



Auchterhouse Newsletter

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Welcome to the 1st newsletter of 2022. Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles this month. If you have any content/articles for future newsletters please send them to: aileenmbaird@yahoo.com.

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.

We also have a village email distribution list. if you would like to join the list please email: comcouncil@auchterhouse.com

Community Council Update - November to February



CPR Training

Helen Bradey is offering sessions again for CPR training. We will give priority to the people who missed out on the last cancelled session due to Covid starting. There will be groups of 10 rather than 20 this time. The first session is booked with 8 people attending on 10th March at 7pm in the village hall.



Sidlaw Path Network/Local Path Access

A route between the village & Strathmore is being considered and a representative from Angus Council will come to a meeting to consult the public. The core path behind Scotston Farm has been badly damaged due to heavy machinery conducting planned tree felling. The contractor who is working in the forestry block has agreed to put the path back to its original state after the works are completed. The local walks leaflet has not moved forward as awaiting comments from some land owners. Most of these paths are existing and it is hoped they will become part of the Sidlaw Path Network.



Storm Arwen

In the event of a storm where we lose electricity and water we need to create a neighbourly network so we can help each other out. We could set up a resilience committee with volunteers to form a plan for when incidents happen. They would work with a volunteer/point of contact for each street/area to report to issues or get people help.

Community Council Update - November to February



Planning (status at the time of CC meeting minutes being published)

New

- 1/00782/FULL and 21/00783/LBC - (listed building consent) are for alterations to Kirkton House which is Grade C listed, built in the early 19th century.
- 21/00750/FULL (Sunnyhall Mill, Lundie) is a proposal to demolish an old stone barn and to build a house using the original stone as much as possible.
- 21/00851/FULL - a double storey extension to Newton of Auchterhouse Farm DD2 5PB. This involves significant alterations to the existing roof and checks for bat roosts have found no problem.

Approved

- 21/00335/FULL - the viewing shelter and pond at Thriepley House by the Round Loch at Lundie (a designated SSSI) - has now been approved (with consent from SNH)
- 20/00805/FULL - to build a summerhouse and path beside the Round Loch at Lundie has been approved at last with conditions which reflect the importance of conserving the loch's SSSI status.
- 21/00782/FULL and 21/00783/LBC - to make alterations at Kirkton House, which has category C listing, has been approved with conditions which reflect the house's listed status.

Awaiting Decision

- 20/00805/FULL - a timber summerhouse beside the Round Loch at Lundie
- 21/00750/FULL - The application to convert and extend the old mill at Sunnyhall to create a house is still being considered.

For updates on the status of all applications please visit:
https://www.angus.gov.uk/planning_and_building

AUCHTERHOUSE PARENT COUNCIL PRESENTS:

LIVE VOCALIST



DEBORAH HOPPER



MUIRHEAD & BIRKHILL
BOWLING CLUB

£10—TICKETS IN ADVANCE

AVAILABLE FROM GREWAR'S FARM SHOP, DRONLEY FARM

SAT 26 FEBRUARY

FUNDRAISER FOR AUCHTERHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL

THIS EVENT HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED

Unfortunately the party night has been postponed. The new date is:
Saturday 26th March.

If you have bought a ticket please let us know if you would like a refund or if you would like to roll your ticket money over to this new date (contact Aileen on 07919281405). Tickets will be remain on sale at Grewar's Farm Shop for this new event date.

We have some fantastic rafle prizes on the night:

- Self-catering weekend away in Elie
- Signed Dundee United Top
- Rare Auchterhouse Hill malt whisky

Thanks for supporting our local school.

Auchterouse Parent Council



Many volunteers joined in the big planting effort in the last 3 months of 2021 to safely get about 2,500 oak 1,600 hazel and 250 lime into the cleared areas for them on the north side of the wood. Many thanks are due to every one of them for their efforts on most Wednesdays and Saturdays. Some hazel have gone into the earth bank at the east side of the car park. All the oak remaining in our nursery (about 350 trees) have been earmarked for areas among the pine trees which been cleared of trees by Dirk and Andrew.

Extensive clearing of poor and windblown trees has been carried in many areas by Dirk and Andrew - recently assisted by Martin Kemp. Stacks of logs beside the forest road have been built up ready for sale.

The late November storm created havoc with both our shelter and the tool store (horse box) in the nursery taking direct hits from fallen trees, of which well over 300 fell. Most of the paths had to be closed because of fallen or hanging trees but these have all been cleared by the before mentioned during the last 2½ months. In the next 2 months a contractor will come in to clear and remove the large area of pine (near the forest road) flattened by Arwen.

Dirk has applied for funding to pay for the time spent by our chain-saw experts and hopefully Aviva Community funding will help us. Their funding is linked to Crowdfunding and will be publicised very soon, so look out for details and please give generously.

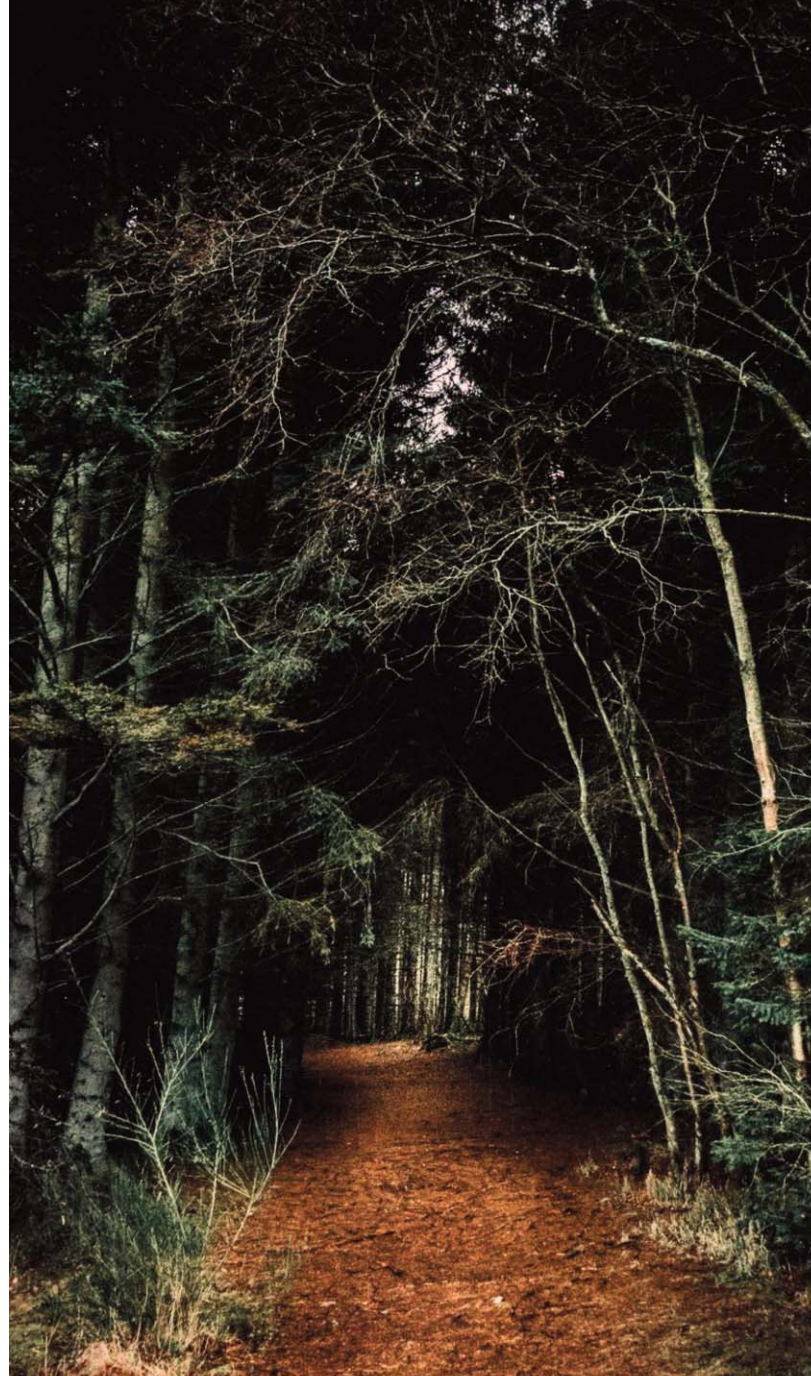
Dronley Wood (continued)

Anyone wishing to help with future work will be welcomed with open arms and should contact Dirk on: 07388 807492 or at: ccfsporleder@gmail.com.

