

THE NETWORK

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Transportation and Infrastructure

keeping Aberdeenshire businesses in touch

Aberdeen City and Shire to the fore at Offshore Europe 2009

Organisations from across Aberdeen City and Shire will be promoting themselves to a global audience when Offshore Europe returns to the Granite City.

Offshore Europe, staged biennially in Aberdeen, is one of the world's foremost oil and gas conferences and technical exhibitions and this year will run from September 8 to 11 at the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre.

The Aberdeen City and Shire stand at Offshore Europe 2009 is in a prime position at the front of the show, offering

excellent exposure to thousands of delegates from around the world.

Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils secured space at the event to help showcase just what the north-east has to offer and many Aberdeen City and Shire businesses have taken the opportunity to exhibit on the stand.

Aberdeenshire Council's Head of Economic Development, James Knowles, said: "Participating on the Aberdeen City and Shire stand at Offshore Europe provides a number of benefits associated



with being part of a large group presence situated in a prime position at the front of the show.

"These include a high profile two-tier stand of quality design and build with an informal meeting area and a business lounge with hospitality facilities.

"In addition, stand design and construction are taken care of on companies' behalf. This is an important event which gives exposure to a global audience."

Offshore Europe offers an international meeting place for debate and knowledge-sharing by engineers, technical specialists, executives, policy makers, legislators and industry leaders to help maximise recovery, extend field life, improve operations and best practice levels in a safe and sustainable manner.

It is one of the most stimulating weeks in the oil and gas calendar where exhibitors, delegates and visitors can access a global audience right here in Aberdeen City and Shire.

For more information about Offshore Europe 09, visit www.offshore-europe.co.uk



The Aberdeen City and Shire stand at Offshore Europe 2009

Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Serving Aberdeenshire from mountain to sea – the very best of Scotland

Welcome to Network



Since the last edition of Network I can report on a very successful Offshore Technology Conference in Houston and a record breaking

Taste of Grampian at Thainstone in early June with excellent weather, a great team of celebrity chefs and an increase in numbers attending.

Aberdeen City and Shire also took the main stand in the food hall at the Royal Highland Show with support from Tesco, which certainly promoted Aberdeenshire producers.

A total of 17 local food companies attended, including Mackintosh of Glendaveny with their new rapeseed oil, and Mackies of Scotland, well-known for their ice cream and now also producing potato crisps.

To further promote Aberdeen City and Shire there were reusable carrier bags, school competitions and cookery demonstrations by Aberdeenshire chefs and branding throughout the show ground, which is great publicity for our area.

The Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Future summit was held with some 160 delegates, where the 'way forward' was discussed.

The area has also secured more LEADER monies. So far local projects have been awarded £1.36million which, from a standing start a year ago, has been a fantastic achievement supporting projects in our rural communities in Aberdeenshire.

As this edition hits the press, we are about to head towards Offshore Europe 2009 – another great opportunity to promote all that is good in the energy sector, including renewables from the north-east of Scotland.

The economic situation is not without its challenges but these events highlight a taste of the positive energy which is evident across the area.

James Knowles

Head of Economic Development
Transportation and Infrastructure

Peterhead's potential to be examined at Offshore Europe exhibition

The energy industry opportunities which exist for Peterhead are to be highlighted as part of a special Offshore Europe reception.

The event, taking place on the Aberdeen City and Shire stand, will highlight the many opportunities which the town offers the energy industry.

With deep water, enviable all weather access and a location close to many of the northern North Sea fields, Peterhead is a key destination for operators in the subsea, renewable and decommissioning markets.

A progress update will be provided on Energetica, the Smith Embankment quayside

and other industrial land developments currently ongoing in Aberdeenshire.

Energetica aims to create a high quality energy industry related development with associated housing and leisure facilities extending from the Aberdeen Science and Energy Park at Bridge of Don to Peterhead.

The Energetica project has increased its national importance significantly and now features in the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 2 document.

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Peterhead Power Station and Harbour

Aberdeenshire Council hosts launch of Scotland's Road Safety Framework

Safety-conscious pupils from Strathburn Primary School in Inverurie helped set the scene for the launch of Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020.

The P3 pupils had prepared their own song highlighting a 'stop, look, listen, think' message as Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson visited the council to launch the far-reaching document in June.

The framework outlines new targets – the first specifically for Scotland – to reduce the number of serious injuries on Scotland's roads by half and the number of fatalities by 40 percent over the next decade.

