

Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the sixth edition of the Auchterhouse Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for issue 6. There will be one more edition of the newsletter in 2015 in 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.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

1:00PM - Auchterhouse Sports Day
7:30PM - Ceilidh



Auchterhouse Sports Day - Saturday 29th August

Preparations for this year's sports day are now well underway and tickets for the evening ceilidh will be on sale from the contacts below from 18th August onwards.

The day will kick off at 1pm with the Auchterhouse Pipe Band, followed by the pantomime horse race on the playing fields. There will be all the usual obstacles that you would find in a grand national (with an Auchterhouse twist) so we hope that your horses have been in training all summer. Please remember that there will be water obstacles so you may wish to bring a change of shoes for the pantomime horse race.

The horse event will be followed by the Hill Race at 3pm (£3 entry fee) and the presentation of prizes at around 4.30pm. Other events will run throughout the day, including the hexathlon, archery and display of the competition entries for the vegetable carving, chutney and cupcake competitions. Teas and coffees will be available throughout the afternoon with the tent opening at 1.30pm.

Donations of sandwiches and baking for the tea and coffee stall would be greatly appreciated on the morning of the event.

Entries for the chutney, cupcake and vegetable carving competitions should be brought along on the day. The theme for cupcakes and vegetable carving is "celebrities". Please see below for rules.

The day's festivities will then spill over into the evening ceilidh, starting at 8pm, with doors open from 7.30pm. The price of your ticket (£10 per adult & £2 per school age child) includes a burger from the BBQ which will be open until 9pm. A "Bring Your Own" policy exists whereby you can bring your own drinks and snacks along with you.



Auchterhouse Sports Day - Saturday 29th August

This year's entertainment will be provided by Wayne Robertson. Children are welcome to come along, with most of them choosing to play in the park. (Please note that no supervision is provided.) There will also be a raffle, with tickets available on the day.

All donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received. If you would like to donate something, please contact one of the names below.

We would also welcome volunteers to help set up on the Friday night (28th Aug). This job is usually a fun evening where a lot of community spirit is felt and is a great way to get to know new people in the village. Come along to the park around 6pm if you are able to help out.

We're sure you'll agree that this is a great community event, with a fun atmosphere, where friendships are made. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Contacts for Ceilidh tickets:

Dan Gilmour - Tel: 320303

Jenny Baird - Tel: 320286

Kellie Smith - Tel: 320285

Helen Smith - Tel: 320312

Please follow us on Facebook page and our twitter page, @auchterhousesd

Community Council Update - May to July



Police matters

Unfortunately no police officer has been able to attend our last 5 meetings to give a report on incidents in our area. It is hoped that we will have their presence at future meetings. There have been some attempted break-ins to outbuildings, so make sure your property is kept secure and report anything suspicious to Police Scotland on 101.



Road and traffic matters

On The Brae and Dronley Road, especially through Eastfield Farm, vehicle speeds are too great and causing concern. The police are monitoring the situation. A collection service for pupils in outlying areas to bring them safely into the village (and return home) has been started – a bus stop has been painted on the road in front of the hall for this.



Community Council Election

This will be held in October and will be followed by a 3 year term of office (until October 2018). Nomination papers of candidates seeking election must be submitted to Angus Council by 4pm on 28 September. Existing Community Councillors term of office will end on 5 October, then:

- If there are not more than 8 nominations (the number of vacancies) letter confirming their election will be sent to candidates on 9 October.
- If there are more than 8 nominations a Poll will be held on 26 October with the results declared on 2 November.

The first meeting of the new council will be on 15 October (the date of the AGM) or 19 November (after a Poll). Junior members (16 and under) can be co-opted at this meeting.

Village Hall

The Hall Committee has been informed by Angus Council, the owners of the Hall, that major repairs will be made to the Hall to improve its energy efficiency. The walls will be stripped back and new insulated plaster-boarding installed plus new electric panel heaters fitted. We are also hopeful that as part of the improvements, the ceiling will be lowered to just above the windows which will have a significant impact on reducing heating costs. Work is due to start in the late autumn, depending on contractors. There is no doubt this will cause considerable upheaval to the on-going usage of the Hall for a couple of months.



Alternative meeting places are being considered, but until a definite date is given for work starting, nothing can be announced as yet. We will keep the members of the Hall Committee informed. The members of the Hall Committee are the representatives appointed by the users of the Hall. If any organisation or group who use the Hall have any concerns about whether they are represented then please let us know.

The Village Hall 200 Club resumes in August. This is a most valuable source of funding for the Hall while also benefiting the ticket holders. There are still a few numbers available at £5 each. At each draw, prizes range from £10 to £5 with a grand first prize of £60 at the summer draw. We are very grateful to John and Mary Skea for all their work in maintaining this important fund raiser and to Andrew, their son, who oversees the paperwork.

Contact Mary Skea at 320254 for a 200 Club number.

Shiona Baird, Chair of the Hall Committee



AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER - January to June 2015

By John Brush

The year started off with a windy January. There were two days when the wind speed reached 79 mph, one on the 9th from WNW and one from SW on the 15th. On the 14th 12 cms of snow fell, but it did not last. Quite a sunny month for January. February was just a little warmer than average and was quite a dry month with only 2cms of snow on the 23rd. Again the sunshine was well above average. Quite a lot of wind with 79mph recorded on the 1st.

March was again sunnier than normal, with approximately normal rainfall. Mean temperature slightly above average. But April is the outstanding month with 240.5 hours of sunshine, not only is this by far the highest April total at Auchterhouse, but it is the highest monthly total of all the years for which I have records! Surprising that this occurred during April, as the longer daylight hours of May, June and July would seem to be when this would be expected. April was short of rainfall (56% of normal) and mean temp nearly 1°C above average.

Maximum temperature of 21.2°C occurred on the 23rd.

May was a slightly disappointing month with roughly average sunshine (167.7 hours) and rainfall nearly double the normal at 101.8mms. Quite a windy month. The temperature never reached 20°C during May and the mean was roughly 1 degree below average. June turned out to be a reasonably dry month with 148 hours of sunshine (a little above average).

There were two days (10th and 11th) when the daily sunshine exceeded 16 hours. I think these are both daily records for this site and there was "wall to wall sunshine" virtually all day on these two days. Highest temperature reached was 22.3°C on the 10th and there were 3 other days when the temperature equalled or exceeded 20°.

As I write this, during a rather wet and miserable July, we wait in vain for the weather to start coming up here from the south, instead of persistent cold air down from the Arctic.



Congratulations to Mrs Judy Goodfellow and Mrs Hilary Wallace for winning the Federation Golf Competition in June at Brechin. Good Luck ladies for the national competition on September 7th at Kirkcaldy. Judy and Hilary are defending their national trophy which they won at Loch Lomond last year.

The new session begins on Monday 21 September at 7:30pm. Please join us in the village hall for a demonstration of 'Fascinators and Corsages' from Mrs Gloria Mitchell. The Competitions are 'Flower of the Month' (single bloom in vase), Fruit Cordial and a Small Basket of Flowers.

Our main fundraiser for Children's Hospices (CHAS) is to take the form of an evening concert with the 'Twa Tenors' on Monday 26th October. Please support this very worthy cause. Tickets will be available shortly.

The 'Rural' meets every 3rd Monday of the month and we can promise a super, varied syllabus including workshops, talks and visits for our new session.

Auchterhouse SWRI is a part of Angus Federation, which boasts 39 'SWRI' or 'Rural' groups. The Angus Federation hosts several competitions throughout the year. The Ruralympics - Saturday 10th October at Webster's School, Kirriemuir(very popular), Quiz Night - Monday 2 November at the Plough Inn, Forfar(so popular only 1 quiz team per rural) Matter of Opinion - Tuesday 25th August at Letham Hall. All welcome to support the 5 teams, Curling competition - Forfar Ice Rink - January 2016 and a new competition taking the form of a 'Bake Off' is to take place in Spring 2016.

If you would like any further information, please contact President, Mrs Fiona Husband 01382 581 411 or Secretary, Mrs Margaret Wallace 01382 825143



Auchterhouse Country Sports Ladies Day

This was the 12th Annual Ladies Charity Shoot that took place at Auchterhouse Country Sports. This year's chosen charity was the local Blake McMillan Trust. At just three years old, Blake has had to struggle through just about every day since he was born and his mum organised a trust to raise funds to try and make each of those days enjoyable. As anyone with family or friends in this position knows, nothing is readily available on the NHS so the trust is there to try to get what are basically essential items.

120 ladies took part in the day, trying their hand at clay shooting in the morning followed by a lovely lunch from The Pear Tree Restaurant. Once everybody had been suitably fed and watered it was back out again for the shooting competition.

There was a raffle, silent auction and main auction which saw a pair of diamond earrings donated by Stephen Henderson Jewellers and a holiday to Puerto Banus up for grabs. The total raised this year was £7,500, making the total sum raised over the last 12 years to £35,000. Not bad for a little village like Auchterhouse!!

Emma Christie

The School Lane Garden

Working in the garden has been much more challenging this year as you can imagine! Nevertheless, an amazing amount of work has been achieved by the pupils and by the slowly growing group of helpers from the community. Donations of plants and grass turf by supporters have all enhanced the layout of the garden and the variety of vegetables we are growing.