Wednesday & Saturday work parties will be organised for March onwards.

Our AGM was held on 30th September. At this meeting two new board members -Sandra Ewen and Raitt Marshall were elected and Chris Turns retired.

Garry Stewart
Email: Drummuir@btinternet.com
Tel: 01382 320339





**AUCHTERHOUSE- GUICHE
TWINNING ASSOCIATION**



Invite you to support the
Scottish rugby team

Auchterhouse Village Hall
Saturday 26th February 2022
1pm to 4.30pm
Pre-match pie for £3.

£1 of this will be donated to Alistair Baird towards his
Kilimanjaro climb



Scotland V France rugby
match will be projected

Bring your own drinks/
snacks





AUCHTERHOUSE WEATHER 2021

By John Brush

The year started with a frosty January, there being frost on 27 days. There was a little snow during January, but very little compared with February, when much snow fell, being 30 cms deep on the 10th and 11th of the month. February was a dull month, and total precipitation was 187.2mms, way above the average of 57.6mms for that month. Temperature during January was way below average, but more normal for February.

March was relatively snowless, the temperature being 6.07°C, which is higher than the average of 4.8°C for that month. It was relatively dry with 43.7mms of rain compared with the average of 65.4mms. April's mean temperature was 5.03° which was considerably less than March's figure. There were 19 days with air frosts. However the sunshine hours for the month were 218.9 hours almost a record for that month. Rainfall was very low at 14.8mms.

May was very wet with 170.8mms, almost a record for May. It was also particularly dull, which really showed up as May is often the sunniest month. June was dry but not particularly sunny and the temperature managed to reach 23.3°C on the 23rd.

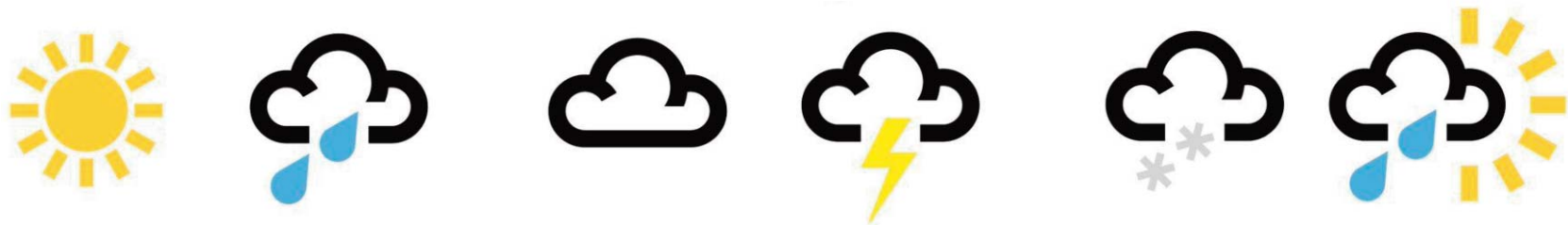
I acknowledge again the help received when the anemometer stopped by tree surgeon Duncan Sanger and Garry Stewart. As it happened, the problem was eventually traced to a cable which was tripped over by a roe-deer in our garden. However the cabling on the mast is now much better and should last...

July was a pleasant month with 153.9 hours of sunshine and mean temperature of 15.5°C although there were 78.8mms of rain, against an average of 91.6mms. There was mist/fog on no less than 8 days which is unusual for July. Warmest day of the year turned out to be on the 17th of that month. The weather during August was nothing special and quite a lot of rain at the wrong times may have contributed to preventing Auchterhouse Sports from taking place. August was not particularly sunny and rainfall was 85.3mms, which is less than the August average of 99.3mms.

