

# Auchterhouse Newsletter

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This is a very special edition of our village newsletter because it has been produced by the P4-7 children of Auchterhouse Primary School. They have skilfully curated, edited and produced the content resulting in an action packed read.

Look out for the Christmas Quiz on Page 29! There is a fantastic prize for the winner. Read on to learn more.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





Welcome to the December Auchterhouse Community newsletter, the last one this year! We have some fun activities this newsletter for you to do like a wee Christmas quiz. The prize is a voucher for the Pinecone Café for crepes and hot chocolate for two people.

There are some interesting articles again for you to read, for example the tennis championship of 2024 and Sports Day next year featuring your precious little furry friends we call dogs! Thank you to everyone that submitted articles for this newsletter.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Children of Auchterhouse Primary School.

# Auchterhouse Community Council Chair's Report

## October 2023

Auchterhouse Community Council (ACC) has started another 4 year term following our election in October 2022. As we had 8 applicants for the 8 places we did not have an actual election. The new team is as follows:

Shiona Baird (Chair), Mike Cowdery (Secretary), Mark Pearce (Treasurer), Linda Cockram (Planning Contact), Helen Smith, Alasdair Macleod, John Forster and Euan Baird. Darren Law was co-opted specifically for his planning knowledge.

We have been busy throughout the year with some visible examples of our work, namely the seat in Dronley Wood as a lasting tribute to Garry Stewart. This was made by our local joiner Martyn Kemp who fittingly used larch wood from Dronley Community Woodland to create the bench. A very welcome newcomer to the Auchterhouse community Johnny Sneddon, has already left a wonderful legacy in the design and construction of the circular seat round the beech tree in the Park. This is a unique, impressive addition to our Park which we hope will be treated with the respect it deserves.

There have been ongoing issues to deal with such as the rather haphazard placing of books in the

telephone box. Anything left on the concrete floor just gets damp and has to be thrown out. The defibrillator has had books placed too close to it to allow it to be grabbed quickly in an emergency. We are planning to have a frame placed round it to protect it. The defibrillator was taken to an incident in the village but fortunately was not needed. As we have had it for 5 years now, the pads and batteries were renewed as advised. CPR classes are being planned again so keep a look out for more information in the future.

Notice boards are another recurring issue. A notice board in the Park was deemed a better position than in the Hall garden. A decision on the most appropriate one will be made soon.

The most important current issue is the planned removal of the bus service to the village. This is a lifeline to a few people in Auchterhouse and the surrounding countryside but Angus Council deems it too expensive to continue on its present timetable with the limited usage. We have strenuously opposed this proposal and are waiting for a decision in the next week or two. If nothing else, a form of dial a ride would be acceptable. We will maintain a watching eye on the outcome.

# Auchterhouse Community Council Chair's Report

## October 2023

Our community website, auchterhouse.com has recently been updated and is full of interesting facts and details of community activities. Our community email list and FaceBook page are both valuable tools for keeping up to date with community information. Contact [comcouncil@auchterhouse.com](mailto:comcouncil@auchterhouse.com) to join. Also please use this address if you have any issues or suggestions to improve life in our community. We welcome participation in our Community Council work. Warm thanks go to Aileen Baird who maintains the website and the Newsletter, though after doing this for more than 10 years she would welcome the chance to pass the work on to another helpful volunteer.

Our plans for the future include gates beside the toilets for the Park to allow parents to give their toddlers more freedom without fear of them running out onto the road. We are also going to start looking at new equipment for the Park, especially for younger children. At the road end, there are plans to install secure bike racks within the old bus shelter.

Our thanks go to the three young men who do a great job in keeping the toilets clean. We have passed on the praise we get for maintaining such a useful facility.

The Council gives us an annual grant for which we are very grateful.

Thanks to all the hardworking members of the Community Council who all make my job as Chair so much easier. Special thanks to Linda Cockram for all the time and attention she gives to planning applications, our Secretary Mike Cowdery who is the contact for all the everyday work of the Community Council and Mark Pearce, our Treasurer, who is so helpful, often going beyond his official remit. Thanks to you all.

