



BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP

WINTER 2004

ISSUE 8



inside this issue . . .

news from around the area . . .

Planning for Real® -
Banff & Macduff update

Transport news

... and lots more

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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**

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PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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Banffshire Partnership

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Board Of Directors

*Directors can be contacted
through the Partnership
office - 01261 813754.*

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 another Banffshire Partnership newsletter, which I hope you will find an enjoyable and interesting read.

I recently took up the role of Chairman when Iain Taylor, who so ably served the Partnership for three years, decided to step down, although he continues to serve as Secretary to the Board.

Since the last Newsletter the Partnership has been very busy with Planning for Real[®] exercises; supporting and advising local schemes and projects on marketing; providing training on how to plan, manage and access funding and generally sustain projects in the long term; initiating a Shop Local campaign and, of course, developing and operating our Dial-A-Bus service, now expanded to cover King Edward, New Byth and Crudie.

The Partnership focus is one of helping communities develop schemes which will benefit them economically, socially or environmentally. We have access to many fields of funding including European, National or Local Authority, and will continue to be available to advise and guide projects to maturity. Our staff have developed many skills and knowledge, they work with energy and enthusiasm and are there to serve you in any way that they can.

Remember, we are always here to help and advise and if it is outwith our experience, we can guide you on where to find the expertise you require.

Sandy Duncan, Chairman

Submissions:

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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 Office, Banff
T: 01261 813754**



Kay Beaton,
Communication & Development Worker
Can help with: Marketing, public relations, general information, Planning for Real®.

**Rural Transport Hub Office, Portsoy
T: 01261 843598**



John Davis,
Community Transport Worker
Can help with: Dial-A-Bus Bookings, transport information, volunteer training



Clare Mather,
Community Transport Worker
Can help with: Dial-A-Bus Bookings, transport information, volunteer training



Frank Mooney,
Minibus Driver



Evelyn Elphinstone,
Finance Administrator

A Fond Farewell

Following five concentrated years of involvement, Chief Executive Officer Alison Simpson has decided to move on to a new role elsewhere. Chairman Sandy Duncan expressed the unanimous views of the board and staff members of the Partnership when he said that Alison's contribution over the past years has been very significant and that the good health of the Partnership and its strength and potential for future growth are very much down to her energy and dedication. "Whilst we are all extremely sorry to see Alison move on, we wish her all the very best for the future and, importantly, are absolutely delighted that she has agreed to maintain active contact with us"

The board has taken Alison's departure as an opportunity to look at all the activities undertaken by the Partnership. This in depth review has already been

initiated and has been given the task of investigating the ways in which the Partnership can increase its contribution to the communities which it encompasses. In the words of Sandy Duncan, "There is no question but that the board and members of staff view the future very positively. Alison and her team have created a sound foundation on which we wish to build and this is the right time to set about that building process."

Full details of the review will be publicised as soon as it has been completed, but in the meantime, if you have thoughts on areas where you would like to see the Partnership increase its role, please do not hesitate to let us know.



Disclosure Checks

We are able to process Disclosure Scotland checks on behalf of community groups in the area. Please telephone the Portsoy office on 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 9 - is due to appear in Spring 2005, 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

Communication & Development Worker

Banffshire Partnership,

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Open Day In Community Pavilion

In late September the Community Association held a very successful open day at the Community Pavilion.



Photo: Andrew Taylor, Barff

achievements since it was formed in 1996 - since when it has attracted overall around £200,000 of external funding - and visitors were asked for ideas to add to the Community Plan which guides the Association's activities.

There were also demonstrations of the constantly upgraded gym equipment in the Fitness Centre, a well-used facility with over 100 members of all ages, especially young mums and over 60s.

A display gave local people a retrospective on the organisation's

Contacts are Davie Chalmers on 01466 780681 and Brian Bray on 01466 780477.

Christmas Lights

One of the Community Association's main annual activities is providing a display of Christmas lights, which are paid for solely from local fundraising, and will be erected on 28 November. This year's funds were boosted by £530 from the Bowling Club's charity bottle, Rennie's shop and a coffee morning.

2005 Calendar

This year the Community Association's calendar is in kitchen calendar format and features black and white photos of Aberchirder and District today. It costs £2.50 and is on sale in local shops as well as from Association committee members.

Amenities Association Wound Up

Formed in 1967, the Aberchirder Amenities & Welfare Association organisation for many years ran dances in the now-demolished Memorial Hall, played an active role in looking after Cleanhill Wood, ran galas and until a few years ago delivered a Christmas parcel to every pensioner in the village. However after nearly 40 years of fundraising for good causes, with much of its role now having been taken on by the Community Association, the organisation wound



Photo: Andrew Taylor, Banff

itself up in October and disbursed its remaining funds to eleven local groups.

