

ONE VOICE AND THE VOLUNTEERS OUR STORY...



Volunteer Group

Opportunities for organisations and agencies in the area to work together

Information of general public interest displayed

Centre for sharing ideas between local people, organisations & groups

Encourage with others a sense of community

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One Voice was established in 2009. A key reason for its creation was to support and promote 'One Voice' for the Blairgowrie & Rattray Community.

In 2011, it became independent as the One Voice Volunteer Group Association, was constituted and achieved charity status in the same year.

A second-hand bookshop – Booklore was opened to help support the overheads of running the office.

The Constitutional aims were as follows:

- Provide opportunities for organisations and agencies to work together
- Display information for general public interest
- Provide a centre for sharing ideas between local people, organisations and groups
- Encourage and promote a sense of community in collaboration with others

In 2015, it became the founding, supportive organisation and community arm of the Discover Blairgowrie website. Currently the One Voice Office also operates as an Information Centre – complementing the website by providing day trippers and tourists with information about the town.

One Voice merged with the Ericht Trust in 2018 to form Blairgowrie & Rattray Development Trust. The office at 13 Upper Mill Street continues to sell books as Booklore and provide information as before. It is wholly managed and run by volunteers.

One Voice Projects and Campaigns through the years:

- Petition to raise awareness of the lack of formal consultation about the future of the Cottage Hospital. Following the public meeting of 400 people, a focus group was set up. Subsequently an investment of £2.4m funded a splendid new GP wing
- The collaboration between the Local History Trust and Blairgowrie and East Perthshire Tourist Association in the Berry exhibition; which has now welcomed over 600 visitors who enjoy their trip down memory lane
- The BBC2 documentary on the *Great British Food revival* (July 2012) used some of our old photographs and interviewed one of our members about their memories of berry picking.
- Numerous displays of events, fundraising walks and exhibitions have been displayed in our shop front windows and on the website
- Working with Perth & Kinross Council in 2014, we helped to create the content for the seven 'You Are Here' signs located around the town
- The Strathmore Arts Festival works uses our expertise to organize their photographic competition. We support many other activities including the Rattray Arts Festival, the Silver Arrow Competition, the Strathmore Screen, Wednesday Walks, Rattray Theatre Bus, Friendship Café, Lyric Choir, Sing! ...and much more.
- The Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust have used our offices as a meeting point for consultation.
- The Council has made use of our office space to display their 5-year plan; and more recently the plans for the Wellmeadow and Riverside.

The Hub Magazine

One Voice volunteers and BRDT Trustees help to produce the 60-page magazine; forming the hardworking editorial team which manages article submissions and the coordination of advertisements for this quarterly publication. A sizeable group of volunteers deliver the magazines to more than 4500 addresses in the town. It has been in production for almost 6 years and is self-supporting through the sale of advertising space and sponsorship.



Pat Richards and Wendy Mackey take delivery and start the distribution

Booklore – Bookshop and ‘ Local Heritage Repository’

Booklore is a charity bookshop managed and run entirely by volunteers and trustees. It generates an income to support the work of One Voice and operates as a welcoming community space providing information and help with general enquiries for the local community and visitors alike. The office and bookshop are self-funding.

A wide range of good quality fiction and non-fiction books are for sale, including hardbacks, paperbacks and collector’s books. Monthly offers of ‘half price’ books on a variety of titles are available.

The books are all donated by the community of Blairgowrie and Rattray, for which we are very grateful. Photographs of old Blairgowrie and Rattray are also for sale; as is a selection of artwork by one of our volunteers. A small display shows scenes and equipment from the berry growing heritage of the area.

The shop is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm.



Angie Wilson Booklore Volunteer and... creator of fabulous window displays



Booklore sales force...Moira Somerville, Pat Richards, Ellen Faulkner...



Brian Smith, Mike Gardner/Jessie Shaw... and Pat McCarthy

Volunteers Stories

Volunteers bring knowledge, skills, energy and good cheer to everything they do. They willingly provide thousands of hours of dedicated time in service to One Voice, Booklore and the Trust. Volunteering makes an incalculable positive difference to our communities.

Moira's story says it all – and she is in her 80s – volunteers benefit from helping others, from the socialising aspect of the work and stimulation of ideas and activities. The Community would struggle without volunteers - be it clearing paths, litter collection, entertaining, transporting, fundraising and much more.

Read all about it here...and be inspired by One Voice volunteers' stories:

<http://www.discoverblairgowrie.co.uk/a-day-in-the-life/moira>

<http://www.discoverblairgowrie.co.uk/a-day-in-the-life/pat-mccarthy>

<http://www.discoverblairgowrie.co.uk/a-day-in-the-life/pat-richards-one-voice-volunteer>

<http://www.discoverblairgowrie.co.uk/a-day-in-the-life/one-voice-office-part-one-the-managers-story>