

NEW Meeting Venues for Autumn Ward Forums



The **Garioch Partnership** was thrilled to convene one of the four recent community ward forum meetings at The Bothie in Kintore (seen here pictured left). The Bothie building is now complete after five years' hard work and the project now needs enthusiastic volunteers from the community to get involved and help out. If you are interested in volunteering opportunities and would like to find out more, please contact Rachel Lewis, volunteer coordinator on 07842 265814.




Also making its debut as a new venue for community meetings and seen pictured right is Westhill Community Church which has moved to the new location at Old Skene Road, Westhill. Various facilities are available for hire and The Green Pastures Café is open 10am to 3pm Tuesday to Saturday. Contact the Office on 01224 740291 or email thechurchoffice@btinternet.com for more details.



Westhill Community Church

Port Priorities: go to Page 5

See Page 3 for this Edition's HOT TOPIC

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

NEWS around the Garioch page 2 & 3

FEATURED ORGANISATION on Page 4

Next Edition of **The Garioch Gazette** to be published in time for Xmas. All copy to the editor by 15 December



Look out for the new tourist attraction signs for Pitscurry's Buzzard Café !



FUNDING AVAILABLE NOW! TGP'S 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 or Dawn at info@gariochpartnership.org.uk **Get yours in now !!! Remember you can re-apply for more funding after 1 year!**



TGP membership now sits at 61 !
Not a member yet? It's easy to join, contact Anne or Dawn



STOP
PRESS!

MEMBERS' NEWS

STOP
PRESS!



Introducing Community Connections !



Community Connections is Grampian Opportunities' newest project. The *Garioch Gazette* caught up with Dawn Ranson who is community connections project coordinator and asked her what the project is all about and how it can benefit and help **YOU**.



Community Connections

Dawn told us, "**Community Connections** is all about connecting people and connecting communities and is a fantastic chance to be part of something new in your community. Our project is working hard to connect people, communities and organisations to work together, build community capacity, share information, knowledge and resources, which is a subject that Grampian Opportunities believes in passionately and is at the heart of everything that we do.

Community Connections is all about sharing local knowledge and helping people make the connections that can make a real difference to them, helps them to have a sense of purpose and feel a sense of belonging. We believe that **Community Connections** provides fantastic benefits for all: being included and valued, making connections, having control over our own lives and feeling safe and secure".

Community Connections is currently seeking volunteers. Volunteers can be involved in a number of ways including roles as interviewers, researchers, **community connectors**, trainers / facilitators, peer support / buddies and mentors. If you would like to volunteer and would like more information, please contact dawn@grampianopportunities.org.uk Tel:01467 629675.



FLY CUP CATERING – new premises secured!



Fly Cup Catering has recently secured the lease on the premises above their coffee shop and bakery on Burghmuir Drive, Inverurie.

The new premises will serve as office and training space for staff and the adults with learning difficulties who attend Fly Cup for training and employment opportunities in the catering industry.

In addition, the remainder of the space is being offered to other organisations, businesses and individuals for rent providing meeting / small conference / dining / vocational space for up to 50 people, where catering will be provided by the team at Fly Cup. For more information, contact Denise Belshaw, Email: manager@flycup.org or telephone 01467 625645.



Find us online at www.flycup.org



Follow us on Facebook and like our catering page!



This Edition's Hot Topic is



Great Community Venues (check those mentioned in this edition!)

Aberdeenshire is a great place to live, work and play and one of the reasons for this is the wonderful local people and their great sense of community spirit. If you look at the events page of any community magazine or local press, you will find listings for a plethora of different activities, community committees and groups, forums and events held in venues large and small all over the Garioch area.

There are hundreds of community venues throughout Aberdeenshire ranging from church halls to purpose built community centres—the choice is endless—but what makes a great meeting place and how do you choose the right one for your event? Here are our top 5 suggestions. What are yours?

- 1. Accessibility 2. Cost 3. Location 4. Size 5. Catering / Refreshment Facilities**

Port Elphinstone Community House Providing a meeting place for the people of Inverurie



Port Elphinstone Community House provides an affordable meeting place with meeting space for up to 20 people in our bright and airy main meeting room area. This room is also equipped with a fully fitted kitchen and PECH is fully adapted for wheelchair use. Find us at 1 Pinewood House, Elphinstone Road, Port Elphinstone, Inverurie. www.pechonline.co.uk/



Hot News Don't Miss Out!



Are you a Social Enterprise, starting a Social Enterprise or a business with social objectives? Want to attend a networking event?



Aberdeenshire Social Enterprises Network are pleased to invite you to their networking event **"Getting the most from your Volunteers"**, with guest speaker, Keith Anderson, Aberdeenshire Volunteer Centre Manager. The event will provide you with an opportunity to gain expert information on the management and training of volunteers in addition to the chance to network and share good practice with other Social Enterprises.

Two dates available: **Thursday, 6th November 7.30pm** at Banchory Ternan West Church The High Street, Banchory AB1 5TB **OR Tuesday, 18th November 7.30pm** at MACBI Community Hub, Newlands Road, Mintlaw AB42 5GP. Tea, coffee, biscuits will be provided.

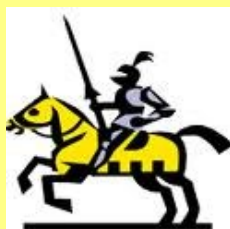
If you are a business with social objectives, re-investing in the business or community, if you are thinking of starting up a Social Enterprise then you are welcome to attend.

**Please confirm your place as soon as possible by phone email to:
Jennifer O'Brien on 01330 825027 or email Jennifer.O'Brien@cvs.co.uk**

Featured Organisation

Advocacy North East

Independent Advocacy in Aberdeenshire and Moray



Find us online at

www.advocacyne.org.uk

Who We Help

Advocacy North East works in Aberdeenshire and Moray with vulnerable people aged 16 years and over to support them in their dealings with health and social care services.

Sometimes people who have a learning disability, or those who may be experiencing mental ill-health, struggle to tell others what they feel about a situation and to speak up for themselves. **Advocacy North East** provides a **FREE, confidential** and **independent** advocacy service to anyone over the age of 16 who might need support to express their views and wishes in relation to their health and social care issues.

How We Help

Our advocates provide people with the information that they need to make informed choices in relation to decisions about their care and treatment. We can support people to attend meetings, write letters and to be fully involved in decisions that may affect their health and care needs.

For More Information

If you would like to know more about the service we offer, or would like to make a referral, please ring us on 01467 651604 or email us at advocacyne@btconnect.com

Volunteer With Us

We also have opportunities for volunteering and will be running a four day training course in Basic Advocacy Skills designed for prospective Community Advocates. The course is due to run in Inverurie on the 11th, 13th, 17th & 19th November, and is free to attend for individuals who wish to volunteer with us on completion of the course. So if you live in Aberdeenshire or Moray, and you'd like to support individuals and enable them to have a voice at a vulnerable time in their life, then please contact Laura Simmons, Training & Volunteer Coordinator, on 01467 651604 or email laurasimmons.advocacy@yahoo.co.uk

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 ward forum?

The next round of ward forums will take place in spring 2015, so please keep an eye on your mailbox for your invite. **We rely on our contacts to pass on the word.**



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.



Save the date! TGP's popular Winter Forum is on Monday December 1st at 7pm in the Fly Cup, Inverurie. Join us for celebratory and seasonal refreshments, networking and some serious fun!



Introducing "Port Priorities"...

TGP is working Diane Miller from CVSA and the community in Port Elphinstone to develop a community action plan on behalf of the Garioch Community Planning Partnership. Dawn is based at the Port Elphinstone Community House (PECH) one day a week. She and Diane have already met with some of the very active community groups in the area, and are going to meet with others to find out the priorities for the area and get them written into an action plan that can be used with the community planning



partners to address the needs and desires of the residents of Port Elphinstone. We do this by working with anyone in the community who wishes to take part, and will be having a coffee morning

Port Pancakes on November 29th at PECH to give everyone the chance to get involved, or you can make contact using the details below. Come along and tell us what you love about staying in the Port, and if there is anything that could be better! Other communities in the Garioch area have found a community action plan a great tool to open doors to dialogue with the statutory agencies to make the changes they wish to see in their community. Look forward to talking with you soon!



Contact: dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk or 07514449127

Another local community venue....

Tesco's new Community Room: This new facility opened in September and is located upstairs next to the clothing department. The new community space is just part of recent renovations carried out at the Harlaw Road store. Opening times for the community room are 9am till 9pm Monday through Saturday, and use is free of charge. Contact Michelle Ferries on 07822 877816 or e-mail Inverurie@Communityattesco.co.uk. If you have a problem with insurance let TGP know and we can perhaps book it for you!



"The Garioch Partnership"



"Garioch_tweets"



Follow us on



and

Visit us at www.gariochpartnership.org.uk

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

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

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