Website

The Aye FoggieIoan website continues to attract worldwide interest and favourable comment. The site offers local groups and businesses a chance to advertise, and has a monthly news section under the heading of Foggie Gossip.

A major role is to provide the Virtual Museum, the Community Association's answer to the prohibitive cost of buying and running an actual museum building. The Virtual Museum is being gradually expanded, and now has sections on Settlement (the foundation and growth of the village to the present day), Coat of Arms (pictures of the presentation in 1999), Foggie 2000 (a pictorial record of



every building to mark the Millennium) and Library (where the poems of Simon Brown and others will be collected). The success of the project depends on local people (and exiles) providing photos and information – contact Donald Graham on 01466 780481 or Bob Peden on 01466 780277.

You will find the website at www.foggieIoan.co.uk

focus on. . .

ABERCHIRDER

Photo courtesy of Bob Peden

Local History Group

The group is now in its tenth year and has a membership of around sixty, with attendance at monthly meetings in the Community Pavilion averaging around thirty. New members are always welcome, whether they want to contribute what they know, or to learn about the history of the area and further afield. Contact Bob Peden on 01466 780277. This season's first speaker was Colin Jeffrey, who presented a fascinating illustrated account of the part played by RAF Boyndie in the final years of World War Two.

Remainder Of The Programme For 2004 - 2005

<i>1 December 2004</i>	Andy Kennedy & Alistair Paterson	Heritage Of The Moray Firth
<i>12 January 2005</i>	Bruce Kean	From Dairy To Betting Shop - A Browse Through The Years
<i>2 February 2005</i>	Harry Mantell & Charles Burnett	Talking Stones In Banff
<i>2 March 2005</i>	Ben Kennedy	Local Farm Implement Makers
<i>6 April 2005</i>	Jimmy Wilson	A Working Life In The Mart
<i>4 May 2005</i>	Keith Jones & George Boardman	The Great North Of Scotland Railway
<i>1 June 2005</i>		AGM & Local Walk With Juniors
<i>4 or 5 June 2005</i>		Trip (to be decided)

Make A Difference Day (MADD) 2004 “When We Were Young”

North Aberdeenshire Volunteer Network and the 50+ Volunteer Project recently got together with Aberchirder Day Club to run a reminiscence project. Memories, stories and photographs were collected with the help and support of the Day Club. Invaluable help was also received from Bob Peden of the Local History Group.

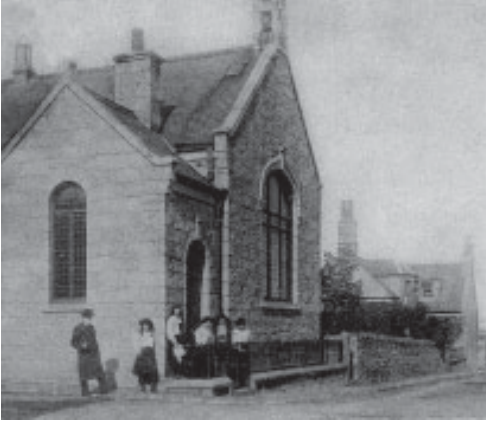


Photo courtesy of Bob Peden

The result of all this work has been the publication of a book of stories, photographs, poems and puzzles entitled “When We Were Young”. The book will be of value to older members of the community but also gives a first hand glimpse into the past for the younger generation.

Throughout the gathering of the reminiscences, we were reminded not only of the hard working lives many

people led but also the fun and enjoyment of being young. There was much laughter and hilarity as some of the stories unfolded and everyone agreed that it was a very worthwhile experience.

“When We Were Young” was launched in October in celebration of Make a Difference Day. Artefacts and memorabilia were on display together with photographs which people had brought in. Children from the local school came along in the morning to join in the fun and learn about the past, while members of the public were invited to a cream tea in the afternoon.

Anyone who would like information on setting up a reminiscence group should contact Mary Cox on 01771 622111 or Kaye Simpson on 01466 793676. Copies of the book are also available from Mary and Kaye as well as Aberchirder Day Club.



Photo courtesy of Bob Peden

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Doors Open Day And On . . .



Banff Preservation & Heritage Society are looking back with pleasure on a successful Banff & Macduff Doors Open Day on 18th September. As usual, we collected names and addresses in visitors' books, and can report that the total number of visitors was almost three times greater than the last Doors Open Day three years ago. From the addresses we can tell that people came from quite a distance around, and some of them spent money. The takings in the tearoom at Duff House that day were £2000.

The Society deliberately did not highlight the opening of 1 High Shore, a beautiful old private house, in case it was swamped with visitors, but word of mouth was enough, and it was very popular.

