



Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the first newsletter of 2023. Unfortunately, there will only be 2 editions of the newsletter this year rather than 4. The Community Council are looking for someone new to take over producing the newsletter. Please contact aileenmbaird@yahoo.com if you are interested.

Please keep using our newsletter Facebook page to share details of any local groups or information that benefits our community. If you are new to the page, please take time to read the group rules.

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles this month.

Community Council Update

Communicating the work of Auchterhouse Community Council is an important part of our mandate. We are the most local tier of elected members serving our community. The minutes and agenda are now being sent out to the email list prior to our bi-monthly meetings, so make sure you are on the list. Contact comcouncil@auchterhouse.com to get on the mailing list. Our meetings are open to everyone and you can attend in person or on zoom. We meet every two months on even months. A new noticeboard will be put up in the Park where the minutes will be displayed along with other Community Council information.

At this month's meeting (August 2023), we were pleased to have in attendance two of our four Angus Council Councillors as well as two members of the Community Policing team. One of the constables will attend our meetings if shifts allow. Details of the full team and contact details are below. A police report on incidents in our community and general safety advice will be posted on the email list. Con Brennan left some leaflets warning off doorstep callers and 2 booklets about Neighbourhood Watch. These will be available in the Hall and in the telephone box. If you are interested in getting information on local crimes, crime prevention, property security and other alerts/advice you can sign up to Rural Watch Scotland on www.ruralwatchscotland.co.uk

Sergeant Stewart Ramsay: stewart.ramsay@scotland.police.uk

Constable Martyn Brennan: martyn.brennan@scotland.police.uk

Constable Ronnie Irvine: ronnie.irvine@scotland.police.uk

In the next few weeks a seat will be built circling round the beech tree in the Park. It will give shade in the summer and a bit of shelter in the rain, while providing seating close to the climbing frame. It is being built by a new member of our community using wood from Dronley Wood. Angus Council has given us permission but the seat will be our responsibility so we hope it will be treated with respect.

Community Council Update

We are working to ensure that the plans to replace the bus service to the village will properly serve the needs of our community. As far as we know the current service will continue till the results of the recent consultation will be published. The option to have a dial a ride type service looks as if it might now be an option. It is of real concern though that there appears to be no plans to have a Saturday service. This will particularly impact the option for our young people to access public transport, promoted constantly by the Scottish Government and local authorities. The Councillors present Beth Whiteside and Heather Doran were able to hear the concerns of the meeting which included members of the public. We do urge young people in the community to email Angus Council Transport, Infrastructure Services Team Leader Iain Leith as soon as possible if no Saturday service is unacceptable to them. Email: LeithIKS@angus.gov.uk

The website is being updated where the latest minutes and newsletters will be posted. We are hoping to keep the website more current and relevant providing regular information for everyone locally and worldwide. Someone from Canada contacted us recently through the website about visiting Auchterhouse to see where his ancestors lived.

We do need someone to manage the website on a regular basis. Please get in touch if you can help. Another CPR course will be planned if enough interest is shown. Please contact comcouncil@auchterhouse.com

We continue to work with Angus Council Roads Dept about slow signs, damaged verges and path maintenance. Some issues do take some time to resolve particularly in these financially difficult times so we all have to be patient. Please let us know if there are issues of community concern which we can assist with and we will try to help.

Shiona Baird
Chair or Auchterhouse Community Council

Community Council Update - Planning



This is the Auchterhouse planning applications update from the last CC meeting on 17th August 2023. All earlier planning application information can be found in our published minutes. Planning application details can be found on Angus Council's website.

New Applications

Installation of solar panels at 7 Eastfield Steadings, Auchterhouse DD3 0QP. Ref. 23/00467/LBC (listed building consent)

Updates – Approved

Proposed extension to SE elevation at Knapp Cottage, Auchterhouse, DD£ 0QT Ref. 23/00311/FULL

Updates – Awaiting Decision

Erection of horse shelter etc at land adjacent to Rose Cottage, Auchterhouse, Ref. 22/00780/FULL

The PAN (planning application notification) for possibly constructing 90 new homes in Muirhead (consultation held last summer but no further progress) has now been halted. There is a possibility of a larger development of around 250 homes being proposed with further community consultation in the autumn.

