

THE COUNCIL'S MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANGUS

THE
OPEN COMES
TO CARNOUSTIE
PAGE 6

Angus *life*

Issue 2 Winter 2006

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Read all about it!

Angus Book Award leads the way

ALSO INSIDE >> WINTER MAINTENANCE COUNCILLORS' CONTACTS ENERGY MANAGEMENT

A unique opportunity to shout about our wonderful county



Welcome to the second edition of Angus Council's residents' magazine. I hope you find it as informative and readable as the first.

Winter is now well and truly upon us and while the frosty weather brings a special kind of beauty to the Angus countryside, for many people this is a challenging time of year.

Among them are drivers and pedestrians for whom getting to and from their destinations is a major concern when the temperatures plummet.

In this edition of Angus Life, we look at the sterling work done by our winter maintenance team to keep the county moving during chilly weather.

As the temperature drops, so the thermostats in our homes rise – along with the heating bills.

Our special feature on energy management gives some timely tips on how to reduce your heating costs while protecting the environment.

Looking ahead to next year, like many people in Angus, I am excited by the prospect of the return of The Open Golf Championship to Carnoustie.

The influx of visitors to the county and the worldwide broadcast coverage give us a unique opportunity to shout about our wonderful county and what it has to offer. Local people are already getting ready to act as ambassadors for Angus during the event and in this edition, we give information on how you can become involved.

These are a just flavour of the many articles in this edition of Angus Life. I hope you enjoy reading it and may I wish you and yours a very merry Christmas and happy New Year when it comes.

Provost Bill Middleton
Winter 2006



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If you have any comments about Angus Life please contact the council's public relations unit, 7 The Cross, Forfar, DD8 1BX. Tel: 01307 461460. E-mail: prmedia@angus.gov.uk

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Let there be light this festive season

➤ Santa and his helpers are ready to light up Angus

THE countdown is on for the big Christmas lights switch on across Angus. The year-long preparations will culminate with Angus Provost Bill Middleton throwing the switch in Forfar, and there will be special visits from Santa Claus himself doing the honours in the other towns.

Christmas lighting is a community-led project and the council has been in discussion with various community groups within the seven burgh towns to finalise this year's displays.

The Christmas lighting displays and switch-on events are organised by local groups such as community councils, rotaries and business associations.

In Brechin, Carnoustie and Monifieth, there are special Christmas lighting groups whose membership is made up from a variety of these individual organisations.



Lighting superintendent Jim Cameron checks the festive lights

New features are funded by the communities through fundraising events held during the year with matched funding provided by the council.

The installation, removal, maintenance, storage, electricity usage, test and repair of displays is fully funded by Angus Council. Last year, the cost for Christmas lighting displays was over £150,000. This year, the whole scheme was subject to competitive tender with a private company undertaking the works.

The Christmas lighting will involve:

- eight 10m-high trees
- 194 features mounted on street lighting columns
- 47 cross-street features
- 22 wall-mounted features
- 232m of icicle and curtain light features
- 46 wall-mounted mini trees
- 1817m of festoon lighting with thousands of individual lamps.

The switch-on ceremonies are held on different evenings to help Santa (and his council helpers) to get to the various events.

For more information on Angus Christmas lights, check your local press nearer the dates.

This year's switch-on dates are:

Forfar	23/11/06
Arbroath	24/11/06
Monifieth	29/11/06 – 6.30pm
Brechin	30/11/06
Carnoustie	01/12/06
Kirriemuir	02/12/06
Montrose	07/12/06
Other times to be announced – see your local press.	

Revamp for seafront

AT its last meeting, the Carnoustie Partnership heard about proposals for public consultation on the seafront developments in the burgh.

The consultation will run until 24 November and consists of two surveys – one aimed at young people and the other for adults. It is envisaged that the seafront developments will be completed by spring 2008.

Following the success of last year's Christmas Cracker event, this year's is planned for Sunday 10 December at Carnoustie High School.

For information and dates of meetings, contact Beverley Gibb on 01307 473787 or e-mail gibbj@angus.gov.uk

Ensuring equality

NEW disability legislation takes effect from December requiring the education authority to actively support equality of opportunity for people with disabilities.

The council is inviting volunteers who are themselves disabled pupils or ex-pupils, parents or

carers of disabled pupils or carers of current, previous or future pupils to assist in creating an education disability equality scheme.

If you would like to be involved in this process please contact Frances Watt on 01307 473335.

Improvements are top priority

MONIFIETH Area Partnership is concentrating on three priorities – town centre redevelopment/community hall, improved rural transport links and improved sports and leisure facilities.

The Monifieth Health

Improvement sub-group has been working with community groups to develop a survey regarding health issues/needs to go to every household in Monifieth via the spring edition of Monifieth Matters.

For more information, contact Beverley Gibb on 01307 473787 or e-mail gibbj@angus.gov.uk

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Artists' Xmas Extravaganza



THE annual Angus Artists Xmas Extravaganza is the ideal opportunity to pick up a unique Christmas present.

This year's event starts on 2 December at the Meffan in Forfar with about 300 works on display from professional and non-professional artists whose varied styles and choice of media ensure this exhibition suits most artistic tastes.

Every year, art lovers from all over the area visit the Meffan to buy fine examples of painting, watercolour, sculpture and printmaking. The exhibition runs until 6 January.

The Meffan, West High Street, Forfar, is open Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm and admission is free.

The white ribbon of support

ANGUS men are being urged to wear a white ribbon as a symbol of their opposition to violence against women.

Statistics show that during 2005/06, 729 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to local police.

This year, the Angus Partnership on Domestic Abuse is supporting the White Ribbon campaign and men holding prominent positions, including Angus Provost Bill Middleton, have pledged their support.

The key message of the campaign is that violence against women is also a men's issue. Ribbons are available from police stations, libraries, Access and housing offices, health centres, sports centres and schools from 25 November.



➤ A different way of teaching which promises great results and develops pupils' social skills is to be rolled out across Angus schools

A lesson in learning...

