

# Community news



Hi all,

I'm cheating a wee bit with this newsletter and sending you more or less the same information as we sent out to our volunteers and the community recently. Yes I know; that's just lazy! However, it means that I know you all have been told everything...and you know what my memory is like.

Take care all. Rachel

## **The organisation:**

Over the last year we've been really busy with lots of changes in the organisations and we thought it was time we brought you all up to date.

In 2007 DACB opened a trading arm; a separate independent subsidiary called DAB Plus, which will operate to create a profit which will then be used by DACB in order to help sustain and grow the services we provide for the community.

DAB Plus now has an O License which allows it to operate bus services for profit and can provide a private hire locally.

DAB Plus also has a private hire taxi service using our accessible MPV.

We expanded our services last year to add contracts for school bus services for 3 schools in Buchan and 3 Aberdeen City council social work/education transport services.

We also have a very busy Training academy providing a wide range of Transport training opportunities.

This growth has been hard work but it is vitally needed in order for DACB to weather the current recession and to continue our community transport services in the area.

## **The staff:**

Because of the growth of the organisations we've had some changes over the last year.

General Manager; Rachel Milne

Training Manager; Gary Laing

Operation Supervisor; Ed McGarthland

Office Supervisor/Finance officer; Lynn Cook

Admin; Jackie Gough (with help from Ian Morris)

Drivers;

(Buchan) Bill Michie, Mark Glass, Chris Mackie, Duncan Morris,

(Aberdeen City) Lynn Rogers, John Reid, David Milne, Iain Edwards, Ben Stratton.

And of course our wonderful volunteers who turn up regularly to help out in a variety of roles; we couldn't do this without everyone of them!

## **SROI**

Last year DACB went through a Social Return on Investment (SROI) in order to work out the value of DACB to the community at large; both financially and socially.

It was finally completed last year and those in the know worked out that for every £1 DACB spent, we put £3.13 in to the local community/economy. Pretty good isn't it? Especially if you know that our turnover last year was £250k. Multiply that by 3...and its rather a staggering figure.

That sounds great, but remember everyone....we couldn't do this if it wasn't for your help and support; you help us put all that value back into our community.

**All we can say is; thank you**

## **BABY news!**

You'll all know that Riian McGarthland and Mark Glass were expecting a new addition to their family this year....

Holly Yvaine was born on 3rd March. She's a gorgeous wee girl and mum and dad are well chuffed. So's her granddad Ed, who also works with us!

I know you will all join with us in sending loads of congratulations and good wishes.

### Inside Story Headline



Caption describing picture or graphic.

This story can fit 150-200 words.

### Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improve-

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This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can

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Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



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## Volunteers

Dial-a-Community Bus could not cope without the input, support and help from all our volunteers. Some of our volunteers have been working for us for over 11 years! Each and everyone deserves a medal and we're really grateful to them.

However, we all know that life moves on and we do lose some valued people for a variety of reasons; house moves, illness, or even just a need for a change of scene.

We're desperately in need of some new volunteers right now, so if you know of anyone who might be interested in giving us a little time we have the following opportunities;

**Office Admin:** if someone would like to give us a few hours a week in the office to help out our admin team we'd be really grateful.

**Accounts:** Lynn would appreciate any help from anyone with an accounts background.

**Drivers:** If you know of someone who'd like to drive a minibus for any of our volunteer groups, or to help out on holiday cover, please ask them to get in touch.

Also if you know of anyone who may not want to drive a bus but wouldn't mind using their own car to help out individual clients, we'd be pleased to hear from them too. Car expenses will of course be paid.

**Shopmobility:** our shopmobility unit in Peterhead needs a few more willing volunteers.

**Board:** It's a tough life right now with the recession and the financial worries of business etc and we're looking for experienced people to join our Board and help support and move the organisations forward.

If anyone you know might rise to any of these challenges, please ask them to call Rachel at the office on 01771 619191 or email [admin@dialabus.org.uk](mailto:admin@dialabus.org.uk).

## DAB Plus Training Academy

The DAB Plus Training Academy is the only social enterprise in the North East of Scotland registered as an Approved CPC Training Centre, and we have been developing a number of comprehensive CPC modules both for the PCV and LGV sector.

**We provide the following training:**

MiDAS (Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme)

MiDAS for Cars Training (Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme for Cars)

PATS (Passenger Assistant Training)

Out in 3 (Bus and Coach Fire Evacuation)

Driver CPC (Certificate of Professional Competence)

D1 Driver Training

Fleet Driver Training (Cars & Minibuses)

Eco Driving Courses

Training courses can be delivered to fit around the client's operational requirements (this includes evenings and weekends) either on-site or at our training facilities at Maud.

### Price rise

We apologise for spoiling this newsletter with bad news but unfortunately the unprecedented rise in prices (including fuel) have left us with no option but to have to increase some of our prices.

### Community Group use:

From **1st March 2011** the following prices will be in effect;

Minibus use; 0.80p per mile

Minimum charge of £10.

Overnight charge of £20 (if you keep the bus more than one day).

### APT (Patient Transport)

From **1st April 2011** the following APT prices will be in effect;

0-5 miles; £3.

30-39miles; £10

6-10 miles; £4

40-49miles; £12

11-19 miles; £6

50-59miles; £13

20-29 miles; £8

60+ miles; £15.