothy Group. There is also the possibility of having private

showings for birthdays and group night outs.

The Bothy Folk Group goes from strength to strength. They continue to meet on the third Friday of each month with extra concerts from time to time. Their 7th Haal is the first weekend in June. Keep up to date with their activities on

their website www.bothyfolk.org

We have the second Bothy Book Festival on the 12th and 13th March. On the Saturday morning there is a children's event - Badger the Mystical Mutt - in the Town Hall followed by an afternoon Vintage Tea in the Bothy where two authors - Maggie Craig and Aline Templeton talk about their work. On the Sunday morning Keith Hewitt will present the true story of the SS Politician, the ship that inspired the novel Whisky Galore. The Festival concludes with Rt Hon Alex Salmond who will talk about his autobiography. Look out for posters.

Volunteers are desperately required particularly for museum duty. Anyone interested in doing duty at the museum once a fortnight for a couple of hours would be most welcome. Induction, peer mentoring, training and social activities are offered to make you part of the team.

Portsoy Salmon Bothy
Links Road, Portsoy
Anne McArthur
01261 842474
contact@salmonbothy.org.uk
www.salmonbothy.org.uk

SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL

With a growing programme of traditional vessels, skiffs, music, crafts, children's entertainment and food and drink, Portsoy attracts over 16,000 visitors annually to the annual Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, keeping alive the maritime and cultural heritage of the north east and providing an enjoyable weekend for all the family to enjoy. The



Festival proved as popular as ever in 2015, with the crowds flocking to Portsoy to enjoy the entertainment and atmosphere, despite the not so favourable weather at times.

On the maritime front, we welcomed many returning friends as well as some new to the Festival, including Reaper, Isabella Fortuna, Sovereign and Rose Leaf. Despite the disruptive weather in parts, visitors were treated to various maritime displays from the vessels, as well as St Ayles' Skiff teams from all over Scotland who took part in exhilarating races in the open seas and between the harbours.

The musical element of the Festival ensured that rhythmic vibes were present throughout the weekend, with music from Malinky, Chaotica, singer/songwriter Amy Baillie and the Strathspey Fiddlers to name a few. Hoolichan ensured that ceilidh goers were kept on the dancefloor all night long, whilst De Kinkels rocked a sell-out gig at their new Saturday night venue, the Wally Green Marquee. Add to this the combination of school performers, street buskers, skippers and dancers, visitors were never without music and entertainment all weekend long!

Scotland's Year of Food and Drink gave the perfect stage to showcase the north east's larder of fine produce, from tasty local meats and fish to fruity chutneys and Portsoy's own ice cream, visitors were sure not to go hungry over the weekend! Complementing the annual Food Fayre was the focus on Fishermen's Fare in the Harbour Marquee, which highlighted the similarities and contrasts of Fisher Folk's food between Scotland and our close neighbours in Norway. Visitors were invited to witness chefs cooking up various delicacies, including butteries and fish dishes, and then undergo the taste test to find out which side of the North Sea proved to have the tastiest fisher fare.

We once again welcomed many talented and dedicated crafters and demonstrators, who showed visitors 'how it's done' as they



handcrafted their goods and offered finished items for sale, from glass ware to jewellery and woodturning to knitting, ensuring all tastes and budgets were accounted for.

The 2015 children's programme was commended in the visitor's survey following careful focus on additional offerings for our younger Festival visitors. Our favourite activities including bouncy castles, face painting, storytelling, puppetry and soft play were enhanced by a teddy bear's picnic, pop-up pirate kitchens and gigantic crafts provided by Doric Days. The fabulous 'Walking Theatre Company' and skills inspiring 'Modo - Circus With Purpose' were also on hand to entertain, enthrall and encourage children - young and old!

We're already working on the programme for the 2016 Festival and hope you can join us on 25th & 26th June, where you are guaranteed the warmest of welcomes and a packed programme of events to enjoy.

**Scottish Traditional
Boat Festival**
01261 842951
www.stbfportsoy.com

PORTSOY PAST & PRESENT COMMUNITY GROUP

Following the creation of the Liberty Garden in Portsoy the garden was officially opened on Sunday 12th July 2015.

The garden can be accessed by climbing the lodging brae steps opposite the Shore Inn or via Schoolhendry Street, which leads onto a disabled

us every step of the way.

In December we moved what has become an annual Christmas Carol Singalong into the newly refurbished Scout Hut at Loch Soy. In previous years, this had taken place outdoors and following the horizontal sleet of last year the warmth and community feeling in the scout hut was very welcoming.

