

Locally...



Dog Waste Bag Project

Dog fouling is a concern in many communities across Aberdeenshire and a new project has been launched in Formartine to tackle the issue. The Formartine Community Planning Group, working in conjunction with local Community Councils decided to look into the issue in bid to combat the problem. All too often people allow their dogs to foul on public paths and walkways causing distress for those who have to walk past or at worst step in it. It is a concern both environmentally and raises public health issues. In an effort to encourage people to pick up after their



pet, the Group have provided 30,000 dog bags and promotional material which will be distributed freely to dog walkers in their areas by the Community Councils, it is hoped that this will go some way to raise awareness and help alleviate the issue. The free dog bags are available from Formartine Community Council, details of which can be found on the Aberdeenshire Council website at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/communitycouncils, and at meeting places in the community in towns and villages such as libraries, shops, interest points, and walking areas.

..news snippets..

An exciting new project is beginning in the Ellon area to look at a befriending service for young adults aged 16 - 30 with an additional support need. A partnership has been struck with LEAD Scotland, Volunteer Centre Aberdeenshire and the Formartine Community Planning Group. Val Smith of LEAD is working with groups and organisations to determine how the service should be shaped.

Meldrum Town Hall was the venue for Meldrum Showcase Week during mid September. A celebration of activities and entertainment was held to mark the completion of the Town Hall refurbishment. The hall now benefits from a lift opening up access to a newly renovated function suite upstairs. Community Interest Company Making Meldrum Better took over the management of the Town Hall in December 2010 following the success of their first initiative, Meldrum Café which opened its doors in the town hall's old library in 2007.

Aberdeen Street Pastors

A successful venture at Meldrum Sports has been hailed a success. An approach was made to Aberdeen Street Pastors to support Grampian Police at the popular evening events. The police reported to the Formartine Community Planning Group the need for additional resources to support vulnerable young people at the sports in order to focus their resources on enforcement. 9 volunteer Street Pastors came to the event and worked in partnership with the Police and Sports Committee ensuring a safe event for all. Meanwhile educational activities took place at Meldrum Academy in the run up to the event highlighting issues such as drugs and alcohol and its effects to its pupils.



shire-wide...

From hip hop to a cook off, Aberdeenshire celebrates ageing in series of events

Aberdeenshire Council is organising a series of events alongside community partners to celebrate older people's day on Saturday, October 1st.

In the week running up to older people's day (September 26 - October 1), activities will centre around the theme of active ageing. These are taking place nationwide and the day is supported by the United Nations.

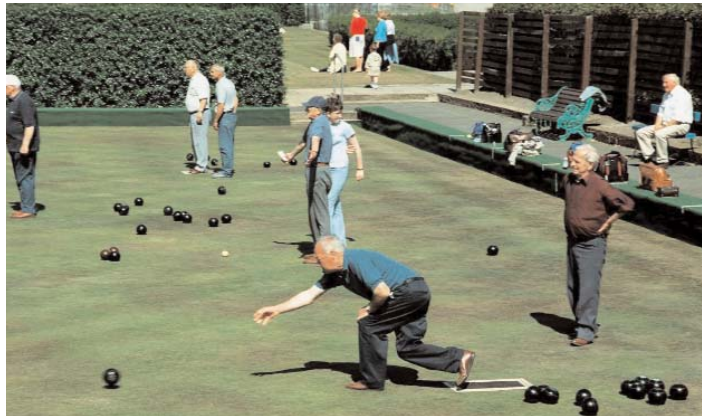
In Aberdeenshire a range of events have been organised to bring together people of all ages. Activities will take place at day care homes, sheltered housing and community centres and will involve local school children, artists and musicians. Some of the highlights include:

- ♦ Ready, Steady, Cook event involving professional chefs, pupils and older people in Aboyne
- ♦ Historical talk on Fraserburgh lifeboats
- ♦ Hip-hop group in Port Elphinstone

Aberdeenshire will have the highest proportion of older people in Scotland by 2020 and the number of people aged over 85 years is expected to rise by 75%.

Chair of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership and Leader of the council Anne Robertson, said: "I am delighted to see partners and communities coming together to organise these events and there are some interesting activities taking place.

"Tackling the challenges brought about by a growing and aging population is one of



Aberdeenshire Council's three strategic pillars and together we can address the future challenges that demographic change will bring.

"Older people's day allows us to celebrate ageing and the national theme

around being more active is something the council and its partners are committed to encouraging every day so that people can live longer, healthier and happier."

Minister for Pensions Steve Webb said: "Older People's Day is a celebration of the achievements and contributions that older people make to our economy and to society as a whole.

These events encourage older people to get and stay active well into later life and I urge people to get involved."

A full programme of events can be viewed at:
www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/olderpeople

Your Voice

The 'Your Voice' project is funded by Aberdeenshire Council and delivered by the Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network. The purpose of the project is to explore ways of engaging with older people and involving older people in the planning of health and care services. An online survey can be taken at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s/D6CQS8G

The deadline for the survey is
31st October 2011.

