



Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the 1st newsletter of 2017. There will be 4 editions of the newsletter in 2017 in February, May, August and November. Please send any content/articles 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.

Thanks to Sandra Ewing for the beautiful cover photo.

Dates for your diary

18th March - Quiz Night at Village Hall
20th April - Community Council Meeting
26th August - Sports Day and Ceilidh

Community Council Update - November to February



Police matters raised by our community PC Steve Wilson

There have been a number of thefts, and attempted thefts, in our area. Keep your property secure at all times. Leave a light or a radio on when not at home. Report anything suspicious to Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Road and traffic matters

Speeding on The Brae and The Avenue is a concern. Note reg numbers and report drivers to Police Scotland.



BT Phone Box

BT has agreed to the Council adopting the kiosk. We would like suggestions for its use, e.g. as a home for a defibrillator, a library, information centre (wildlife). Please send your suggestions to drummuir@btinternet.com



Dronley Wood

Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES) has announced the sale of the wood. The Council has decided the community should exercise its right to buy the wood through a Community Asset Transfer in order to protect the many benefits provided by it. A CAT and fund raising through the Scottish Land Fund will now be pursued.

Community Council Update - November to February



Playpark Equipment

New play park equipment has been ordered by Angus Council and will be erected in March.



Community Council Membership

Kieran Forster has been co-opted on to the Council replacing Rory Forster who has retired.



Please clean up after your dog

It is not acceptable for dog mess to be left in public places or where children play in Auchterhouse. Please clean up after your dog every day. This is what Angus Council says about dog fouling:

It is an offence for a person who is responsible for a dog in a public place to fail to immediately remove and dispose of its waste appropriately after it has fouled. You can report dog fouling online

If you do not clean up after your pet, you can be issued with a fixed penalty notice of £80, rising to £100 if not paid within 28 days or the offence can be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Dronley Wood Purchase

The proposal to buy Dronley Wood for the community is one of the biggest opportunities Auchterhouse and the surrounding area has been given in many a year. The Community Council and ACWAG (Auchterhouse Community Woodland Action Group) were informed of the Forestry Commission's plan to sell off the wood and they asked if we wanted to register a note of interest by March 7th. This was done giving us 80 working days to lodge a formal offer. This is a very short timescale by any standards.

At the first full meeting of interested people on February 23rd, it was felt the project required a new name to encompass the many folk who use the wood, who live outside Auchterhouse. Dronley Wood may be in our area but it is used by many folk who live out with the area. This is a big project, so involving as many users as possible will hopefully spread the load, not only of the initial work of the purchase but also the eventual on-going work of maintaining the wood as we all would like to see it. Dronley Wood, Dronley Community Wood or Dronley Community Woodland are the three names which were proposed for all interested folk to make the final choice so please let us know your view.

The Steering Group will investigate the new Community Asset Transfer as the mechanism for making the purchase, with an application to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for initial funding for a consultant to draw up a business and management plan.

Article is continued on the next page >>





Dronley Wood Purchase (continued)

The next stage would be a valuation and discussion with the Forestry Commission on an agreed price with an application for purchase to the SLF. The core principle of the Scottish Land Fund is that the project is community led and supported by at least 10% of the community. So, we need your support and engagement where at all possible. If you do have specialist knowledge of business plans, management planning or fundraising please get in touch.

This is an exciting project where we could create a really special community asset which supports wildlife and offers opportunities for people with as wide variety of interests as possible. We will provide regular updates on progress through our email list. If you are not already on the list then please send your email address to Garry Stewart on drummuir@btinternet.com or me Shiona Baird on shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk

Shiona Baird
Chair of the Steering Group



AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER 2016

By John Brush

In my note to this publication written in August, I mentioned the excessive rainfall of 284mm which fell during January 2016. This was the highest monthly rainfall I have ever recorded and I suspect that record may hold for some time. The sunniest month during 2016 was May, with 207.4 hours. Average sunshine for May is 166.6 so this total was well above average.

Warmest month was August with a mean temperature of 14.0°C which is 0.2°C below average. For the summer season as a whole, (June, July and August) the average temperature was 13.2°C which is almost 0.5° below average. Average temperature for the year was 7.90°C which is very slightly less than the long term average of 7.95°C. So no particular sign of global warming there. There were 13 days when the temperature exceeded 21°C, 5 of these being during August.

During the year there were a total of 19 days when there was snow or sleet and snow was lying on 16 days. They occurred mainly in January, February and April with very little snow during March.

There were 79 days when air frost was recorded, these being principally in January and February although there were 14 days of frost in November. I don't possess a grass thermometer, good ones are quite expensive, but if anyone feels this would be useful, any offers to pay for such a device will be gratefully received. It needs to be electronic, in order that it mates correctly with the existing station. They cost about £75 so far as I remember.

There were quite a few gales during the year. One each for January and February when the direction was SW. The gust speed was 74mph. There were also gales in March and April but they produced lower maximum speeds. Average wind speed for the year was 10mph.

Keeping this station on air is quite expensive. Failures do occur and need to be repaired instantly and this presents quite a lot of problems. I have been fortunate to be able to keep these to a minimum but it only takes a serious cable fault or computer failure to put it off the air. I do have a spare computer, which I attempt to keep up to date but sooner or later my luck may run out!



Auchterhouse Sports Day & Ceilidh

Saturday 26th August 2017

Details of this year's events will be available
soon via the newsletter.