Thanks also to the Angus Councillors Beth Whiteside and Heather Doran who attend our meetings regularly. We have been very pleased to welcome Police Con. Martyn Brennan. He is one of the team of local Community Police Officers who has attended our meetings. Their attendance reinforces the value and importance of continuing to maintain a Community Council in Auchterhouse since its inaugural meeting in 1977!

Shiona Baird (Chair)

# Update since October which was our last bi-monthly meeting

## **BUS SERVICE**

The new demand responsive bus service has started. The new timetable and information on how to book your seat is on the Auchterhouse website, at [auchterhouse.com](http://auchterhouse.com). We would be very interested to hear of your experiences good or bad with this new service so please contact us at [comcouncil@auchterhouse.com](mailto:comcouncil@auchterhouse.com). This is a pilot project and Angus Council has agreed to look at any issues which may arise.

## **WORK AT THE PARK**

The notice board for the park has been purchased. However it will need a frame to attach it to the fence at the recycling centre. It is hoped that this will be done soon so that we can start using the notice board for items such as the new bus timetable. The plan for the gates and fence for the park has been made but will require a bit of muscle to put in the strainer posts. Any offers please contact me [shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk). The period product display container which Angus Council supply is not suitable for our toilets so we plan to purchase a wall mounted one; just have to choose which one. Once these jobs have been completed we will start to look at new play equipment and resurfacing the tennis court. Any ideas on either would be very welcome.

## **PLANNING UPDATE**

Eleven new planning applications were scrutinised but none needed comment. We are following up the issue of how trees on potential building land can be better protected, with Forestry and Land Scotland and Angus Council, now that "The Whins" site application is concluded. We also contacted FLS to object to the proposed car parking charges at Balkello Wood on behalf of local users. A major development proposal for around 300 houses at Muirhead is being kept under scrutiny, mainly because of possible knock-on effects of increased traffic for Auchterhouse.

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on **December 21st 2023 at 7pm** in the Hall to which all are welcome. Mince pies might be provided if someone remembers!

## Church Services During December

10th December - 10:00am Auchterhouse & 11:00am Muirhead 2nd Sunday in Lent

17th December - 10:00am Auchterhouse & 11:00am Muirhead 3rd Sunday in Lent

ALL THE FOLLOWING SERVICES IN DECEMBER ARE JOINT ONES

17th December - 2:00pm, Quiet and Reflection in Muirhead Church

24th December - 11:00am Muirhead, Church Lessons & Carols

- 6.30pm Auchterhouse, Family Service

- 11.15pm St Marnock's, Watchnight Service

Christmas Day - 11:00am Muirhead Church with Communion

31st December, 11:00am St Marnock's Fowlis

Back to the usual pattern on 7th January:

10:00am Auchterhouse

11:00am St Marnock's, Fowlis

A Merry Christmas and Happy 2023 to you all.

Elizabeth Millar





# Auchterhouse Church of Scotland Guild

"Whose I am and Whom I serve"

Theme for the year

"New wine, New wineskin"

Session 2023/2024

Syllabus

12th December: Christmas Songs with Alison Bishop and Friends from Broughty Ferry, very much recommended.

2024

9th January - The story of the Olive with Tim and Stella Xenophontos-Helen. It would be lovely for Tim and Stella to have friends from Muirhead and Fowlis to join us.

13th February - Social enterprise Transition with Joyce Reid. This is run together with The Dundee West End Community Fridge, opened in Perth Road in 2019.

12th March - Dundee Audio News with Graeme Tarmie

9th April - Thatching with Martin Payne

14th May - A.G.M.

2nd June - Coffee Morning with all the usual stalls.

Our Guild meets in the Church at 2.30pm on 2nd Tuesday of the month.

We would love to welcome any one of you that can join us for any or all of the above meetings. There will be a chance for chat with a cup of tea or coffee and cakes.

