

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ACHIEVEMENTS 20 AUGUST 2008

BOTRIPHNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ENTERPRISE

- Our pupils undertook bag packing at the Tesco in Keith and raised £440 for school Funds
- Working in partnership with the Drummuir Estate the pupils were involved in a Breathing Places project of creating two ponds on the Upper Isla. Four pupils attended committee meetings, the P4-7 pupils created posters to advertise the work being done and submitted designs for a duck house. Two designs were merged to produce a castle, with an oak cask entrance for the ducks. The whole project was completed with a grand opening attended by the whole school and the local community.
- The Pupil Council took responsibility for organising the Summer Fair which took place in June and raised £810. £100 was donated to the Red Cross and World Wildlife Fund. These two charities were chosen by fellow pupils after members of the Pupil Council gave power point presentations to promote their choice of charity. The rest of the money was donated to the School Fund.
- As part of our topic on printing, P4-7 pupils produced a school tea towel. There was no profit made as the pupils decided it was more important to make the tea towel accessible to all and therefore the price was kept to a minimum.

ECO SCHOOLS

- We have recently submitted evidence for our Silver Award and hopefully we shall be successful.
- Once again we are taking part in the junior section of the Best Kept Village competition and our gardens are planted and looking great. We have won this competition before and have been highly commended every other year since we took part.
- We continue to provide a service to the community with our paper recycling facility and pupils take responsibility each day to empty the recycling boxes around the school.
- The whole school and local community were involved in a rag bag collection which earned £69 for school funds.
- Once again pupils were involved in the excellent project *Salmon to School* and followed this up with electro fishing in the local Drumhendry Burn.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOLS

- All P5-7 pupils took part in the cycling proficiency and all were successful in passing their test either at red, amber or green level.
- P7 cyclists recently took part in a P7 cycling transition day which was organised by Chris Thompson, the school travel co-ordinator.

- Our walking to school week involved pupils being dropped off at the end of the village and walking up to the school accompanied by staff. Some pupils cycled.
- A number of children took part in the football training organised through Active Schools and there was a special girls' training session delivered by Steven Thomson, the SFA development officer for girls' football.
- Two children were able to take advantage of riding lessons at Cranloch. This is an opportunity for children to develop skills and confidence.
- P4-7 pupils delivered an Oral Health Workshop to the rest of the school and parents.
- Our three P7 pupils joined with Keith Grammar School pupils for a week at the Abernethy Outdoor Centre. This was part of a transition process for our three P7s moving on to secondary education. They also attended a Home Economics class where they baked spice biscuits as part of our current topic on explorers and the spice trade.

CURRICULUM

- A number of laptops have been purchased which has allowed older pupils to develop their skills in ICT. Two Promethean interactive boards are being installed over the summer holidays. One board has been purchased through the school but the second one has been purchased through the School Fund.
- Pupils continue to do well in music. At the Moray Festival the school was successful in singing and violin, coming first on three occasions and earning distinctions and highly commended.
- Our P4 pupils recently took part in the NYCOS workshop of Orloff the Dragon along with all the other schools in the ASG.
- A reading challenge has been developed for P4-7 children which has proved popular with most pupils. Our current top three readers have read a total of 169 novels and their attainment in reading is high.
- Our team entered for the Library Book Quiz won through to the next round but as we had misunderstood the rules we were unable to compete in the next round as our team was too young!
- Two pupils had their paintings exhibited in the recent art exhibition at Elgin Library.

BURGHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Curriculum for Excellence – Our Wildlife Garden at Burghead Primary School

Last year's P2 class and Mrs Cornall, their class teacher, were involved in developing a Wildlife garden project.

To begin with, the class surveyed the existing garden. There were no plants in the garden and therefore no regular visits from local wildlife.

Mrs Cornall, along with her P2 class, drew up an action plan to change this and asked the PTA to help us to buy shrubs and plants for our garden. The PTA readily agreed to help and brought shrubs for the project. Burghead in Bloom also donated

plants. More bedding plants and additional shrubs were kindly donated by parents and the PTA bought gardening implements for the pupils.

Other classes in the school became involved in this project. P1 prepared pots and tubs to enhance school grounds; P5/6 helped to plant shrubs, P7 weeded the garden area and P4/5 carried out a minibeast hunt.

Some parents have approached Mrs Cornall and asked if they could buy her shrubs as an end of term gift for our garden. Mrs Cornall is very appreciative of this kind gesture.

The next steps for our garden are to plant more shrubs and wild flowers, paint a wall mural, complete a floor mosaic, create a seating area for our community and also develop interactive outdoor activities for our pupils. Thanks to everyone who was involved in this project.