Many of those who climbed the Macduff

War Memorial for the memorable views were struck by the story of how the tower was built by two old stone-masons, one in his late sixties, the other in his late seventies, to do their bit in memory of the young men lost in the First World War. The Society proposes to put up a plaque with their names and story, so that this is not forgotten.

One of the grandest rooms in Banff is behind the portico in the Old Academy, now part of the Banff Primary School. The room was once a museum and some people remember it as a gym. It is a beautifully proportioned classical cube with light from above and a trabeated ceiling (which means forming an elaborate grid). The Society wishes the Head of the Primary School well in her plans to make something more of this wonderful room.

Anyone interested in joining the Banff Preservation & Heritage Society should contact the Secretary, Dr Alistair Mason 01261 812941.

Friends Of Duff House

The Friends of Duff House are a very active group whose main aim is to support the activities of Duff House. We support the various and extremely differing music events in the House; we have a presence at The Banffshire Show; run trips to stately homes such as Kinnaird Castle which have links with the Duff Family. We have this year been saddened by Aberdeenshire Council's attempts to reduce the opening hours of the House and it is, therefore with great pleasure that we applaud the decision of the Council to leave the opening hours as they have been during the Winter months. With this in mind, an extensive programme of events has been organized for this season.

Every Thursday afternoon, starting on 4th November, there will be a series of lectures given by local people on various topics. Every month there will be a music event varying from classical guitar to our own local Macduff Reel and Strathspey group. All through the Winter, the Tearoom will be open for snacks and other refreshments. Further details are available through the local press or enquiring at Duff House itself, telephone 01261 818181 between 11.00am and 4.00pm Thursday until Sunday.

Come and join us and help keep Duff House a five star attraction in our area.

Photo: Stanley Bruce



Banff, Macduff & District Business Association

With Christmas approaching rapidly the Association decided to hold a window-dressing workshop for local businesses at Macduff Arts Centre. The workshop was run by Carla Angus, a theatre set designer and local artist. It was hoped that the participants would develop sufficient skills and ideas to present their businesses in the best possible light for the busy festive season ahead, retaining custom and attracting visitors to the area. The Association also intends to hold a "best dressed window" competition.

If any business is interested in joining the Association they should contact the Secretary, Mrs Frances McKay, 31 Duff Street, Macduff, Tel. 01261 832491.

focus on. . .

BANFF & BUCHAN

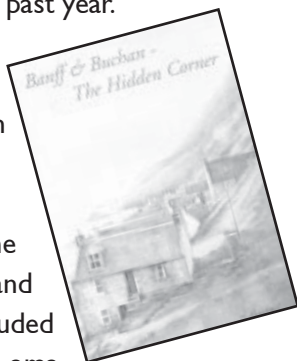
Photo: Stanley Bruce

Banff & Buchan Tourism Forum

Banff and Buchan Tourism Forum AGM was held at Delgatie Castle in October.

The new chair, Karen Crowe, and director to the AGTB board, Duncan Leece, reported on the activities of the Forum over the past year.

Early in 2004, a new “Hidden Corner” folder was produced, incorporating the whole of Banff and Buchan and included a full map of the area and website addresses of the main towns.



Over the year, the Forum has enjoyed informative presentations. “Building Buchan New Beginnings” outlined their plans to promote the long-term sustainability and growth of business along the Buchan coast with projects such as Banff Marina, Peterhead Business Park and Fraserburgh town centre rejuvenation.

George Mackie of Aberdeenshire Council presented on the Nortrail Project which is implementing and promoting sustainable cultural tourism, through regeneration of sign-posted walking trails along the Scottish and European North Sea coastline.

The Forum has involved itself in a number of subjects related to Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board, Visit Scotland and VisitScotland.com. Primary amongst these have been Visit Scotland’s new structure, AGTB’s new role within that structure as a “hub” for local tourism services and the issue of the sustainability of Banff’s Tourist Information Centre.

BANFF & BUCHAN TOURISM FORUM

Designed and printed by Banffshire Partnership, the folder also featured the new Forum logo.

A matter of great concern to Forum members has been VisitScotland.com, which confusingly is run as a separate business to VisitScotland. The booking agency has had many well-publicised problems and we were pleased when Banff and Buchan MSP Stuart Stevenson came along to a recent meeting to hear our concerns. He undertook to take these back to VisitScotland and will report on his progress.

The Forum are delighted at the success of the major local tourism events, The British Pipe Band Contest at The Haughs, Turriff, and Portsoy's Scottish Traditional Boat Festival. The achievement of both the events in attracting folk from far and near to the area and the hard work put in by both committees is to be warmly congratulated. Equally the opening of the new visitor centre at Boyndie, with its coffee shop, gift shop, art gallery and garden centre will most certainly attract many visitors in the coming years. The Forum initiated a survey on visitor



perceptions of Banff and Buchan, the results of which are being collated by Banffshire Partnership. Early indications indicate appear to be favourable, with the friendly folk, beautiful scenery and the variety of quality visitor attractions



being the main plus points. Following on from the survey, the Forum secured a customer care and marketing course with Scottish Enterprise Grampian. Whilst places were limited, we are sure those taking part will enjoy and find them of benefit. It is hoped that more places will be available in the future.

