

THE COUNCIL'S MAGAZINE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANGUS

SPECIAL  
LAUNCH ISSUE

# Angus *life*

Issue 1 Spring 2006

visit [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)

## Check it out!

Join in the  
Tartan Day  
celebrations



## Balancing the books

Find out how our  
budget is spent

# flying high

Youngsters  
discover that  
fitness is fun



ALSO INSIDE>> ANGUS AHEAD COUNCILLORS' CONTACTS HOUSING CHILD PROTECTION

# Welcome to the first edition of *Angus Life*, the council's new magazine for the residents of the county



It is packed with news and information about what is going on in your community, through the work of the council and its partners.

In this, and future editions, we will be bringing you information on plans for the area and how we are performing, along with useful snippets about the services you use and perhaps introduce you to some you may never even have heard of!

Through *Angus Life*, you will be able to find out more about the work of the council, its partners and the wider community, in the comfort of your own home.

Just like our website, you can browse through the magazine at your leisure and, given the range of news in this first edition alone, I know you will find plenty to interest you.

Although it offers just a snapshot of the innovative and exciting work being done to make our communities great places to live, the magazine illustrates just how dynamic Angus is. I hope it will also help us take pride in our achievements as we work to build a thriving and prosperous county.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of *Angus Life*. We want you to be informed and involved with what is going on so that we can work together to fulfil our ambitions for the county and I look forward to hearing your views and working with you to benefit and promote Angus.

Provost Bill Middleton  
Spring 2006



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Brechin High Street

## It's busy in Brechin!

THE City of Brechin Partnership has been busy over the past few months. The partnership has assisted in the development of Angus Council's successful stage one bid for Townscape Heritage Initiative Funding.

It has also successfully lobbied for continuation of a temporary tourist bus pick-up/drop-off point, is investigating an alternative permanent site and has held a well-attended information/social evening for local organisations.

To find out more about the partnership, contact Jacqui McNeill, community planning officer, on 01307 473787, or visit the community planning website at [www.angus.org.uk](http://www.angus.org.uk)

### ANGUSHORTS



## Looking at the bigger picture

THE creation of a community cinema is one of the top priorities of the Arbroath and Area Partnership.

A sub-group has been set up by the partnership to progress the project and look at possible funding sources for a feasibility study.

Other priorities identified by the partnership are the creation of an Angus Credit Union and a litter campaign in conjunction with local schools.

Contact Debbie Gowans, community regeneration officer, on 01241 436872, or visit Angus community planning at [www.angus.org.uk](http://www.angus.org.uk)

## New laws will ban smoking in public places from March 26

STUBBING out smoking for good is the aim of a new law introduced on March 26 in Scotland.

On that date, pubs, restaurants, offices, theatres and even public toilets will become smoke-free zones.

To support the Scottish Executive's Clearing the Air campaign, the council's environmental health staff have been spearheading an information drive in Angus.

Leading the campaign for the council is senior environmental health officer Bob Drummond, who has been co-ordinating the work of staff in raising awareness of the legislation in businesses and organisations throughout Angus.

Bob said: "This has been a huge job for our staff. During January alone, 270 businesses, including pubs, restaurants and



Smoking in public places will be banned from March 26

## Clearing the air

hotels, were visited. The good news is almost all were found to be in favour of the ban."

Environmental health officers will have the power to issue penalties of £200 to proprietors and managers who allow smoking in premises where it is banned, while those who light up can be fined £50.

The council is supporting the campaign to tackle Scotland's appalling record of smoking-related illness by working with

NHS Tayside and other agencies to help smokers quit.

Bill Edwards, NHS Tayside senior health promotion officer, said: "While the new legislation will play a massive part in the wider drive to improve the health of Angus people, we must also support those who wish to stop smoking."

If you'd like to stop smoking, contact NHS Tayside on 0845 600 999 6 or the national helpline 0800 848 484.

### INFOCUS

## Aboukir Hotel goes smoke-free

SINCE opening last August, Carnoustie's Aboukir Hotel has adopted a smoke-free stance.

Following an extensive refurbishment, the owners decided a clean-air policy would complement the hotel's new look. Since then, the hotel hasn't looked back, with both staff and customers



Hotel owner David Scorgie and manager Lynda Dargie

enjoying an unpolluted and healthy environment.

Manager Lynda Dargie explained that the feedback

from the public in particular to the smoke-free atmosphere has been positive.

"We've had no problems with the introduction of a ban on smoking in the hotel. Many people have commented on how pleasant it is.

"The implementation of a no-smoking policy has been a success and I hope our experience will reassure other proprietors who might be concerned about the introduction of the new law."



## These boots are made for walking

THE award-winning Angus Glens Walking Festival returns this year and is sure to prove as popular as ever.

The four-day festival in Kirriemuir and the Angus Glens takes place from 1-4 June.

The festival has run successfully since 2003, attracting hundreds of walkers to the glens and generating an estimated £121,000 for the local economy.

[www.angusanddundee.co.uk/walkingfestival](http://www.angusanddundee.co.uk/walkingfestival)

# Would you know the signs?

Child abuse is an issue which should concern us all. A new child protection unit is encouraging the public to help by passing on their concerns

**Child** abuse is a grim fact of life in our society. Sadly, children's services in Angus often come across youngsters who have been victims of neglect or abuse.