CABRACH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school was visited on Monday 26 May by an assessor for Eco Schools Scotland. She was there to assess whether we merited gaining a Second Green Flag. She was impressed by the work we had done. We were contacted the next day to be told we had been awarded our Second Green Flag - the first school in Moray to do so. A big thank you must go to all involved - staff and pupils - it is a great achievement for a small school.

DALLAS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

We are delighted to report that Ross Watson, a teacher at Dallas Primary School, was runner-up in the Scottish Teacher of the Year competition which is sponsored by different bodies including LT Scotland, The Scottish Government, The Daily Mail and BT. Initially Ross was nominated by his headteacher, Arlene Wilson. This secured his progress through the first round which led to a visit to Dallas by two of the judges. For this Arlene collected a portfolio of comments on Ross by colleagues from across Moray and beyond.

"Ross is exactly the kind of young teacher we would like to encourage in Moray. He has a wonderful 'can do' attitude and is a huge support to me in the challenging role of being a teacher as well as the head teacher of a small school." (Arlene Wilson, Head Teacher, Dallas Primary School)

"Ross's commitment, expertise and enthusiasm for his job as a teacher to all the children is obvious." (David Binney, Curriculum for Excellence Inter-Authority Team)

"... he brings his whole self to teaching not just a persona." (Sarah Abenheimer, PT English, Lossiemouth High School)

*"Learning in Dallas is innovative and Ross has risen to the challenge."
(Marion Davidson, Learning and Teaching Officer)*

*"Ross is quiet, unassuming and very keen to learn from others' experiences."
(Catherine Reilly, PT Guidance, Lossiemouth High School)*

*"He took the lead in setting up an internet forum for us." (George Sinclair,
Head of Educational Development Services)*

*"... he inspires his pupils to want to find out more..." (Jim Morris, Coaching
and Mentoring Project Officer)*

From the evidence provided and the work the judges saw taking place in Dallas Primary School, which they thought was "Scottish Education at its best", Ross was selected as one of the three finalists and was invited to the awards ceremony which was held in Glasgow on Friday 13 June 2008. The ceremony and the following lunch was a celebration of Scottish Education. As runner up Ross was awarded £500 for the school and a runner up certificate.

FORRES ACADEMY

Food and Drink Challenge

Forres Academy pupils were recently given a taste of running their own business in the Food and Drink Challenge. This challenge, based around the principles and purposes of A Curriculum for Excellence, aimed to raise awareness about the variety of careers available in the industry as well as gaining an understanding of how a business works. It was an inter-disciplinary project linking many different departments together. The event was linked to the school curriculum and allowed pupils to see where subjects taught at school could join together and be applied in the "real world". The challenge was for groups of pupils to create a smoothie which went on sale in the canteen and the Organic Picnic Café.

Transition Day

Over 130 Primary 7 pupils came to a fun filled transition day on Saturday 22 June. They had the chance to participate in a number of activities such as rugby, drumming, badminton, arts and crafts and many, many more. This gave P7 pupils a chance to bond and get to know each other before coming up to the Academy for their two induction days. In tandem with pupil events on the Saturday, we ran parental workshops such as "Internet Safety" and "Getting to know your teenager" which were very popular with some parents. The day was a huge success.

Psychology

We have just been informed that one of last year's S6 students, Juliette Bresford, gained the highest mark in the whole of Scotland for her Higher Psychology examination. She will be awarded by the British Psychology Society.

GREENWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

In our last year of primary school we were given the chance to go to Edinburgh on a P7 residential trip for five days.

We departed Greenwards on Monday 14th April at 8.15 am and we were all buzzing with excitement. Four hours later, we arrived at Braid Hill's Hotel in Edinburgh, having already visited Deep Sea World and the Butterfly Farm on route. We also successfully walked across the mile-long Forth Road Bridge, despite rushing traffic thundering by!

After checking into the hotel and settling into our rooms, we had our tea before leaving to go to Laser Quest World. We were all intrigued as to what would await us in the darkness as many of us had never been there before. It proved to be a great success, even though many were terrified of the luminous monster, and everyone was reluctant to leave.

Tuesday turned out to be a 'spooky' day with us paying a visit to the Mercat Tours and Mary King's Close, but most people had recovered in time for a spot of ten-pin bowling that evening.

On Wednesday, we paid a visit to Edinburgh Castle where we gained knowledge of the castle's history. In the evening we went to the cinema. We were given the choice of film, ensuring everybody was happy.

Thursday proved to be an early start as we headed to Glasgow for a day out. We spent the morning exploring Glasgow Science Centre before visiting Miss James in the strict Victorian School, where we were all scared to death by her harsh manner! It made us glad to be living in the 21st century! After our evening meal we made our way to the Gorbals Swimming Pool where great fun was had by all.

