

PARTNERSHIP PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

RFF

Inside this Issue News from around the area Transport & Training News and lots more!

ISSUE 19 - 2017

developing communities



"support for an active community"

community development

marketing support

project development advice

fund-raising advice

local networking & gatherings

research & consultation

... a voice for the area

B P L BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES

The Old School Boyndie Banff AB45 2JT T & F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP LIMITED

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Banffshire Partnership Ltd. The Old School, Boyndie, Banff, AB45 2JT **T & F:** 01261 843598 **E:** bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors can be contacted through the Partnership office -01261 843598. Directors meet quarterly (or more often if necessary).

> CHAIR Robin Maddock Ross Balharry Sandy Duncan Pat Gardner Janice Laing Mavis Wise

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PRINT J. Thomson Colour Printers

Banffshire Partnership Ltd. is a Company Limited by Guarantee in Scotland. Reg No. 201922.

Registered Office: 1a Cluny Square, Buckie, AB56 1AH.

Charity registered in Scotland No. SCO29693

Banffshire Partnership Ltd. is recognised as a Local Rural Partnership by the Scottish Government.





Chairman's Letter

Welcome to the new edition of the Banffshire Partnership Yearbook. As in previous years, it has been a very challenging year for everybody at the Partnership and I would like to thank Duncan Leece, his staff and especially all the volunteers for all their efforts.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Since the Community Transport side of the business started, it has grown steadily and is now the main activity of Banffshire Partnership. We have three minibuses, two of which are wheelchair accessible and towards the end of last year we replaced one of the wheelchair accessible minibuses with a new VW Crafter accessible minibus. This was partly possible through the very generous donations from our Dial-A-Bus clients.

The Dial-A-Bus service is very well used on a daily basis. Our annual survey of our passengers shows how valuable this service is to them, not just getting them to the shops and on outings, but in terms of social interaction and helping to alleviate social exclusion. All our buses are available for community hire when not in use on the dial-a-bus service. I would like to remind all local groups that our vehicles are available for hire at a very reasonable cost.

Well over half of the funding for our Community Transport comes from grants from Aberdeenshire Council. However with the Council's budget being tightened each year, our priority is to provide a friendly, reliable but cost effective service for all our dients.

We are all aware that within our operating area and throughout Scotland we have an ever increasing aging population so we are sure that the need for this type of service will not diminish.

TRAINING

For many years we have provided transport related training to minibus drivers and Passenger Assistants. We have broadened our range of available courses and we are now able to offer a range of training courses in First Aid, Health & Safety at Work and Manual Handling. These are usually held at the Banffshire Suite at Boyndie but if appropriate they can be held at customers' premises.

We have already delivered training for local



and national companies and community organisations and feedback from our customers has been excellent.

EVENT FIRST AID

Last year we started to provide First Aid cover at indoor and outdoor events using a large pool of fully trained volunteers. They were all kept very busy especially during the summer months covering events such as the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival in Portsoy, the European Pipe Band Championships in Forres, the Speyside KiltWalk, Keith show and the Lonach Gathering.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Community Economic Development side of the Partnership although small in financial terms plays a very large role in the communities that it serves.

BPL is an active member of the Local Community Planning Partnership, and it has assisted many community groups with projects, business plans and funding applications over the years.

We have a paid contract with Aberdeenshire Council to provide this service, and without that income we would be unable to help community groups. Funding for this work in 2016/17 was the same as the previous year. This continued level of funding is very welcome but we are still receiving more requests for assistance than we can comfortably handle with our limited resources.

The board is very well aware that we face tightening budgets in the coming years. However, it is our wish to continue with the broad range of activities that we currently undertake and where possible expand them to meet the needs of our communities.

Rober Medicion

Robin Maddock, Chairman bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

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... Meet The Staff DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES - 01261 843598



Duncan Leece Director of Operations



Robin Maddock



Kay Beaton

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Heike Wilson



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Scott Ord-Jones



Alan Thomson



Jim Esslemont



Janice Laing



Rebecca Ross



Derek Anthony



Coral Pirie

A Word From Duncan

You will have just read a short report from Robin, BPL Chairman, recording some of the key points of activity in the past year; and he and I agree that as we compile this book early in 2017, we already can see a challenging year shaping up ahead.

Surely everyone now knows that a whole host of circumstances, not least tighter budgets for public agencies, means that charities, volunteers and community organisations will be doing more than ever, if we want our communities to continue to be such great places to live.

This book gives the wonderful groups we work with an opportunity to showcase what they do, and to publicise their future plans. Please read their articles, as you can hardly fail to be impressed ... but let me be honest; we hope you will also be inspired to help and to join them.

And the busier community groups are, the more BPL gets asked for help and advice, even though our own resources are under pressure.

One thing I know for certain is that my paid staff, and our fabulous volunteers, will not be bored in 2017!



We are delighted to welcome Rebecca Ross to our team, and to see Scott Ord-Jones take an increasing level of responsibility. How can I put the following sentence delicately? OK, let me just say that they both represent a different generation to some of our longerstanding staff, and I most certainly include myself in that group, so I am sure you will agree that it is great to see knowledge and skills passed on down the line. A vital step in BPL's long-term future.



Duncan D Leece, Chief Executive Officer contact me at bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

OUR VALUED VOLUNTEERS

Many of our Passenger Assistants and Drivers - whether for the Dial-a-Bus or community groups - are volunteers, whose contribution is greatly valued by all who benefit. If you would like to join them, it's necessary to register with us and take up appropriate training.

If you think you can help please contact us:

Banffshire Partnership Community Transport, The Old School, Boyndie, Banff. AB45 2JT E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk T: 01261 843598

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Where Is Banffshire Partnership Based?

he Banffshire Partnership is based at Boyndie on the Moray Firth coast and is delighted to work with community groups throughout the Banff & Buchan area.

The following pages highlight some of the activities and events which have been happening throughout the area over the past months, as well as giving an insight into some of the events which will be taking place throughout this year. It is our intention to publish an annual Partnership Update. The next edition of the newsletter - Issue 20 - will appear in early 2018 so don't miss out on a great opportunity to get some free publicity for yourgroup's activities or forthcoming events.

Please send us any articles, photographs, adverts or announcements which you would like to be included - we look forward to hearing from you! Aberchinder Banffshire Partnership, The Old School, Boyndie, Banff, AB45 2JTerdee

Whitehills

01261 843598 bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

Banffshire Partnership Aims And 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:

Encourage and support communities to run and participate in activity that will help them develop.

Provide rural transport solutions to individuals and communities, where mainstream public transport is inaccessible.

Specific encouragement will be given to projects that have an economic benefit and/or develop partnership working with other groups and public agencies, such as the Local Authority.

The Partnership has a particular interest in tourism initiatives and ideas to promote the use of local products and local suppliers.

