

partnershipupdate

2009 - ISSUE 11

B P L

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP



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news from around the area . . .

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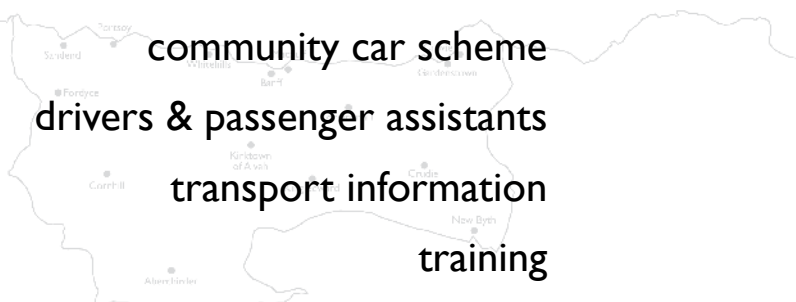
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training

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B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

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partnershipupdate

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- James McPherson
- Robin Maddock, Chair
- Patricia Seligman
- Iain Taylor, Secretary



Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the latest edition of the Banffshire Partnership Newsletter.



I took over the chairmanship of Banffshire Partnership from Sandy Duncan in April this year and I would like to thank Sandy for his stewardship of the Partnership over several years.

Since the last issue of the newsletter, there have been many changes in the area, which we serve and you will read about some of them in this edition. Economic conditions have been challenging in the past, but at the present time with the world's financial markets in turmoil, the coming months and years look to be even more so.

In the current financial year, funding has been reduced, primarily through the ending of European Objective 2 status for this area, which has impacted on both parts of the organisation. We welcome, however, the efforts Aberdeenshire Council has made to redress, at least in part, this shortfall.

This reduction in funding has impacted on the work that the Community Economic Development side of the Partnership has been able to undertake. Nevertheless, there has been a major "Planning for Real" project carried out in Fraserburgh, and successful "Making it Real" projects in Gardenstown and Whitehills. The results of action plans formed through these exercises will bring tangible benefits to the communities.

The Community Transport side of the Partnership has also seen substantial changes. The major change is that the Scottish Government has decided to transfer its rural transport support budget to the local councils. Aberdeenshire Council are supporting us for this financial year and we have submitted a bid for funding for the next three financial years so that we can continue to undertake this very valuable work.

The future holds many challenges for the Partnership and we look forward to meeting them and continuing to deliver our services professionally and efficiently. My thanks to all the BPL staff for their continued enthusiasm.

Robin Maddock
Robin Maddock, Chairman

Submissions:

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A copy of this newsletter is available in large format text if required.

Contents

Chairman's Letter	1
Meet The Staff	2
Our Valued Volunteers	2
Director of Development & Operations Letter	3
Banffshire Partnership Area	4
Banffshire Partnership Aims And Values.....	5
<i>focus on . . . Aberchirder</i>	6
Aberchirder Plans Square Improvements	6
<i>focus on . . . Banff & Macduff</i>	7 - 12
Banff Preservation & Heritage Society	7
Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership	8
Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association	9
Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust	10 - 11
Macduff Slipway Enhancement 2007/08	12
Banff Harbour Marina	12
<i>focus on . . . Boyndie</i>	13 - 14
RAF Banff Association	13
Boyndie Trust Limited	14
<i>focus on . . . Gardinstown</i>	15
Protection Against Coastal Erosion, Seatown (PACES)	15
<i>focus on . . . Portsoy</i>	16 - 20
Scottish Traditional Boat Festival	16
Portsoy's Historic Salmon Bothy	17
Portsoy Thrift Shop	18
The Portsoy '75' Club	19
Glenglassaugh Distillery	20
<i>focus on Whitehills</i>	21 - 22
Whitehills & District Community Council	21
Whitehills Marina	22
<i>focus on . . . Energy Saving Scotland</i>	23
Save Cash And Reduce Fuel	23
<i>focus on . . . Developing Communities</i>	24
Developing Communities	24
<i>focus on . . . Community Planning</i>	25
Community Planning In Aberdeenshire	25
<i>focus on . . . LEADER Aberdeenshire</i>	26
LEADER - Rural Development Fund	26
<i>focus on . . . Community Transport</i>	27 - 28
A Transport Service For The Community.....	27 - 28

Meet The Staff . . .

Developing Communities - 01261 843286



Duncan Leece
Director of Development and Operations



Roger Smart



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Bob Peden

Community Transport - 01261 843598



Jan Maddock
Transport Manager



Pete Danks



Evelyn Elphinstone



Derek Anthony



Bev Pirie



Michelle Reynard



Glenys Danks



Wendy Smith

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:

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E-mail: bpl.transport@tiscali.co.uk

If you are new to Banffshire Partnership Limited, let me explain that, it is our dual role to:

- Advise and mentor local community groups in fulfilling their projects.
- Provide rural transport services for local groups and individuals.

One way we can help achieve our first objectives is by giving space in this, our annual publication, to publicising these groups, and the work they are undertaking.

Volunteering is sewn into the fabric of Banffshire life, and it continues to amaze and impress me just how many generous and hardworking people make this area tick, with no reward other than the satisfaction of seeing a good job done.

It is a pleasure for my staff and I to work alongside such people, and in particular, of course, the volunteers who run BPL's Board, and assist in our Transport Services.

Speaking of my team, I can't resist a line or two thanking them for supporting me throughout another year. I know many local people would like me to voice their appreciation for help received, be it carrying shopping to one of our community buses, or help filling out one of those terrifying lottery funding application forms.

That hints at the diversity BPL work covers. Our transport services seem to grow every month, and I have long abandoned trying to forecast when they will reach a point of saturation. We know rural public transport is a lifeline service for many of our clients, and translating this need into a package that is fundable and sustainable is something we must achieve. To this end, our excellent working relationship with Aberdeenshire Council remains key.

We cherish this relationship between Council and our Community Economic Development team too.

Joint-working to develop Community Action Plans, along with Community Councils, and all kinds of other local groups, makes perfect sense.