The new coastal trail booklet was discussed at design stage with AGTB and we are pleased the new version has recently become available.

The Forum is very concerned about the winter closure of Duff House in 2005 and letters have been written to Aberdeenshire Council stressing the importance of the house for the future of tourism, not only for Banff but the area as a whole.

Karen also reported on her recent learning trip to Newfoundland organised by Building Buchan. Some twelve years ago the government there banned cod fishing and the visit was made to review the successes and failures by local businesses in their efforts to diversify. Karen will be giving a presentation on this very informative trip at a future forum meeting.

If you are interested in joining the Banff & Buchan Tourism Forum contact Karen Crowe, chair on 01261 843234.

BANFF & MACDUFF

Photo: Stanley Bruce

Carnival Of Youth

The AGM of the Carnival of Youth was held in November. Young people and supportive adults, interested in volunteering their appropriate skills or interests and joining the newly created sub groups, were invited to attend.



In order to encourage new volunteers, who will be able to participate at their own level, it was decided to create a new operating structure for the project. This will mean a number of working groups and less demand on the central committee. Most of the creative and practical developments will happen within the sub groups, with the committee focusing on the “big picture”. The groups are: Arts Development, Marketing & PR, Finance, Music

Development (Gig), and Production/ Logistics.



“We hope that young people will find that volunteering is an excellent way to gain valuable work experience and to develop skills which will help them later in life” said Kay Beaton, Banffshire Partnership. “Skills picked up whilst volunteering are becoming increasingly important to getting on in the workplace. Communication, team working and relationship building skills are used by many employers in making staff selections.”

The theme for the 2005 Carnival of Youth is “World Carnivals”.



Photo: Stanley Bruce

Buzz At Banff Castle

On Saturday 6th November a very successful Open Day was held to showcase the upgraded and redecorated castle facilities and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the National Lottery, which had made a large contribution to the project.



Tea, coffee and a sales table were available, as was a small exhibition of pictures showing how the work was carried out. Tours of the Art Club Rooms and the Talking Newspaper Studio (Talking Banffie and Turra Talk) were also provided.



Additionally, there was a demonstration of artworks in progress, a drawing competition for children, while visitors were entertained with live music from “LocalVocals”, one of the User Groups. The beautiful floral decorations throughout the house were much appreciated.

To make bookings of the Castle facilities, contact Barbara McAndrew on 01261 812061.

(A leaflet is available with rates for rooms.)

Home-Start Deveron

Home-Start Deveron are looking for people or businesses to donate new Christmas gifts to for the children supported by our service.

We support families in this area who may be experiencing difficulties for a range of reasons. The families may have severe financial difficulties, parents could be substance abusers or the victims of domestic violence and so been rehoused with absolutely the bare minimum. These families are supported by trained home visiting volunteers, who offer both emotional and practical support.

Contact Fiona Brown or Shuna Dicks on 01261 819964 for more information.

focus on. . .

BOYNDIE

A Royal Visit For Boyndie Visitor Centre

2004 has been a momentous year for the Old School at Boyndie. Almost seven years of detailed negotiations, careful planning, the raising of the £600,000 needed for the new development work to be carried out, an Herculean effort on the part of the service users, Banff day centre officers and our own staff and volunteers have resulted in a new building, and a new start. The Trust proudly opened its doors to the public for the first time on the 15th May.



Photo: Andy Taylor

Hundreds of people came to see our new facilities, and in warm sunshine joined the day long party atmosphere. Our cafe, shop, garden centre and art gallery did brisk business. Positive feedback and compliments from the public attending our opening day reassured us that we were providing not

only much needed new facilities to train people with special needs, but also facilities for local people and visitors to the area. The Old School, open five days a week, can also be used for meetings and functions of all kinds.

Our first day was a great success. People left having enjoyed their day and talked to others about us and our achievements. We now have many regular visitors and increasing every week, from all over Aberdeenshire and beyond. Our facilities were awarded a four star rating by the Scottish Tourist Board. We are immensely proud of this - an achievement for any new venture, but especially important to a community enterprise, like the Trust.

25th October saw us saying thank you to all those organisations and individuals who helped and supported us through many complicated and often problematic procedures. These have ranged through fund-raising and contractual agreements, building and planning regulations, legal and financial matters and working in

partnership with the local authority. The Trust also thanked various organisations and charities that made funding and donations to us, the special team of highly motivated, dedicated and forward thinking people from Banff Day Services and their management team and our own directors, volunteers and staff for their unstinting hard work and dedication.

