

Progress At Boyndie!



At the risk of tempting fate, and having to eat my words sometime in the near future, I can report that our project to turn the old Boyndie School into a splendid new Visitor Centre and Work Training Facility, remains right on track.

Local building contractor, Ken Barbour, has so far kept both to timescale and budget. We expect to have entry to the new building in March and are making provisional plans for a grand gala public opening over the May Day bank holiday weekend. Keep your diary clear!

Throughout the last couple of years we had amassed an impressive selection of funding pledges from a wide variety of sources. These, added to our own locally raised cash, were needed to cover the half-a-million pound cost of the building work. The logistics of calling in and administering all this cash, and keeping to our cashflow forecasts, is a major task in itself. Once again, however, so far so good.

The single largest grant is from the European Regional Development Fund, Objective 2. Dunfermline-based East of Scotland European Partnership, who manage this funding, have been particularly helpful in steering us through the complex paperwork. Building a good working relationship with ESEP is, in my view, a must for a project such as ours.

Lots and lots of people are involved with Boyndie, in a variety of ways. Their level of excitement and willingness to help is catching. The building is looking great, Trust members are in good spirits and we are all looking forward to getting the building up and running.

If you want to know more about our plans, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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If you have a business idea compatible with our facilities, let us know. We are very open to mutually beneficial partnerships.

If you would like to help run the gardens, shop, cafe, workshops or any other aspect of The Trust, let us know. We can offer you a busy exciting and friendly environment . . . plus plenty of work.



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BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Making it work together

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This issue of Partnership Update has again needed 16 pages to fit in all the material received from our contributors – and even then, it has been a tight squeeze! Many thanks to all our contributors.

Last November the Partnership received the prestigious **Green Butterfly Award** from **Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum** in recognition of our “green office” policies and intention to set up a “green co-op” facility (see below). We hope this recognition will encourage everyone in the **Banffshire Partnership** area to apply green thinking to all their activities.

You will notice that our questionnaire has been repeated from the last issue. This is because the deadline for return was impossible for most readers to meet, due to the very late deliveries made to many districts by **Royal Mail** – who have not been asked to quote this time round! We would really appreciate a big return of questionnaires to help us with our **Social Audit** exercise – and it won't cost you a penny as it's **Freepost**.

Green Co-op Mooted

The basic idea is that the Partnership will bulk buy recycled stationery products, which it will use itself and sell on to member groups.



This will benefit not only our environment but also the groups concerned by saving them money!

Before the scheme can be finalised, the Partnership will gauge demand, which in turn will determine how large-scale purchases can be. The more that is bought at one time, the cheaper each item can become for everyone, whereas at present small groups tend to have to pay higher prices for the smaller amounts that they need.

We are currently researching prices, and would like to hear from groups large and small which would be interested in joining the scheme.

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

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Scottish Executive.

Planning For Real[®] Coming To Banff And Macduff

The Partnership has been granted £5000 by Aberdeenshire Council towards the cost of carrying out a Planning for Real[®] exercise for Banff and Macduff. The decision by Banff and Buchan councillors to approve the payment has ensured the initiative will go ahead.

The project centred on Banff and Macduff will be far more ambitious than the successful Planning for Real[®] exercise on development proposals for Portsoy Salmon House Trust which started last year.

Planning for Real[®] involves the construction of a 3D map of the settlement. The Partnership will be looking for members of the public to help make the model and suggestion cards which residents use for comments and ideas. We believe Planning for Real[®] is a better method of consulting the public than through open meetings where only a small number of people, often with axes to grind, tend to give their views. Two staff members are already trained for delivering Planning for Real[®] and we are looking to recruit others to be trained in the methods.

Development coordinator Alison Simpson explains: "People may have ideas on a wide range of issues, including physical planning, transport and other services, health or even smaller issues like unkempt areas or dog fouling. One of the good things is that with smaller issues you can get the information to relevant people quickly and something can be done."

The Partnership hopes to get the Banff and Macduff exercise under way shortly and it will last as long as interest is generated. After the consultation the Partnership will produce a report to help the Council and other agencies to organise future services in line with public demand.

If you would like to take part in Planning for Real[®] training and are a resident in Banff or Macduff please contact Banffshire Partnership on 01261 813754 or E-mail: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk



Communication The Key To Community Planning

During December and January Grampian Police organised a series of events to bring together people from different agencies and interest groups to spread knowledge of, and to discuss, Community Planning.

The event for the Banff & Buchan Area, held at the Banff Springs Hotel, attracted the largest attendance of the six. Among the presentations was one by the Partnership, pointing out the experience and expertise we can offer in terms of contacts and techniques which could help to improve the quality of consultation of communities. A workshop session discussed the public order problems of the imaginary community of Auchterturra, as a way of thinking about the practicalities of partnership working in action.

In his report on all six events in Aberdeenshire, Inspector Adrian Berkeley, Grampian Police Community Planning Co-ordinator outlined the main findings to emerge. A key issue which must be tackled if Community Planning partners are to work effectively together is undoubtedly communication within and between the organisations.

To achieve good communication,

- organisations need to have clearly identified individuals who are accountable for specific subjects, specific geographical areas or both
- everyone within and outwith the organisation should know who these people, and what their responsibilities, are
- organisations need to adapt their internal working practices so that partners can become and
- organisations need to consider partners and the Community Plan at an early stage in planning their future aims and objectives.

Above all, it became clear, that the single key issue is to have people talking to each other in local communities. If the agencies, voluntary services, business community and communities themselves know who to contact to get constructive and coordinated action to address the issues, this will improve the well being of the individuals, and the communities they live in. Undoubtedly, more could be made of sharing premises which are accessible to communities.

Whale Of A Task



Whale and dolphin first aiders from the Cetacean Research & Rescue Unit (CRRU), set up in Gardenstown in 1997, are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to assist sick, injured or stranded marine animals in trouble. Over 60% of the animals that become stranded around Britain's coastlines each year do so in Britain's northern waters.

Dr Kevin Robinson, director of the CRRU explains: "Rescuing whales and dolphins is no easy task. The animals often strand in extreme conditions and difficult to reach places where speed of response and accessibility are perhaps the most crucial factors in providing a beached animal with the best chance of survival."

When Coral, a young minke whale, became stranded in a loch on the Isle of Skye last November, it took the team 30 hours to return her to the open sea. Dr Robinson recalls: "I have never been so cold and exhausted in all my life, but the feeling of elation on returning the young whale to her mother was just overwhelming – a very moving experience indeed".



Coral the young minke whale being lifted in the rescue pontoons.

The Unit was recently called to the aid of a 1.5 tonne leatherback turtle trapped in the Firth of Forth, and the volunteer team assist numerous seal pups throughout the year in addition to an increasing number of call outs to whale and dolphin casualties.

In an attempt to increase the number of available volunteers, the CRRU ran over a dozen Marine Mammal Medic Courses in 2003 in collaboration with British Divers Marine Life Rescue. Volunteers learned identification; first aid and assessment procedures; care and transportation of casualties; and how to re-float a life-sized model whale using a specialist air-filled rescue pontoon. If you think a model is a poor substitute for the real thing, think again. Not only does the model whale look so real that people often rush up to help during training exercises, but it also weighs two and a half tonnes!

Rescue work is just one area of the team's commendable range of activities. Research assistant and senior rescue coordinator Nick Duthie,

Training exercise with Moby the 2.5 tonne pilot whale now safely on the pontoons. Howie Watkins from the Really Wild Show (front left) in protective visor guards the blow hole.



explained: "You could say the Unit's rescue work began as a sort of occupational hazard. The research team spends the summer months studying the bottlenose dolphins and minke whales that live along the southern coastline of the outer Moray Firth – gathering data that will be used in conservation policies for their protection. As more folk became aware of the team's work, in came the calls from the public reporting sightings and subsequently strandings. Three years later and we now coordinate the national rescue effort in Scotland!"

Dr. Robinson comments "Whilst we all seem to be captivated by the nature of whales and dolphins and hold them in the highest esteem, we must also recognise the harm we are causing these animals and their environment. Over fishing, bycatch, pollution of the marine ecosystem and even whale watching all present a huge problem which continues to threaten the very existence of these ambassadors of the sea. Today, scientists no longer have the luxury of studying these sea mammals just to learn more about them. Now we must learn more about them, simply to protect them".



The team re-floating one of six Atlantic white-sided dolphins that mass stranded in Brora in October 2001

The average rescue operation costs in the region of £250-500, but with no Government support for this life-saving area of its work, the Unit relies heavily on public donations and the support of other animal welfare bodies. Donations can be sent to: CRRU Rescue Fund, P.O. Box 11307, Banff, AB45 3WB, SCOTLAND (cheques payable to the CRRU please).

Crudie Community Garden Project



After a dry but fairly successful first summer, the project still has unfinished plans.

Local volunteers last year made substantial progress. Several elements have already been completed e.g. weed control, path construction, fencing and gates, and willow hedging.

Ongoing aspects of the project include further fencing, maintenance, weeding, native grass seeding and a seating area.

If you would like to be involved, please contact Caroline Shearer on 01888 551398

Portsoy Salmon House Trust Open Meeting

At a recent meeting of the Salmon House Trust in Portsoy, it was decided to progress the development of the Salmon House by holding an open meeting. This will take place in the Church Hall, Seafield Street, Portsoy at 7.00pm on Thursday 25th March 2004.

The purpose of the meeting is to form three working groups to take the Salmon House development forward. These groups will be: Business Planning, Capital Fund Raising and Local Fund Raising.

Anyone interested in helping with these groups will be most welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

For further information please contact: Russell Shearer (*Chairman of the Trustees*) 01261 843964 or Sinclair Broomfield (*Co-opted member*) 01261 843771

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

3rd & 4th July 2004



The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival is now less than four months away and matters are developing swiftly.

The Magnificent boats Reaper and White Wing from the Scottish Fisheries Museum are attending and, hopefully, will be joined by Isabella Fortuna from Wick. These three craft make a splendid spectacle themselves, and will be joined by a host of traditional and more modern craft.

This year, interest from sailors is strong - the number of craft attending has already overtaken last year's total (with several months to go!) Watch out especially for the first attendance of steam powered vessels!

And if you've ever wondered how large the biggest animal on earth is, the Whale & Dolphin Conservation Society is joining the Festival by bringing along its life-size inflatable Big Blue Whale. This is your chance to find just how small you are, compared to this 100 foot giant!

Following the success of last year's 'Hunt the Haggis' drama, Portsoy Primary School is working on a play to be performed at the harbourside. This year's offering features Macdonald Brothers foundry...these Portsoy engineers developed the Macdonald Steam Capstan (there's one on the Reaper!) and the Macdonald Line Hauler. It promises to be another great performance.

The Banffshire Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year) is organising activities at the Wally Green over the whole weekend - including a variety of demonstrations and taster sessions of ceilidh, old time, traditional wedding and other dances.

New for 2004 is the Friday night showcase concert, celebrating the lives, loves and labours of fishers, farmers and toon fook. The essentially traditional programme acknowledges too, that traditions move on. Performers will include 'Gaye and Trish', 'The Cast' (Mairi Campbell & Dave Francis), 'Jock Tamson's Bairns', 'Fine Friday', Jock Duncan and Freda Morrison.

Make a note in your diaries now for this "not to be missed" evening... and a great weekend overall!

Contact: Roger Goodyear on 01261 842894

Make A Cup Of Tea - Make A Difference

Make a Difference Day is an annual celebration of volunteering and for 2003, NAVN decided on a series of tea parties across North Aberdeenshire. Groups were encouraged to invite another group with whom they did not usually have contact, for a cup of tea and a blether. In Banff, The Arches chose to invite people from Banff Day Services to a splendid tea at Barclays Hotel. Both groups enjoyed. The Arches members were particularly pleased to be able to provide a treat for a group with disabilities.

To our surprise, NAVN has been short-listed for the 'Most Inclusive Activity' Award at this year's CSV Make a Difference Day Awards. So early in March, I shall be travelling to London for the Awards Ceremony, with one of the volunteers who 'made a difference'.

I would like to extend a big 'Thank You' to all who took part in the event and I hope that contacts forged over a 'fly cup' continue to flourish.

If you are interested in finding out about volunteering opportunities near you, please contact:
Mary Cox, Network Co-ordinator on 01771 622111



Deveron Care Services, formerly Deveron Respite, has achieved the coveted Investors in People Award. Dr Ian Hayward, Director of Learning at Scottish Enterprise Grampian will present Deveron Care Services with the plaque at a celebration ceremony to be held on Friday, 12 March 2004. Representatives from Aberdeenshire Council, Grampian Health Board, the legal profession and the many local organizations and individuals that support Deveron Care Services will attend the buffet lunch along with the Board of Directors, staff and carers.

This Award recognized that Deveron Care Services works as a team, well supported by its Board of Directors under the management of Marion Cruickshank. Deveron Care Services ensures that its staff receive appropriate training, supervision and support resulting in the high standards of care that are practiced by dedicated teams of carers.

Since moving into their new premises in July 2002 Deveron Care Services has greatly expanded its services to the local community enabling more people to remain in their own homes. Deveron Care Services also runs a Carer Support Service, co-ordinated by Brenda Ledger. This service supports those people who look after relatives/friends/ neighbours. Often, carers can feel isolated and the Carer Support Service brings people together where they can enjoy a variety of leisure activities such as the weekly gym sessions – which really gets rid of stress! – as well as attending training courses and special events. A fund raising ceilidh has been planned for 20 March as Brenda is always on the 'look out' for more funding to extend services to the informal carers in our local community.

Deveron Care Services also runs two Network Groups, Banff and Turriff. These groups were set up to create more social opportunities and to access educational facilities for young people with a physical disability and they are proving popular and successful.

Whilst Deveron Care Services are patting themselves on the back for this tremendous achievement it is aware that it is the commitment, dedication, hard work, often beyond the call of duty, of their carers that gives Deveron Care Services its well deserved reputation.

This Organisation is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in Scotland No. 04758.

**FUNDRAISING
CEILIDH/STOVIE SUPPER**

*Dancing to Hallyrocket
Raffle Prizes*

at
Fife Lodge Hotel, Banff

on
Saturday 20th March 2004

from
7.30pm to Midnight

Tickets £7.50
available from
St Catherines, 1 St Catherines Street, Banff.
Tel: 01261 818333

All proceeds to Deveron Carers Support Service

Building Skills For Community Transport!



Free training is available to all volunteers working on Community Transport in the Banffshire Partnership area

The Partnership offers community transport training both for drivers and for passenger assistants:

MIDAS - Banffshire Partnership is a signed up member of the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MIDAS) and all drivers have to pass an assessment with our trainer before they can drive the Portsoy and Fordyce Scouts minibus. The training involves a day in the classroom dealing with minibus awareness, relevant legislation such as speed limits, disability handling etc. and a short driving assessment.

For local residents, there is no charge to them (we pay for you!) but we do charge a fee (presently £45) for persons resident outwith the Banffshire Partnership area. (Don't know if you live in the BPL area? Check the map on the back of this Newsletter)

PATS - As well as drivers, we are also looking for people to volunteer as passenger assistants. Their job is to make sure the driver knows who to pick up and look out for any passengers who may need a helping hand throughout the journey. PATS – the Passenger Assistants (Training Scheme) – provides basic training for volunteers.

For more information on training, please call John or Clare on 01261 843598.



Penumbra Supported Living Service, Macduff

Penumbra is a voluntary organisation based in Scotland dedicated to providing a range of services to help meet the needs of those people who are living in the community but, because of mental health difficulties, would find it hard to sustain a good quality of life without support.

Penumbra's function is to work alongside individuals to identify what, when and why difficulties are experienced and to offer practical support to help overcome those difficulties.

The role of the workers within the organisation is to create safe, welcoming settings where individuals feel valued, can express a positive sense of identity and can become more confident in relating to the community.

Enabling people to manage the practicalities of maintaining a tenancy along with accepting and supporting the social needs of people to provide two other potential areas for assistance.

Penumbra's Macduff tenancies are located in a block of six individual flats, upgraded and made available by the local council for supported living.

One flat is designated for staff administration purposes, but also provides a communal resource for people living in other flats. There are seven full-time

members of staff. Support is 24hr and there is always at least one worker in the building at all times.

The service includes some commitment to outreach work with plans to expand this endeavour in the near future.

People staying in the flats are encouraged to take part in local community amenities as often as possible and recreational activities are always a popular choice. In the Grampian region Penumbra has supported living services located in Macduff and Peterhead with other facilities sited in the Aberdeen area.

As a registered charity Penumbra relies on donations to help fund current services and operates a programme of fundraising activities to ensure that sufficient funds are raised each year.

For information about fundraising activities and Penumbra services contact:



Grampian Services, 17 Palmerston Road, Aberdeen, AB11 5QP. Tel & Fax: 01224 596562

Headquarters: Norton Park, 57 Albion Road, Edinburgh, EH7 5QY. Tel: 0131 475 2380 Fax: 0131 475 2391

Nominations Sought For Sports Awards



Aberdeenshire Sports Council will be hosting its 2004 Sports Awards Evening on Friday 14 May at Thainstone House Hotel, Inverurie.

'The evening is a way of rewarding and acknowledging Aberdeenshire sports people for their commitment to and/or achievement in sport over the past year (or in the case of the Service to Sport category over many years)' explained Mike Seed, administrator.



2003 Aberdeenshire Sports Council Award Winners

'Our previous events have proved extremely popular and very successful. To make the event a success, we need enough nominations to give us a strong list of contenders for the awards, in each of twelve categories.' These are detailed in the nomination forms and cover individuals and groups, including awards for longterm voluntary administrative and/or

coaching contributions to local sport, and for outstanding achievement.

Nominations can be made by individuals, members of clubs, schools etc, for as many categories as they feel appropriate. All those nominated will receive a certificate and all those shortlisted will be offered free tickets for the evening. Winners in each category will receive attractive trophies.

'We are also looking to local businesses to sponsor an award category, or other aspect of the event or to donate a raffle prize and would be delighted to hear from anybody who feels able to support the event in this way' added Mike.

Nomination forms are available from Mike Seed, Administrator, Aberdeenshire Sports Council, 1 Church Street, Macduff AB44 1UR (Tel 01261 813383) and from local Swimming Pools, Sports Centres, Community Education Centres and Libraries, They can also be downloaded from the Aberdeenshire Sports Council web site: www.Aberdeenshire-Sports-Council.org.uk. Completed forms should be returned as soon as possible and no later than Friday 26th March 2004.

International Football Dates Set For Banff



Despite fierce competition Princess Royal Sports & Community Trust and Deveronvale have managed to secure two Football Internationals from the Semi-Pro Home International Tournament. Tuesday 18th May sees England take on Ireland at Princess Royal Park, with a 7.30pm kick-off and the pick of the bunch, Scotland v England on Sunday 23rd May with a 3.00pm kick-off. Princess Royal has hosted four previous Internationals with the Scottish Schoolboys having won all four against Wales, France, New Zealand and France.

Contact: Alan Still on 01261 818303

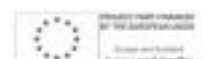
Car Sharing - Could You Benefit?

How many cars travel regularly to and from work with only the driver on board?

In the interests of the ozone layer, as well as helping you reduce the significant costs of running a car, Banffshire Partnership would like to initiate a car-sharing scheme.

We would put people who make similar journeys - for work, training etc - in touch with each other. They would then either share travelling with another driver or provide transport to someone who needs it, with journey costs being split on an informal basis. The Partnership would be there to provide free advice and support.

If you would like more information, or wish to register for any part of the scheme call John or Clare on 01261 843598.



Portsoy And Fordyce Scouts Minibus

Banffshire Partnership manages the use of the Portsoy and Fordyce Scouts minibus so that it is available for use by community groups from within the Partnership area.



Clare Mather with Representatives from Portsoy Thrift Shop and Portsoy 75 Club who sponsored the purchase and fitting of the side-step to provide easier access to the bus.

Hire The Bus

If you are a community group, you can hire the bus for just 52p per mile – all inclusive.

Drive The Bus

We have a constantly increasing number of community groups, with their own trained drivers, making use of the bus – and enjoying every minute of it! But there are other groups who would like to use the bus but as yet have no-one to drive it.

If you would like to offer to drive for such groups – whether you are member of a group or not – why not let us train you? (See page 7)

New Dial-A-Bus Runs!

You may well have seen our advertisement in the local press to recruit a minibus driver. We will be employing someone for three days a week to cover new dial-a-bus runs with the Scouts bus, which will enable people to get to training courses, self-help groups, child care etc.

As an example of this kind of service, we were asked recently if we could help with getting people from the outlying communities to a weekly course at Banff Castle, and now they are carried door-to-door in all weathers. Please contact us to see if we can provide transport to meet your, or your group's, needs.

For more information on hiring or driving the Scouts minibus, phone Clare or John on 01261 843598.

Portsoy Out Of School Club



The club was started up in March 2003, partly funded by the New Opportunities Fund for start-up costs. Management is the responsibility of a volunteer board. New members are always welcome.

Our Aims For The Children

We aim to offer play opportunities which are fun and encourage exploration, learning new skills and healthy all-round development, within a safe and caring environment to local children between P1 and P7, regardless of the individual circumstances or family background of the child.



Happy kids on a walk with the Aberdeenshire Countryside Ranger.

Activities

We have a large selection of activities to cater for all age ranges and gender. Eg, we have a PlayStation2 with lots of recent games, a computer with various games and activities, art and crafts on a daily basis, various construction kits, games and physical activities, such as team games, outside play on the nice days, small play and much, much more.

We appreciate that some children like to “chill out” after school and so we do have quiet activities for this purpose.

The Out Of School Club provides transport for Fordyce Primary children through Aberdeenshire Council.

Opening Times

Term Time: 2.45pm - 6.00pm
Holiday Time: 8.00am - 6.00pm

Trips and other activities organised during the holiday period.

Days Of Closure

Good Friday, May Day & Christmas Holidays
When the School is closed due to adverse weather conditions we are closed too.

**For further information please contact:
Portsoy Out Of School Club,
Portsoy Primary School, Chapel Street, Portsoy.
Tel: 07791 906309**

Where On Earth Is That?!

A celebration of life & land of the North-East

The Friends of Duff House Arts Group is planning a multi-disciplinary community arts project to be on show in the Long Gallery, Duff House from 17th September to 31st October 2004.

The aim of this community arts project is to encourage individuals or groups to explore their locality by working on a particular subject that is either of special personal interest, or thought to be representative of the North-East region. By the North-East we mean the land lying north of the A96, between Elgin and the East Coast.

Participants - of whatever skill level - are encouraged to choose any medium or combination of media appropriate to their subject and select an unusual view or aspect so that the viewer cannot immediately recognize where it depicts! Visitors to the exhibition will be invited to hazard guesses as to the subject matter and location - all will be revealed in the last week of the show!!

If you are interested in finding out more about this project, please contact:
Pauline on 01542 835172, Hazel at 01261 843771 or Alistair on 01261 812941.



School Care Out Of Hours in Banff

Age 4 - 11

Banff Primary School
(Banff, Macduff and surrounding area welcome)

Term Time - 2.30pm - 6.00pm

1st Child - £2.50 per hour
2nd Child - £2.00 per hour
3rd Child - £1.25 per hour

For further information contact:

Kim Shearer on 0771 934 3671

Doors Open Again

There's more than water can be found by dowsing. When the Banff Preservation & Heritage Society hold their Annual General Meeting on 24th March, they hope to have a practical demonstration of 'dowsing for archaeology'. Captain Peter Donaldson, who is a master dowser, will show them his skills in the historic grounds of Banff Castle. It would be worth joining the Society to see it done.

The Society is beginning to make the arrangements for 'Doors Open Day' in September. Are there any buildings in Banff or Macduff that you look at and say 'I wouldn't mind seeing in there'? Let the Preservation & Heritage Society know, and they'll see whether they can arrange it. They can't promise anything, of course!

They haven't forgotten the project to clean the gravestones in St Mary's kirkyard. When the spring comes they'll be out, and helpers are welcome.

The Secretary is Dr Alistair Mason, 01261 812941.

Aberchirder & District Community Association

QUALITY OF LIFE & FITNESS CENTRE

Community Pavilion, McRobert Park
Parkview, Aberchirder

Latest equipment, including
new multigym

Induction courses available

Membership fees per year (from May):
Full £50 : Juniors & Seniors £30

For further information or to apply for
membership contact:

**Brian Bray (01466 780477) or
David Chalmers (01466 780681)**

Be Fit : Be Healthy : Be Happy!

