

The Garioch Gazette

March 2014 issue

SPRING NEWS FROM THE BOARD



NEW
FEATURE

FOR OUR EVENT DATES DIARY
AT A GLANCE SEE PAGE 5



The Garioch Partnership is continuing to grow its membership and is now delighted to welcome new staff member **Dawn Brown**, seen pictured left, to our already successful development team.

Dawn will be joining the team from April 1st and working 18 hours a week to provide additional support to the Garioch community.

Congratulations Dawn and welcome aboard!

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

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See who won COSLA Gold on page 3
Community Consultation Engagement Event
Article on page 7

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Next Edition of **The Garioch Gazette** to be published
4th July 2014. All copy to the editor by 27/06/14.

Our AGM and Summer Forum is planned for 26th May 2014 with the venue TBC. We are hoping to run two workshops on the day 1) village hall health-check and 2) funding. **Sign up now!**

Don't Miss It!



Recent refurbishments are now complete at our Development Office in the Wyness Hall and we are open for business again! The office is currently staffed part-time: Monday and Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons.

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 on anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk. Watch out below for updates on CIGS awards and projects.

Get yours in now !!! Remember you can re-apply for more funding after 1 year!

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE GRANT SCHEME AWARDS UPDATE NEWS



Kiddiwinks is a playgroup in Kemnay that offers spaces to children aged 2 years and above. During the 2 and ½ hour session children get the opportunity to have messy play, outdoor play, stories, singing, snack and lots more. Kiddiwinks is a charity that is operated by a committee of volunteers and our qualified playleader. One of the major operating issues Kiddiwinks has is that children are generally only with us until they receive a school nursery place. This is usually a year or less. As the nurseries have a big intake in the August, and children can only attend once they are 2 our first few terms are always low in numbers.



Amanda Hay, Treasurer for Kiddiwinks, told us: "We are always actively trying to increase our profile so that people know the opportunities that Kiddiwinks has to offer. **We would like to thank the Garioch Partnership** for helping us to fund a window display for the building that we operate from. This has given us a more visual presence and our building a brighter appearance".



Newmachar Playgroup was successful in securing their CIGS funding in August 2013 to help towards the cost of funding their project (pictured left). Dawn from Newmachar Playgroup updated us on the project:

"Since receiving our grant for a mobile sink, our hand washing routine has completely changed for the better. Children are learning good hand washing procedures and because the sink is automatic children can manage on their own, encouraging independence. The sink has helped us comply with care inspectorate recommendations and without your grant we would have struggled to afford to buy such a good piece of equipment. I cannot stress enough how much of a difference this sink has made in our day to day sessions and would like to take this opportunity to **thank you again for your generous grant**".



MEMBERS' NEWS

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE GRANT SCHEME AWARDS UPDATE NEWS CONTINUED ...

Thank you to the Garioch Partnership!

1st Skene Boys Brigade - Westhill



The 1st Skene Boys Brigade, Westhill were gratefully awarded £500 from the Garioch Partnership towards extra activities during their annual summer camp in 2013. Over 80 boys from the age of 5 to 18 attend the weekly meetings of 1st Skene BB in Westhill. Their normal Friday night meeting has a wide range of activities for the boys to achieve their awards. This includes craft, sports, woodwork, photography, music and gymnastics. As well as their own award schemes the 1st Skene BB are also accredited facilitators of the D of E scheme. Supported by Skene Church the 1st Skene BB have a dedicated group of BB officers, leaders and helpers who make the company such a success.

The 1st Skene BB have been holding their summer week long camp at Badaguish Outdoor Centre, for many years. This has always been a highlight of the year and helps cement the boys in the organisation. When they are at camp the boys are involved in helping to run the Corrieyairick Challenge. They man water stations and help out in a charity event that involves a 14-mile mountain bike ride over a somewhat challenging hill, followed by a 38-mile road cycle. The event raises money for the Speyside Trust at the Badaguish Outdoor Centre. Some of the older boys and leaders also take part in the event and raise sponsorship money.



The summer camp of 2013 had 31 of the older boys attending with probably the best weather anyone can remember. There even seemed to be less midges! The boys all took part in cycling, football competitions, night time cycling, wild river swimming, beach games, film show an overnight wild camping expedition in the Cairngorms and indeed just some time relaxing with friends.

As a result of the **Garioch Partnership** grant the boys got the opportunity to go white water rafting and canyoning in the Aviemore area with a local company 'Full on Adventure'. The activities stretched some of the boys beyond what they might have done, but everyone of them took part and the smiles on all of their faces said it all - a fantastic success.



For more information contact: **Steve Cole, Officer, 1st Skene BB, Westhill, www.1stskenebb.co.uk**

Celebrating Our Success! A Reason To Smile!



When The Garioch Partnership was first set up we initially gave ourselves the target of achieving a membership of 50 Garioch organisations. Thanks to the hard work of The Garioch Partnership Board and Anne Simpson, Development Worker, we were thrilled to be able to welcome our 50th member **Smile Scotland** in December 2013. In order to welcome **Smile Scotland** to The Garioch Partnership and to say thank you, we are going to present them with a voucher for £50.00.

Joining our membership is **FREE**, so if you are not already a member and are interested in finding out more, you can find us at www.gariochpartnership.org.uk, or feel welcome to email us at info@gariochpartnership.org.uk or call 01467 628801 (FYI see office hours) for an informal chat with Anne or Dawn from our development team.





Excellence Awards

Great news from 2014 COSLA Awards Achieving Better Outcomes category.

A big **CONGRATULATIONS** TO Westhill Men's Shed for their huge achievement in winning Aberdeenshire's **first ever** COSLA gold award for achieving better outcomes. Seen pictured below right with their award are members of the Westhill Men's Shed and Douglas Milne, Garioch Area Manager, Aberdeenshire Council.