# Spotlight on Donna the Minister



Every magazine, we hope to do a 'Spotlight' on someone in the village to get to know them better. This time we have chosen Donna the Minister. A few people from P4 – 7 have interviewed Donna, the questions and answers are written below. I hope you enjoy it!

## **What do you think about Auchterhouse?**

I think it's a lovely village, the surroundings are really pretty. The best thing about Auchterhouse is the people are simply lovely, take an interest in one another, that's really special.

## **How does it make you feel to be part of our community?**

It makes me feel very special. I haven't been here very long but it's lovely when you come along and take part in things that are going on in the village.

## **What's your favourite community event?**

I haven't been able to experience a lot here in Auchterhouse because I'm quite new here. I'm not here a lot so I've not been involved in a lot, but I read about lovely things in Facebook. I think the one I did love being part of was helping to work in the community garden.

## **How did you become the minister?**

At this point, I'm not really the minister, I'm just acting as a minister. I had to come and stand in because your last minister left, and they needed someone to come. So, I've been standing in as minister. On Sunday there will be a vote and the people will decide if they want me to be their minister.

## **How long have you been in Auchterhouse for?**

I have been in Auchterhouse for almost two years. I've been in Muirhead for 19 years.

## **What's the best thing about Auchterhouse?**

Definitely the way people care about each other.





# 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 23rd December



**SCOTTISH SPCA**  
Scotland's Animal Welfare Charity





The last few months have been exciting at Dronley Community Woodland. We have some brilliant news and also some challenges.

### **Storm Babet**

As you will have seen, we had some storm damage at Dronley Wood. The storm Babet hit Dronley Wood on the 21st and 22nd of October and caused severe damage in the same area that had been affected by Storm Arwen in 2021.

In 2021, storm Arwen damaged 1 ha of Dronley Wood. Unfortunately, that area has extended to almost 2 ha. The tree species most affected is Scots Pine (again). The Scots Pine in that stand has grown very well but isn't well-adapted to the site conditions. Scots Pine should be planted on dry soil like sand to encourage the Pine to develop a deep root system. The dry soil encourages the tree to grow a deep root system (about 1 m deep). The Scots Pine at Dronley Wood was planted in 1960 on soil with good water availability. Because of that, our Scots Pine at Dronley Wood has developed a very shallow root system. The storm damage we have now is a direct consequence of the tree species choice in 1960 and the lack of thinnings. That highlights how important it is to plant well-site adapted tree species.

It's also essential to support the growth and development of the best quality trees (= frame trees) by regular thinnings. The frame trees would have more space to grow after the thinning and start to develop a larger crown. The frame trees would also develop a much bigger root system increasing the stability. The thinnings, aiming at increasing timber quality and the stability of the Scots Pine, would have needed to be carried out 40 years ago. Today, we need to stabilize the stands by so-called transformation thinnings. We also need to regenerate the stands by natural regeneration and under-planting.



Other areas of Dronley Wood are also affected by the storm damage. Several small clusters of windblown trees and individual windblown trees block access to many parts of the wood.

Many of our woodland paths are closed to the public for safety reasons (by barrier tape and signs). The all-ability path leading up to the shelter remains open (at the point of writing).

We ask everyone visiting Dronley Wood to use the all-abilities path leading up to the shelter (at the moment). Please stick to the all-abilities path and don't enter any paths affected by windblow. The leaning trees are dangerous and could fall at any moment without warning.

We are working very hard to fell and extract the leaning trees. My colleagues Andrew and Marty have made tremendous progress. Felling and extracting windblown trees is incredibly dangerous since the timber is often under tension. Please stay well clear of chainsaw work, extraction and forest machinery. I would also like to ask our woodland visitors to ensure dogs don't enter the work area. That will help us work safely and efficiently on re-opening some affected paths.

We might be able to open some parts of Dronley Wood soon. Please check our Facebook Page for updates. Please take care when visiting Dronley Wood and avoid walks on windy days.