September's sunshine was almost the same as August's which is surprising given the fact that the days are a lot shorter at that time. Rainfall was closest to average at 61.5mms. October had no less than 10 sunless days with a total of 66.2 hours, making it a rather dull month with 139.9mms of rain, way above average of 97mms.

November was a very dry month with only 40.7mms of rain. It was notable for some very high wind gusts caused by hurricane Arwen on 26th November when I recorded 72mph. Our power went off shortly after that so there may have been higher gusts. We were without power for about 48 hours (as were many Auchterhouse residents). We were glad to have a propane heater which kept us from getting too cold as the temperature was pretty low during that period being just above freezing point.

December 2021 was a very dull month with no fewer than 16 dull days. Mean temperature was 3.2°C, close to the average for that month of 2.6°C. Only 45.2 hours of sunshine were recorded and 94.9mms of rain, a little higher than the average for that month.



People often ask me if I can detect global warming in my figures. I also notice from the previous version of Auchterhouse Newsletter that Auchterhouse School had been discussing global warming.

I have been taking records of Auchterhouse weather since March 1996. My father also had some records taken in the period 1959 to 1967 and my brother has some records from 1967 to 1972 or thereabouts. It would have been better if the records went back further. My father's house was Waterston's at the top of the Brae, which is arguably quite a bit colder than my house near the war memorial.

I have calculated the average temperatures at my father's house and my brother's allowing for the different altitudes for the years 1959 to 1973 and the calculated average temperature was 7.32°C . For the years 2006 to 2021 at my location the figure is 8.05°C , an increase of 0.73°C . This is quite a lot lower than the 1.5° quoted by environmentalists but they are talking about the increase since the industrial revolution, a much longer time. Also individual locations are subject to unusual events; for the year 2010 we had at Auchterhouse a very cold November to December and that made the mean temperature for the year 6.61° which is much lower than the long term average of 8.05°C .

John Brush





OPEN
WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY



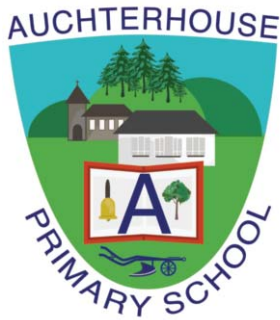
Wake Up



BREAKFAST-LUNCH-HOMEBAKING

01382-320266

#SUPPORTLOCAL



This is our termly Auchterhouse school newsletter post and these are some of the things we have been getting up to this term.

Rights Respecting School Garden

One of the things we have done this term is the pocket garden. The pocket garden is a mini design for our Rights Respecting School garden. It is also a school competition to make a small garden. We have been working hard to think about what supplies to use.

Connecting Classrooms – Small Steps Towards a Brighter Future

Another thing this term is Connecting Classrooms. We are working with a school in Pune, India. We started a project called 'Small Steps Towards a Brighter Future'. We have three groups, and they are 'If you are fantastic then do something drastic to cut the plastic' and what we are doing for that is plastic free Friday and that is when we don't bring in a snack with plastic on Friday. The second one is 'Think Global Eat Local' and for that we have got a hot compostor and a veggie garden. The third one is 'From Little Seeds Grow Mighty Trees' and for that we are going to plant trees in the Rights Respecting school's garden and we have also been part of planting tree saplings at Dronley Woods.

UNCRC Presentation

A group of pupils from Primary 4-7 presented to Head teachers and pupils who are part of the Rights Respecting Schools Group from Monifieth High. We felt nervous having to present to all these people, but we had lots of great feedback.

Rag Bag

Remember if you're having a clear out, clothing can be bagged up and put in the collection bin that sits within the school playground. This can be done at any time throughout the year, and the bin will be emptied when full or at our next Rag Bag collection day.

Thank you,
Alana, Bridget, Evie, Iona & Harry

Look Down

We've been having a very mild winter so far and with snowdrops and aconites flowering, Spring is nearly here. However I want to look back to last summer when I was lucky to have a lovely walk along Funny Neuk and up Greenford Hill last July with a couple of experts in wild flowers. Funny Neuk, a lovely name, is the track at the bottom of Greenford Hill which runs parallel to Braeside and carries on right through to Balluderon.