Special guests included long time supporter Alex Salmond MP and Aberdeenshire Provost, Raymond Bisset. Following a guided tour, General Manager Duncan Leece, gave a presentation on progress to date and hopes for the future. The project at Boyndie is in many ways ground-breaking. Our working partnership with Social Work is unique: we provide the facilities; they provide the trained staff and the service users. Together we help, support and train those who are disadvantaged in our communities.



Photo: Marie McDiarmid

On the 11th of November the Old School received an official visit from the Princess Royal, causing excitement and feverish activity, to say the least! In the

midst of all this, a team of young people from the Prince's Trust arrived to carry out a landscaping project at the entrance, which they were able to complete on the morning of the royal visit!

After an official welcome and presentations, Her Royal Highness began a tour of the grounds and centre, meeting staff, service users and guests, speaking to everyone involved in the project. The visit lasted almost an hour and a half, in which time she had spoken to one hundred guests, partaken of refreshments, signed our new visitors book and received a gift of a screen printed silk scarf, made specially for her by Ian Smith, who is a service user with Aabidee Prints at Boyndie.

So, what makes the Old School special? It's not the building itself, but the people that go there; those who learn new skills and those who enable them to do so. This has been made possible by many kinds of support: from the public; from volunteer directors, office bearers, and members of the Trust without whose dedication, specialist knowledge and skill, the Old School would have fallen into disuse.

We are confident about the future. With our sights firmly set, building on our achievements, we are moving forward together.



*Stephen Baker
Chairman, Boyndie Trust*

focus on...

FORDYCE

Photo: George Clark

Fordyce Joiners Workshop



MUSEUM & GARDEN • THE HARPMAKER'S WORKSHOP

FORDYCE COMMUNITY OPEN-ACCESS WORKSHOP

Young or Old, Visitor or Local, Novice or Expert, Casual or Serious

Low-Cost Internet Access

WINTER WORKSHOP HOURS 2004 - 2005

	10.00am - 12 noon	1.00pm - 6.00pm	6.00pm - 7.30pm
MONDAY	School Groups or Special Needs <i>Pre-booked only</i>	Drop-in Woodwork <i>All Ages - Under 10's must be accompanied</i>	Block Printing & Letterpress Group <i>15 years old minimum</i>
TUESDAY	Closed	Closed	Closed
WEDNESDAY	Closed	Closed	Closed
THURSDAY	Closed	Closed	Wood Sculpture Group <i>15 years old minimum</i>
FRIDAY	School Groups or Special Needs <i>Pre-booked only</i>	Drop-in Woodwork <i>All Ages - Under 10's must be accompanied</i>	Closed
SATURDAY	Closed	Drop-in Woodwork <i>All Ages - Under 10's must be accompanied</i>	Closed
SUNDAY	Closed	Drop-in Woodwork <i>All Ages - Under 10's must be accompanied</i> & Pottery or Stone-Carving	Closed

Also: Workshop facilities are available most days for people to work on their own projects, using their own or the Workshop's tools, with or without our help and advice. Space is limited, so please book in advance.

West Church Street, Fordyce, nr Banff (off the A98 between Cullen & Portsoy)

Telephone 01261 843322 for information and booking.

Gamrie Business Forum

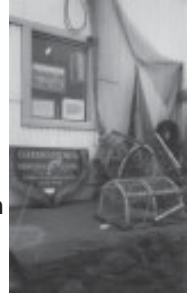
Our first 18 months have been eventful, and a steep learning curve! Initial discussions in 2003 brought forth a wide range of issues that Forum members thought we should pursue. These included taking care of the village: floral displays; beach clean-ups and litter removal; tackling unused/derelict properties and the vandalism they attract and seeking a tourism award for the quality of our beach and water purity. Developmental projects included: new signage and interpretation panels for visitors; a heritage centre; more parking spaces and marketing of the village through a website.



So, what have we completed? First of all we should acknowledge the fact we established ourselves, with 22 members (and growing), a constitution, bank account and public identity. And what did

we achieve?

- Two beach clean-ups
- Two Heritage exhibition displays - Strawberry Fair & Flower Show '03
- New Walks Leaflet including details of local businesses (Print run of 2000)
- Inclusion of Gardenstown, for the first time, on Council map for tourists
- New parking sign and another sign repaired by Council
- Flowers for businesses and Harbour (supplied by Council)
- Graffiti removed from old cafe and harbour toilets
- Grant obtained from Aberdeenshire Council to pay for survey of properties as potential site for Heritage Centre
- On-going membership and attendance of Banff & Buchan Tourism Forum
- Additional dog fouling signs and new bin - renewal of existing signs and bins



We look forward to 2005 and the benefits we can bring to the residents and businesses of the Gardenstown area.

