

## Community Empowerment Conference: 1 October 2015

### "We want more people to feel they can influence decisions made locally" Marco Biagi, MSP

Working together with Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action, with funding from the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership, TGP hosted an information day on 1<sup>st</sup> October around the Community Empowerment Act. Marco Biagi, the Scottish Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment gave the keynote speech, which led into a great day of discussion and information. Our workshops on allotments, the impact on community planning, participatory budgeting, community ownership and participation requests were all very lively and the buzz over lunch and coffee breaks was fantastic. The final session was a question and answer session to a panel ably chaired by Jim Savege, Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council. Diane Miller of AVA is collating a report that will be available to all participants over the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who participated on the day and for your input making it such a great event.



## Gad about and Gab about Garioch!

As many of you know over the last couple of years TGP has hosted twice-yearly Ward Forums on behalf of the Garioch Local Community Planning group. While these have been fairly successful the feedback from communities and from partners is that more local events would be more useful and meaningful, so from 2016 no more ward forums! Instead we will **gad about and gab about Garioch**, by hosting **local** engagement events across the 28 settlements in Garioch. These will have the same purpose as the Ward Forums, namely to put the community into community planning and involve local people in decision-making. Which community would like to be first? Volunteers please? Contact [anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk](mailto:anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk).

## TGP Winter Forum – save the date Monday 7 December 7pm..

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## Community Initiative Grants – new awards

A further seven Community grants have been distributed to local groups Pictured below are three of the successful applicants.

- ✓ Computers and Integration for tablets and training
- ✓ Echt Parent Council for its breakfast club set up
- ✓ Kemnay Breakfast and After School Club for equipment
- ✓ Inverurie and District Men's Shed towards an accessible toilet
- ✓ The Philosophy Cafe towards World of Words session
- ✓ Fetternear Hall for a dishwasher
- ✓ Rotary Club of Blackburn for a mobile sink

There is still some money available to share during this financial year more details of how to apply can be found on <http://gariochpartnership.org.uk/grant-application-form/>



## Community Initiative Grant updates

### Fly Cup Catering Ltd

Following the very generous grant that Fly Cup received earlier this year, the funds of £750.00 was used to provide lockers for our trainees within the premises at Unit 2 Burghmuir circle. The cost of goods and installation was £853.20 and was matched funded by JMS coatings ltd, Harlaw Business Park. The lockers were purchased and installed by Langstane Press.

An instant success with our trainees we are now the proud owners of 13 lockers with individual locks made up of red and blue in colour. The lockers are being used by our trainees who value the opportunity to turn a key on their personal belongings, should they wish to. Ironically, we have found that many don't mind leaving them unlocked, but do like to put their stuff behind a closed door.

This grant has been a huge benefit to our trainees and to the overall look of the area to the rear of our kitchen which previously could be untidy and unsightly for visitors.

Thank you again for the support that you give to FC Catering.

Telephone : 01467 625645

Website : [www.flycup.org](http://www.flycup.org)

Email : [Manager@Flycup.org](mailto:Manager@Flycup.org)

"The Natter" <http://flycuppa.blogspot.co.uk>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Flycup-catering/>





Members, volunteers and carers lead the singing at Create Connect Event May 2015

### Foos Yer Doos



### Garioch Partnership Funding Report

In April 2015 we received a very generous grant from the Garioch Partnership of £750. This enabled the group to cover singing leader costs for 19 sessions (approx. six months) and provided a security of funding that meant we could continue with the project with confidence.

The group meets during term time. Over 20 people with neurological conditions and their carers have benefited from the sessions over the last year.

The group has had one or two themed sessions including a 'Eurovision' special with lively quiz and UK entries over the last five decades! We were also invited to lead a sing a long for the Creative Connect event at Old Meldrum and a 'flying squad' of members and volunteers went along to give only our second performance. Since doing our first for the Garioch Partnership at Christmas last year the confidence of members has grown. We finished the term with a very successful AGM which saw us visited by old friends and new members followed by lunch at the Fly Cup and a good time was had by all.

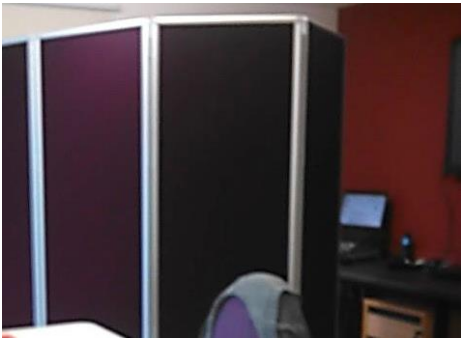
We could not do all of this without the great support and work from our volunteers, support from AVA and other community associations and now with the financial and moral support from the Garioch Partnership this year has seen this community group grow in ability and confidence.

### Grampian Opportunities

Thanks to the Garioch Community Initiative Grant funding Grampian Opportunities was able to purchase a fold up screen to improve the use of our facilities at our base at 1 Deans Court, Kintore.

The screen is on wheels, which means it can be moved into different positions depending on the activities taking place.

One use is to screen off a private area within the open plan base.



Screening window and doors has also helped reduce light and increase privacy when our large screen is being used for training and presentations.

The option to fold the screen means it can be stored in a small space when larger group activities are taking place.

A very useful and practical purchase which is proving to be very versatile to ourselves and other users of the base.

The base is available for others to use and more information is available from our Inverurie Office Tel: 01467 629675



## FootPrints Connect Getting Connected: Helping the over-55s get online



Footprints Connect is a social enterprise organisation set up to encourage and support the over 55's to get online. Offering introductory computer training and help through community group sessions and to people in their own homes as part of the organisation's GetITon (GIO) programme.

Footprints Connect ran three (3) sessions in Garioch in Spring 2015 including one in late April which formed part of the UK wide Digital Unite 'Spring Online' initiative. These sessions are not formal 'set' classes but are designed to support people who are new to computers or need guidance to help build their confidence in using digital technology.

The focus of Footprints Connect is to support the over-55's and provide a platform and tools which can help alleviate social isolation in their later years. By helping to build their skills the organisation offers them a route to improving their independence through the use of new digital technologies and accessing social media used across the world today.

Many people are isolated at home because they are unable to leave the house to attend community support sessions. For them, a growing isolation undermines their independence in continuing to live at home. When they can be safely assisted to become connected and supported via the internet the isolation can be reduced and their independence increased.

The Footprints Connect website has been set up as part of this support programme and is now being further developed for communities across Aberdeenshire. The site offers a place where our users can access help and advice, find local services through our Trusted Providers Directory, or get information about community news or events in their area and read and download a range of local newsletters.

See more about Footprints Connect on <http://www.footprintsconnect.org.uk/>

For more information on Footprints Connect or enquiries about community and home-based sessions please call 07771 296612 or email [info@footprintsconnect.org.uk](mailto:info@footprintsconnect.org.uk)

## Funding Opportunities - Craigmyle Community Ltd.

### Get a grant from Craigmyle Community Ltd

The main purpose of Craigmyle Community Limited is to support applications that will improve the quality of life for disabled people.

The grant will provide an opportunity for people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities or mental health problems, with priority given to applications with a learning disability.

Applications are accepted from Orkney to Edinburgh with priority given to applications in the Grampian region (Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray).

Any disabled individual or organisations supporting such individuals can apply.

The average grant is in the region of £500 – £1500, however applications will be judged on their merit. More information is hosted on the website :

<http://www.grampianopportunities.org.uk/craigmyle-community-ltd.html>

## Funding Opportunities – Cashback for Creativity

### CashBack for Creativity: Open Arts Fund

YouthLink Scotland is delighted to announce the launch of the CashBack for Creativity: Open Arts Fund for 2016/17. The Open Arts Fund is a strand of Creative Scotland's CashBack for Creativity programme which is being delivered in partnership with YouthLink Scotland. It is a part of the Scottish Government's CashBack for Communities programme which reinvests the proceeds of crime back into communities to benefit Scotland's young people.

The CashBack for Creativity: Open Arts Fund aims to deliver the following outcomes:

- Increase the numbers of young people participating in high quality arts programmes,
- Increase the access to arts programmes for young people who would not normally have access, or who are considered to be vulnerable or at risk of offending.
- Young People build their confidence and self-esteem, and develop positive behaviours.
- Young people develop confidence in their skills and develop aspirations for further learning and development.
- Young people progress onto further learning, training and personal development opportunities.
- Increase the number of opportunities for young people who are from areas which demonstrate need.

A total of £200,000 will be invested in community based arts programmes with individual proposals being able to access awards of up to £10,000

## Pension wise...



The rules for taking personal and some workplace pensions changed on 6 April 2015. You can now access and use your pension pot in any way you want if you're aged 55 or over and have a defined contribution pension.

Pension Wise is a new free and impartial service to help you understand your pension options. Visit [www.pensionwise.gov.uk](http://www.pensionwise.gov.uk) for information and guidance about your pension options.

Appointments will either be face-to-face with a specialist from a Citizens Advice Bureau or over the phone with The Pensions Advisory Service. You can book an appointment if:

- You have a 'defined contribution' pension pot'. A defined contribution pension is built up over time through regular payments by you and/or your employer; and,
- You are close to age 50.

For a face-to-face appointment at a location convenient for you please call 01224 747714.

Alternatively you can contact Citizens Advice Direct on 0808 800 9060.

Details of Citizens Advice Bureaux throughout Scotland can be found at [www.cas.org.uk](http://www.cas.org.uk).

To book a telephone appointment with the Pensions Advisory Service call 0300 330 1001.

Irene Smith, Pension Wise Guidance Specialist,

South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau

01224 747714 or [irene.smith@westhillcab.casonline.org.uk](mailto:irene.smith@westhillcab.casonline.org.uk)



## Shared Lives at the Garioch Community Kitchen

In July the final of the 'Come Dine with Shared Lives' event was held at the Garioch Community Kitchen in Inverurie. The finalist from the North and South heats came along to battle it out!

The entries were a lovely tea cake, gooey peanut cookies, scrummy flapjacks, chocolatey truffles and delicious apple crumble.

We also made lunch of soup, pasta and quiche with the help of two fabulous volunteers!

Once the creations were cooked and we had all sampled each entry, everyone voted for their favourite. And the winners were Keith and his Shared Lives Carer, Demi with their truffles!

This was a fabulous event for everyone to show what they can do in the kitchen and learn some new skills!

### What is Shared Lives?

Shared Lives provides a mutual, individual, flexible match between families who need a service and Shared Lives Carers who offer their skills of support to people with a disability. This is a mutual match so people can share hobbies, interests, communities, holidays and friends.

Shared Lives is for people aged 16 and over, there is no upward age limit.

Shared Lives offers short breaks, day support and long term placements based in and around a Shared Lives Carer's home. Unlike the traditional forms of support it is personal for the individual and has a high level of confidence building, self- help skills and life skills. Shared Lives also offers weekends away and once a month events such as curling, lunches, bowling etc.

To find out more about becoming a Shared Lives Carer or to make use of our service contact 07824 837791 or email [suzanne.mahony@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.mahony@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) information on: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sharedlives](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/sharedlives)



## Port Priorities



The Community Action Plan for Port Elphinstone is now published and will be circulated through the school after the October holidays. Copies available through the PECH committee as well. Huge thanks to everyone who contributed to the plan, and looking forward to assisting the groups to move forward with the wishes they identified. If anyone would like an electronic copy contact [info@gariochpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@gariochpartnership.org.uk).

# Partners in Policymaking



## Partners in Policymaking

Partners in Policymaking' is a leadership development programme for parents of disabled children and disabled adults, including people with learning difficulties, sensory impairments and physical impairments. The course is a chance for participants to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to advocate for better treatment and social justice for disabled people within our society.

The programme is designed for parents and adults who:

- think that life for disabled children and adults could be better
- want to improve the way things are now, but don't know where to start

Some people on the programme will already be members of groups and organisations who are working for change, while others may be new to this sort of work.

There are 8 Monthly Sessions being run from October 2015 - May 2016.

I signed up for this programme as I would like all disabled people to have a better life and be able to speak up with having the confidence, knowledge and skills to improve opportunities for disabled people within our society and communities.