Friday was our last day and, after packing the bus, we travelled to Dynamic Earth and then to the dreaded Edinburgh Dungeons! The experience proved a little too scary for some as they couldn't bring themselves to enter the dark, murky rooms. Those who were brave enough felt a great sense of achievement as they could say they had faced their fears. A final visit to Edinburgh Zoo rounded off our fantastic trip.

We arrived home with mixed emotions. We were tired, happy to see our families but wished we were still in Edinburgh. The trip was deemed a great success by all involved.

Podcasting in Greenwards School

We, in Primary 5, started making podcasts because we had visitors from Tanzania and Zambia and thought it would be a good idea if they could hear our voices on the internet and find out about what we did in our school.

We made our first podcast just before Easter 2008. This contained information about our school. Since then we have made several more.

The making of the podcasts was carried out in our class area and the only equipment we needed was the computer program audacity downloaded onto our laptop and a microphone. Before creating the podcasts we had to create scripts and decide (by auditions and voting) which members of the class were going to carry out each task.

Some of the people we have interviewed are Richard Lochhead MSP, Angus Robertson MP, and Councillor Hamilton. Two members of our class have also played violin duets and solos for our podcasting. Following the interviews we had to edit the podcasts. After the first time we found this to be a fairly easy task.

Making the podcasts made us feel important, a bit nervous, excited, and special.

We felt nervous when waiting for comments about our work but almost as soon as the podcasts were aired many very positive comments appeared. This made us feel very proud and happy. We now feel confident when podcasting that we can make a really good job.

Our class is really proud of what we have done and excited at the thought of our voices being heard world-wide. We thoroughly enjoyed doing this and our next venture will be creating a podcast of our class playing our recorders.

Look out for us on www.radioanywhere.co.uk

LOSSIEMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

In the Support for Learning Department at Lossiemouth High School, we have prepared pupils for several new Access 1 units which have allowed young people to progress at their appropriate level. Courses we have offered this session include, Understanding Scottish Cultural Festivals, Recognising Signs in the Community, Healthy Cooking and Using Electrical Equipment in the Kitchen. Although these courses are certificated by the Scottish Qualifications Authority, we presented school awards to the pupils who achieved a pass at our school assemblies. This gives pupils a great sense of pride in their achievements and allows them to experience success as part of the whole school.

MOSSTOWIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

JUMP ROPE June 11th 2008

As part of our health promotion one of our events for the summer term was "Jump Rope". The event was multi purpose as it raised money for the British Heart Foundation, helped our skipping skills, and was lots of fun too.

The event took part in the hall as the weather was not too good that day. All materials were included in the pack from the B.H.F. i.e. ropes, activities, music, and forms. This made it relatively easy to organise. The Health Committee organised the games and took the children out of class to take part in the skipping. It was good to see the children co-operating and working so well together. The whole school took part from primary one all the way up to the primary seven children as well as some staff.

The sum of £54 was raised and we also have a new batch of super smart, up to date skipping ropes of different sizes for the children to use.

ROTHES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Rothes Primary School Goes Global!

Here at Rothes, we have always prided ourselves on our ability to forge cross-curricular links, but we have recently gone into overdrive on this front! To establish links with other countries, it was decided that as a school, we would raise funds for a worthy cause.

Action Aid's work in Malawi is that cause. Children who are orphaned by HIV/Aids can attend Ufulu Centres, where they are able to produce 'memory books' with photos of their parents, talk about their lives and receive support from staff. Our children were prepared to raise funds and, after discussion, decided that we would donate some of the proceeds from the Tesco Fun Run.

An After School Club was established to allow us (including staff!) to get in training. Pupils thought that a *Running Club* might be a little off-putting to some, so they decided it would be called the 'Fitness and Fun Club'. One group ran, another group alternated between power-walking and jogging, and another group power-walked. Our fitness levels improved hugely over the eight week period.

The school community took part in the run, from Nursery children on their bikes, to Primary 7 and staff. So here we were, getting some exercise, raising funds for a good cause, AND having fun!

Inspired, Primary 3/4 pupils are organising an Enterprise Day, and plan to donate their proceeds to Malawi. A group of girls have been teaching Funky Dancing to Primary 5, 6 and 7, culminating in a Dance Party. They also volunteered their profits for Action Aid.

This week, we were delighted to welcome three visitors from Bangladesh to Rothes Primary. Tartan flourished throughout the school and we entertained them with Scottish dancing and sang 'Flower of Scotland'. We plan to establish links with schools in Bangladesh, and work with them to exchange information on culture, geography, and work together on environmental projects.

Learning, helping others, improving our fitness *and* having fun - that's how we learn at Rothes Primary School!