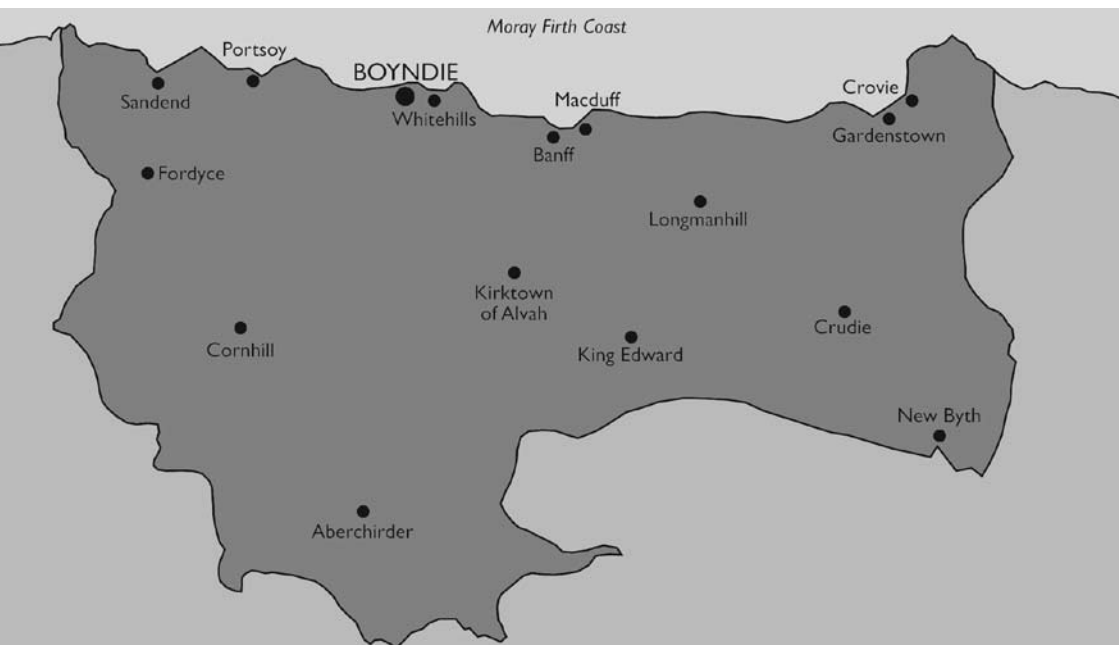
The coming year sees some new challenges for projects in Banffshire. Sources of major funding have changed. European funding is less plentiful than in past years, and The Lottery has the Olympics to pay for! Getting acquainted with new funders, understanding their aims and limitations, and passing this information on to community groups, will certainly be one of our jobs this year.

Duncan D Leece
Director of Development & Operations (DODO)



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Banffshire Partnership Area



The Banffshire Partnership area covers the Community Council areas of:

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

which have been happening throughout the area over the past eight months, as well as giving an insight into some of the events which will be taking place next year.

It is our intention to publish an annual Partnership Update. The next edition of the newsletter - Issue 12 - will appear late 2009/early 2010, so don't miss out on a great opportunity to get some free publicity

for your group's activities or forthcoming events. Please send any articles, photographs, adverts or announcements, which you would like to be included to us - we look forward to hearing from you!

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Banffshire Partnership Aims And Values

Our purpose:

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

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

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

VALUES: We try to:

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

OBJECTIVES: To promote a healthy local economy; keeping people working and living locally by:

- promoting tourism initiatives
- providing project management support to community enterprise
- buying locally
- using local venues and services
- providing transport so people can access local jobs, services and training

To support community activity by:

- providing advice and information to people developing local projects
- encouraging active partnership between local groups, private business and public agencies
- providing transport solutions to community groups and activities
- providing assistance to enable local groups to access funding

To provide a focus for local views and priorities by:

- running networking events on themes of local interest and acting as a networking hub
- undertaking participative research and publishing the results
- facilitating two way communication with public agencies and policy makers at regional, national and European level
- producing a regular newsletter



Photo: Bob Peden



Photo: Stanley Bruce.

Aberchirder Plans Square Improvements

When the Aberchirder Community Action Plan consultation was carried out in 2006 one of people's main priorities was to improve the appearance of the Square, which is often criticised for looking down at the heel. The Community Council drew up a provisional timetable for developing a project in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council and a meeting of Officers, Councillors and Community Councillors was held.

The Community Council then organised a meeting where members of the public could study proposals for creating a new paved "island" around the recently renovated Auchinachie Fountain. Draft plans, drawn up by Aberdeenshire Council in conjunction with the Community Council and Community Association, include a new bus shelter and benches, as well as period lamp posts and trees. The general intention is to



Aberchirder Main Street, West from Square, 1905.

return the area to the less cluttered look it had half a century ago and also to encourage a revival in the appearance of the Square as a whole.

The community's views have now been used to create a final design, which will go for planning permission, and an estimate of costs will be calculated. It is hoped that Aberdeenshire Council will be able to provide most of the necessary finance, with the Community Council accessing funding to make up any shortfall, so that the project can get under way in early 2009.



The Square, 1950s.



The Square, 2007.

Banff Preservation & Heritage Society

The Banff Preservation and Heritage Society has been really busy this year writing a book. *The Book of Banff: royal and ancient burgh* is a big beautiful hardback taking you all through the history of the town, and with hundreds of illustrations. Now at last we have seen the final proofs, and everything is in the hands of the printers. There will be a launch, the book will be on sale in all the best local outlets and beyond, and it would make a very handsome Christmas present from Banff or souvenir of Banff.

There were more than thirty people involved in the writing, and others contributed historic photographs. Even those of us who feel we know a lot about Banff's history discovered so much more in preparing for the book. The Society is planning to have a quiz night in January on the book, just to amuse the members.