It is Banffshire Partnership's observation and belief that the more local people participate in and take ownership of activities within their communities, the better that place will become to live in. Practical ways in which Banffshire Partnership supports projects include:

- Project management advice, and capacity building of groups as a whole, and individual members.
- Assistance with funding applications, or development of financial management packages.
- Putting groups in contact with others who have done similar projects, and helping the sharing of knowledge.
- Reducing rural isolation, and social exclusion, through transport initiatives and opportunities for individuals to access community activity.
- Facilitating two-way communication between local communities and public agencies, or policy makers at regional and national level.

ABERCHIRDER & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The past year has been another busy one for the Association, involving an ever increasing number of volunteers as well as the committee. A review of the latest Community Action Plan carried out in November showed that many of the actions which the community could carry out by itself have now been achieved.

New projects in the past year involved providing thirty new flower tubs made from unusually cut whisky barrels which were painted in black and gold by our enthusiastic environmental team. These match commercial street furniture seen in some other settlements and came at a small fraction of the price. The entrance to McRobert Park was made more attractive with a community notice board and repainting of the Lyon gates presented to Foggie in 1962 by Andrew Lyon in memory of his grandfather who farmed at Craigiebrae. And the town flag bought in 1999 to show the Foggie coat of arms had seen better days, and has been replaced by a new one.

Volunteers were also busy with ongoing projects, including implementing the Cleanhill management plan, festive lights, Foggie Facebook page and a relaunch of the Foggieloan website, where



sections of the Virtual Museum will be added during 2017.

As usual, the Association broke even financially during the year. This was possible only thanks to fundraising, which at over £5000 represented nearly 40% of total income. Our thanks to all who supported our events throughout the year, including our most successful Gala ever. Also to Aberdeenshire Council for an Area Initiative Fund grant towards our website relaunch and display boards for use by community groups.

The Community Pavilion in McRobert Park makes an important contribution to village activities. Membership of the Gym is now constant around 80 and offers several new items of equipment, purchased during the year. At £70 a year, membership offers excellent value - why not contact Richard Waters on 07910 532876? The Pavilion is also used throughout the year by St Marnan's Sports Club and St Marnan's FC as well as for one-off events including the Flower Show and a polling

"New projects in the past year involved providing thirty new flower tubs . . . " station for elections.

Looking ahead, the Association will be cooperating with the Aberchirder & District Men's Shed group, which has made great progress during 2016. And the Association has agreed in principle that once electricity is being sold to the National Grid by the Deuchries Wind Farm - possibly by 2020! - community benefit funds should be shared between itself and Alvah & Forglen Community Council.

As always, thanks to Banffshire Partnership for help and advice, and to our various partners within Aberdeenshire Council.



Aberchirder & District Community Association Bob Peden, Secretary bobpeden I @ sky.com 01466 780277 www.facebook.com/foggieloan www.foggieloan.co.uk

ABERCHIRDER & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED

ello, we are the Aberchirder & District Men's Shed, which we started to set up in February 2016. We are now approximately one year into this project and things are going well for us.

We have been able to secure a piece of ground in the village from Aberdeenshire Council, on the old Dorran site on North Street/Market Street.

The guys look to start getting this project set up in the Spring time, setting out six Portakabins which will be covered with cladding and painted, and constructing a large Polytunnel. Thereafter work will continue in the cabins to set out a social meeting area and hobbies areas. These will include a blacksmith area where welding and metalwork can be overseen by a competent blacksmith. Work will also continue inside and outside the cabins and perimeter fencing and landscaping in and around the cabins will be done.

The project will be broken down into different stages. We

> "We will need your skills to make it work."



hope some of you - and not just from Foggie and district can join with us in this Men`s Shed enterprise at Aberchirder. We will need your skills to make it work.





Aberchirder & District Men's Shed James D Paterson, Secretary 5 Bronchal Place Aberchirder. AB54 7SE 01466 780861 james.paterson24@ btinternet.com

BRIDGE RECOVERY CAFÉ

Open every Friday 4.00pm - 6.30pm, Macduff Town Hall

Building the Link Between Isolation and Inclusion

Are you, or is someone you know, in Recovery?

Come along for a bite to eat and friendly chat

All welcome. Just pop in.

Banffshire Partnership has been working with Aberdeenshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership to assist some keen local people establishing a new support organisation as an independent and community-run group. We wish them every success. The initiative promotes selfhelp and sharing experiences, in a relaxed environment, while collectively cooking and eating some nice food!

THE BOATSHED

A syou stroll by Portsoy's fascinating seventeenth century harbour, make sure you pay a visit to Portsoy



Olympic gold medalist Dame Katherine Grainger in 2013, the completed building was formally opened by HRH the Duke of Kent in October 2015.

Fully equipped with tools and machinery to support and encourage wooden boatbuilding, this is very much a living and active building. The first occupant was the fine recreation of a traditional wooden salmon coble, named Soy Lady by



"... for anyone who wants to build or restore a traditional wooden boat"

Community Enterprise's purpose built Boatshed. Once a sad, derelict shell, it has been rebuilt to award winning standards and is available for anyone who wants to build or restore a traditional wooden boat, or to learn how to accomplish this.

Taken on as a major project by PCE (formally the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival) in 2011, the restoration required a huge effort from everyone involved. With a number of significant obstacles to overcome, the completed building is a great compliment to the volunteers who saw it through. With the foundation stone laid by Banffshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Clare Russell at last year's Boat Festival. Since then, volunteers have been busily working on a variety of beautiful vessels. These include a harbour tender, a river coble that is now in the Salmon Bothy museum and a Zulu-skiff, with many more boats in the pipeline.

PCE started building small boats with eight local primary schools in 2010 and in the following six years built 59 dinghies based on an original Optimist design. Over 700 children have been delighted to experience building then sailing their own vessels. Boatbuilding volunteers continued their excellent work at Banff Academy, where they now run two permanent classes for secondary pupils. A great variety of fine boats such as St Ayles Skiffs, curraghs and a river coble have been produced to a very high standard by the pupils.

With support of the international oil company Chevron, PCE has recently undertaken a unique enterprise in generating employability through industry links. Each week in the Boatshed, young people work with experienced craftsmen, learning skills firsthand and getting the feel of the real world of work.

Looking to the future, the opening of the fantastic new Sail Loft has created great opportunities for anyone who wants to try boatbuilding for themselves. Families, individuals or corporate groups can stay in Portsoy enjoying the bunk-house's comfortable accommodation, then have the choice of joining the volunteers creating traditional boats or take on new boatbuilding projects for themselves.

All levels of experience can be catered for and a warm welcome is guaranteed.



The Boatshed 01261 842951 contact@portsoyboatshed.org www.portsoyboatshed.org Ur skills development training service, which specialises in working with people who have special needs, just gets busier and busier. We generally have between fifty and sixty people on placement with us at any one time, and that number has not increased much, but the complexity and depth of training many of our clients want, is where we see a real difference to what we did ten years ago.

Another trend is that we have many more young people accessing our training,



and while that brings its own challenges, it also has added to the vibrant and active feel our service is known for. So we welcome that . . . most days!

