

The Board and Staff at the Garioch Partnership
would like to wish you a
Merry Christmas
and a very
happy and successful 2016



Our office will be closed from Tuesday 22 December 2015 until Wednesday 6 January 2016

Winter Forum



TGP held another successful event at Fly Cup on the evening of 7 December. As in previous years the evening was an eclectic mix of information, entertainment, and networking. We began with a presentation from Aberdeen Foyer's Leona McDermid on the new INverurie community engagement and capacity building project (see page 5) Valerie Chapman filled us with festive spirit by ably performing a fine selection of Christmas carols and leading the singing on some well-known community favourites.

After a break to enjoy some fine fare from Fly Cup's kitchen, a farewell gift was presented to our good colleague, Diane Miller from AVA who is leaving at the end of December.

The second part of the evening consisted of another presentation, this time by Alasdair Cunningham who is the European Programmes Co-ordinator for the South Aberdeenshire Local Action Group. His topic was LEADER funding. To quote one of the participants' via our Facebook page "What a lovely informative and entertaining evening. Thank you"



In this edition.....

Kintore Community Action Plan: page 2

Featured group: page 3

Pension wise...: page 4

Gad about and Gab about Garioch: Pages 5

Looking to cut your running costs: pages 7

Members of The Garioch Partnership: page 8

Community Initiative Grant Scheme: page 2

Fairer Scotland consultation event: page 4

INverurie: page 5

LEADER: page 6

TGP Resources: page 7

Contact Details: page 9

Kintore Community Action Plan

Copies of the new Community Action Plan for Kintore were delivered recently to Kintore & District Community Council to distribute throughout the village. Electronic copies are available from TGP. It's great to see that one of the actions in the plan, a feasibility study on the future of the iconic Townhouse has already been supported with a grant from Aberdeenshire Council. Hopefully this publication will assist with more funding bids in the future. Another fine example of local people leading!



TGP's Community Initiative Fund Grant Scheme

TGP was awarded £10k by the Garioch Area Committee towards its small grants scheme in 15/16. Some 36 diverse groups and projects have been funded since the scheme was set up in 2013. There is still some money available during this financial year more details of how to apply can be found on <http://gariochpartnership.org.uk/grant-application-form/>

The form is very simple and advice is available from Dawn or Anne. There is no closing date for applications but obviously when the money is spent, that's it for this financial year. So let's be hearing from you in the New Year!

This month's featured group: The Philosophy Cafe

The Philosophy Cafe is a charitable organisation which provides a varied and accessible programme of academic led discussion in local venues across Aberdeenshire. The Café works in partnership with The University of Aberdeen and with Aberdeenshire Libraries. The latest of the recent CIF grant awards was presented to The Philosophy Cafe at its session in Kintore Library. The café has recently had funding from Foundation Scotland.

The cafes attract a mix of people interested in vibrant street level discussion on issues of the day. The cafes are open to anyone in the community, no philosophy training is required, real life experience is desired. Discussion take place in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere designed to encourage debate, exploration of ideas and the promotion of critical thinking about society's challenges.

The Café draws on speakers from the University of Aberdeen and covers a range of topics, some which lend themselves to debate and others e.g. archaeology which share information on research and take the shape of a talk with questions and answers.

The entrance charge is £3 and refreshments are available. The speaker introduces the topic for the evening and encourages participants to engage in lively discussion.

7pm: welcome and refreshments

7.15pm: the speaker introduces the topic for the evening.

8.30pm: wind up

For more information contact: converse@thephilosophycafe.org

Or tap the link to the Facebook page on www.thephilosophycafe.org



The programme for Spring 2016:

Date	Location	Topic	Speaker
10/02/2016	Inverurie Acorn Centre	Medical ethics	
09/03/2016	Oldmeldrum Library	Emotion versus logic: human decision making	Dr Margaret Jackson
12/04/2016	Huntly Library	Archaeology:	Dr Kate Britton
14/05/2016	Alford Community Campus	'Ethics and Social Media'	Dr Alex Sutherland
08/06/2016	Banff/Macduff	Media ethics	Dr Dan Wall



Aberdeenshire North Foodbank has reported back on the positive difference a Community Initiative grant has made to their service. The grant along with match funding has allowed them to remodel the interior of their base at 4 St James's Place Inverurie. More information on the foodbank can be found on www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Email: info@aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk Tel: 07967 364600

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 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 can be found at www.cas.org.uk.