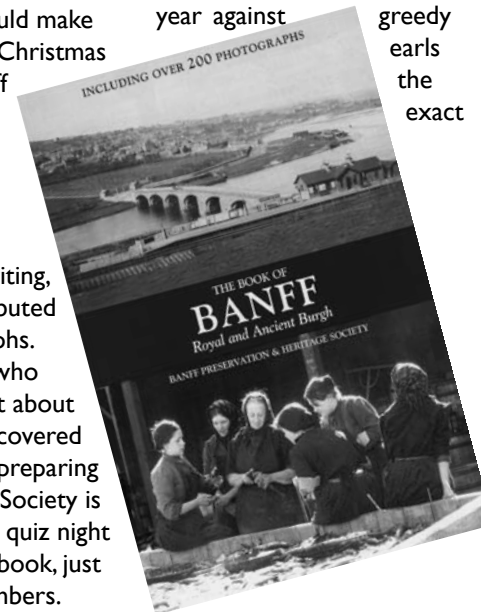


One thing coming, arising from the *Book of Banff*, is that there used to be a custom of riding the marches, to map out every year against greedy earls the exact

boundaries of the burgh. The Society, first in a small way ourselves, and of course on foot, just to see it can be done, will revive this custom. We hope that this might catch the imagination of young people and visitors as well as the historically minded.

It goes without saying that the Preservation and Heritage Society welcomes new members. Anyone interested in the amazing history of our wonderful town should get in touch.

The contact address is Dr Alistair Mason, 14 Old Castlegate, Banff AB45 1DE, Tel: 01261 812941.



Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association



Photo: Stanley Bruce.

focus on... Banff & Macduff

Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership

The last twelve months have seen lots of activity and improvements to tourism in the Banffshire Coast area.



Helen Denerley

Spearheaded by the launch of the annual visual arts festival in Banff and Macduff - COAST in May, 2008 has also seen the opening of the ambitious Salmon Bothy project in Portsoy and yet another successful Scottish Traditional Boat Festival. Also watch out for the banners outside Macduff harbour and the Banffshire Coast postcards which are available throughout the area.

Our annual photographic competition continues to draw many entrants and has its popular exhibition in Duff House tea room. At the same time our leaflet

stands throughout the area help to promote local attractions and activities and our web site www.banffshirecoast.com draws a high proportion of new visitors helping to promote the area more widely.

At the same time the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership has been working behind the scenes to help tourism businesses. A marketing and PR initiative was undertaken which provided advice to businesses on how to improve their own marketing while a number of collaborative adverts were placed in the Sunday Herald and Herald promoting the businesses of the local area.

The next year looks even more exciting. We have appointed Vicki Leslie as a project executive who is on a years' placement from her degree in Tourism at Robert Gordon's University. We have just been selected by Pride and Passion to be



one of their Community Challenge areas where they will help us build the area into the tourist destination it deserves to be. We are also in the final stages of looking into setting up a cycle hire and outdoor activities initiative and fingers crossed this should be up and running for April 2009.

If you would like to find out more about the Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership or get involved in any of our activities contact Vicki Leslie on 0797 050 5145 or vicki@banffshirecoast.com



In April 2008 'The Herring Lassies - Following the Herring' by Rosemary Sanderson from Macduff was published (ISBN 978-0-9547960-6-8). The book tells the story of the 'Gutting Quines' who travelled the length and breadth of the country following the migrating herring. It also has interviews with two local women both once herring lassies, Margaret Lovie from Whitehills, and Helen McKay from Crovie/Macduff. The photograph shown is a very special one since it was published in the Banffshire Journal on Helen's 90th birthday. Copies available locally at Chapter & Verse Banff, Duff House, Banff, Buckie Fishing & Heritage Centre and Pozzi's Buckie - price only £5.00.



Photo: S Bruce

Rosemary Sanderson & Helen McKay

In June 2008 'The Macduff Roll of Honour for WWI' was republished (ISBN 978-0-9547960-7-5), the original book was published in 1919 by George Forbes

Dickson a jeweller from Macduff. The new edition has all the information in the original book complimented with information and colour pictures of medals awarded, information on the war memorial, various other pictures and a story about fishermen and their drifters 'Taken Prisoner' in the Adriatic Sea. A limited number of copies are available at Chapter and Verse only - price £6.00.

During June 2008 the Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association held a well attended exhibition and sold teas and coffees in Macduff Town Hall which coincided with the 'Banff to Stavanger Yacht Race'.

Currently committee members are working on six new publications and developing a website. It is clear from our experience at 6-8 Duff Street that any museum in Macduff can only survive with a steady revenue - our publications are now providing a revenue and will for the foreseeable future. We have also now compiled a business plan and are in the process of applying to become a registered charity. It is hoped that once this is accomplished the

association will be better placed to receive funding for conversion of an existing building or the building of a purpose built centre.

Our next publication will be 'Macduff Through the Years' which will be on sale sometime in October. This book celebrates the history of Macduff and will be released to coincide with the release of 'The Book of Banff' published by Banff Preservation and Heritage Society. 'Macduff Through the Years' will be on sale for around £5.00 which we hope is affordable to all.

We hope to erect the 'Peter Anson Memorial' in Macduff in 2009 - 120 years after Anson's birth. At our June 2008 exhibition details of the sculpture were on show. Several sites have now been mentioned and it is hoped that a public consultation will be held sometime over the winter after discussions are held with Aberdeenshire Council Planning Department.

If you're interested in joining the Association we hold a monthly meeting in Macduff Town Hall 7pm - 8pm on the 1st Monday of every month. You're very welcome to come along.

Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust

Deveronvale FC youth set up has once again had a good season with varying successes, both on and off the field. Following on from last terms' SFA Quality Mark and Aberdeenshire Sports Councils' Enhanced Clubcap Awards, the Vales' overall setup was recognised by the National SYFA Committee, and at a ceremony at Hampden Park, Glasgow, were presented with the North Region Club of the Year trophy. With five Juvenile, five Development and three Girls squads the Club has 35 volunteer coaches in the system, working with squad numbers in the region of 18 per team. Alan Still, a Director with Deveronvale FC and manager of Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust (PRSCT), said, "These individuals give up a lot of time to not only coach the youngsters, but help fundraise to finance the transport and kit through selling lottery tickets and various other means. Without their commitment,

we would not be in the position we are at now and to that end, the club is eternally grateful. We would also like to thank the many kit sponsors who have come forward to help these squads. As with everything else to do with a football club, outside help is vitally important and our teams are very fortunate to have generous individuals and firms ready to come forward and donate hard cash."

