

Achterhouse Newsletter

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This is our last newsletter for 2022. Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles this year.

Unfortunately there have only been 3 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.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



A Tribute to Garry Stewart

By Shiona Baird on behalf of our community

For many of you, your link with Garry was through the community groups he was involved in and there are a considerable number as you will hear.

Garry and his family moved here in 1975 and he quickly immersed himself in community life. He was elected and attended the inaugural meeting of Auchterhouse Community Council in 1977 and by 1980, he was either secretary or chair till he retired in 2018. The knowledge he gained from engaging with Angus Council officials was immense as he resolved issues and queries raised at Community Council meetings. I took over from Garry as Chair but it was only when he retired from the CC and his role as secretary that I realized how much he did! Not only that, but he also knew so much about village life and would be able to contribute to any discussion with bits of historical information or even which house was situated where. I needed some historical information about the park as we considered a buy out. I went to Google but there was nothing but modern information so I contacted Garry, our local and much more reliable Google and he gave me all the information I needed.



In the early days he would take a pamphlet of church and village information to every new arrival in the village, a great way to meet new people and help them feel a part of our community. Websites and facebook pages do the job now but the personal touch which he supplied was so important. He was instrumental in getting the village sports day started, though we called it a fete then. He was such an organizer and just took on the leadership role so easily.

Alongside all the Community Council work, Garry was also the Chair of the Hall Management Committee.

A Tribute to Garry Stewart

By Shiona Baird on behalf of our community

For years he was Chair and Treasurer and often picked up the slack by taking the minutes. He oversaw the extension to the Hall and maintained good relations with Angus Council as the owner of the Hall. Again he was the one who put up the Christmas tree lights; he sorted the time clock for the external lights. He organized the cleaner in the Hall. He sorted out the prop shed and got us involved in clear outs of old equipment. He dealt with leaks and drainage issues. Angus Council approached me recently wanting to know the line of the power cable under the parking area. Garry knew and even produced a plan which I passed on to them. Garry did step down as Chair of the Hall Committee though still continued as Treasurer. When he stepped down from that role he still remained a member.

All this time Garry still continued his vital role of Treasurer of our Church here, as we have heard. He also volunteered as a driver for FareShare, a charity distributing almost out of date food to organisations like the Salvation Army. He volunteered with the food bank run by Taught by Mohammed. He was a member of Sidlaw Path Network.

Walking with his wee dog gave him the opportunity to meet and chat with fellow walkers round the community. He was a first responder and a Health Walk leader. He co-ordinated the group ordering of oil in the community, which meant getting a better bulk deal. And he still had time for golf!

Now I do refer to Garry retiring but nothing could be further from the truth. He retired from some posts so that he could devote his time to his last and probably greatest success and love – Dronley Wood. He was the Chair of ACWAG Auchterhouse Community Woodland Action Group, working with the then Forestry Commission to look after Balkello and Dronley Woods in the interests of the public, maintaining paths and doing red squirrel surveys. Because of this connection, the Forestry Commission approached him to see if the people of Auchterhouse would like to buy Dronley Wood. So began over 2 years of hard work to meet the deadline for the purchase, setting up a Dronley Wood committee, establishing charitable status, engaging with the community, holding information meetings, filling in application forms for funding, preparing briefs and things like job descriptions.

A Tribute to Garry Stewart

By Shiona Baird on behalf of our community

This was an enormous amount of work which Garry devoted so much time and effort to, along with a sub group of committee members. Tribute should be paid here to Sue, who was a constant support accepting Garry's commitment to this huge project. The wood was purchased in 2019. Garry continued to dedicate so much of his time to not only maintaining the paperwork side of the project but engaging in the physical work of developing the woodland, chopping trees and making new paths.

It is an understatement to say he will be sorely missed. In tribute to his dedication to the Wood, the wreath on his coffin is made from cuttings of the autumn berries and leaves from Dronley Wood, a really touching tribute to him. Garry loved this community and cared deeply about it and its people. The Community Council had been working on the process to have his work truly recognized in the award of an MBE. Alasdair McLeod has done sterling work in fulfilling the requirements and obtaining statements from the many groups Garry was involved in, plus statements of support from over 50 members of the community.

