



Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the fourth edition of the Auchterhouse Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for issue 4.

There will be another 3 editions of the newsletter in 2015 in May, August and November. Please send any content/articles to aileenmbaird@yahoo.com.

If you are not already on our email distribution list please send your email address to aileenmbaird@yahoo.com.

We also have a Facebook newsletter page. Please use it to share details of any local events/groups or information that benefits our community.



Police matters

Thefts, attempted thefts, vandalism and anti social behaviour continue to happen in rural Angus. Report these or any suspicious activity to Police Scotland on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Our community police officer for the last 2 years, Sean Scanlon, has moved to another role and been replaced by PC Mark Norris. In our ward the Police will be working to the priorities set by the public of: Road Safety; Rural Theft; Youths Causing Annoyance and Acquisitive Crime.



Road and traffic matters

There have been numerous complaints about speeding on The Brae (30 mph) and The Avenue (60mph). One driver has been reported and given a warning for speeding on The Brae, where a pedestrian had to leap off the road to avoid being run over. Currently a speed indicator (VAS) is operating on The Brae to record all vehicle speeds.

Angus Council are assessing the provision of transport to bring in children to Kirkton of Auchterhouse from outlying areas. A service for the children (secondary and primary) living on roads served by The Brae has been approved and started.

Further site visits have taken place to study parking problems on the main road in front of the school at the start and end of the school day, but no change to the present arrangement has been recommended. A small housing development in the field adjacent to the school, with a car park (and a new entrance) for the school, may be the only solution to this problem.

Community Council Update - October - January



Community Council Membership

In November we were delighted to have 2 youth members co-opted onto the council. Rory Forster and Connor Nichol have been warmly welcomed and we hope their enthusiasm will be rewarded with a happy and interesting time with us.

Bob Bruce

We were all saddened by Bob's death on 11th Jan after a long illness. Bob was a member of Community Council from 1992 until 2006, during which he acted as secretary and then chairman contributing hugely to the running of our council. For much of that time he produced the ARGUS, a newsletter which he founded. With Duncan Kennedy, Bob was instrumental in setting up our website **www.auchterhouse.com** and in keeping it up to date. Bob will be greatly missed.



Mobile Library

The new mobile library timetable was launched on the 5th January. Angus Council have posted the timetable online so we can check when the van is in Auchterhouse.

[Click here to view the timetable.](#)

Sidlaw Churches

World Day of Prayer is an International Ecumenical prayer movement initiated and carried out by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year a common day of prayer is celebrated on the first Friday in March. This year the service comes from the Bahamas. Auchterhouse will hold this year's service in the Church on Friday 6th March at 7.30pm followed by refreshments. Please come along and support us in this sometimes moving but always meaningful service.

Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday: 29th March, Tealing Hall United Family Service at 10am

Maundy Thursday: 2nd April, Monikie Church United Informal Communion at 7.00pm

Good Friday: 3rd April, Auchterhouse Church United Service at 7.00pm

Easter Sunday: 5th April, Balcalk Hill, Tealing Open Air Easter Service at 7.30am, Murroes Church at 9.30am, Auchterhouse Church at 11.00am, Monikie Church at 11.15am

Other news

This tree that was planted at the main door after the death of the Princess of Wales to commemorate her life by the then Sunday Club has been replaced. This club was for the teenagers in both Auchterhouse and Murroes/Tealing Churches. There was a double white cherry tree planted at all the three Churches, but unfortunately the one at Auchterhouse caught a bug and had to be replaced, this time with a more hardy rowan.

We the session and members of the Church are all very pleased that the plans for a toilet in the old door of the Church and the taking out of pews from the centre and north side of the Church to extend the tea/coffee area has been approved. The extended social area will greatly help with the safety and flow of serving tea/coffee after services and may encourage greater use of the Church. This will now progress to the next stage as soon as is possible.



Auchterhouse Church Guild

The Guild has been going for 65 years in Auchterhouse. We meet the second Tuesday of the month from September to May. Here are some details of our upcoming meetings:

10th February

Lands End to John O'Groats.
Rev Eliz. Kay. Who has preached many times in the Church.

10th March

Comfort Rwanda one of the Guild Projects.

14th April

Sheila McCallum Retired Auchterhouse Head teacher. She will try to teach us crafts.