Vales' Football partnership with PRSCT, "Vale in the Community", currently delivers Fitness Through Football to 12 rural primaries, Banff Academy CSU pupils and Aberdeenshire Disability Sport. Linda Legge, who is also a Director of Deveronvale FC and Assistant Manager at PRSCT said, "Around 500 individuals benefit from this programme weekly, during and after curriculum time and the project is expected to expand over the next 12

months. Our Club hosted the Aberdeenshire Disability Football Tournament, and in conjunction with the SFA and the Bank of Scotland, delivered a Midnight League to teams in the age group 12 - 16 with great success leading to further programmes in the pipeline being delivered over the next winter session."

The Holiday Football Camp attracted 50 kids per day over the week long event, which was part-sponsored by Bremners of Foggie, and received glowing reports from many parents and guardians. Funding from SportsMatch, Sports Relief, Castlegate Newsagents, SFA, Scottish Football Partnership and Deveronvales' Football Partnership helped with costs of much of the school's programme and individual projects received help from Aberdeenshire Council and Aberdeenshire Sports Council during the last years' busy workload. The Club also helps deliver SFA courses

to help enhance, not only their own coaches, but make them available to many of the boys club coaches in the catchment area.

Vales' new management team of Stuart Glennie, and local lad Scott Anderson, have also set in place coach in-service days and oversee much of the onfield development, taking in as much games as permits their busy schedule. Both Co-managers are delighted with their start to the new season and see the youth setup as being a vital cog in the wheel at Princess Royal. Scott Anderson said, "Having played for your home team, and being part of the first title winning side, was a big thrill for me. Now I am part of the managerial setup, the pressure is on to achieve further success at Princess Royal. To have such a well drilled Youth Development is always a major plus as one of the areas we would like to see improved is opportunities for more players coming through the system, and eventually into the 21s and then the First team."

The SFA Regional Manager, Graeme Sutherland, said of the Clubs' youth setup, "Vale are undoubtedly one of the best run youth development clubs in the country, and are an absolute pleasure to work with. They have a standard of qualified coaches in the mix,

which is the envy of many of the clubs in the higher leagues. Although they are a part-time semi-pro club it is run more like a full-time setup, with some hard working individuals in the background with strengths in many departments, this is the key to success in team work and partnership working."

Vales' Captain and Lead Youth Coach, Mark Chisholm, finished the season on a high, topping the Highland Leagues scoring chart with 34 goals and playing for Scotland in the Four Nations Semi-Pro Tournament at the tail end of the season.

Westhill based Graeme Burnett, one of the North Region SFA Youth Coaches, has now joined the Banff sides' Football Partnership from Westdyke Boys Club and will work with fellow coaches, Craig Stewart and Mark Chisholm, bringing on the Under 19s and 21s in their respective leagues.

Deveronvale's Youth Committee are: Linda Legge, Alan Still, Eddie Bruce, Bob McLardy (all Club Directors),

Mark Chisholm and, newly appointed, Graeme Burnett. They are responsible for coach education, coach disclosures, child protection, fundraising, travel, and a host of other jobs, which allows the Clubs' youth development to prosper. Linda Legge co-ordinates operations on a daily basis, dealing with all the Vales' teams from Under 11s through to First team, and is assisted by Eddie Bruce. Eddie also oversees the Group and is responsible for finance. Bob McLardy is the Child Protection Officer, having attended meetings and workshops at Hampden Park on this very important area. Alan Still is on the Highland League Youth Development Committee and is also Senior Vice President of the Aberdeenshire Football Association and an Executive Committee Member of Aberdeenshire Sports Council. His remit includes sourcing and applying for funds, through many areas relating to projects which the Vale in the Community strand delivers.





Photo: Stanley Bruce.

focus on... Banff & Macduff



Photo: VE Day, RAF Banff.

focus on... Boyndie

Macduff Slipway Enhancement 2007/08



Shipbuilding and ship repair have been a part of Macduff's history for generations. A key part of both operations is the Macduff slipway.

Since its conception in 1921 the slipway has undergone various modernisations and in 2004-5 it was felt that in order to satisfy health and safety legislation, the entire slipway operation would

have to be redeveloped once more, this time at a cost of just under £4million. So in 2007 work began to replace the old slipway with a new hydraulic winch and four vertical arm boat cradles.

It was officially opened in August.

For more information please visit www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Banff Harbour Marina

The marina provides safe haven for 76 fully serviced (water and electricity) pontoon berths that can cater for vessels of up to 10 metres in length with a draft of up to 1.8 metres.

Banff Harbour Marina was officially opened in April 2007 and has now just come to the end of a very successful second summer season. With, as last year,

all berths being sold out (apart from our very popular visitor's berths) and a waiting list in place for those wishing to take up a berth in the future.

For more information please visit www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk



RAF Banff Association

In the intervening years since the erection of memorials to the Training and Strike Wings based at Banff Airfield, members of RAF Banff Association have continued to research the history of the base. A great deal of documented and anecdotal information has come to hand and been collated.

They are indebted to Boyndie Trust, under the guidance and direction of Duncan Leece, for providing dedicated space at Boyndie Centre in order to put such information and related memorabilia on display. This has been well received by the public.



Recent developments, including designation by Historic Scotland of two listed buildings on the former airfield, have raised the profile of the operation.

An Interim Project Working Group has been formed to study the feasibility of developing an Interpretive Centre and associated Visitor Experience on the site.

At the behest of the RAF Banff Association, a

professionally produced DVD, outlining the history of the Airfield from its construction to the present, has just come off the production line.

For further information, please contact -

Secretary, Colin Jeffrey
Tel: 01261 818417





focus on... Boyndie



focus on... Gardenstown

Photo: Stanley Bruce.

Boyndie Trust Limited

It has been another hectic but productive year for Boyndie Trust, with our public face, The Old School Visitor Centre, Boyndie, bursting at the seams, as usual.

While 2008 has seen us largely stick to our winning formula, every department has something new to mention. Before doing that, however, I want to pay tribute to the small army of people with disabilities and special needs, who take part in our work-placement training, and who keep Boyndie running so well, and with such a good atmosphere. They are helped in this role by Aberdeenshire Council Social Work staff, with whom we remain in a successful partnership, and of course, my own staff and volunteers.

Early 2008, a new path to a viewpoint for the windfarm was constructed. It was a joint venture led by The Trust and Whitehills & District Community Council, who in turn, were assisted by Seafeld Estate, Falck Renewables

and Aberdeenshire Council. The walk has proved highly popular. Our garden team planted a huge number of trees and shrubs along the walk, with the intention of attracting butterflies and other wildlife in the future. Alongside this, in partnership with RAF Banff Association, The Trust found space for a new historical exhibition about RAF Banff, and its impact on the local community, during the War years. This too has proved popular.

Our small woodwork manufacturing businesses has added cement garden ornaments to their ranges, together with a shift from using all new timber, to sourcing recycled material wherever we can.

Our giftware workshop, Aabidee Prints, updates products all the time, such as new gift mugs we have produced for Keith & Dufftown Railway, and Grampian Fire Brigade. They are always keen to hear from

community groups who may need T-shirts, bags, mugs, etc, produced with logos.



In the restaurant, numbers catered for are simply astonishing, and every year we manage to increase our drive for sourcing products locally where possible. 2009 will see our new kitchen come on line, relieving some of the pressure the catering team find themselves under. It will have almost double the current floor area.

All these things have helped consolidate our visitor numbers at touching forty thousand per year. We are proud of the economic benefit this brings to our community, and the personal development of those working here at Boyndie. We are delighted too with a new partnership with SCVO, helping place unemployed young people on the New Deal programme.

Protection Against Coastal Erosion, Seatown (PACES)

PACES was formed a year ago to address the local concern about the seawall at Seatown, Gardenstown. People were increasingly concerned about the state of this seawall that protects the historic heart of Gardenstown.

Built by local folk many years ago, it was probably the one major factor in saving Seatown from the 1953 storms. A couple of houses were lost to the storms because the seawall in front of them had no top surface, water in-filled behind it and the wall collapsed. We are trying to ensure this will not happen to the rest of Seatown.

Storms already batter Seatown, particularly during the winter, and the threat of global warming and higher sea levels concern many of us.

Seatown is a beautiful area, filled with Fishermen's cottages and little alleyways that run down to the seawall. It is an area enjoyed by many tourists and families of holidaymakers alike. It is lovely to hear people



commenting on what a special place it is and we, as a community, feel little is being done to help conserve it.

We have sent letters to Historic Scotland, SEPA, MSP Stewart Stevenson and various other local authorities asking for assistance. They have all been led to believe by Aberdeenshire Council, the "frontagers" (people whose homes are built adjacent to the seawall) are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the seawall. The seawall now acts as a road, which carries more traffic than could have been foreseen when built.

A property search in 1997 alerted the committee to the fact that the road was adopted by the Council

in 1984, and therefore the responsibility for maintenance transferred to Aberdeenshire Council. However, the Council still refuse to accept responsibility, and despite a road report by their own Department, declaring the road surface to be an unacceptable depth of concrete to sustain the present day volume of traffic, they continue to pass planning applications. Whether for oil tanks to be installed or new builds to be constructed, this is inviting heavy tankers and construction traffic to use a structurally sensitive area. There is no way anyone can know how long the seawall can withstand the pressures of high tides, weather and sheer volume of traffic, some of it heavy.

It is essential to have the seawall properly inspected by a structural engineer, to look at both the seen and unseen defects, as soon as possible. Another winter storm may see the demise of a beautiful, historic area, enjoyed by many over the years.



Photo: Stanley Bruce.

The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

We are delighted and proud to say that the 2009 Festival will be one of the events participating in the national Homecoming Scotland 2009 celebrations. To mark this very special year the 16th Festival will be extended to four days (July 2nd to the 5th) with the first two days incorporating seminars, presentations and demonstrations on traditional boat building, knitting (in conjunction with the Moray Firth Partnership) and maritime music, song and dance. Visitors will have a unique opportunity to see and hear some of the world's leading experts from the US, Scandinavia, Holland, France, England and of course Scotland talking about and demonstrating their skills. The Saturday and Sunday will follow the Festival's well established pattern, but incorporating the participants from the first two days.

The expanded event will be publicised in England, France,



the US and Scandinavia with special contact being made with those with Scottish roots all across the world. The objective is to achieve visitor numbers in excess of 20,000 and to truly establish the Festival on the international event calendar.

Once again the Festival will provide a fabulous

combination of beautiful boats, fascinating craft demonstrations, non-stop music, song and dance, visual art, the delicious Food Fair and a wide range of things to see and do. A great weekend for all the family!

Full details can be found on www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.co.uk

Portsoy's Historic Salmon Bothy

It was in February of 2008 that work commenced on the restoration of Portsoy's historic Salmon Bothy with funding secured from the European Union, East of Scotland Objective 2 (£155,285); the Heritage Lottery Fun (£110,000); Historic Scotland (£79,158); Scottish Enterprise Grampian (£30,000); The Robertson Trust (£10,000); The Pilgrim Trust (£10,000) and the donation of the building itself by Aberdeenshire Council.

The official opening of the Bothy by First Minister Alex Salmond at the Boat Festival on June 21st marked completion of the main restoration work. Completely transformed, this Category B, listed building dating from 1834 is now the finest example in Scotland of a traditional Salmon House with its three



ice chambers, net repairing floor and accommodation bothy.

The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival which has undertaken the project are now delighted that the building can come back into full and varied use. The three ice chambers now house a museum featuring the history of Portsoy and the salmon fishing industry. The lower floor of the actual bothy houses a facility for genealogical research and library of pictures, books and documents while

immediately above is the location for the Festival administrative office. The large second floor room provides a multi purpose community resource for use by all age groups for heritage activities already developed by the Festival including music, visual art and model boat building. "Upstairs at the Bothy" will also feature an ongoing programme of entertainment with the accent on traditional music and crafts.

