

B P L

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

SPRING 2006

ISSUE 9

inside this issue . . .

news from around the area . . .

Transport news

. . . and lots more

www.banffshirepartners.co.uk

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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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

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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Banffshire Partnership

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Board Of Directors

*Directors can be contacted
through the Partnership
office - 01261 843286.*

Directors meet monthly
(or more often if
necessary).

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

Chairman's Letter



Welcome to the Banffshire Partnership
newsletter.

The past year has been quite turbulent
given that we had to find a new head of
operations and new premises. I'm
delighted to say that both challenges were swiftly overcome,
firstly with the appointment of Duncan Leece as our
Director of Development & Operations and secondly with
the move to consolidate the Development and Transport
operations under one roof at the Boyndie Centre.

Despite the disruption these changes might have caused the
Partnership has succeeded in meeting all its commitments
and continues to forge ahead. The number and scale of
projects in hand continues to grow and the recent major
successes with funding means that the Transport operation
has both a secure future and the opportunity to expand its
services, including its hugely popular Dial-A-Bus service
throughout our area of operations.

There is no question that the Partnership itself faces some
issues on the question of its own longer-term funding, but
the directors and staff are determined that these will be
overcome. The Partnership has a real and important role to
play providing help and advice to groups throughout the
area with transport, financial and organisational challenges
and opportunities. We are confident that we will continue to
do so for as long as there is demand.

Sandy Duncan, Chairman

Submissions:

Banffshire Partnership

The Old School, Boyndie, Banff, AB45 2JT

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*Green
Butterfly
Award*



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

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All staff, volunteers and directors have particular skills, experience and areas of responsibility.

Developing Communities, Boyndie

T: 01261 843286



Duncan Leece,

Director of Development & Operations

Can help with: General information, project management, Planning for Real®.



Kay Beaton,

Development Co-ordinator

Can help with: Marketing, public relations, general information, Planning for Real®.

Community Transport, Boyndie

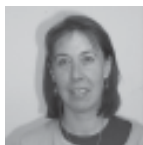
T: 01261 843598



John Davis,

Community Transport Co-ordinator

Can help with: Dial-A-Bus Bookings, transport information, volunteer training



Clare Mather,

Community Transport Co-ordinator

Can help with: Dial-A-Bus Bookings, transport information, volunteer training



Frank Mooney,

Minibus Driver



Evelyn Elphinstone,

Finance Administrator

Welcome DODO!

I am delighted to be involved with Banffshire Partnership again after a break of a few years. Some of you may know me from my post as General Manager of Boyndie Trust, which I continue to hold alongside this new job.

What attracted me back? Well; that is easy to answer: Banffshire Partnership is in the fortunate position of having talented and committed staff, plus a wealth of volunteers, all happy to share their extensive knowledge on a wide range of subjects. Yet more volunteers help regularly to deliver our transport services. Our position is unique, in that if you are involved with a group wanting to develop a project, and you have questions or concerns on how to proceed, we are likely to be able to advise you, or find somebody who has done something the same or similar before - a valuable resource.

This network of contacts throughout our community puts us in the perfect position to

help with Aberdeenshire Council's intention of bringing Community Planning closer to



those it affects most; local people. Our involvement, as an independent organisation, in this important topic for the future of our area, has been welcomed from all sides.

Banffshire Partnership can make all the difference to the progress of the kind of community-led development that our area needs. I add to its skill base with first-hand experience managing such projects. There is no shortage of enthusiastic local groups who have ideas and aspirations for the future. What a pleasure to be part of their success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Duncan Leece'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Duncan Leece

Director of Development & Operations (DODO)

Disclosure Checks

We are able to process Disclosure Scotland checks on behalf of member groups in the area. Please telephone 01261 843598 for more details

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Banffshire Partnership - Aims & Values

Our purpose:

Within our area¹, 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

¹Aberchirder & Marnoch, Banff & Macduff, Alvah & Forglen, Whitehills, Portsoy, Cornhill & Ordiqhill, King Edward & Gamrie, Fordyce & Sandend.

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

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

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 10 - is due to appear in Winter 2007, 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!

Kay Beaton

Development Co-ordinator

Banffshire Partnership,

The Old School, Boyndie,

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focus on. . .