Proposals to encourage local authorities to introduce 20mph zones in all residential areas and commitments to improve school bus safety are also included.

Cllr Peter Argyle, chairman of Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services Committee, said: "All of us have, over a number of years, been working in partnership to reduce the number and severity of casualties on our road network.

"The impact of these tragic events on our communities is a constant reminder of why we must concentrate on finding innovative and effective approaches to tackling this problem.

"By working together on education, engineering and enforcement programmes, we have reduced the number of people killed and seriously injured on our roads over the last decade, but we need to do more to continue this downward trend."

Promoting local food at Offshore Europe

Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC) and Aberdeenshire Council have joined forces to raise the awareness of local produce at Offshore Europe 2009.

Following a request from the agricultural sector to explore the potential for promoting locally produced food to the 40,000 delegates attending Offshore Europe 2009, Aberdeenshire Council decided to sponsor t-shirts to be worn by the 250 serving staff which will carry the message 'AECC – Serving Local Produce'.

AECC's in-house catering operation serves food to over 350,000 visitors per year and is firmly committed to using locally produced food.

David McDonald, General Catering Manager at AECC, said "The catering



Serving local produce display banners

team at AECC are very passionate about providing great customer service and making the dining experience feel special.

"The contribution from our local food producers plays a vital role to the success of our operations.

"This is achieved by offering quality, freshness and a varied range through utilisation of local, seasonal and regional ingredients."

Local food producers play an increasingly vital role in adding value to the Aberdeenshire economy.

Local talent celebrated at first Aberdeen City and Shire Film Festival

Local talent was at the forefront of the very first Aberdeen City and Shire Film Festival, which ran over the course of nine days into early August this year.

The events programme featured an exciting mixture of films by local directors and homemade classics, supported by a series

of activities allowing members of the public to meet local directors and find out more about the film industry.

The festival was formally launched at the Belmont Picturehouse in Aberdeen, when cinema-goers attended a special screening of dark comedy 'One Day Removals', filmed locally by director Mark Stirton.

Events weren't confined to the city, with mobile cinema Screen Machine touring six Aberdeenshire communities to bring big screen productions to towns where there is little or no cinema provision.

The Aberdeenshire Council Media Unit also highlighted local talents, with the screening of Aboyne Academy's Film Team production of Tam o' Shanter The Movie, along with other local productions.

Other festival workshops provided and highlighted the practical pathways, professional development, and business advice available within Aberdeen City and Shire.

The festival came to a strong finish with a special screening of 'Cass', charting the world of football hooliganism.

Provost of Aberdeenshire Bill Howatson said: "The Aberdeen City and Shire Film Festival is a unique celebration of the homegrown talent that exists across the area and the breadth of the programme is very impressive."

The Aberdeen City and Shire Film Festival was funded by Aberdeen City and Shire, Aberdeenshire Council, Scottish Screen (funded by the National Lottery), and Regional Screen Scotland.

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From left: Belmont Picturehouse Manager Stuart Dallas King, Neil Shirran and Mark Stirton

LEADER programme celebrates successful first year

A celebration event was held at Sandend Harbour to mark a successful year which saw the LEADER programme provide over £1 million in funding to rural projects across Aberdeenshire.

The programme was launched in June 2008 and has contributed a total of £1.37 million of funding towards 46 projects that will inject over £6 million into the local economy.

Sandend Harbour itself will shortly undergo restoration works part-funded by the LEADER programme.

As part of the celebration event, Rural Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (LAG) members met local drama group the Portsoy Players.

Raymond Murray, Honorary Secretary of the Sandend Harbour Trust, said:

“The award of £18,000 from the Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER Programme has delighted members of The Sandend Harbour Trust Company and residents of Sandend.

“This positive statement of support from LEADER is enabling restoration of the historic harbour to go ahead and be completed this year.”

Delighted at the progress of the LEADER programme in Aberdeenshire, LAG chairman James Knowles said: “Rural and coastal communities across Aberdeenshire continue to benefit from a diverse range of projects brought forward by local groups, partnerships and public sector partners.

“LEADER is contributing to the creation and development of community facilities within settlements, environmental education and habitat improvement projects.

“The programme also funds feasibility studies so that groups can take steps to assess the viability of larger projects.”

