



# Newsletter

## Autumn/Winter 2015



It has been another busy period for the Unpaid Work Team. Last year our Sheriff imposed 255 Community Payback Orders at Elgin Sheriff Court. Out of these orders, 198 individuals had an Unpaid Work Requirement resulting in 10,405 hours of unpaid work successfully carried out in Moray during 2014/2015.

Those subject to Community Payback Orders undertaking squad work this past year were involved with painting and decorating community halls; beach cleaning and general tidy up of environmental and community areas; litter collection; grass cutting and gardening; maintenance of footpaths in rural locations; furniture removal; snow and ice clearing during winter months; woodwork; bench making and craftwork.

A selection of the good work we have undertaken for the benefit of your community can be found in this newsletter. As you can see areas in Moray have been transformed and rejuvenated by the work carried out, it really has been a constructive year. Not only have communities in Moray

benefitted from our work but those carrying out the labour have gained or developed new skills. This in turn has helped them develop self-esteem leading them to make more positive lifestyle choices.

This wishing well has been situated at Milford, Community Hall grounds for many years. However it was showing signs of age and disrepair. Our squad came along, dismantled it and took it back to our workshop for some special treatment. It was repaired, wood stained and given a new roof. We then returned to its position in the grounds for all to enjoy its charm. We love getting feedback from communities about the work we do and here is a letter we received back from the Hall committee:-

*"Please can you thank Hamish and all the team for all the wonderful work they have done in the grounds of Milford hall. The paintwork is excellent and everywhere looks attractive" the community is thrilled. The help is much appreciated by the Gardening Club."*

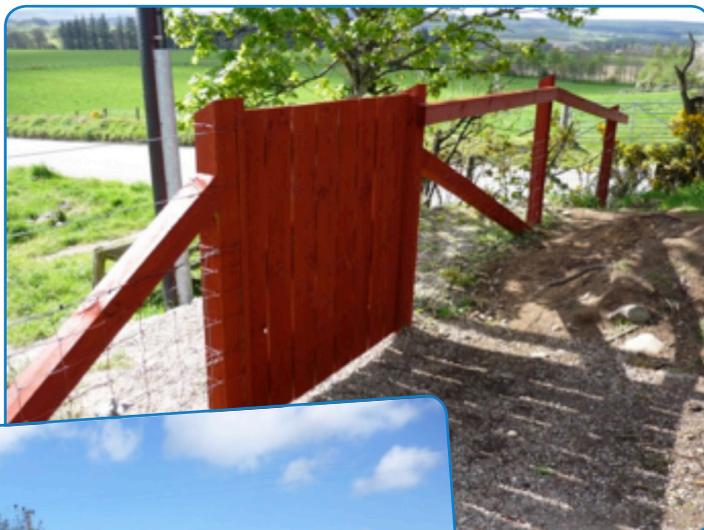
**Angela Hyland, Milford Hall.**



We were provided with the materials, wood and Perspex for making these practical cold frames and with the skills of those undertaking unpaid work we were able to complete the task. The frames were then situated in the gardens of the Moray Resource Centre.



We had a request from Mosstowie School to do something with the overgrown path used by the school children to get to school. They provided us with wood, wire, wood stain and cement. The squad worked on this project for several weeks, they began by cutting back whin bushes and preparing the ground. They then erected a fence, made the access gate and weather proofed it all with durable wood stain. They also tidied up and repaired the cement and stone steps leading from the gate and made it safe for the children to use.



We occasionally get requests to assist Moray Community Food by collecting food from supermarkets and various sources and sorting it out into date order. Last year, however, we were also involved in helping them move premises from Batchen Street, Elgin to the High Street in Elgin. Our team of workers were involved in putting up fixtures and fittings in order to accommodate the food. We also used manual labour to move all the boxes and crates of food and helped get the premises all up and running, ready for opening to the public.



Here is our squad at the War memorial at Burghead, painting and repairing the iron railings following a request from the Community Association. We were fortunate to have some sunny weather in October which allowed this task to be completed. It involved rubbing down the

railings to remove the rust then finishing it off with specialist paint. By increasing the confidence and skills of those subject to court orders we aim to increase employability which is known to reduce the risk of reoffending.



In the springtime we undertook some work at the request of Findhorn and Kinloss Community council. We received a lovely thank you letter showing their appreciation of our work:-

*“On behalf of the Findhorn and Kinloss CC I wish to thank you for help given in laying the resurfacing material on the path at the dinghy park. The excellent level of co-operation in planning the work and the efficiency with which it was completed was much appreciated; I wish to thank Hamish Stewart as the man on the spot for getting the work done in a day and leaving the site clean and tidy.”*

Getting feedback on the work we do is very important to us as it helps shape our service, therefore if you have had work carried out by our team please let us know about what we did and how we contributed to your community.



This year we also had a request from the congregation at the Hopeman Baptist Church to undertake some renovation work at the Manse. This was quite a big piece of work which was undertaken over a couple of months. The work focused on three rooms that were damaged by damp, they were the bathroom and a bedroom and living room downstairs. We were fortunate in that we had skilled workmen, including two plumbers and joiner, who were subject to Community Payback Orders and we could therefore utilise their skills for this project. They removed the old lath and plaster and replaced this with new insulation and plaster board installed. Although we didn't have the skills to tile the bathroom at this time we were able to plumb in the bath, shower and sink. Overall the work was very much appreciated and those involved were invited to a coffee morning at the Manse to celebrate completion of the work.



We undertake quite a lot of work for Moray Women's Aid in terms of assisting with removals etc. This year we also repaired and re felted their shed roofs and completed the job with a durable wood stain.



### Individual Placements

In addition to our group work placements, Roz Carswell, our task supervisor (projects) continues to build upon the range and number of individual placements in Moray and ensures they are appropriately supported and managed. Individual placements allow us to place those subject to unpaid work orders in jobs that are better matched to their skills and abilities. In 2014/2015 we had identified over 30 individual placements which were available for us to use. The most popular placements used were within charity shops; recycling centres and community centres. If your agency would be prepared to offer and supervise someone on an unpaid work order please get in touch to discuss.

### The Connect Drop in Service

In 2014/15 Criminal Justice Social Work undertook a mapping exercise of services for women in Moray. From this we were able to pull services together to develop a resource that would benefit women who are subject to Community Payback Orders in Moray. The Connect Drop in Service is open to any women (over 16) involved in the Criminal Justice System, whether on a statutory court order, recently left prison, or frequently coming to the attention of the police.



The drop in is designed to be a safe and welcoming environment where women can come together and gain support to take control of their lives.

A range of activities are accessible through the drop in, including arts and crafts, cooking, confidence building, health checks, money advice, employment and literacy support.

### **“Other Activity”**

An unpaid work requirement provides the opportunity within certain prescribed limits for an individual to undertake other activities which are designed to address identified deficits in their lifestyle which may improve a variety of areas in their life. Other activity must not exceed 30% of the specified number of hours in the requirement, or 30 hours whichever is the lower. Women attending the drop in can use these hours as part of their other activity. Similarly anyone on unpaid work orders can attend specific training to address issues of literacy, numeracy and or problem solving under other activities.

### **Reaching out to your community**

We offer presentations to community groups; we have posters on display and distribute a regular newsletter. We want to increase community awareness of what we do so that we can improve understanding and reduce the stigma attached to those who have committed offences. We also want you to have a say in what work gets done in your community.

If you have found this newsletter interesting and would like to find out more about us please find our contact details below;-

**Tel: 01343 557200**

or

**email: [criminal.justice@moray.gov.uk](mailto:criminal.justice@moray.gov.uk)**