ABERCHIRDER

Photo: Bob Peden

Auld Broon To Go Into Print

Aberchirder & District Community Association has been awarded a grant of £2500 by Awards For All Scotland towards the cost of publishing a book of the poems of Simon Brown (1908-1993), whose recitations - from memory - of humorous poems in the Doric entertained local residents in the 1970s and 1980s.



His verses, which poked fun at local characters and dignitaries, reached a wider audience when they were published in 1985 by Ross Records on the tape "Auld Broon Fae Foggie Toon", but until now have never appeared in print.

The aim of the project is to involve people who knew Broon in celebrating the memory of one of Aberchirder's characters, and in helping to preserve the Doric culture to which he belonged.

Well-known supporters of the Doric, Sandy Stronach and Robbie Shepherd, have agreed to contribute to the book. Artwork production work will be undertaken by Banffshire Partnership. Publication date will be early 2006.

For more information contact
Bob Peden on 01466 780277.

www.foggioloan.co.uk

focus on. . .

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banff Castle Community Association

The latter part of 2005 was busy at Banff Castle with a Banff Art Club Art Exhibition Open Day in November and a visit by Santa Claus in December.

Of particular note was the unveiling and



dedication on Friday 21st October of a stone to commemorate Captain George Duff RN. Duff was born in Deveronside and took part and lost his life at the battle of Trafalgar. The unveiling was carried out by Commodore Charles BH Stevenson on the 200th anniversary of the battle.

The initial proposal was to erect a stone to commemorate the centenary of the forming of Rotary. Subsequently, with the involvement of the Friends of Duff House and the Banff Preservation & Heritage Society, Banff Rotary Club incorporated their centenary into the dedication of the stone to Captain Duff. Appropriately a wreath was laid on

behalf of Rotary Inter-national by Eric Simpson, District Governor of District 1010.



The Castle is proving a popular venue for groups holding weekly meetings and is also a wonderful setting for individual events. The large table in the Committee room would also provide a very suitable venue for formal or informal dinners with the possible use of outside caterers.

Rate per room is £7.00 per hour. For further details or bookings, please contact Barbara McAndrew, Caretaker on 01261 812061.

A "History of Banff Castle" leaflet was produced with design by Banffshire Partnership.



focus on. . .

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Deveron Festival

Just over a decade ago, local cellist and conductor, Gareth John must have been sitting, twiddling his thumbs and looking for something to do. Little could he have known that, ten years later, his weekend festival of classical music would still be going on and growing each year.



Now, well established as the North East's premier classical music festival and organised by an enthusiastic committee, the Deveron Festival celebrated ten years of musical fireworks last June with an exciting programme of events ranging from chamber music to Tchaikovsky's rousing 1812 Overture played by a professional orchestra complete with screened

images, cannon effects and the audience being showered with confetti at its finale. Standing ovations at this and the following evening's performance of Handel's Messiah provided the evidence that we're on the right track.

The next few years look equally exciting with ambitious plans to bring international musicians of the calibre of Emma Johnson (clarinet) and Natalie Clein (cello) to perform and work with local schoolchildren. An extra concert on 26th November at the Harvest Centre, Banff brought some of the members of the Deveron Festival Orchestra back for a special performance. Together with education outreach events including our own children's choir, Soundzgood and a strong supporting concert series, the Deveron Festival looks set to continue in its winning ways.

For more information contact: Gareth John on deveronfestival@btinternet.com



Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association

In 2003 and 2004, two extremely successful maritime exhibitions were run in Banff and Macduff respectively with a third planned for 2005 but due to the difficulties with planning permission and other problems it had to be cancelled. These were only temporary displays to be run during the summer months with the intention always to find a permanent home.

Premises have now been found for the exhibition for this summer in the former Ironmonger's shop at the bottom of Duff Street, Macduff.

Lack of accommodation also caused problems when we gladly received the gift of a model oilrig from the Transocean Oil Company: not something that could be stored in a cupboard! Macduff Aquarium very kindly came to our rescue and it now has a temporary home there and looks most impressive.

Funding for this year's exhibition has been secured from several oil and oil related companies including Shell UK, DNV, Statoil and Enovate Systems. Alfie Cheyne has also made a generous donation. The production of 1,000 leaflets is to be funded by Aberdeen Town's Partnership.

We are looking for volunteers during May to help prepare the premises and from June to October when the exhibition is open.

Anyone who has any free time (and enjoys meeting our many visitors) is most welcome. Please contact Stanley Bruce on 07770 780232 or Mike Roy, Town Co-ordinator.



Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banff & Macduff Youth Development Project

The major youth development project to build a traditional Scottish Zulu Yawl sailing boat is now well under way.

The project involves showing six or seven teenagers from the age of 16, the traditional skills for building a clinker built 18-foot yawl. When the boat is finished it will be used to teach those who built it and others how to sail.

The venue for the boat building is a large wooden shed in Macduff near the Aquarium. Help is being given to the project by several local businesses including Jock's Fish shop, which has generously allowed the project to take an electricity supply from the shop.

Offers of financial assistance have been received from other participants and local businesses and a major grant of £3,500 has been secured from Aberdeenshire Town's Partnership. Most recently, and working in conjunction with Banffshire Partnership, a successful application was made to Awards for All for £4,950. This major funding ensures that the Project has got off to an extremely positive start. Contact: Andy Kennedy on 01261 812692

focus on...

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banff & Macduff Farmers Market

The Market, which is organised by a committee drawn from the stallholders with Mary Chalmers as President and Pat Coutts as Market Co-ordinator relocated last year from St. Mary's Car Park to the undercover facility at Macduff Fish Market.

The move is felt to have been a success with most of the stallholders experiencing an increase in takings and the committee are grateful to the Council for offering and suggesting the use of the Fish Market.



Photo: Stanley Bruce

Held on the last Saturday of the month, the Market has a variety of stalls selling

fresh local produce including a wide range of food, through flowers to firewood. The fact that there is no room for new stalls is testament to its popularity with the vendors.

Customers flock from far and wide to buy from the people who actually grow and produce the food on sale, knowing that they will enjoy all that's best in freshness and taste. Non-food items can also be purchased from the actual producer cutting out the middleman.

The organisers of the Market also do their bit for charity, providing a single free space each month for whoever wants to raise money for their cause.

If you have not tried the experience for yourself, mark the last Saturday in the month on your calendar and go along. Make it early though, because stalls get sold out quickly!

For further information contact:
Mary Chalmers on 01466 751215.

Plans To Restore The Meal House



The Banff Preservation & Heritage Society recently approved a five-year programme of restoration and improvement, a key element of which is the restoration of the Meal House on Old Market Place as the headquarters of the Society.



Few in Banff would be able to place the Meal House. It is the semi-derelict building with three gables and a little belfry, beside the “Banffie” and nearly opposite the “Spotty Bag” shop. Some would say that’s the old smiddy, but in fact it only became a smiddy in 1901. Most of its history it was a meal house, built in the 1790s.

Built to store meal, it reflected the old practice when salaries were paid in kind, not in money. Dr Clark, of the Society committee, can remember when

his father, as Parish Minister of Banff, still received some of his stipend in bolls of meal. So a meal house was a little like a tax office, where people brought their payments in kind.

The Preservation Society has had its eye on the Meal House for some time. Earlier plans to restore it fell through, but this time Aberdeenshire Council has approached the Society, with a promise of sufficient financial support to restore it. The building is in much worse state than it was ten years ago with workmen loath to go in to clean out the bird droppings, for fear of the roof collapsing. It looks as if the roof will have to come off before the building can even be measured up for restoration.

If it can be restored to the Society’s specifications, the Society could have its own base, its own little museum, rooms for meetings, and a shop window for heritage in the town, and a historic building would have a new lease of life.

If you are interested in joining the Banff Preservation & Heritage Society contact Dr Alistair Mason on 01261 812941.



focus on. . .

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Board 2 Extremes

In February 2002, with the help of Banff & Macduff Community Council and Youth workers from Bridge Street Community Centre, a group of young skateboarders set up Board 2 Extremes with a committee of eight youth and five adult members. The main aims of the committee were to secure an area of land and raise funding to construct a skate park in the Banff/Macduff area.

Finding land that was suitable proved quite a challenge! However, after a lot of perseverance an area was found beside the grounds of Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust. Full planning permission was applied for and approved in March 2004. In the meantime the committee was working hard raising money through bag packing at the local Somerfields, recycling aluminium cans, sponsored runs and stalls at local galas.

With the land secured and the group becoming a recognised Scottish charity, the areas of accessible funding



increased greatly. With the guidance of the Banffshire Partnership the group were soon on their way to their target figure of £44,000, thanks to the completion of some very successful funding applications.

Work on the skate park began on the 29th of August last year and was completed by the second week in October.