A core theme of the programme is about Self-Directed Support and how it can help people to have better and improved lives. Funding for the programme has been provided by The Scottish Government.

The first session was extremely interesting for me as it was about the history and background of why this programme is needed to help disabled people by being able to advocate and campaign for themselves and others to have better lives through change within our society.

We heard testimonies from several former participants on the course about their journey from taking part in the programme to what they have achieved for themselves and others since completing the programme.

This programme has given me motivation and encouragement to stand up for what needs to change in our society and can give all disabled people a better life.



I very much look forward to taking part in the rest of the programme over the coming months and would like to share this experience with you all.

Marie Johnston

Grampian Opportunities





# Members of the Garioch Partnership... building a connected community

Garioch Community Sports Hub	ORCA	Port Elphinstone Parent Council	Foos Yer Doos	Insch PTA	1 <sup>st</sup> Stop Toddlers
Action Kintore	Garioch Arts Group	Garioch Youth Musical Society		Echt School PTCA	
Westhill Men's Shed	Fetternear Hall	Homestart Garioch	Cornfields Scotland Ltd.		
Friends of Garlogie Day Centre		Inverurie Angling Association		WEA Scotland	
Computers and Integration		Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust		Wartle Community Association	
Grampian Opportunities	Echt & Skene Community Council		Hatton of Fintray Community Association		
Inverurie Hockey Club	Kemnay Community Council		Inverurie Events	Smile Scotland	
Bennachie Community Council		Premnay Hall & Community Association			
Southwest Aberdeenshire CAB	Spectrum Singers	Fly Cup Catering Ltd	Scout Hall Playgroup		
Bailies of Bennachie	Inschy Winchy Spiders	Kintore & District Community Council	Garioch Community Kitchen	ICAN	
St Andrews Parish Church	RSPB Kemnay Wildlife Explorers			SensationALL	
Garioch Heritage	Business Matters Aberdeen	Gordon Dementia Services	Westhill Community Church		
Inverurie & District Men's Shed	Newmachar Playgroup	Garioch Under 5s Forum	Kiddiwinks		
Garioch Jazz Club	Kemnay Village Hall Management Committee	Port Elphinstone Community House	Greener Kemnay		
Westhill & Elrick Community Council	Bennachie Leisure Centre	Old Rayne Hall Committee	Pitscurry Environmental Project		
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council		Inverurie Community Council	Newmachar Community Council		
Kingseat Community Association	Westhill Community Sports Hub	Kemnay Monday Club	Fintray & Kinellar Community Council		
Logie Durno Hall Committee	Newmachar Community Hall Association		Bogbeth Pavilion		
Garidge Theatre	Friends of Insch Hospital and Community		Inspiring Insch	Westhill Golf Club	
Kemnay Breakfast and After School Club	Footprints Connect	Garioch Indoor Bowling Club	GATE	Port Toddlers	76



## Resources to share



The Garioch Partnership is building up a range of Resources that groups can borrow for free. This includes a data projector, digital camera, mobile sink and gazebo. Contact the office for details



## Services ... supporting community organisations

TGP has extended the range of services it can offer to include Independent Examination of charity Accounts. There is a small cost to this, £40 for members and £60 plus mileage for non-members. Contact Dawn on [dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk](mailto:dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk) for details.



**Stop Press: the Whist group that meets in the British Legion in Inverurie on Monday evenings, 7- 9.30, really needs some new members! Just go along. You'll be made very welcome!**

## Diary dates 2015/16

If you need more information about any of these, give us a call!

### October

26 October 2015	TGP Board meeting
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29 October 2015	Your Land, Your Building, Your Future
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### November

3 November 2015	Fairer Scotland Community Engagement Event: to be confirmed:
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4 November 2015	Kemnay Church Centre: public meeting re. Community Action Plan
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7 November 2015	Kinellar Hall: Blackburn Blethers ( consultation on CAP)
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24 November 2015	AVA Let's Celebrate Event : Inverurie Town Hall
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### December

07 December 2015	Winter forum – save the date: details later
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### January onwards

Gad about Garioch	More details later
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