

partnershipupdate

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SUMMER 2007 ~ ISSUE 10

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP



inside this issue . . .

news from around the area . . .

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. . . and lots more

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**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB452JT
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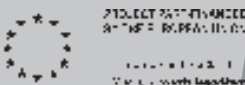
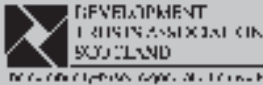
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office - 01261 843286.*

Directors meet monthly
(or more often if
necessary).

- Ross Balharry, *Treasurer*
- Eddie Bruce
- Sandy Duncan, *Chairman*
- Roger Goodyear
- James McPherson
- Patricia Seligman
- Iain Taylor, *Secretary*



Chairman's letter

Welcome to the new look Banffshire Partnership newsletter.



We are well into 2007 and Banffshire Partnership Limited continues to progress and play an important role in the surrounding community's social and economic development and to provide mobility to an ever increasing client base through its transport division.

The development side of the Partnership, as ever, has helped countless groups, organisations and projects, to put together business plans, source funding and move forward. However, in spite of it's successes for others, this side of the Partnership faces an uncertain future. This is a side effect of the accession of numerous Eastern Block Countries into the European Union. Where previously half the funding for the Partnership came from Europe and was topped up by Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Enterprise Grampian and our local Banff and Buchan Area Committee, there are clouds on the horizon as far as European and SEG monies are concerned. Regionally and Nationally there is also the election looming, which creates more uncertainty on the funding scene.

The Transport side of the Partnership is, on the other hand, on a fairly solid foundation funding wise and looks reasonably secure for the future. The powers that be appear to realise what a tremendous service is being provided here, and I live in hope that post election those powers will realise the same applies to the Development side of the Partnership.

Sandy Duncan, Chairman

Submissions:

Banffshire Partnership

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

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Meet the staff . . .

Developing Communities - 01261 843286



Duncan Leece
Director of
Development and
Operations



Roger Smart



Kay Beaton



Bob Peden

Community Transport - 01261 843598



Jan Maddock
Transport Manager



Sally Blair



Evelyn Elphinstone



Frank Mooney



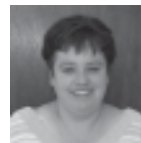
Bev Pirie



Michelle Reynard



Glynis Danks



Wendy Smith

...and (some) volunteers!



Pete Danks



George Clark



Ronnie Smith



Heike Wilson



Robin Maddock

It is the role of the Banffshire Partnership Limited (BPL) to help, advise and mentor local community groups in fulfilling their projects. That is why we have given over most of our yearbook to well deserved publicity for their efforts.

The danger is, of course, that we will give the impression BPL has done very little itself! Not so, and I would draw your attention particularly to our Transport Services, which have grown enormously.

We have quite a few new staff adding to our existing team. Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank them all publicly for another successful year of work.

Quite deliberately, we are not devoting space in this book to the uncertainty surrounding ongoing funding for ourselves, along with all our neighbouring Local Rural Partnerships in Aberdeenshire. As you read what is happening within our community, I am sure you will agree with me, however, that there remains plenty to do. BPL has the skill, experience and contacts to do it well, and very economically.

You will read how some of the larger community groups BPL has been involved with for several years, are now looking at expanding and taking on new projects. If proof were needed, surely this demonstrates that while community-led economic

development may not be a magical quick-fix for our future, it is a sustainable and cost-effective way of creating jobs and prosperity.

None of this could happen, however, without the dozens of volunteers who do so much to run events and facilities for us all to enjoy. It is a pleasure for us to work alongside them.



Duncan Leece
Director of Development & Operations (DODO)