The first section of the path has an amazing array of wild flowers and butterflies. There are the usual ones like Yarrow (white), Scabious (pale lilac) and Ragwort (yellow) all about 30cms tall. Low down were yellowy orange bird's foot trefoil, yellow tormentil, the tiny blue flowered Speedwell and the very delicate Eyebright. Well worth crouching down to look at the daintiest wee white flowers. A bit further on was a bright orange flower called fox and cubs. I wonder who named that! The best sighting was of several Common Spotted Orchids – lovely purple spikes. How can these beautiful plants be called "common"! Among the thistles were tortoiseshell butterflies and lots of 5 and 6 spot Burnet day flying moths, bright red spots on a black body.

Further up the hill among the heather was the dull white Sneezewort. Like Yarrow, they both belong to the Achillea family, now propagated into bright colours of a popular garden plant. We spied the occasional Harebell, with its delicate blue bells.



Look Down (continued)

Over the top of the hill on to the plateau area is the Site of Special Scientific Interest or a SSSI, where we spotted growing among the heather, cowberries, crowberries, blueberries and occasional cranberries, unusual in Angus. The SSSI is designated as a subalpine dry heath (also known as upland dwarf shrub heath) and is one of the largest and least disturbed upland heaths in Angus away from the Highland area. The heather is becoming rank and is smothering other plants but we did spy the two leaves of Twayblade. On the way back we spotted a solitary Wintergreen flower, quite a rare plant.

Coming down the track past the old water house (it used to supply the water to the village), we saw a huge number of small pearl bordered fritillary butterflies as well as meadow brown, ringlet and the occasional dainty small blue butterfly.

Altogether a fascinating couple of hours which will hopefully encourage you to look up to see the birds (see the summer edition of the Newsletter) and down to see the myriad flowers (far more than I have named here) and butterflies as you walk over the hill.

Shiona Baird





Well done to everyone who won a prize in the 200 club draws this year. The draws are now all complete until the next one in August 2022. Tickets for the next year will be distributed from June.

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has continued to support the hall committee by purchasing a ticket this year. There have been a few changes to the numbers this year and we currently have one number free. The existing ticket holders for all numbers will continue but if you would like to put your name down for a new number, please email me at kelliesmith47@aol.com. If numbers become available, I will take names from the list or if demand is sufficiently high, I will create some additional tickets.

The Hall Committee.



Auchterhouse Village Hall

The Hall Committee is delighted to welcome new activities in the Hall. Pilates classes are now being held twice a week Mondays and Thursdays and a pickleball class has started later on a Thursday evening. Pickleball is a cross between tennis and badminton and is suitable for all ages. Pilates is challenging but is proving beneficial to this 75 year old, so no excuses, you too can get fit with classes on our doorstep.

With Garry Stewart deciding to step down in the next year from his long held role of Treasurer, we put out a request for an eventual replacement. We were delighted to receive an offer within a few days of the request and then received another offer of help with the Hall Committee. This was so encouraging and we were really pleased to welcome them both to our last meeting.


The Hall Committee is working on an application to Angus Council's Village Hall Fund. We have to rule out a mobile generator due to cost and practicalities of maintenance and installation but instead we are looking to install WiFi in the Hall which will benefit our organisations and / or a car charging unit at the Hall. The application has to be in at the end of this month so we will let you know how we get on in the next newsletter.

Shiona Baird (Chair) 320435 email: shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk

The Scurry



SECURE DOG EXERCISE AREAS

 Pre-register on our
Facebook page @The Scurry



Secure dog exercise area ideal
for letting your dogs run free
without worry.

Open 7 days a week.

Book through our Facebook
page. You can find us at
Auchterhouse Country Sports



Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

What a fantastic Winter Olympics for team GB Curling with both the men and women reaching the finals. If you watched both finals, you saw excellent Curling. We won Silver in the men team, Skipped by Bruce Moat, followed women team, Skipped by Eve Muirhead, winning Gold.

Hailey has played against our Club a few times in Forfar over the years, and we are proud of what she has achieved.