The great team of local volunteers that has been created looks forward to welcoming visitors from near and far.

Full details about the Bothy can be found on www.salmonbothy.co.uk and bookings for "Upstairs at the Bothy" can be made by contacting Dr Anne McArthur on 842474.





Photo: Stanley Bruce.

focus on . . . Portsoy

Portsoy Thrift Shop

Now in its new location across the Square at Portsoy, the town's Thrift Shop continues to go from strength to strength. The new shop has proved to be very successful thanks to the brighter premises with improved display potential.

Working in conjunction with the Portsoy 75 Club, the Thrift Shop has also co-funded the handsome new granite town signs at either end of Portsoy.

A project that has taken no less than two years to

to raise since commencing operations back in 2000.

Whether it's men's, ladies or children's clothing, a wide range of bric a brac and household goods, books, video and CD's (and a super range of jigsaws!), the Thrift shop has something for everyone . . . and the warmest of greetings from its welcoming team of ladies.

Open:
Every Monday, Thursday & Friday:
10.00am - 12.00pm:
2.00pm - 4.00pm.



Thanks also to the splendid and much appreciated support given to the shop both by donors and customers the shop's reputation for offering a great range of excellent products has seen its reputation grow ever wider.

realise, the signs have drawn many positive comments and are certainly felt to be a fine mark of Portsoy's community pride. The shop's contribution to the cost brings to over £60,000 the donations which the Thrift Shop team have been able



The Portsoy '75' Club

The Club was formed in 1975 by a few local men looking for something to occupy their time and to be able to do something positive in the way of helping out various groups and organisations in and around Portsoy. That principle has not changed and each year the Club donates thousands of pounds to local, deserving causes. The money is raised in several ways - bingo nights, dances, raffles & galas to name but a few. The Club also funds and maintains Portsoy's Xmas Lights which takes a lot of time and effort. It also hosts, in conjunction with the Portsoy Thrift Shop, the annual New Year's Eve fireworks display, which gets bigger and better every year.

2008 saw the completion of one project which had been in the development stage for two years; in partnership with the ladies of Portsoy Thrift Shop we commissioned and erected two massive, granite 'Welcome to Portsoy' signs at either end of the town - this project alone cost in the region of £10,000.

Early each year the Club throws a big party for the town's senior citizens at the Portsoy Bowling Club - laying on food, raffle



Photo: S Bruce

prizes and transport to and from the event for those with mobility problems. In January of each year the Club Members decide upon a program of events for the forthcoming year - these include visits to places of interest, sporting events and a list of 'guest speakers' who come to the Club's adopted home, the Station Hotel, Portsoy. The speakers cover almost anything and have included such topics as Drug Abuse; a 'tour' of pre 1940's N.E. Scotland with postcards and pictures of the period; First Aid and many others besides.

Several years ago the Club formed its very own choir. These dedicated songsters travel all over the area entertaining various organisations with a repertoire of songs ranging

from Old Scottish favourites to the odd current chart topper! New talent is always appreciated and the boys are always on the lookout for volunteers to swell the ranks.

If you wish to book the Choir or would be interested in joining, please contact: Graeme Sutherland on 01261 843057 or pop along to choir practice which takes place in the Station Hotel, Portsoy at 7:30pm on a Tuesday.

For more information about the Club in general please call the Club Secretary, Brian Sutherland on 07786 628841.

The next 75 Club AGM is scheduled for 7:30pm on Wednesday 14th January 2009.



focus on . . . Portsoy

Photo: Stanley Bruce.



focus on . . . Whitehills

Glenglassaugh Distillery

Glenglassaugh Distillery stands at the east end of Sandend bay approximately two miles to the west of Portsoy. It was here on the banks of the Glassaugh burn and in an area known to have been previously favoured by illicit distillers that local entrepreneur and businessman James Moir built the distillery in 1875. He quickly established a reputation for making a quality whisky and the company prospered.

Following the death of James Moir the ownership passed to his two nephews who set about increasing production as the quality of the whisky became well known. However following the unexpected death of one of the nephews in 1892, the distillery was eventually sold to The Highland Distilleries Company. Since then there have been several periods of non-production and in 1959 the distillery was re-built adjacent to one of the original malting buildings,

on top of the cliffs with excellent views over the Moray Firth.

It continued to operate until 1986 when the company decided to close the distillery and expand some of their other operations to fund their growing blended whisky customer requirements. The distillery has lain silent since then until the 29th of February 2008 when it was purchased by the newly formed Glenglassaugh Distillery Company.

The Glenglassaugh Distillery Company is re-furbishing the distillery with plans to re-start distilling by the end of 2008. It also plans to make Glenglassaugh aged whisky available by the end of the year as 22 year old, 30 year old and 40 year old variations. Due to the small amount of stock which remained these will be in limited quantities.

Plans are being prepared

to build a visitors centre and it is hoped that the distillery can be open for all to enjoy in 2009 while it is also hoped to construct a small bottling facility on site as well.

As one commentator said, "it is really pleasing to see this forgotten jewel being brought back into operation so that its whisky can once again be appreciated by many".



The Glenglassaugh Distillery Co. Ltd,
Glenglassaugh Distillery,
Portsoy, Aberdeenshire
AB45 2 SQ, Scotland
T: +44(0)1261 842367
F: +44 (0) 1261 842421
E: info@glenglassaugh.com
W: www.glenglassaugh.com

Whitehills & District Community Council

Another busy year for our active community council has passed with a number of significant issues dealt with and lots of ideas going forward for the well-being of our local residents and improvement of our locale.

We have 'seen the light' in a number of ways, having reconnected power to the light in the "Bullring" and more significantly illuminated the Church clock and spire impressively. We also had the Christmas Lights restored and erected over the festive period but with new regulations coming into place we shall probably require to review and re-invest in new illuminations for 2009.

