

# Community Payback

## Newsletter June 2017

This month I spent a day out with task supervisors Hamish Stewart and Peter Wilson so I could write and tell you about a 'typical day' for those individuals subject to a Community Payback Order with an Unpaid Work Requirement.

A Community Payback Order is imposed by the Sheriff or the Justice of the Peace Court, an individual can be made subject to anything from 20 hours to 300 hours unpaid work. One of the objectives of Unpaid Work is reparation. Reparation enables individuals to 'pay back' for the harm that they have caused and to demonstrate that they are capable of change. Through reparation individuals can develop personal responsibility for their actions, enhance their employability and improve their relationship with local communities. A 'typical day' shows how reparation works in practice.

The day starts at 8.45am when individuals subject to Unpaid Work hours attend our workshop in Elgin to sign in and find out from the task supervisors what work they will be undertaking that day. We currently have two squads going out each day and we operate from Monday to Saturday. A task supervisor can take up to five individuals each therefore the maximum numbers in any one day are ten.

We are very fortunate in Moray to have our own workshop; this acts as store for equipment but also allows us to undertake indoor work which is particularly useful in the winter months when outdoor work can be limited by the weather.

Once everyone has signed in the squad are tasked with gathering the relevant tools and equipment and loading up the work vehicle. Today Peter was taking a work squad to the Cullen Community and Residential Centre to undertake indoor painting of the centre. This has been an ongoing project for the squad and requires the use of scaffolding due to the high ceilings. We arrived in Cullen shortly after 9am and the equipment was unloaded efficiently by all the members of the squad.

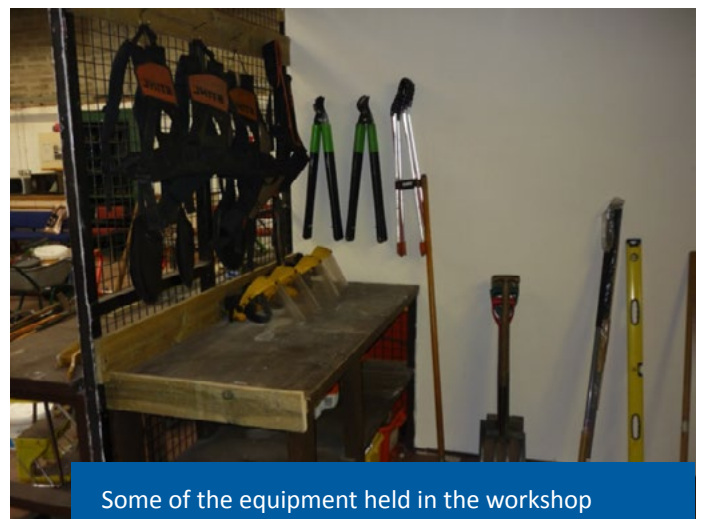
The task supervisors get to know the different skills of those attending and therefore are able to allocate tasks accordingly, this ensures that everyone has a job to do and no one is left doing nothing. The work gets going efficiently and those who had been at the centre before set about confidently with their tasks.



Peter Wilson and Hamish Stewart completing relevant paperwork as individuals arrive in the morning



A sandpit made in the workshop ready to be delivered to a local Nursery



Some of the equipment held in the workshop

The morning goes in quickly, luckily for me there was a kettle and we got a quick coffee break mid-morning. All breaks are supervised and on the premises therefore everyone has to take their lunch with them. Since commencing this project the team has received lots of thanks from those who utilise the centre and the work done here has been very much appreciated by the community of Cullen.

An example of one of the large rooms within the centre that has been painted by the Unpaid Work Squad. This room is used by a painting group in Cullen.



The afternoon was spent with Hamish and we went off to Mosstowie Primary School. Considerable work has been done here in the past and today Hamish and his squad were going to distribute stone chippings on a path as well as other various tasks. The squad worked hard in the afternoon using a wheelbarrow to distribute the chippings, it was a lovely sunny day for outdoor work and luckily I got the easy job of staining a chair which had been made by the squad previously.



### Contact Us

If there is work that can be done in your community and you think we can help or if you have any queries about our service you can contact us.

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Before and After



The chair after I had given it a fresh coat of wood stain

Once we had completed all our tasks there I met with Mr Gary Forgie, head teacher of Mosstowie, he said how much he valued the work that had been undertaken by Hamish and the unpaid work team over the past few years. He said how it had transformed the playground and surrounding areas which has made it a safer and more enjoyable space for the children and parents to enjoy. On the way back to the workshop we stopped in past a few projects that Hamish wanted to assess for suitability. This included looking at a request made by Miltonduff Hall to repair and paint an old seed spreader which they use as a decorative planter for flowers. We also stopped in past Spynie hall to assess if any groundwork required to be done in the near future; this is work we undertake on a regular basis from spring through to autumn. We were back to the workshop just before 4 which is when the day ends.

It was a busy day and reinforced to me the good work that goes on not just today but 6 days per week. If we get 10 individuals out for 7 hours on each of these days then that is a total of 420 hours of unpaid work that can get done in the community of Moray every week of the year.