As we look forward to more community events in 2016 we welcome any enquiries which can be posted on our web page, Portsoy Past and Present or why not join our 2,800 members on our facebook page of the same name.



The above photograph shows the boat 'Liberty' which was gifted to the group and now rests in pride of place overlooking the old harbour. Frank Henderson, a previous owner of Liberty opened the ceremony.

access platform giving a good clear view of the two harbours and beyond, as well as allowing visitors the opportunity to read historical information regarding the old harbour and Liberty. We are indebted to Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Services who assisted

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

In the photo below you can see members of the recently formed Portsoy Pipe Band who came along to play for us and to add support. Paulina Honig played a piece of music on an Irish whistle entitled 'Liberty' which she had composed, along with other local tunes including The Pride of Portsoy also attributed to the boat.



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:*
9am-12noon & 2pm-8pm;
Tues & Thurs: 5pm-8pm;
Sat: 10am-1pm

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

WHITEHILLS ROWING CLUB

The initial idea of building a rowing skiff for a club based in Whitehills started in 2014, following the success of similar ventures in nearby harbours. The first official meeting of Whitehills Rowing Club was held in November 2015, where interested parties met, a committee was formed and a plan of action was tabled. The group decided to buy and build a St Ayles skiff, and were delighted when Whitehills Community Council agreed to fund most of the build of the skiff, with the rest of the monies kindly donated by skippers of local fishing vessels as well as local businesses.

The skiff has now been ordered, and WRC are expecting delivery of it in February 2016. Whitehills Harbour Commissioners offered the club use of the old Fishmarket to complete the build, which should take around five months. The plan is that pupils from Whitehills Primary School will decide the name of the skiff, and the build manager is Donald Smith, who has been involved in similar projects in Portsoy and Banff Academy.

Alastair Wiseman of Whitehills Rowing Club said: "We're hoping the skiff will be ready for the summer, when we can get the teams out to



train. Rowing is a great way to exercise, and there's already been significant interested from all ages and genders in joining the club and crewing the skiff. We're aiming to train at least four teams: veterans, male, female and juniors. It will be another great community project to add to the village."

Whitehills Rowing Club
Alasdair Ramsay
alasdairramsay
@btconnect.com

WHITEHILLS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Whitehills & District Community Council
As always, our active team of community councillors continue to respond wherever possible to the requests and ideas put forward by our local community, and we have endeavoured to complete the various tasks highlighted in the most recent Community Action Plan drawn up on our behalf by Banffshire Partnership Ltd. Ongoing maintenance of our local area is a priority and to this end I heartily thank my fellow Community Councillors for their sterling efforts throughout the year.

Our Community Council website - www.whitehillsanddistrict.co.uk - continues to receive regular 'hits' and provides details of the numerous activities undertaken throughout the year. Minutes of our monthly meetings are

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

detailed therein from which you will note the ongoing efforts to have Aberdeenshire Council assist us financially in creating a safe pedestrian pathway between Whitehills and Ladysbridge Village, so far to no avail. We do however have further plans in this connection which hopefully we will be able to report on in next year's report.

Brief details of practical activities dealt with through the year include :-

- Completion of the RAF Banff Project, a heritage trail with information signage.
- Renovation of the village heritage trail signs.
- Actively keeping up our anti dog-fouling initiative.
- Completion of the permanent walkway and handrails down the 'Braes' and shrub planting thereby.
- Flower displays throughout the village in the summer months and further bulb planting.
- High quality maintenance of our Public Toilets by our expert tem of volunteers resulting in a further 'Gold Loo Award' for 2015.
- Well-attended Remembrance

- Services in the village and at the cemetery.
- New gate latches fitted on the back path.
- Two new Christmas Lights purchased to brighten up the festive period.
- Arranged for Aberdeenshire Council to create a bus bay at the end of Loch Street to help ease bus turning from and into Seafield Street.

These are just a few highlights of our ongoing efforts to enhance our local area, and additionally we have been able to assist a number of projects throughout the year with financial assistance from the Boyndie Windfarm Community Fund with awards totalling £28,020. We continue to be receptive to applications from bodies within our Community Council boundary for funding that sits comfortably within our laid down guidelines. Application forms are on our website from where you can also keep up with our activities.

**Whitehills & District
Community Council**
Ross Balharry, Chairman
01261 861882
jrbalharry123@
btinternet.com
[www.whitehillsand
district.co.uk](http://www.whitehillsanddistrict.co.uk)

WHITEHILLS HARBOUR & MARINA

Whitehills Harbour and Marina had a very successful year in 2015, despite the weather not being as welcoming as it has been in previous seasons!