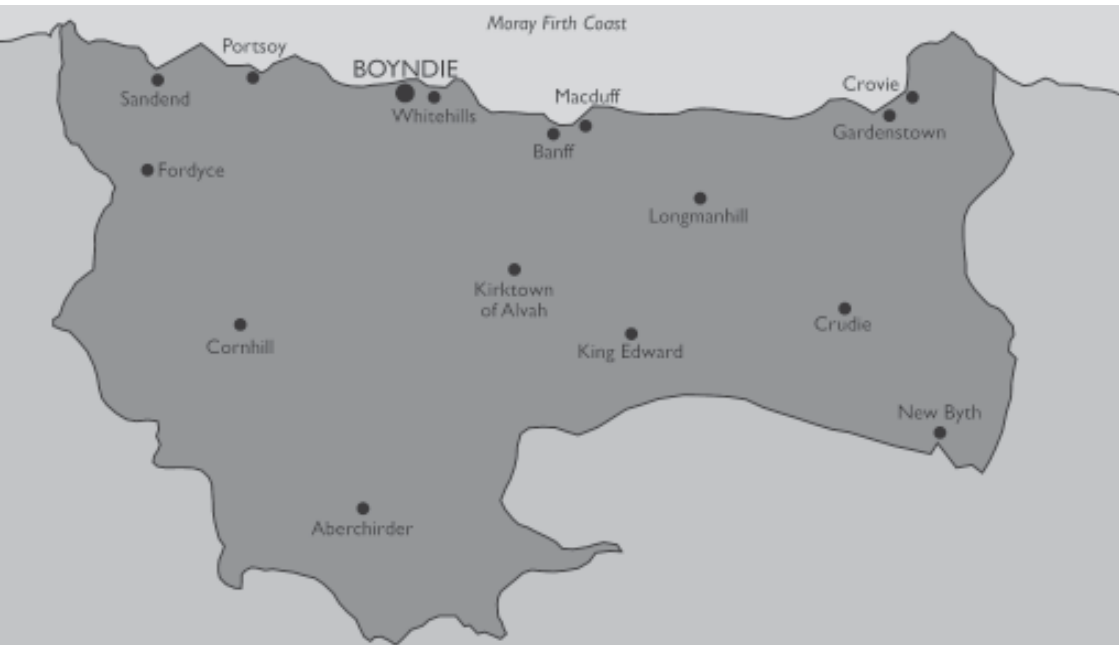
Growing Community Assets

'Growing Community Assets' (GCA) is one of four parts of the Big Lottery Fund's 'Investing in Communities' programme. GCA funding is intended to make communities stronger and more sustainable through the outcomes that result from communities' purchasing and/or developing assets (e.g. community buildings, woodlands, business space, land, renewable energy generation). Funding is available for the following: pre-application development work, asset purchase, asset development, staffing costs, and overheads. For further information please visit the Big Lottery Fund's website: <http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>

If you would like to discuss your GCA project idea, please contact the Big Lottery Fund directly (0870 240 2391) or contact their local GCA development partner for Banffshire: Andrew Bauer (Highlands & Islands Enterprise) - andrew.bauer@hient.co.uk

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Banffshire Partnership area



The Banffshire Partnership area covers the Community Council areas of:

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

The following pages highlight some of the activities and events,

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

The next edition of the newsletter - Issue 11 - is due to appear in Spring 2008, 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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Aims & 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

Foggie fountain restored

Aberchirder's Square has received a boost with the restoration of its 110 year old Jubilee Fountain.

The fountain was presented by William Auchinachie, the first Provost of the Burgh, to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in June 1897. The day's celebrations attracted the biggest crowds ever seen in the town - including over 400 schoolchildren - and included a procession of floats and marchers over a quarter of a mile long. The fountain, made of polished pink and grey granite and supplied by James Hutcheon of Aberdeen, was officially declared open by the Provost's daughter, who turned on the water.

Over the last thirty years the fountain had fallen into disrepair as the spike on the top - still to be replaced - and several of the pillars were lost or damaged. To avoid total collapse, Mrs Nancy McKidd, then Chair of Aberchirder and Marnoch

Community Council, proposed that funding should be sought to carry out a restoration.

This was done in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council's Planning and Environmental Services, who arranged for the work to be carried out by Graham Watt, monumental mason in Banff. A successful application was made to the Heritage Lottery Awards For All scheme, which provided £5000, with Aberdeenshire Council contributing £1000, Councillor Kenny Benzie £1000 from his top-up allowance, and £750 from Community Council funds.

The restoration of the fountain was celebrated at a short ceremony led by Nancy McKidd in the Square on 14 April.

Present Chairman Bob Peden said: "It is fitting that Mrs McKidd should do the honours, as not only was the restoration her idea but she

is a great-niece of Provost Auchinachie. The Community Council intends to use this occasion to raise public interest in doing something to improve the appearance of the Square, as this was one of the top issues raised at a public meeting last autumn to draw up the current Community Action Plan. Hopefully we can organise another event shortly where members of the public will come along and contribute ideas which we can work with Aberdeenshire Council to carry out."



Photo: Stanley Bruce

The constant thread

Friends of Duff House are organising their fourth open community art exhibition in Duff House from the 18th August to 1st October 2007. Previous shows have attracted a variety of media but mostly paintings, so this is a textile arts exhibition and anything with a textile content will be considered. The title is more or less self explanatory, and the organisers want exhibitors to seek their inspiration from Duff House, its contents and its surroundings. Any textile technique is acceptable provided it is the creator's own original work. Art

works from groups are particularly welcome, and previous exhibitions have included several such entries. A centrepiece for the 2007 show will be a large composite work from the Grampian Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers, begun in 2000 and now nearing completion.

The exhibition will not have an entry fee and will not be selected. The Friends want to encourage everyone even if they are unsure about exhibiting alongside "proper artists". Everyone has something to offer.

Anyone wanting further details should contact; **Alan Rogers (0845 456 1201) or Ann Roy (01261 812879)** for a leaflet, and anyone reading this who has had a leaflet and not yet replied should do so in order to receive entry an form and further information.



Banff focus group

If you live on a Banff Council estate, would you like to come along and join our new group to learn about the issues we are involved with and offer your ideas?

We discuss Council housing

and community items and work alongside other community groups.

Our group is gaining strength and we communicate our concerns direct to Housing,

Community Learning, Environmental Health and the Police.

Further details from Helen Burnett, Tenant Participation Officer, Fraserburgh (01346 586319).

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banff Castle Community Association

Banff Castle continues to provide a venue for many local groups. Following re-organisation and re-decoration we now have a second room available on the ground floor for hire. This room could be set up for a meeting or even an extra room for coffee mornings, making the castle more disabled friendly.

The hourly rate for hire of rooms has been maintained at a competitive £7.00 per hour, with an extra charge for use of the kitchen.

As we no longer have a resident caretaker the arrangements for booking rooms have been changed.

To book a room please phone 01261 815325 and leave a message on the answer machine.

Please leave contact name and number, group or organisation, date and time (start and finish) of hire and an address to whom the bill should be sent. All bookings will be acknowledged.

This year we were delighted to be the venue for the first wedding at Banff Castle for many years and would welcome enquiries from couples requiring a small wedding (max 45). A package can be tailor made for each couple.

Plans are in the pipeline for a Car Boot Sale which has already been very popular in previous years. We are also grateful to Mrs Isobel Watt who prepared a quiz which raised some money for the castle.

Banff Area Community Development Group

Banff Area Community Development Group (CDG) is made up of representatives who are interested in and committed to their local community. With the support of Community Learning & Development, members work together to identify, promote and develop lifelong learning & recreation

opportunities that are relevant and accessible to the local community.

Current Banff Area CDG developments include the development of a directory of local groups and clubs, the setting up of Banff Kayaking Club and piloting a schools and community cinema project.

The group are currently looking for new members, so whether you are interested in becoming involved or simply want more information on the work of the group, contact Olwyn Dester (Community Learning Worker) or Milan Copic (CDG Chairperson) on 01261 812450.

Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association



The 2007 Maritime Exhibition will be open from 1 June - 30 October. The premises at 6-8 Duff Street, Macduff have now been extended to include a new area at the rear of the building which is to be used as an auditorium, a digital projector, screen and computer are now available and a variety of films and slideshows will be shown. This area was refurbished as part of a Princes Trust project during May 2007. The youngsters from the trust also painted some great murals of a mermaid, a lighthouse, a fisherman and some dolphins. On the 12 March the exhibition had its first ever wild animal visitor an 'otter' which was rescued from Macduff Harbour by committee member Liam Sparke.

The Association has also launched a poetry competition with a maritime or coastal theme. First prize in the 18+ age category is

£100 plus a trophy, first prize in the under 18's category is a £50 Argos voucher plus a trophy. Both runners-up will receive medals and the best poems will be displayed in the exhibition. An anthology of the best poems is planned to be published. Closing date for poem submissions is the 31 July 2007. Entry forms are available from the Association premises, local libraries or can be downloaded from www.bbaf-arts.org.uk or www.electric-scotland.com/poetry/banff/2007comp.htm

The Association have also produced a book titled 'Along The Coast - Cullen to Pennan', a very interesting look at the coast with great photographs and interesting information. Copies are available at the exhibition for only £5.99. This book has received sponsorship from the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership (ATP).

The visitor's corner contains a variety of information, photographs and artefacts regarding 'Hall Russell's' shipyard at Aberdeen. To compliment this a further booklet will be available titled 'Hall Russell Remembered'. This contains photographs of the ships built by Hall Russell with pertinent information.

The Association members have built upon the exhibits available in 2006 and are looking forward to the 2007 exhibition. They look forward to welcoming visitors from near and far. There will also be a selection of model boats for sale.

If you would like to become an Association volunteer or committee member contact Stanley Bruce, Chairman on 07770 780232 or pop in to the exhibition. Open 1pm-5pm Wed - Mon (Closed on Tues).



Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banff, Macduff & District Business Association

Following on from the Business Needs Survey (late 2005 to early 2006) a clear set of objectives for 2006/07 were identified.

The objectives addressed during 2006/07 were:

- **Security/Crime Issues**
Shopwatch Scheme set up and operational. Currently has almost 40 members from Banff, Macduff, Portsoy, Whitehills and Gardenstown.
- **Skills Shortages/Local Employment**
Successful Careers Fair held in Banff Academy in March 2007 attended by nearly 30 employers.
- **Training**
Held Seminars on No Smoking Legislation and Age Discrimination Legislation.
- **Road Links**
Speaker from the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route.

- **Marketing of the Area both Business and Tourist**



Webcam installed March 2007 (www.banff-macduff.com)

Website (www.banff-macduff.com) updated and a new business section introduced.



Banff and Macduff leaflet updated and 12,500 printed (10,000 to selected outlets throughout the UK and the remainder retained locally).

Membership has nearly doubled in the last year and currently stands at 50 businesses.

The AGM was held on 31st May 2007 where the programme of events and projects for 2007/08 was agreed by the members.

Any queries please contact:

**John Calder,
Chairman
on 01261 812152 or
07790 315188.**

Names from the past



Carved stones built into the back of the Sharp family Tomb, St Mary's Kirkyard, Banff.



Entrance gate at St Mary's Kirkyard.

Is one of your family names Ogilvy, Harvey, Cruickshank, Grant, Blake, Bisset, Sharp, or Conn? There are hundreds more than these, the first few names in the 568 inscriptions on the gravestones in the old kirkyard of Banff.

The Banff Preservation & Heritage Society is bringing out a book with the complete list of all the inscriptions. This is the careful work of the nineteenth century antiquarian William Cramond. He published the list in his *Annals of Banff* in

Royal Arms at Macduff Library.



1893. The *Annals* have been out of print for many years, and copies only rarely come on the market.

There is a growing interest in family history, and the Secretary of the Preservation & Heritage Society quite often has to field questions about the gravestones in the old kirkyard. To have available on sale the full list would be a great bonus to people looking for their own Banff roots. It is also true that a century has passed, and that some inscriptions are less legible than they were when Cramond copied them, so the book in some cases can be more useful than seeing the stone itself.

The publication has been made possible by a grant from Aberdeenshire Council, who are well aware of the

tourism potential of roots and history. Of course it is not just tourists; local people are also often keen to find their own roots. The book will include Cramond's own footnotes, with more details about particular families.

For the Preservation & Heritage Society this is part of a wider project to discover more about the kirkyard, to map its styles of carving, and to restore where possible some of the major monuments like the Sharp tomb that are now in disrepair. The Society hopes that this book will lead to other useful publications.

For further information about the Banff Preservation & Heritage Society contact Dr Alistair Mason on 01261 812941.

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banffshire Coast tourism partnership

Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership organised a “Mystery Shop” of businesses. The process has proved very positive with all those taking part agreeing that the feedback concerning their business from “Go Training” Aberdeen was useful from a staff training point of view. Also for the smaller businesses it provided valuable new insights into improving their service.

The tourism website www.banffshirecoast.com is undergoing a few changes and is becoming more accommodation led. Members will get their own enhanced entry on the site. The site is attracting around 20,000 hits a month.

to tell, please contact Karen Crowe on 01261 843234 or contact@banffshirecoast.com



The Pennan phonebox stunt was a huge success. All the national media featured Skip to the Beat's amazing achievement with 16 children in the box. It was brilliant to watch them in action as the line grew shorter and shorter: you could hardly believe they would all get in the box. The children worked very hard at achieving this and everyone received a large easter egg for their efforts.

The “Vision of Banffshire Coast” photo competition has attracted a large number of entries. The closing date was 24th April and it will be judged by The Scottish Professional Photographer's Society.

The membership of the tourism partnership has grown and anyone with an interest in jointly promoting the area should contact Karen Crowe as per the contact details above.

The BBC is going to be filming a story about film sites of Britain and will be featuring Pennan. If anyone recollects the filming of Local Hero and has a story



The Partnership also organised a Scottish Tourist Board wildlife course. Unfortunately the wildlife course had to be cancelled as it failed to raise sufficient interest. They are hoping to run it at some time in the future.

Boyndie Trust Limited

Good news to report once again for Boyndie Trust with another successful year behind us and plenty to do for the future.



Our Visitor Centre, The Old School Boyndie, gets busier and busier. We make use of every single bit of the building; and to think it seemed big when we had it built in 2003!

When including Banffshire Partnership staff and Aberdeenshire Council staff seconded to Boyndie; about thirty people work in paid posts alongside seventy volunteers and people on our supported work placements. Add to that thirty-two thousand visitors in 2006, and you can see how well used the place is.

Our partnership working with Social Work remains strong and we have

developed a further link with Aberdeen Forward. This new partner will be helping us to develop recycling services, initially

for garden waste collected from households in Boyndie

and Whitehills. In 2008 our hope is to extend this to kitchen waste, principally from our own restaurant. The resulting compost will minimise or perhaps eliminate the need for us to buy supplies in.

Buying food locally is another theme we are developing as much as practicable, and it seems popular with our restaurant customers too. Which reminds me: have you been for lunch here yet? If not; give us a try.

Finally, we are always looking for ways to develop our main purpose, which is helping unemployed people,



most of whom have special needs, to develop their potential. To this end, we are choosing 2007 to have a major revamp of Aabidee Prints, our giftware business.

We are changing and updating processes and equipment so that people with a wider range of abilities can take part. An added bonus will be products that are that bit more modern. If you would like items such as T-shirts, mugs, etc personalised to your group or club, we will be delighted to discuss your



requirement, especially for the small quantities bigger commercial ventures turn away.

Photo: Stanley Bruce

RAF Banff Association

An exciting new development will be completed by the end of 2007, when the Association will be able to unveil its new permanent history and information display. Members have been working closely with Boyndie Trust and Banffshire Partnership.



RAF Banff Airfield after completion, taken on 19 April 1943.

