



Hope you had a very

Happy Easter

Still time to enjoy those chocolate eggs and
maybe some **holidays** too!

TGP'S SPRING FORUM AND AWARDS EVENING



On Monday 21st March, The Garioch Partnership welcomed members and supporters to its Spring Forum and Community Initiative Grant (CIG) Awards evening. A fantastic evening and a chance for everyone to meet up, whilst enjoying refreshments from Inverurie's excellent Fly Cup. Eight groups received an award, presented by Councillor Fergus Hood, chairperson of the Garioch Area Committee. The groups were Cornfields Scotland, Exercise after Stroke Inverurie, Garidge Theatre, Gordon Forum for the Arts, Hatton of Fintray Parent School Association, Inverurie Events, Inch Scouts and Premnay Hall. During the last year eighteen local groups have benefited from an award, totalling £11841. The amounts granted ranged between £275 and £750 for a wide range of projects. More on CIGs inside!

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“Gab about and Gad about Garioch”



Our first visit was to Logie Durno Village Hall's Community Café on Tuesday 8th March, where we were welcomed by representatives of the Hall Committee and shown all the recent improvements made during the hall's refurbishment. With the first phase completed and further work planned this summer, the Committee is now looking to the future and planning how to attract more visitors to the upgraded building. It has been a

long journey for the Hall Committee members, with fundraising and planning over several years but they are now seeing all their hard work rewarded. To see how far they have come and how they are finally reaching their goals, read their story on the next page. It's quite a long read but worth it!



Since then, we've been out to the St. Lawrence Hall, in Old Rayne and our next visit is to Meikle Wartle Hall in April. Will your community be next? Just get in touch if you fancy a gab about your community! We are happy to gad along to meet you!

One community's story: the transformation of Logie Durno Hall (with our thanks to Paula for writing this up)

Village halls in the Garioch face many challenges: how to attract volunteers on to the committee to keep the hall open, how to encourage hall bookings when there are so many other venues available, how to balance the books. With the current financial climate, grants can be hard to find, people are busier than ever with families and work commitments, plus many are already volunteering on other committees.

These are some of the challenges that faced the committee of Logie Durno Village Hall at Pitcaple in 2011. With a committee of just 3 at the AGM in May that year, and with no chair or treasurer volunteering for the next year, the difficult decision was made to hold an EGM and face closing the hall. A situation many villages have faced. Well, the community turned out in force at this EGM and the committee grew from 3 to 10. An ideal combination of experienced serving members and new volunteers brought enthusiasm and a fresh way of looking at the challenges facing the hall.

To assess whether the hall was meeting the needs of the community a research questionnaire was distributed locally and to all user groups. The questionnaire asked if there were any new activities needed, for suggestions on new fundraisers which could be tried plus information on the current hall activities. Later that month a Fundraising Strategy meeting was advertised through the local media. With a good turnout and assisted by Councillor Sheena Lonchay, a complete assessment was made of the building. The tasks were prioritised and funding opportunities were identified. There was much excitement and anticipation. Logie Durno Hall now had a wish list to work through. There was a clear focus; each job had an "owner" responsible for completing the task and the wish list was updated at every hall committee meeting.

At this early stage we decided to seek the advice of key organisations and professionals in the Garioch area who had more experience than we did. We are very grateful they gave up their valuable time to help us. Anne Simpson, development worker from The Garioch Partnership offered advice and support on funding opportunities, whilst introducing us to similar groups in the area. Aberdeenshire Council's Garioch Area Manager, Doug Milne, visited the hall before any improvements had been carried out and offered valuable advice on how to proceed. Kay Diack, a local independent business adviser, helped with strategy and Councillor Allison Grant offered support and advice.

Progress was soon made. It was important for everyone to see immediate small changes whilst the larger toilet refurbishment programme was worked on behind the scenes. The Council erected a road sign to direct new visitors to the area to the hall. A large external sign was placed above the door, identifying the hall from the road. Although everyone locally knew it was Logie Durno hall no-one else knew it! The hall exterior was freshly painted, with planters put out and the hall was showing signs of new life. All the tables and chairs were replaced with the old ones donated to other halls, and a fridge/freezer was purchased for the bar. Fundraisers were soon held and grants successfully applied for. An architect drew up plans for the toilet refurbishment and a building warrant was secured. A sub-committee was set up and a project manager, Jim Strachan, volunteered to see the project through.

We raised £12000 through fundraising, and £44500 in grants from Aberdeenshire Council, Awards for All, Asda's 50th Anniversary Award and the Garioch Charities shop. The first phase was completed in summer 2015, a total renovation of the Ladies and Disabled toilets. A celebration evening was held to showcase all the work that had been carried out, along with a family disco and barbecue. The hall was full that night and it was a night to remember, with lots of lovely free newspaper coverage. Work has continued since on improving the flooring and decoration throughout. This summer will see the Gents toilets upgraded with more work being done on the meeting room, main hall and kitchen.

Looking back we faced many challenges. A great deal of experience is gained by a Village Hall committee that undertakes such a huge project. The knowledge should be shared throughout the Garioch, with other halls and community groups coming together to offer help and advice to each other. Issues such as cash flow, the planning process, liaising with trades and suppliers, continuity of committees are shared by many groups. Let's share our experiences! And finally the enthusiasm and excitement that began in 2011 has grown amazingly. In 2016 we see in Logie Durno Village Hall a model of how to turn a neglected building into a thriving, cared for community hub. Congratulations to everyone who played a part, however small in this success!

Self-Directed Support: information from Cornerstone

**your choice
your support
your way**



Cornerstone SDS

Self-directed support allows people to have more choice about the way that their social care and support is provided to them. People can choose to take a lot of control over their support – for instance through a direct payment or individual service fund – or they can decide to take less control and ask the local authority to arrange their support on their behalf.

The **Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013** requires local authorities to offer people four choices on how they can get their social care. The choices are:

Option 1 direct payment – You or a representative can employ your own personal assistants or use a care provider of your choice

Option 2 Individual Service Fund – You have control over your support but a third party manages the finances for you

Option 3 the local authority arranges the support

Option 4 a mix of the above.

Cornerstone SDS Aberdeenshire is contracted by Aberdeenshire Council to provide

- general information and advice about the four options helping the supported person to make choices about which option is ideal for them in helping achieve their outcomes
- support to developing a support plan
- support to help you be an employer and guide you through the recruitment process
- expert employment law support from Empire HR
- a helpline for personal assistants to call
- developing a directory of all types of services that someone might want to access in the area, to meet their "creative" support plan

We have a team of advisors based throughout Aberdeenshire and an office base in Inverurie at 25 High Street. If you would like more information about Self-Directed Support please drop in or contact us on **01467 530520** and we can arrange an advisor to visit you in your own home.

You can also email us at Aberdeenshire@cornerstonesds.org.uk and find us on Facebook Cornerstone SDS.

The Garioch Partnership's AGM and summer forum will take place on Monday 20th June at 7pm. Venue still to be confirmed. Dawn and Anne are working on details for the programme and these will be ready soon! This is great opportunity for our members and supporters to get together as a connected Garioch community so please put the date in your diary. Apologies to Inverurie Community Councillors AGAIN for the clash with the ICC meeting!



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	Rotary Club of Blackburn	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	Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene	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 Philosophy 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	*	81

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

Community Initiative Grant Scheme – More Awards



As you can see from these happy smiling faces these Third Inverurie Rainbows were delighted to receive a grant towards a storage container for all their bits and bobs, as was their leader Sandra.



More glee! Some of the parents from Insch Parent Council with the big cheque, this time for the waste awareness project at Insch School. It's great to see parents supporting the school in this way!

And finally for this edition, members of Inverurie Wind Band, This grant will be used to purchase music scores and support the group's Project 2016 programme, which includes a concert in the Acorn Centre, Inverurie on Saturday 18th June. It promises to be a good night!



Going the extra mile... or 12!



Dawn has decided to do a sponsored event to raise money to help charities across the Garioch area by fundraising for The Garioch Partnership's Small Grant Scheme. Dawn had to pull out last year because of her car accident, but this year she's fighting fit and ready to go! Dawn has decided to do the "Tough Mudder" event in Dumfries & Galloway on June 25th. She would be very grateful for any donations, ranging from pennies to pounds to spur on each step, and every challenging obstacle. It's a 12 mile, very muddy, challenging obstacle race - remember Krypton Factor? Yes, one just like that. To make it easy for you, we have set up a "TextGiving" account. You can donate any amount by texting "TGPD13" followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70070 (costs your donation plus one standard network rate message.) Don't worry donating by text is already working hard for charities across the UK! Now, for the first time ever, this service is free with JustTextGiving. It cost nothing to set up, there are no running costs and no commission is taken from the donations you receive. So every penny goes to your charity, where it's needed most. If you would rather give more traditionally, feel free to let us know, and we will happily accept any other donations too!

CURRENT COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS



Kemnay Futures

The Kemnay Futures group and The Garioch Partnership recently held a Saturday event at the Kemnay Village Hall. We had a slow start, but a good turn out and some interesting conversations... and lots of coffee thanks to the village hall café ladies, and some lovely fine cakes thanks to Loaves and Fishes!

The top issues on the day were around flooding and future plans, public toilets, better transport links, community composting and allotments, an NHS dentist, a community centre that is open

and accessible, and mixed tenure of housing so there are smaller houses and bungalows available for people wishing to downsize but stay within the village. A range of other issues came up as well, and the next meeting in May will be advertised to prioritise these for the plan. We've also been out and about to some other groups to gather their views; the picture attached is the children from Kemnay Breakfast and After School club giving their input to the plan.

There is still time to get involved. The steering group is open to new members, or if you wish us to come along to your group to have a chat about the action plan and what it could mean for you, the please get in touch – dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk

BLACKBURN COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS



The "Tapple"
Blackburn

Friday 22nd April 2016

Kinellar Hall, 2pm – 6pm

Saturday 23rd April 2016

Kinellar Hall, 12pm – 3pm

(Free Refreshments available on this date)

Children Welcome

- What are the issues in your community that matter most to you?
- What do you think needs to be done?
- How can you play a role in helping to shape your community's future?



We are a community-led independent community development organisation which uses its members' networks to build stronger, more successful, more sustainable communities in the Garioch Area of Aberdeenshire.

www.gariochpartnership.org.uk

A successful meeting was held in Kinellar Hall recently where a steering group was set up to oversee the production of the Blackburn plan. Some 17 people attended representing about a dozen local community groups. I've also attended the Kinellar Kuppa and the Hall Board, and the meeting about re-establishing a community council in the village. There is loads of enthusiasm around for a community action plan, and agreement that this is a good time to do it with a new school in the pipeline and the lack of community facilities in a growing community. So two consultation events are planned for next month where we will use the new "How Good is Our Place?" tool for the first time. Feel free to get in touch if you are interested in this project – anne@gariochpartnership.org.uk

TGP 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

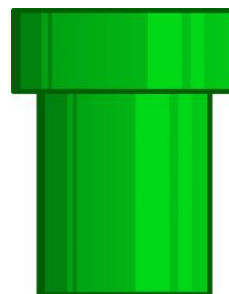
TGP has extended the range of services it can offer to include Independent Examination of Charity Accounts. There is a small cost to this, £40 for members and £60 plus mileage for non-members. Contact Dawn on dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk for details.

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

TGP is looking for Grants Panel members.

Grant Panel members: To consider grant applications and give feedback on the application to enable the Board to make a decision on awarding funding. All work done online – no meetings!

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



In the pipeline:

- Scottish Rural Parliament regional event
- Community Empowerment Act: session on the consultation on the guidance and draft regulations
- Social Impact session

If you are interested in any of the above just pop us an email!

Diary dates 2016

April

Friday 22 nd April	Blackburn Consultation
Friday 22 nd April	GAGAG Meikle Wartle
Saturday 23 rd April	Blackburn Consultation

May

Thursday 5 th May	Remember to vote!
Monday 16 th – Sunday 22 nd	Aberdeenshire Wellbeing Festival
Sunday 22 nd May	Westhill Wellbeing Event
Monday 23 rd May	Kemnay Futures Event
Wednesday 25 th May	TGP Board: Planning Event
Saturday 28 th May	Kinellar Gala

June

Wednesday 1 st June	Garioch Community Council Forum
Saturday 4 th June	Kintore Summer festival
Saturday 4 th June	Westhill Gala
Saturday 4 th June	Kemnay Wellbeing Event
Saturday 11 th June	GAGAG Premnay Hall
Sunday 12 th June	Insch Strawberry Fayre
Saturday 18 th June	Insch Family Picnic
Saturday 18 th June	Inverurie Wind Band Concert
Monday 20 th June	TGP AGM
Sunday 25 th June	Dawn participates in Tough Mudder

The next edition of the Garioch Gazette, TGP's quarterly e-bulletin will be published at the end of June. Any articles should be sent to info@gariochpartnership.org.uk by Friday 24th June. This newsletter is circulated to a mailing list of approx. 200 "active citizens" who in turn are invited to circulate it to their personal and community networks - caring and sharing!



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