From a visitor's point of view, of course, most people know us for our Visitor Centre, and its much-praised restaurant, shops and gardens. Along with every other similar business, we have to work hard in the current economic climate in order to keep up our profitability. It is very gratifying to see the highly positive reviews on Tripadvisor, and such like.

New for 2017 is our Tartan, Tweed & Thistles product range, which sees us supporting the Harris Tweed brand in particular,





BOYNDIE TRUST

and I know that will generate interest for our customers. Lots of work has been done in the gardens, making the plants sales area more wheelchair and buggy-





friendly, and much credit goes to the grounds maintenance team for the way the place is looking.

Our woodworkers have built some great stuff from designs supplied by Methlick School; the Mud Kitchens are wonderful play and learning tools, and we are developing an outdoor dolls house for them too. We were delighted to get the contract to build the tables and seats for the wonderful new Glamping pods at Aden Country Park.

Lots more plans for projects and improvements . . . I can't mention them all in the space I have here!

Boyndie Trust doesn't really enter for awards or competitions, so it is a treat indeed to have found ourselves



receiving two real accolades.

The Scottish Government chose Boyndie to feature as a national example of best practice, on its Rural Networks website: www.ruralnetwork.scot/ case-studies/boyndie-visitor-centre Brussels-based European Network for Rural Development spotted this story and have asked our permission to feature Boyndie as an international example of good practice, in a guide they are compiling for the European Commission. My staff and I tend to just keep our heads down and concentrate on our work, so it is a real pleasure to find what we do at Boyndie being acclaimed in this way.



Boyndie Trust Limited Duncan Leece, General Manager The Old School, Boyndie, Banff, AB45 2JT 01261 843249 boyndietrust @ hotmail.com www.boyndietrust.co.uk



"The Bakers . . . "











BRIGHTER HORIZONS CENTRE

The Brighter Horizons Centre opened in August 2015. Since then we have welcomed many local people and hosted community events such as our August Family Fun Day, Supper & Singing with Santa and Christmas Eve Carol Service. These were well supported and are now annual events.

The Brighter Horizons Centre was set up as a community venue and is a developing thriving hub within the local town. We provide a needs-led service for the local community. We are always looking for new volunteers to help with our current projects and these are:

Global Exchange Project

supporting a community in Zimbabwe and providing an opportunity for young people and local volunteers to experience the wider world, and create a positive attitude towards difference and diversity.



"The modern, light and airy hall space can also be hired by the public for a nominal fee."

Monday Night Youth Drop-in Session - 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Monthly Traditional Soup & Sweet - 12.00pm - 2.00pm first Saturday in month.

Friday Night Football Dropin Session - 7.30pm - 9.00pm at Princess Royal

Young Board of Advisors, a

group formed to provide our local young people with a say in what happens locally and to be involved in community projects.

Specialist Fostering Service

providing high quality placements and offering children and young people support and nurturing within a family environment and as part of the community.

Lillies Kindergarten hire part of the building providing nursery education from 0-5 year olds from 7am -7pm Monday to Friday, contact them on 01261 833132 for more information. The modern, light and airy hall space can also be hired by the public for a nominal fee. To find out more about

what we have on offer please



see our website at www. brighterhorizons.org.uk or our Facebook page "Brighter Horizons". You can also email us at brighterhorizons@ bachlawprojects.co.uk or telephone us on 01261 833132.



Brighter Horizons Centre 01261 833132 brighterhorizons @ bachlawprojects.co.uk www.brighterhorizons.org.uk www.facebook.com/ BrighterHorizons

FORDYCE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Management Committee and community volunteers have continued to work hard to enhance the facilities and amenities of Fordyce for the benefit of villagers and those living in the surrounding rural area. The Community Hall is used for public and private events as well as being a focus for meetings of local groups, clubs and organisations.

We continue to support those who may feel isolated through lack of transport links by hosting the twice-monthly Coffee & Company sessions that provide an opportunity for members of the community to get together for a 'blether'.

Volunteers work regularly on enhancing the village environment by maintaining and replanting various areas of the village, including the Jubilee Garden and the Community Woodland.

We are committed to maintaining sufficient funds to cover management and maintenance costs of the Community Hall as well as building a healthy development fund for future projects. A major source of funding is the annual Open Village in July; this is very well attended and greatly appreciated by visitors from far and wide. The monthly Car Boot sales also bring visitors into the village, boosting the association's income. The Association has co-operated with Fordyce Primary School as a community partner on the Rights



Respecting Schools initiative and played a major role in the development and completion of a sculpture project, assisted by Aberdeenshire Council Landscape Services, Macduff Shipyards and Seafield Estates.

Community Hall Project: Ongoing since 2002, this year has seen the completion (apart from some areas of flooring) of the refurbishment and redevelopment of the interior with installation of a new hot water system. Hall users' comments on the vastly improved facilities have continued to be very positive. We have to complete the laying of new flooring and intend to upgrade aspects of the hot-water system in the very near future. As a result of the improvements we have had a number of wedding bookings.

We are currently fundraising for work on the exterior of the building; this will include pointing the stonework and bell-tower as well as some remedial roof work. We are most grateful for the continuing support of the Portsoy Thrift Shop for the project.

Fordyce Joiners' Workshop & Museum: The Association has management responsibility for the whole Museum & Workshop complex. The free-standing sub-



group with responsibility for day to day running of the facility is always keen to recruit volunteers for manning the museum, generating new initiatives, general housekeeping, etc. The team has redeveloped the museum area to facilitate exhibitions and demonstrations and there is also an area for local crafts people to display their work. Aberdeenshire Council now validates the Workshop for work with pupils with special needs, tutored by Euan Hay whose father was the owner and last working joiner at the premises.

With this expanding remit we are grateful for all the support given, by both those who have made donations and grants toward the Association's efforts and the tireless work of the committee and volunteers who have worked so hard on the Associations various projects.

Fordyce Community Association Community Hall Bookings: Dorothy Hutcheson - 01261 842658 Car Boot Bookings: Alan Morrison - 07801 329428 Other Contact: Brian Anderson, Secretary 07933 201299 briananderson03 @ btinternet.com

HOME-START DEVERON IS ALL ABOUT FAMILIES

ome-Start Deveron (HSD) is an established local charity that has been supporting families in the Deveron valley area since 1999.

How do we do it Our team of dedicated home visiting volunteers and family support workers offer practical and emotional support to families with a child under the age of five through home visiting sessions and a variety of group activities. We represent the views and needs of families at a strategic level by contributing to the local early year's forums and at a national level through Home-Start Scotland and Home-Start UK. Whichever way we reach out to families our priority is to make sure we are there to support the whole family in a useful and friendly manner.

What impact does HSD have HSD provides opportunities for families from all walks of life. By encouraging parents to be aware of their own strengths we bring many benefits to the children in our community. Through home-visiting sessions and the variety of group activities we are able to promote opportunities which encourage parents to bond with their children, encourage positive behaviour, develop speech and language skills but most importantly have fun playing with their children. Play is after all, a child's learning. We also offer support in managing family budgets.

In 2016 HSD provided home-visiting support to 43 families and gave a further 117 families support in local community groups.

Why become a Home-Start Deveron volunteer? The time, care, commitment, and reassurance that home-



visiting volunteers bring to families makes a real and practical difference to families. Volunteering is a good way to learn new skills, meet new people, feel valued, have fun and make a positive contribution to your community.

Home-visiting volunteers undertake a preparation course before being matched with a family. They are supported throughout the journey by the coordinator and ongoing training is available. Working with families to help them build their self-esteem and to feel valued in the community is very rewarding.

The training course is free of charge and we pay all out of pocket expenses. Many of the skills learnt on the course are transferable and can help when applying for other jobs. Please contact the Home-Start Deveron office for details of when the next course is running.

We also have volunteers who sit on our Board of Trustees at HSD. They carry out a wide-range of duties from Health & Safety management, Finance & Funding, Marketing, Strategic Planning as well as providing overall direction and maintaining sound management of funds.

Without our volunteer Trustees HSD couldn't function and both families and children would not get the vital support that they need. A full training & induction programme is implemented to support all new Trustees as well as the full backing and support of fellow Trustees, scheme staff and HS UK who provide information, support and guidance to all Home-Start schemes.

Some of the events HSD is involved with in the local communtity

HSD obtains its funding through a variety of sources, including Aberdeenshire Council, Banff Area Initiative Fund, The Cattanach Trust, The Robertson Trust and various other smaller funders. We receive several donations each year from various other sources such as The Spotty Bag Shop, the Round Table and the Fife Lodge Hotel Banff to name just a few. I believe the continued funding given by all these organisations shows their commitment to us and the value they have for the services provided by HSD. Throughout the year we also do some fundraising events. You may have seen us at the Portsoy Boat Festival and Turriff Agricultural Show. Both of these events attract many visitors. We provide a safe place to feed and change babies while at the same time raising our profile and some valuable funds through our tombola stall. Without the help of our volunteers we wouldn't be able to do any of this. The volunteers tell me they really enjoy it and although it's hard work setting everything up its great fun.



During the school holidays we organise joint outings for the families that use our homevisiting service and our groups. In 2016 we took 86 children to Hoodles and had a fabulous day playing both indoors and outdoors. We also had a mass gathering at Banff Links with lots of children playing together building sand castles and having races on the sand. The national trust ranger is no stranger to HSD she organises woodland walks, helping the children and adults to identify all the beautiful nature around us.

During the festive period HSD teams up with the Spotty Bag shop and other childrens' services to organise the Giving Tree. The kindness shown by all of those who donate gifts for children in our community is heart-warming. We are especially proud to be supporting our community in this way. If you would like to know more about volunteering for Home-Start Deveron or would like details of any of our groups please contact Lorna Yuill Home-Start Coordinator on 01261 819964 or go to www. homestartdeveron.org.uk. You can also find us on FaceBook, so give our page a 'Like' to keep up with all that is happening within our scheme.



Home-Start Deveron Lorna Yuill, Home-Start Coordinator 01261 819964 www.homestartdeveron.org.uk www.facebook.com/ HomeStartDeveron

COASTAL ROWING AROUND THE MORAY FIRTH by Wendy Clements of Portsoy Coastal Rowing Club



rowth in the relatively new sport of Scottish Coastal Rowing continues to exceed all expectations. From humble beginnings, when Anstruther's Fisheries Museum launched it's "Scottish Coastal Rowing Project" in 2009, there are now over 50 clubs scattered around the coastline of Scotland - all small groups, where a number of local enthusiasts have seen what coastal rowing can do for a community, raised the necessary funds (around £5000 to start up), bought and built their own boat and taken out to sea!

All the boats start as a flat pack kit to ensure that, when complete, the boats are basically the same, and race winners do so because of their rowing prowess rather than their ability to buy high tech gadgets to improve performance! There are races organized throughout the season and all round the coastline, giving you an excuse to visit some amazing new places, if an excuse is needed! From established race venues, such as Ullapool, where the inaugural SkiffieWorlds were held in 2013, to smaller, more intimate venues such as the Isle of Luing, Shieldaig and Shawbost and further afield to Strangford Lough in Northern

Ireland, Woudrichem in the Netherlands and even Franklin in Tasmania, the coastal rowing phenomenon is spreading. In 2017, there will be a focus on younger rowers, with the Youth Series featuring races specifically for under 17's and 19's.

But it is not all about racing: There is also a hotly contested cruising log, when clubs set off on an adventure ... This year's winner was the Isle of Mull Coastal Rowing Club, who completed a circumnavigation of their island, a distance of nearly 100 miles! Other contenders were the 'round the lough row' at Strangford and a 59 mile row down the Great Glen! Perhaps we need to venture a little further than Sandend ...!

One of the reasons for the success of the St Ayles skiff is the fact that it is such a sturdy and steady wee boat. She rides the waves beautifully and I have never felt in any danger of getting wet - apart from the odd splash, or if the water goes over the top of your wellies when you are launching! We have guidelines on safe weather conditions and we always wear life jackets. The world somehow seems a happier place when you come in from a row. Skiffing is accessible to all ages, with the Portsoy club currently welcoming rowers from 14 to 70 - so long as you are fit enough to climb into the boat! Start rowing now, and you could be competing at the Boat Festival in June, or going for a social picnic row, or joining one of the local harbour days... With clubs at Banff, Whitehills, Cullen and Burghead, as well as Portsoy, there is bound to be a club not too far away. And Lossie are just forming a club if you want to be involved in a build.

At Portsoy, we have club rowing sessions most Tuesday and Thursday evenings once the clocks change, weather permitting, and we get out whenever we can manage it at the weekend. If you are interested in finding out more, go to www.facebook.com/ PortsoySkiffettes then click on 'sign up' to see when we are going out and send us a message. Or contact Wendy on 07717 220018. "If I know you are planning to come along, I can let you know should the outing be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions or whatever!" Hope to see you on the water soon!



Portsoy Skiffettes Wendy - 07717 220018 www.facebook.com/ PortsoySkiffettes

THE SAIL LOFT

Portsoy Community Enterprise is delighted to confirm that the bunkhouse, the Sail Loft - is now open for business. This former sail making building offers brand new self-catering



accommodation with 25 luxurious beds and bunks. It boasts a carefully designed modern open-plan communal kitchen, dining area and lounge, laundrette and drying room. There is a secure lockable area with racks for up to 25 cycles, as well as an outside wash down area for bicycle cleaning and we can even offer on-site bicycle repairs.

Overlooking Portsoy's beautiful Links Bay beach and surrounded by rugged headlands the Sail Loft is superbly located for visitors to take a break and relax.

The buildings located at the Back Green date from the 18th Century and comprise a former sail making loft, a finely detailed Georgian house and two associated cottages. Listed as Category B by Historic Scotland, the buildings were taken into the ownership of North East Scotland Preservation Trust (NESPT) in 2006. Along with Portsoy Community Enterprise (PCE), the buildings have been developed



into a 25 bed bunkhouse accommodation facility, opened in February this year.

The new venue will bring additional tourism business to Portsoy and surrounding areas, and provide a facility which will make possible residential boat building and traditional music courses at the Boatshed and Salmon Bothy, both also owned and operated by PCE. The Sail Loft project cost just under £2million and is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Coastal Communities Fund, Historic Environment Scotland (through Portsoy CARS) and the Architectural Heritage Fund.

Where reasonably practicable, the original appearance and character of the buildings has been retained. The full history of the buildings remains unknown, however several discoveries made during the renovation works have allowed some additional details of its fragmented history to be pieced together. For example, dressed sandstone fireplaces were uncovered in the Sail Loft and the Georgian House, and alterations to the fireplace in the East Cottage indicate it had been infilled to improve its performance. Additionally, several artefacts including a set of dated prongs and an old pot holder have been discovered within the buildings, both of which will feature inside the completed Sail Loft as a reminder of its varied historic past.

Set in an idyllic location steeped in history, yet with the comfort of modern facilities and the promise of a hearty welcome from our team, you'll want to stay at The Sail Loft. Full details including on-line booking on www. portsoysailloft.org



Sail Loft 01261 842695 www.portsoysailloft.org



PORTSOY PAVILION

www.ant to change your life-style, get fit and improve your health? Then Portsoy Pavilion has everything you need!

A spacious, well equipped gymnasium includes all the modern weight training and cardio-vascular machines for your fitness needs. Whether you're a fitness fanatic or just a beginner, everything you need is under one roof here.

Membership is gained through a gym induction and it's up to you from there on to achieve the fitness you want!



There is also a large allweather Astroturf pitch on offer, available for all kinds of sports - football and tennis being most popular. All equipment is provided and a booking is required. So, if you fancy 5-a-side football with your friends, or a relaxing game of tennis, Portsoy Pavilion is only a short distance away. Open: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9am-12noon & 2pm-8pm; Tues & Thurs: 5pm-8pm; Sat: 10am-1pm

> Portsoy Pavilion Seafield Terrace, Portsoy (opposite Portsoy Motors) 01261 843555

The volunteer team who run the Portsoy Thrift Shop are delighted to report that they have had another successful year. Sales were slightly increased, thus allowing the team to help a wide range of local causes and projects, including:

Portsoy Book Festival Portsoy Greenfingers Deveronside Girls Football Club School's Music Project The Institute Hall Portsoy Coastal Rowing Club Portsoy Pipe Band The Boat Festival Children's Programme The Salmon Bothy Lift Project

PORTSOY THRIFT SHOP

Portsoy Scouts Sandend Amenities Portsoy Players Fordyce Community Association

We're delighted to say that the total for the year was over £9,000.

It is appreciated that the Thrift Shop could be regarded as "in competition" with other charity and appeal thrift shops, for all of which we have the greatest respect. However, given that all the money raised is for the benefit of Portsoy and surrounding area community projects, all of which work hard to raise their own funds and very much appreciate the extra support which the Portsoy shop is able to provide.

As ever, the Thrift Shop team would like to thank all who donate goods - and of course our wonderful customers without whom we would not be able provide the support that we do.



Portsoy Thrift Shop The Square, Portsoy 07870 536776

their website www.bothyfolk.org

We had the third Bothy Book

authors taking part, including

Crime" on the Saturday and on

Ann Cleeves, Alex Gray and Caro Ramsay as "Partners in

the Sunday, Craig Robertson

spoke about his writing career

and his latest murder mystery

featuring the maverick police

photographer, Tony Winter.

The Festival concluded with

addition to Portsoy's growing

Festival in March this year

with an excellent range of

PORTSOY SALMON BOTHY

Portsoy Salmon Bothy comes under the umbrella of the Portsoy Community Enterprise, an accredited museum rated as a 4* attraction and a venue for a variety of activities.

The Salmon Bothy Museum was awarded full accreditation from Museums and Galleries Scotland in 2015 for the second time. Visit Scotland rated it a 4* attraction in 2016. Although presently the closed season, plans are in place for the museum to open for the season at Easter.

The Upstairs Area continues to be a popular venue. The Bothy Knitters go from strength to strength often raising money for charity and assisting community activities. They meet on a Monday morning from 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Other community groups have completed their life cycle but anyone who would like to set up a group should make direct contact with us and we will negotiate rates. This last year we have had a wedding, children's parties, corporate meetings, concerts and workshops. Please consider us as a possible venue for your event.

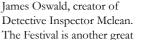
The Salmon Bothy acquired professional film equipment for community use in 2016. We have had a recent sell out - AB FAB when £800 was raised for the Church Hall Redevelopment Project. Look at the website for a programme of films run by the Bothy Group. There is also the possibility of having private showings for birthdays and group night outs.

The Bothy Folk Group goes from strength to strength. They continue to meet on the third Friday of each month with extra concerts from time to time. Their 8th HAAL is the first weekend in June. Keep up to date with their activities on



you will see the three lower hers on the ground flow or the packing of fuh pice tent.

Is now an important



events programme. Volunteers are desperately required particularly for museum duty. Anyone interested in doing duty at the museum once a fortnight for a couple of hours would be most welcome. Induction, peer mentoring, training and social activities are offered to make



you part of the team.

Portsoy Salmon Bothy Links Road, Portsoy Anne McArthur 01261 842474 contact@salmonbothy.org www.salmonbothy.org

SCOTTISH TRADITIONAL BOAT FESTIVAL

t doesn't seem that long since the 2016 event, but the 24th Scottish Traditional Boat Festival is rapidly drawing near. This year's Festival will be held on the 24th and 25th June and promises to be another



fantastic event with lots to keep the whole family entertained. Packed with brilliant moments. the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival engages the local region, bringing together boats, music, crafts, food and drink to celebrate the region's rich cultural heritage. We are delighted that our main sponsor for 2017, ACE Winches, have confirmed their support for this year's event and that our Friends at Northlink Ferries (who brought the Vikings to last year's Festival) are again working with us to deliver an exciting and varied programme with lots of new attractions. We are very grateful to all of our sponsors - without their support, the Festival would not happen

With a strengthened and extended maritime programme, there will lots to see and hear around the two harbours with

"All of this cannot happen without the huge support of the Portsoy community . . ."

a wide range of boats, maritime activities and music to keep you entertained. You will be able to go on board some of the visiting vessels and cheer on the crews as they take part in competitive racing and sailing on the open seas - always an exciting and much anticipated event.

The very popular Food Fayre will showcase the wide variety of local produce, and there will be of course ample opportunity to breathe in the aromas of fresh cooked fish, meats and other fine foods, which may prove too much to resist as you wander through the Festival enjoying the atmosphere and all that is going on. Ian Spink will be back with us this year; his smokies are "to die for" and are ever popular.