The October Community Council meeting and AGM has had to be moved from the normal 3rd Thursday of every second month. The meeting will be on **Thursday October 26th at 7pm** in the Hall. All are welcome



Auchterhouse Sports Day 2023

Saturday 16th September

Running Order of Events

13:00 – Gates open

13:15 – Caterpillar Race

13:45 – Children's races

14:15 – Zoomba

14:30 – Hill Race

16:00 – Presentation of prizes

19:30 – BBQ & Ceilidh

Hill Race Entry Information

Click on the race button opposite to register online. We 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.

RACE

This year's Hill Race is being very generously sponsored again by Auchterhouse Country Sports. We would like to thank the Christie Family for their fantastic support and enthusiasm for our event.

New colours of the popular "Auchterhouse Hill Race" T-shirts are available to buy in a range of sizes on the day.

TASTY TREATS

- Teas/Coffees/Cake/Sandwiches
- Hot Dogs
- Tuck Shop



GIANT BOUNCY SLIDE



ICE CREAM VAN

Casa Di Gelato will be serving up to 16 flavours of gelato icecream



TOMBOLA

Auchterhouse Parent Council are running this stall. Come along to win some brilliant prizes



TRAYBAKE COMPETITION

Bring your entry to the marque on the day - any type of traybake you can dream up.



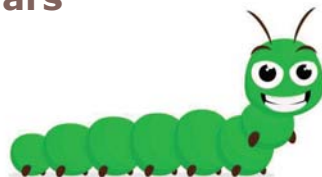
HOME MADE BOOZE COMPETITION

It can be any type of alcohol that you have made yourself. Enter by bringing it along on the day.



CATERPILLAR RACE

- Minimum of 4 people per team
- All racing in one costume/structure
- Over an assault course
- Prizes for best looking and fastest caterpillars



HELP ON THE DAY

Donations of sandwiches and baking for the tea and coffee stall would be greatly appreciated on the morning of the event. Raffle prizes too please!

Sports Day BBQ & Ceilidh

£10 per adult, £5 per child - BYOB

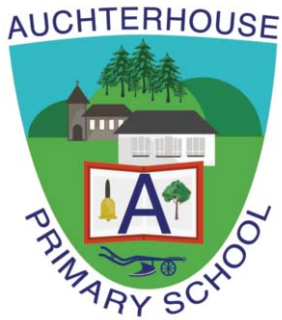
7:30pm to 9:00pm: BBQ (ticket price includes food)

8:00pm to midnight: Alba Ceilidh Band and Disco

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

All children must be accompanied by an adult

Tickets can be purchased from at the information desk at Sports Day or you can pay at the door on the night. Ticket and raffle sales will be in cash only.



Community Café

On Friday 15th September we are holding our next Community Café. Feel free to come along and have a cup of tea, coffee and a cake. The café will be open from 10:00am-12:00pm. Come along to meet other people, pupils, staff and have a nice time.

Rights Respecting Schools

Since August 2019, we have been learning about children's rights and how important they are to us and other children across the world. In June 2022, we proudly became a Gold Rights Respecting School, and we continue to work hard learning more and more.

Charity – Children of Songea

As a school, we decided to focus on one particular charity this year. Money that is raised from events will be donated to the Children of Songea. Everyone from Primary 4-7 decided on The Children of Songea because it is a small charity, and it helps children and their families to have a better life and helps them to have the rights that they are entitled to.

Board Games

If you have any board games that you no longer use, are in good condition and are suitable for primary aged children, please feel free to donate them to our school. You can bring them along to the community café or you can bring them up to the school and we will put them in our games cupboard.

By Alana, Evie and Iona



Auchterhouse Village Hall

The Hall Committee has had a busy few months. We purchased larger dinner plates particularly for Burns Supper and similar catering events. The storeroom floor has been completely relaid and has been glued in place making it much more secure. The old vinyl flooring had been wrinkling for years and was a bit of a trip hazard.

We have appointed 2 teenage boys to clean the floors, windowsills and toilets in the Hall on a weekly basis. A Tayside Contracts ruling meant the school cleaner was prevented from cleaning anything which required the use of steps to reach above her height. This was a sensible ruling for anyone lone working. Our windowsills are quite high but the height of the boys plus a bendy extendable mop ensures these are now safely cleaned regularly. As the Hall is used on several evenings a week, we agreed with the school to clean the toilets weekly and supply paper towels as required. With the cleaning done on a Sunday this generally covers any weekend activities.