ST THOMAS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ACE Afternoons

As part of our Curriculum for Excellence work we have an ACE afternoon every Monday. This involves children from P1-P7 working together in House groups, giving them each a chance to work with different children and staff than they would normally see. Each group works for 5/6 weeks on either, Health, Enterprise or Eco-School activities. At the end of each block, they may produce something to present to the rest of the school community including parents and visitors or to exhibit in the

community. A play based on Healthy Teeth; 'Salmon goes to School'; an Art Exhibition of children's work; visiting the local recycling centre are just a sample of the activities done recently. The children love these sessions and plans are underway to develop them next year.

Concert/Music Festival

A fundraising concert was held with the Keith & District Silver Band. The first half included performances by the children; these included solo, group and class items from our entries to the Moray Music Festival and the Burns Federation Competition. These were a mixture of commended, distinction and top 3 placed items. In addition, our new group of 6 brass instrumentalists performed publicly for the first time. The Silver Band performed in the second half and the children joined with actions and dancing. The evening was a great success and raised more than £400 for school funds.

Eco School

This term we achieved our first Green Flag Award. For the assessors' visit, the children divided into teams and took turns explaining and guiding our visitors around each project. We are really pleased with how they rose to the occasion and took responsibility for this and the children were 'over the moon' when they received the results 'live' over speaker phone. We are the 600th recipient of a Green Flag and we are to feature on the Eco-school website and next newsletter.

Young People's Trust for the Environment & Total Oil

We entered some of our Eco work into an Environment competition jointly run by these bodies and were Scottish winners receiving £500 and books for the school. This follows on from the Your Moray, Your Environment Award where we were the inaugural winners with our 'Sneaky Switchers' idea for saving energy and Highly Commended for our Global Fountain.

Anne Frank Award

A group from the school travelled to Aberdeen for the Presentation Ceremony of this annual award. Our work was commended for the breadth of activities involving the whole school community; our links with schools from other countries and our focus on Children's Rights linking with the 60th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child. Although we didn't win, the children enjoyed finding out about the other 16 entries from across the former Grampian Region including 1 other entry from Moray.

International School Award

We are putting together evidence for our application for this scheme and hope to have news about this next session. Much of our work focuses on the links we have with our international partners as we now have links with Ireland, Canada, France, Poland and Pakistan. We have taken part in joint curriculum projects, a mixture of formal and informal teacher exchanges, e-twinning work and good old-fashioned swapping pen-pals. Currently we have an exhibition of Polish/Scottish local environment art work in Keith Library and 2 staff are due to visit Pakistan in October.

Health Promotions

This term, we have initiated monthly care-free/walk-to-school days and are hoping to set up a 'walking bus' scheme after the summer. P7 took part in a joint cycle ride with

all local P7's as part of their transition activities. Groups of children from P5-7 have been receiving training in Peer Mediation and Kids in Condition.

If you would like to find out more about these activities and others why not log-on to some of these sites:

www.stthomasrcprimary.org.uk
www.stthomaskeith.blogspot.com
<http://stthomassmallfry.blogspot.com>
<http://bbsstthomas.blogspot.com/>
<http://ewal-wspolpraca.blogspot.com/>

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Moray's Award as a MOVE Region of Excellence

This award was in recognition of achievements the children and the teams around them are developing in the functional mobility skills of those children on the MOVE Programme. The ceremony was held on 19 June and was the first type of such an award throughout the whole of the UK and the rest of Europe, and is due to the unique situation in Moray in which every child who could benefit from the MOVE Programme has access to it.

The efforts of those working with MOVE in Moray has ensured that the MOVE Programme is now fully sustainable in this area which includes the monitoring of progress, training delivered locally, and a support system from a multi-agency policy from Health, Education and Social Services. This award is therefore an acknowledgement of Moray's total inclusion delivered over many sites to all of the children who would benefit from the programme.

From the *Northern Scot* 21 June 2008

With the slightest of guiding hands, six-year-old Rachel Bremner walked across the floor of a packed conference room to a round of applause - something she would not have been able to do two years ago. Rachel suffered from hydrocephalus when she was born, which damaged the area of her brain controlling her movement. Until she began the MOVE programme the Hythehill Primary School pupil could not crawl and could not walk without help.

Yesterday (Thursday), Moray was declared the first European MOVE Region of Excellence for the programme that helps severely disabled children improve their movement. Liz Gray, Paediatric Physiotherapist at Dr Gray's Hospital, developed the initiative. She said: "I started the MOVE programme because I wanted to help children develop the practical, functional skills to do the things they want and be included in the sort of activities other children enjoy. We currently have children from two to 15 years old, and help them in a wide variety of ways, teaching a child to build the strength to lift up his head so his mum can feed him, helping a youngster to learn the techniques to sit, unaided, at a table so they can take part in a birthday party, or even to walk a short distance independently - each of these can make a world of difference. We train a wide range of people who work with each

child, including parents, teachers, classroom staff, therapists and social workers, as well as the child, so we are all contributing to the improvements which may seem small to an outsider, but are life-changing for those involved."

