



Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the seventeenth edition of the Auchterhouse Newsletter

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles for issue 17. The next few months are full of local events - here is a summary of what's on in our village:

Thursday 16th August - Community Council Meeting

Friday 24th August - Guiche Welcome & Quiz Night

Saturday 25th August - Sports Day & Ceilidh

Thursday 13th September - Dronley Community Woodland AGM

Thursday 18th October - Community Council AGM

If you are not already on our email distribution list please send your email address to aileenmbaird@yahoo.com. We also have a newsletter Facebook page which is ideal for sharing local information, events, photos, news.

An aerial photograph of a hillside with several white trees and silhouettes of runners on a path. The background is a mix of brown and green, suggesting a natural landscape.

Auchterhouse 5K Hill Race & Sports Day - Saturday 25th August

The 2018 Auchterhouse Sports Day is almost here! Here is the schedule of fun and events on the day.

1pm

Auchterhouse Pipe Band will open the main sports day and then we will then move on to our main event for this year, the Wheelbarrow Race (kindly sponsored by the Forster Group) where competitors can show off their hard work decorating their wheelbarrows and their skill at tackling our obstacle course.

2pm

Teas, coffees, sandwiches and cake will be available throughout the afternoon from 2pm onwards. We will also have Hot Dogs available for purchase and a tuck shop with drinks and snacks. Other events will run throughout the day, including the tug of war (kindly sponsored by Grewar's Farm Shop) children's races, inflatable point scorer and sumo suits, and judging of the competition entries for the photography, tablet and junk modelling competition. We can't wait to see some of the creative entries!

3pm

The Hill Race (£3 entry fee) will be started by Emma Christie from Auchterhouse Country Sports. Once the hill race is underway we will start the Auchtathlon with some fun new Scottish themed events in honour of our French visitors from Guiche, the village with which we are hoping to twin.



4:30pm

On completion of the race, runners will be presented with finishers medals and the main presentation of trophies will take place around 4.30pm. Last year we emailed out certificates instead of handing them out on the day to make it run smoothly. As this worked well, we will continue to do this in the future. Tshirts will again be available in a range of sizes to purchase on the day as a memento of the hill race.

How to enter

Entries for the recycled sculpture and photography competition should be brought along on the day. Photography entries should not have any identifying marks on them or any indication of who took the picture. Rules for the competition can be found on our facebook page - [facebook.com/AuchterhouseSportsDay](https://www.facebook.com/AuchterhouseSportsDay). If you require a copy but cannot access Facebook, please email kelliesmith47@aol.com.

We need your help

We are always looking for people to help so 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 any of the committee members selling tickets for the ceilidh. Donations of sandwiches and baking for the tea and coffee stall and raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated on the morning of the event.

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 and showing the visitors from Guiche how friendly and welcoming a community we are.

Sports Day Ceilidh

£10 per adult, £2 per child - BYOB

7:30pm to 9:00pm: BBQ (ticket price includes food)

8:00pm to midnight: Alba Ceilidh Band

9:30pm: Raffle (buy your tickets at Sports day or the Ceilidh)

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Tickets can be purchaed from:

Dan Gilmour - Tel: 320303, Jenny Baird - Tel: 320286

Kellie Smith - Tel: 320285, Aileen Baird - Tel: 320485



As usual, the annual Auchterhouse Hill Race will start at 3pm this year. Online entries are now open (<https://goo.gl/forms/OwPhuyMGYIH13vYt2>) and we would encourage you to sign up online to save queuing on the day to complete your entry. Payment of £3 can be made on the day when you collect your race number.

This year's Hill Race is again being very generously sponsored by Auchterhouse Country Sports. We will also have finishers medals being awarded at the finish line thanks to their sponsorship.

Age categories for this year's race are: Under 10 *, Under 14, Under 21 local, Under 21 non local, Veteran (40 – 59), Supervet * (60+)

Please note that runners can only qualify for one age category, e.g. someone aged 13 would only win the under 14 category and not the under 21 category as well. The first overall winner, first local winner and first lady, also have awards associated with them. As per last year's event, certificates will be emailed out instead of being awarded on the day. This will save us time at the end. We will also have our "Auchterhouse Hill Race" T-shirts available to buy in a range of sizes on the day. We're sure you'll agree they make a great memento.