As well as looking after our permanent berth holders, we welcomed lots of visiting boats over the season, from all over the world. All were very impressed by our range of facilities, how well our harbour is run, and most importantly how friendly the harbour users and villagers are.

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

As a successful marina, operated and run independently, Whitehills Harbour prides itself on being a commercially viable operation, and the high levels of customer satisfaction recorded by our visitors supports us going forward.

Looking into 2016, Whitehills Regatta, held annually in August, celebrates its 10th anniversary, and the Harbour Commissioners are already planning how to make this event bigger and better.



We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the entrants to our previous

Regattas, and also to thank all the sponsors and local businesses, who all generously support our Regatta with prizes on the day. It is also important to thank the whole community in Whitehills who add to the positive experiences our visitors have of the Marina, and helps to ensure their repeat business.

Plans are also afoot for upgrading certain areas of the harbour to ensure that our historic structure remains in prime condition for the years ahead.

If you'd like to keep informed about what is happening at Whitehills Marina, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, and remember our website too.

www.whitehillsmarina.co.uk

www.facebook.com/whitehillsmarina

Twitter: @WhillsMarina

Whitehills Harbour & Marina
www.whitehillsmarina.co.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/whitehillsmarina

Twitter:

[@WhillsMarina](https://twitter.com/WhillsMarina)

Useful Funding Sources



Part-funded by the European Union's European Maritime and Fisheries Fund

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Europe investing in rural areas

NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group has recently launched a new local development programme for fishing communities and businesses. The programme provides funding and support for community and business led projects supporting:

- Facilitating diversification within and outside of the fisheries sector
- Supporting lifelong learning and job creation in fisheries areas
- Adding value, creating jobs and promoting innovation at all stages of the fisheries and seafood supply chain
- International co-operation
- National co-operation.

Visit our website to find out more: www.nesflag.org.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



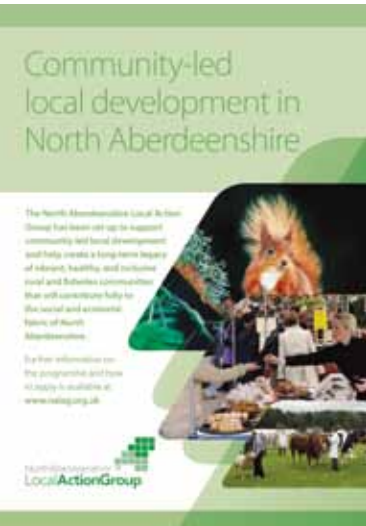
Water Charge Exemption Scheme

If you're a charity registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) or a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) you can apply for exemption from your water, waste water and drainage charges. www.business-stream.co.uk



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

Leader 2014 - 2020 Programme



Funding from the European Union and Scottish Government has been awarded to the North Aberdeenshire area to support Community-Led Local Development. The funds will support the delivery of the North Aberdeenshire Local Development Strategy, which was developed through community engagement and consultation. The Strategy identifies the following priorities and actions:



1. Place

- **Action 1.1** - the development of multi-purpose, sustainable and productive community and/or business facilities, particularly using derelict sites and empty units;
- **Action 1.2** - the provision of new or upgraded culture/tourism facilities;
- **Action 1.3** - place marketing and promotion initiatives; and
- **Action 1.4** - assessing, enhancing and managing biodiversity assets.

2. Connectivity

- **Action 2.1** - Sustainable and/or active travel solutions;
- **Action 2.2** - Access to and delivery of eServices such as digital health.

3. Business Competitiveness

- **Action 3.1** - Improving priority sector competitiveness and collaboration,
- **Action 3.2** - Facilitating diversification from agriculture

4. Better Opportunities

- **Action 4.1** - The provision of training and employability support which complements sectoral diversification and other development efforts;

- **Action 4.2** - The provision of bespoke facilities, activities or services targeted at supporting socially excluded people and encouraging them to become more involved in community structures and activities.

5. Co-operation

- **Action 5.1** - International co-operation;
- **Action 5.2** - National co-operation.

The funds will be managed by the North Aberdeenshire Local Action Group, which is a partnership of community, private and public organisations.

Community, public and private organisations are able to apply for funding from the North Aberdeenshire LEADER programme for projects which support the delivery of the Local Development Strategy.

A dedicated Co-ordinator has been appointed to support potential applicants for funding. If you would like to discuss a potential project idea, please contact the Co-ordinator on **01467 628 443** or via nalag@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development **Europe investing in rural areas**

The NorthAberdeenshire LAG is being part-financed by the Scottish government and the European Community LEADER 2014-2020 programme

Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action



Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action has recently welcomed a team of six CHIIP Officers and a Co-ordinator to work in Aberdeenshire for period of 18 months to enable third sector and community involvement in shaping the Health and Social Care integration process. The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 places a statutory responsibility upon Health Boards, Local Authorities and Integration Authorities to actively

involve the third sector in the planning and design of integrated health and social care services.