However it is a long process, made worse by Covid and the application was taking so long to be reviewed, that knowing Garry was ill, Alastair compiled a book with the statements and photos to present to him.

Sadly he died before the book was printed but Alasdair had prepared a paper copy of all the statements which Sue was able to read to Garry so he knew how much we cared about him.

Garry was the lynchpin of this community. No-one can replace him and all he did. To quote our Session Clerk Elizabeth Miller, he was and will remain Mr Auchterhouse. He will be sorely missed by so many, but his legacy lives on particularly in Dronley Wood. He was a unique and very special man.

Auchterhouse Community Council Chair's Report

December 2022

My report this year is overshadowed by the loss of Garry Stewart who sadly died in early August. The full tribute to him taken from the eulogy at his funeral service will be printed in the next Newsletter and put on our website. Suffice to say we will never see the like of Garry again with his dedication and service to the community over decades. Sadly our attempt to have him awarded an MBE for all his work was not to be but a book dedicated to him including tributes from people he engaged with around the community was produced and is a fitting tribute to him. The Community Council will work with the Dronley Wood committee to fund a seat, to be placed in a strategic spot in his much loved wood. Some of us did think a seat was maybe not the most appropriate tribute as you rarely if ever saw Garry sitting down in the wood. The other suggestion to name one of the main paths through the wood is also being considered.

The work of the Community Council continued throughout the year. Covid was ever present and we did hold the February 2022 meeting outside to comply with the rules. Using Zoom for meetings proved quite successful sometimes encouraging others to join us.

It was agreed to set up wifi in the Hall free for the use of anyone in the Hall. Hopefully this AGM will be the first when others can join us virtually.

Discussions will continue on a number of topics such as installing a car charging point and setting up or replacing noticeboards. CPR training was successfully organized in two sessions in the Hall. Storm Arwen highlighted the fact that the domestic water supplies up the Brae need to be pumped so the problems of power outages meant many residents also lost their water supply. Scottish Water has been made aware of this and will respond more promptly in a future event. Angus Council have replaced the windows in the Park toilets and repainted the internal walls and floors. The three teenage boy cleaners have been doing a great job and our toilets now have an extremely good reputation for cleanliness and are well used. The proposal to erect some kind of shelter in the Park will continue to be looked at.

Auchterhouse Community Council Chair's Report

December 2022

All the Community Councillors stepped down this year after their term of office ended. There were 8 nominations to fill our allocation of 8 CC members for the next 4 year term of office, so no election was held. Aileen Baird, our very hardworking Secretary and Communications person stepped down because of work commitments but we are delighted to welcome Michael Cowdery as a new Community Councillor.

Aileen has done a magnificent job over the years maintaining the community email list, taking and preparing the minutes and editing the Newsletter. We are very indebted to her for all her hard work. She has agreed to keep editing the Newsletter till a new editor is found. This post is independent of the Community Council so if anyone out in the community is interested please contact me.

Our new team of Community Councillors is:
Linda Cockram (Planning Contact), Michael Cowdery (Secretary), Mark Pearce (Treasurer), Shiona Baird (Chair), John Forster, Helen Smith, Alasdair Macleod and Euan Baird. Darren Law has been appointed an Associate Member. There are vacancies for 3 young people aged between 13 – 16 years.

Anyone interested in taking up one of these positions please contact me. We warmly welcome input from the younger members of our community. It is very gratifying that our Community Council continues to flourish and I extend thanks to all our Community Councillors for their work and support over the year.

Shiona Baird (Chair)

Planning Report for Auchterhouse from 1st November 2021 to 15th October 2022

Nine new planning applications have been submitted and validated in the Auchterhouse area in the year since 1/11/21.

Of the nine applications, all but one of them, were residential. The exception was an application for a new field gate. Six applications were for house extensions or modifications and one was an application to restore and improve a category C listed farmhouse. We did not comment on any of these applications.

The Community Council has submitted an objection to the ninth application to build a new house on a cleared plot of land, on the basis that the proposal exceeded existing housing density, trees were felled without a permit, the application lacked sufficient accurate detail and also to reflect neighbouring residents concerns.