Last year, many children in Angus were identified as being at risk. They were supported by services in Angus in the same way as Dawn (see below) and her children.

This is why the council has joined forces with other child protection experts from the police and health agencies to establish a new child protection unit in Arbroath.

It is recognised that children and their families are better supported when agencies work together to do so. Staff in the



council, police, health and the voluntary sector wish to support children and their families at an early stage to prevent difficulties escalating to a crisis point.

The public can play a vital role by being alert to circumstances when children need the support

of agencies that can help. Childcare professionals are urging people to take action if they believe a child needs help.

"We can all play a part in seeking support for these vulnerable members of our community and protecting them," said Kate Mearns, development manager for child protection with Angus child protection committee.

"Remember that expressing your concerns about a child's welfare is not about telling tales, but about ensuring children get the help they need.

"Anyone who is concerned about a child can rest assured all information received by any of the agencies will be treated seriously and acted upon."



## the facts

### An abused child may:

- Have unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place.
- Appear afraid, quiet or withdrawn.
- Appear afraid to go home.
- Appear constantly hungry, tired or untidy.
- Be left unattended or unsupervised.
- Have too much responsibility for their age.

Act in a sexually inappropriate way.

Misuse drugs or alcohol.

Tell you something that sounds as though someone has hurt them.

If you are worried about a child or young person, speak to someone who can help – a teacher, doctor, health visitor, social worker, police officer or nursery staff.

## We're here for your benefit

THE council's welfare rights service has teamed up with ACCESSLine to provide advice for citizens wishing to check their rights.

By calling 08452 777 778, residents can receive free confidential advice on a range of issues including debt, rent and council tax arrears, eviction or repossession, social security benefits and appeals, tax credits and employment problems.

The line is open between 8am and 6pm Monday to Friday.

## Real life: Dawn's story

*Names have been changed for the sake of confidentiality*

**CHILDREN do not have to be physically abused to suffer – domestic abuse between their parents can also have a damaging affect.**

This was the case with Dawn's three children after she suffered years of assaults and abuse from Graham, her husband of 20 years.

"The children were very fearful of their father and this

had a big impact on the family. We were never sure when he would lash out," said Dawn, who was afraid to contact the authorities as Graham had told her she would lose her children.

However, the final assault, which resulted in Dawn requiring six months of intensive physiotherapy to recover, brought things to a head. Social work, child and

family psychiatry, housing, Barnardo's and Tayside Police had to act to ensure the future safety of Dawn and her children.

Although she was anxious about their involvement, she said their help was invaluable.

"Everyone was brilliant. They helped me recover physically and emotionally, helped with housework while I recovered,

ALL PICTURES POSED BY MODELS

## WHOTOCALL

**Angus Council  
social work and  
health department**  
Arbroath 01241 878585  
Forfar 01307 462405  
Montrose 01674  
672702

Forfar 01307 302200  
Dundee 01382 223200

**Scottish Children's  
Reporter  
Administration**  
01241 873194

**Out-of-hours  
social work  
service**  
01382 436430  
5pm-8.45am weekdays  
and 5pm-8.45am  
weekends and public  
holidays

**Childline**  
0800 1111

**Parentline**  
0808 800 2222

**Health visitors**  
Your local health  
visitor can be  
found through your  
local surgery or  
health centre

**Tayside Police**  
Arbroath 01241 872222

## USEFUL INFO

Angus Child Protection Committee has recently published guidance on protecting children and young people in community groups. Copies are available at [www.angus.gov.uk/childprotection](http://www.angus.gov.uk/childprotection) from the Joint Strategic Support Unit, County Buildings, Market Street, Forfar, telephone **01307 473178**.



*>>Everyone was brilliant. They created stability for our family and treated us in a caring and supportive way*



created stability for our family and treated us in a caring and supportive way," said Dawn. She and her children were rehoused, but although the youngsters were now safe, they needed a lot of support and reassurance.

They were supported by their social worker, Olivia, who was committed to keeping them safe and helping them live together as a family.

"It was important we got the children to talk about their experiences, as they were very

Children are often the innocent victims of domestic violence or abuse, but there are many agencies able to offer support

traumatised and they also needed reassurance that they were now safe from their father," said Olivia.

For the sake of stability, the children went to their own school and attended clubs they had previously been involved with.

School staff and others were also kept aware of the situation and were able to respond to the children in a supportive way if they misbehaved.

Dawn is now a college student while her children remain settled in their schools.

## discoverAngus...



## Treasures of Angus

THE enigmatic Picts paid homage to Angus by leaving the landscape dotted with beautiful carved stones.

One of the finest is the Kirriemuir 2 stone, which can be seen along with other wonderful examples at the Meffan Museum in Forfar.

This stunning stone features Pictish symbols and a hunting scene and is believed to have been carved towards the end of the Pictish era c. AD 900.

For those interested in the Picts, there will be an exhibition dedicated to them in the Meffan in April.

## It's a real gold mine

A NEW magazine has lots of ideas for an active and healthy lifestyle for the over 50s in Angus.

The first pilot edition of the Angus Gold magazine contains information about local leisure opportunities and features on reflexology and tai chi, as well as competitions where computer goodies, gardening gear and much more are up for grabs. Copies of the free magazine are now available from local supermarkets, libraries and other local outlets.



## Welcome to Carnoustie

NEWCOMERS to Carnoustie are assured of a warm welcome thanks to the town's area partnership.

Since its launch in 2003, the Carnoustie Partnership has been active in encouraging community involvement.

One of its biggest projects was to produce a Carnoustie Welcome Pack in association with Blackadder Solicitors, with a wealth of information

for newcomers to the town. A variety of events has also been organised by the partnership, including performances by bands and orchestras from the local area and festive concerts with primary school pupils.

**For further information on the partnership, contact Elaine McLeod on 01307 473786 or visit the community planning website at [www.angus.org.uk](http://www.angus.org.uk)**

Whatever your age, exercise plays a healthy – so go on, there's no excuse

# Let's get active

Improving and maintaining the health of a community isn't just the job of one organisation – and nowhere is that demonstrated more ably than in Angus.

The council works alongside several other statutory and voluntary organisations to offer local people a wide variety of ways to get healthy, socialise and have great fun at the same time.

Ron Johnston, the council's sports and development services manager, said: "We've prioritised a number of actions to get people

more active in Angus. We want to make sure children and young people have access and the opportunities to participate in physical and cultural activities.

"We also want to keep supporting and developing community-based sports, leisure and arts organisations.

"There are a lot of different projects on the go. We work with other departments such as education, social work and health, NHS Tayside, Tayside Police, Scottish Enterprise Angus and a wide variety of community groups and clubs to facilitate these.

## REFERRALSCHEME

### The way to health

EXERCISE benefits all of us, but those suffering from certain conditions in the Angus area can take advantage of the council's successful exercise referral scheme to send them well on their way back to good health.

The scheme deals with those who have type 2 diabetes, are

obese, have been diagnosed with depression or are trying to stop smoking.

Lesley Higgins, area manager with the leisure services department, said: "A high percentage of the people referred have never been in a leisure centre before, so the sessions give them confidence."

Practice nurse Elaine McNair, of Montrose Health Centre, said: "I have referred numerous clients to the exercise referral programme and the majority have benefited from this scheme. Many have continued to exercise once the programme is completed to help reduce and maintain their weight loss and for their own personal enjoyment."



vital role in keeping for not taking part...

“The sort of work we are doing within the council includes a variety of community sport and leisure activity-based programmes, encouraging children to walk to school, organising exercise referrals for people with certain medical conditions, training parent volunteers to run clubs and developing accessible networks of paths and cycleways.

“We also work with local football, tennis, cricket, swimming, athletic and gymnastics groups to develop these sports, as well as encouraging clubs to ensure they are run in a safe way by suitably qualified adults.”

Angus Council, with the support of Angus Sports Council, has also introduced an exciting new accreditation scheme called ACE that allows parents and guardians to recognise safe child-friendly clubs. ■



*>>We want to make sure children and young people have access to physical and cultural activities*

**Ron Johnston, sports and development services manager**



There's a huge variety of activities and sports available in Angus for people of all ages and abilities, from the very young to those with health problems



## Exercise is child's play

MAKING exercise a daily part of school life is having a positive impact on Angus youngsters.

With childhood obesity recognised as a major health issue, Active Schools co-ordinators in education are going into the playground to encourage kids to get a fit-for-life habit. Evidence shows that not only does regular activity create healthier youngsters, it can also raise concentration and attainment in class.

From walking to school to playground games, football and athletics, research indicates that 93 per cent of Angus pupils in primary six and seven are now achieving at least one hour of physical activity per day.

This is well above the 80 per cent national target set by sportscotland, whose chief executive Stewart Harris said: “I am delighted the Active Schools programme is proving to be a success in Angus.

Sportscotland recognises the need to maintain healthy, active lifestyles from an early age.”

The Active Schools scheme receives invaluable assistance from parents and coaches, who support a wide number of activities in school. This community involvement is something the Active Schools programme will now build on and other future projects include monitoring physical activity in secondary pupils.

## CONTACT ▾

For more information on health initiatives near you, contact Karen Fletcher, rehabilitation and stroke prevention officer, at [karen.fletcher@tpct.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:karen.fletcher@tpct.scot.nhs.uk), Tom Brighton, patient representative, cardiac rehabilitation unit, on [tomv.brighton@btinternet.com](mailto:tomv.brighton@btinternet.com) or Lesley Higgins on [HigginsL@angus.gov.uk](mailto:HigginsL@angus.gov.uk)

ANGUSSHORTS

## A healthier Monifieth

BUILDING on its successful work to enhance Monifieth and the surrounding area since its establishment in 2004, the area partnership has now turned its attention to health matters.

The partnership has been successful in various areas, including the Christmas lights celebrations, which attracted more than 1000 people.

For information, contact Elaine McLeod, community planning officer, on 01307 473786, or visit the Angus community planning website at [www.angus.org.uk](http://www.angus.org.uk)

## Kirriemuir and the Glens

THREE priorities have been identified for action by Kirriemuir and the Glens Area Partnership.

Working groups have been set up to consider the regeneration of the town centre, opportunities for young people and the marketing and tourism of the area.

Other work being carried out includes a feasibility study for the old Southmuir Primary School, a Tidy Up Kirriemuir Campaign and car parking possibilities in Martin Park.

Contact community planning officer Siobhan Fagan on 01307 473775, or visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) for information.

## Marketing Montrose

A NUMBER of community organisations have recently become involved in the Montrose Partnership.

The partnership is focusing particularly on developing opportunities for marketing the town and surrounding area.

For more information on the partnership, contact Jacqui McNeill, community planning officer, on 01307 473787, or visit the community planning website at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org)

# Balance the budget

As with your household finances, the council has to make sure it spends its annual budget wisely

**Balancing** the council's books – is it just like managing household bills? Council leader Rob Murray thinks so.

“Admittedly it’s a big household,” he said. “This year the council will spend more than £226 million on running and capital costs. But, just like home, the council has to work out where its priorities lie and what it can afford to do.

“Facilities and services in Angus deserve to be of a high standard. The bread-and-butter business – such as schools, social work, refuse collection, roads maintenance – goes on day in, day out. They don’t grab

headlines, but an enormous amount is spent just to keep them ticking over.”

Councils spend the biggest slice of cash on education. In Angus, that amounts to £84m, with social work services taking the second biggest slice at more than



£45m. Even with an extra £3.5m in this year’s budget, roads comes in third at £16m.

“We have to put the money where it works hardest and most creatively for Angus,” said Councillor Murray. “Creativity and ambition brought Angus the A92 dual carriageway, is improving the theatre and the harbour in Arbroath and refurbished every fitness suite in the county.

“It’s always a balancing act between just standing still and being ambitious for the county by improving the opportunities and quality of life for residents. I believe the council does a good job in striking that balance.”

**Recycling** Thousands of households in Angus are taking advantage of the council’s kerbside recycling scheme to reduce waste and protect the environment. Since its



# Light fanta

There is an old adage that people are only aware of street lighting when it’s not working.

However, the value of good street lighting in providing – and enhancing – safety in the community for residents, pedestrians and road users cannot be underestimated.

In recognition of the vital role it plays in our community, Angus Council is committed to the provision and maintenance of quality street lighting.

The authority invests about £2 million annually on the upkeep

# ooks

introduction in May 2004, kerbside recycling has been rolled out across the county to the Arbroath, Montrose, Brechin, Forfar and Kirriemuir areas.

Thanks to this partnership between the council and its residents, the county is at the top of the Scottish recycling league, with figures from the last quarter of 2005 revealing that 36 per cent of its waste is now being recycled.

To sustain this performance, the council is planning an upgrade programme for its recycling centres and the development of a bulk-handling facility for recycling a range of materials in Arbroath.

**Roads** Last year saw two of the biggest roads projects ever seen in Angus come to fruition. The dualling of the A92 and the new Montrose Bridge represented a massive £62 million investment in the



county's roads infrastructure. While these two headline-grabbing projects have brought huge economic and road safety benefits to the area, the council continues to invest in the maintenance of its roads network across the county.

This year an extra £3.5 million – plus £385,000 from the council's renewals and repairs fund – has been earmarked by the council to accelerate the rate of improvement in roads maintenance and provide a safe, well-maintained and accessible network.



**Education** With 57 primary schools, eight secondary schools and about 16,000 pupils, the biggest slice of the council's

As well as education, a large proportion of the council's budget is spent on roads and social work

budget goes to education.

In the new financial year, the total education budget of £84 million will be used to continue to raise standards of attainment, investment in school buildings and provide lifelong learning opportunities within the community.

The funding will also accommodate additional finance for the continuing implementation of the

McCrone agreement on teachers' pay and conditions.

Major future targets for the council's education service during 2006/07 include further improving SQA results in both S4 and S5; improving the school estate; completing the Forfar/Carnoustie Schools Project; ensuring effective implementation

of additional support needs legislation and supporting all schools to become health-promoting schools. ■

# S... stic!

during darkness, but is at no extra cost as the council pays a set annual bill for the electricity supply.

An emergency out-of-hours system is in place to deal with more serious situations such as where large areas of lights are out, column doors are missing or columns have been knocked down.

The council's street lighting section is also responsible for replacing old, uneconomical columns and underground cables, while at the same time improving lighting levels.

This is carried out using new energy efficient equipment, which provides much better distribution of light, placing it where required and reducing the effects of sky glow.

The electricity for the council's street lights is supplied by green power sources, further reducing the production of harmful greenhouse gases.

To help keep our streets well lit, residents are encouraged to report faulty lamps through the council's ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778. ■

of its 20,000 street lights, with an average of 6000 individual repairs carried out and 500 lights being completely replaced each year.

Each light in Angus is inspected on a weekly basis and currently more than 90 per cent of all reported dark lamps are repaired within five working days.

More complicated jobs, such as underground cable faults which require excavation work, may take longer and it is sometimes necessary to connect the street lights so that they are constantly burning.

This is to ensure road safety

## Ways to pay your council tax

MAKE your life easier by paying council tax by direct debit.

Direct debit takes the pain out of paying a bill in one lump sum by spreading the cost, but the advantages to direct debit don't stop there. It also means:

- No more queuing at a post office, bank or council office.
- No more writing cheques each month to pay your bill.
- You don't have to remember a thing – your bank will pay the correct amount automatically.
- You have a choice of two payment dates.

Paying by direct debit also means that the council can collect council tax more cheaply, directing the money saved into providing better services.

To apply, visit [www.angus.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.angus.gov.uk/counciltax)

08452 777 778

ANGUSSHORTS

## Forfar and Area Partnership

THE newly formed Forfar and Area Partnership's priorities include tackling antisocial behaviour, improving transport, access to health services for young people, improving the appearance of Forfar and better leisure facilities.

The partnership aims to let residents of Forfar and surrounding areas know about its activities via a newsletter due to be distributed shortly.

For further information, contact Siobhan Fagan, community planning officer, on 01307 473775, or visit [www.angus.org.uk](http://www.angus.org.uk)

## Free bus travel across Scotland

FREE Scotland-wide bus travel for older and disabled people is being introduced on 1 April. Existing bus pass holders in Angus have been contacted to let them know how to apply for the new national entitlement card, which will replace the existing travel pass.

Angus cardholders will also continue to enjoy free or reduced rail travel thanks to the council's local concessionary travel scheme. Call the ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778, or visit [www.angus.gov.uk/concessionarytravel](http://www.angus.gov.uk/concessionarytravel) for details.

## Road safety is a priority

COMMUNITIES across the Sidlaw/Newtyle area are joining forces to tackle priority issues.

Among the matters being addressed by Sidlaw/Newtyle Community Network Forum are road safety and the Call A Pal scheme.

Both subjects will be considered at the next meeting on 9 May in Murroes Hall.

Contact Fiona Duffy, rural partnership development officer, on 01307 473768 or [duffyfr@angus.gov.uk](mailto:duffyfr@angus.gov.uk) or visit [www.angus.org.uk](http://www.angus.org.uk) for details.

Making sure that everyone who lives in Angus feels safe and secure is a key priority



# Living

### WORKING TOGETHER

The council, in partnership with Tayside Police, has developed a three-year plan to deal with the whole range of antisocial behaviour experienced by communities.

Visit [www.angus.gov.uk/communitysafetystrategy](http://www.angus.gov.uk/communitysafetystrategy) to view the strategy.

# Midnight football kicks off



MANY people would probably identify young people hanging about street corners in the evening as an example of antisocial behaviour.

To combat this negative stereotyping of young people, and to offer teenagers activities at a time when other facilities have closed, "midnight" football has been introduced in the area.

Working in partnership with Tayside Police, the council's football development officer Stevie Baxter runs these coaching sessions at various locations in the county for youngsters aged 12 and over.

This complements the role of the community safety team as part of its

commitment to co-ordinate a partnership approach to diversionary activities for young people.

The sessions have proved popular throughout Angus, with hundreds of young people taking advantage of the offer of late-night football coaching.

The scheme is supported by Brechin City defender Gary Bolland, who said: "The Midnight League is a tremendous initiative which not only provides football activities for both boys and girls between S1 and S/2, but promotes a variety of positive steps for youngsters in their

social and physical development.

"Good facilities, good staff and free admission make this initiative an excellent opportunity for the youngsters in Angus to have fun in a safe environment."



# g in harmony

↘ The council and other agencies are working together to stamp out the menace of antisocial behaviour and create safer communities for all



Scotland, the misery caused by the actions of others cannot be underestimated.

"Defining antisocial behaviour is not easy – it covers a wide range of activity from serious harassment and vandalism to dropping litter and playing loud music.

"What all these things have in common is that they have a negative impact on people's lives. For that reason, Tayside Police, Angus Council and our partners have placed great importance on tackling issues of antisocial behaviour."

As part of its campaign, the council has established a specialist unit with two investigation officers, a police community safety liaison officer and a full-time solicitor.

The unit works in partnership with a range of other agencies and departments to tackle antisocial behaviour problems.

Measures that have already been successfully put in place in Angus include community wardens covering designated areas of Forfar and Arbroath.

Already the introduction of these wardens is making an impact, with recent research showing that people living in the areas feel safer and more secure in their homes and communities. ■

**Ensuring** everyone in Angus enjoys a high quality of life is the aim of the Angus community safety team.

Working in partnership with other agencies such as the police and fire service, the team has a wide range of responsibilities from home safety to diversionary activities for young people.

In common with councils across Scotland, one of the biggest challenges facing the Angus team is antisocial behaviour, which causes distress to communities and individuals.

Making sure that everyone who lives in Angus feels safe and secure in their neighbourhood is a key priority for the council and its partners.

Community safety manager Bob Sutherland explained: "Although levels of crime and antisocial behaviour in Angus are low compared with many other areas of



ANGUSSHORTS

## £20m school improvements

IN 10 years, Angus Council has spent a massive £20 million on improving school buildings, benefiting thousands of pupils, teachers and communities.

At Auchterhouse Primary School, a £266,000 upgrade was recently completed.

Head teacher Peter Ferguson said: "The learning and teaching environment has improved beyond recognition since the upgrade. Teachers and pupils have flexibility, which was not previously available."

It is important that new schools minimise the impact on the environment and a number of projects have resulted in a significant reduction in greenhouse gases.

In addition, the environment around new schools is designed to encourage pupils to walk to school.

Plans have been approved to extend Tealing Primary School, replace Newtyle Primary, improve and extend Montrose Academy and make further improvements at Monifieth High School.

## Hairst we go again

THIS year's Hairst – an Angus celebration of Scottish traditional music, dance and theatre – takes place from 4-27 August.

This is the ninth year of The Hairst and the programme for 2006 will build on the previously successful events such as heritage concerts, ceilidh dances, folk sessions and the Forfar Witch Walks.

The Hairst comes from the old Scots dialect for the harvest – a traditional time of feasting and celebration in farming communities throughout Scotland.

Full programme details will be available nearer the time on [www.thehairst.co.uk](http://www.thehairst.co.uk)

As Scots around the world celebrate their heritage, all eyes are on the birthplace of the nation for the annual Tartan Day celebrations

# Great Scot!

All roads lead to Angus at the beginning of April as the area begins a week of Tartan Day celebrations – leading Scotland and the world in a spectacular show of Scottish tradition and culture.

This year's theme is "threads of tartan", incorporating every aspect of Scottish and Angus achievement – in business, the arts, heritage, music and enterprise.

The birthplace of Scotland is celebrating the global influence of Scots who, over the past two centuries, have left these shores to make their mark in the New World.

Tartan Day was originally conceived in Nova Scotia, Canada in 1991 and, from those small beginnings, the movement grew.

In 1998, the US Senate passed Resolution 155, which recognised that 6 April had a special



significance for all Americans and especially those of Scottish descent, because the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish declaration of nationhood, was signed on 6 April 1320. A similar motion passed through the US Congress in 2005.

Angus, as the birthplace of the 1320 Declaration of Arbroath, has firmly embraced the idea of a Tartan Day festival and in 2004, staged the first of Scotland's Tartan Days, with a week-long programme of events.

Now, two years later, the Tartan Day celebrations offer an even more exciting festival, showcasing the best of our music, art, food and people.

Lis Hill, chairwoman of the Tartan Day steering group, said: "Tartan Day offers the people of Angus the opportunity to celebrate



## Community

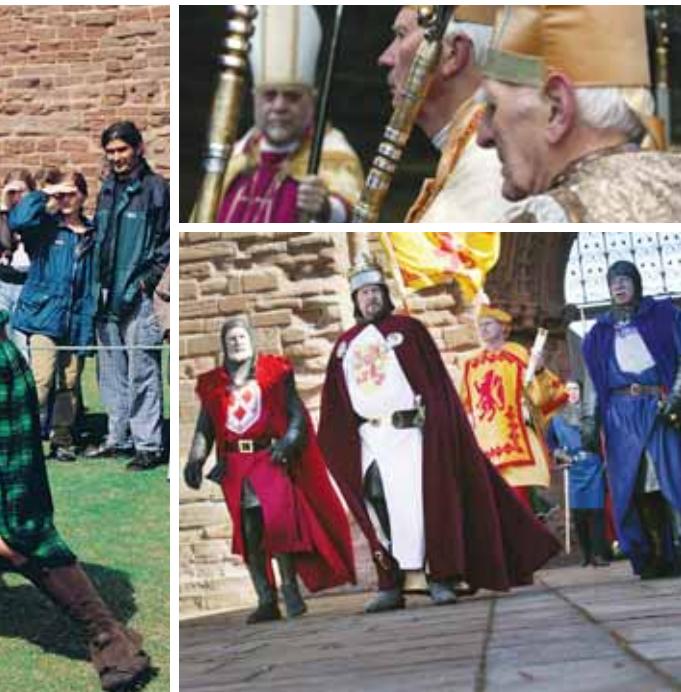
St Andrew's Church, Arbroath,  
Sunday 2 April at 11am

THE congregation of St Andrew's Church in Arbroath will be focusing on Tartan Day in their Sunday morning worship. The service begins at 11am and all ages are catered for.

There is a full children's programme for babies through to teens, the worship is lively and the atmosphere warm and

welcoming. Wear some tartan and come along to celebrate God's goodness to Scots and to the rest of the world!

Round off your morning with a cup of tea or coffee in the hall after the service, then visit the Abbey to get a taste of what worship was like in centuries past.



The pageant is always a popular attraction during the Tartan Day celebrations

their area's unique role in Scottish history. From music, dancing and movies to golf, food and poetry, there's something for absolutely everyone to enjoy as Angus leads the international celebrations.

"Local businesses are really getting involved. For example, instead of competing with one another, 12 pubs in Arbroath are getting together to organise a series of folk sessions and a grand ceilidh on 8 April.

"Our vision is to see Arbroath at the heart of a global Tartan Day celebration in the year 2020 – the 700th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath." ■

For a full programme of all the events on offer during the Tartan Day 2006 celebrations, visit [www.scotlandstartanday.com](http://www.scotlandstartanday.com)



## Music

**Jim Malcolm, Links Hotel, Mid Links, Montrose  
Tuesday 4 April at 8pm**

JIM MALCOLM – Scotland's Songwriter of the Year in 2004 and nominated for Scots Singer of the Year in 2005 – is an outstanding performer of traditional and original Scots song. Accompanying himself with expressive guitar and harmonica, the lead singer of Old Blind Dogs entertains with great wit and a fine balance of songs old and new. "Unforcefully and undeniably stunning," said Mojo magazine.

# Tartan threads



➤ Tartan Day 2006 offers Angus residents a wide range of entertainment to enjoy...

- A pageant celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Arbroath on 6 April 1320 that brought the Scottish nation into being.
- An open day at Montrose Air Station – home of the famous 603 Squadron.
- The Tartan Day golf challenge, played over four majestic courses – Carnoustie, Montrose, Gleneagles and St Andrews.
- A Tartan film festival that sees Montrose Picture House hosting

Scots film director Richard Jobson and his new movie, *A Woman in Winter*.  
 ■ Donald Ford launches his new book *The Carnoustie Story*, with help from former Open champion Paul Lawrie, while the House of Dun is the venue for a host of events, including a celebration of Scottish painters and *Medieval Madness*, where visitors can try their hand at archery and mock sword fighting.

## TARTAN FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS ➤

### Week-long events

**1-7 April:** Best-dressed shop window competition organised by Carnoustie Area partnership. Judging on Saturday.

**1 April:** Official opening of Celebration of Scottish Painter David McRae exhibition, House of Dun, Montrose, 1pm. Open all week, 10am-4pm.

**3-7 April:** Scotland's Tartan Day golf challenge played over Carnoustie, Montrose, Gleneagles and St Andrews.

for over 18s, Links Hotel, Montrose, 7.30pm-midnight.

### Thursday 6 April

**Commemoration of Signing the Declaration of Arbroath** – with the Arbroath Abbey Pageant Society, Arbroath Abbey, 1.20pm.

**Tartan Tea Dance** – to the sounds of Wayne Robertson and his band. Links Hotel, Montrose, 3pm.

**Scotland's Tartan Day Gala Dinner** – Threads of Tartan, Carnoustie Hotel, 7pm.

**Dine with the King** – Meadowbank Inn, Arbroath, 7.30pm. Medieval dress is optional.

### Daily list

#### Saturday 1 April

**Angus Farmers' Tartan Market** – Montrose, 9am.

#### An evening of Scottish Music

– Scottish music with Kevin Walsh and Friends, House of Dun, Montrose, 7.30pm.

#### Sunday 2 April

**Launch of The Angus Palette book of poetry** – plus an exhibition of illustrations, House of Dun, Montrose, 2pm.

#### Tuesday 4 April

**Burns Supper – a taste of Scotland** – Carnoustie Golf Hotel, 7pm.

#### Wednesday 5 April

**Tartan Day debate** – Strathmore & Arbroath Speakers Clubs at Northmuir Hall, Kirriemuir 7pm-9.30pm  
**Ministry of Tartan** – a night of clubbing



#### Friday 7 April

**Tartan Film Festival** – director Richard Jobson talks about *A Woman in Winter*, Montrose Picture House, 7pm.

#### Saturday 8 April

**A Guid Drop o' Scotch** – Scottish variety at its best

at the Webster Theatre, Arbroath, 7.30pm-10.30pm.

**Grand Tartan Day Ceilidh** – Arbroath Community Centre, 8pm-midnight.

#### Sunday 9 April

**Medieval Madness** – try your hand at archery and sword fighting, House of Dun, 11am-4.30pm.

▶ The council is working hard to accommodate the varied housing needs of Angus residents

LANDLORDS ▶

FROM 30 April, all private landlords letting properties in Scotland must be registered with their local authority.

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. Information is available from the Scottish Executive's website, [www.betterrentingscotland.com](http://www.betterrentingscotland.com), or [www.angus.gov.uk/landlordregistration](http://www.angus.gov.uk/landlordregistration) – alternatively contact Eleanor Feltham, housing development officer, on 01307 474773.

# homefront



## Tenants' conference

AS part of its ongoing consultation with tenants, the third tenants' conference takes place on 6 May in Montrose. All tenants are invited.

This follows the 2006/07 rent consultation, when the council wrote to all tenants in December asking for views on proposed increases.

Of the 821 responses,

the majority opted for an increase of 3.7 per cent – an average rise of £1.43 on existing rents over 52 weeks. This brings the average weekly Angus rent to £40.11 – one of the lowest in Scotland – allowing the council to maintain current services and levels of investment.

**For information, contact Déirdre Daly, tenant and community participation officer, on 01307 474740.**

**Housing** needs are changing in Angus and the council is involving residents in various initiatives to ensure healthy, safe communities are maintained.

People's aspirations as to where and how they want to live have altered and Angus is doing what it can to accommodate this.

Ron Ashton, the council's director of housing, said: "With the growth in owner-occupation, fewer people want to become council tenants. Those who do would rather live in cottage-type accommodation than flats.

"As a result of right-to-buy, a lot of cottages have been sold off, leading to something of a mismatch between supply and demand, with most of the properties available for let being flats. Of the 8300 council properties, about 10 per cent are difficult to let. We're tackling this through our low-demand strategy which looks at improvements to properties and neighbourhoods."

For example, at Queen's Park in Brechin, where 100 low-demand properties have been demolished, the council is working with a private developer and housing



Modern housing in Arbroath

associations to develop affordable homes for sale and rent.

The council has carried out surveys to find out why some private sector properties are lying empty and will look at ways to have them brought back into use.

An elderly persons' accommodation

strategy is being developed to deal with the decline in demand for sheltered housing. There is a rolling programme of upgrading certain sheltered housing schemes.

Tenant participation has been encouraged in a number of initiatives. These include the Scottish Housing Quality Standard to improve the condition of council properties by 2015; a re-let standard to ensure council properties are let in an acceptable state; antisocial behaviour procedures and a common housing register for social housing.

Ron said: "Tenants were fully involved in developing proposals for the rent increase in April. We presented three possible rent increases, with tenants voting for the middle option of an average rise of £1.43 per week." ■

## Multi-skilled youngsters are real stars

IT'S been lights, camera and action for a team of talented Angus youngsters. For the past year, 13 young people aged 16 to 19 have gained multi-media skills thanks to an innovative training scheme.

Trainee Laura Webster said: "I want to do directing as a career

and this has given me the chance to get good experience. I am really glad that I decided to do this."

The initiative was the brainchild of community learning and development worker Jennifer Miller, who recognised a need for this kind of training by and for

young people. The project received European funding and has been developed and delivered from the No1 for Youth premises in Forfar.

Jennifer explained that the training had also involved the recruits sharing their skills with other young people. "This has

seen the development of projects concentrating on the interests and needs of youth," she added.

With the project now coming to an end, it's hoped employers will make use of the youngsters' skills.

**For information, contact Jennifer Miller on 01307 468859.**



# Council members

**1 Kirriemuir West**  
Ian Mackintosh JP (Con)  
Kirkton of Kingoldrum  
Kirriemuir DD8 5HW  
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**2 Kirriemuir East**  
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Linross, Glamis  
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Little Deuchar, Fern  
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**4 Brechin North Esk**  
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Dalbog  
Edzell DD9 7UU  
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Hillside  
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East Idvies  
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Carnoustie DD7 6AS  
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Gardens  
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**23 Arbirlot & Hospitalfield**  
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**24 Keptie**  
Dr Richard Speirs (Lib Dem)  
No 1 Cottage  
Fraserfield, Woodville  
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Tel: 01241 890384

**25 Arbroath North**  
Jennifer Speirs (Lib Dem)  
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Tel: 01241 890384

**26 Brothock**  
Ian Angus (SNP)  
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Hospitalfield  
Arbroath DD11 2NL  
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**27 Hayshead & Lunan**  
Robert Spink (Ind)  
The Grange  
Inverkeilor  
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**28 Harbour**  
Alex King JP (SNP)  
12 Dalhousie Place  
Arbroath DD11 2BT  
Tel: 01241 872107

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

## Wards

Your councillor can be contacted at:  
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Tel: 01307 473000  
Fax: 01307 461968  
E-mail: [members@angus.gov.uk](mailto:members@angus.gov.uk)

Further details can be found at [www.angus.gov.uk](http://www.angus.gov.uk)



Visit... live... work...

# Explore Angus online



Did you know that Scotland's birthplace is available to visit 24 hours a day? Log on to [www.angusahead.com](http://www.angusahead.com) to find out more

**Need** a local restaurant for a birthday celebration or somewhere to take the kids on a rainy Sunday?

Perhaps you are a keen walker looking for some scenic local routes, or have a business idea and need the perfect premises. Information on all these things – and much, much more – is now just a click of the mouse away.

The Angus portal at [www.angusahead.com](http://www.angusahead.com) is brimming with information about the county's unique attractions, lifestyle and business opportunities.

For Angus residents, it's sometimes easy to take for granted all the fantastic features of this amazing county. With its



wonderful scenery and quality of life, Angus is recognised as one of the finest places to live in Britain – but while increasing visitor numbers reveal that more and more people are clued up on its attractions, residents can often be unaware of what's on their doorstep.

That's where the portal, which was launched in May last year, comes in. From the Angus glens to further education, the portal is jam-packed with everything you need to know to get the best out of the county. Not only does it provide a wealth of information about the area, it also offers local tourism providers, businesses and the county's communities a tremendous platform to showcase their products and services.

Whether it's an event, attraction or business, you can list your information on the site free of charge – tapping into a huge local, national and international audience.

The portal, which was part financed by the European Union, forms part of the



Angus Ahead marketing campaign, which aims to encourage a renewed pride in the area, increase its profile and attract investment to help sustain and develop the vibrant and diverse local economy.

Tourism marketing officer Catherine Christie said: "The portal is helping to increase visitor numbers, revenue and employment in the tourism sector and is benefiting our businesses and communities by encouraging a greater pride in what we do and where we live.

"In Angus we have a great story to tell and quality products to sell to an untapped audience – both within Angus and further afield. The Angus portal provides an extensive and effective platform from which to do business and we want people to get on board and take full advantage of it."

visit now at [www.angusahead.com](http://www.angusahead.com)