It is sad to see the storm damage at Dronley Wood. Unfortunately, the same area has been affected again. After storm damage, the remaining trees will need about 5 years (minimum) to get used to the windier conditions. The remaining trees left after a storm stabilise themselves by developing a larger crown and root system.



Our trees at Dronley Wood only had 2 years in between storms with gusts exceeding 70 mph. That is not enough time for the trees to stabilise. We aim to regenerate the site by natural regeneration to develop Dronley Wood into a site-adapted, mixed woodland.

Ironically, I have just been on holiday to Germany and Switzerland. We visited a woodland that had been very badly affected by Storm Lothar in 1999. The wind speeds of Storm Lothar exceeded 100 mph and devastated large woodland areas. The storm damage in the woodlands was of an unimaginable scale. The wood I visited during my holiday was severely affected and has recovered very well. The windblown areas have developed into beautiful, site-adapted, mixed stands. The stands damaged by storm Lothar (in the woodland I visited) were reforested by a mixture of natural regeneration and Oak cluster planting. We will also develop the stand devastated by storm Babet into a beautiful mixed woodland.

### **AVIVA Community Fund**

As many of you will know, Dronley Community Woodland did run an AVIVA Community Fund Crowdfunding Project between October and the beginning of November. Our project is called "Natural Regeneration at Dronley Community Woodland". Norman Sutherland and Sandra Ewing supported our fundraising project enormously with photos, filming and drone video footage. We aimed to raise £ 15000 to help us develop Dronley Wood into a permanent, irregular mixed woodland.

Permanent, irregular woodlands are very different from even-aged woodlands. In a permanent, irregular woodland, all age groups and tree sizes of several tree species (depending on the site) are present within one stand. All development stages of a woodland are present within a small area.





Permanent Irregular woodlands (called "Plenter Forests") are continuous forests where regeneration occurs naturally and constantly. Permanent Irregular woodlands are much more resistant to storm damage compared to even-aged stands. Storm Babet has highlighted the importance of regenerating and developing Dronley Wood towards a permanent irregular mixed woodland consisting of numerous intermediate trees and several magnificent mature trees surrounded by plentiful natural regeneration.

The AVIVA Community Fund fundraising for our project "Natural Regeneration at Dronley Community Woodland" finished very successfully on the 7th of November 2023. The funding support has been fantastic.

I would like to thank you for supporting our project 'Natural Regeneration at Dronley Community Woodland' on the AVIVA Community Fund project page. Thanks to your support, we have raised £15,513 (+ est. £797.50 from gift aid) with donations from 60 supporters matched by The Save Our Wild Isles Community Fund and BA Better World Community Fund.

Your funding support will help us secure the long-term future of Dronley Community Woodland. We are very thankful for your support and look forward to starting work on our project of establishing Natural Regeneration at Dronley Woods.

### **Improving the Woodland Infrastructure at Dronley Wood**

We had also applied to the Angus Green Space Fund for the Angus Place Prosperity Programme for a project called: "Improving the Woodland Infrastructure at Dronley Community Woodland". The woodland infrastructure, consisting of forest roads and (permanent) racks, is essential for implementing Continuous Cover Forestry.



Repairing and restoring our woodland infrastructure will enable us to implement ecological woodland management. One of our woodland management priorities is to protect the woodland soil for future generations. Using a system of permanent racks is essential for avoiding unnecessary soil compaction.

Improving the woodland infrastructure will ensure the ecological and economic long-term sustainability of Dronley Wood. The woodland infrastructure allows us to protect forest health, public access, recreation and safety of woodland visitors.

Our funding application has been successful. That is brilliant. Improving the woodland infrastructure at Dronley Wood is a very sustainable long-term investment. GPS surveying and GIS mapping will record the permanent woodland infrastructure for future generations.

