

The Garioch Gazette

December 2013 issue




Festive Greetings

The Board and staff at The Garioch Partnership
would like to wish you a

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a very happy and successful 2014!

**Read about our Winter Forum Event
on page 6**

Keep up with and comment on Garioch Community issues, news and projects! Follow TGP **NOW** on  Facebook!



MEMBERS' NEWS pages 2-3

Barnardos Employee Opportunity on page 4

Next Edition of *The Garioch Gazette* to be published at the end of March 2014. All copy to the Editor please by no later than 21st March.



Our office will be closed from 20th December 2013 until 6th January 2014. See you all next year!

THE COMMUNITY INITIATIVE GRANT SCHEME is open to any constituted not-for-profit community group/ or community-run organisation in the Garioch area with an annual turnover of less than £25k.

Consideration will be given to projects that show wide community support, or improve the quality of life of local people, are of long-term benefit and make a difference to the community you live in. This could include the start-up costs for a new group, equipment, training for group members, encouraging active participation in a community, marketing costs or improvements to Community Facilities

The maximum award will be £750. You will be normally be expected to have matched funding in place or be able to demonstrate how the whole project will be funded unless the grant is for start-up costs for a new group or activity. For further information please visit www.gariochpartnership.org.uk or alternatively you can contact Anne Simpson at anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk. Watch out below for updates on CIGS awards and projects.

Get yours in now !!!

STOP PRESS NEW COMMUNITY INITIATIVE GRANT SCHEME AWARDS FOR

Congratulations to Cornfields Scotland and The Spectrum Singers, Kemnay, on their recent successful applications for project funding from the Community Grant Initiative Scheme. Cornfields secured £500 towards start-up costs and The Spectrum Singers £750 for purchasing musical equipment.

Ten awards have now been made to local groups and organisations since the scheme was established in January 2013. A total of £6,350 has been allocated so far.

The Garioch Area Committee gave The Garioch Partnership £5000 for this specific purpose in the current financial year and in addition The Garioch Partnership has dedicated some of its own resources to the Community Initiatives Grant Scheme Fund so there are still some funds available at the time of printing.



TGP membership now sits at 50!
Come on number 51 where are you?



COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME UPDATES



KIDDIWINKS & PERSPEX WINDOWS



Kiddiwinks is a registered and committee run charity which operates as a Playgroup, for age two and over, in the Kemnay area. Parents of the children that attend the group form the committee, the role of which is to manage the staff, undertake fundraising and look after the requirements of the group.

In April of this year, Kiddiwinks applied to The Garioch Partnership for a Community Initiative Grants Scheme award of £500 to help them to improve the appearance of their premises and to make it more welcoming to both its current and potential users.



Kiddiwinks were successful with their application and have since used the money they received to install Perspex windows and repaint woodwork, the before and after results of which can be seen pictured left.

To find out more about Kiddiwinks follow them on Facebook now at www.facebook.com/Kiddiwinks.of.Kemnay or contact them at The Pavilion, Bogbeth Park, AB51 5ND Kemnay or email kiddiwinkskemnay@gmail.com



ACTION KINTORE & THE BOTHIE

Action Kintore received money from The Garioch Partnership to employ a new member of staff. We interviewed three candidates and are happy to report we employed Rachel Lewis to the position of Volunteer Youth Co-ordinator.

Rachel's role is to support and help volunteers along with working with young people and to encourage the whole community to use and support our project The Bothie.



We are nearing completion stage of the build and we would like to take this opportunity to thank The Garioch Partnership for helping Action Kintore in achieving some of their goals.

Once our Bothie has been opened to the local community, Action Kintore would like to extend an invitation to The Garioch Partnership to come along and see the work we and our Co-ordinator are doing in Kintore.

Isabel Stirling Treasurer



Pictured above the Bothie in its early stage of construction

ECHT SCHOOL & COMMUNITY TRIM TRAIL



Echt School reached its fundraising target in May 2013, and work began at once to peg out the area for the trim trail. Approximately two weeks later installation began and was completed in a week, with the equipment ready for use in early June 2013. It was immediately used by the pupils of Echt School and Nursery, who had eagerly watched the installation process.