Rachel's life has changed dramatically since she started the programme about two years ago. Her mum, Laura, said: "She couldn't crawl and couldn't walk without holding onto someone's hand. She would never have gone off as she can now. The programme has made a big difference to her and me. Life is much easier without having to lift her. I'm just so proud of her."

Louise Clarke (14), from Dufftown, had the honour of unveiling the plaque at the ceremony at the Eight Acres Hotel in Elgin. She has cerebral palsy and was the first child in Moray to take part in the MOVE programme. Louise said: "It's helped me really well because I can move from my wheelchair, and it's given me more confidence. "I can get up on my feet, which is something I couldn't do before."

Moray has been recognised because of the successful multi-agency work between NHS Grampian, Moray Community and Social Care Partnership and Moray Council's education service in delivering the initiative, so every child who could benefit has access to it, helping them gain functional skills to enable them to sit, stand and walk.

Andrew Fowle, NHS Grampian General Manager, said he was proud the programme had received international recognition. He said: "The attention to detail and practical changes are great. Liz and all of her colleagues are enthusiastic and innovative, and deserve this kind of recognition. Also, the hard work put in by children and their families is recognised by this award."

GEORGE MACKENZIE, EDUCATION SUPPORT OFFICER (BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT)

Institute of Leadership and Management Level 5 Award Understanding Social Enterprise

In March 2007 the then Deputy First Minister, Nicol Stephen, announced a one off payment of £1m to support Employer Engagement within Determined to Succeed, the Scottish Government's strategy for enterprise in education. This additional funding was to be used to support the development of a range of activities and tools to support learning and teaching. Three projects were identified. The development of a national training programme to support employer engagement at school level, the setting up of Young Chambers of Commerce in schools and the development of a national schools award in social enterprise. A social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners. Three examples of social enterprises operating in Moray are Out of the Darkness Theatre Company, ReBOOT computer recycling project and The Green Home based in Buckie.

The aim of the project was to raise the profile of social enterprise as a way of doing business. It would also provide the opportunity for schools to engage with entrepreneurial activity within the curriculum.

Development Officers from eight authorities took part in the project. We were initially involved in supporting the Social Enterprise Academy in shaping the pilot Schools' Award. We then had to identify a pilot school to work with, identify an activity which would have the potential to become a social enterprise and then work with the school to create the social enterprise.

I worked with Lossiemouth High School to develop its Lossie Rocks project into a production company managed by the pupils to deliver health and social messages through music, drama and dance. This was an ideal opportunity for the school to develop a context for the delivery of cross-cutting themes such as Health Promotion, Citizenship and Enterprise in Education. It would also be an opportunity for Music, Drama and Art and Design to begin to engage with the ACfE Expressive Arts outcomes. Developing Lossie Rocks as a social enterprise which generated income and had a clear social purpose could also provide an opportunity for cross curricular working bringing in departments such as Business Studies, Geography, Religious and Moral Education and Modern Studies.

To support their schools effectively the Development Officers involved had to undertake a new training programme with the Social Enterprise Academy to ensure that we had the knowledge and understanding of social enterprise to effectively support our schools. All 8 Officers were the first in Scotland to achieve The Institute of Leadership and Management Award in Understanding Social Enterprise.

Lossiemouth High School was one of 10 to receive the national award. Awards to both schools and Officers were made by Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, at a ceremony in Edinburgh in June.

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT - ELGIN ADULT TEAM

First Aid for the Under Fives

A group of parents from Elgin Loose Ends identified in their Individual Learning Plans that they wished to develop their skills in this subject matter but did not have the confidence to attend existing First Aid courses. This course was delivered in partnership with CLD (Adult Team) and a local health visitor in a way that was appropriate to the learning needs of this group. Everyone successfully completed both the knowledge and practical elements of this course and reported an increase in their confidence when dealing with first aid emergencies with their children.

Loose Ends – Open Doors

As part of adult learners week Elgin Loose Ends held an open doors session. A number of local professionals and members of the public came along and were supported to find out more about this adult learning initiative and to see first hand how it operates.

Elgin Adult Learners Annual Yearbook/DVD

The second yearbook has been published and is in the process of being distributed to learners and professionals. The book details both individual and group achievements of those adult learners who participated in the many CLD (Adult Team) groups/projects within Elgin. Learners have indicated the importance of sharing their success and achievements with others.

The DVD has now been extended and features Donald Duncan, Director of Educational Services giving an introduction.

Family Messy Time

Two very successful and well attended Family Messy Time sessions were held during the summer holidays. These were designed, by CLD Adult Team, in response to feedback from families in the Pinefield area which highlighted the lack of affordable and accessible family activities within their community. Whilst the hook was family arts and crafts, CLD staff and partners provided support to the parents to meaningfully engage with their children throughout the sessions. This parenting support was well received by the many families - with this in mind family art packs were created to allow the families to continue with this family learning experience.