Our project: "Improving the Woodland Infrastructure at Dronley Community Woodland" has received £ 15000 from the UK Government through the Angus Place Prosperity Programme. The source of this funding is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The funding is a sustainable long-term investment, allowing us and future generations to manage Dronley Community Woodland using Continuous Cover Forestry Principles.

### **Firewood**

We started to sell processed firewood from Dronley Wood. Most of the timber was felled last year and has seasoned very well.

We offer 1.60 m3 for £ 200 (including Delivery).



We manage Dronley Wood according to the Continuous Cover Forestry principle. 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](mailto:dronleycommunitywoodland@gmail.com)

### **Volunteer Days**

We will start organizing volunteer days from December onwards. We have a lot of work at Dronley Wood like tree planting, transplanting seedlings, direct seeding and some fencing. We are looking forward to our volunteer days and will advertise them on our Facebook Page.

That's a lot of good news (apart from the storm damage). The funded project and the income from selling the firewood will help us to develop Dronley Wood towards a permanent, irregular, diverse, mixed woodland for the benefit of future generations.

See you soon, With kind regards,

Dirk  
Woodland Manager, Dronley Community Woodland



# School Lane Garden

What a hard frost this morning (Nov 25th) but a beautiful sunny windless day, perfect for pottering outside. The main job at this time of year is leaf clearing so this morning we swept leaves off the grass and where they had collected in odd corners. Elizabeth did a bit of tidying in the flower beds but the ground was very hard. We like to leave seed heads where we can for the birds. The school robin followed us everywhere. The children claim the robin as theirs as it is often in the playground when they are out. This may well be the last garden session this year so it is time to sit inside, reflect on this past season and work out what we are going to do next year.

The potatoes grew not too badly but the variety was not good, prone to blight and went to mush if overcooked. We cannot remember the variety which means two things, we should write down what we are growing and we must not repeat mistakes! The two pumpkin plants produced 2 reasonably sized pumpkins which the children harvested and entered in their Halloween pumpkin competition. We learnt from others that they need a lot more feeding and watering to grow really big ones. In gardening there's always next year to try again and do better. However, it is an indisputable fact that we, the three gardeners, will be another year older and our energy levels are diminishing noticeably. One thing we are debating is not growing vegetables.

There is a lot of work involved and with few if any in the community interested in eating the produce that decision could save us a lot of work. Both Elizabeth and Iain and I grow our own vegetables in our own gardens. The three growing plots are there if anyone wants to grow their own vegetables. Just get in touch.

Shiona Baird



# CHRISTMAS POEMS

Earlier in the year we wrote poems on Autumn where we paraphrased two lines of Louis McNeice's poem Autumn Journal. Some of our learners have chosen to write Christmas poems using the same structure.

## Christmas by Eva and Maisie

December has come, it is mine  
The white luscious snow lying motionlessly on  
the ground  
Bright green trees getting ready for Christmas  
cheer  
All the houses getting ready for Christmas Day  
As the children smile unwrapping their gifts  
The children are filled with joy as they put the  
last present under the tree.