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

focus on. . .

PORTSOY

Photo: Roger Goodyear

Make Your Christmas A Thrifty One!

If you make your way to the Square in Portsoy, you'll see that the Portsoy Thrift Shop has Christmas in mind.

There's a host of potential gifts on display, plus the usual wide range of clothes, books, ornaments and goodness knows what that always makes a visit to the Thrift Shop so worthwhile. The most recent donations to the community and district include: Portsoy Pavilion, Day Centre, Out of School Club, Christmas

Lights and New Year Fireworks, the total contributions made by the Thrift Shop now come to just under £30,000. So it really is a case of come to Portsoy for a Thrifty Christmas and make a real contribution to the well being of the community and district.

Open: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays: 10.00am-12.00pm: 2.00pm-4.00pm. Thanks, yet again, for all the wonderful support given to the Portsoy Thrift Shop.

Portsoy's Pride In A Royal Day

It was with great pride that Ronnie Runcie, Chairman, Portsoy & District Community Association invited the Princess Royal to unveil a plaque to commemorate the opening of Portsoy's new Pavilion.

The Royal visit was the culmination of a four-year project, driven by the Community Association, in which a remarkable £80k was raised from within the community, the contribution required towards a total cost of £271k. And it really has been a true community effort with funds donated by organisations including the 75 Club and

Thrift Shop amongst many others and from just about every individual in the town and surrounding area by way of discos, dances and private donations.

With its fully equipped fitness rooms, all weather court, male and female changing facilities, referee's room, kitchen, store and parking, the Pavilion represents a magnificent asset which it is hoped will be used to the full by Portsoy's folk, young and old.

To find out booking details, contact Dawn Gauld on 01261 843555 or 843343.

Portsoy's Scottish Traditional Boat Festival: Planning For The Twelfth Year

Research carried out showed that the majority of the 13,000 visitors to the 2004 Festival reckoned it was the best ever and those record breaking numbers (30% up on the previous year) certainly had lots to do and see. Over 80 craft, ranging from the magnificent Reaper to the steam boat Talisker and the biggest ever collection of traditional wooden boats; a non stop programme of music theatre and dance; the biggest ever collection of craft demonstrators; more companies than ever at the Food Fayre; a great programme of Scottish Country dancing; the new Friday night concert; the biggest field of entrants in the Road and Fun runs; a great air sea rescue demonstration and a fly past by an RAF Nimrod. Quite a weekend!

So how do we top all that? Well, 2005 is the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar and Portsoy is already registered with the national promotions celebrating the year, SeaBritain and SeaScotland 2005.

With remarkable local historical connections including the fact that one of Nelson's ships of the line Trafalgar was commanded by George Duff from Banff, the bicentenary will provide many colourful opportunities including street theatre and music. A major programme of sailing and boat and coracle building



for young people is being developed to take place in the week preceding the Festival. Working with the Banffshire Partnership to obtain funding, proposals have been developed for a six month programme of music tuition in local schools which will culminate in a concert at the Festival. In fact the committee is exploring ever more ways of moving from "come and see" to "come and do" at the Festival and in so doing to discover and experience the rich maritime and cultural heritage of the region.

The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival plans to become the major family appeal event in the north east and to play an ever stronger part in developing awareness of the region's culture, natural beauty and warmth of welcome, and in so doing, to have a fun packed weekend for everyone.

***The dates? June 24th to the 26th:
mark it in your diaries now!***

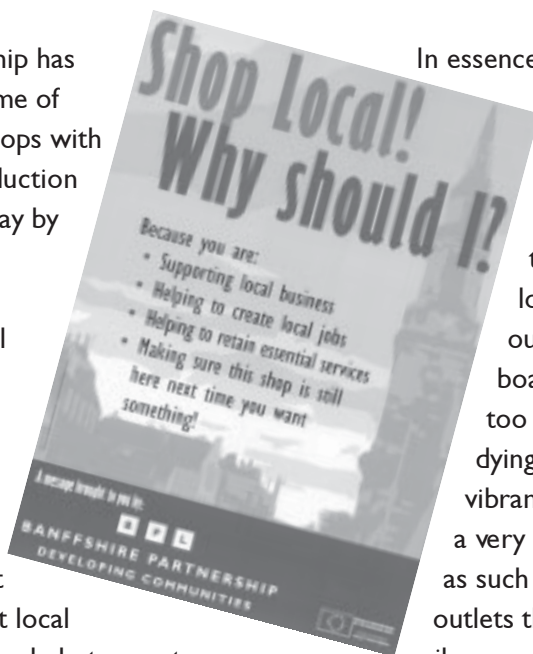
focus on. . .

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

Shop Local! Why Should I?

Banffshire Partnership has initiated a programme of support for local shops with the design and production of a poster for display by local retailers.