The next job on our list is to have the main Hall painted as it's beginning to look a bit scruffy.

These are all rather tedious jobs but essential if we are to continue to have our Hall looking cared for and welcoming to the many users. I am very grateful that we have a constant and dedicated Committee who realise the importance of keeping this asset going. My thanks go to them all, particularly the office bearers who take on the extra responsibilities.



Auchterhouse Village Hall

Particular thanks go to Kellie Smith for organizing and arranging the distribution of the 200 Club tickets this month. This fundraiser is incredibly useful in providing us with the funds to maintain the Hall. I am very conscious that the timing of this work coincides with the start of the new school year, a busy enough time for Kellie as a head teacher so special thanks to her. If ticket holders can use email and internet banking, the workload is much reduced so we thank you all for helping in this but no problem if you are unable to do this, we have a group of helpers willing to come to you.

We are looking forward to all the usual activities starting up after the summer break. A list of the main activities will be posted on the website www.auchterhouse.com

Anyone willing to become more involved with the Committee please contact me, we welcome new faces and new ideas.

Shiona Baird
shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk



We have made a lot of progress at Dronley Community Woodland. We took part in another European Exchange Programme working with four forestry apprentices from Germany in June.

Cora is working for the Forestry Commission Saxony-Anhalt, while Johanna, Johannes and Jorn are working for the Forestry Commission Brandenburg. Johanna, Cora, Johannes and Jorn have been a great help at Dronley Wood and got involved in many aspects of woodland management.

We carried out a lot of weeding around the planted trees. Johanne, Cora, Johannes and Jorn also helped survey several stands of Dronley Wood. These surveys measure and monitor the tree species, stocking density, timber volume and growth development of the trees. The survey results are essential for deciding the appropriate woodland management of the individual stands.

We have used the survey results to calculate the amount of carbon stored in the individual stands. Abertay University is using the data from Dronley Wood in a research project. Pourang Mozafari and Dr. Ehsan Jorat from Abertay University are researching the Carbon Storage of the soils at Dronley Wood. Several Soil samples have been taken in a variety of stands. The soil analysis results combined with the calculated carbon content of the trees will deliver fascinating details about the environmental benefits of Dronley Community Woodland.

We are protecting the environmental benefits by applying Continuous Cover Forestry principles. We want to regenerate and restructure Dronley Wood by encouraging natural regeneration, under-planting and direct seeding. That is a long process and can take several decades.



We want to develop Dronley Wood into a diverse, multi-aged, resilient, irregularly structured mixed woodland to safeguard the ecological, environmental and economic benefits for future generations.

Cora, Johanna, Johannes and Jorn also spent many days with Andrew. They have been cutting and extracting leaning and windblown trees to improve the access for woodland management work in the west part of Dronley Wood. That is fantastic since it allows us to fell and extract windblown timber and trees felled during a chainsaw course.

We also needed to fell some dead trees. Some of the trees died because of damage by the bark beetles. Especially even-aged, single-species conifer stands are very prone to forest pests and diseases in comparison to mixed stands. The bark beetles cause a lot of damage to the cambium layer of the trees. The infested trees will die because of the damage. Our main woodland management aim is therefore to develop Dronley Wood towards a site-adapted, diverse, stable, multi-aged, multi-layered, resilient, mixed woodland.

Our apprentices have been a great help. Thank you very much to Cora, Johanna, Johannes and Jorn. They have been a fantastic help and contributed to developing Dronley Community Woodland towards a mixed woodland for the benefit of future generations. We wish them all the very best for the future and hope to see them again. Cora has successfully finished her 3-year apprenticeship in July. Congratulations to Cora. All the best for the future.

The Education Centre (Bildungshaus Heideland, Heimvolkshochschule der Dübener Heide e.V., Pressel, Germany), which organized the Exchange Programme, visited Dronley Wood on the 23rd of June. It was great to show them Dronley Community Woodland and explain our plans for the future.



We also want to use this opportunity to thank Claire McWilliams and her family, who hosted Cora, Johanna, Johannes and Jorn and made them feel very welcome and at home.

The apprenticeship scheme in cooperation with Forestry Commission Germany has been a fantastic example of the success of the European exchange programme, Erasmus+, which facilitates student exchanges throughout Europe. The Erasmus programme has sadly ended as a direct consequence of Brexit. We hope there will be a new exchange programme. The exchange project has offered apprentices the unique chance to gain work experience in European countries. It has been fantastic that Dronley Community Woodland had the opportunity to be involved in the European Exchange Programme. The exchange programme has been an incredible help for Dronley Community Woodland.