For more information please contact:

Mary Skea (320257)
Elizabeth Millar (380219)



SCOTTISH
WOMEN'S
RURAL
INSTITUTES

The Auchterhouse SWRI held their recent Annual Burns Supper. Renowned speakers and entertainers Tich Frier, Donald Clark, Jim Foote, Jim Duncan, Liz Duff and pipers Christopher Mowatt, Ross Caird, & Rory Ladyman, gave us a fabulous evening. The event as always was very well supported with the Community singing raising the roof!

Our next meeting is about 'Photography' led by ms Linda Mellor, on Monday 16th February at 7.30pm in the hall. Please join us.

Another highlight of the year is our 'birthday party'. Particularly this year as we celebrate 90 years of SWRI meetings in Auchterhouse. We will be celebrating with supper and entertainment in the village hall on Monday 16th march at 7.30pm. If any past members would like to attend, we would love to see you.

Tickets costing £15, are available from President Mrs Fiona Husband. Please contact her on 01382 581411



Scotland's favorite shooting ground

Auchterhouse Country Sports has been voted Scotland's Favourite Shooting Ground & 5th in the UK as voted by Clay Shooting Magazine Readers.

Just to let you know our first Sunday shoot this year is Sunday 1st March, just to keep you in the loop.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who donated Pet Food for the SSPCA, Petterden. We raised £670 along with all the food donated etc.

The Clay Shop

The Clays Shop at Auchterhouse Country Sports - SALE NOW ON!! Joules - Ladies, Gents & Children's Toggi - Ladies & Gents Also Clearance Rail so come along & pick up a bargain (jackets, gilets, fleeces, tops and more)

The Pear Tree

The Pear Tree Restaurant has been taken over by Chef Colin Harris. It is open Wed-Sun 12noon-8pm. Serving lunches, high teas, dinners & coming soon Takeaways. For more information & menus go to www.peartreeauchterhouse.co.uk **Now taking bookings for Mothers Day on Sunday 15th March - Call 320266 to book.**



AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER 2014

By John Brush

January 2014 was very mild and windy. Mean temperature during the month was 3.3°C which is 0.7°C above average. This set the pattern for the year and most months have had above average temperatures with the exception of August which had a mean temperature 1.4°C below average. December was close to average temperature-wise. Taking the year as a whole, the mean temperature was 8.8°C which is 0.9°C above average. 2006 is the only year for which I have a record to have a higher figure (9.0°C) at Auchterhouse.

Rainfall for the year was 1016mms, which is 16% greater than average. A great deal of the rain fell during the months of January, February, August, October, November with September being the driest month when only 14mms fell. The year has had very little snowfall, the most falling on 15th February but it did not last.

The sunniest month was July with 214.4 hours, an average of 6.9 hours a day. January was the dulllest month with only 37.4 hours, followed by November with 46.5 hours.

Annual sunshine was 1272.5 hours which is well below the average of 1365 hours.

There was much wind during the early months of the year. February had the highest mean wind speed with 13.7mph. Several months competed for the lowest which was June (4.4mph) followed closely by July (4.7mph).

Very little thunder heard during the year (7 occasions) although I am not always here to monitor it! I don't have anything that can automatically record thunderstorms although when lightning strikes close by occasionally they induce spikes in the wind speed signal. Fortunately it is relatively easy to detect these because they are very sudden indeed whereas the wind generally builds in an ordered manner.

If anyone is interested I have spread sheets with data for each month and year back to 2006 but a lot of the data can be observed on my website (<http://sidlawweather.co.uk>) using the climate reports as well as the graphical data.



New Footpath Access

It is now possible for walkers to walk from the old Auchterhouse Station all the way to Rosemill. This has been made possible by the construction of steps leading down from the Avenue on the north west side of the railway bridge, through the bridge and down some more steps at the other side.

This then joins up with Angus core path 217 (the old railway) leading to Hosiepark and hence to the existing improved railway path which goes all the way to Rosemill. The work has been instigated by Sidlaw Path Network Steering group who obtained a Community Grant from Angus Council, and we also acknowledge the kind permission of the landowner Mr Gavin Christie.