WHEEL BARROW RACE

The opening event at this year's Sports Day is a Wheelbarrow Race!

The barrows will be judged on their appearance and their speed on completing our assault course relay.

Wheelbarrows entering the competition should be manned by 4 people. The driver will take each team member across the assault course and unload them at the end before returning for the next person. The people in the barrows must remain seated at all times. If the barrow overturns, the passenger should be seated in the barrow again before continuing.

We can't wait to see some of your designs but here are a couple of ideas to help you out!



Community Council Update - May to August



Police matters raised by our community PC Gail Beattie

There continue to be break-ins and thefts in our rural area. Keep your property secure at all times. Dirt bikes have been reported on the hill and on roads to access the hill; take note of bike reg numbers and details of riders. Report anything suspicious to Police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Road and traffic matters

Road repairs and resurfacing on Bonnyton Road and on Dronley Road, south of Eastfield Steading, have been carried out.



BT Phone Box

The application to Awards4All for a defibrillator has been refused. The British Heart Foundation has agreed to fund 50% of the cost; the other 50% will come from Hall and Church funds.



Dronley Wood

Forest Enterprise has agreed to sell the wood to our community and a detailed application for funding has been submitted to The Scottish Land Fund for the purchase including all legal fees and the salary of a part time manager for the 1st 2 years of operation. Look at the DCW website www.dronleywood.org for details.

Community Council Update - May to August



Planning

An application for an extension to Cortachy Cottage has been submitted and approved.



New Housing

The Council have started exploring the options for building more houses in Auchterhouse and will enter into discussions with Angus Planning Dept presently. More houses could help bring more young families to the area and boost the falling school population and support local organisations.



Playing Field Toilets

Angus Council have installed new urinals. The CC will take over management of the toilet block in the near future.



Next meeting and AGM

The next Community Council meeting will be on Thursday 16th August at 7.00pm in the village hall. This will be the last meeting of the current council before re-elections in October, which will be a great opportunity for new faces to join the CC and bring fresh vision for the future. The October meeting will be held on Thursday 18th October following the re-election of councillors in early October and will therefore be an inaugural meeting of the new council and the AGM for the last year of the present council. Nomination papers for councillors will become available in September for anyone wishing to fill one of our 8 seats (with a nominator and seconder).

Dronley Community Woodland - Update

The Board of Trustees of Dronley Community Woodland is delighted to announce that the Scottish Land Fund have agreed to fund our application to purchase Dronley Wood!

Dronley Wood now belongs to the community. What an achievement! There are of course quite a number of legal issues to address before we can say it truly belongs to us all, but the decision has been made and we have the letter to confirm the funding.

This has been quite an adventure since we, the Community, were first asked if we wanted to purchase the wood in February 2017. This has also been one of the first applications to be processed through the Community Asset Transfer Scotland programme, a visionary scheme promoted by the Scottish Government. Being one of the first has meant that the process has involved a steep learning curve for us and the Forestry Commission. Hopefully this is just the start of many more transfers to local communities.

For us though, this is only the end of the first chapter. There is so much to do from now on, to manage and enhance the wood, taking forward many of the suggestions from the community. We all would like to see the wood used by many more people from within and beyond Auchterhouse.





Dronley Community Woodland (continued)

We are very fortunate that, included in the finance package, is the funding to employ a part-time woodland manager for two years. This will make such a difference in helping us plan the programme of work we have laid out. The appointed person will plan and supervise work parties so we will need lots of volunteers to get the work done.

To inspire and encourage folk to volunteer and to thank all those involved in the purchase, we plan to hold a barbecue in the wood to celebrate our good fortune. Before that, we will be holding our first AGM in Auchterhouse Village Hall on September 13th at 7pm. A membership drive has already started and there will be a further opportunity to sign up at Sports Day on August 26th in the Park. Lots of fun and hard work ahead but what an exciting opportunity for our community!

Shiona Baird.