We want to thank everyone involved in the European exchange programme, Erasmus+. Thank you very much to Jana, Paul, Cora, Johanna, Johannes, Jorn and all the members of staff of the Bildungshaus Heide e.V., Pressel, Germany.

Since June, Andrew has continued to extract a lot of felled timber from Dronley Wood. You may have noticed the growing timber stack in the woodland. The timber has been transported and processed into firewood. That is fantastic since it allows us to offer split and processed firewood from now on.

As you know, we manage Dronley Wood according to Continuous Cover Forestry principles. All the timber we sell is felled and extracted using low-impact woodland management measures.

Buying firewood from Dronley Community Woodland will help us to develop Dronley Wood towards a diverse, stable, resilient, multi-aged, multi-layered mixed woodland for the benefit of future generations.

If you are interested in buying firewood from Dronley Wood, you can contact me at:
dronleycommunitywoodland@gmail.com

After a little break in July and August, we will start organizing volunteer days from September onwards. We have a lot of work at Dronley Wood. It would be great to get as many people involved as possible.

Hope to see you soon,
With kind regards,

Dirk
(Woodland Manager Dronley Community Woodland)



School Lane Garden

This report covers most of this year's growing season and what a season of growth it has been. Don't the weeds just love the warmth and the wet, the perfect combination? It's been quite remarkable how many wet Saturdays there have been, meaning the gardening sessions have been curtailed much to the delight of the weeds! I know there are other days in the week but we aging gardeners have our own gardens to attend to and we are beginning to reach our limit.

Thankfully we have been assisted this year by some very enthusiastic pupils from their gardening club. The arrangement since the beginning of the summer term was for them to come out for an hour of their lunch break with Mrs Cowper their head teacher. If the weather was good they had their packed lunch on the lawn while those having school dinners joined us later. All ages were represented and they really worked so hard. The veg plots were weeded and dug over. A variety of veg was sown or planted including peas, carrots, beetroot, onions and potatoes. Leeks, cabbages and kale plants were planted very expertly. Some of the children have been gardening since nursery and they have such knowledge and confidence, it's wonderful to see. Elizabeth helped them sow annual flowers for the new planters which were set up at the bottom of the playground nearest to the road.





At the end of the summer term Mrs Cowper organized a family day in the garden with the added bonus of refreshments also being available. It was a delight to see so many parents and grandparents come along and help weed in the main garden and plant up the tubs in the playground. The tubs have grown well and the flowers have all done well. Extra ones had been bought at the Guild coffee morning, all grown from seed by Sally Clark. Sally grows the most amazing plants, they certainly respond to her nurturing of them.

On a lovely June Friday morning some members of the craft club came and helped do some weeding. Amazing cakes and coffee were provided making for a very pleasant and productive session.

We do appreciate this help and would welcome more. The veggies are coming ready for harvesting and need to be eaten otherwise there is no point in growing them. The raspas were so tasty and we are just waiting for the autumn raspas to ripen. Available just now is kale, cabbage, courgettes, potatoes and beetroot. All we ask is you lift a few weeds in exchange for the vegetables.

Shiona and Iain Baird with the much valued help of Elizabeth Steven.
shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk



Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

The new curling season is fast approaching and this will be L and A CC's 145th year. This is an amazing achievement in itself, given the recent challenges with COVID and the cost of living crisis. The club is hale and hearty with both adults and juniors signed up to curl in the coming season. We curl in Dundee, Forfar and Perth in both external leagues and club competitions. If you are interested in curling or would like to try curling we have a couple of activities for you to consider:

We have our pre season social coming up on Sunday 17th September at 7pm in Auchterhouse hall, a quiz and a chance to catch up with old friends and maybe meet some new ones? BYOB and a sharpened pencil!

A try curling session is available for anyone who would like to try curling. Our session is at Dundee ice rink on 31st October at 6pm. No special kit is required, just warm clothes and a clean pair of trainers. There will be a coach with helpers to get you started.

We are just 5 years away from our 150th anniversary and are compiling information and pictures from previous curling seasons at L and A. If you have any pictures or stories you would like to share with us please contact the club by email secretary@curling.org.uk or on our facebook page.

Liz Furrie
Club Secretary