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

Irene Smith, Pension Wise Guidance Specialist, South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice 01224 747714 or Irene.smith@westhillcab.casonline.org.uk



Fairer at the Fly

Fairer at the Fly: a Fairer Scotland consultation event

TGP was lucky enough to get funding through the Voluntary Action Fund and the Scottish Government for a daylong event. We opted for Tuesday 3rd November and decided to go for paying towards people's bills at the Fly Cup (It's safer than Dawn's baking!)

On the day, we had a really good turn-out, with over 50 questionnaires completed on the day, and

another 30 being returned after it. The three questions were...

1. What are the issues that matter most to you?
2. What do you think needs to be done?
3. How can you, other people and their community play a role in helping to shape our future?

The discussions on the day covered a wide range of topics, from electricity pricing tariffs being bamboozling, the lack of reliable broadband across some of our more rural areas, to access to training and employment for those who need it most being much sought after and that more needs to be done to bridge these gaps. The strong ethos of volunteering and giving time came across very strongly for what people can, and do, need to do to shape their communities.

There was a lot of talk about the impact of benefit reform, and how it hits those who need it the most, especially in such an expensive area to stay, and also a few discussions on how hard it is for key workers like teachers and nurses to be able to afford to stay near their work with the inflated house prices in the Garioch area.

It was a vibrant and interesting day with lots of really interesting conversations happening, and a great level of thought and discussion around how we can all tackle the issues together, and quite a few generous people who did not want to accept our token of thanks towards their bill!

The results have, of course, been passed on to the Scottish Government!



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 our 28 settlements. 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? We aim to have the first session in the Spring. Contact anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk.

INverurie

What is INverurie?

The way public services are delivered in Inverurie is changing. Teams from NHS Grampian and Aberdeenshire Council will be working more closely together to provide health and social care services in the future.

The INverurie project team is a wide ranging group of local people, who all want to make a positive difference to the health and happiness of the people of Inverurie.

Together, they will be creating the future of health and wellbeing in the Town through the design of new products, services, and new ways of working together to meet the community's needs.

They won't be doing this alone, however. Support, training, guidance and resources will be provided by Aberdeen Foyer and Thrive until late 2016. They will be working closely with people to unleash the creativity of individuals and organisations by building confidence, skills and networks across the Town.

As the project has built momentum, more and more people have been getting involved by attending events, contributing via social media and spreading the news by word of mouth.

Last week, the team met at the Garioch Community Kitchen, where they began to explore the issues that might need to be addressed in the town to ensure that people feel healthy and cared for. The wide range of personal experiences in the room made for a thought provoking and enjoyable event. So far, three big themes are emerging:

How can we build on all the good activity already going on in Inverurie?

How can we support people, services and organisations in Inverurie to work even better together to help people who work, live and play here live healthier and happier lives?

How can we ensure that everyone in and around Inverurie is included and feels equally valued as a member of the community?

Please visit www.weareinverurie.com to read the full event summary.

In the new year, there will be more opportunities to get involved. Our first priority will be to create a map of all of the great things that are already happening in Inverurie and go on to explore some of the questions that are beginning to emerge.

Get involved and get in touch: weareinverurie@gmail.com

Social Media - Facebook and Twitter - Search "INverurie"



LEADER



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development Europe investing in rural areas

The South Aberdeenshire LAG is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER 2014-2020 programme

The new LEADER programme is open for applications. £2.8m of EU & Scottish Government Funds has been allocated to South Aberdeenshire, which includes the Garioch Area. This money will be managed by Local Action Group in order to implement the Local Development Strategy which runs until 2020. This strategy has five themes:

- Connecting People & Places
- Developing Key Economic Sectors
- Promoting & Protecting the Environment
- Enriching and Positive Activities for All
- Co-operating with other Countries & Areas

If you have a project that you think meets this criteria you should contact Alasdair Cunningham, our local co-ordinator for advice, help and support. Remember you will need to have matched funding in place before the application is submitted. TGP can help with this.

A key requirement of your application will be your detailed project plan

Your project plan must have a robust delivery plan, outline how you're meeting demand and need, and be delivered against key milestones. The success of a project will depend on good financial and cash flow planning. Again we are here to help and will be working closely with Alasdair

Expressions of Interest in a LEADER application are made via the website www.ruralnetwork.scot

Contact details:

South Aberdeenshire Local Action Group

salag.org.uk

salag@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

01467 628 262



Looking to cut your running costs....

We've been told this has been checked out with regard to Third Sector (i.e. community and voluntary groups) and that some Third Sector groups may be eligible so have a read.....

Interest-free, unsecured loans from £1 to £100k via the Resource Efficient Scotland SME Loans Scheme.....

The Scottish Government's Resource Efficient Scotland SME Loans Scheme provides businesses with a great opportunity to access support to help them cut costs and increase their competitiveness. The Scheme can help to fund the installation of a range of carbon reducing measures, such as more resource efficient lighting, glazing, and renewable technologies.

You are able to apply for the loan scheme if you are a Scottish business which falls within the European Commission's definition of a Small and Medium sized Enterprise (SME).

Interest free loans of £1,000 to £100,000;

- Apply to the installation of energy, material resource and water efficiency measures.
- A 5% interest rate applies for renewable energy technologies if your organisation plans to claim the Feed in Tariff or Renewable Heat Incentive.

Resource Efficient Scotland is a Scottish Government-funded programme delivered by Zero Waste Scotland. It offers free, specialist advice and support to organisations to implement energy, resource and water efficiency measures, including advice on the SME loan scheme.

To learn more about eligibility and criteria, for FAQs and testimonials from other businesses, visit <http://www.resourceefficientscotland.com/sme-loans-scheme>

"The Resource Efficient Scotland SME loan has allowed my business to improve its energy supply. This helped improve the environment both for me and my customers by enabling me to get rid of my noisy and costly petrol generator. The loan made a dramatic difference to my businesses profitability and energy efficiency." Leigh Sedgley, Owner/Manager, Living the Dream.

Don't delay. Contact Resource Efficient Scotland on 0808 808 2268, email enquiries@resourceefficientscotland.com or visit www.resourceefficientscotland.com .

TGP's Resources and services

Resources

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, pump action thermos flasks and a gazebo. Contact the office for details.



Charity Accounts

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 for details.

Members of The Garioch Partnership... building a connected community

Garioch Community Sports Hub	ORCA	Port Elphinstone Parent Council	Foos Yer Doos	Insch PTA	1 st Stop Toddlers
Action Kintore	Garioch Arts Group	Garioch Youth Musical Society	Grampian Opportunities	Echt School PTCA	
Homestart Garioch	Westhill Men's Shed	Fetternear Hall	*	Cornfields Scotland Ltd.	
Friends of Garlogie Day Centre	Insch School Parent Council	Inverurie Angling Association	WEA Scotland		
Computers and Integration	*	Lawsondale Sports Centre Trust	Wartle Community Association		
*	Echt & Skene Community Council	*	Hatton of Fintray Community Association		
Inverurie Hockey Club	*	Kemnay Community Council	Inverurie Events	Smile Scotland	
Oyne Community Association	*	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	The Philosophers Café	Pitscurry Environmental Project		
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council	Kemnay Monday Club	Inverurie Community Council	Newmachar Community Council		
Kingseat Community Association	Westhill Community Sports Hub	Old Rayne Hall Committee	Fintray & Kinellar Community Council		
Logie Durno Hall Committee	Port Toddlers	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	*	79

More members welcome..... Do you want to see your group or organisation here.... if so please contact us

Your Help needed ... supporting the work of The Garioch Partnership

The Garioch Partnership is looking for some new Board members, Grants Panel members and volunteers to support us "Gad about and Gab about Garioch"

Board members: To join our voluntary management committee, to contribute to the leadership of The Garioch Partnership, ensuring our activities are run in a way that will achieve our aims.

Grant Panel members: To consider grant applications and give feedback on the application to enable the Board to make a decision on awarding funding.

Please get in touch with one of our team if you would like to know more about these opportunities

Diary dates 2016: if you need any information about these events get in touch!

January

January 13	REHIS Course, Garioch Community Kitchen
January 20	REHIS Refresher Course, Garioch Community Kitchen

February

February 2	Inverurie Learning Community Partnership

March

March 2	Garioch Community Council Forum
Gad about event 1	tbc

April

Gad about event 2	tbc

If you would like to advertise any event in our next newsletter, it will be published at the end of March 2016. Copy to info@gariochpartnership.org.uk by Wednesday 23rd March.



The Garioch Partnership
 1st Floor, Wyness Hall, Jackson Street,
 Inverurie, AB51 3QB
 Inverurie (01467) 628801
info@gariochpartnership.org.uk

www.gariochpartnership.org.uk



"The Garioch Partnership"



"Garioch_tweets"

The Garioch Partnership SCIO, Registered in Scotland, Charity No: SC043548