Recognising the vital contribution to the local economy of successful retailers, the poster points out that by shopping locally, not only do you support local business, but you also help to create local jobs. And those local jobs can involve training in skills for the young including butchers, bakers, mechanics and many others. Supporting local retailers also means that there is a far better chance of essential services continuing to be available locally.



In essence, the health of local towns and villages is dependent on the strength of their retailers and that includes the local and national outlets. Empty, boarded up shops all too often reflect empty, dying communities: vibrant town centres paint a very different picture and as such the shops and outlets that create that vibrancy are essential. Make sure that your community stays alive by using the shops that you have: lose them and you may lose much more than just the shops: you may well be taking the heart out of your community.

Copies of the poster are available from Kay Beaton on 01261 813754.



focus on. . .

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

Planning For Real[®] - Banff & Macduff

This process was triggered at the request of the Banff Macduff Strategy Group. Many people came forward to assist. The 'Board2 Xtremes' group, shops and newsagents helped distribute publicity and the 'Banffshire Journal' and 'P&J' played their part.

Banff and Macduff are considered as one for the purposes of many initiatives. It was thought sensible, therefore, to run a '2 in 1' process, in which the towns could be considered both separately and together.

Some members of local groups underwent Planning for Real[®] training and helped support the different public sessions. We hope that Pfr techniques and models will be used in local consultations in the future.

The model was composed of 69 tiles measuring 500mm² each. When walkways were added so that participants could reach all parts of the model, we needed a minimum of 30m² in which to set up!

The models were exhibited at six public venues over June and July 2004, including the Carnival of Youth, Macduff Primary School, Banff Parish Church, Banffshire Maritime Heritage Exhibition, the Banffshire Show and for two sessions at Banff Academy.

The model was well attended, with the marquee sessions in Duff House grounds being the most popular, constructive, with a good spread of attendees from different age groups, and residential locations within the two towns. Many attendees commented on how interesting the models were, and they did appear to lead people to stop and think.

739 participants recorded their presence over the six-week period (we think this is around 10% under actual attendance) and put 1600 comments on and around the models.

There were many benefits. More people were involved than previous consultations:

focus on. . .

DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

many people were giving their views for the first time and more young people were involved. A wider spectrum of issues was raised than ever before. The comments were 'not cause dominated', mainly day to day concerns being voiced. Most people seemed fairly happy with life in Banff and Macduff, and were interested in looking at the maps and considering general issues around change, rather than complaining.

Further discussion and prioritisation of the issues raised is an essential part of the 'Planning for Real®' process.

The next step is to get agency partners involved and agree some priorities and actions.

In order to do this a series of themed meetings are being held at the time of going to press. We are grateful to all individuals and organisations who have helped out so far.

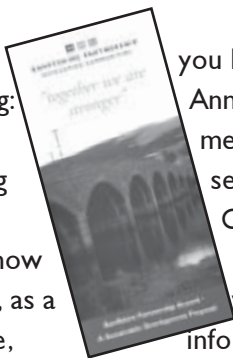
A full report on priorities and actions arising from the Process will be published early in 2005.

Alison Simpson,
Bob Peden,
Kay Beaton

It's Time To Update Our Records!

In order to provide a range of services for local groups including: Community Development, Transport, Disclosures, Marketing Support, Fundraising and Project Development Advice, we must show our funders that the Partnership, as a Membership Organisation, is alive, kicking and worth supporting!

Individuals or organisations can be members. Full membership means that



you have one vote at General and Annual General Meetings. Associate members can benefit from our services (including use of Community Transport), but do not have voting rights. All members will receive updates, regular information, and the chance to publicise their activities in our Newsletter.

For a copy of the Membership Form contact Kay Beaton on 01261 813754.

focus on...

RURAL TRANSPORT HUB

New Dial-A-Bus Service

Since our last issue, we have now added to our Dial-A-Bus runs with a new service being provided to cover the areas of King Edward, New Byth and Crudie. Local girl Caroline Shearer is the passenger escort and the destination for this run can be Turriff or Banff. If you would like to travel on this bus, or would like more information, then give us a call on 01261 843598 for more details.



Banffshire Partnership's Minibus Driver Frank Mooney and Volunteer Passenger Assistant Caroline Shearer.

BPL Minibus Driver Reaches Finals



We are delighted to congratulate our very own Minibus Driver, Frank Mooney, on reaching the finals of the national Minibus Driver of

the Year competition organised by the Community Transport Association.

Frank was the only driver from the six finalists to come from Scotland.

The final consisted of a written test and



a computerised "safe driving" awareness assessment, as well as being assessed on driving a minibus round a course in central Manchester.

focus on...