COMMUNITY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT - YOUTH TEAM, FORRES

Forres Freeriders Mountain Bikers Trail Project

A group of ten boys attended the inaugural Youth Forum meeting in 2006. They had an idea of building a mountain bike trail in Sanquhar Woodlands in Forres and wanted help in taking their idea forward. It was agreed to form into a constituted group, deciding on a name "Forres Freeriders" and open their own bank account with parents as signatories.

After meeting with local adult mountain bikers, and Chris Piper, the Chairman of the Forres Community Woodlands Trust, it was agreed to move on with the plan to build a trail.

With the support of the local Community Development Worker (Youth Team) the Freeriders met with an MB trail designer and received a cost for the trail, which is aimed for use by families and more advanced mountain bikers. The cost was estimated to be £55,000. The group were involved fully in the plans for the Trail.

It was agreed that the main funding bids were to be submitted by the Community Woodlands Group who were a recognised Community Group and had charitable status. The Freeriders Group were awarded a £5,000 Awards For All Grant for the more extreme section of the Trail. In addition, the Local Community Network donated a grant of £600. At present the group are organising, with a local youth worker, a 24-hour sponsored ride across various trails in the North of Scotland, where they are hoping to raise £800.

The Woodland Group have been successful in receiving funding from a Moray Council Landfill Community Grant, £20,000, and £15,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Work on the Trail began recently, and is hoped to be open in August/September.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Picture This

Picture This was both an exhibition of adult literacies learners writing and pictures on what literacy means to them and the focus for a celebratory event for adult learning.

The exhibition was launched at an event during Adult Learners Week which also saw the presentation of awards for achievement to learners and tutors. Two Moray College students were presented with Awards. One had been part of the summer school, Kickstart, and the impact of this involvement was recognised by lecturing staff who commented that she had "blossomed" and become increasingly confident in her written work. The second had progressed from Skills for Life to mainstream college and, with support for core skills from learner support staff, continued to achieve and was awarded a certificate for determination, dedication and achievement.

Five literacy learners received certificates for dedication, determination and achievement in adult learning; for community involvement and for acting as an ambassador for learning. Two long serving tutors were also awarded certificates recognising the dedicated contribution they had made to literacy learning in Moray.

The person nominated for the ALW Award was presented with a certificate from Scottish Learning Partnership, as the main award winner of the night. Her story of overcoming depression and getting involved in literacy learning so she could support her young child, featured in the local paper.

Weel May your Boatie Row

The book produced by this Buckie group has been a great success with demand exceeding supply which means that they are reprinting it. The group is continuing to meet and already has dates in their diary for presentations and talks to community groups.

ICT Champions

ICT Champions successfully presented a workshop at the ICT and Innovations Conference in Stirling. This workshop provided the opportunity to demonstrate how the project worked and enabled the ICT Champions to demonstrate their new skills.

And Now the Good News

This writing workshop took place in partnership with Elgin Library as part of their Read All About It programme. Learners worked with professional writer, Margot Henderson, to produce pieces of writing celebrating good news.

Moray Adult Learners' Forum

Moray Adult Learners' Forum presented a workshop on Learners' Forums - "what is in it for them, what is in it for us " - at the Northern Training Alliance good practice day in Nairn. Community Learning & Development Workers from across the north east attended this practice sharing day.

LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS

BUCKIE

Resolving Conflict - Portgordon Primary School

Both Grampian Police's School Liaison Officer and Buckie's LCN Support Officer have been working with groups of pupils at Portgordon Primary School on conflict and how to resolve it.

As a result of this work the school's Parent Council asked the LCN to organise an evening for Parents on Resolving Conflict.

Short presentations were given by Ivor Lee (LCN Support Officer) on Peer Mediation, Sally Tattum (SACRO) on Community Mediation, George Flett (Moray Youth Justice) on Restorative Justice, PC Steve Roberts (Grampian Police School's Liaison Office) on his role and Rev Sean Turner (Methodist Church in Scotland) on Pastoral Support. Parents then had the opportunity to ask questions of the five speakers.

Evaluation of the evening indicated that the Parents found the evening both informative and useful. They commented that they were unaware of the range of services available in the community and were impressed with the idea of pupils mediating minor disputes that occur between their Peers.

Team Building at Portgordon Primary School

In preparation for the new school year it was felt that it would be beneficial for a team building day for the new P6/7 class at Portgordon Primary School. Buckie LCN arranged for the 24 pupils involved accompanied by the Head Teacher, their new class teacher, Grampian Police School's Liaison Officer, a Home School Link Worker, the LCN Administrative Assistant and the LCN Support Officer to visit RAF Kinloss to participate in their Low Rope Exercise.