Over the course of the summer I have seen many children using the play equipment. I would say that the trail has certainly proved to be an asset to the facilities in the Pleasure Park. On behalf of the Echt School PTCA and Parent Council I would like to thank the members of The Garioch Partnership for their valued financial support which helped to get this project completed. **Fiona Walker Secretary, Echt School Parent Council**





Would you like to volunteer for Home-Start Garioch?

Home-Start Garioch is part of a national network that offers friendly, informal support to families with young children.



The daily stresses of bringing up a family can often become overwhelming and as a result parents are exhausted and discouraged. Home-Start can help to alleviate some of the challenges that families face, through regular home-based support from volunteers.

Home-Start depends on committed volunteers who give of their time, energy and experience as parents to support families who are going through difficult times in their lives. Volunteers visit families, who have at least one child under five, in their own homes, for two to three hours a week.

This offer of regular, flexible support can go a long way to helping families get back on their feet. Parents grow in confidence, strengthen bonds with their children, recharge their batteries and regain a sense of the value of themselves as parents.

Home-Start Garioch has been working in the Garioch area since 1995. Our volunteers are the backbone of the service we provide, and we would like to meet anyone who would be interested in finding out more about volunteering for Home-Start. We ask only that you have experience of being a parent and that you are able to commit 2-3 hours a week to supporting a family. All volunteers must attend a Preparation Course which takes eight to nine mornings spread over a couple of months.

We look forward to hearing from any volunteer interested in finding out more about Home-Start.

Please contact the office on **01467 624801** or email mhairi@homestartgarioch.org.uk if you would like more information.





An Opportunity For Garioch Employers



**Believe in
children**



**Barnardo's
Scotland**

**AVAILABLE FUNDING TO SUPPORT EMPLOYERS
TO CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND WORK
EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Barnardo's Works Tayside & North East Service is inviting local and national employers across Central/South Aberdeenshire to support the delivery of our programmes by creating job opportunities and/or hosting work experience placements for young people. The success of Barnardo's Works would not be possible without the support of partner employers and we are appealing to you today to get involved.

Could you benefit from available funding to allow you to recruit an additional staff member? Barnardo's Works is a delivery partner for the Employer Recruitment Incentive for Targeted Young People (ERI TYP). This is aimed at employers of any size who are able to create job opportunities for young people from the following targeted groups: Young Carers, Care Leavers, Ex-Young Offenders and Disability. This fund (available for job starts up to Dec 2014) allows employers to claim up to a £1500 subsidy plus there is also a small, flexible support fund available for equipment and training costs.

Barnardo's Works
engage ■ train ■ qualify ■ employ

There is also funding currently being administered by Aberdeenshire Council to encourage private sector organisations, and eligible third sector organisations, to create additional job opportunities for young people living in the Shire – Youth Employment Scotland Employer Recruitment Incentive (YES ERI). This funding is for employers with less than 400 employees and the job opportunities must be for a minimum of 6 months, 25-40 hours per week, starting before 31st March 2014. 50% of the basic hourly rate (capped at national minimum wage) will be reimbursed for the first six months in eligible cases. Limited places available.

Terms apply for both incentives. If the employer and the young person are eligible for both the ERI TYP and YES ERI, then this provides employers with a strong funding package to recruit an additional staff member and contribute to the Youth Employment Agenda.

Barnardo's has been working in partnership with employers for over 14 years to deliver quality employability programmes for young people. The focus of Barnardo's Works is to match the potential of young people with the needs of employers. Barnardo's Works supports young people from a wide range of backgrounds to improve their employability skills and move towards work readiness.

Barnardo's Works is a delivery partner for the "Employability Fund" programme – a 'Skills Development Scotland' funded programme aimed at ensuring 'real life' work experience placements for young people with a clear focus on key milestones and tangible, positive outcomes. Barnardo's Works is delivering the Employability Fund at Stages 2, 3 & 4 of the Scottish Government's Strategic Pipeline, and this includes the delivery of the "Certificate of Work Readiness" for young people on stage 3 of the pipeline. A core element of the 'Certificate of Work Readiness' is work experience, to enable young people to develop valuable employability skills; and to demonstrate to employers that they can turn up on time, can work with others and have the right attitude.