Details of all approved projects to date can be found on the Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER website: www.aberdeenshireleader.org



The Portsoy Players at Sandend Harbour

Seaway sails to Demark thanks to development grant

Macduff based business Seaway Group has secured a Support For Aberdeenshire Businesses development grant of £10,000 to showcase its ship building capabilities at the DanFish exhibition, in Demark this October.

Seaway started trading in 1977 with the design and manufacture of fishing gear at premises in Bankhead. The company has since had to extend the premises, and so moved to its present location at Station Brae, Macduff.

Over the years Seaway Group has diversified into the fit-out of hulls, and now Kenneth and Colin West and the Seaway name are well known throughout the UK and Ireland.

Kenneth and Colin have vast experience of the fishing industry, both having previously been owner/skippers of successful fishing vessels; allowing them to give advice and to discuss new ideas with clients.

The Seaway team of 11 staff supplied their first vessel to Norway in November last year, and since then interest from Europe has escalated.

Seaway is a forward thinking business, and hopes that by attending the DanFish exhibition the company will be able to promote its products and showcase its skills.

Seaway fits out mono and catamaran hulls purely based on the customer's requirements – there is no production line.

Every vessel delivered from the Seaway Group is different, achieved by the precise detail put into each individual build as per the client's instructions.

The Seaway Group, through its business plan, was able to demonstrate that by targeting the

Scandinavian market there was potential for growth. The company had not attended DanFish before and saw this show as an excellent platform to showcase its products and services to this new market.

For further information about the Seaway Group visit www.seawaygroup.co.uk



Photo courtesy of David Linkie

Over £360,000 funded through LEADER programme

Through the latest round of funding from the LEADER programme over £360,000 has been provided to 11 projects ranging from local hall improvements, renewable energy initiatives, food festivals and IT equipment for a school library.

Sustainable Huntly received a grant of over £153,000. The project is linked to the Huntly Development Trust and will involve a two-year programme of sustainable development in the Huntly area.

Hatton Public Hall in Buchan received a grant of over £9,000 towards improvements to windows and doors.

Saddiq Ahmed, of Hatton Public Hall, was grateful to be awarded LEADER funding towards the project, which aims to encourage more people to use the hall as well as making it more sustainable.

“The LEADER funding will provide the initial momentum towards the hall achieving its fund-raising target for the project and will help towards our goal of project completion during 2009,” he said.

Bracoden Parent Council received a grant of over £3,000 for community ICT facilities in Bracoden School Library.

Other recent approvals include funding towards:

- A community youth drop-in centre in Banff
- Festivals linking to local food and craft products
- A feasibility study to identify a suitable site and location for a mountain bike trails centre in north-east Scotland
- Homecoming events focusing on famous connections to the Mearns community

LEADER Co-ordinator Vicky Thomson said: “Round 4 applications have resulted in funding towards a diverse range of projects.

“There is a real dynamism in communities across Aberdeenshire whereby local activists are prepared to roll up their sleeves and get involved in delivering projects which will benefit their communities and stimulate the local economy.”

Details of all approved projects to date can be found on the Rural Aberdeenshire LEADER website: www.aberdeenshireleader.org



The Local Hub, Kintore

Roaring trade for Local Hub opening

The Kintore Local Hub café was officially opened during the Kintore Summer Festival in June and was quickly swamped with festival-goers keen to sample the selection of teas, coffees, cakes and sandwiches on offer.

The Local Hub community café, which also offers internet access, has been part-financed by Aberdeenshire Council Community Asset Fund, the Scottish Government and the Rural Aberdeenshire Leader 2007-2013 programme.

The café was opened by Alan Grant, Chief Executive of Langstane Housing Association, who has also been a major contributor.

Other contributions have come from Laings, BP, Inspire, Grampian Police, Kintore and District Community Council, Hallforest Residents Association and private donations.

Alison McDonald, manager of the Local Hub, said: “The café is open to anyone and everyone who want to drop in.

“For an annual fee of £10, members of the scheme receive a membership card that also entitles them to a range of promotions and discounts on products throughout the year.

“The shop is a community enterprise and run ‘not for profit’. Over 65% of any profit made from beverages and snacks is invested into a community fund that can then be used in ways that benefit the local community as a whole.

“Members of the Local Hub can have their say on how and when the money is spent to benefit the community.”

Two Aberdeenshire projects get regeneration funds

Following a nationwide application process, Aberdeenshire Council has welcomed the announcement that two local projects will benefit from a share of national regeneration funds.