Open: *Monday to Friday: 9.00am-9.00pm*
Saturday: 9.00am-1.00pm
Sunday: 11.00am-6.00pm.
Admission is free.

For further information contact:
Brenda Chalmers on 01261 812220.



Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust

Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust (PRSCT) can look back on 2005 and reflect on another successful period of activities and programs. Trust Manager, Alan Still said “Our policy of developing healthy programs to all ages and abilities has seen us work up diverse schemes ranging from the Catch, Cook & Eat summer slot for kids, through to the Senior Fitness Activity class.”

Fitness through football, badminton and basketball are now delivered to more than 500 primary pupils in rural schools within the Banff Academy catchment area. These fitness through sport activities are delivered during the curriculum time as well as after school and lunchtime sessions.

Much of the Games Galore and Kidz Be Active sessions are delivered by the Trusts’ instructors to local schools. At the other end of the scale, Senior Fitness takes in five care homes and five classes at the facility. With Cardiac Rehab, Banff Day Centre, Northern Horizons, Stagestars, Yoga, Banff Academy as well as various workshops and meetings the facility is rarely quiet! The Gym and Astroturf continue to be busy with around 1000+ users a week.

Some individuals still have difficulty in



grasping that we are a Charitable Trust (SC023857) and have to compete for funds from various avenues to sustain and keep our programs affordable to the community.

To date, we have been reasonably successful and we are grateful for the many references from organisations supporting the work done by the staff for their particular activity or program.

Looking forward it is hoped that new activities like archery will eventually be dovetailed into the timetable along with new fitness classes, and with another Under-18 Schoolboy Football International against Canada in April, the facility can look forward to a busy 2006.

Partners in some of the Trusts’ programs over the last year were: Aberdeenshire Childcare Partnership, Aberdeenshire Disability Sport, Aberdeenshire Council, Scotland Against Drugs, NHS Grampian, Sportsmatch, Deveronvale FC, Enviroco, Puffin Cruises, Banff Springs Hotel & Banffshire Partnership.

See Display Advert on back cover.

focus on. . .

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

The Banffshire Coast Tourism Initiative

Arising from an initial consultant's report and funding granted by Building Buchan New Beginnings, exciting marketing plans are now being actioned to promote tourism along the coast between Cullen in the west and Pennan in the east and for the area five miles inland from the coast.



SCOTLAND'S TREASURE

and highly interactive web site, www.banffshirecoast.com, a highly colourful and informative leaflet which will be distributed throughout Scotland, dedicated leaflet stands which will be used throughout the area and a dynamic and highly creative public relations campaign which will create

The campaign includes the logo, a comprehensive

strong stories in the press and on television about all the wonderful features in this fascinating and mainly undiscovered area. To underline the appeal of the area to artists and photographers, a photographic competition has also been launched with early interest being shown from far and wide. A high profile panel of judges will select the winners and the competition will culminate in an exhibition at Duff House.



If you or your business has any connection with tourism, contact Karen Crowe now on 01261 843234 to find out about becoming a member of the initiative.

The strong marketing campaign is being developed to help businesses throughout the area and membership will ensure your participation in the programme.

Banff & District Community Safety Group



FOR ABERDEENSHIRE

www.aberdeenshirecommunitysafety.org.uk

The Banff & District Community Safety Group meet regularly in Banff Police Station. Meetings are chaired by Councillor Jeanette McKee; Sara Dickinson is the Secretary.

The group comprises members of the public who want to be involved with community safety in a wide range of different ways.

For further information or to find out the date of the next meeting contact Jeanette McKee on 01261 815132 or Sara Dickinson on 01261 861229.



A selection of the items available to buy from the Banff & District Community Safety Group.

Community Development Groups

A Community Development Group (CDG) represents the interests of local people by deciding on priorities, working with local groups or agencies to deliver quality services or allocating funds to specific projects.

The group will find out local people's needs and work with others

- to develop special projects in partnership
- to raise the standards of service in the area
- support the social, personal and educational development of adults & young people
- strengthen local communities

If you have an interest in Adult Learners, Young Learners, voluntary groups in the community, sports, arts, libraries, development of your community or are involved in community council contact Jim McGruer, Bridge Street Community Centre on 01261 812450 for more info.

focus on. . .

BOYNDIE

Boyndie Centre

Another successful year! This success has been across the full range of what we do; which is the best news of all.

We met our target for the number of people we assist with supported work placement training here at The Old School Visitor Centre. The partnership we have with Aberdeenshire Council Social Work in running this service remains genuinely mutually beneficial and, was the factor that singled us out for an award in the 2005 Care Accolades (often called the Social Work "Oscars").



Visitor numbers and spending at the Visitor Centre has met target too. This provides revenue to make our training service sustainable. The restaurant has been particularly successful and the praise my staff receive from satisfied



customers is highly motivational. The

increase in trade has created still more jobs and we now form a welcome addition to what's on offer to the tourist on the Banffshire Coast. A 'Highly Commended' in the recent Northern Lights Tourism awards makes a nice addition to our four-star grading.

For 2006 we are developing a range of SQA approved training courses adapted for people with special needs and will build on the success of our new woodwork department. Some physical upgrading of the Visitor Centre is planned and we have some new ideas for recipes in the restaurant.



The best thing you can do is come along to see us over lunch! For further information contact the Boyndie Visitor Centre on 01261 843249.

focus on. . .

GARDENSTOWN

Photo: _____

Gamrie Business Forum

In 2005 the Forum concentrated on one main project of stepping bravely into the world wide web and www.discovergardenstown.co.uk is now live. It's the work of many hands and minds, not least Kay at Banffshire Partnership who initiated design and construction, and Sue Scarrott who co-ordinated information and creation. They have both done an excellent job and we are confident it is a quality ambassador for our community.

It seems these days everyone and their uncle has a website - and I'd be the first to question the point of some. But there are many reasons for a community to get itself a contact point with the world like this. Of course local businesses are at the centre of developing the site, who we hope will continue to prosper, which in turn will ensure the continuity of services and facilities, part of keeping a village alive. But there are opportunities for all the people of Gardenstown - the site as you see it today is only the beginning.

For example, as will see on the 'Heritage & Gallery' page, a website can be an excellent way for people to remember their past. We are currently showing images from the late 19th century, right up to the millennium, but these few are only the tip of an iceberg. We know there is deep interest in the history of the Gamrie area, and also a pride in the people, their ways and traditions. I would ask anyone who has pictures, and stories to tell, to get in touch with us so we can begin to gather the wealth of knowledge I'm sure is out there. After all, our sense of where we are going is only strengthened if we know where we come from.



If you would like to join contact Bryan Angus on 01261 851056.

focus on. . .



PORTSOY

Photo: Kathy Mansfield

Portsoy Thrift Shop



Portsoy's Thrift Shop continues to act as a magnet to donors and customers from throughout the area. The generosity of both groups has made possible support for local and regional causes of over £40,000.

Recent donations have been made to Skip to the Beat, Portsoy Pavilion, Portsoy Brownies and to Portsoy's 75 Club in support of the Christmas lights and New Year fireworks.

The team of volunteers who run the shop would like to thank everyone for their wonderful and generous support.

With its wide and ever changing stock including children's and adult's clothing, books, toys, smaller items of furniture, ornaments, CD's and DVD's it's a fun place to visit!

So whether you're looking for a bargain or have something to donate, come along to the Thrift Shop in the Square at Portsoy and you'll be sure of a very warm welcome . . . and you'll be helping local and regional causes.

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



Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

2006 will see the thirteenth year of Portsoy's Scottish Traditional Boat Festival. Recent winners of the Aberdeen and Grampian Northern Lights Tourism Award for the best community led initiative, the Festival is now well established on the nation's tourism calendar.

The 2005 Festival with its focus on the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar achieved a 12% increase in visitor numbers and of the 16,000 who came along over the weekend, some 30% came from outside the Grampian region. It is estimated that the economic impact of the Festival on the area is in excess of £1.5 million!

During the two days of brilliant weather, visitors saw and enjoyed over 80 boats, the widest range of craft and heritage demonstrators, a non-stop programme of music, song and dance, street theatre, the biggest Food Fayre yet and a host of things for people to see and do.

The theme for 2006 will be North Sea Neighbours and plans are in hand for performers and exhibitors to be in Portsoy from the twinned festival at Skudeneshavn in Norway. This international flavour will add a new dimension to the well-established mix



Photo: Kirby Mansfield

of boats, maritime activities, demonstrators, music, theatre and food and drink. Mark July 8th and 9th in your diaries now for another great festive weekend.