Back home to Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club, we have had our own achievements over the last couple of months, including the following. On Tuesday, 9 November 2021, Dave Smith and his team of Hamish Brown, Judith Strachan and Bruce Buchan and Phil Murrie, Neil Mackintosh, Andrew Skea and Brian Taylor took part in the Dundee and District Lord Kinnaird Trophy. Both teams won and went through to the next round of the Zermatt Knock-out Trophy.

Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

Dave Smith team won the Province Medal with the highest up shots, and Phil Murrie team won the Lord Kinnaird Trophy on the night. They both played each other on Tuesday 18 January, where Dave Smith won over, and they played Broughty Ferry 2 on Tuesday 1February it was not their night. As a club, we are proud of what Dave and his team of Hamish Brown, Judith Strachan and Bruce Buchan achieved as part of this province knockout competition. A few weeks ago, Dave and his senior team reached the finals of the Smith Seniors Knockout competition at Dundee Ice Arena were up against a strong team on the day.

On Sunday, 30 January, Steve Adam and his team of Dave Smit, Brain Taylor and Liz Mathew, and Mari Brown team of John Smith, Sandi Buchan, and Heather Brown-headed through to Forfar for a Friendly against Suittieside Curling Club. Mari team won 9-1, and Steve team drew 5-5. A great afternoon we were had by all. After some interesting ends we retained the Suttieside Salver for another year. The Club is proud of Dave's achievement so far in this season.

On Thursday, 17 February, 14 members, 5 of them were juniors, headed through to Forfar Indoor Sports for our Annual Club Points. Members are asked to carry out 10 Curling Disciplines – ones you have heard mention throughout the Curling the two weeks – Guards, Hit and Role, Tap Back etc.

Each member is scored through the different disciplines and the final scores is out of 40. It was a fun evening with our President Jenny Arbuckle scoring, supported by Andrew and John Skea.

Andrew Skea – 22

Dave Smith – 14

Judith Strachan – 14

Calum Skea – 13

Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club



Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

As Club we still have a wide range of games still to play before the end of the season, including being invited to take part in Forfar Curling Club 225 Anniversary Bonspiel on Tuesday 22 February. Our Vice President – Judith Strachan, Mari Brown, John and Dave Smith will represent us in this fantastic Anniversary Bonspiel.

Have you have been inspired after watching Curling as part of the Winter Olympics and would like to give it a Try or even join the Club. We are a great bunch of curlers and always happy to welcome new members. I came to Curling after the Try Curling event through work which we then booked ice and had a go and then attended the Beginners course and joined Dundee Virtual Club (new Gateway Club) along with Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club. Nine years ago is coming up, and I have not looked back. I have won curling competitions, including a Virtual event at Braehead and twice the main League and the Ladies Topps Competition with Lundie and Auchterhouse and a few Bonspiels over the years. I have also been an active coach for some years and support new members of the Club.

Curling is a sport everyone can do no matter your age or ability. There is a wide range of equipment to allow you to Curl safely and enjoy being part of a great Sport, and you could be the next Bruce Moat or Eve Muirhead.

<https://www.trycurling.com/>

Please get in touch by emailing secretary@curling.org.uk checking out our website <http://www.curling.org.uk/> or giving me a call on 01307461461 happy to help and answer any of your questions.

Karen Smith Club Secretary.





School Lane Garden

The January weather was a gift to gardeners but February is now looking and feeling a bit more like winter. The snowdrops and aconites are flowering and the daffodil spikes are shooting up, heralding the approach of Spring, which is so encouraging.

Obviously not that much can be done in the garden at this time of year but we were able to get a lot of the pruning done and importantly we dug out the compost heap. The compost had broken down well and it has all been spread out on the vegetable plots. Compost heaps are amazing when you can see all the weeds and cuttings broken down back to good earth. When the school children were out for their gardening sessions they did like the job of stamping down the weeds. I know compost heaps need good air circulation but the work the children did has worked.

Gardening can be so rewarding, especially when you can still harvest carrots, beetroot and winter greens. At a time of rising food prices, growing your own really does help the budget as well as keeping you fit and stimulated.

We would welcome help if you want to join us on Saturday mornings, starting regularly again in the Spring.

Shiona Baird email: shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk