

Locally...



Westhill Retirement Fair

A well-attended Retirement Fair, run by Westhill Wellbeing Forum, was recently held at the Holiday Inn, Westhill.

Garioch Community Planning Officer Jill Sowden said: "The Forum organised the fair in order to promote opportunities for people who have retired or will be retiring soon to lead fulfilling, active and healthy lives. The fair provided information, guidance and advice from a range of organisations and services in order to encourage the local retired community to be actively engaged."

MEN SHED

One of the projects being considered to encourage an active and healthy retirement in the Westhill area is a "Men Shed".

The idea is simple - instead of men having their own sheds at the bottom of their garden where they work in isolation or perhaps not at all, a "Men Shed" is a larger facility (a large shed or industrial unit) equipped with various pieces of machinery and craft tools, which encourages men to come together, work together and in some cases play together.

Jill Sowden, Garioch Community Planning Officer, says of the first men shed set up in Britain (in Cheshire), "Activities include skills-sharing, welding, wrought-iron work, carpentry, making of dolls houses and bird tables for sale, painting pub signs and guitar lessons - anything the men want to do. Local GPs have begun signposting those suffering brain injury through traffic accidents as part of their therapy. Attendees feel, for their own personal reasons (whether it be for companionship, giving them a sense of purpose and belonging, medical reasons or skill sharing and development), that the Shed has had a huge impact on their lives."

The Westhill Wellbeing Forum are looking to develop a Shed in Westhill and are keen to see



*Sir Robert Smith MP and
Angela McMillan of
Nordic Walking*

what interest there would be.

If you think a Men Shed in Westhill would be a good idea or you want more information please contact Jill Sowden, Community Planning Officer based at Gordon House, Inverurie on 01467 628338 (email jill.sowden@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) If you would like more information there is a very informative website for the Australian Men Sheds at: www.mensheds.com.au/

A Rural Partnership for Garioch?

There are a number of Rural Partnerships throughout Aberdeenshire. Rural Partnerships are independent, community-owned organisations that exist to support, facilitate and advocate for their local communities. They grow from within their respective communities and provide a direct two-way communication link between them and Aberdeenshire Council.

As a result of this developed relationship Aberdeenshire Council; through Economic Development and Area Managers, have for some time made available resources to support communities through the Rural Partnership.

If you are interested in developments both locally and within Garioch you are invited to a meeting on Monday 31 May 2010 from 7 - 9pm at the Council Chambers, Gordon House, Inverurie. Refreshments will be available before the meeting at 6.30pm.

At the meeting you will hear from existing Rural Partnerships, an update of funding available through the Aberdeenshire LEADER fund and explore how your communities might develop a Rural Partnership in Garioch. Please contact Fiona Smith, fiona.r.smith@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, tel: 01224 664711 if you would like to attend the meeting.

contact us

GARIOCH LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP
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Our Aberdeenshire

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Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership newsletter

community planning working together for
the best quality of life for everyone in aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Youth Council

The Aberdeenshire Youth Council represents young people from all over the Shire on issues important to young people. The membership is made up of the 6 additional Youth Councillors - usually one for each council area - who are elected. The election process is carried out through Aberdeenshire Youth Forum who currently have over 150 members. The job of these 12 young people is to make sure that politicians and decision makers in Aberdeenshire know how young people feel and know what issues need to be addressed.

To do this, they meet every two months to discuss what problems young people in their area are facing and how they could be tackled and solved. They then present this information to the council and community partners in order to see if there can be changes or solutions to make improvements.

If you are a young person who lives, works, or goes to school or college in Aberdeenshire, AYC is here to represent you. If there is something you think should be changed in the Shire, get in touch with one of your local Youth Councillors and be sure we will work hard to get the solution you want.

Contact Details

dialogueyouth@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
Tel. 01467 624345



The current Youth Councillors are:

Chair - Alex Gaskin,
MSYP for Banff & Buchan
Vice Chair - Emma Maclean,
Kincardine and Mearns
Secretary - Yolanda Wilson, Marr
Treasurer - Grace Croft, Buchan
Mike Forman, MSYP for Banff & Buchan
Coral-Ann Birnie, MSYP for Gordon
Rebecca Cox, MSYP for Gordon
Andrew Deans, MSYP for West
Aberdeenshire & Kincardine
Conor McNeill, MSYP for West
Aberdeenshire & Kincardine
Emma Maders, Kincardine & Mearns
Catriona Robertson, Garioch
Conor McKay, Garioch

contact us

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email: communityplanning@ouraberdeenshire.org.uk
visit our website at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk

