



Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the fifth edition of the Auchterhouse Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for issue 5.

There will be another 2 editions of the newsletter in 2015 in 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.

Auchterhouse Sports Day - Saturday 29th August

We are all looking forward to this year's Sports day with preparations well underway. Tickets for the evening ceilidh will be on sale before and during the summer holidays. Before the day itself, we will be once again running the tennis tournament during the summer holidays. Please see attached information or the Facebook page for further information.

The day will kick off at 1pm. This year we have replaced the rocket competition with a Pantomime Horse Grand National which is looking to be like great fun. Events will run throughout the day, including the hexathlon, archery and display of the competition entries for the vegetable sculpture, chutney and cupcake competitions. Teas and coffees will be available throughout the afternoon. Donations of sandwiches and baking for the tea and coffee stall would be greatly appreciated as always.

Entries for the cupcake, vegetable sculpture and chutney competitions should be brought along on the day. The theme for cupcakes and miniature gardens is "celebrities". Rules for the competitions can be found on the Facebook page.

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 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. Wayne Robertson will be providing the entertainment and we're sure he will be just as entertaining as previous years. 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.



Auchterhouse Sports Day - Saturday 29th August

If you would like to volunteer to help out with any of the stalls on the day or would like to help in other ways by donating raffle prizes or cake/ sandwiches please contact us via the Facebook page or by contacting Kellie Smith on 320285.

We would also welcome volunteers to help put up the marquee on the Friday night (28th August). 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.

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! Keep an eye on the Facebook page and our new twitter page @AuchterhouseSD for news and updates.

Rules for Pantomime Horse Grand National

- 1 Horses should be hand made by the contestant and their friends and family.
- 2 For adults and children aged P4 and over horses should be manned by 2 people, one front and one back.
- 3 Children under P4 age may have a single manned horse if they wish.
- 4 Horses will be judged on their appearance followed by races to find the winning horse in each category: nursery to P1, P2 to P3, P4 to P7, high school aged children & adults.
- 5 The decision of the judge will be final.
- 6 Horses should be brought to the competition area when called.
- 7 Competitors inside the horses should be in the same age category as listed above.





Onion Chutney Competition Rules

- 1 Chutney should be hand made by the contestant.
- 2 Chutney will be judged on taste alone.
- 3 The decision of the judge will be final.
- 4 Chutney should be brought to the marquee by 1pm on sports day.



Cupcake Competition Rules

- 1 Cupcakes should be decorated with a celebrity theme.
- 2 Cupcakes will be judged on decoration only by people purchasing a tea and coffee. The winner will be the cake with the most voting slips.
- 3 Voting tokens will be counted after voting closes and the winner will be announced on the sports day.
In the event of a tie, a final decision will be made by the chair of the sports day committee.
- 5 Cupcakes should be brought to the marquee by 1pm on the day.



Fruit and Vegetable Sculpture Competition Rules

- 1 Sculptures should be made by the entrant themselves.
- 2 Sculptures may be made using any fruit or vegetable.
- 3 A picture of the celebrity should be supplied with the sculpture to show what the aim was.
- 4 Sculptures should have a celebrities theme.
- 5 Sculptures will be judged on appearance by the general public, by posting a voting slip beside their choice of sculpture. The sculpture with the most votes will win.
- 6 Voting tokens will be counted after voting closes and the winner will be announced on the sports day.
- 7 In the event of a tie, a final decision will be made by the chair of the sports day committee.
- 8 Sculptures should be brought to the marquee by 1pm on sports day.



Police matters

In a restructuring of Scottish Police, Sgt Colin Cunningham is now in charge of community policing for our ward of Angus Division. Unfortunately no police officer has been able to attend our last 2 meetings to give a report on incidents in our area. In February Constable Lindsey Soutar attended and reported that no incidents in this part of Angus had been reported to the Police.

Road and traffic matters



In a vehicle speed survey of traffic on The Brae during March, 15% of drivers (amounting to 30 per day) were found to be travelling at greater than 40 mph with a maximum of 62 mph recorded for a vehicle going up The Brae. The average speed for all drivers (amounting to 202 per day) was 34 mph. Clearly this is not acceptable on a road, which has a 30 mph limit and is used by many children walking to and from school. Further deployment of a vehicle speed indicator and monitoring by the police will be carried out. On Dronley Road, especially through Eastfield Farm, vehicle speeds are also too great and causing concern to residents of Eastfield Steading. The police are monitoring the situation.



TAYplan

The revised Proposed Strategic Development Plan for the 4 council areas (Angus, Dundee, NE Fife and Perth & Kinross) has been issued for consultation (up to 3 July). Information events when staff will be in attendance to discuss the plan will be held between 3.30 and 7.00 pm on Tuesday 19th May at the Reid Hall in Forfar and on Wednesday 3rd June in the Wellgate Library in Dundee.

Community Council Update - February to May



Angus Local Development Plan

The draft LDP was issued in March for consultation (ended 30 April). The only proposal mentioning Auchterhouse was the need to extend the cemetery further into the small glebe field and right up to the school wall. There was no objection to this.



Community Communication

A document entitled "Policy and Procedures for Informing, Consulting and Representing the Auchterhouse Community" has been produced by our council and is now displayed on notice boards and on our website.



Mobile Library

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

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

For more information please contact: Lesley Matthews, Senior Library Assistant, Library Support Services, 50-56 West High Street, Forfar. Tel. (01307) 473939.

Vandalism

I am disappointed to report that the school community has experienced an act of vandalism. Miss Frame kindly bought and donated a bench to the school and the pupils have worked hard to sand and paint it over the last few weeks in preparation for creating lovely seating areas in the school playground and in the school/community garden. As you can imagine our pupils and staff are very upset about the bench being vandalised.

I would urge anyone with any information to please get in touch with either the school or our community police officer, PC Mark Norris (taysidemonifiethsidlawcpt@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

Many thanks,

Mrs Burke
Acting Headteacher
Auchterhouse Primary School

"The primary school children are very upset that all their hard work has been for nothing. What would help the children feel better would be if those who damaged the seat, maybe accidentally, came forward to accept responsibility and help to repair the seat."

Shiona Baird
Chairperson
Auchterhouse Community Council



Lundie & Auchterhouse Curling Club

Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club held their AGM and prize giving on Thursday 7th May in Lundie Hall. John Brown, Mungo Howat, Alex Ferrier and Isla Miller won the John Stirling Quaich for the top League team. The Valentine Goblets were won by Mungo Howat, Bruce Buchan, Sue Webster and John Brown and the Smith Pair Salver went to John Foster and June Fenwick. for the Pairs Competition.

We are now making plans for next winter and are on the look out for new members. SO if you fancy having a go at curling please get in touch with any member or Dave Smith, Match Secretary Tel 320312 or myself, Jenny Arbuckle Tel 360476. We would love to hear from you. Lundie and Auchterhouse is a friendly club with a mixed membership of all ages and most of our curling is at Forfar Ice rink with our Pairs games in Dundee. Check out our face book page!

Jenny Arbuckle, Secretary

James Scougall Challenge Match

On Saturday 21st March Lundie & Auchterhouse Curling Club and Rossie Curling Club attended the first ever James Scougall Challenge Match in Forfar. The match was held in honour of Jim Scougall who was a most respected member of both clubs for many years. We all miss him dearly and he would have approved of the result of the first match which was peels. It was a competitive but friendly game with lots of laughs and storytelling in the bar afterwards. We look forward to many more challenge matches in the years to come. Many thanks to Kay Scougall and her family for coming along on the day to watch the match and present the salver trophy.

Aileen Baird, Secretary, Rossie Curling Club





We are nearing the end of the 2014-2015 syllabus which has been celebrating 90 years as a rural. There have been many highlights; floral arranging from Jillian Page at 'Something Special' in Blairgowrie, embroidery talk incorporating a demonstration of how a wall hanging was created using 'stump' work for Stirling Castle. Members were also shown work with the cloth of gold for tunics for Her Majesty's Guards of Honour from Mrs Eileen Rumble MBE. A grizzly but excellent talk about 'Murders on the Law' from Sandy McGregor as well as 'Chocolate Making' with William and Gary from Mary's Kitchen. Plenty of tasting went on that night too!