RURAL TRANSPORT HUB

Portsoy Scouts Community Use Minibus

Banffshire Partnership manages the use of the Portsoy & Fordyce Scouts minibus that it is available for use by registered community groups. This is a 16-seater fully-accessible minibus fitted with a side-step and tail-lift to assist disabled access.



If you represent a community group, you can hire the Minibus for 52p per mile - all inclusive.

Telephone 01261 843598 to register your group and appointed drivers, and get further information on driver training. (See MIDAS on page 28)

If you do not have your own driver, we may be able to provide one. We may have to charge for this - but do try to keep costs as reasonable as possible.

Community Car Scheme

We are now operating a new community car scheme, which, like the bus service, has been set up to meet the needs of people who cannot access public transport. Passengers must register with us first and then need to contact us each time they wish to travel.

We are extremely keen to recruit more drivers to take part in this rewarding

scheme and would like to hear from anyone who is interested in helping.

Volunteers would drive their own cars and be reimbursed at an agreed mileage rate for each trip to cover running costs, including insurance.

If you are interested in volunteering as a driver please telephone us on 01261 843598.

Dial-A-Bus

Our Dial-A-Bus schedule is reproduced below. Runs are generally to Banff, but can be to other destinations by prior agreement:

<i>Monday</i>	Aberchirder	(fortnightly - mornings)
	Portsoy/Whitehills	(fortnightly - mornings)
<i>Tuesday</i>	Cornhill	(fortnightly - mornings)
	Macduff	(fortnightly - mornings)
	Whitehills	(fortnightly - mornings)
	Portsoy/Whitehills/Macduff	(weekly - afternoons)
<i>Wednesday</i>	Gardenstown	(fortnightly - mornings)
	King Edward/Crudie/New Byth	(fortnightly - mornings)
<i>Thursday</i>	Portsoy/Whitehills	(weekly - mornings)
	Macduff	(fortnightly - mornings)

All passengers must register with us before travelling to ensure eligibility.

We charge the standard bus fare but do accept Aberdeenshire Council Concession Cards and Taxi Cards.

Our Valued Volunteers

All passenger assistants and most drivers - whether for the Dial-A-Bus or community groups - are volunteers, whose contribution is greatly valued by all who benefit. If you would like to join them, it's necessary to register with us and take up appropriate training. We are also very much in need of administrative support, for which some training is also available. If you think you can help please contact us:

John Davis & Clare Mather, Community Transport Workers
Banffshire Partnership Rural Transport Hub
The Mill Office, Burnside Street, Portsoy, Banff. AB45 2QN
T & F: 01261 843598 ■ E: bpl.transport@tiscali.co.uk

focus on. . .

RURAL TRANSPORT HUB

Training



We can provide a range of training courses, many of which are transport related. Other subjects provided include Data Protection and First Aid.

TRANSPORT RELATED TRAINING **MIDAS** (*Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme*)



Banffshire Partnership is a member of the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme and all drivers have to pass an assessment with our trainer before they can drive the minibus.

PATS (*Passenger Assistant Training Scheme*)

On our Dial-A-Bus runs, and other appropriate journeys, we provide a passenger assistant to help those passengers who are less able to get on

or off the bus who need help when they get to their destination, or maybe just with carrying heavy shopping. As with drivers, we provide full training.

Minibus Emergency Evacuation Procedures

This is another Community Transport Association course which we are able to provide.

Community Car Scheme

We provide training for all volunteers who wish to drive for us under this scheme.

Training Costs

For local residents, there is currently no charge for any training connected with the Transport Hub. This is made possible by support from our funders. We must however, charge for persons resident outwith the Banffshire Partnership area and for any persons attending training on behalf of a commercial enterprise.

If you are interested in training call us on 01261 843598.

rural transport hub



“keeping the community moving”

community use minibus

dial-a-bus

community car scheme

drivers & passenger assistants

disclosures

transport information

training

... for your transport needs



PROJECT PART-FINANCED
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Europe and Scotland
Making it work together

B P L

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP
RURAL TRANSPORT HUB

The Mill Office

Burnside Street

Portsoy

Banff

AB45 2QN

T & F: 01261 843598

E: bpl.transport@tiscali.co.uk

FREE ENTRY



THE OLD SCHOOL, BOYNDIE VISITOR CENTRE & COFFEE SHOP



Coffee Shop



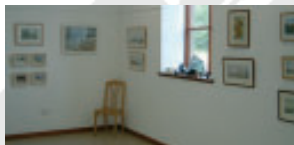
Gardens



Gift Shop



Plants



Gallery



~OPEN ALL YEAR~

Wednesday to Sunday - 10.00am to 4.00pm

Three miles from Banff on the A98 Banff - Portsoy road

THE OLD SCHOOL • BOYNDIE • BY BANFF • AB45 2JT

TEL: 01261 843249

E-mail: boyndietrust@hotmail.com



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