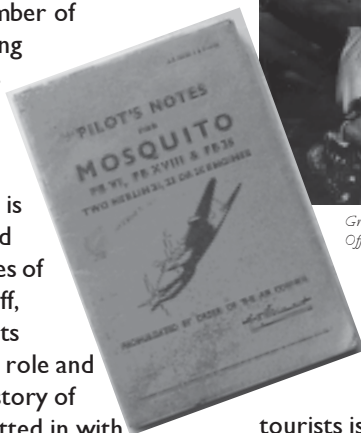
The new facility will be located in Boyndie Visitor Centre utilising wall space in the corridor linking the main reception area, Gallery and Restaurant. This is a high profile location and will ensure that the display material is seen by visitors and locals alike. It will be fully wheelchair accessible too.

Perhaps it is important to make clear that this new project in no way duplicates the existing memorial located on the A98. Neither is it really a museum, although there will indeed be a number of fascinating artefacts on display. The purpose is to record memories of RAF Banff, explain its wartime role and tell the story of how it fitted in with the existing local community

There is a growing interest in the history of World War 2. RAF Banff was a base for airmen from many countries as well as Britain, and interest is shown from these nations too; but perhaps none more so than Norway. Naturally, the potential attraction of this facility to



Group Captain Max Aitken, Commanding Officer of RAF Banff and the strike wing squadrons, in front of his "personalised" Mosquito.



tourists is a welcome consideration.

The Association is extremely grateful to all those individuals and organisations that have helped this venture either financially or otherwise. The largest single source of money has come from Lottery Awards for All.

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Portsoy Pavilion

Want to change your lifestyle, get fit and improve your health? Then Portsoy Pavilion has everything you need. A

from there to achieve the fitness you want! There is also a large all weather Astroturf pitch on offer; available for all kinds

Also available are the services of Mike Scullin, a registered Physiotherapist, who visits every Thursday. Back aches, Musculo-skeletal and sports injuries are all taken care of in comfortable surroundings. Please come into the Pavilion for more information



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. A membership is gained through a gym induction and it's up to you

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 - Fri 09.30 - 20.00
& Sat 10.00 - 13.00

Portsoy Pavilion,
Seafield Terrace, Portsoy
(Opposite Portsoy Motors)
Tel: (01261) 843555

The Portsoy Salmon House Project

The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival Committee is delighted to be able to confirm that, subject to obtaining planning approval, the restoration of the Salmon House is now on track to proceed, with a completion date of Spring, 2008.

The green light was achieved with the successful awarding of grants from three main sources. £129,000 from ESEP Objective 2; £110,000 from The Heritage Lottery Fund and a pledge of £35,000 from Historic Scotland.

Whilst there is still some £30,000 required to meet the total estimated cost, having secured the lion's share of the required total, the Committee felt sufficiently confident of raising the balance for the go-ahead to be signaled.

Plans for the Salmon House include four main strands. Firstly as an exhibition of

commercial salmon fishing, the importance for which is underlined when one recalls that prior to the 1840's, it was Scotland's most important fishing industry. The exhibition will also include artifacts and information on Portsoy's history.

Secondly as a centre for genealogical research, a facility which should prove very popular given the dramatic growth in ancestral tourism.

Thirdly, the House will provide a community facility for the development of the range of traditional and heritage activities which the Boat Festival has been carrying out for the last four years, including music, visual art, boat building and sailing. Lastly it will provide a base for the Boat Festival organisation.

The plans include the employment of a full time manager, to be supported by

a team of volunteers to run the facility. The volunteers will be given training in all aspects of tourism and it is believed will offer a fascinating part-time activity for local people.

It is hoped that the restoration work will commence in the summer with displays posted on the progress of what is believed will be an important asset for Portsoy and the area.

If you want to know more or are interested in becoming one of the volunteer team, please contact Roger Goodyear on 01261 842894 or Robin Maddock on 01261 843498.



Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

Portsoy's Scottish Traditional Boat Festival is on June 29th, 30th and July 1st.

Now in its 14th year, the Festival offers the unique opportunity to view the largest collection of traditional sailing boats in Scotland over a weekend of non stop music and entertainment.

The 2007 festival will mark the finale of the Moray Firth Flotilla, the largest maritime event set to take place in Scotland this year with up to 40 traditional boats sailing around the coast from Wick and ending their journey at Portsoy on Friday 29th June, to coincide with the opening of the Festival.

This year it is anticipated that there will be circa 100 traditional vessels in Portsoy's two historic harbours, with rare and magnificent craft on display including the *Fifies Swan*, *Reaper*, *Isabella Fortuna* and *White Wing*, all built around 1900. Other visitors will include two craft from Norway and the beautiful Smack *Johanna* from the Faroe Islands.

Visitors can expect a packed



Photo: Kathy Mansfield

programme of events. Probably our best ever programme of music, song and dance will be a non stop feature on the harbour side stage and there's a new spectacular Saturday night show of live music at the harbour side with entertainment by Gaberlunzie, a light show and a dazzling fireworks display.

A great range of craft and heritage demonstrations will surround the Old Harbour; plus a new live visual arts exhibition. Adventure Land at Loch Soy will host a fabulous range of activities for kids from 9 to 90 and at the Wally Green Food Fayre over 20 food exhibitors will be showcasing the very best of delicious Scottish

produce. And for the athletic, there's the 10K Road and 2k Fun Runs, now well established on the region's run calendar.