Communities Campaign For Broadband

The push to bring the benefits of broadband to businesses and households in the Partnership area has been much in the news in recent months. Last year Town Coordinator for Banff & Macduff, Mike Roy, undertook a campaign for the whole 01261 area, while recently Scottish Enterprise Grampian has provided input in the latter stages in Banff (which will be enabled on 16 June), Macduff and Portsoy.

However, community groups also made important contributions to getting local people to register an interest in Banff and Whitehills. In Banff, the Rotary Club were active in distributing registration forms, while in Whitehills the Community Council gave the campaign a final push which achieved well over the trigger level.

Meanwhile in Aberchirder, which is outside the 01261 area and where the official on-line campaign had managed to attract just 56 registrations in 17 months, volunteers from the Community Council and Community Association undertook to contact local people by phone and in person, and more than reached the target of 200 within less than a fortnight.

This suggests that active community input could make all the difference in the remaining places where

numbers are still short of target – Cornhill, Cuminestown (which includes New Byth) and Gardenstown. And if volunteers come forward, advice and support is available from George Chyla, ICT Broadband Project Manager for Building Buchan – New Beginnings, who can be contacted through the Partnership or directly on 01779 822023.

Too small, too far, too slow?

BT considers the Eden and King Edward exchanges to be too small to be worth enabling, so it is likely that another form of broadband – wireless or satellite – will be the answer in these areas, and probably in others as well.

Another problem for people in rural areas is that broadband will currently only work within 6km (as the cables run!) of the exchange once it is enabled. For people outwith this range, or wanting a faster service than BT's ADSL system will provide, satellite broadband is an alternative.

For latest figures and news of enablement dates, as well as information about suppliers of ADSL and other systems, see these websites: www.bt.com/broadband, www.samknows.com/broadband, www.broadbandforscotland.co.uk

Networking Event

Creating Wealth In Communities And Keeping It There



A development trust is an independent organization that seeks to achieve sustained community renewal through the self help and enterprise of its community. They are engaged in the economic, social, cultural and environmental regeneration of a defined area. They are both community based and community led and reinvest any surpluses in their communities.

Hear more from Angus Hardie, Director, Development Trusts Association Scotland.

Also present will be David Littlejohn, Project Director, Building Buchan – New Beginnings to inform delegates of the Building Buchan Programme.

WHEN:

Tuesday 23rd March 2004, 6.30pm for 7.00pm

WHERE:

The Fife Lodge, Sandyhill Road, Banff

COST:

No charge

(Refreshments will be served during the evening)

To reserve your place or for more information, please contact:

**Karen Clark, Enterprise North East Trust
Thainstone Business Centre, Thainstone,
Inverurie. AB51 5TB
Tel: 01467 672535 Fax: 01467 621919
E-mail: karen.clark@enetrust.com**

Banffshire Partnership was accepted as a Development Trust Association Scotland member in December 2003. Alison Simpson currently sits on DTAS' Steering Group.

Springtime – Spring Safety

Now that spring is approaching and the days are stretching, it's a good time to clear out the shed, garage, loft or cellar, getting rid of old furniture, carpet, cardboard boxes and general clutter. Not only do these items cause unnecessary untidiness, they do present a fire hazard.

Good Housekeeping – Points To Consider

- The Council operate several large skips at their sites at Macduff, Portsoy and Aberchirder; this is a good option for disposing of bags of rubbish or smaller items of furniture.
- Place household rubbish in your wheelie bin, don't overfill preventing the closure of the lid and site the bin well away from your dwelling.
- Make sure any stored rubbish bags or old items of furniture do not block escape routes to the front or back doors.
- Make sure any rubbish left outside is stored well clear of the house if possible, not near doors or windows and keep clear of wooden sheds and fences, etc.

Doing Repairs & DIY

Springtime sees a start to all those household jobs that require attention; this may include electrical or plumbing jobs, which are best left to qualified tradesmen. Remember the way you carry out repairs and DIY can help to prevent fires.

- Keep garages and workshops clean, do not allow sawdust or shavings, oily rags to build up.
- Use non-flammable materials or liquids when possible.
- Store petrol, paraffin and other flammable liquids in small, strong and labelled containers with screw tops. Do not use plastic containers, other than approved ones.
- Smoking in garages and workshops is dangerous if flammable liquids, gases or vapours are present.
- Do not use gloss paint or oil-based paint on expanded polystyrene tiles. This can cause the fire to spread rapidly.

Make your community a safer place



For further information on any fire safety matter, contact our Community Fire Safety Department on 01224 621021

They will be happy to help.

