

Community Payback



Mosstowie Primary School
Outdoor seating made from old whiskey barrels

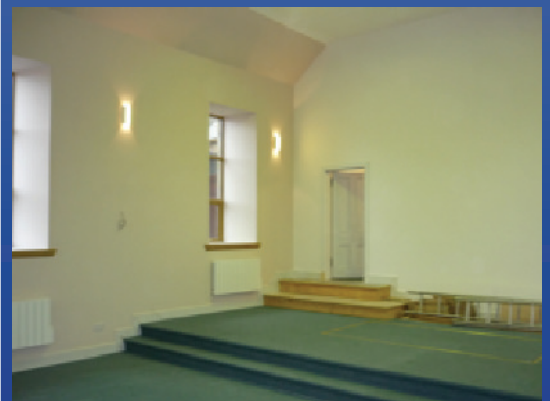
Autumn Newsletter 2014

Hopeman Baptist Church

One of the key areas for Community Payback with a requirement for unpaid work is that of developing the key skills of those made subject to these statutory orders.

The Hopeman Baptist Church was one of our more challenging projects which kept our task supervisors and workforce engaged over the previous winter months. We had a request from the Church late 2013 to undertake refurbishment work within the building. The main issue was the insulation within; the existing plasterboard was deteriorating and crumbling to the point that the building was cold and therefore not suitable for purpose. Following an assessment from the Criminal Justice Team we agreed to strip back the old plasterwork and replace with new plasterboard and wooden skirting. The church paid for the cost of the materials but the labour of those on unpaid work orders was free. This provided an excellent opportunity for those on unpaid work orders to develop new skills in terms of all the aspects of joinery required to undertake the work. The work was carried out over the winter months and was completed in April 2014.

This project provides a good example of what our department is trying to achieve in terms of supervising those subject to unpaid work orders. This work not only demonstrates the way in which those on orders from the court give back to the community; it also shows how, if given the opportunity, they can gain new skills and confidence from undertaking work they have perhaps never considered before. It was not only a project for the very skilled as those with less skills in joinery could participate in other ways ie the removal of the decaying plaster and all the clearing up that is required from a project this size.



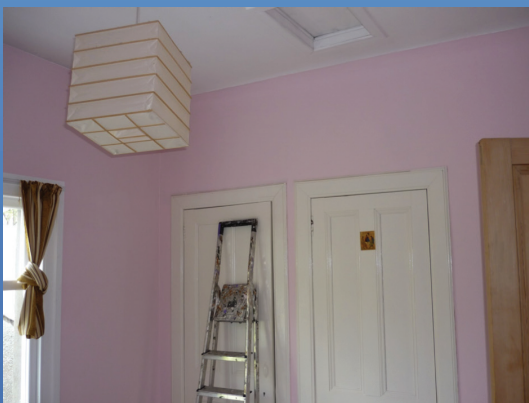


Other examples of skilled work we have been involved in over the past year includes:- the seating and wooden style for Mosstowie School; making planters for the resource centre Keith and Hopeman Primary School; wood stained fences for Keith Dufftown Railway. We have also put up garden sheds and a considerable amount of unpaid work hours were also taken up with house removals/decorating for charitable organisations and for individuals who do not have the financial means to make their own arrangements. As always during the summer months we had a steady supply of gardening work, path clearance and general tidy up of unkempt areas of ground. In total we carried out **13,707** hours of unpaid work in the community over the last financial year. If we haven't done something for your community please get in touch.



Female Offenders

We continue to promote the development of gender appropriate unpaid work placements for female offenders; these include more flexible placement times, including weekend and evening work groups to take into account those with childcare responsibilities. In April 2014 we introduced our first group work programme for female offenders, which ran for a 12 week period. Women who were on unpaid work orders from court were encouraged to attend this; in addition to providing an opportunity for them to develop self-esteem and confidence through facilitated group work, it could, in some instances, count towards their unpaid work "other activities".



Individual Placements

We currently have a wide range of individual placements available in Moray these include, work in charity shops, recycling projects, and assisting youth groups. The following is a "good news" story:



Mr A was sentenced on 14 August 2014 to 180 hours unpaid work to be completed in 12 months. After initially attending the Moray Council Unpaid Work Squad he accessed a placement with Moray Wastebusters. He attended 5 days a week and completed all his unpaid hours by 3 October 2014. Mr A had explained to his social worker that he was going to continue as a volunteer when his hours were completed as he had enjoyed the work and welcoming atmosphere. Moray Wastebusters were very happy with his approach and work ethic therefore offered Mr A paid employment following completion of his unpaid work.

If you can provide a placement for those on unpaid work orders we would be happy to hear from you.



Young People

The Scottish Government has prioritised work that supports partners to take forward the development of a whole system approach. In Moray we have developed this approach by putting in place a streamlined process for young people who offend, ensuring they receive the right help at the right time. As part of their Community Payback Order all 16 to 17 year olds must have a supervision requirement as part of their unpaid work order, this provides them with additional support to address issues that might previously prevented them from successfully completing their orders.

Thank You

Part of the rehabilitative process for those on unpaid work is the feeling of doing something good for the benefit of others, this helps raise self esteem and in turn is known to promote pro-social behaviour. We therefore welcome feedback from the community on the work we do so this can be passed on to those who have carried out their unpaid work orders.

“Just to say thanks to the lady and 4 gentlemen who came to help out in Dufftown last Sunday. I spoke to the Dufftown in Bloom team who were very appreciative of the help they got. The judging went well so on behalf of the whole community thanks for helping out to make the village look nice”.

Hope to see you again.

Best Wishes

Alistair

Dufftown and District Community Council

“I just wanted to pass on our huge appreciation and thanks for the super job Hamish and his team made of our sandpit for the nursery garden. We are delighted with it! I appreciate your team is really busy and grateful they managed to squeeze us in”.

Kind regards,

Fiona

St. Gerardine Primary School,



Further information

If you want to find out more about Community Payback and what we can do for your community please contact

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