If you would like to find out more about the above recruitment incentives, or the process involved in hosting a work experience placement, please contact Sheelagh Scott who will be happy to meet with you to discuss the Barnardo's Works programme in more detail.

Best wishes to everyone for the festive season!

Sheelagh Scott
Employer Liaison Officer
Barnardo's Works (Tayside & North East Service)
Mob: 07917 544168 Email: sheelagh.scott@barnardos.org.uk



Ward Forums

putting the community into community planning



Community planning is a way of working which makes public services responsive to, and organised around, the needs of communities. Implicit in this is the need to involve communities in the decisions made on public services that affect them. The overall aim of community planning is to provide better public services and to support communities in their endeavours to improve the local quality of life.

The **Garioch Local Community Planning Group** delivers community planning at the local level. It is made up of representatives from the major service providers as well as community and voluntary sector representatives.

Community Planning Partners:

Major Service Providers	Community/Voluntary Sector
Aberdeenshire Council	Community Councils
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	The Garioch Partnership
NHS Grampian	Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)
Police Scotland	Aberdeenshire Central and South

The partners work together to ensure that services are delivered to residents effectively and at best value. They also work with the communities of Garioch to ensure that local people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services that affect them. **Community Ward Forums** will comprise part of that engagement process. The forums will be organised on behalf of the **Garioch Local Community Planning Group** by **The Garioch Partnership** as part of its Service Level Agreement with Aberdeenshire Council.

What are they for?

In the context of Community Planning, the main aims of the forums in Garioch are:

- To ensure that the views of communities and community organisations are fed into the formal community planning process
- To provide an opportunity for ongoing, two way communication between the service providers and the community; forums can be used to raise issues formally or informally
- To ensure that community representatives are kept up to date with new developments that may be of use and relevance to their communities
- To support the development of Community Councils and other community organisations - for example through training sessions on media skills, running meetings and police engagement.

Recent Forums:

A round of forums was held in November 2013 with some 60 people participating in the discussions. Topics included updates from community planning partners, and from community members on a variety of community-led projects. There is a lot happening in the Garioch area to improve the quality of life in communities!

When is the next forum? The next forums will be in Spring 2014. Watch this space!

How can the community set the agenda?

The forums will be run for the benefit of the communities in Garioch and the Garioch Community Planning Group is very keen to hear what issues and subjects the community wants to be included in the Forums. We will ask for suggestions at the forums but you are also very welcome to email us: anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk and douglas.milne@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Where can I get more information?

Information about Community Planning can be found on the Our Aberdeenshire website at: www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk and on the website of Aberdeenshire Council at: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communityplanning/index.asp>.



WINTER FORUM EVENT



December 2nd 2013 saw the second successful winter forum event organised by Anne Simpson, Development Officer, The Garioch Partnership.

This evening event was held at J. G. Ross Limited, Inverurie, and was well attended with a variety of people and local organisations being present.

After a general icebreaker, the evening began with the Garioch Partnership presenting a community initiative grants scheme cheque for £500.00 for start up costs to Fiona Mathers of Cornfields Scotland.



After thanking The Garioch Partnership, Fiona went on to explain about what Cornfields does and how it can help people living in Aberdeenshire who have been affected by trauma or traumatic events.

Photo shows (left to right) Anne Simpson TGP, Fiona Mathers, Cornfields Scotland and Kay Diack, TGP.

To find out more about Cornfields www.cornfields-scotland.co.uk or email fiona@cornfields-scotland.co.uk Telephone 07845 988283.

The evening also showcased the talents of local choir "The Spectrum Singers" seen below, who entertained us with a mixture of popular music, songs from musicals and Christmas carols, including a specially arranged rendition of "The Rose".



Pictured (left) are members of "The Spectrum Singers" together with Gordon their conductor and musical director (seated). If you would like to find out more you can find more details at www.spectrumsingers.com

"The Garioch Partnership"



"Garioch_tweets"



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and

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Questions or comments? Email us at info@gariochpartnership.org.uk

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