Five of these applications have been approved and four are still pending (including the last one) Although not in our area, but adjacent to it, we did attend consultation meetings in the summer about Muir Homes' proposal to build up to 90 new houses on farmland. Our concern was the possible knock-on effect of additional traffic which might detour through our area and we have submitted that concern in writing.

Linda Cockram,
Planning Contact Auchterhouse Community Council
16/10/22

Auchterhouse Community Council Update

December 2022

Report of the CC Meetings held in October

Inaugural Meeting

The short meeting of 10th October was called by Angus Council to observe the election of office bearers, the timing of this was questioned and will be queried with the Council.

The following Community Council (CC) members were proposed as Office Bearers, Chairperson Shiona Baird, Treasurer Mark Pearce, Secretary Mike Cowdery and Planning Contact Linda Cockram, this will be put to the meeting of the 20th October for ratification.

Annual General Meeting

The Meeting was held on Thursday 20th October, seven members of the Council were in attendance along with 5 members of our community and one person via Zoom. Shiona opened and also advised that the CC had been running since 1977, the previous minutes were agreed without amendment.

Linda provided a detailed report on new and existing planning applications.

In addition, the Office Bearers were confirmed. The next Annual General Meeting will be held on October 2023.

Community Council Meeting

Held on Thursday 20th October directly after the AGM. The minutes of the 18th August were agreed without amendment.

Due to a change of procedure by Angus Council it is no longer possible to co-opt members onto the Council if there were no vacancies, but it is possible to appoint Associate Members with no voting rights. Darren Law was welcomed in this position.

CPR training will be held in spring 2023.

Photos of the closed post boxes have been sent to the Royal Mail to confirm that the village does have them.

Funding for Electric Car charging points has been withdrawn and replaced with grants. The CC will investigate also there are two possible sites being considered, at the hall or at George V Play Park.

Auchterhouse Community Council Update

December 2022

Further discussion took place regarding Planning Applications and the Community Council's role in considering these. The CC has a statutory role as a consultee in any planning application in our area.

Mark advised that the accounts currently stood at £5,788.95, and the WiFi system costs £25 per month which is used to only one percent of its capacity at present.

Discussions took place regarding the purchase and siting a bench in Garry's memory within Dronley Wood.

A wreath has been organised with the school for the Remembrance Ceremony, the cost of materials will be met by the Community Council.

The illegal blocking of the burn is still occurring, measures will be put into place as part of a strategy to address this nuisance.

Next meeting will be on December 15th at 7pm in the Hall. A zoom link will be available on request. These are public meetings so members of the community are warmly welcomed.

AUCHTERHOUSE

COUNTRY SPORTS

HELP FOR KIDS CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2022



In association with Dundee Evening Telegraph
and Stable Kitchens

Evening
Telegraph



1st November - 11th December

Can you help a local
child this Christmas?

Be a donation point!



RECOMMENDED DONATIONS

Arts and Creative Play, Action
Figures & Playsets, Baby and
Pre-school Toys, Electronic and
Educational Toys, Dolls and Soft
Toys, LEGO & Bricks, Games,
Puzzles & Books, Outdoor toys,
Games, Pre-School & Electronics,
Cosy PJ's, Slippers and Dressing
Gowns, Toiletries Gift Sets for
Teenage boys and Girls

HOW TO LABEL

If you would like to get involved
and help support local families
by providing a Christmas gift for
boys and girls from birth up to
the age of 18 years then please
bring these along unwrapped to
the designated drop off point.



01382 575426

Stacey@helpforkids.org.uk

www.helpforkids.org.uk



@helpforkids

Registered Charity Number SC042369

**Supporting Help for Kids Christmas Toy
Appeal. Donations to be dropped off at
Auchterhouse Country Sports.
Last day Saturday 10th December.**



Feed a Pet for Christmas Collection

**We are collecting pet food for the
SSPCA Petterden, Forfar**

**Please drop off at
Auchterhouse Country Sports
by Saturday 17th December**



Save the Date
Saturday 17th December
Auchterhouse
Country Sports
Skin n Tonic - Body Shop
Products &
FM with VM - Designer
Inspired Fragrances
Will be there from
10am-5pm



Pop along for
some last minute
Christmas
shopping. The
Clay Doo Cafe
will be open for
hot food &
coffee too.





AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER - January to June

By John Brush

The year started off with a very dry January when only 20.2mms of rain were recorded. Mean temperature for the month was 4.1°C which is more than 1.5° above average for the month. The result was there was hardly any snow, which is unusual, just traces on the 6th and the 8th. There was a lot of wind especially towards the end of the month. 70mph from WNW was recorded on the 29th, on the 30th (59mph) and the 31st (60mph).

February continued with high winds, I recorded 65mph on the 1st and 59mph on the 10th. Rainfall was well above the average of 57.6mms with 93.2mms. There was some snow with 9cms on the 18th and 4cms on the 24th. Sunshine was above average at 106 hours.

March was again a sunny month with 171.7 hours. This was my second highest sunshine record for March, it having been exceeded in March 2012 at 189.2 hours. Mean temperature for the month was 5.64°C, 0.84° higher than the average of 4.8°C. The coldest day occurred on the early morning of the 31st when -3.3°C was recorded. There was a trace of snow on that morning, the only snow of the month.



AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER - January to June

CONTINUED

April was reasonably dry and there were no extremes of temperature or sunshine. The highest temperature was not as high as March's high of 19.0°C on the 27th. April is normally the driest month at Auchterhouse and there was no exception here. Wind tended to be northerly but no gales recorded.

May 2022 was a fairly sunless month with only 127.4 hours recorded. That corresponds to only 4.1 hours per day. The average for May is about 180 hours. It was quite windy and the mean temperature of 10.8°C was a little above average. Unusually, May had no really warm days with temperature > 20°C.

We found June a bit disappointing as there were not many days when it was pleasant enough to sit out in the garden. Warmest day was on the 20th with 23.3°C. Rainfall was way below the average of 67.2mms with 37.9mms.

John Brush



Achterhouse Primary School

Christmas Fayre

Lots of
stalls



Cake &
Candy

Tea/ Coffee &
Mince pies

Saturday 10th December
10am – 12.30pm
Achterhouse Village Hall



Sidlaw Churches

I have included in this report a letter from our Interim Moderator Rev Donna Hays, which explains what is happening to the Presbyteries in our area and beyond.

I have mentioned before that we are in a Church grouping, where there are seven churches. Invergowrie, Longforan, Inchtute, Abernyte, Muirhead, Fowlis and Auchterhouse. Two of these churches namely Abernyte and Fowlis have to close by 2024. Auchterhouse will go for further discussion to a committee in Edinburgh. We must really work hard to keep our wee church open. It must be seen to be getting used more than just 1 hour on a Sunday. So we are not out of the woods yet. For all these churches we have only been allocated 2 ministers. As we stand we have 3, Rev Donna Hays, Rev Catriona Morrison and her husband Rev Marc Prowe. We are working towards a Union with Lundie & Muirhead and Fowlis & Liff, after that has taken place and running well, Rev Donna will retire. It is mainly thanks to Rev Donna Hays, who is our Interim Moderator, and Graham Leese, who is always on hand to give her a helping hand, that the Church is running so well. We have really good attendances on a Sunday. It is really uplifting.

Garry Stewart

There is one person that is missing from our church and that person is Garry Stewart. It was thanks to him that for many, many years our Church did run very smoothly. Garry died on 2nd August and it was only after he went that we realised how much he really did. Oh we knew he did lots above and beyond but still, when you got down to counting how much he did, it amazed us. It is now trying to fill these posts that is proving a bit difficult. One post that he held for 40 years, was the Church Treasurer. Rest in Peace Garry, we miss you and we will look after Sue and your children.



Sidlaw Churches

Letter from Donna Hays

Across Scotland, the number of presbyteries will drop from more than 40 to less than 12 as part of a drive to meet the demands of 21st century mission. As many of you will now know, the Presbytery of Dundee ceases to exist in its current form at the end of December.

We will then be part of the new Presbytery of Perth which will incorporate the present Presbyteries of Dundee, Angus, Dunkeld & Meigle, Perth and Stirling - a very large body!

I am writing to you, the members of the congregations that I serve, to let you know that I have been nominated as Moderator Designate for the new Presbytery of Perth. I should be formally elected at the first meeting of the new Presbytery on 10 January 2023.