# CHRISTMAS POEMS

## **Christmas by Alana**

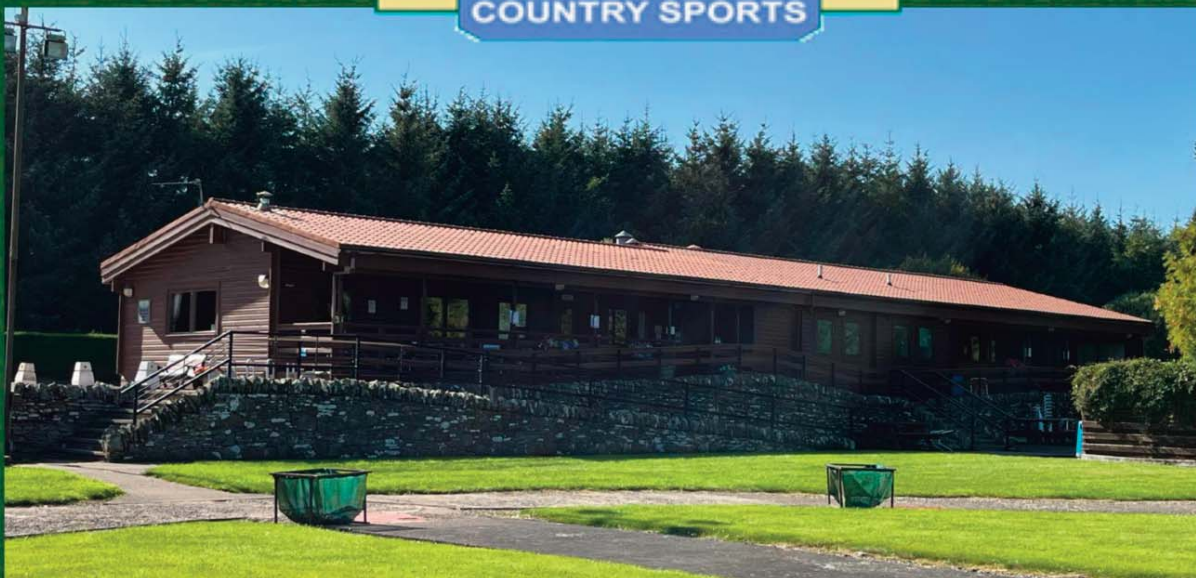
Christmas has come  
It is mine  
The bold bare trees  
The crucial cold coming in  
Some thin white snow layering the ground  
Lots of jingle jangling on Santa's sleigh  
The red and white candy canes  
That hot chocolate while watching a movie  
Bright Christmas lights lingering around the house  
The friends and family  
Christmas day presents  
The celebration of Christ himself being born





# AUCHTERHOUSE

COUNTRY SPORTS



Stuck for an idea for  
Christmas present?  
Why not buy a gift voucher for  
Auchterhouse Country Sports!  
Call us on 01382-320476





# Auchterhouse Village Hall

The Hall Management Committee meets quarterly so September was our last meeting. After the refurbishment of the storeroom we thought we would have little to do for a while. However getting the Hall painted and sorting the outside lighting were the action points for this meeting. Painting the Hall has been on the agenda for a while but thank goodness we hadn't done anything about it.

Storm Babet which came from the east caused a leak from the roof above the east facing window. It drips every time the rain comes from the east. The water has damaged the plasterboard around the window and has now gone mouldy. Angus Council is aware of the leak but it is a roofing job which no doubt will take time to sort, knowing how much damage there is elsewhere needing sorting. We will definitely have to paint the area after it is fixed.

Some of the internal lights had stopped working but it was discovered that the fuse had tripped so that was easily sorted. The question why was answered when we realised the light beside the entrance had stopped working and was found to be full of water, so had to be replaced. Our local electrician Iain Gardyne, came very promptly and got the job done that same day.





# Auchterhouse Village Hall

There are lights facing the car parks which are rarely put on as the switch is inside the store room. It was agreed to have a PIR sensor installed but that was expensive so Iain installed a simple time clock setting the lights to go on for the evenings only. Good lighting is important to prevent accidents. Finally the main door has been getting increasingly stiff till it jammed tight last week. Fortunately Martyn Kemp was available and was able to sort the door, no easy task as it had to be taken off and re-aligned. What a difference, it opens so easily now. A big thank you to both our local tradesmen. Good to have them in the community.

Hopefully there will be no more emergencies and the Hall can carry on providing a safe and warm space for all community activities.

Shiona Baird  
shionabaird@hotmail.co.uk



The SWI meet in the village hall, on the third Monday of the month from September to June. Our first meeting in 2024, will be on January 15th. The speaker at this meeting will be local artist, Jonathan Mitchell with his talk - From Angus to Auvergne, 35 years as a landscape artist. Meetings start at 7:30pm and end at 9:30pm. Please come along and find out more about this great local organisation. New members are very welcome.

We had a great day at our charity soup lunch on Saturday 28th of October despite the bad weather. The soup lunch was in aid of our designated charity, Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS). We managed to raise £653.55. A big thank you to all the members who made it such a success and those from community who came along. A good couple of hours work.

Our next event will be our annual Burns Supper on the 19th of January which will be held in the village hall. An evening of great food, entertainment and company is promised.

Please email [auchterhouseswi@gmail.com](mailto:auchterhouseswi@gmail.com) for tickets. Tickets are priced at £10.

# A Winter Walk

Dronley woods is an amazing place to walk, especially during wintertime because it is one of the most beautiful places when it's frosty or snowy and, it has also got lots of nature and wildlife. If you are planning a walk at Dronley make sure to wear waterproof shoes that are grippy as it might be very muddy and slippery also, wear warm clothes.

The walk at Dronley woods is a circular walk that takes you right round the wood and you can take different routes to make it a bit shorter or longer. There are also places to have a rest and sit down.



An aerial photograph of a hilly landscape. The hills are covered in brown and green vegetation. Several white, stylized trees are scattered across the hills. In the foreground, a white silhouette of a runner is visible. Further back, another white silhouette of a runner is visible. On the right side, a group of three white silhouettes of runners is visible.

# **Auchterhouse Sports Day 2024**

## **SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 24th August**

Thank you to everyone who came along to our 2023 Sports day and took part in the hill race, competitions, races, spectating and BBQ & ceilidh.

A special shout out to Auchterhouse Country Sports and Grewar's Farm Shop who kindly provided support and sponsorship this year.

There will be lots of new features next year with your dogs being invited along as special guests. More information will follow in 2024 about how your dogs can get involved. See you there next year!

Auchterhouse Sports Day Committee



PINEHILL  
MASSAGE  
ANGUS

At Pinehill Massage I offer a range of complementary therapies, such as Swedish and aromatherapy massage, which can help relieve muscular tension, back pain and anxiety and contribute to relaxation and a sense of well-being.

Please check out my website or Facebook page for more info and special offers or get in touch directly. (Also available for corporate bookings and events.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094488941411>

Web: [www.pinehillmassage.com](http://www.pinehillmassage.com)

WhatsApp/Phone: 07547 982 488





# Auchterhouse Tennis Championship 2023

After a break of a few years, the Auchterhouse Tennis Championship took place in September this year. Two lovely summer evenings in the park saw ten local players take part in short doubles matches. Partners changed in each match, making the occasion a very social one. Each evening produced a winner: Judy Goodfellow won the first evening's play, and Rob Sinclair was victorious on the second. Judy and Rob met on the court the following week for the grand final, with Rob emerging the winner of a very competitive match. The trophy was awarded to Rob at Sports Day.

Next year's championship will take place on Sunday August 11, 2024. Details of the format and how to enter will be published closer to the time. If you fancy a warm up before the big day, keep an eye on the village facebook page for details of some social tennis evenings next summer.

Dee Pearce





# Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

It has been a very eventful and successful couple of weeks for Lundie and Auchterhouse curling club. Our season started at the beginning of October and all our competitions are well underway with us qualifying in the Lord Kinnaird province competition and now playing in the Zermatt (rink John Skea, Judith Strachan, Dave Smith and Sophie Cuthill).

We took 2 rinks to our annual Stranraer weekend at the North west castle hotel. We joined another 6 rinks from Broomhall curling club in Fife and Troon Portland curling club from Ayrshire. After hotly contested qualifying rounds Lundie and Auchterhouse 1 (liz Furrie, Judith Strachan, Neil Strachan and Ralph Hopkins) made it through to the semi final. After a very close game which went to an extra end L and A 1 triumphed through to the final. The final was closely contested with a rink from Troon Portland CC which L and A 1 won on the last end. They have now qualified for the Dalrymple cup in March 2024.



# Lundie and Auchterhouse Curling Club

Tuesday the 28th November was the Dundee ladies open competition at Dundee ice rink. Lundie and Auchterhouse curling club had a excellent entry with Susan Smith skipping a rink of Judith Strachan, Liz Furrie and Mairi Brown. They played Balruddry CC in the first round winning 7-0 then met Braeknow CC in the second half winning 4-1. This performance was sufficient to win the competition bringing the trophy back to Lundie and Auchterhouse.

It is our club bonspiel on Sunday 3rd December with 24 curlers having a fun afternoon at Forfar indoor sports. We are being joined by a 4 from Balruddry CC who will play their friendly against us and join us for a meal.

Please follow us on facebook and our website ([www.lundiecurling.org.uk](http://www.lundiecurling.org.uk)). If you fancy giving curling a go visit the try curling website ([trycurling.com](http://trycurling.com)) and book a slot.





# Auchterhouse Christmas Quiz

Feel free to take part in the first Auchterhouse Christmas Quiz created by P4-7 pupils at Auchterhouse Primary School. The quiz consists of 10 Christmas related questions and should be completed by clicking on the red quiz button below.

**Click here to enter  
the QUIZ**

The winner will be drawn at random and will receive a voucher for the Pine Cone cafe for two people to have hot chocolate and crepes!  
**The closing date is 10am on Friday 22nd December.**

Good Luck!  
From Auchterhouse Primary School





# Christmas at Home by Evie Kemp

It was early and the winter frost had just settled onto the grass and the sky was still sleepy. The car windscreen was blanketed with flaky ice. A sparrow was singing away in the garden and all seemed perfect in the world. As the day started the sun rose up into the sky and by 9:00am the whole world was awake.

School was off for the Christmas holidays and so most of Auchterhouse was preparing for all the guests and presents. Decorations were in houses and scattered about the streets. It was day 19 of advent calendars and most people were dressed up cosy, wrapped in a winter scarf, hat and gloves. I have got my Christmas jumper on, it has emerald green sequence formed into a ring which resembles a wreath, there is lights built into it to make it extra special too.

I am hoping for a white Christmas even though I know it won't happen. If there is, then I will make a snow man, a snow angel and maybe go sledging down white slopes. If the snow is deep enough then I will build an igloo too.

As the evening dawns and the sky turns navy I look up and watch the stars. They gleam and glitter as if they're proud. I need to nip back inside though, because I've left the front door open.

After I have got inside I eat my tea with my family, and it was delicious because it's my favourite which is mac n' cheese. Although its not quite Christmas yet it feels like it.

The next couple days have passed like minutes, and it's the 23 of December now. I'm so excited for Christmas and tomorrow is my granny's birthday! Me and my sister are baking her a cake with a lovely design on top, of flowers. We bake all the Birthday cakes every year, unless we run out of time, but mostly it's us who does the baking. The cake we're making has tasty coconut icing and beautiful flowers to top it off. The cake nearly took all day but afterwards we managed to have a short play with Callum and Cerys.

This morning I woke with a smile on my face because it was Christmas Eve and my Granny's Birthday. My Granny stayed the night last night just so we could be with her on her birthday! I still can't believe that Christmas was tomorrow. In my advent calendar I got a quality street with caramel in it, it was tasty. Later this evening all the family came over to stay the night and celebrate with me, my mum, dad and sister.

"Wake uppp, it's Christmas!" I called through the house, I was soo exited! "Look outside, it's snowingg!" My sister Bella called to me with even more excitement. Even though it was 7:30am my family reluctantly got up. We all waddled down the stairs to peep under the tree and see if Santa had eaten the things we left for him. The best part of Christmas is the food, the roast tatties and gravy, the trifle, figgy pudding and the candy canes and sweets. We all huddled round the fire to finally open our presents. We all loved our gifts and went to bed with warmth in our hearts after a big Christmas roast.





**Thank you to the Children of Auchterhouse Primary School for managing the production of our December Village Newsletter. They are all superstars!**

*Findlay*

*Ben*

*Maisie*

*Harris*

*Struan*

*Iona*

*Evie*

*Alana*

*Freya*

*Eva*