A growing element of the Festival is the programme of children's projects, developed in close cooperation with Banff Academy and its cluster group of eight primary schools. In 2006 the projects will include music with a final concert at Banff Academy on June 23rd; cookery with demonstrations at the Food Fayre and visual art, culminating in an exhibition of the children's work at Duff House over the month of July.

www.scottishtraditionalboatfestival.co.uk

focus on. . .

PORTSOY

The Portsoy Salmon Bothy Project

The project is taking a new turn with its proposed adoption by the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival. Plans are now in hand for the restoration of this fine building as a home for the salmon fishery artefacts and as a permanent centre for the year round development the traditional music, visual arts and other craft and heritage projects being developed by the Festival. Whilst currently aimed at the young, it is envisioned that the creation of the Salmon Bothy facility will broaden the appeal of the projects to folk of all ages in the community.

It is also planned that the Salmon Bothy

will provide an information centre for the Banffshire Coast Tourism initiative and as a key point on the Sustrans Cycle Trail and on Nortrail, the North Sea coastal walkway.

Working with the support of the Banffshire Partnership, applications are currently in hand for funding the restoration and whilst there is much to be done, it is very much hoped that work on the project will commence in the course of 2006.

For further information contact:

Roger Goodyear on 01261 842894.

Portsoy Maritime Heritage

Following a long development process, the Heritage was delighted to obtain Council approval for its ambitious and exciting plans to develop a permanent home and facilities by the harbour at Portsoy. Work is now in hand to raise the funds necessary for the project architect to take the plans to the next stage. The committee has however made the decision to carry out the work in

phases, the first being for the creation of a workshop, toilet and showers and it is hoped that this will commence within months rather than years.

The completion of phase one will add significantly to the facilities and indeed the overall appeal of Portsoy harbour with visitors able to see traditional boat restoration in progress.

Whitehills & District Community Council

Another productive and successful year commenced with a Green Butterfly Award from



*Green
Butterfly
Award*

Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum for interpretive information and improvements along the coastal path between Banff and Whitehills, further enhanced with the creation of a picnic area and benches on 'The Falka' - the old Whitehills to Portsoy road.

Coastal erosion after the January storms, at the area around the Compass Rose required urgent attention which was swiftly resolved with the benefit of a contractor being on site, dredging out Whitehills Harbour.

We continue to maintain the village public toilets with a team of willing volunteers and have recently slabbed a muddy area in front of these and are in process of repainting and resigning the

facility. Flower baskets and barrels adorned the village through the summer months and Christmas illuminations brightened the darkness of December and January.



A locally produced calendar has proved a resounding success with 450 publications sold, and will now feature annually.

An interpretive station at the Old School Boyndie is presently being constructed, as part of a heritage project, highlighting the significance of Boyndie Aerodrome in World War II and its new importance as a Wind Farm.

Once generation of energy from this source comes on line, monies will be lodged in a Community Fund, administered by the Community Council, from which funds may be allocated for specific purposes.

focus on.

WHITEHILLS

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Whitehills Marina

A very busy year commenced with severe January storms battering the harbour. The Marina and pontoons stood up well to the adverse weather with no damage either to property or vessels therein.

With a view to further expansion in the outer basin and also to facilitate easy access to the Marina at all states of the tide, a major dredging exercise was undertaken early in the year.

On completion of the works, in March a 36 metre seasonal pontoon was purchased with partial financial assistance from Aberdeenshire Council, and floated in the outer basin, allowing increased berthing for summer visitors.



The resultant increase in bookings has been substantial with visitor numbers almost doubled at nearly 200, boosted by two flotillas of Swedish boats at the end of June, one of eight and the other of 15 boats rafted out in the outer basin, and making an attractive sight for passing tourists.

The total capacity of fully serviced berths is now 50 in the inner basin, with a further six seasonal berths in the outer basin which can be rafted out to allow for a maximum of 12 berths.

A dry storage area for wintering boats is also available and like the Marina, is presently full to capacity.

For further information contact:
David Findlay on 01261 861435.

www.whitehillsharbour.co.uk

focus on. . .

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

Supporting Community Activity

What is Banffshire Partnership?

Banffshire Partnership Ltd (BPL) is a network of community groups, supported by the local authority, and other public and private sector partners. It was formed in 1999, in response to requests for information, advice, learning and support for community projects, large and small, which will create jobs and/or improve the quality of life for local people and visitors to the area.