As the visit was about team building it had been agreed prior to the visit that pupils would be placed in groups that did not reflect their normal friendship groupings. On arrival at RAF Kinloss Flight Lieutenant D Jones, who is responsible for the Force Development Squadron at the station, and three other facilitators met the party. The pupils were then informed of their groups and the exercises commenced, each group undertaking the four different exercises, each of which could only be successfully completed through co-operation and teamwork.

The day was a complete success, thoroughly enjoyed by both pupils and the adults accompanying them and was an excellent start to help build a positive spirit amongst the pupils. As the school staff noted it was excellent to see pupils who normally had little or nothing to do with each other in school working together for the benefit of their group.

Peer Mediation at Cullen Primary School

Pupils at Cullen Primary School have been involved in a coaching and mentoring programme. As a result of this the Head Teacher felt it would be an ideal opportunity to build on this by introducing Peer Mediation to the school. When Mrs Hendry suggested the idea to the pupils she found that the level of interest was much greater

than could be accommodated and so had to interview pupils and 16 were selected for training. Facilitated by the LCN Support Officer these pupils then undertook ten hours training and assessment.

Shortly afterwards, at a school Assembly on the theme of relationships, the Peer Mediators were presented with certificates to acknowledge they had successfully completed their training and the other pupils informed about how they could access the services of their Peer Mediators.

KEITH

Peer Mediation at Keith Grammar School

In February 2007 19 pupils from Keith Grammar School were trained by Sally Tattum (SACRO) and Ivor Lee (LCN Support Officer) as Peer Mediators. Following what all agreed was highly successful training the school set up its Peer Mediation system.

The system enables pupils involved in a dispute to voluntarily ask the trained pupil peer mediators to help them overcome the difficulty. Pupils throughout the school have responded positively to Peer Mediation and appreciate the power of minor disputes being resolved without teacher intervention. As one of the S5 Peer Mediators said pupils "know that by talking to the mediators, they are working to resolve their problems rather than just being disciplined for arguing."

Recently the project was recognised as an example of good practice by Learning and Teaching Scotland who have featured it on their web site at

<http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/personalsupportinschools/sharingpractice/schools/keith/introduction.asp>

Peer Mediation in Primary Schools

Although Peer Mediation in the Keith ASG initially started at KGS it was always intended that primary schools would have the opportunity to become involved. All the primary schools in the ASG have now indicated interest in having a group of pupils trained as Peer Mediators. Training has now taken place at three schools (Newmill, Rothiemay and St Thomas) facilitated by the LCN Support Officer and the ASG's Home School Link Worker. The pupils at each school undertook four half days training following which the school established its Peer Mediation process. In each school the Peer Mediators were awarded certificates by the LCN that indicated they had successfully completed their training and the LCN Support Officer presented these at whole school assemblies.

The primary pupils have been trained in the same processes operated by the Peer Mediators at KGS so that their skills will be transferable when they make the transition from Primary to Secondary education.

BUCKIE AND KEITH

A Question of Coaching

Sean Nash from Next Steps Learning & Development Ltd facilitated two half-day workshops for parents on behalf of the LCN. This was the first occasion that a workshop of this nature, aimed specifically at Parents, has been held in Moray. The aim of the workshops was to provide an understanding of the skills needed to successfully have a coaching style of conversation with children and young people and, by doing so, help build stronger relationships with them. The workshops, one of which took place during the morning and one the evening, were open to parents from either locality so that parents could opt for whichever suited their personal commitments.

Both workshops were over-subscribed and the Parents who attended found these introductory sessions extremely helpful and gave them additional skills that would help improve relationships. Parents commented on how well Sean facilitated the workshops and responded to their individual issues. They also indicated that they would welcome more in-depth workshops in the future and the LCN is exploring ways that these requests can be achieved.

Interagency Training - Child Protection

In January the LCN organised a multi-agency seminar for staff in the two LCN areas on Child Protection. The seminar, which was addressed by speakers from NESPC, Moray Council's Educational Services and Community Services Division and Grampian Police, attracted over 50 delegates.

In evaluating this successful seminar delegates indicated four further areas that they wanted more information about. As a result three further seminars have been held on MAPPA (Multi-Agency Protection Planning Processes)/SCODA (Drugs and Alcohol), Court Processes, and Tracking Missing Children and a fourth on Police and Social Work Referral Processes is to take place at the end of August.

MILNE'S AND LOSSIEMOUTH LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK

Summer Transition Activities for Lossiemouth and Milne's Pupils

Summer holiday activities to support specific pupils moving from P7 to S1 was conceived and started in the days of Milne's New Community Schools project. The scheme is still going strong in 2008.

By continuous evaluation of the scheme improvements have been made so that young people get the best possible experience that they can. Concentration is on activities and experiences that may well be new to the participants.