Parts of the interconnecting path at the bridge end is still in the process of construction, and the core path 217 has not been improved yet, so stout footwear is recommended. The intention is to eventually connect the top end of the steps to the Avenue path. To do this requires construction of about 20 metres of new road side pavement because the existing pavement stops well before the railway bridge, and it is hoped that this can be extended by the necessary amount. The road going north west from the top of the steps is not recommended even though it is the original track of the railway because it leads to the Auchterhouse Country Sports area which contains the shooting range.

The new steps will also provide a new safer route for school children and others walking up the road from the B954 to Kirkton of Auchterhouse as there is no pavement on the part of the Avenue up to the railway bridge. They can walk up the adjacent road on the East side to its junction with the path and hence up the steps. Walkers who arrive in cars at the steps can use the area near the top of the steps to park.

Hall 200 Club Winners 2014



27th August

Bob Bruce	£10
Irene Kerrigan	£10
Gary & Jan Crosbie	£10
Sheila Wallace	£10
Larry McNicol	£5
Norrie Moir	£5

25th September

Sheena Murray	£10
Susan Fulton	£10
Keith Murray	£10
Norman Sutherland	£10
John Skea	£5
Amanda Runciman	£5

22nd October

Jo Williamson	£10
Paul Birch	£10
Craig Fraser	£10
John Brush	£10
Michael Murray	£5
Anne Coker	£5

20th November

Roy Taylor	£10
David Low	£10
Alan & Lorraine McLeod	£10
Eileen McLeod	£10
Larry McNicol	£5
Alex Strang	£5

15th December

Norman Sutherland	£60
Iain Baird	£40
Jamie Murray	£20
Janey Turner	£20
Ross Millar	£20
Garry Stewart	£20
Sheila Wallace	£20
Dorothy Johnston	£10

Dougal Baird	£10
Sheena Sutherland	£10
Marlyn Foster	£10
Angelia Yorke	£10
Moira Taylor	£10
Linda Leuchars	£10
Kathryn Dunbar	£10
Eileen McLeod	£10
Joanne Elwin	£10

DRONLEY MOOR & WOOD – PART 1

By Roderick Stewart, Dronley House

DRONLEY

The origin of the name Dronley is thought to be derived from 'Dron' = a ridge, and 'Lea' = pasture-land. The Roy Military Survey of 1747 shows it as 'Dronle' and 'Mill of Dronle' and the 'y' appears later. Astonishingly 'Pipersdam' also appears on the Roy map - I had always assumed that was a modern creation.

DRONLEY HOUSE

My Grandfather, David Stewart, bought Dronley House in 1926, almost completed, from the estate of its original builder, William Soutar of Annfield, Carnoustie, who had died of consumption. Grandpa lit fires through that winter to dry the new plasterwork and the family moved from Strathview, Newtyle, the following year. The house was designed by William Allan of Friskin & Allan, and family tradition is that it was originally designed as a bungalow with an attached accommodation for a chicken farmer. Somehow it was completed much larger, described by McKean & Walker as an 'anachronistic arts and crafts villa' and is now listed Grade 'B'. Most of the original paintwork, by Dundee's well-known Harry G Thomson, still survives, together with woodwork by Justice's.



Four generations of Stewarts have now lived here and the following notes about Dronley Moor and Wood are based on our collective family lore. Dates are rarely recorded and any corrections or additions by your readers would be much appreciated.

When Dronley House was built it was set in bare heather moorland, with just three larch trees and a modest spruce in the garden. Early photographs show a young Dronley Wood to the North and football goal-posts in the field across the road to the West.



The new house must have been very conspicuous standing alone on the top of the hill. The three larches have long gone but the old spruce remains, now a very substantial tree. The young trees planted by Grandpa in 1927, and their successors, now entirely hide the house from view and also give marvellous shelter both to humans and to wildlife. In the early 1950s Grandpa bought further land to the South East of the house and planted this with a mix of beech for timber (for the Hackleworks) and spruce to draw the beech up, both adding greatly to the shelter for the house.

A track to the North separated the house from the main Dronley Wood and there were plans for this to give access to a small development of some half-a-dozen houses. None were ever built, and the track has now all-but vanished under a delightful young growth of heather, birch and scots pine, which needs careful maintenance to prevent it being clear-felled by the electricity linesmen looking after the 11kV line.

Dronley Moor, to the south and east, was rough pasture, traditionally used for cattle to graze when they were suffering from the 'scaurs'. (the doric name for a sort of bovine diarrhoea - presumably cognate with 'scour?').