In the Craft tents, you can watch skilled traditional crafters carve, weave, knit and sculpt wonderful creations, many of which you can take home as a reminder of the wonder of Portsoy and its authentic charm. There are some exciting new additions this year including a dedicated art exhibition in the Town appearances - watch out for more exciting news about these!

Hall, a wide ranging music

both indoors and outdoors,

the Loch Soy activity area.

Slide will be making return

and entertainment programme,

lots for the kids and, of course,

The Segways and The Valkyrie

All of this cannot happen without the huge support of the Portsoy community and all those who volunteer their services in the run up to the Festival and over the weekend itself. If you would like to get involved, please contact us at: contact@stbfportsoy.org With up to 16,000 people descending upon Portsoy over Festival weekend, be sure to come along and join the celebrations. Look forward to seeing you there!



Scottish Traditional Boat Festival 01261 842951 contact@stbfportsoy.org www.stbfportsoy.org

FEATURED GROUPS

WHITEHILLS & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Welcome and "Fit Like!"

ur willing team of Community Councillors have continued in the same vein as previous years by actively pursuing the completion of various projects, a good number resulting from local residents' ideas and requests highlighted in our last 'Community Action Plan', along with numerous other activities to improve and enhance our local area. It is intended to create a fresh 'Community Action Plan' led by Banffshire Partnership Ltd in early 2017, and if any readers have any thoughts or ideas to improve our lovely area, please let them or any of our community councillors know, and/or note them down and bring them to the open night at St. Brandon's Church Centre, date of which will be advertised.

We continue our efforts to keep our pavements clean with 'doggy bag' dispensers available at several strategic points round Whitehills and Boyndie, and are grateful to dog owners who are good enough to use these facilities. One of our long held desires is to have a safe walking route from Whitehills to Ladysbridge Village and we have been working to this end for a number of years. Happily, this is now coming to fruition with a pathway from The Memorial to the crossroads at Annie's woods almost completed. This will be a great asset to the villages and especially to the Primary School allowing them safe passage to the woods to restart an outdoor learning facility. As you will see we now have a new website as above and will be happy to have any ideas for items you would like included within the site - again speak to any of our community councillors whose names are on our monthly minutes posted outside the Premier Store.

You hopefully will appreciate the various floral displays around the village which we maintain and additional bench seats on Low Shore. You will also be pleased to note that we have achieved another 'Gold Loo of the Year Award' - many thanks to our team of volunteers.

The Community Council is now a 'corporate member' of the new RAF Banff Trust (www.rafbanfftrust.org) a body tasked with creating an inventory of artefacts, and tidying and improving the principal buildings on the site, with signage on the existing visitor trails already created by the community council.

These are just some highlights of the year's activities and additionally we have been able to support a number of applications for funding from local groups through the Boyndie Windfarm Community Fund which we operate, to the extent of £22,404 over the year. We continue to be receptive to applications from bodies within our Community Council boundary for funding that sits comfortably within our laid down guidelines. Application Forms can be found on our website.



Whitehills & District Community Council Ross Balharry, Chairman 01261 861882 jrbalharry123@ btinternet.com www.whitehillsand district.co.uk

FEATURED GROUPS WHITEHILLS HARBOUR & MARINA

016 was a great year for Whitehills Marina, during which we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our annual regatta, and raised a record £1500 for the Whitehills Ladies Lifeboat Guild. This money was raised thanks to local businesses and supporters who donated prizes, to the crews of the 17 yachts taking part in the races on the day, as well all those who bid in our charity auction that evening. Prizes donated ranged from a haircut to a flight in a private plane. World-famous yachtsman and author, Roger Taylor, who has used Whitehills as a starting point for his Arctic voyages, donated a library of his books for the auction.



The harbour continues to grow in popularity and our reputation for first-class facilities and customer service has travelled all over the thank all our supporters, and the village in general who all help to create a welcoming and friendly atmosphere for our harbour users.

". . . lots of exciting developments planned this year . . ."

Whitehills Harbour Commissioners have lots of exciting developments planned this year, the first of which is our proposed harbour dredging, to keep the marina in tip-top condition for both visitors and regular berth holders. We are looking forward to welcoming the new dredger, Selkie in April to start her work.



22 PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

world, in no small part due to the good work done by our Harbourmaster, Bertie Milne. Thanks also to our outgoing Vice Chairman Willie Milne, who has worked tirelessly to promote the marina both at home and abroad during his years of service as a Harbour Commissioner.

Whitehills Harbour Commissioners would like to





Whitehills Harbour & Marina Harbour Place, Whitehills AB45 2NQ 01261 861291 www.whitehillsmarina.co.uk www.facebook.com/ whitehillsmarina



Useful Funding Sources



NORTH EAST SCOTLAND FISHERIES LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The North East Scotland Fisheries Local Action Group has recently launched a new local development programme for fishing communities and businesses. The programme provides funding and support for community and business led projects supporting:

• Facilitating diversification within and outside of the fisheries sector • Supporting lifelong learning and job creation in fisheries areas • Adding value, creating jobs and promoting innovation at all stages of the fisheries and seafood supply chain • International co-operation • National co-operation.

Visit our website to find out more: www.nesflag.org.uk



SUPPORT FOR ABERDEENSHIRE BUSINESS SCHEME

To find out more about whether Aberdeenshire Council can help your business grow contact:

Banff & Buchan Area: June Burnett, Banff T: 01261 813221 E: business.support@aberdeenshire.gov.uk www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/finance/sab.asp



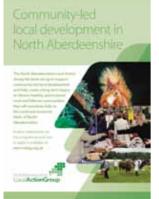
Water Charge Exemption Scheme

If you're a charity registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) or a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) you can apply for exemption from your water, waste water and drainage charges. www.business-stream.co.uk

Sis social investment scotland connecting capital with communities

When did you last look at Social Investment Scotland? They have a considerable range of finance options, including match-funding and cashflow facilities for projects accessing LEADER funding. SIS is itself a social enterprise, and works by offering loan finance to your organisation, with affordable repayment plans tailored to suit. Well worth investigating: www.socialinvestmentscotland.com

Leader 2014 - 2020 Programme



Funding from the European Union and Scottish Government has been awarded to the North Aberdeenshire area to support Community-Led Local Development. The funds will support the delivery of the North **Aberdeenshire Local Development Strategy**, which was developed through community engagement and consultation. The Strategy identifies the following priorities and actions:

I. Place

- Action 1.1 the development of multi-purpose, sustainable and productive community and/or business facilities, particularly using derelict sites and empty units;
- Action 1.2 the provision of new or upgraded culture/ tourism facilities;
- Action 1.3 place marketing and promotion initiatives; and
- Action 1.4 assessing, enhancing and managing biodiversity assets.

2. Connectivity

- Action 2.1 Sustainable and/ or active travel solutions;
- Action 2.2 Access to and delivery of eServices such as digital health.

3. Business Competiveness

- Action 3.1 Improving priority sector competitiveness and collaboration,
- Action 3.2 Facilitating diversification from agriculture

4. Better Opportunities

 Action 4.1 - The provision of training and employability support which complements sectoral diversification and other development efforts; Action 4.2 - The provision of bespoke facilities, activities or services targeted at supporting socially excluded people and encouraging them to become more involved in community structures and activities.

5. Co-operation

- Action 5.1 International cooperation;
- Action 5.2 National cooperation.

The funds will be managed by the North Aberdeenshire Local Action Group, which is a partnership of community, private and public organisations.

Community, public and private organisations are able to apply for funding from the North Aberdeenshire LEADER programme for projects which support the delivery of the Local Development Strategy.

A dedicated Co-ordinator has been appointed to support potential applicants for funding. If you would like to discuss a potential project idea, please contact the Co-ordinator on **01467 628 443** or via **nalag@ aberdeenshire.gov.uk**





The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development **Europe investing in rural areas** The NorthAberdeenshire LAG is being part-financed by the Scottish government and the European Commuity LEADER 2014-2020 programme.

BPL - Engaging With Schools & Young People

BPL has made positive steps over the past couple of years, to ensure that younger people benefit from our services, and that we benefit from their input too.

We now have valuable relationships with two schools in particular. The relationship with Turriff Academy started when Banffshire Partnership followed Boyndie Trust's lead in embracing the Youth Philanthropy Initiative, which is sponsored by Sir Ian Wood's foundation, YPL allows school time for teams of pupils to choose a charity, work with the charity to learn what it does and how it works, then formulate a pitch for a £3k donation towards a project. Turriff pupils chose BPL's Dial-A-Bus service, and the money was won, part-funding a high

specification trolley bed for our new multi-purpose vehicle that can be used for Dial-A-Bus services, as a first-aid treatment vehicle and a command post.

BPL staff have become involved in other aspects of Turriff Academy's curriculum too. Working with business and technology teacher Rob Haines, BPL staff have taken part in the school's 'Cereal Box Challenge' and their 'Café' projects. Additionally, BPL trainers are assisting deliver basic first-aid courses.

First Aid has been the link with Moray school, Gordonstoun, too. Over forty pupils are now involved in a project that sees BPL trainers helping develop the pupils' skills in the classroom, but also outside school hours, twinning with and assisting qualified BPL first aiders at community events, sporting fixtures, etc., delivering first-aid live.

Another new initiative has seen the BPL first aid team working with local Army Cadets, in a similar manner to the Gordonstoun project.

In a very different initiative, BPL has now encouraged and assisted a number of primary schools to become involved in developing Community Action Plans for their areas, working in partnership with community councils and parents councils. Schools in Aberchirder, Portsoy and Inverallochy have all delivered excellent projects, the results of which have really added to the community engagement process.

For more information contact: Banffshire Partnership -Developing Communities on 01261 843598 or bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

Winning pupils' hard work pays off for local community transport provider

17 NICOLA PRISE PORTER

A LOCAL charity has benefited from a success in a philanthropic acheme. The Yorks and Philan-

ISSUE 19 - 2017

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they presentation and some also improved by it.

Getting Irolivyed, Bandishire Partnership were pleased to receive monitol tolley after I was gained by S2 pupils for the charity. Protograph by Photo them Prints You may be aware that a couple of years ago BPL embarked on a new venture, to provide affordable event first aid for public events. We have gained contracts with some of Scotland's largest public events and are proud to say we have become one of the largest providers of this service in the North East of Scotland, we have even gained contracts in the central belt.

To support the many commitments we have now undertaken we have a fantastic group of volunteers who give up their own time to come out and use their skills to provide first aid at events. We have teams based at Sandend, Aviemore, Glasgow and Gordonstoun and are looking to expand further afield in the near future.

If you are arranging a public event or know of one that requires a quote for professional event first aid services please pass on our contact information. We also have a new website up and running that you can contact us through to request a quotation for any event. www. banffshirepartnership.co.uk

Event First Aid

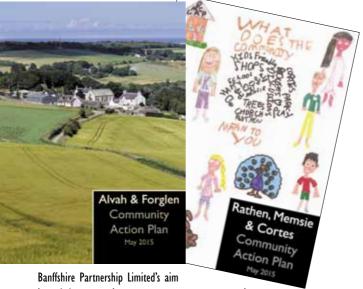


If you are interested in joining us as a volunteer event firstaider, please get in touch with Alan or Scott on 01261 843598 or email Scott0J@banffdab.org.uk where we can give you more information.



First aid

Community Action Plans



is to help community groups or whole communities, plan, develop and deliver projects, large or small. These projects may be things that create jobs, boost the economy, or just improve the quality of life for locals and visitors.

We will not take your project over and do it for you, but we will gladly support, advise and mentor you to get the skills and knowledge to make your own ideas work.

In return, all we ask is that you will be willing to share that experience with future newcomers. All BPL's paid staff and volunteers have been involved in community projects, and made that commitment to pass their skills and knowledge on to others.

More and more, potential funders look for your organisation or

community

to have developed partnerships with others. They will want proof that your idea really does have community support too. BPL can help you with both.

We would encourage you to have a Community Action Plan. This plan should contain and record the views, ideas and priorities of local people, and we will happily assist you to compile one, if your community does not already have one. Working with a lead group, which may be a single body such as a Community Council, or an alliance of smaller organisations, we collect residents' ideas and opinions using methods designed to avoid the arguments and hostilities that can arise in traditional public meetings. Everyone's view will be heard, and not just those with the loudest voices!

There will be little, if any, financial cost to you in the process of getting a plan, but you will need to be prepared to put in some time. Specifically, the lead group will need to:

- Be prepared to distribute publicity material and twist a few arms, so that both a good number and a true cross section of local people take part in the exercise.
- Hire a suitable hall or venue for a public meeting and arrange for teas and coffees to be supplied to those attending (the cost of both can usually be met via BPL).
- Work with the BPL team to help them put the data and ideas collected into a plan that will be realistic, deliverable and make sense to local people.

It really is not a daunting exercise, and many communities have enjoyed the exercise enough to repeat it. We feel a plan has a valuable life of roughly three or four years, before it is out of date.

For more information contact: Banffshire Partnership -Developing Communities on 01261 843598 or bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

Transport For All The Community

Banffshire Partnership has been providing a Dial-a-Bus service in the community for many years. We currently have 215 clients who use the service at least once a month.

Shopping is the main demand for our Dial-a-Bus service and we take our clients to places where they cannot get to on the normal bus service. To be eligible for the Dial-a-Bus service you need to have difficulty getting to the shops. This may be because you don't have a car or the nearest bus stop is too far for you to walk to. We pick you up at your front door, take you to the shops (help you shop if you need help), pack your shopping in the bus and bring you and your shopping home to your front door. We are not in competition with the normal bus service, so you need to register with us before using the buses.

We also hire our buses to community groups when they are not being used for the Dial-a-Bus service. The buses are available most afternoons, evenings and at weekends.

We provide a service in our community in many ways:

DIAL-A-BUS

We have two buses which have been specially built with the shopping trips in mind. Both buses have internal tail lifts and plenty of storage space for all our clients' shopping bags. Our third bus is a Ford Transit.