The nursery class have been real stars this summer, enthusiastically sowing a variety of vegetable seeds in their own designated "garden within the garden." They have also planted up another area with vegetable plants donated by the grandparents of two of the children. Another parent has been instrumental in designing and setting up a "mud kitchen" behind the willow tunnel. It is a wonderful play area for stimulating and imaginative play. I was presented with a mud cake (rather watery!), beautifully decorated with pink flowers and green leaves.

Mrs Burke, an enthusiastic supporter of the garden, entered us in an Angus Council Beautiful Garden competition, in a new category for schools. The judges came round on a wet day at the end of last term. The rain and the lack of flowers did not dampen the enthusiasm of the pupils showing off the garden. It really is impressive how much they have already learnt about gardening and the wildlife which is so vital to a balanced eco-system. We should have the result of the competition in the next month.

If you have any interest in gardening or ideas for engaging in other ways in this inspiring community project, do come along on Saturday mornings from 10.30am or contact me. "Many helpers make light work" with the reward of an abundance of the freshest produce now available. Thanks again to the supporters, especially the two from the community who come regularly, making the garden such a very pleasant peaceful and productive hidden gem in our community.

Shiona Baird (320435)

The Auchterhouse Afternoon Club



The Afternoon Club resumes on Wednesday September 23rd in the Village Hall at 2pm – 4pm. Our first meeting is a celebration of being back after the summer break. This is a social get together with a birthday cake for all to enjoy with chat and a discussion planning the winter events.

We have a Christmas meal and a 2016 summer outing to arrange.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month. At present around a dozen folk attend regularly. We would love to welcome anyone of any age on these Wednesdays.

New folk bring new ideas which we would much appreciate.

Mary Skea 320254

Sidlaw Regnal

Sidlaw Regnal, a men's group, meets in Murroes Church Hall on the second and fourth Mondays from September to April at 7.30pm. We have a varied programme of speakers, visits and demonstrations.

This year our programme will include visits from Heart Start Dundee, Angus Waste Management and The Fire Service to mention a few.

An warm invitation is extended to attend any or all of our meetings. We at present have a number of members from the Auchterhouse area who attend our meetings.

If you would like further information and a copy of our programme please contact our secretary, Bill Harper Telephone 350200 or email bill-harper11@btinternet

DRONLEY MOOR & WOOD – PART 3

By Roderick Stewart, Dronley House

GRANDFATHER SAVES THE WOOD

The entire wood was to be felled, working from the Templeton end, but Grandfather persuaded the authorities (Uncle Bruce thought via the Factor of Glamis, a Mr Murray) to spare the block of Scots Pine to the north of the house. Dronley House, right on the top of the hill, was very exposed - Grandpa would complain that his chrysanthemums were blown right out of the ground - so he was very keen to keep these trees. They also formed the nucleus for the replanting of the forest and we are all greatly indebted to him today for this, as these older Scots Pines now form one of the grandest stands in the wood.

TREE MUNCHER

The 'tree-muncher' became a great family excitement in 2000. I was alarmed late one night by engine noises and flickering lights in the middle of the forest so set off with my daughter to investigate... We found an astonishing, rather intimidating machine roaring in the dark and 'munching' trees by its own floodlights, surrounded by a cloud of illuminated insects. It turned out that this was the Forestry Commission's first hydraulic tree-harvesting machine, and only on site for a few days, hence it was working



through the night. It could grip a whole coniferous tree, slice it off at the ground, strip the branches, cut the trunk into lengths and then neatly stack the logs! The operator was very proud of it and the children and nephews were thrilled to get a demonstration the next day, when we also asked it to tidy-up one very noticeable leaning tree in the midst of the tall scots pines. The leaning tree had annoyed me for years but no sooner was it 'tidied' than a gale blew several more to 'untidy' angles. I gave up!

DRONLEY MOOR & WOOD – PART 3

By Roderick Stewart, Dronley House

WIND DAMAGE

My own favourite tree was the scots pine at the SW corner of this stand (by the new road-gate) which had a gloriously picturesque limb which I several times saved from amputation by the Hydro-Electric linesmen clearing back trees from the wires.

The tree with its limb made a dramatic silhouette against the setting sun, but the entire tree fell victim the terrible gales of 2013-14. His roots had, some years earlier, been damaged by thoughtless ramblers who had lit a fire in the crook of his roots.

It had been a very dry summer, the fire spread deep underground and, when my garden hose failed to put it out, I called the Fire Brigade. Now that the tree has fallen, his roots on that side of the 'plate' appear to show the damage which will surely have contributed to the tree's downfall.

LOCAL ASSET

Dronley Wood is now a wonderful local asset, both for humans and for a huge range of wild creatures, and I am extremely proud of the part my Grandfather played in its survival.

These few notes are based on family memory and I would love to hear from anyone who may have more to add. My particular pride, however, remains that Grandfather saved the Scots Pines which now form such a grand local amenity.