Attractive floral displays, hanging baskets, barrels and some beds, have again featured round the village over the summer months including the old peat cart at the crossroads and we have tentatively been looking at the possibility of a 'Community garden' going forward.

Various tidying –up exercises and remedial works have been carried out starting with a Beach Clean and Barbeque held in May last year, to be repeated probably May 2009, resolving a water blockage at the old 'Red Well' which will also be re-harled and restored hopefully before the end of this year. The heritage trail signs have been re-varnished and the railings along Low Shore have been restored and repainted. Two doggy bag dispensers, one at Low Shore and the other by the Red Well, were purchased and have proved sufficiently effective to suggest additional units may be purchased and erected at appropriate walking points. For the humans, the Public Toilets are cleaned and maintained meticulously by a community-spirited team of village volunteers, and have had a complete external repaint this year. Coastal erosion on the foot-path to Banff has also been addressed with a local contractor carrying out the necessary works.

A substantial and attractive tree-lined footpath from Boyndie Visitor Centre to the Wind Farm was completed at the end of last year and has proved to be a major attraction for local and visiting walkers, with the attraction of a cup of tea after the walk !!!

A well-attended 'Making It Real' exercise was facilitated by Banffshire Partnership in March this year highlighting a list of 'would-likes' for the village and surrounds and will prove a helpful document for the community council to take forward.

Additionally, we have been able to provide financial support through the Boyndie Windfarm Community Fund, which we administer, to a number of local causes. The various projects have benefited through the year to the extent of £14,300 and we are open to applications from bodies within our community council parameters for funding for projects that fit within the criteria laid down by the Windfarm operators.

Whitehills Marina

If visitor numbers are a good measure of the success of our community owned marina, then 2008 has been a very good year. Numbers are up, despite less than ideal weather, and the difficult national economic conditions.



Outer basin and pontoon.

Increasing berthing in the outer harbour basin is possible, but to do so safely, storm gates will be required at the harbour mouth. This is a significant undertaking and we are working with Banffshire Partnership to look for appropriate funding sources. A slipway for smaller leisure craft is another possibility, and this idea seems to have significant local support.

Linked to this, a public consultation has been held to see just what local people would like here at the harbour, and to investigate how it could create for the community the maximum

benefits, both economic and social. That will be a theme for 2009.

Without a doubt, Whitehills Harbour continues to be a thriving community-led enterprise, owned and managed by the people of the village, just as it has been for more than a hundred years.

For further information contact:
David Findlay, Harbour Master on 01261 861291 or Mobile 07906 135786.
E-mail: harbourmaster@whitehillsharbour.wanadoo.co.uk
www.whitehillsharbour.co.uk

Save Cash And Reduce Fuel

Rising fuel and energy bills have made the idea of getting light, heat and power from renewable sources like the sun, wind, trees - even below the ground - ever more attractive to householders in North east Scotland.

Indeed, according to a recent survey of 1056 Scots by the Energy Saving Trust, a high percentage of North East residents said they would install a renewable technology if they knew it would lead to paying less for gas and electricity.

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre North East is geared up to answer questions about all types of microrenewables, as well as those on other aspects of energy efficiency and the low-carbon lifestyle.

The advice centre can give details of approved installers, as well as information on the grants available: currently up to 30 per cent of the installation costs, up to a maximum of £4000. The centre's energy advisors can give impartial advice on which technology is likely to be most suitable for specific circumstances.

Full advice is also available on all aspects of reducing domestic

energy wastage - after all, it makes little sense to invest in renewables unless the maximum feasible insulation and other energy saving measures have been installed first.

Although installation costs for certain microrenewables can be substantial, there can also be savings involved. For instance, biomass boilers offer a practical and efficient way to heat your home. If you live in a detached home, in an area off the gas network, you could save around £170 a year on heating bills by using a biomass boiler instead of oil. More significantly, this could also save up to 5 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year!

Overall carbon dioxide savings from microrenewable technologies can be substantial. The Energy Saving Trust has calculated that, under favorable policy scenarios, microgeneration technologies could contribute up to 30 megatonnes CO2 reduction by 2030, equivalent to removing the emissions from all heavy goods vehicles and buses from UK roads!

The advice centre's overall carbon saving target for 2008 - 2009 is impressive: almost 43000 tonnes of carbon dioxide - enough to fill

Murrayfield 22 times over!

'from 'Emission Impossible' report, 2008 - available on www.energysavingtrust.org.uk

The Energy Saving Scotland advice centre North East is part of a network of advice centres funded by the Scottish Government, and managed by SCARF under contract to the Energy Saving Trust. It serves Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Dundee, Moray and Perth & Kinross.

Our advisors are available on Freephone 0800 512 012, Monday - Thursday 0900 - 1700 and Friday 0900 - 1630, or by email on cscott@scarf.org.uk.

We offer free, expert and impartial advice on all aspects of energy efficiency (including grants available), renewables, and sustainable transport choices.

We can advise householders, tenants, communities and small businesses with an energy spend of under £50000 per annum, and we are happy to arrange talks and energy surgeries for community groups or for staff of SMEs.

Developing Communities

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

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

Practical examples of what we do include:

- Helping and advising you how to draw up a business or project plan.
- Assisting you to market or publicise your idea.
- Working with you when writing funding bids and filling in forms.
- Putting you in touch with others who have done similar projects before.
- Liaising with local Council

Officers, so that they know about your plans, and you know what services they may be able to offer.

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

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

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

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

Develop A Community Action Plan

We still are able to offer the service of helping your community develop an Action Plan, by means of public consultation. These plans have won considerable support from various Community Councils and Community Associations, who use them as a working document to prompt ideas for projects.

It is perfectly possible that we will be able to fully, or part-fund such an exercise for you under our 'Making it Real' project heading.

Please feel free to contact BPL on 01261 843286 for more information if you live in a community where you feel such a process may help.

Community Planning In Aberdeenshire

Community Planning (CP) is a way of working, in which major providers of public and voluntary services in an area, work together with their communities to deliver better services. The Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership was formed in 1999 and published its first community plan in 2000.