Many of Angus Council's teachers have now been trained in co-operative learning – an exciting way of teaching and involving pupils in the learning process.

Co-operative learning has been used around the world for thousands of years and research has shown how effective it is.

What it means is that pupils are put in groups to learn together and, crucially, from each other. The members of the group are responsible for each other's learning and so must help each other develop skills and knowledge.

So how does this work on a practical level? Traditional methods of teaching can involve the teacher delivering information to the pupils, whereas in co-operative learning, groups of pupils might split a text between them, identify the key points and teach each other. It gives a greater variety

of learning activities in the classroom.

To find out what pupils have learned from a lesson, the teacher could then ask specific pupils to respond to questions and it would be up to the group to make sure that any of its members could answer.

Angus Council is working with North Lanarkshire Council, as this local authority has considerable experience of using co-operative learning.

North Lanarkshire and Angus teachers will be able to share experiences, learn from each other and showcase good examples through the internet.

Peter Duguid, the council's principal quality improvement officer for education, said: "As well as being a good way of getting pupils involved in learning, co-operative learning emphasises the development of social skills.

"Angus teachers who have been trained in it have been very enthusiastic and we will be training all of our teachers, including those in adult education, in this way of working over the next few years." ■



Through co-operative learning, pupils work in groups to develop each other's skills



Computer giant helps teachers share ideas

The global software company Microsoft has invested in Scotland's education to fund the Innovative Teacher Project which links up teachers throughout Scotland so they can pass on good ideas to each other. They will be able to pass on ideas through a dedicated website within the national Scottish Schools Virtual Network called GLOW.

CLASSACT

Angus Council is responsible for 57 primary schools and eight secondary schools – taking in about 16,000 pupils.

Innovative projects give pupils a head start in life

MEETING the needs of all learners is an important part of the education department's job. Angus schools work with other organisations to come up with creative ways of giving pupils strong employability skills.

The council has teamed up with Angus College to give senior pupils the chance to study Higher psychology, as this can't be offered in schools.

In addition, S3 and S4 pupils can now follow vocational programmes while at school, such as skills for work courses in construction, hairdressing and rural skills. They are also able to access SQA and City & Guilds accredited courses in sport and leisure, early education, childcare and motor vehicle maintenance.

Five Angus schools are offering S3 and S4 pupils

the 'xlerate with xl' course, in partnership with the Prince's Trust.

This targets pupils who are at risk of leaving school without the prospects of a job, training or further education to go on to, and supports the development of personal, interpersonal and team skills in preparation for the world of work.

Work experience placements are available to all S4 pupils,

but the council has been working with Angus College and local employers to extend this option for S5 pupils who plan to leave school at Christmas.

Working with the charity ENABLE, the council also identifies suitable work experience placements for young people with disabilities and additional support needs.

Caring for the carers

➤ There are many unsung heroes looking after elderly or sick relatives or children with disabilities in often demanding circumstances. Respite care offers them a welcome break

Studies have shown that people who care for others often have increased levels of stress, ill health and mental health problems – and that is why Angus Council provides a number of services to help carers take some time out for themselves.

This is called respite care and the council's social services provides both short-term and longer-term respite care.

In April 2006, the home care service launched the 'Short Breaks Scheme', which allows carers to take a few hours off each day to either have a break or allow them attend part-time college courses.

Respite care is available to anyone who has a caring role for a relative or friend with a physical or learning disability, a mental health problem or is older and frail.

Phillip Gillespie, service manager of Social Work and Health, explained: "Many people are referred to us from a range of sources, including their GPs, district nurses or hospital staff, but some do self-refer because of the growing strains of looking after people.

"When we get a request for respite care, we assess the needs of the carer under NHS legislation.

"Through this assessment, we develop a care plan for the person being looked after, but also – and just as importantly – for the carer themselves.

"We recognise the importance of the work they do and the need to make sure they look after their own wellbeing."

The Short Breaks Scheme is ideal for a few hours' break, but the council also has four residential units where longer periods of respite care can be provided.

If the person being cared for has more complex medical needs, then private nursing homes can be organised.



What is a carer?

Anyone who looks after someone without payment on a long-term basis is a carer. This could include looking after someone who is:

- ageing and frail or suffering from dementia
- suffering from a chronic illness
- has a physical or learning disability
- has a mental health problem, or is suffering from alcohol or drug misuse.

A growing issue in recent years has been the increase of dementia in the elderly, which puts a considerable strain on carers because of the level of dependency of the person they care for.

"We are working in partnership with Alzheimer's Scotland to support people who have early stage dementia.

"This is a critical stage for both the sufferer and the carer so we need to give them information and support," said Phillip.

For children, respite may form part of the care plan and this would be agreed following an assessment.

For children with disabilities, overnight respite can be provided either in the form of specialist respite foster carers or at

Strathmore Centre in Forfar. For children whose parent have problems, for example with mental health issues or substance misuse, again overnight respite can be offered from trained foster carers, or for part of a day from community childminders.

"All of these respite breaks allow parents to recharge their batteries, as well as giving their children positive experiences," explained Peter Pope, service manager for children.

The benefits are obvious: "Even to get a few hours off during the day to go shopping or have a coffee with friends is fantastic," said a carer who looks after her husband.

"It can be lonely and stressful caring for someone 24/7, but small breaks are a great way of getting out for a while and, quite frankly, doing something for myself. I believe it helps me get a better perspective on my life." ■



Could you help?

"WHEN it works well, it's a very good thing," said Peter Pope, service manager for children, talking about the experiences of carers who have volunteered to provide respite care for children.

"Everybody benefits. Carers get a real

sense of achievement, the parents get a welcome break, the kids have a good time and their siblings get more attention thanks to the respite break," he added.

If you would be interested in volunteering as a carer and would like to find out what's involved, call 01307 461767 for an informal chat.

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Seeking your views on access



ANGUS Council is seeking the views of people who enjoy the great outdoors, or who own or manage land.

Drop-in sessions have been organised as an informal opportunity for people to discuss local paths and access issues with council staff.

The sessions are being held at the following venues over the coming months:

- Friockheim Church Hall – Tuesday 21 November
- Edzell Inglis Memorial Hall – Tuesday 28 November
- Forfar Town & County Hall – Wednesday 6 December
- Arbroath Old & Abbey Church Hall – Tuesday 12 December

Council staff will be at each venue from 1.30pm to 7.30pm.

Questionnaires are also available from libraries and Access Offices.

For more details, call Paul Clark, countryside access officer, on 01307 473589.

Private landlords urged to register

PRIVATE landlords in Angus are reminded that they must now be registered with their local authority.

Landlords who have not registered could be committing a criminal offence and be fined up to £5000.

The requirement will help local authorities to remove disreputable landlords from the market and protect tenants and their neighbours from the impact of antisocial behaviour and mismanaged property on the wider community.

Further information is available from the council's private landlord registration officer on 01575 570353.

▾ Next July, golf's biggest event, the Open, returns to Carnoustie – and the town's residents and businesses are gearing up to welcome visitors



An Open invi

Next year, thousands of golf fans will gather in Angus for one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

With about 200,000 spectators expected for The 136th Open Championship, local people are being urged to give them a welcome they'll never forget and encourage them to return to Angus in the future.

Since the announcement by The Royal and Ancient (R&A) that The Open will be held at Carnoustie next July, the council has been working in partnership with the local community and other

organisations to maximise the benefits for the area from this massive event.

Statistics from the 2005 Open in St Andrews reveal the enormous economic benefits to be had from hosting such a prestigious event.

More than £20million was pumped into the local economy by 220,000 visitors and, with more than 84 per cent of them staying overnight, the event provided a huge boost to hotels, guest houses, B&Bs, restaurants and pubs, golf courses and clubs, taxis and shops.

This is an experience which is expected to be

replicated in Carnoustie and across Angus next year and there are a number of ways in which local residents can get on board.

A series of roadshows have already been held in Angus to alert local businesses and the public to the opportunities presented by the return of The Open.

The seminars covered topics such as the expected number and profile of visitors, their spending power, experience from the Opens at St Andrews in 2005 and Hoylake in 2006, and

They are the champions!

THE Open Championship will be held at Carnoustie Links from 19 to 22 July 2007 – the seventh time the course has played host to the event.

Carnoustie, much regarded as the most demanding course on The Open rota, has previously seen triumphs by Tommy Armour, Henry Cotton, Ben Hogan, Gary Player, Tom

Watson and, most recently, Paul Lawrie in 1999.

In 1999, Carnoustie was the scene of some of the most memorable and gripping Opens ever, with Jean van der Velde leading most of the way, only to end up paddling in the Barry Burn when he dropped his shot on to the final green.



Golf has been played over the Carnoustie links since the 1500s. The present Championship Course at Carnoustie, first laid out in 1850, is the longest Open course in history at 7,361 yards!

Photograph courtesy and © D.C.Thomson&Co.,Ltd



tation to golf fans

opportunities for marketing and business development.

David Valentine, chair of the East of Scotland Golf Alliance, said: "The return of The Open to Carnoustie in 2007 offers a great opportunity for the whole of Angus to showcase our world-class golf product and superb attractions before, during and after the event.

"To maximise the economic spin-offs from the event, businesses need to be prepared. There will be thousands of visitors to the county, looking for somewhere to shop, eat and have a drink. Now is the time for us to be thinking about how we meet that demand."

In order to accommodate the vast number of visitors, VisitScotland's Angus & Dundee network office is encouraging local people to provide temporary accommodation for the run-up and duration of The Open.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, VisitScotland Angus and Dundee area director, said: "This is an excellent opportunity for Angus and Dundee to be highlighted as a quality holiday destination with golf at the forefront of our tourism product.

"We want to be able to offer everyone accommodation that fits all budgets and gives visitors the opportunity to stay close to

the action, but also have the opportunity to explore other parts of the region."

Local residents interested in providing B&B can pick up a registration form from any of the tourist information centres in the Angus and Dundee area.

For whole property lets, Blackadders have been appointed The R&A's official letting agents to manage the provision of private accommodation for players, officials, exhibitors and visitors.

To find out more about letting your property during the event, visit the website on www.open2007.com ■



Facelift for Carnoustie

CARNOUSTIE is set to be a hive of activity as the town gets a £1.5m revamp for next year's Open and beyond.

To ensure the town looks its best as it takes centre stage worldwide, a number of image enhancement projects will take place before next summer.

The main elements of this work will be the erection of 16 new eye-catching, 8.5m high banners around the town with graphics promoting the many attractions of Angus.

These colourful additions to the town will be complemented with a number of landscaping and environmental improvements at locations near or en route to the Championship Golf Course.

Offering visitors a home from home

"The people of the town are looking forward to the event and the various agencies are already hard at work to make Carnoustie look its best for the occasion," said Ed Oswald, joint chair of the Carnoustie Partnership.

"Many people have already decided to let out their homes and hopefully many more will

come forward, while others are offering B&B during The Open period. One thing we can guarantee is that thousands of visitors to the town will receive a warm Carnoustie welcome."

The Partnership will take a lead role in exploring the benefits to the town of the return of The Open at its monthly meetings.

Sue McMahon, who shares the chair with Ed, added: "Why not come along to a meeting of the partnership with your ideas on how the town can make the best of The Open?"

For details, contact Sue on suemcmahon88@hotmail.com or 01241 852549 or Ed on eandhoswald@tiscali.co.uk

Green Christmas



The council has announced details of when recycled rubbish will be collected over the festive period.

With so much extra waste expected to be generated during Christmas and New Year, residents are urged to recycle as much as possible.

Morag Grant, recycling officer for Angus Council, said: "People in Angus are already enthusiastic about recycling, but as more waste is produced during the festive period, it is a good time encourage people to recycle."

The weekly kerbside collection of the small green recycling boxes – for glass bottles, cans, papers and plastics – will run as normal over the festive period. "The extra plastic bottles and cans that tend to build up at that time of year can be put in carrier bags beside the box," explained Morag.

Manned recycling centres in Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Monifieth and Montrose will be open as usual from 8.15am to 5pm, except on 25 and 26 December and 1 and 2 January.

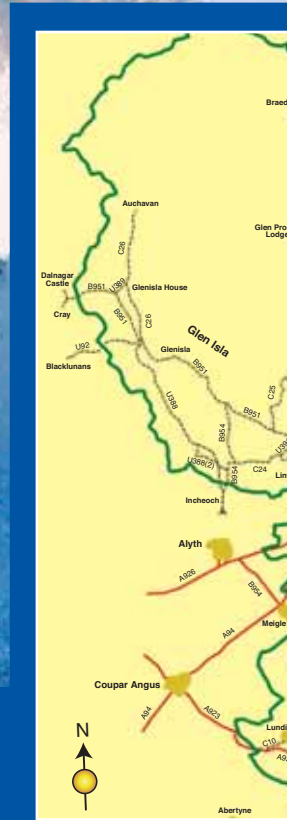
The various neighbourhood recycling points and glass banks in Angus will be serviced as normal. However, the fortnightly kerbside collection of green compost bins will be suspended from 25 December to 8 January.

Christmas trees can be taken to recycling centres or placed next to green compost bins for uplifting in early January.

Christmas cards can also be recycled at the manned centres. Unfortunately, wrapping paper can't be recycled.



The winter maintenance teams work seven days a week to ensure roads throughout Angus are cleared of snow



Angus can often experience extreme winter conditions but our winter maintenance teams are at the ready to keep the area's roads clear

Beating the b

When you snuggle down in your warm bed on a cold wintry night, spare a thought for the members of your local winter maintenance teams – out in freezing conditions, treating the roads to ease your morning journey.

Winter maintenance is a vital task affecting every sector of the community, from families making the school run, local businesses dependent on deliveries getting through and pedestrians going to the shops.

With winter well and truly upon us, Angus Council has budgeted about £1.6million to fight the battle against winter conditions on the roads.

At depots throughout the county, the winter service fleet of gritters, ploughs and snowblowers are on stand-by and maintenance crews are at the ready for the first signs

of temperatures falling to critical levels.

In Forfar and Arbroath, salt stocks totalling about 14,000 tonnes have been assembled in preparation.

With 1100 miles of road in Angus, it would be unrealistic to attempt to treat all roads and footpaths at all times and priority is given to treating an agreed network of routes, which includes all busy roads.

These priority routes include important bus routes, commuter routes, roads serving hospitals, ambulance stations, fire stations, shopping centres, schools and major industrial centres.

After these priority roads are treated, attention is then given to auxiliary and non-priority carriageways and priority and non-priority footways.

Auxiliary routes cover roads which are at a higher altitude than the rest of the network and are more prone to icing, but have lighter traffic than priority routes, and are treated before the school bus runs, Monday to Friday.

Non-priority routes are only treated after priority routes. During prolonged snow conditions, priority and auxiliary routes are cleared before non-priority routes.

The council attends to public roads and footways – private roads and footways are the owners' responsibility.





Police urge drivers to be prepared for winter



Angus residents are urged to play their part in preparing for journeys when bad weather strikes

ALTHOUGH the council's winter maintenance team pulls out all the stops to keep roads and footpaths clear, during very bad weather it is impossible to keep all routes open at all times, and motorists and pedestrians are urged to take this into account when venturing outside.

Inspector Gordon Milne, head of Road Policing in Angus, highlights the steps drivers should take to ensure that they are ready for winter motoring.

"Before travelling, check the weather forecast and make sure you are equipped with warm clothes, food and a torch just in case and listen to local and national radio for information on road conditions," said Inspector Milne.

"Make sure vehicles are properly maintained and check all lamps and reflectors to ensure they are clean and in good working order. Remember to use dipped headlights instead of sidelights as this will ensure good visibility to the front of the vehicle and make the vehicle visible to other road users.

"Washer bottles should be kept topped up with screen wash and wiper blades kept in good condition. Good tyres are even more essential in wintry conditions and drivers should check them for worn tread and defects.

"Fog lamps should only be used when visibility has fallen below 100 metres as they can cause dazzle and discomfort to other road users, especially in rainy or snowy conditions."

Inspector Milne points out that as well as checking your vehicle is in good shape to deal with the conditions, drivers should also think about their behaviour while on the road.

"Drivers should keep well back from the vehicle in front as this will increase the ability to see and plan ahead, as well as react to any unforeseen circumstances. Remember that on wet roads, stopping distances are at least doubled and on icy roads it can take 10 times longer to stop."

Winter safety driving and tyre safety information leaflets are available from most police stations. For weather conditions and road closures, log on to www.nadic.com, www.ropsa.com or www.think-roadsafety.gov.uk

Big chill

There are about 500 grit bins provided throughout the county for use by the public on a self-help basis and the council is appealing to local people to support its efforts

if the area is gripped by snow and ice this winter.

Winter maintenance is carried out from late October to late March during the following times:

Day	Priority roads	Auxiliary routes	Priority footways	Non-priority roads & footways
Mon-Fri	5am-9pm*	6am-4pm	6am-6pm	7.30am-4pm
Sat	5am-9pm*	Nil	6am-6pm	Nil
Sun	5am-9pm*	Nil	8am-6pm	Nil
Public holidays†	5am-9pm*	Nil	Nil	Nil

*Latest time for start of treatment with completion by 11pm.

†Including Christmas & New Year

Responsibility for winter maintenance of the A90 Trunk road within Angus rests with the Scottish Executive and is carried out on its behalf by BEAR Scotland Limited. The A92 between Dundee and Arbroath is also looked after by BEAR on behalf of Angus Council and Dundee City Council. Both roads are given 24 hour coverage.

For information on the roads winter maintenance programme, or to request that a grit bin be filled, contact ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778. information is also available at www.angus.gov.uk/wintermaintenance



Wet weather requires longer stopping distances

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Forfar and Area Partnership news

OVER the past few months, the Forfar and Area Partnership have been busy with a number of activities.

These have included an antisocial behaviour workshop, an open meeting exploring how the local community can promote tourism and hospitality in the area, and the launch of a competition to design a youth shelter for young people.

Current top priorities include tackling antisocial behaviour, improving the physical appearance of Forfar, addressing tourism and accommodation issues, and improving leisure facilities for young people.

If you would like to find out how to get involved and how you can work with other local groups towards improving Forfar and the surrounding area, please contact Siobhan Fagan, community planning officer, on 01307 473775 or e-mail fagans@angus.gov.uk

Arbroath & Area Partnership news

THE Arbroath & Area Partnership has been working hard developing its priorities, including the introduction of an Angus Credit Union and a community cinema.

Financial and in-kind support has been found to launch the credit union and a development worker post has been advertised.

A feasibility study and consultation exercise is now well under way to look at the scope for a community cinema in the Arbroath area.

An interim update on progress has been prepared and the final report is expected before the end of the year.

For more information on any of these items, please contact Debbie Gowans, community regeneration officer on 01241 436872.

Tackling alcohol the focus of new



The festive season can often be a lonely time for elderly people

Project offers vital support for elderly residents

The festive period is a time for joy and celebration, but for many people in Angus and across the country, it can also be a time of potential isolation.

Often, it can seem that everyone else is having fun and it can sometimes be too easy to take comfort in alcohol. While a few drinks can produce a pleasant and relaxed feeling, excessive use of alcohol can be dangerous – and it is worth remembering that alcohol misuse and depression are common at this time of year.

The Focus on Alcohol Project is a

Giving parents a say in their child's education

ANGUS Council is meeting with parents to give information on new legislation designed to encourage more parental involvement in schools.

Following a well-attended meeting at Friockheim Primary School in October, further events are planned across the county.

The meeting was organised by Angus Council to raise awareness of the new Parental Involvement Act, which was passed by the Scottish Parliament earlier this year.

The Act will establish new parent councils in place of the current school boards and aims to encourage more parental involvement and representation in schools.

It also places new duties on local authorities to strengthen and support parents' involvement in their children's learning and in schools.

At the meeting in Friockheim, representatives from the council's Education Department met parents from across the



county to discuss the new legislation and how it will be introduced locally.

Following the success of this meeting, it is planned to hold further events at individual schools over the next few months.

This will give parents an opportunity to find out more about the new rules before they are introduced in August 2007.

For further information on the new legislation contact the Director of Education's office on 01307 473235.

Alcohol misuse is new initiative

new initiative in Angus that aims to tackle alcohol misuse in the county. One of the key aims will be to support older people to think about their attitudes and behaviour towards alcohol, both positively and negatively.

Project manager Eileen McArthur said: "Even modest use of alcohol in older people can have a significant impact on health and general wellbeing.

"This problem nationally is generally hidden and unacknowledged."

Most older people do not drink excessively, but given the physiological and lifestyle changes (for example, losing a

loved one) that happen with ageing, tolerance levels to alcohol are reduced and hence harm is greatly increased.

Eileen advises: "A sensible approach to alcohol is best considered – or as many older, wiser people might say, 'everything is good in moderation'."

The Focus on Alcohol project is a countywide project. It will develop around issues of safety within the community, the improvement of health and education to inform the positive, social use of alcohol. For further information, contact Eileen and the Angus Drug and Alcohol Action team on 01307 474899. ■



Dig deep at the Angus Archives

A VISIT to Angus Archives is a unique experience. The archives are located in a lovely rural setting, adjacent to the 12th-century ruined Restenneth Priory, above.

Angus Archives contain a vast storehouse of fascinating information, including burgh minute books, pirate attacks, death warrants, house plans, letters, Edwardian diaries, Georgian recipes, Victorian valentines, wills, property records, photographs from all over Angus, trade records of weavers, shoemakers and tailors, letters from soldiers and sailors and so much more.

In addition, they hold an extensive local history book collection, a large Angus-wide photographic collection and major genealogical sources such as the International Genealogical Index, the census and the Old Parish Registers of all Angus parishes, valuation roll collection and a variety of databases.

At Angus Archives, you will be able to use:

- original documents
- an extensive collection of local history books
- an Angus-wide collection of photographs
- our extensive collection of research files
- get advice on sources and their locations
- obtain photocopies of books and documents
- use transcripts and indexes of original material
- use the internet to access family history websites
- use your laptop.

Examination of all resources in the search room is free, but charges apply for photocopying, photographic reproductions and the commissioned research service.

CONTACT ↘

If you are worried about your alcohol consumption, visit your GP, contact Tayside Council on Alcohol on 01382 223965 or Drinkline on 0800 9178282. You can also visit the Alcohol Focus Scotland website www.alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk and anonymously complete their 'How do I know if I have a problem?' questionnaire.

Views sought on site

ANGUS Council is seeking the views of the Arbroath community on the regeneration of the former Seaforth Hotel site.

Draft development guidelines for the prominent site have been produced by the council and are now the subject of consultation with local people.

All comments will be reported to a future meeting of the council's Infrastructure Services Committees before

the guidelines are finalised.

Copies of the draft guidelines are available to view during normal working hours at Arbroath Library and Planning and Transport, St James House, Forfar.

Alternatively, a copy of the committee report can be viewed and comments submitted via the council's website at www.angus.gov.uk/seaforth

The deadline for comment is 7 December.

ANGUSSHORTS ▾

Walkway to Barrie's birthplace

KIRRIEMUIR and the Glens Partnership is appealing for input from local people to help it achieve its aims for the area.

The partnership has been discussing plans to create and maintain a historic walkway between J M Barrie's birthplace and his grave at Kirriemuir Cemetery, and investigating ways to support the Kirriemuir Youth Project.

The partnership is urging local people to come forward with new ideas and support to enable it to achieve its aims and take current and future projects forward.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Siobhan Fagan, community planning officer, on 01307 473775 or e-mail fagans@angus.gov.uk

Carers needed



CAN you complete the family picture for the growing number of children in Angus who need carers?

For one reason or another, some children can no longer live with their own families and, as a result, need either temporary or permanent care.

Angus Council works closely with about 60 families who currently look after children in the authority's care, but would like to hear from anyone interested in finding out more about becoming a foster carer.

Anyone interested in fostering or adoption can also call the family placement team for an informal chat on 01241 435078.

THE POPULAR ANGUS BOOK AWARD IS HELPING CHILDREN REALISE THEIR POTENTIAL



From babies to teenagers – all children and young people in Angus are encouraged to realise their potential through books and reading. A variety of events are held throughout the county to promote enjoyment of reading and a lifelong love of books.

Angus Book Award

Angus was the first authority in Scotland to launch a book award specifically aimed at teenagers. Since its inception in 1996, the Angus Book Award has proved a huge success with pupils, authors and publishers.

The 2007 award will be launched on 8 December with the shortlisted titles available in local libraries and the winner announced in May. As in previous years, this annual event is sure to receive an enthusiastic response from third-year pupils who read the short-listed titles and vote for their favourite.

The award was launched by Angus Council to encourage pupils to enjoy quality teenage fiction. It is based on pupils not only voting for the winner, but also actively participating in all aspects of the award, from the selection of the short list to the prize ceremony. It is now one of

the most highly regarded regional book awards. The short list is



Previous winning author Graham Joyce

Novel to **inte** young

selected by teachers, librarians and pupils, and reflects the range of themes that interest teenagers while challenging both committed and less enthusiastic readers.

The books are read and discussed in detail, culminating in a secret ballot by pupils to select the winner. As part of the short-listing process, authors agree to visit schools and attend the award ceremony – which is run entirely by young people themselves.

Lindsey Fraser, national co-ordinator of the Scottish Executive Home Reading Initiative, said: "The Angus Book Award has been a ground-breaking initiative.

"This superb initiative by the educational resources service gives young readers a voice in a way no other award has previously done and writers who have the good fortune to win a coveted place on the short list are assured of considered, intelligent feedback direct from their readers.

"This award has been replicated throughout the UK, but Angus remains an accolade to which writers aspire because of the accompanying programme and the integrity with which the initiative is delivered."



Graham books his

AUTHOR Graham Joyce won the 2006 Angus Book Award for his novel TWOC – a hard-hitting fast-paced novel which takes a step into the world of teenage joyriding.

In his online blog, Graham describes the excitement of the awards ceremony.

"TWOC was short-listed and the jurors were several hundred teenagers, all of whom commanded full voting power and who attended the award ceremony to cheer, stamp

way rest sters



Youngsters are introduced to the delights of books

Local firm Blackadders Solicitors and Micro Librarian Systems, producers of the Eclipse library management software used in Angus secondary schools, partly sponsor the Angus Book Award.

Which Writer Wins

It's not just secondary school pupils in Angus who get the opportunity to read and take part in a vote for their favourite author – younger readers also have the chance to have their top titles recognised.

Which Writer Wins? is an annual event to encourage reading for enjoyment and takes place in primary schools across Angus. Presentations to acknowledge the results within each cluster take place in libraries with pupil and staff representatives from each class and school that takes part.

At each event, pupils speak about which authors they have enjoyed reading and give entertaining reviews of some of the titles. This year, the author who polled most votes was Michael Morpurgo. Each year the event builds on the success of initiatives such as the Summer Reading Scheme and Chatterbooks reading groups and has an impact on borrowing at local libraries, with pupils avidly reading titles by featured authors. ■



You're never too young to discover the joys of reading

EVEN Angus babies are encouraged to develop a lifelong love of books and reading.

Through the national Bookstart programme, a variety of activities for pre-schoolers are organised in libraries.

Angus Bookstart co-ordinator Sylvia Main said: "We believe that children are never too young to start loving books.

"Sharing books with babies and toddlers is a wonderful way to increase language skills and help them understand the world around them.

"Parents are their children's most important teachers,

shaping the way they learn. The intimacy of book sharing can strengthen bonding between parent and child.

"Research also shows that babies and toddlers who love books begin reading sooner and go on to fare better at school, in all areas of the curriculum."

Activities for pre-school children at Angus libraries include Tickle Toes sessions, sponsored by Bookstart, where babies and toddlers can enjoy songs, rhymes and stories.

For more information on Bookstart,

contact Sylvia on 01241 435013. For information on the variety of activities for children at Angus libraries, including Tickle Toes, contact your local library directly.



place in history

and whistle for their personal choice.

"It reminded me of my youth work days a quarter century ago, of empowerment by participation and, lo and behold, the ceremony was fronted by young people from the various schools. A great evening and unlike any other literary award."

Other winners of the award have been Malcolm Rose, Tim Bowler, Keith Gray and Terence Blacker.

↘ Cutting back on soaring energy costs can be difficult but we're here to help



Lindsay and Kathleen Gray are enjoying the benefits of their new more efficient boiler

Take the heat out of fuel bills

Living in this part of Scotland means you don't need reminding about cold weather! Because of the Angus climate, it's essential to stay warm and comfortable during the winter months.

With the cost of fuel rising all the time, it's important you use energy as efficiently as possible. Not only will you save money, you'll also help reduce carbon emissions, a major contributor to climate change.

You can save money at no cost by simply doing things differently (see our top tips), or you can make improvements to your home. There are grants available to help you with the cost of these.

To lead the way, Angus Council has been making substantial improvements to the energy efficiency and amenities of the 8000 council houses in the area, which are now among the highest quality council housing stock in the country.

When improvements were originally planned, it was the energy aspects of the houses which took priority: cavities and lofts were insulated, windows and doors were double glazed and central heating was installed to all 8000 houses, including condensing boilers, the most efficient type.

This has made a huge difference to couples such as Forfar residents Lindsay and Kathleen Gray, above, who have had their boiler replaced with a more efficient one and can now heat their home comfortably at a reasonable cost.

The council has also installed 36 solar water heating systems in Arbroath and is investigating the use of other domestic renewable energy systems. Even when other general amenity improvements are carried out, such as kitchen replacements

or rewiring, tenants receive low-energy light bulbs to help them reduce costs.

The Scottish Executive has also recognised the importance of energy efficiency and fuel poverty. They have two important grants available:

- Scottish Executive Central Heating Programme (not applicable to council housing) provides grants for over-60s living in private sector housing. This provides a non means-tested central heating and insulation package, managed by Scottish Gas.

- The Warm Deal, managed by Scottish Gas, provides insulation grants of up to £500 if you own or rent your home and are on qualifying benefits. It covers cavity and loft insulation, water tank and pipe insulation, and draught proofing.

Fuel utility companies also have an obligation to provide help with energy efficiency. Even if you don't qualify for the grants above, you can still get insulation measures carried out at a subsidised rate.

So what can you do to reduce the use of energy in your home? It's very simple – the less energy you use, the less it will cost. The complicated bit is how to decide what's best for you and how to pay for any improvements.

For information on insulation grants, renewable technology, changing your supplier and the best way to pay your fuel bills, contact Angus Council's home energy management officer on 01307 474787 or e-mail smithja@angus.gov.uk ■



USEFUL NUMBERS ↘

Energy Saving Trust	0800 512 012
Warm Deal	0800 072 0150
Scottish Gas	0845 971 7731
Scottish Power	0845 601 7836
Hydro Electric	0845 777 6633
Powergen	0800 479 0162
Scottish Executive Central Heating Programme	0800 316 1653

TOPTIPS ↘

- Don't leave televisions on stand-by
- Switch off lights when rooms are not in use
- Close your curtains at dusk to save heat
- If you have central heating, turning the thermostat down by one degree can cut 10 per cent off your fuel bills
- Shower instead of taking a bath
- When boiling a kettle, only use the water you need
- When using the washing machine, try to ensure it is full
- Try to hang washing outside rather than using a tumble dryer
- Defrost fridges and freezers regularly
- Only switch your hot water tank on for the hours that you need it.
 - If you have storage heaters, remember to close the output dial before you go to bed, or if you go out during the day.
 - If you have gas heating, don't use your immersion to heat your water.



Council members

1 Kirriemuir West
 Ian Mackintosh JP (Con)
 Kirkton of Kingoldrum
 Kirriemuir DD8 5HW
 Tel: 01575 574716

5 Westfield & Dean
 Iain Gaul (SNP)
 46 Prior Road
 Forfar DD8 3DT
 Tel: 01307 464698

9 Brechin South Esk
 Joy Mowatt JP (SNP)
 35 Gellatly Place
 Brechin DD9 6BS
 Tel: 01356 623981

13 Montrose Hillside
 Kathleen Ritchie JP (SNP)
 Braebost
 Kinnaber Road
 Hillside
 Montrose DD10 9EP
 Tel: 01674 830568

22 Carnoustie East
 David Selfridge JP (SNP)
 35 Taymouth Street
 Carnoustie DD7 7JJ
 Tel: 01241 854416

2 Kirriemuir East
 John Henderson JP (SNP)
 Roebrek
 Linross, Glamis
 Forfar DD8 1QN
 Tel: 01307 840544

6 Forfar West
 Glennis Middleton (SNP)
 51 Lilybank Crescent
 Forfar DD8 2HZ
 Tel: 01307 463989

10 Montrose Ferryden
 Mark Salmond JP (Ind)
 3 Gardyne Street
 Montrose DD10 9BJ
 Tel: 01674 660098

14 Forfar South
 Bill Robertson (SNP)
 1 Drimmie Place
 Letham DD8 2DW
 Tel: 01307 818905

23 Arbirlot & Hospitalfield
 Peter Nield JP (Lib Dem)
 44 Keptie Road
 Arbroath DD11 3EH
 Tel: 01241 872054

3 Brechin West
 The Hon Ruth Leslie Melville MBE (Ind)
 Little Deuchar, Fern
 Forfar DD8 3RA
 Tel: 01356 650279

7 Forfar Central
 Ron Scrimgeour (SNP)
 39 Gowan Rigg
 Forfar DD8 2EE
 Tel: 01307 469145

11 Montrose Central
 Terry Wood (Ind)
 1 St Mary's Road
 Montrose DD10 8EU
 Tel: 01674 672829

15 Letham & Frioekheim
 David Lumgair (Con)
 East Idvies
 Letham DD8 2QN
 Tel: 01307 818233

24 Keptie
 Dr Richard Speirs (Lib Dem)
 No 1 Cottage
 Fraserfield, Woodville
 Arbroath DD11 2QW
 Tel: 01241 890384

4 Brechin North Esk
 Robert Myles (Ind)
 Dalbog
 Edzell DD9 7UU
 Tel: 01356 648265

8 Forfar East
 Bill Middleton (SNP)
 51 Lilybank Crescent
 Forfar DD8 2HZ
 Tel: 01307 463989

12 Montrose West
 George Norrie MBE JP (Ind)
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 26 Mall Park Road
 Montrose DD10 8NS
 Tel: 01674 673807

16 Sidlaw West
 Frank Ellis (SNP)
 1 Quarry Cottages
 Lovehall Road
 Wellbank DD5 3QF
 Tel: 01382 350473

25 Arbroath North
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17 Sidlaw East & Ashludie
 Helen Oswald (SNP)
 17 Ireland Street
 Carnoustie DD7 6AS
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26 Brothock
 Ian Angus (SNP)
 9 Steading Place
 Hospitalfield
 Arbroath DD11 2NL
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18 Monifieth West
 Stewart McGlynn (SNP)
 75 Brook Street
 Monifieth DD5 4AJ
 Tel: 01382 534567

27 Hayshead & Lunan
 Robert Spink (Ind)
 The Grange
 Inverkeilor
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 Tel: 01241 830307

19 Monifieth Central
 Rob Murray (SNP)
 8 Beechgrove
 Monifieth DD5 4TE
 Tel: 01382 534908

28 Harbour
 Alex King JP (SNP)
 12 Dalhousie Place
 Arbroath DD11 2BT
 Tel: 01241 872107

20 Carnoustie West
 Jack Gibb (SNP)
 70 Broomwell
 Gardens
 Monikie DD5 3QP
 Tel: 01382 370258

29 Cliffburn
 Sheena Welsh (SNP)
 Montquhir, Carmyllie
 Arbroath DD11 2QS
 Tel: 01241 860317

21 Carnoustie Central
 Peter Murphy (Lab)
 Ashlea
 44 Burnside Street
 Carnoustie DD7 7HL
 Tel: 01241 852106

Wards

Your councillor can be contacted at:
 Members' Services,
 The Cross, Forfar,
 DD8 1BX
 Tel: 01307 473000
 Fax: 01307 461968
 E-mail: members@angus.gov.uk

Further details can be found at www.angus.gov.uk

SNP	
Ind	
Lib Dem	
Con	
Lab	

Glamis' China connection...

➤ Last year's winner is raising its profile by linking with the Great Wall of China



Each year, the person or organisation who has made an outstanding contribution to the county is recognised with the top accolade of Angus Ambassador of the Year.

This coveted title goes only to those who epitomise the spirit and passion of Angus, raising awareness of the county's strengths and opportunities at home or abroad.

In 2005, the award, sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland, went to Glamis Castle. Since receiving the accolade, Glamis has been working harder than ever to raise its profile and that of Angus on an international stage.

This culminated recently in the signing of a partnership agreement between Glamis Castle and the Great Wall of China. David Adams, general manager Glamis Castle, explained: "Within the next five years, China could well be sending a quarter of a million visitors to this country.

"This is a market that we must tap into and one of the ways we decided to do this was by exploring a twinning arrangement with a historic site in China – and what better than the Great Wall!"

Glamis was able to build on the relationships forged in China by previous trade delegations led by the council.

"One thing we have learned is that to do business in China, it is important to build relationships and the work that has been done by Angus Council in this respect has certainly helped pave the way," said David.

The agreement will see Glamis and the Great Wall administrators undertake joint marketing via avenues such as website links, exchanging advice and information, conservation matters and staff exchanges.

Glamis has also signed a partnership agreement with the Penglai Pavilion, a fortified temple overlooking the China Sea. With its 1000-year history and myths and



mysteries, the pavilion is a natural partner for Glamis Castle. David added: "The only other similar arrangements the Great Wall Society has are with the pyramids in Egypt, the fjords in Norway and Le Cinque Terre – a stretch of coastline in northern Italy with five little villages built into the rocks.

"For Glamis and Angus to be honoured in this way is a tribute to the passion, commitment and innovation of the people in the county. It is a great example of Angus blazing a trail." ■



The nominees who are putting Angus on the world map

NOW in their seventh year, the Angus Ambassador Awards continue to recognise those who are acting as outstanding representatives of the county.

The awards were created by the Angus Ahead Campaign to showcase the best of Angus people, community and business.

All the winners, including this year's Angus Ambassador of the Year, sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland, will be announced at the Gala Dinner on 24 November at the Carnoustie Golf Hotel.

The award finalists are:

Business Ambassador – Entrepreneurial Angus Award sponsored by Blackadders Solicitors:

- Angus Soft Fruits and its development of the AVA strawberry has brought rapid growth and increased markets.
- Milton Haugh Farm Shop, Carnyllie, creates a showcase for locally grown produce.
- Strathmore Food of Forfar bought over the McIntosh of Dyce brand to bring annual turnover to its current £9 million.

Community Ambassador – Pride of Angus Award sponsored by Angus Housing Association:

- The Association of Residents of Cliffburn & Hayshead has raised £300,000 to build an award-winning community park.
- Heritage Arts – Auchmithie: unity in celebrating one of Scotland's oldest fishing villages.
- Sue Smith of Arbroath galvanised her community into action after the tragic murder of a young Czech worker.

Cultural Ambassador – Creative Angus Award sponsored by Astute (Scotland) Ltd:

- Angus Folk in Kirriemuir preserve the rich history of traditional music and song in Angus.
- Donald Ford of Carnoustie traces the story of the town's golf links over 500 years.
- The Montrose Heritage Trust renewed international interest in the legendary story of WWII Norwegian sea dog Bamse.

International Ambassador – GoAhead Angus Award sponsored by Mackays Ltd:

- David Ritchie (Implements) Ltd of Forfar used its trade links with China to secure new contracts.
- John M Henderson & Co Ltd in Arbroath has won three orders totalling £20 million from Korea.
- Strathmore Woollen Co Ltd in Forfar developed the Chinese-Scottish tartan and increased their export market into Asia.

Tourism Ambassador – Welcome Angus Award sponsored by Piperdam Golf & Leisure Resort:

- Forfar Food Fest with its unique partnership of producers, retailers and restaurateurs is attracting 10,000 visitors.
- Montrose Basin Visitor Centre is now recognised internationally as an environmental tourist attraction.
- Strathmore Vintage Vehicle Club has established its Transport Extravaganza as a flagship event attracting 20,000 visitors.

Youth Ambassador – Aspiring Youth Award sponsored by Angus College:

- Angus Youth Congress – young people involved with local and national organisations to make positive changes to their community.
- Llandyll Gove, 18, of Montrose gained a place at a top performing arts college in Glasgow.
- 17-year-old Andrew Mitchell of Forfar clinched the 2006 World Conventional Ploughing Champion title.