We serve the communities of: Aberchirder, Alvah, Banff, Boyndie, Cornhill, Crudie, Fordyce, Forglen, Gamrie, Gardenstown, Hilton, King Edward, Macduff, New Byth, Ordiquhill, Portsoy, Sandend and Whitehills.

We cater for people who have difficulty using the normal bus service for various reasons including: living more than a ½ mile from the nearest bus stop, being unable to carry shopping, being disabled or infirm. For many of our clients the service also means a social outing as it may be the only time from week to week that they get the chance to talk to others. All our Dial-a-Bus services operate with a Driver and Passenger Assistant. They are there to help.

The buses are out every day and depending on where you live you



may have more than one service a week. We operate a first come first served booking service and you must book in advance. Please phone the office on 01261 843598 for more information or to register with us.

We will then ask one of our staff to visit you at home. They will explain the service in more detail and make sure it suits your needs.

COMMUNITY MINIBUSES

We run our operations with three minibuses. All three are available for hire by community groups who are registered with us. Two of the three buses can accommodate wheelchair passengers. These two buses also have a large capacity for shopping/ luggage and can take up to 12 passengers or 11 passengers and one wheelchair. Our third bus can take 16 passengers. Two of the three buses have side steps.

We encourage the community groups to have their own driver. However, we currently have a pool of paid and volunteer drivers whom we can rely on.

As members of the Community Transport Association, we provide the nationally accredited Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) training to everyone who drives our buses. Our charges are very competitive; please call us to find out the current charges.

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



Above: Inside the Iveco minibus. VOLUNTEERS

A few committed and enthusiastic volunteers support our paid staff that drive the minibuses and act as Passenger Assistants. They all say that they find the work fun, sociable and rewarding and not in the least bit boring or difficult.

If you have any spare time and like to interact with others, we would be delighted to welcome you to our team. Please don't think you would have to work every day; the odd morning or afternoon will make a difference.

We will make sure you get all the training and support you need to do the job. With your help we can keep the Dial-a-Bus service running to support all our communities, benefitting a large number of people.

We are able to reimburse our volunteers with any out of pocket expenses. Anyone interested should phone us on 01261 843598 for more information. We will be happy to answer all your questions. You can call us on the number given or email us at bpl. transport@banffdab.org.uk

> For further info contact: Banffshire Partnership -Community Transport on 01261 843598 or bpl.transport@ banffdab.org.uk

Training In The Community

BPL is an established training provider in the North East of Scotland, providing vital training to companies and community groups across the region. We are proud to have a great working relationship with many local schools offering to teach their students vital first aid and safety skills from Primary 5 upwards.



We have a full portfolio of first aid courses available including:

- First Aid at Work (3 Days)
- First Aid at Work Requalification (2 Days)
- Emergency First Aid at Work (1 Day)
- Paediatric First Aid (1 Day)
- Community First Aid (1/, Day)
- Basic First Aid (1, Day)
- Save a Life courses (2 Hours) please enquire



We are also authorised to deliver the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS) Standard and Accessible courses as well as The Passenger Assistant Training Scheme (PATS).

Other courses in our portfolio include:

- Manual Handling
- Disability Awareness
- · Minibus Fire & Evacuation training

For further information, a current course calendar and price list or just for an informal discussion of your training requirements please contact Alan Thomson on 01261 843598 or email: AlanT@banffdab.org.uk.

Useful Community Contact Numbers

COMMUNITY GROUPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Aberchirder & District Community Association T: 01466 780277 E: bobpeden I @ sky.com W: www.foggieloan.co.uk

Aberchirder & District Men's Shed

T: 01466 780861 E: james.paterson24@btinternet.com

The Boatshed

T: 01261 842951 E: contact@portsoyboatshed.org W: www.portsoyboatshed.org

Boyndie Trust Limited

T: 01261 843249 E: boyndietrust@hotmail.com W: www.boyndietrust.co.uk

Brighter Horizons Centre

T: 01261 833132 E: brighterhorizons@bachlawprojects. co.uk

W: www.brighterhorizons.org.uk

Fordyce Community Association

T: 01261 842658 (Hall Bookings) T: 07801 329428 (Car Boot Bookings) T: 07933 201299 (General)

Home-Start Deveron

T: 01261 819964 W: www.homestartdeveron.org.uk

Portsoy Skiffettes T: 07717 220018

Sail Loft T: 01261 842695 W: www.portsoysailloft.org

Portsoy Pavilion T: 01261 843555

Portsoy Thrift Shop T: 07870 536776

Portsoy Salmon Bothy

T: 01261 842951 E: contact@salmonbothy.org W: www.salmonbothy.org

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival T: 01261 842951 E: contact@stbfportsoy.org W: www.stbfportsoy.org

Whitehills Harbour & Marina T: 01261 861291 W: www.whitehillsmarina.co.uk

LOCAL RURAL PARTNERSHIP

Banffshire Partnership T: 01261 843598 E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk W: www.banffshirepartners.co.uk - Community Transport E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk - Developing Communities E: bpl.contact@tiscali.co.uk - Training E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Alvah & Forglen Community Council T: 01261 821671 / 07795 181476 E: secretary.alvahforglencc@gmail.com

Banff & Macduff Community Council E: bandmcommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Cornhill & Ordiquill Community Council T: 07852 412289 E: julieshorses@aol.com

Fordyce, Sandend & District Community Council E: cornelia@corneliagriffin.com

King Edward & Gamrie Community Council T: 01261 851028 (Oct-Mar) 01261 851221 (Apr-Sept)

Portsoy & District Community Council T: 07982 721917 E: moirastewartcc13@outlook.com Whitehills & District Community Council T: 01261 861882

E: jrbalharry123@btinternet.com

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

BANFF & DISTRICT Councillor John Cox T: 07917 734774 E: cllr.j.cox@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Michael Roy T: 01261 815614 / 07876 475497 E: cllr.m.roy@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor lain Taylor T: 07920 451 306 E: cllr.i.taylor@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

TROUP

Councillor Ross Cassie T: 01261 831810 / 07795 612721 E: cllr.r.cassie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Mark Findlater T: 01261 832192 / 07876 475129 E: cllr.m.findlater@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Hamish Partridge T: 01346 541303 / 07876 475126 E: cllr.h.partridge@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

FRASERBURGH & DISTRICT

Councillor Charles Buchan T: 01346 515758 / 07876 475319 E: cllr.c.buchan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor lan Tait T: 01346 518619 / 07768 536864 E: cllr.i.tait@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Brian Topping T: 01346 518133 / 07768 704507 E: cllr.b.topping@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Councillor Michael Watt T: 01346 518479 / 07768 863076

E: cllr.m.watt@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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The Old School Boyndie Banff AB45 2JT T & F: 01261 843598 E: bpl.transport@banffdab.org.uk

B P L **BANFFSHIRE PARTNERSHIP** TRAINING



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