FireEducation@grampianFRS.org.uk

Aberdeenshire Energy Efficiency Advice Project

SAVE Money

SAVE Energy

SAVE The Environment

FREE Energy Efficiency Advice

If you have high fuel bills, a cold, damp, or draughty home, or need help to use your heating system efficiently then the Aberdeenshire Energy Efficiency Advice Project can help. It offers FREE, impartial, and confidential advice that will help you save fuel and money, reduce carbon dioxide emissions and obtain grants to insulate your home.

Telephone 01467 629707

10.00am – 12.00noon on Mondays & Thursdays

or outwith above times call

Scarfs freephone 0800 512 012



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



The Aberdeenshire Energy Efficiency Advice Project is a partnership between SCARF and Aberdeenshire Council

ENERGY SAVING TIPS

- Turn down the heating by 10°C and save up to £35 per year
- Washing clothes – use the half load for a small load of washing and economy setting for a full load of washing
- Avoid using a tumble drier – you will save a around £35 per year
- Hot Water Tank, Set the hot water thermostat to 60° - 65°
- Check the draughts around doors and windows
- Check the loft insulation – there should be 250mm (10 inches)
- Fit low energy light bulbs
- Take a shower instead of a bath
- Boil only the amount of water needed, in a kettle
- Do not leave televisions etc, on standby – switch off and save

The Shoppers' Bus

The Independent Shoppers' Bus has been in existence for more than twelve years under various organisational banners, and was taken on by Banffshire Partnership in the summer of 2002. It runs services from Aberchirder, Banff, Cornhill, Gardenstown, Macduff, Portsoy and Whitehills and caters for people who may have difficulty getting on a normal service bus or who have problems carrying their shopping. We provide clients with a door-to-door service which gives them access to shops and services perhaps not available in their communities and, just as important, a valuable social outing.



There are waiting lists on some of the existing runs, so we hope to expand the number of runs soon. Some of the buses we use are Aberdeenshire Council owned and so our drivers need to have passed the Aberdeenshire Council driving test, as well as MIDAS. Banffshire Partnership can arrange free training and testing for drivers, as well as training for passenger assistants.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver or escort who could manage occasional runs – or indeed would like to become a client - please contact:

Alison Peden,
Co-ordinator Dial-A-Bus For Elderly People
on 01466 780277 for further details.

Volunteers Wanted!!

Sometimes individual transport needs can be better met by a willing volunteer in their own car.

How would you like to be one of the first members in your community to place the Banffshire Partnership Rural Transport logo proudly on your car as you cruise the highways and byways of rural Banffshire?

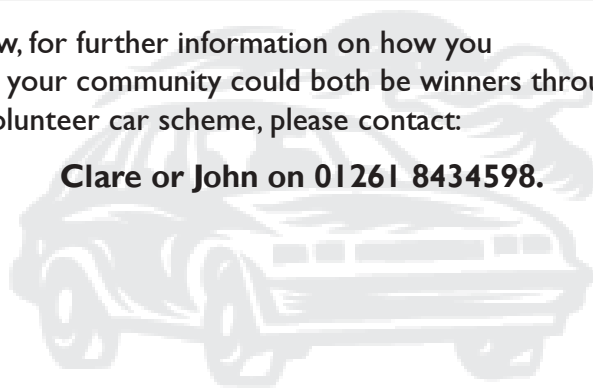
Can you answer "Yes" to all of the following questions?

1. Can you drive?
2. Do you own or have access to a car?
3. If someone asked you for help, would you listen to their needs before deciding whether you could help or not?
4. If the help you give will cost you nothing but your time – to suit yourself, as much or as little as you could afford, with all other expenses paid back to you, would you be interested in finding out more?
5. Would you be willing to help others who have no access to, or cannot make use of public transport and need to make a journey?

Did you get five "Yes's"? If so, well done.

Now, for further information on how you and your community could both be winners through a volunteer car scheme, please contact:

Clare or John on 01261 8434598.



Keeping In Touch

The next newsletter - Issue 8 - is due to appear in June 2004, so don't miss out on a great opportunity to get some free publicity for your groups 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!

Banffshire Partnership, Room 2, Princess Royal Park, 56 Airlie Gardens, Banff, AB45 1AZ
Tel: 01261 813754 ■ Fax: 01261 813753 ■ E-mail: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk

Banffshire Partnership - Our Aims & Values

Our purpose:

Within our area', to contribute to the economic, social and environmental well-being of local communities by;

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

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

VALUES:

We try to:

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

OBJECTIVES:

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 & 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 - Staff Roles

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

Based in Banff office:

Contact: 01261 813754

- **ALISON SIMPSON** Development Co-ordinator
Can help with: European structural funds, community enterprise and events, community transport, community planning and research, Planning for Real®.
- **BOB PEDEN** Development Officer
Can help with: Project based training, research, project planning and development, public relations, environmental projects, Planning for Real®.
- **KAY BEATON** Communication & Development Worker
Can help with: Marketing, public relations, general information, Planning for Real®.

Based in Portsoy office:

Contact: 01261 843598

- **CLARE MATHER** Community Transport Worker
- **JOHN DAVIS** Community Transport Worker
Can help with: Dial-A-Bus Bookings, transport information, volunteer training.