Chair of the Board of Trustees



AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER - January to June 2018

By John Brush

The months January to March 2018 distinguished themselves by being very much colder than average. January was 1.4°C below average, February 1.8° below and March 2° below. There was a sudden jump to April when the temperature was close to normal. This must mean that general growth and over wintered crops would be behind the normal state by the end of March.

January had only about 4cms of snow, although snowfall was recorded on 11 days. Rainfall measured 71mms, a bit below the average of 82mms. There was quite a bit of snow during February, totalling 17cms. However rainfall (or equivalent rain) was only 42mms, quite a bit below the norm. March totalled 11cms of snow.

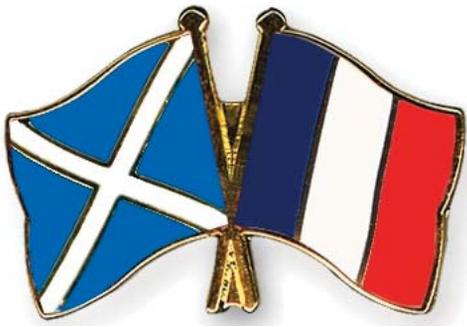
The highest wind speed during these 3 months was on January 24th when I recorded 66mph from a WSW direction.

April is normally the driest month here and only 42.9mms of rain fell during that month. Sunshine was a bit below average at 124.8 hours.

When we get to May, there is quite a change in the weather. Mean temperature was 11.5° which is 1.8° above average. This was largely caused by the second half of the month when 4 days with a temp >20°C were noted. Sunshine during May was 239.6 hours, which is 44% greater than normal.

June was a most pleasant month, with sunshine 207.3 hours and mean temperature of 13.3°C about 1 degree greater than average. Rainfall was 46.8mms, about 70% of normal. Our rhododendrons were splendid this year, so they must have enjoyed the weather!

You can always look at my website to see the latest situation, and also there is a lot of historical data there. I should like to point out that running this station is a lot of work and it certainly costs a great deal to keep it going. I will probably need a new station computer during the next year or so. Any donations would be most welcome!



Guiche Welcome Evening & Quiz

Friday 24th August

6:30pm - 10:30pm

A great social night & QUIZ

Twelve visitors from Guiche are coming to visit us the weekend we are holding our Auchterhouse Sports Day event.

Please come along to the Village Hall on Friday 24th August at 6:30pm to help us give them a warm welcome to Auchterhouse.

There will be a quiz as part of the night's entertainment and food will be provided (BYOB). Children are very welcome as 4 of the visitors from Guiche are ages 6, 9, 12 & 14.

If you would like to attend and can also help contribute towards the catering in a small way please contact:

Aileen Baird (aileenmbaird@yahoo.com) or
Kellie Smith (kelliesmith47@aol.com)



The School Lane Garden

With the amazing good weather this year, harvesting has come to the garden much sooner than usual. There has been a bountiful crop of very tasty raspberries, sugar snap peas and the sweetest of cabbages. All this bounty started in the middle of the school holidays so a plea was put out to parents to come and share in this feast. The children, after all, have done the bulk of the work in getting the crops to this stage. There will still be fruit and vegetables available when they start back at school on the 14th. If the harvest is as early next year then maybe more of the community will come in to share the harvest.

The plants in the wee pond have grown very well, especially the water lily. We are still waiting to see it flower. What is really exciting is that the pond has had its first aquatic visitor – a toad was seen popping its head out of the plants. Spot the toad in the photo.

That same day I spied a different butterfly on the buddleia and was able to take another photo with my phone. I thought it was a Comma butterfly which is not that common in this part of Scotland. Checking the butterfly book later, I was delighted to see that it was a Comma. It is only the second one we have seen in the area. Like many insects, the warmer climate is helping them move north to new territory. That day I also took a photo of a bumblebee asleep in a nasturtium flower! I think we can safely say that having the garden has increased the bio-diversity of the area.



The School Lane Garden (cont)

We would also like to thank the person who planted a large rhododendron in the flower bed, staking it well. What a nice surprise we got, to think that someone had thought about the garden when taking out a plant they did not need. I would like to know who that person is to thank them personally. We will continue to water it and hopefully make sure it gets established and flowers next year!

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