All this means that as you wander round Portsoy's historic harbour and lovely town your senses will be assailed by the sounds of great music from Scotland, England, Ireland and Scandinavia; things to do; the smells of delicious food and the sight of fabulous sailing craft. A great weekend not to be missed!

Full details on the whole weekend are on: www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.co.uk or call 01261 842951



Photo: Stanley Bruce

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/organisations in and around Portsoy.

That principle has not changed and each year the Club donates thousands of pounds to 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 Christmas 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 each year.

Every year the Club throws a party for the town's senior citizens.

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 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 at 7:30pm on a Tuesday.

If you would like more information about the Club in general please call the Club Secretary, Brian Sutherland on 07786 628841.



Fund raising goes from strength to strength



The Ladies of the Portsoy Thrift Shop are delighted to announce that they are coming close to topping over £50,000 of donations to local causes in the six years since they opened the shop's doors in 2001.

Whilst it is quite hard work running the operation, the team enjoy their task and

are very proud to have made possible the financial support for the community which has been raised. Equally they fully recognise that it is very much due to the generosity of donors who provide such a wonderful range of varied and very high quality goods that they have been able to offer. And of course, as important are the shop's customers, many from the community, but a growing number who come to the Square in Portsoy from far and wide as the word has spread about the shop's amazing stock!

The Ladies of the Portsoy Thrift Shop will be delighted to see you whether it's with goods to donate or looking for something to buy from the huge range of clothes, ornaments, household goods, books, tapes, CD's or bric-a-brac ... and the chat's great too!

Open: Every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10.00am-12:00pm: 2.00pm-4.00pm.



Portsoy Maritime Heritage

The Portsoy Maritime Heritage group would like to advertise for people to crew in two of our boats.

The "Liberty" which is a Fifie 25ft long and the "Obair-Na-Ghaol" which is a 26ft Scaffie. Both boats have Dipping Lug sails and oars.

The "Liberty" has an engine and if necessary, can tow the Scaffie. The crews are required for the Moray Firth Flotilla in June.

We need at least four crew in each boat. Contact either Alex Slater on 01261 842535 or Brian Clifton on 01261 842963.

The Group also needs helpers for getting the boats ready, painting and wood-work - so anyone with time on their hands would be most welcome. Contact as above.

We have acquired another Scaffie from the Clan Munro

Heritage Centre. This one was found in a back garden in Dingwall. She is 33ft long and is supposed to be the last and largest of her kind surviving.

We would like to target funding for the restoration and also for funding our building at the shore beside the old harbour, for which we have recently been granted planning permission.

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Whitehills Marina

Our marina continues to thrive with the 50 fully serviced permanent berths in the safe haven of the inner basin filled to capacity and a long and increasing waiting list for entry.

Additionally, there are six seasonal berths for visitors in the outer basin which can be rafted out to allow for a maximum of 12 summer berths. It is our intention to further improve access and availability for our increasing number of visitors, which exceeded 200 in the season past, by creating a further 10metre

length pontoon in the outer basin, later this year.

The major dredging carried out last year continues to allow easy access to the whole of the Marina at all states of the tide.

The Spring Range 4metres,
Neap Range 1.8metres.
High Tide –Dover plus
00.50hrs, Aberdeen minus
1.25hrs.

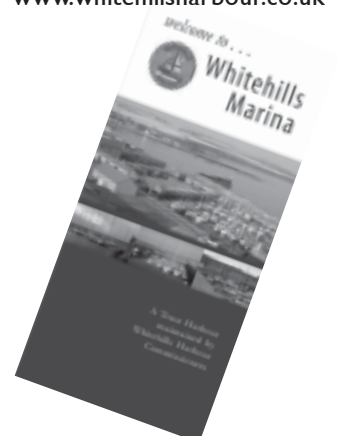
Additional facilities include gas, diesel berth, WiFi facility, secure winter storage with shoreside facilities including a crew room, galley kitchen,



laundry room, toilets, showers etc and ample free parking.

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



Whitehills & District Community Council



Our active Community Council has once again had a busy and productive year. We continued with our routine tasks of maintaining the public toilets with the help of a hardy band of willing volunteers. We provided a welcome show of colour through the summer months with flower baskets and barrels and brightened up the dark months with Christmas lights and a Christmas tree at Redwell Court.

An interesting Heritage Trail has recently been completed with six attractive boards spread around the village, providing historical information on various aspects of village life. A cast iron finger-post has been erected in the 'Bull Ring' soon to be illuminated by a new lamp-post.

We launched a highly successful Whitehills 2007 Calendar, with an old and new theme, and sold out the 500 copy print.

Following completion of the Boyndie Wind Farm, we have received the first of

our annual payments from Falck Renewables to be administered through a separate Community Fund for the benefit of groups and community bodies in our area. Applications for grants and guidelines explaining what is allowable, are available from Ross Balharry or Duncan Leece. We have already approved four applications and have another two in the pipeline.

One of the successful funding applications tied in with our desire to communicate more actively with Whitehills Primary School. This has resulted in the creation of educational playground games for the pupils. Additionally, we have funded the purchase of two digital camera stations which will allow the pupils to organise administer and create our 2008 Calendar, with the help of one or two Community Council members.

A 'Making It Real' exercise was carried out in conjunction with Banffshire Partnership, where the local community were encouraged to put forward their thoughts and ideas for improvements we could make in our area. A number

of these are now being taken forward as community council projects for 2007/2008 and include a library photograph archive, illumination of the Church Clock, major improvements to 'The Red Well', creation of a walkway from the Boyndie Visitor Centre to a viewpoint for the Wind Farm and organisation of a beach clean.



Photo: Stanley Bruce

Other ongoing matters include formation of a pavement to the Cemetery and a standpipe, an additional Post Box, a much-needed extension to the Primary School and general maintenance around our village.

A Bird Box Event in the St Brandon Centre, a joint partnership with ourselves, Boyndie Visitor Centre and the Local Youth Group, proved to be a great success with over 35 boxes built and maintained by the children who also enjoyed an impromptu karaoke session.

Developing Communities

Banffshire Partnership Ltd is a network of community groups, formed in 1999. It is supported financially and otherwise by various partners: the largest single one being Aberdeenshire Council.

BPL exists to help with community projects, large or small, which will create jobs, boost the economy or improve the quality of life for local people and visitors to our area.

We can help with things, such as:

- Business & Project planning,
- Marketing & PR,
- Fundraising advice and Bid-writing

It is not our job to do your project for you. Our help will be geared at advising, training and giving support to you or members of your group.

There is real value, when starting out on a new community venture, in being able to speak to somebody who has done it before. All we ask in return is that when you become an expert, you will return the favour to a newcomer in the future.

Getting people together, sharing knowledge and ideas ... that is one of BPL's key activities.

Making it Real

We are still undertaking a number of exercises under this project heading. Put in simple terms, we help a community to develop an action plan for its future. Many of the ideas that evolve will be things the community can do itself. Some, however, will require input from outside agencies or public bodies. We endeavour to get relevant parties to understand the issues and work together. New Byth and Gardenstown are two communities that have requested this process during 2007.

Microfinance

We would like to bring to your attention a small pot of money that you may be able to access for a community project your group is planning. Examples of what can be paid for are study trips, feasibility studies, architect's drawings.

The money originates from the European Objective 2 Programme. Applications should be made by September 2007 at the latest. Please contact BPL on 01261 843286 to find out more about eligibility etc.

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
- Communities Scotland
- 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 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

Help shape the future of volunteering in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Volunteer Network was formed in 1996 to oversee the development of volunteering in Aberdeenshire.

Our volunteer network is composed of three Volunteer Centres; one in North (Mintlaw), in Central (Inverurie) and South Aberdeenshire (Banchory). We are a member of the Volunteer Centre Scotland Network which covers the whole of Scotland.

This is made up of 32 volunteer centres operating

out of some 60 offices. Each one of us is a locally managed independent voluntary organisation, working hard to be in tune with local volunteer needs and priorities.

Advice from Volunteer Development Scotland has led to the reconstituting of Aberdeenshire Volunteer Network to become Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire (VCA) and we are now seeking Volunteer Directors for the new board.

You should have a common sense approach, 2-3 hours per month to spare, and have experience of volunteering or be keen to gain volunteering experience.

If you have specific skills and knowledge in Finance, Planning, Law or HR, we



would be especially delighted to hear from you.

Volunteer Directors will meet at least four times a year to take decisions that will support the growth and development of volunteering within the shire.

If you would like to be part of this exciting opportunity to help shape the future of volunteering within Aberdeenshire then please contact Diane or Shirley by e-mail: north@vcaberdeenshire.org.uk or telephone: 01771 622111 for further information.



Photo: Volunteer Development Scotland



Do you have problems using usual public transport to get vital services, training or work?

The answer for many of you will be “yes”. **We’re here to help.** Banffshire Partnership provides community transport for people unable to access conventional public transport for any reason. These might include rural isolation, age, disability or lack of confidence.

We provide:

- Wheelchair accessible Dial-A-Bus for regular or one off trips, from your own doorstep.
- Wheelchair accessible Community minibuses for use by registered community groups.



BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Please call us on
01261 843598
for more information



We thought we'd take the opportunity to put together this article to tell what we've been up to since the last issue and to tell you about changes to the way we operate.

THE STAFF

There have been a lot of changes in the Transport Office since May 2006.

If you travel with us regularly on our Dial-a-Bus service, you will know our staff drivers, Frank, Bev and Michelle. Our great Passenger Assistants, Glenys and Wendy are also on most journeys ready to help with your shopping. Few of you will have met the office staff, any of whom may answer the phone if you call.



Jan Maddock

Jan is the full time Transport Manager, while Sally organises the buses and



Sally Blair

works part time until 1pm every day. The third member of the office team is Evelyn, whose part time role is financial but she may answer the phone if the others are busy. You might also speak to Frank, who works in the office when not driving, or Pete, one of our volunteer drivers who helps out in the office when we let Jan or Sally go on holiday.