COSLA's website stated: "*social isolation and loneliness are detrimental to the health and wellbeing of all older people. However, the low level of engagement of older men in community activity puts them at higher risk of suffering from isolation. The Westhill Men's Shed allows men to "work, rest and play" together in an inclusive and welcoming environment resulting in an improved sense of wellbeing and of feeling part of the community, reduced isolation and opportunities to learn and share skills and experiences. The Shed, the first of its kind in Scotland, is the result of an issue being identified through community engagement for the Garioch Community Plan and statistical evidence from community planning partners being addressed and taken forward by the community*".

For more information about the awards and a chance to see the Awards and the Westhill Men's Shed presentation video, go to:

www.cosla.co.uk



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Featured Organisations

Keystone — The Quality Award For Village Halls



What is it?

The **KeyStone Award** is a quality award scheme designed to give information, support and encouragement to people who manage village halls and community buildings. It will help you make sense of legislation and regulation, put systems in place to keep things running smoothly and allow you to concentrate on providing the best facilities possible.



KeyStone combines a guide to best practice with comprehensive information resources all supported by the encouragement and assistance of a mentor. It's also a management tool that can be used to help you keep files, documents and information organised. The KeyStone Award provides recognition that you are doing things right, and can be used for promotion and publicity and as evidence of good practice.

Who is it for?

The KeyStone Award can benefit anyone involved in running a village halls and community building in Scotland. Although the KeyStone Award was designed in a rural context it is likely to be equally relevant if you are running an urban community centre, heritage centre or scout hut. What are the benefits and why should we do this?

How does it work?

The KeyStone Award is based on a series of checklists on a number of different topics including governance, managing people, managing money, managing resources, working with users

If you would like to know more contact Anne at info@gariochpartnership.org.uk

or visit www.scvo.org.uk/villagehalls

Central Aberdeenshire Villages Halls Network

Welcome to the Central Aberdeenshire Village Halls Network!

Set up in 2013 by The Garioch Partnership, the Central Aberdeenshire Village Halls Network is a 'virtual' way of sharing ideas, information and good practice, as well as an excellent way to advertise **YOUR** village hall events online and reach a wider audience.

Our aim as the Central Aberdeenshire Villages Halls Network was to start slowly But things are picking up and we now have 17 likes on facebook.

Support Each Other TODAY and help to make Central Aberdeenshire Village Halls Network a success!



**find us and like us on
facebook today!**



www.facebook.com/central-Aberdeenshire-village-halls-network



EVENT DATES DIARY

Want to advertise an event on our diary page? For more information, email The Editor at info@gariochpartnership.org.uk or call us on 01467 628801.

April 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	30				

Bennachie Landscapes Project **FREE** exhibition
 email bailiesofbennachie@mail.com
 7 to 27 April 2014

Life on the Wild Side wild learning on Bennachie for 14-16 year olds

Ward 11 Forum St. Mary's Church Centre Inverurie 06.30pm to 09.30pm

Ward 10 Forum Kemnay Village Hall 06.30pm to 09.30pm

May 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Ward 13 Date and Venue to be confirmed

Ward 12 Forum Newmachar Hall 06.30pm to 09.30pm

Doric Evening Chapel of Garioch Hall 7.30pm

Insch School Fair

Kintore Summer Festival

TGP AGM and Summer Forum Venue to be confirmed

June 2014

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Life on the Wild Side wild learning on Bennachie for 14-16 year olds

Westhill Gala

Insch Homecoming Family Event

Ward Forums

putting the *community* into community planning

Sorry to repeat but just a wee reminder for our new readers what community planning and ward forums are all about.

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.

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 **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:

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.

When is the next forum?

The next round of forms are to be held late **April** and early **May**, so please see our events page for any dates.

We are always keen to know what local issues are on **your** minds, so any agenda items for these forums should be forwarded to Anne Simpson, The Garioch Partnership or Douglas Milne, Aberdeenshire Council, as soon as possible to make sure that the issues important to **you** are included for discussion.

Community Consultation Engagement Event



A **successful** community-led local development engagement event organised by the South Aberdeenshire Local Action Group with **Martin Brebner** and **June Jaffrey** from Aberdeenshire Council and facilitated by **Anne Simpson**, The Garioch Partnership, was held on 6th March at The Kintore Arms in Inverurie (seen left). Forty people from the surrounding community attended the evening event which included a presentation on European funding opportunities, facilitated workshops discussing local development needs, opportunities and threats, specific themes and upcoming projects throughout the South Aberdeenshire area. The workshops also addressed whether or not there were any particular equalities considerations to be taken in account for the South Aberdeenshire area including Garioch.

Development needs presented for discussion included:

- Connectivity and infrastructure (transport, roads, broadband)
- Housing (cost & size) and business spaces/rates (impact on town centres)
- Inequality, deprivation and isolation (pockets)
- Economic climate
- Demographics (old and young)
- Training and employment
- Health, wellbeing and care (sports & recreation, services for older people & people with disabilities, men's sheds)
- Community halls (still need support, important)

Development opportunities presented for discussion included:

- Communities and people
- Geographical characteristics/environment
- Culture and heritage (incl. food & drink, local history, built & natural heritage)
- Industry and employment (esp. tourism)
- Facilities and services
 - Well used, opp's for existing facilities to operate innovatively
- Developing links
 - Between priorities, projects, sectors, physical and online places/spaces

The presentation and workshops were also held in Huntly, Banchory and Stonehaven.

"The Garioch Partnership"



"Garioch_tweets"



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and

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[remove your name from our mailing list.](#)

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

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