



The Board and Staff at The Garioch Partnership would like to wish you a very

**Merry Christmas**

and a very

happy, healthy and successful 2015

Our office will be closed from Friday 19 December until Monday 5 January 2015

### Foos Yer Doos Sing Song Club

*Foos yer doos?* Is a common question asked by those who speak the Doric dialect - the correct answer to the question is to reply *Aye peckin awa!* saying it twice.

**Foos Yer Doos Sing Song Club**, on the other hand, is a free, weekly, drop in singing group open to anyone living with a neurological condition such as dementia, Motor Neurone Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's disease or Stroke. Carers, friends and family are also welcome to attend. The club provides the opportunity to join in the fun, sing songs old and new, and meet others in similar circumstances.

Members of the group provided entertainment at TGP's Winter Forum, encouraging everyone to join in the Christmas singing.

The group meets weekly on Thursday from 11.00am at St Mary's Church Centre, High Street, Inverurie AB51 3NW. Singing starts around 11.00am for an hour, followed by tea and coffee.

For more information about the group contact: **Caroline Peter** Tel: 07918 674 481  
Email: [fydsingsongclub@gmail.com](mailto:fydsingsongclub@gmail.com)



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## Energy Advice Aberdeenshire

South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau has a new project in place to help people struggling to pay their domestic Energy bills in Aberdeenshire. The Bureau is delivering this winter's Energy Best Deal campaign, which has been grant-funded by Citizens Advice Scotland and Scottish and Southern Energy. The Energy Best campaign will run through until the end of March.

Group sessions can be arranged with community groups and local organisations who would like to hear more about saving on their domestic bills and other help available to them. These sessions are free and aimed at low income consumers and front-line staff who work with people at risk of fuel poverty; they also open up a range of further help for consumers with issues such as fuel debt, benefits entitlement and energy efficiency.

Representatives of community groups and organisations are asked to call 01224 747714 (SWACAB main office at Westhill) to arrange a suitable time for an Energy Advice session. Individual clients should call the same number to arrange an appointment. All our advice is free, confidential, and impartial.

**John Andrea, Energy Adviser Tel: 01224 747714**

South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau was formerly known as Citizens Advice Bureau Westhill and District.

## TGP's Community Initiative Grant update

The Community Initiative Grant scheme is open to any constituted not-for-profit community group, or organisation in the Garioch which has a turnover of less than £25K. Consideration is given to projects that show wide community support, or improve the life of local people, are of long-term benefit and make a difference to the community. Two groups reporting back on the difference the funds made are **SensationALL** and **Philosophers Café**



**SensationALL** secured a grant to help them develop a more professional, user-friendly website. Their hope is that with a clearer website, more families & individuals will make contact with SensationALL & benefit from their services. SensationALL have recently celebrated their second birthday and a successful application to the Crerar Trust.

**The Philosophy Café** provides a varied and accessible programme of academic led discussions held in a number of local venues across Aberdeenshire. They used their Community Initiative Grant to provide a café style, academic led discussion as part of the Inverurie World of Words Festival 2014. The café was held in The Fly Cup café, Burghmuir Drive Inverurie.



## TGP is offering a new service... Independent Examination of accounts

For some smaller charities, OSCR does not require an audit of accounts. A lower level of scrutiny can be accepted - an independent examination. Independent examination is a cheaper option than an audit. An independent examiner is simply someone who has the skills to carry out the task, and is not a part of your organisation or connected by marriage or another close relationship to anyone on your committee.

ACiE is the Association of Independent Examiners, which provides support and information to people who carry out independent examinations, and validates and scrutinises the work of examiners. It is the only professional body that has a sole interest in Independent Examination, and has levels of competency checks in place to ensure that members work within the laws for charities.

As long as your constitution does not require an audit, and if you use a receipts and payments system of book-keeping, and your income is below £100,000 per year, then you can have an independent examination done by Dawn (there is a higher threshold that can be done after she is accredited)

She is looking for 2 sets of accounts to examine to gain her professional accreditation and be able to offer this service to larger groups on behalf of the Partnership. She has a mentor who will help her and scrutinise her work, and keep her right, and she has attended the training for this. She would be most grateful to be able to work towards professional accreditation, so we can offer this service more widely across the Garioch area.

Please get in touch if we can work towards a mutually beneficial outcome - your accounts being examined, and Dawn being able to gain the qualification and offer this to more people!

For further information about ACiE please see - <http://www.acie.org.uk/>

And please get in touch if we can help you. [dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk](mailto:dawn@gariochpartnership.org.uk)

## Dementia Friendly Inverurie... raising awareness



The Dementia-friendly project for Inverurie is a short term project to raise awareness of the needs of people with dementia in our community. A dementia friendly community is about promoting an understanding of dementia and the small things that could make a difference to people's lives.

For many people, the diagnosis of dementia is just the start. Sometimes they will need extra assistance to use your services. It makes such a huge difference to people affected by the condition, if those around them have an understanding of how they can help. This may involve taking a little time to listen, speak clearly, provide practical support, show respect and have the patience to give the individual time to find the words to tell you what they want. This is a project where you can help to make a difference.

For further information contact Phyllis on [phyllis.gordon@avashire.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.gordon@avashire.org.uk) or [annie.grant@avashire.org.uk](mailto:annie.grant@avashire.org.uk) or find Dementia Friendly Inverurie on Facebook



## Winter Forum 2014



Dawn and Anne with members  
Christmas messages

TGP's popular Winter Forum was held on the evening of Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December at Fly Cup Catering, Inverurie

The forum was an opportunity to celebrate together, meet people from different organisations, have some fun and share some seasonal refreshments. "This was our biggest and best winter forum to date with about 40 people attending and 21 organisations represented." said Anne

On the night members were asked to write on "Christmas Baubles" what they liked about the Garioch Partnership. On "Christmas Parcels" people wrote about what they as individuals or the organisations they represented could offer to the network. The notes have been written up and some are shown on page 5.

## Community Initiative Grant Scheme – Footprints Connect



Footprints Connect is a social enterprise based in the North East of Scotland, encouraging over 55's to get online and make the most of computer, tablet and other digital technologies. It provides advice and support - and lots of great reasons to enter the digital world!

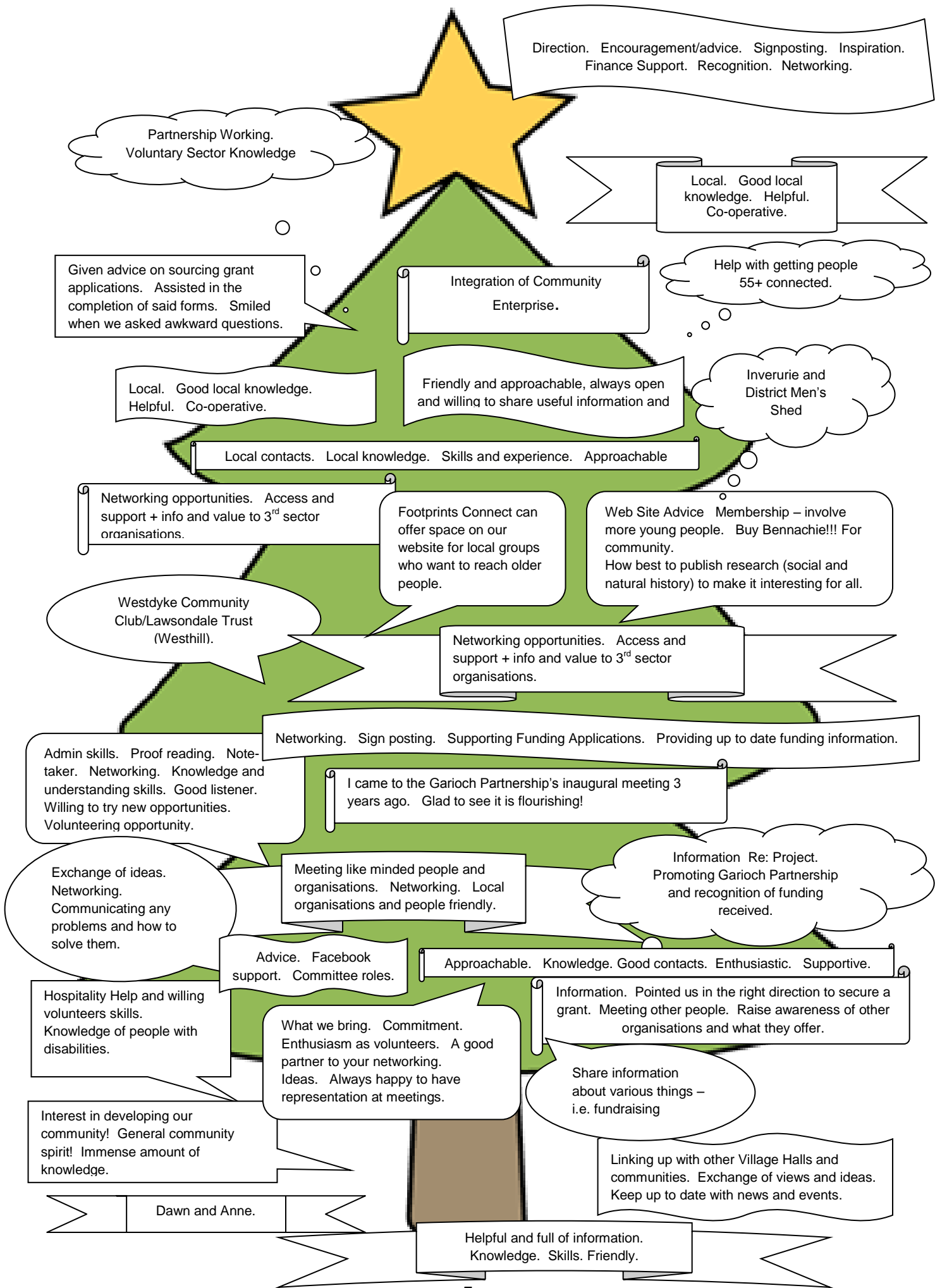
People can use Footprint Connect's website [www.footprintsconnect.org.uk](http://www.footprintsconnect.org.uk) to:

- find 'trusted providers' offering services, products and discounts
- find out how and where you can get tuition on new digital technologies local to you
- participate in online discussions about local and national issues
- find out about local events and activities
- access up-to-date information on a host of matters, including healthcare, money, housing and local communities.

At the recent Winter Forum members of the group were presented with a grant to support them work with local organisations and older residents (55+) to design and organise a series of community and home sessions based on their needs and interests.



More information Email [info@footprintsconnect.org.uk](mailto:info@footprintsconnect.org.uk) or Tel: 01224 679 020



# Ward Forums

## putting the *community* into community planning

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.

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:

Major Service Providers	Community/Voluntary Sector
Aberdeenshire Council	Garioch Community Councils
Scottish Fire & Rescue Service	The Garioch Partnership
NHS Grampian	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action
Police Scotland	

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** comprise part of that engagement process. The forums are 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.



**Dates for the 2105 Spring Forums will be announced soon!**

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

Action Kintore	Echt School PTCA	Garioch Youth Musical Society				Garioch Arts Group			
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		Garioch Under 5s Forum				
Ballies of Bennachie	Inschy Winchy Spiders		RSPB Kemnay Wildlife Explorers				ICAN		
Business Matters Aberdeen		Kintore & District Community Council			Sensationall				
Garioch Heritage	St Andrews Parish Church		Gordon Dementia Services		Westhill Episcopal Church				
Inverurie & District Men's Shed		Newmachar Playgroup	Scout hall Playgroup		Kiddiwinks				
Garioch Jazz Club	Kemnay Village Hall Management Committee			Port Elphinstone Community House		GATE			
Westhill & Elrick Community Council	Bennachie Leisure Centre		Pitscurry Environmental Project						
Cluny, Midmar & Monymusk Community Council			Inverurie Community Council		Newmachar Community Council				
Bogbeth Pavilion	Kingseat Community Association		Fintray & Kinellar Community Council						
Logie Durno Hall Committee		Newmachar Community Hall Association			Footprints Connect				
Garidge Theatre	The Philosophers Café			Inspiring Insch		Westhill Golf Club			
Kemnay Breakfast and After School Club								63	

## Resources to share



The Garioch Partnership is building up a range of Resources that groups can borrow for free.

This includes:

- a new data projector
- a digital camera.



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

The Garioch Partnership is looking for some new Board members, and Grants Panel members.

**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 2015

### January

Monday 12 January	TGP Board meeting

### February

Monday 23 February	TGP Board meeting
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### March

Saturday 07 March	Kintore Community Engagement events
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Saturday 14 March	Port Elphinstone Consultation event
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Saturday 21 March	Kintore Community Engagement events
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Monday 30 March	TGP Board meeting - Newmachar



**The Garioch Partnership**

1st Floor, Wyness Hall, Jackson Street,

Inverurie, AB51 3QB

Inverurie (01467) 628801

[info@gariochpartnership.org.uk](mailto:info@gariochpartnership.org.uk)

[www.gariochpartnership.org.uk](http://www.gariochpartnership.org.uk)



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