Successful projects supported include:

- Tourism Events & Facilities
- Harbour Development
- Heritage Projects
- Community Gardens & Woodland
- Childcare
- Recreational Facilities
- Transport

Advice & Support Services

We can help with:

- Marketing & Public Relations
- Business & Project Planning - start-up & ongoing
- Fundraising Advice and Bid-writing

- Putting you in touch with other groups, agencies and specialists - the 'man who can'
- "Effective Community Projects" training packs available on a wide range of topics.
- Research on Government Policy - how you fit in, and how it helps in planning your activities and raising money

If you need help with any of the above, call us and arrange an appointment for a staff member to meet at a time which is convenient to your group.

Support For Large Projects

This works best when our staff are involved all the way through a project, from the ideas stage onwards - this doesn't mean we have to be around at every meeting, and as you get more confident you won't need us so much. But it does help to keep us involved - if we have all the information, we can give you the best possible advice, and help solve any problems that occur.



focus on. . .

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

Helping Groups To Help Themselves

We will not 'do your project for you' but provide help so that your group and your project can be as independent and free standing as possible, for the long term.

Getting People Together

We have learned that there is much to be gained from sharing. We hold meetings on specific topics of local interest, and can put you in touch with other people who are working on similar activities.

Giving The Area A Voice

BPL is recognised as a Local Rural Partnership by the Scottish Executive. We are asked regularly to act as a sounding-board for local views for government in Edinburgh, Europe and Aberdeen.

Join Us!

Together we are stronger. Membership is free of charge and open to groups or individuals (over 18), resident in the area. Please contact us on 01261 843286 to register.

“Making It Real”

One of the major projects which will be undertaken by the Partnership this year will be “Making It Real”.

This initiative will involve visiting communities in the Partnership area to gather important information such as who are the local players, background information about the community, current community views and priorities, general vision/agreed actions overview, specific actions on agreed priorities and descriptions of the next steps.

This data will then be collated and published in a series of Aberdeenshire-wide Community Action Plan documents, which can then be used by groups who want to become more involved in the the future of their community.

The communities identified within Banffshire area for the initial plans are Aberchirder and Whitehills, followed by Banff, Macduff, King Edward and Cornhill.

Effective Community Projects Guide

The Partnership's "Effective Community Projects" training pack, is a useful tool aimed specifically at community groups.

It offers practical advice about how to plan, carry out and maintain projects, based on the ideas found in books about good business management, which have been adapted to suit situations where most or all the people involved are volunteers. It focuses on lessons learned from experiences local community groups have had when doing projects.

Written in plain English the guide illustrates step by step what is involved in doing a project, as well as explaining technical terms you may come across. The Guide can be used as a whole package for groups with little/no experience of doing projects. Or, Groups/individuals with some experience of doing projects can use specific modules on a one-off basis. As well as practical advice the Guide includes "Activities" devised to let you think about the information and so understand it better.

There are two parts to the Guide:

- **The Project**

Module A: Effective Projects

A1: Should We Do A Project?

A2: Designing The Project

A3: Costing The Project & Finding The Money

A4: Carrying Out The Project

- **The Skills**

B: Effective Strategising

C: Effective Group Structures

D: Effective Meetings

E: Effective Communication

E1: Simple Language

E2: Grammar

E3: Punctuation

E4: Press Releases

E5: Official Business Letters

F: Effective Fundraising

To find out more or to obtain a copy of the Guide contact the Developing Communities office on 01261 843286.



Far's The Money?!

A reminder that the Partnership has the following resources for member groups to use.

- **FunderFinder**

Computer database to help you find funding for your project.

- **Directory of Grant Making Trusts**

Funders' contact details.

For more information contact the Developing Communities office on 01261 843286.

focus on...

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

...The Bus On Your Doorstep ...

Our future is assured! We are delighted to be able to announce that our applications for funding to secure the next three years of operation of the community transport wing of Banffshire Partnership have been successful. The Communities Scotland's Futurebuilders Programme, the Scottish Executive's Rural Community Transport Initiative, the European Regional Development Fund and the National Lottery through



From left to right, John Davis, Evelyn Elphinstone, Frank Mooney, Clare Mather

their Big Lottery Fund were approached and have all granted awards towards project costs totalling well in excess of £600,000. This money will enable us to purchase two minibuses (look out for them with their smart new livery in the next few months)

which will underpin the expansion of the successful services, as well as cover staff, admin, training and vehicle running costs.