This will not mean any change in my ministerial duties to the parishes of Fowlis & Liff, Lundie & Muirhead and Auchterhouse. If you remember back to 2016, I was Moderator of Dundee Presbytery in the same way.

Of course, it is a great honour to be asked to undertake this role and I feel that it is something to which God is calling me at this time in my ministry. I will be very grateful for your prayers and your support during my year in the role.

Blessings!

Donna M Hays
Minister



Sidlaw Churches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

DECEMBER

- Friday 9th Dec Wreath making workshop at 10am in Auchterhouse Church. Nos. are required. For a place Contact Ruth Leese on 320214 or Margaret Wallace on 825143
- Sunday 11th Dec 10am service in Auchterhouse Church.
- Sunday 11th Dec In the afternoon there will be a joint Service of Quiet and Reflection in Muirhead Church at 2pm.
- Sunday 18th Dec 10am service in Auchterhouse Church.
- Saturday 24th Dec Christmas Eve at 6.30pm in Auchterhouse Church - this will be a joint service
- Saturday 24th Dec Christmas Eve at 11.30pm - this will be joint service in Fowlis Church
- Sunday 25th Dec Christmas Day at 11am - this will be joint service in Muirhead Church including Holy Communion.

JANUARY 2023

- Sunday 1st Jan 11am service in Fowlis Church - this will be a joint service

Carol singing for SHELTER

Due to a lack of numbers it has been decided that the carol singing will not take place this year. So sorry to disappoint all of you who look forward to having us sing for you. As an alternative we will be holding a carol singing evening, led by Graham Leese in the evening of 18th December at 6pm. It will be a lovely evening of solo and community singing and poetry followed by Mulled wine and mincemeat pies. Look forward to seeing you all there.

A Merry Christmas and Happy 2023 to you all.

Elizabeth Millar

Church of Scotland Guild at Auchterhouse

“Whose I am and Whom I serve”

Theme for the year - “Wee seeds, Big trees”

Tuesday 13th Dec. 2.30pm in Church, the school will join us for Christmas themed music etc. Rosemary Wright will be playing for us.

In 2022 we have grown in number and that is just wonderful to see. We meet in the Church on second Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. Please come and join us, there is plenty room for lots more Ladies and Gentlemen.

2023

- On 10th January at 2.30pm, contrary to what I have just said, we will be joining with Strathmartine Guild to hear The Spectrum Choir. This is a great opportunity to get to know our neighbouring Guild members.
- Next two meetings are both part of the six new Guild Projects for 2022-2024. The Guild all over Scotland raised £638,00 for the 6 Projects 2019—2021. These next two meetings are on first Tuesday of month.
- Tuesday 7th February at 2.30pm Vine Trust. Hope on Tanzania. Help with building a village consisting of 40 homes, Health centre and Community Hub, talk by Robert Alexander.
- Tuesday 7th March at 2.30pm Unida. Hear our Voice in Brazil, will help educate young omen through Theological Education, talk by graham McGeoch. Strathmartine Guild will join us for this meeting.
- Tuesday 11th April at 7.30 pm Tayside Upcycling Centre talk by Alfie Ianatta.
- Tuesday 9th May at 7.30pm A.G.M.
- Saturday 3rd June sees the return of our Coffee Morning and Plant Sale to its usual date. 10am until 12pm. This is a great opportunity to meet up with friends old and new.

Contact names are Elizabeth Millar 380219 and Sandra Murray 320317

School Lane Garden

Another gardening year over but for some general pruning and tidying up. The flowers have enjoyed the summer heat, giving a good show all year. The sunflowers did really well making a lovely feature. The courgettes and potatoes were very successful. The raspberries never fail in abundance and flavour though not enough get picked. The red currants also did well and will last all winter as delicious red currant jelly. The apples did not develop so well despite it being a bumper crop in most other gardens but that's gardening, some you win and some you lose.