CP became a statutory process in Scotland when the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 came into force. The Act requires local authorities to lead the community planning process and other major public service agencies to participate in it. The partnership is required to work with its communities in order to improve the quality of life in the area. At present the agencies and organisations signed up as Community Planning Partners across Aberdeenshire are as follows: -

- Aberdeenshire Council

- Aberdeenshire Councils for Voluntary Service Network
- Community Councils
- Grampian Fire & Rescue Service
- Grampian Police
- Local Rural Partnerships
- NHS Grampian
- Scottish Enterprise Grampian

At a more local level, each of the six areas within Aberdeenshire are represented within the CP process by a Local Community Planning Group and a Community Planning Officer.

Partnership working brings many benefits - organisations gain shared understanding of local issues and concerns and they can work together to deliver solutions without wasting money by duplicating each other's efforts or competing against each other. Also, by working in partnership, organisations can pool resources to enable them

to tackle bigger problems and attract external funding. The inclusion of community partners means that the better solutions can be reached and delivered in the way that best suits communities. The partnership also considers the *community* as a partner and the views of the community are fundamental to the process of CP.

The partnership's vision is: ***“Working together for the best quality of life for everyone in Aberdeenshire.”***

For further information on Community Planning within the Banff & Buchan area please contact: -

*Fiona Alderson
Community Planning Officer,
Banff & Buchan
St Leonards, Sandyhill Road
Banff AB45
Tel: 01261 813305
E-mail: fiona.alderson
@aberdeenshire.gov.uk*

focus on . . . LEADER Aberdeenshire

LEADER - Rural Development Fund

LEADER is an innovative programme which aims to improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in Aberdeenshire.

The programme is an integral element within the Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013. It is funded by the Scottish Government and the European Commission, and is delivered by the Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (LAG) to rural areas and communities with populations of less than 5,000.

The two overarching LEADER themes chosen by the Rural Aberdeenshire LAG are 'Revitalising Communities' and 'Progressive Rural Economy'.

Participants in the programme require to identify match funding which may come from a variety of sources, for example, public agencies and private contributions.

Scheme Guidance, Application Forms, Timetable and details of the LAG Partnership are available

on the LEADER website at www.aberdeenshireleader.org

Interested parties should contact the LEADER Co-ordinator to discuss their proposal before applying for funding:



Vicky Thomson
LEADER Co-ordinator
Aberdeenshire Council
Gordon House
Blackhall Road
INVERURIE
Aberdeenshire
AB51 3WA

Tel: 01467 628383
E-mail: vicky.thomson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

LEADER 2007-2013
Rural Aberdeenshire LAG Area



focus on . . . Community Transport

A Transport Service For The Community

Many people think that our buses are only for older or disabled people. Well, that's just not true! For many people who live in our area getting to and from the shops is a real problem. This is because they live too far from a service bus route, the only family car is used to get to work, or they have no car at their disposal. One of Banffshire Partnership's (BPL) main aims is to help people who find themselves in these situations. We're not here to duplicate anything already provided by regular bus services, but to "fill the gaps".

We provide a service in our



community in many ways:

Dial-a-Bus

BPL's Dial-a-Bus has been around for several years now under various organisational banners. You will see the buses going around the community with the distinctive blue, green and grey signage.

We serve the communities of:

- **Aberchirder**
- **Alvah**
- **Banff**
- **Boyndie**
- **Cornhill**
- **Crudie**
- **Fordyce**
- **Forglen**

- **Gamrie**
- **Gardenstown**
- **Hilton**
- **King Edward**
- **Macduff**
- **New Byth**
- **Ordiquhill**
- **Portsoy**
- **Sandend**
- **Whitehills**

We cater for people who may have difficulty getting on a normal service bus or who have problems carrying their shopping. We provide our clients with door-to-door service, which gives them access to shops and services perhaps not available in their communities. And, just as importantly, a valuable social outing. The driver is accompanied by a trained passenger assistant, who helps passengers in many ways during their journey.

Our fares are based on those for service buses, but we do accept concession cards.

The buses run at least once every week or more

often from some areas and must be booked in advance. Please ring the office 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 more fully and make sure it suits your needs.

Community Minibuses

We have a fleet of three minibuses. All our buses are fairly new and are available for hire by registered community groups. We have two 13/14 passenger fully-accessible buses fitted with a side-step and tail lift access. Our third bus is a 16 passenger vehicle with a side-step.

We encourage the community groups to have their own drivers as this cuts down the cost of hiring the buses. However, we have a pool of volunteer drivers and paid drivers who we can use.

As members of the Community Transport Association, we provide the nationally accredited Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training to everyone who drives our buses. So you can feel safe when you are out and about.

We charge per mile; please call us to find out the current charge. (Minimum



charge of £20 per day applies)

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

Volunteers

As well as our regular staff, we have a band of committed and enthusiastic volunteers who drive the minibuses and assist the passengers. They all say that they find the work fun, sociable and rewarding. If you have a sociable disposition and a sense of humour, perhaps you could spare the odd half day to help out. We will give you training and support and you don't have to commit to any more time than you can manage.

Just one or two half days each month would benefit a huge number of people. In this way, we can expand

the service on offer. (All out of pocket expenses are reimbursed).

Training

We can provide Minibus Driver Assessment Scheme, Passenger Assistant Training, Minibus Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Car Driver Training Scheme training. These are provided free to all our volunteers and for a charge to persons who are part of a community group or commercial organisation.

If you live in the Banffshire Partnership area and feel that your community could benefit from a Dial-a-Bus service or Community hire, please give us a call. We will be happy to discuss the possibilities more fully with you.

For further information contact:

**Banffshire Partnership -
Community Transport**
Tel: 01261 843598

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



B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES**

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB452JT

T: 01261 843286 F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk



Do you have trouble accessing public transport, but would love to be able to go and do your shopping independently?

If your answer is “Yes”, telephone
Banffshire Partnership now
on **01261 843598**

B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

The Old School Boydie Banff AB452JT
T & F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.transport@tiscali.co.uk