For up to the minute information see:
www.facebook.com/Auchterhouse-Sports-Day

Quiz Night

18th March

7.30pm

Quiz Night/ Pub Night

Maximum of 5 people per team.

BYOB

All funds raised to be donated to

Auchterhouse Primary School

Entry: £4 per team



01382-320476

info@auchterhousecountrysports.co.uk



Ladies Charity Shooting Day



Date: Saturday 3rd June

Time: 10am - 5pm

Price: £47



Charity: SCAA (Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance)

Includes: Shooting, Goodie Bag, Lunch & Fab Day Out!

RAFFLE * SILENT AUCTION * MAIN AUCTION

STALL HOLDERS * CHOCOLATE FOUNTAIN

If interested let Emma know ASAP

GREAT DAY OUT GUARANTEED!!

Theme this year is



Auchterhouse Country Sports Ladies Shooting Day

The charity this year is the SCAA (Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance).

If you are able to provide any prizes for the raffle, silent auction or main auction please contact Emma Christie:

info@auchterhousecountrysports.co.uk

Sidlaw Churches (update from Elizabeth Millar)

Our Minister Rev. Mike Mair will be visiting in the Auchterhouse Parish on the third Tuesday of every month. If any of you would like a visit or if you know of someone who would like and/or benefit from one let me know and I will fit it into Mike's diary. Tel: 01382380219, E-mail: balluderon@madasafish.com

World Day of Prayer will be held in Auchterhouse Church on Friday 3rd March at 2.30pm. This year it is prepared by the Philippines. It is a short service followed by tea/coffee, cake and a chat.

On Sunday 5th March at 2.30pm there will be a fun afternoon for children Baptised in the last 8 years. This will include their parents, grandparents, siblings and any Church members and friends. Do come along and join in the fun, followed again by tea/coffee, cake and a chat. The official Church photographer will be there to record the happy scene.

Sunday 12th March we have Rev Willie Strachan preaching. Willie is a member of the Local Church Review Team. Every 5 years all Churches have to submit to Presbytery their Plan for the next 5 years.

We are in the middle of making up a Plan of Action under the 'SMART' formula. After the service on the 12th the congregation will have what is included in the plan explained to them and an opportunity to discuss and add ideas of their own. We would like a big turnout on that Sunday. I have not heard Willie Strachan preach, but what I have seen of him so far, the service will be a lively and enjoyable one.

It was with great sadness that we lost one of our members Nigel Bell. Most of us remember Nigel and Eva when they were at the Old Mansion House Hotel. It was a sad day for the village when they closed the door of the hotel as it was a 'local' to some and a happy work place for others. We send Eva, Andy, Kirsty, Bruce and Tom all our love and support at this sad time.

The Church vacancy is still on-going with a lot of work and thought going into it from the Nominating Committee.





Meetings are held the third Monday of the month from September - May

Auchterhouse Village Hall - 7:30pm

New members are always welcome

The aim of the SWI is to learn, share, educate, craft, socialise, build a close community and of course, to have fun. From life skills and arts and crafts to raising awareness of current affairs and fundraising for several charities, our meetings have a wide variety of content throughout the year.

For any enquiries about the SWI, please contact:

Maureen Macleod

T: 01382 320 236

M: 07950834181

Beauty

by Zara

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**Choose from a range of treatments including:
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CND Shellac Nails, CND Vinylux Mani or Pedi,
Massage, Tanning, Waxing, Eyelash/brow
tint.**

Opening Hours

Wednesday 10:00am – 8:00pm

Thursday 10:00am – 8:00pm

Friday 10:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday 9:30am – 12:30pm

Silverknowes

Kirkton of Auchterhouse

Dundee

DD3 0QS

T: 01382 320450

M: 07711 825525

www.facebook.com/Beauty-By-Zara-Dundee



The School Lane Garden

The snowdrops have been flowering for weeks and the daffodils are pushing up, such an encouraging sight. Spring is on its way! Our thoughts are turning towards seed sowing and digging over the veg plots. Not much tidying up was done in the autumn so there is much to do to get the garden ready for Spring planting.

The children enthusiastically bagged up a good crop of potatoes and Brussel sprouts for sale at the P7 winter fair just before Christmas. All money from the sale went towards school funds.

The school entered Angus Council Gardens Competition but despite having a great display on a stall at the prize giving in Forfar, we did not win this year. It was pleasing to see so many other schools entering the competition with some interesting ideas to incorporate in our garden. Other contestants viewing the stalls were very impressed with the confidence and knowledge which our children displayed.

Contact has been made with Homebase who have indicated that they would be happy to give us unsold but usable plants when they become available. A wee bit of cossetting may be required but a good chance to let folk see how plants can be quite hardy and resilient given a bit of TLC.

Many years ago, an old bath was sunk in the ground at the rear of the back playground. Over the years it has filled up with water and mud , though we did find a toad in the mud when we cleared it out. The plan this year is to try to get it planted up so that it will attract more wildlife. If anyone has a pond with non invasive water plants we would welcome some plants to start the process of establishing a small water feature and wildlife habitat.

As always we would be delighted if anyone felt like joining the small group of volunteers who work on the garden outside school hours. If you can offer any help at all please let me know. Your help and support would be very warmly welcomed.

Shiona Baird Tel: 320435