Our 'Burn's Supper' was a resounding success with principle speakers Mr Donald Clark and TV and radio personality, Mr Tich Frier. Mike Revey and friends entertained us fabulously at our Birthday Celebrations in March while it was the turn of members Louise Buchan, Margrett Steel, Fiona Husband and Moyra Plunkett at April's meeting. They gave us a very worthwhile and fun 'Workshop' evening where all members were given the opportunity to make felt, decorate cakes, arrange flowers in a contemporary way and get up to speed with 'Facebook'.

At our next meeting on Monday 18th of May we will be walking around Auchterhouse in aid of 'Belarus'. We will start off from the Hall front door at 6.30pm. Mrs Kathleen Robbie will then give us a talk about her work with victims of the nuclear disaster following our light supper and AGM. Please join us for the walk at sharp 6:30pm or come for light supper and Kathleen's talk at 7:15pm. All are welcome.

The 'rural' then has a summer recess resuming on Monday 21 September, in the hall at 7:30pm when another new exciting syllabus will be unveiled. We would be delighted to welcome new faces to come to try the rural out.

Margaret Wallace

Sidlaw Churches

This year Christian Aid will celebrate 70 years. It was started just after the end of the 2nd World war. To celebrate this The Moderator of the General Assembly hopes that 70 Munroes will be climbed during the week of Christian Aid, which was 10th May to 16th. Here in Auchterhouse we are not quite so ambitious so with Rev Mike's leadership we hope to do 7 Marilyn's over 2 weeks. Marilyn's are peaks under 2,000 feet high. I will just tell you the last few as most of them will have been climbed by the time you read this. If there are ones you can manage. Here are the details:

- Largo Law from Upper Largo on Thursday 21st in the morning
- West Lomond from Craigmear Car Park on Sunday 24th in the afternoon
- Garvock Hill from Laurencekirk on Wednesday 27th in the morning

For all walks meet at Murroes Church car park. Mornings at 9.30am afternoons 1.30pm. Sponsor forms in Church or any member. Telephone Mike on 07876453499 for more information.

Congratulations!

A huge congratulations from everyone in the village to Reverent Syd and Edna Graham, who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on the 5th June. They were married in Rankin Memorial Church, Liverpool by Reverent Ella Gordon. She was the first female minister and a good friend of Syd and Edna. Syd was Minister here for many years before David. He continues to preach with him returning to fill in here on the odd occasion. We welcome him back with open arms, as we all have a very soft spot for them both. Well done and we hope you both have very many more happy years in front of you.

Elizabeth Millar





Auchterhouse Country Sports Ladies Day

The 12th Annual Ladies Charity day is Saturday 6th June. The aim of the day is for ladies to have a go at Clay Shooting while raising money for charity. This year's chosen charity is The Blake McMillan Trust. To date over the past 11 years we have raised £27,750 for local charities There are still a few spaces left if you fancy it. For more information either call Emma on 320476 or email info@auchterhousecountrysports.co.uk

We are also looking for prizes for either the raffle or silent auction, so if you'd like to donate a prize please hand in before 6th June.

The Pear Tree

Opening hours: Wednesday - Sunday 12noon - 8pm

The Pear Tree Restaurant is getting busier, so remember to phone & book a table to avoid disappointment. Call 01382 320266.

We are now doing takeaways, which are becoming more popular. The takeaway menu can be viewed [here](#).

Emma Christie

The School Lane Garden

Spring has well and truly sprung judging by the number of weeds sprouting in the School Lane Garden. The primary school children have been hard at work already, planting potatoes, onions, raspberries and some fruit trees as well as sowing masses of seeds for summer flowers and vegetables. One P3 boy cannot wait to plant out the pea seeds he sowed before the Easter holiday but this cold weather has been frustrating him and me!

The nursery class has already been out sowing their snowball turnips, peas and lettuce seeds, as well as planting potatoes. They have made some lovely signs for their garden so do come and have a look. Also come and see the primary children's artwork. All over the garden there are beautifully painted stones of different sizes, depicting animals and plants.