Based at home:

Contact: 01466 780277

- **ALISON PEDEN** Co-ordinator Dial-A-Bus for Older People
Can help with: Co-ordinating volunteers, buses and service users.

Board Of Directors

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

Directors meet monthly (or more often if necessary). General Meetings take place about four times a year, usually on a theme or special topic.

- Iain Taylor, *Chairman*
- Sandy Duncan, *Vice Chair*
- Ross Balharry, *Treasurer*
- Albert Hay
- Eddie Bruce
- James McPherson
- Roger Goodyear

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

How Are We Doing?

In order to evaluate how well we are doing the Banffshire Partnership are currently in the process of undertaking a 'Social Audit'. This means trying to measure whether people know about us and see if we are making a difference in the local area.

Please take a minute or two to answer these questions. Your answers will help us greatly in finding out if we are matching your needs and will help us improve our services in the future. All answers will be treated in confidence.

Please tick the most apt answer.

1 Are you

- male female

2 Age

- under 18 18 - 25
 26 - 40 41 - 60
 over 60

3 How long have you lived at your address?

- less than 1 year 1 - 3 years
 3 - 10 years 10 - 20 years
 over 20 years Post Code _____

4 How many people live in your house?

- 1 2
 3 4
 5 6 or more

Banffshire Partnership aims to:

- **Promote a local healthy economy; keeping people working and living locally.**
- **To support community activity.**
- **To provide a focus for local views and priorities.**

5 How aware are you of Banffshire Partnership?

- very aware
 know something about it
 know a little bit about it
 don't know anything about it
(If you have never heard of us don't answer the following questions)

6 Have you ever used the services provided by Banffshire Partnership?

- yes no

If 'yes', in what way?

7 What did you think of the service you received?

- very pleased pleased
 satisfied not happy

8 Do you know anyone else that has used it?

- yes no

9 Banffshire Partnership is making a positive contribution to a healthy local economy by supporting local development projects.

- completely agree agree
 disagree completely disagree
 don't know

10 Banffshire Partnership is providing useful support to local community groups through fund-raising support, transport, information and partnership working.

- completely agree agree
 disagree completely disagree
 don't know

11 Banffshire Partnership provides a focus for local views and priorities through events, newsletter and local research.

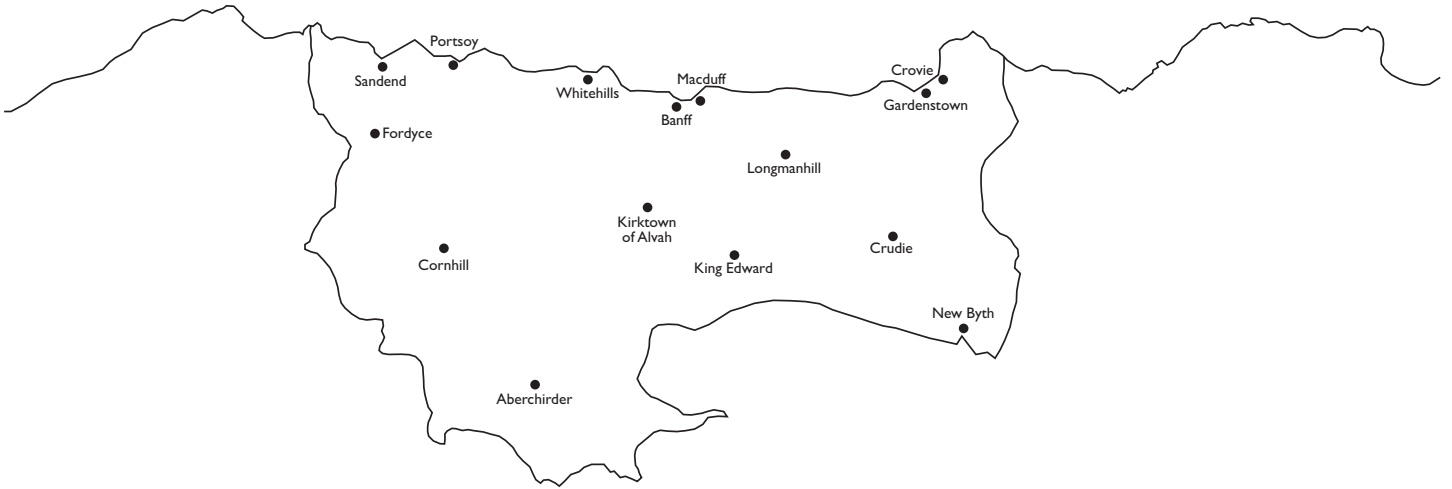
- completely agree agree
 disagree completely disagree
 don't know

12 Do you have any other general comments?

Thank you!

Please return completed questionnaire to the Freepost address overleaf

Banffshire Partnership Area



Fold along dotted line

NO
STAMP
REQUIRED

Banffshire Partnership Limited
FREEPOST NAT 9956
Banff
AB45 2ZQ

Sent without an envelope to save waste

Detach along dotted line