A group of schoolchildren came out in the Spring and helped plant the potatoes. It was lovely to have them out again but at that time there was no plan to do regular gardening activities. I have to confess that we are three years older than when we last had regular garden sessions before Covid struck and we were concerned that our energy levels might not cope with a group of very enthusiastic children. The perfect solution was found when Mrs Cowper asked if the children could have a plot of their own to plant and look after themselves. The potato patch was the most obvious starting point with the children lifting the potatoes and seeing the fruit of their labours in the Spring. They always mow the grass, still one of their favourite activities and they have taken on a project we had planned but never got round to. They have cleared a neglected piece of ground behind the willow tunnel ready for sowing with grass seed in the Spring, the plan being to join the new grass with the original grassed area. What pleases me so much is that not only are the children reducing our workload but this new group of children will learn how to sow a lawn, plant and harvest their own vegetables. This is a great lesson for them in these cash trapped times.

As always, we would be delighted to get more help and the reward is gentle exercise and some fruit and veggies to take home at harvest time.

Shiona Baird, Tel: 320435 or email shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk





Auchterhouse Village Hall

The Hall Committee held its quarterly meeting in September. While it was quite well attended we would welcome more representation from the groups using the Hall.

We are still working on how to best manage the regular cleaning of the main Hall. The floor is often dirty as witnessed at close proximity during Pilates exercises! We do have 2 willing volunteers to clean but we still have to purchase an appropriate vacuum cleaner. There are also issues about when the toilets are cleaned for the school by Tayside Contracts and when we need to do them. We do ask all users of the Hall to check them at the end of meetings and events and empty the waste bins. The Hall Committee has been asked to supply paper towels as our use is greater than the school's. The cost to the school comes out of their individual school budget so we happily agreed to this.

The 200 Club draw had been delayed but we have now caught up and the Christmas draw is eagerly awaited.

New flooring for the storage room is to be purchased along with 2 new door mats.

Some new visitors to the Hall have been uncertain as to its whereabouts so it has been agreed that a sign be fixed to the wall which will clearly state the presence of our Hall.

The next meeting will be on January 26th 2023.

Shiona Baird (Chair)



Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

As a club, Lundie and Auchterhouse have been busy since we stepped back on the ice on the 1 October for the Forfar Curling Club Opening Bonspiel, which includes our two club Bonspiels club leagues and leagues at Dundee and Forfar.

Forfar Bonspiel Philip and his team of Dave, Graeme, and Dougie against Dun Curling Club, which we have played most Forfar Bonspiels from what I heard, it was a fun afternoon, and they all had a great time, but sadly they didn't bring home the Trophy on this occasion. When we headed to Dundee for their Opening Bonspiel on Monday, 24 October that Judith and her team of Andrew, Liz and Ralph were the proud winners on the evening.



On Thursday, 6 October 2022, the club had our annual Opening Bonspiel. This is a chance for members to get used to being back on the ice after the summer. It was a fun evening with eight teams playing four ends and swapping over. The overall winner on the night was Steve and his team of Bruce and Ewan.



Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

The next time we were all together was Sunday, 13 November, for our Annual Club Bonspiel, where 24 members took over Forfar for an afternoon followed by a meal. We had our juniors playing with a team of members that played with a delivery stick, and it was great to see them in action, with some impressive shots throughout the afternoon. After playing four ends and moving teams and playing another four ends, the winners of the best prizes of the afternoon, the Wooden Spoons, were Susan and her team of Stick delivery members Bruce, Graeme and Ralph.



Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

Stranraer for our annual Curling weekend

Two teams attended curling weekend at North West Castle, Stranraer. These comprised Dave, Neil, Graeme and Heather (Team 2) and Neil and Judith, Liz and Ralph Hopkins, making up Team 1.

Three curling games against other clubs were played over Saturday and Sunday, followed by a semi-final and final on Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately, team 2 failed to qualify for the afternoon, but team 1 stormed through to the last, losing a close game against Broomhall Curling Club from Kinross. This gained them an invitation to the Dalrymple Cup competition at the end of the season. The weekend was friendly, meeting other clubs and enjoying some lovely food and the "occasional" drink.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year and the start of 2023, a lot is going on, which includes a club heading into the next round of the following Knockouts in Forfar and Dundee, Patterson Trophy (Dundee) Callendar Trophy (Forfar) For the Kea dads and Daughters they are into the next round to the Panmure Pairs (Dundee) on 8th December.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas. See you all in 2023.