But this garden is not just for the children, it is for all to enjoy and work in. We are starting on a major project to set a path going up the slope beside the Church gates on the lane. Anyone who can help us with this is very welcome, especially if you have a better knowledge of gardening on a slope! We are hoping this more accessible path will encourage more of you to pop in, see what is going on, and hopefully been inspired to lend a hand. Even if you are not a gardener, there are a number of other projects which need non gardening skills, for example, the nursery class would like a garden den.

We are very grateful to those in the community who have already leant a hand but you know the saying – "many hands make light work"!! It also makes it more fun. So how about coming along on Saturday mornings between 10.30am and 1pm? Just in case the weather is uncertain give me a phone 320435 before 10am to confirm but if you know your weeds just pop in, out of school hours and have a potter.

Shiona Baird (320435)



Guild Coffee Morning



The annual village coffee morning this year will be held on Saturday 6th June from 10am to 12 noon in the hall.

There will be the usual stalls – Plants, cake and candy, books and bric-a-brac. If you would like to contribute to any of these stalls, the hall will be open on Friday evening 5th between 7pm - 8pm or any time after 9:30am on the 6th June.

Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1 for children. The tickets are now on sale from Guild members or at the door on the day.

Anyone for Tennis?



Do you enjoy playing tennis? Fancy taking part in a friendly tennis event over the summer holidays?

If the answer is yes then this event is for you. As part of Auchterhouse's annual Sport Day, we are hoping to hold a friendly tennis tournament with the winner being presented with their prize at the Sports Day itself.

If you are interested, please email your name, age and preferred contact details by 30th of May 2015 to:

lilacottage294@gmail.com

DRONLEY MOOR & WOOD – PART 2

By Roderick Stewart, Dronley House

NEOLITHIC MOUND

In the South-west corner of the Dronley House Wood (where the 275kV and 33kV electricity lines cross the road) there is a small mound about 26 yards across and 12 feet high with a possible encircling ditch, recently made visible from the road following the felling of some spruce to keep the wires safe. Grandfather thought this was simply a 'midden' but an archaeologist friend visiting a few years ago thought it might be a "neolithic burial mound". He noted the ditch and also claimed to see three indentations in the mound where early grave-robbers might have dug in for treasure. I foolishly mentioned this in a pub conversation to another archaeologist who worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland and a few months later, in 1992, I received a letter stating that the site was listed as a 'scheduled ancient monument'! In later correspondence about this "mound" I was told that there is no other reference and that my conversation was the 'sole authority' for the listing. The listing comes with a hefty raft of restrictions; be careful what you say!



During recent visits by inspectors from RCAHMS and Scottish Natural Heritage I was fascinated to hear that the former had recorded a pile of stones in the southern arm of the wood as 'prehistoric' while the latter had it down as a 'badgers' sett'. Both could, of course, be correct, but the difference in viewpoint is instructive!

DRONLEY MOOR & WOOD – PART 2

By Roderick Stewart, Dronley House

ITALIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

My Uncle, Bruce Stewart, remembered Italian prisoners of war working in the wood during the Second World War from around 1940-41. He remembered them having an antique lorry and trailer which they parked in the Dronley gateway during their lunch-break and he did not remember any guards. During the invasion scare they accidentally set a bit of the wood alight, causing great excitement and the belief that that the Germans had landed.

NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY

They also had a narrow-gauge railway for extracting the timber, around 18inch/2ft gauge, which took them from the Eastfield gate into the heart of the forest each day and they would, my Uncle told, head off in the morning singing excerpts from Italian opera, just like the beach scene in 'Captain Corelli's Mandolin', returning at night having made little impact on the trees. The beech trees to the north, then some 20 years old, had a strip running through them for the railway.

In the recent winters, of course, these same beech trees have taken a dreadful battering from storms.

The Italians worked away without making much impact on the wood but towards the end of the War they were replaced by Germans, and, with teutonic efficiency, the wood started to disappear rapidly!

My sister and I used to explore the big wood in the 1950s and I remember rusting forestry machinery and a derelict lorry near where the central pylon is now, and possibly the remains of the railway. There is little to see now, but under the huge larch tree in the NW corner of my garden there is a raised circular embankment, reputedly the condensing-pond for a steam driven sawmill.