The key objectives of the CHIIP project are to:

- Support the third sector in its widest sense to become more involved and influential in the design and delivery of health and social care services by developing knowledge and awareness of health and wellbeing policies and decision making systems.
- Establish a network of community health champions to encourage and support wider engagement and participation.
- Assist community groups to establish and 'grow' projects in response to locally and nationally identified health and social care needs.

- Support interagency partnerships to work effectively with the third sector, respecting, valuing and responding to their views.
 - Establish a dynamic local vehicle for facilitating the direct exchange of information and views between the third sector and local integrated health and social care teams.
- The CHIIP team look forward to supporting and enhancing collaborative working in Aberdeenshire and encourage you to get in touch if would like further information or have any ideas that you'd like to discuss with the team.

Gaby Beattie,
Community Health in
Partnership Officer Fraserburgh
& Buchan Co-ordinator
07585 603424
gaby.beattie@avashire.org.uk

Are you organising a public event?

Will this event require first aid provision?

Here at BPL, we have a team of highly skilled First Aiders with many years' experience of public events. Our volunteers have provided First Aid at events ranging from local galas to the Great North Run and Rock Ness. In 2015 our First Aid cover ranged from two First Aiders at a Whisky Festival to over 20 involved in covering the Scottish

Traditional Boat Festival in Portsoy.

Our First Aiders are all volunteers and any profit we make is reinvested into the BPL Community Dial-A-Bus service. Costs vary depending on type of event, size of event, the number of First Aiders and any additional equipment required.

If you are unsure of what your requirements are then please get in touch and we can help you make the right choices.

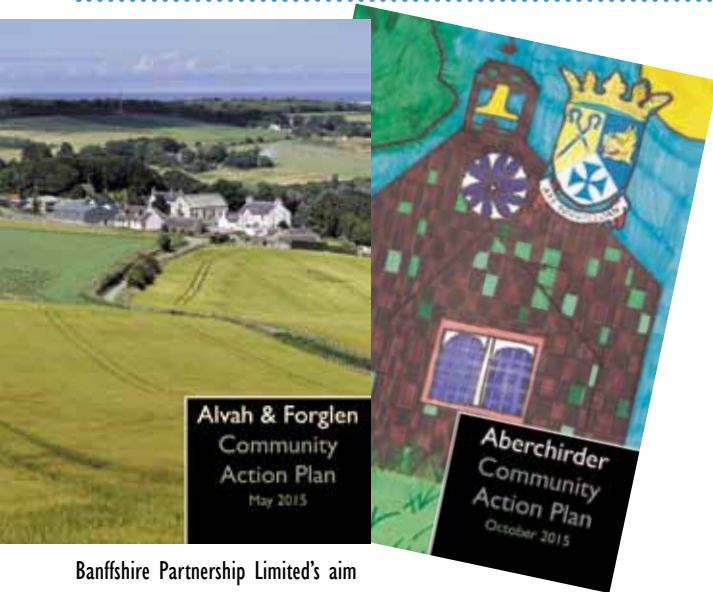
To request a booking form or quote please contact:

Event First Aid



Alan Thomson, Banffshire
Partnership
on 01261 843598
or e-mail [bpl.transport@
banffdb.org.uk](mailto:bpl.transport@banffdb.org.uk)

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.



Left: Our current fleet of minibuses.



Above: Inside the 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@](mailto:bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk)
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 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@](mailto:bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk)
banffdab.org.uk

Useful Community Contact Numbers

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Alvah & Forglen Community Council

E: chair.alvahforglenc@gmail.com
W: www.alvahforglenc.wordpress.com

Banff & Macduff Community Council

T: 07939 647574
E: bandmcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Banff Preservation & Heritage Society

T: 01261 812941
W: www.banffpreservationandheritagesociety.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: 01466 771395
E: brighterhorizons@bachlawprojects.co.uk

Fordyce Community Association

T: 01261 842350/842658 (Bookings)
T: 01261 843098 (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/GardenstownVillageCommunity

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@googlemail.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@banffdb.org.uk

- Developing Communities

E: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

- Training

E: bpl.transport@banffdb.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 minibuss

dial-a-buss

drivers & passenger assistants

transport information

training

... for your transport needs

B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

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

B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
TRAINING**



**See
page 29
for further
details**

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

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