£436,500 has been awarded to two projects in Aberdeenshire – Stonehaven Town Hall and a project in Fraserburgh to regenerate two eyesore buildings in the town centre.

The Stonehaven Town Hall bid was submitted by Aberdeenshire Council on behalf of community partners such as Stonehaven Town Partnership.



Fraserburgh Town Centre

A total of £297,000 will go to a project seeking to buy and repair two adjacent dilapidated properties in Fraserburgh's town centre.

Aberdeenshire Towns Programme coordinator, Bill Clark, said: "This is the first clear evidence that a programme such as the one in Fraserburgh can be successful in attracting funding and empowering a community."

Of Stonehaven's success, Councillor Argyle added: "At present the external structure and surroundings of Stonehaven Town Hall are in poor condition and as a result there has been further deterioration inside the building.

"Stonehaven can now look forward to a town hall fit for the 21st century and a renewed focal point for the community."

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Business Gateway: offering support across Aberdeen City and Shire

Business Gateway provides practical help, advice and support to new and growing businesses and is delivered in the Aberdeen City and Shire region by Enterprise North East Trust.

Business Gateway has a wealth of information available to help new start and developing businesses chart their way through the business maze, with a combination of online tools, one-to-one advice and a series of events and workshops at the heart of the programme.

There are three Business Gateway offices throughout the region. These can be found in Aberdeen, Inverurie and Peterhead. Business Gateway advisers are also available for one-to-one appointments at least once a month in Banff, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Huntly and Turriff.

Sally Collinson, Business Gateway Manager for Aberdeenshire Council, says the scope of the scheme is wide. "We strive to ensure that Business Gateway services are available to all clients and businesses within Aberdeen City and Shire," she said.

A couple of exciting Deeside based businesses which have benefited from Business Gateway services are highlighted below.

Business Gateway case studies:

Dynamic Edge Solutions Ltd

Banchory-based computing specialists Dynamic Edge Solutions was established in January this year by Rob Hamilton, and began trading in May.

The firm is a next generation IT service company which has become Microsoft's first certified Scottish partner on its 'cloud computing' online services project.

Microsoft Online Services is a new development in IT which has the potential to provide significant ongoing cost savings to businesses, whereby services are provided at the client's demand without the need for servers or complex network infrastructures.

Half a million users are already using Microsoft Online Services in America, including GlaxoSmithKlein, Coca-Cola and Pitney Bowes.

In developing his business, Rob attended several Business Gateway workshops, including marketing and market research, business planning, resource planning, basic book-keeping and introduction to VAT.

As the business has been identified as having growth potential, Rob also qualifies for additional one-to-one advice from his Business Gateway advisor.

Dynamic Edge Solutions currently employs two people and forecasts to have a staff roll of 26 by its fifth year of operation.



Royal Deeside Veg and Smokery

Living on Dinnet Estate, Serena Humphrey identified an opportunity to grow vegetables and establish a smokehouse using the game on the estate.

The vegetables are sold via a veg box scheme with centralised collection points or to local hotels and restaurants. All the vegetables are grown in Deeside, so the boxes are filled with seasonal vegetables.

The smoked game is sold primarily via mail order and through delicatessens, hotels and restaurants. The produce is traditionally smoked and hand-crafted ensuring a top quality product.

Serena attended the Taste of Edinburgh, Taste of Grampian and the Scottish Game Fair events to promote her produce.

As a business with growth potential, Serena is benefitting from ongoing one-to-one advice from her Business Gateway advisor.

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Aberdeen City and Shire backs Hannah for 2012

Aberdeen City and Shire is backing local swimming champion Hannah Miley, one of the region's brightest stars for the 2012 Olympics, by funding a sponsorship package through the Robert Gordon University Sports Scholar Scheme.

Hannah, 19, from Inverurie, is the current European record holder and British champion for the 400m individual medley and the British champion for the 200m breast stroke and 200m individual medley.

Last year Hannah placed sixth in the 400m individual medley at the Beijing Olympics.

The four-year sponsorship will enable Hannah to continue training for the 2012 Olympics, while studying for a degree in sport and exercise science.

Hannah said: "The sponsorship is a dream come true for me as it enables me to have fantastic training facilities but remain in

Aberdeen City and Shire, which is just a great place to be."