We also have the dreaded answer phone to take a message when there is nobody in the office; the messages are checked first thing every morning.

CHANGES TO THE DIAL-A-BUS SERVICE

Through successful application, we received funding from the Big Lottery Fund and Future Builders to purchase two new minibuses. This has allowed us to expand our contribution to the community, primarily with the Dial-a-Bus service.

Please remember this service is for anyone of any age in the community who cannot access the normal scheduled bus service.

If you are infirm or just live a mile away from the bus route, you may well be able to use the Dial-A-Bus. Who else will pick you up at your front door, help you with your shopping (if you want), help pack your shopping in the bus and deliver you and your shopping back to your front door?

Since August 2006, we have more than doubled the number of clients' which is great news! Because of the



increase in clients (260), we expanded our services and now run around 12 Dial-a-Bus journeys every week. Remember anyone eligible can use the buses as often as they like. Just phone the office to book a seat or to ask about eligibility.

We offer regular shopping journeys to Huntly, Turriff, Elgin, Fraserburgh and Peterhead as well as Banff and Buckie. And we also put on special excursions throughout the year.

EXCURSIONS

We are also looking at running excursion trips during the spring and summer. Ideas under discussion at the moment include trips to garden centres in time for the spring planting, possibly with a trailer on the bus for all the bags of compost and bark you will want to buy. Trips to Inverness or Aberdeen are possible if there is the interest, or even for overnight trips to

faraway places such as Perth or Dundee.

CHARGES

We are the only Community Transport Organisation in Aberdeenshire who don't charge fares. This is because Aberdeenshire Council agreed to pay us a portion of the concessionary bus fare scheme for those clients who have concession cards. In addition, we ask for a small donation for each journey to make up the difference. If you don't have a concession card, we ask you to make a bigger donation.

PLEASE HELP US EXPAND THE SERVICE

Our aim is to fill our buses on every journey but less than 100 of our 260 registered clients travel with us regularly. So why don't the remainder take advantage of our door-to-door service?

And, do you know anyone else who cannot get to the

normal bus service that might benefit from the Dial-a-Bus service? Please mention us to your family, friends and neighbours.

We particularly want to expand our service to those living in the small rural communities poorly served by public transport. This applies to people of all ages. We are keen to hear from young or older people, either individuals or a group, who could use our services.

We look forward to seeing you on the buses . . .

COMMUNITY GROUPS

We currently have around 70 community groups registered with us, several of whom have their own members trained to drive our buses. However, any group of individuals with a common interest could form themselves into a group and so make use of the buses, for a trip to the theatre perhaps.

Our mileage charge to group users is 65p per mile. The charge is payable from Boyndie, not from first pick-up. In addition, if a group uses one of our paid drivers we will have to charge an additional £7 per hour, again payable from Boyndie.

Please note at going to press, our charges are considerably competitive, we

know this from those groups who use our buses on a regular basis. The new buses can take up to 13 passengers plus the driver. The scout bus that we manage, can take 15 passengers plus the driver. At night, or over the weekend when we are not using the buses for Dial-a-Bus, we can hire all three buses. Just call us for a quote and to check availability.

MINIBUS DRIVERS AWARENESS COURSE (MiDAS)

Obviously it is cheaper for groups to use one of their own members as the driver. For our insurance purposes, the driver must have completed the Minibus

Drivers Awareness Course (MIDAS). The one day course can be arranged through the transport office here at Boyndie. There is a subsidised fee for the course.

For those groups who cannot provide their own driver we have a list of trained volunteers who may be able to help. Just ask and we will see what we can arrange for you.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS & VOLUNTEER PASSENGER ASSISTANTS

Like all charities, although we have paid staff, we rely on our volunteer drivers and passenger assistants to help us each month. We can never have too many

volunteers, indeed we currently are very short of volunteer passenger assistants.



Most of the Dial-a-Bus services run in the morning and take between 3-4 hours. This is more than just a "shopping bus"; it's a "social service", a way that many of our clients can "have a news" as well as getting their shopping. So, if you think you could give up a half day once a week, fortnight or month we would be delighted to hear from you. Of course we will provide you with training before you start working.

We look forward to hearing from you; call Jan or Sally on 01261 843598 we are here Monday to Friday between 8.30am and 4.00pm.



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



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DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES**

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB452JT
T: 01261 843286 F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

Don't miss . . .



New Saturday
Night Spectacular Show!

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

Portsoy, Banff - Sat 30th June & Sun 1st July 2007



Beautiful traditional boats . . . The Moray Firth Flotilla . . . Non-stop song, dance and theatre . . . Saturday Night Spectacular . . . Demonstrations & Games . . . Food Fayre . . . Adventure Land

Full details on
www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.co.uk
or call 01261 842951

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The Press & Journal



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All proceeds from the festival and related events go toward the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival - Registered Charity No. SC037542