Dial-A-Bus

This is a door-to-door service, manned virtually entirely by a marvellous team of volunteers, currently using both Council buses and the Portsoy Scouts bus, which collects people of any age who have difficulty getting out and about using conventional public transport, and delivers them to local shops and services before returning them to their homes. The cost of the trip is based on the conventional bus fare and concession cards/taxi cards are accepted on all journeys. The destination of most of our current runs is Banff but we shall be heading for other towns in the near future and are always keen to hear your views and comments.

This vital service has expanded considerably in the past two years, both

in terms of the areas covered and the frequency of services. We will shortly be expanding this even further and be bringing in a booking system to maximise travel opportunity.

As well as a fully trained driver, there is also a passenger assistant on each Dial-A-Bus service to help those passengers who need assistance in the shops, with heavy bags, getting on and off the bus etc.

A full schedule of current services is detailed below, so if you think you or anyone else could benefit from them please give us a call as all passengers need to be registered with us before they can travel.

Community Group Minibus Hire

We manage a 16-seater, fully accessible minibus for use by your community group courtesy of the 1st Portsoy & Fordyce Scout Group. Appoint a driver and we will take care of all the training using the Community Transport Association's nationally recognised Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme (MiDAS).

Accessible People Carrier (MPV)

We are proud to be working in partnership with Deveron Care Services, who have asked us to manage their wheelchair-accessible people carrier. It's available for groups or individuals - outings, holidays,



appointments . . . just give us a call and we'll talk it over with you. Put forward your own driver for training/familiarisation or we can provide one where possible. The mpv can accommodate six passengers or four passengers, including two in wheelchairs.

Our Valued Volunteers

Virtually all the passenger assistants and drivers, whether involved with the Dial-a-Bus or community groups, are volunteers, whose contribution is greatly valued by all who benefit and by the staff members who rely on them for their fantastic hard work and support. If you would like to join them, we'd be delighted to hear from you. You don't need to commit to any more time than you want to give. Just call Clare or John on 01261 843598 or pop in for a coffee and a chat and we'll talk over the opportunities with you.

focus on...

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Training

We provide a range of transport-related training including minibus driver and passenger assistant courses; minibus emergency evacuation procedures and first aid. Contact us for more details.

Future Plans

We are continually striving to find logical, simple and innovative solutions to the transport problems of our community. The next few years will see research into 'Wheels 2 Work' schemes, volunteer car schemes and other pilots to ensure that as few people as possible in the Partnership area are unable to access vital services due to lack of suitable transport.

Dial-A-Bus Schedules

If you live here:	Our services currently operate on these days:
Aberchirder	Alternate Mondays
Banff	Weekly on Mondays and Thursdays; Alternate Tuesdays
Cornhill	Alternate Tuesdays
Crudie	Alternate Wednesdays
Gardenstown	Weekly on Wednesdays
King Edward	Alternate Wednesdays
Macduff	Alternate Tuesdays & Thursdays; Weekly on Wednesdays
New Byth	Alternate Wednesdays
Portsoy	Alternate Mondays; Weekly on Thursdays
Whitehills	Alternate Mondays & Tuesdays; Weekly on Thursdays

Remember - this is YOUR community transport project - Help us make it as successful and wide-reaching as possible. All comments and suggestions are welcomed. Just give us a ring or pop in to the office at The Old School, Boyndie any time.

community transport



“keeping the community moving”

community use minibus

dial-a-bus

accessible people carrier (mpv)

community car scheme

drivers & passenger assistants

transport information

training

... for your transport needs



PROJECT PART-FINANCED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Europe and Scotland
Making it work together

B P L

**BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT**

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



Princess Royal
Sports & Community Trust



- Gym with Changing Rooms/Shower Rooms
- Two Multi-Purpose Rooms (eg conferences, meetings, mother and toddler sessions, fitness classes)
- Grass Pitch with 400 Seater Stadium
- Two Astro Turf Pitches
- Kids Holiday Programmes

promoting healthy living for all

For further information contact:

Princess Royal Sport & Community Trust
56 Airlie Gardens • Banff • AB45 1AZ
Tel: 01261 818303 • Fax: 01261 813753
E-mail: princessroyal@lineone.net

Opening Times

Monday - Friday
9.00am - 10.00pm

Saturday
9.00am - 1.00pm

Sunday
11.00am - 10.00pm