Referrals are requested from the primary head teachers at Easter time for youngsters that they feel would benefit from the programme. At this point parents/carers are informed of this referral.

Parents are invited to meet with LCN staff in their child's primary school. At this point they are given an overview of the aims and objectives of the scheme. Summer transition is voluntary and some parents feel that their children don't require this extra input, but most welcome that additional support.

The team supporting the summer transition scheme is made up of the LCN staff, Home School Link Workers, Active School Co-ordinator Social Workers and Family Support Workers, Community Learning and Development staff, NHS Grampian, Grampian Police.

Activities include a trip to the "new" school and a treasure hunt (Lossiemouth) based around their new school timetable. This activity allows the children to find their way around their new school and particularly to the new registration class. This is a confidence booster given that their new school will be so much bigger than their primary school and the other pupils so much bigger! Transition also allows these children the opportunity to form new friendships with their peers and hopefully form a "support" group of like-minded youngsters. Team games organised by the Active Sports Co-ordinator encourages the children to work in teams and try new sports.

Other activities include a firm favourite of a visit to Culbin in association with the Forestry Commission Recreational Ranger and staff. The day includes a ride in the Polaris and trailer around the Culbin reserve. The children get to visit the seals on Findhorn Bay, enormous anthills, Hill 99 and the amazing new viewpoint and, finally, pond dipping at the Quarry pond. This is a particularly popular activity especially with the staff. Lunch is provided in the form of a beach picnic.

This year the Army is providing a morning and afternoon session and will involve their assault course and other team activities. Previous groups have enjoyed days at the Black Isle Wildlife Park, the Highland Zoo at Kingussie and Landmark at Carrbridge although funding constraints have meant these relatively expensive trips have had to be removed from the programme.

Evaluations are sought from the children after each activity and also from staff. And once the children are back at school parents are contacted for the views and feelings. The children are monitored though their first year by way of the Pupil Forum/Multi-Agency meetings held within schools. One particular group has been monitored since S1 through an ongoing activity with Wildthings – a conservation group from Findhorn. This group is working towards a John Muir Conserve Award. Another way is where youngsters are referred into the LAP system. Many parents have said that they felt that the extra input did indeed help their child. Future plans include the closer engagement of parents. We are looking at assessment tools that will provide additional evidence for the value of the project.

Logistics and planning is primarily provided by LCN and the Home School Link Workers.

Lossiemouth ASG/LCN Activities Day

This event has been in existence since 2003 and was bought about after the Forestry Commission raised their concerns over the number of fire raising incidents in Roseisle Forest. A meeting was convened with Grampian Fire and Rescue, the Lossiemouth Local Community Network and, along with Moray Youth Action, it was decided to hold a BBQ for a group of invited youngsters. The initial aim was to bring

home the message of how dangerous fire setting was in the confines of the forests. The Forestry Commission went on to work with a group of youngsters to organise specific areas where fire pits could be built.

This format was then used to engage with the P7 pupils of the Lossiemouth ASG schools with a similar message being delivered over a lunchtime period. The children were given demonstrations by GF&RS about fire safety in the home and out and about. The children were treated to a BBQ lunch prepared by the multi-agency team.

Over the next couple of years the event has grown and the focus of the day has changed. Although the messages delivered about fire safety in the home and the forests still remain, the event now focuses on transition, with P7 children being divided into their new registration groups and meeting for the first time their new class mates in S1. Sporting activities led by the Active Sports Co-ordinator have now been included. NHS Grampian are actively involved and Forestry Commission staff take the children on walks through the forest. Several Circus Skills presenters have put the children through their paces and the children have learnt how to build human pyramids, balance feathers on their noses, juggle and hula hoop. Other organisations have joined in and engaged the children in trust games – Skillforce Wildthings has involved the children in camping and orienteering activities. Grampian Fire and Rescue has now introduced a game which involves plenty of water and stirrup pumps!

Last year the Guidance staff from Lossiemouth High School joined in with the activities and this year the Peer Supporters from S4 came along for the day. These pupils were responsible for supporting the classes, activities and taking photographs and were a great addition to the proceedings. Several of the Peer Supporters produced a CD of photographs with a musical accompaniment. The Youth Worker for the area came along to make links with the youngsters. This year's event saw 180 young people and 30+ staff from a variety of organisations involved in a range of fun and learning activities with the organisation and logistics provided by LCN, the Home School Link Worker and the High School. We were delighted to be joined by Councillor McGillivray for lunch.

This year the local Community Beat Officer joined in the proceedings as "MC" – and, along with the "blues and twos" of his Police Land Rover, kept the day running smoothly. This freed up the organising staff from the LCN and HSLW to concentrate on feeding everyone!

Evaluations are sought from the children, school staff and staff involved in the running of the activities as part of our policy of continuous improvement. Team building and problem solving will be a feature of next year's event.