Emma Watt, brand manager for Aberdeen City and Shire, said: "We believe it is vitally important to invest in our young talent, and Hannah's dedication and positive attitude, not to mention her winning performances, will act as a real inspiration to other youngsters in the area.

"We also wanted to encourage Hannah to stay on her home territory – she absolutely loves living in the region, and Robert Gordon University provides the elite training facilities which are already helping Hannah show she is the best swimmer in the country."

As part of the sponsorship, Hannah will benefit from a package of tailor-made programmes devised to support her needs, sport discipline and academic course requirements.



Hannah Miley

A flavour of City and Shire at Royal Highland Show

Food and drink produce from across Aberdeen City and Shire was presented to a wide audience at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh, held in June.

More than 176,000 people attended the event, which this year focused on the Aberdeen City and Shire region.

The food hall displayed products from a range of food and drink companies from across the area, all of which were easily identifiable by their Aberdeen City and Shire regional branding.

Products from the region on sale at the show included those from:

Berry Scrumptious, Brewdog, Chocolat Passions, Deans of Huntly Ltd, Duncan's of Deeside, Glen Garioch Distillery, Grampian Oat Products, Isabella's Preserves, Mackintosh of Glendaveny, Mackie's of Scotland, Oatmeal of Alford, Sangs (Banff) Ltd, Scotch Premier Meat and The Store Company.

Two fish companies from the region were also encouraged to attend the event for the first time. International Fish Cannery from Fraserburgh and Downie's from Whitehills attended and their Cullen Skink samples were enjoyed by visitors.

On the second day of the event, the food hall – and in particular the Aberdeen City and Shire stand – was visited by Her Majesty The Queen, as well as Princess Anne and First Minister Alex Salmond.

James Knowles, Head of Economic Development for Aberdeenshire Council, said: "We were delighted with the representation from Aberdeenshire at the show.

"It is very much a 'see it, taste it, buy it' event and companies from the area were extremely busy, with reinforcements being called for and additional products being raced to the event in Edinburgh."



Her Majesty The Queen enjoying some of the local produce

courtesy of BHASS

The year ahead: some dates for your diary for 2009

The 2009 Homecoming programme across Aberdeen City and Shire is gathering pace, with a range of events taking place across the area as we look ahead to autumn and winter.

As we are now in the second half of 2009, we can look forward to St Andrew's Day and many more events still to come.

For a full list of Homecoming events taking place throughout the year, visit www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/homecoming

Date	Event	Location	For further information contact
Sept 25 – Oct 11	Doric Festival	Various	www.doricfestival.com
Sept 25	Alford Heritage fair	Old Mart, Alford	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/homecoming
Oct 3	Inverurie Heritage Fair	Inverurie Academy	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/homecoming
Oct 10	Fraserburgh Heritage Fair	Fraserburgh Heritage Centre	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/homecoming
Oct 29 – Nov 22	SOUND festival	Various	www.sound-scotland.co.uk
Nov 5	Winter festival Fireworks Night,	Aberdeen Beach	www.aberdeencityandshire.com
Nov 15	Haddo Heritage Fair	Haddo House	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/homecoming
Nov 28	Stonehaven Heritage Fair	Stonehaven Community Centre	www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/homecoming
Nov 30	St Andrew's Weekend Ceilidh	Union Terrace Gardens, Aberdeen	www.aberdeencityandshire.com
Dec 31	Stonehaven Fireballs Ceremony	Market Square, Stonehaven	www.stonehavenfireballs.co.uk
Dec 31	Hogmany Street Party	Union Street Aberdeen	www.aberdeencityandshire.com

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Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development

About Economic Development

Economic Development within Aberdeenshire Council serves and supports local businesses and community initiatives throughout the area, as well as promoting Aberdeenshire and its diverse capabilities in new and existing markets. A team of experienced Business Development Executives and Industry specialists is strategically located in area offices to provide support and information on a wide range of topics including all aspects of business and trade development, financial assistance, European initiatives and marketing. The primary programme for assisting local companies is the flexible Support for Aberdeenshire Business (SAB) scheme. Aberdeenshire Council is also the lead authority in Business Gateway which supports start-up and growing businesses. In addition, Aberdeenshire Council promotes industrial and commercial development through the provision of sites and factories, with units currently available in a number of locations throughout the area. Economic Development services are listed and explained on Aberdeenshire Council's website, www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

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