On the ball

Giving all residents a sporting chance
Welcome to the Winter 2008 edition of Angus Life – the council’s magazine for the residents of Angus.

As ever, we’ve packed the magazine with news and features from all over the county, highlighting the work of the council and its community planning partners in delivering effective and efficient services to the citizens of Angus.

As the festive season approaches, residents will find useful information on refuse collection over Christmas and New Year, and top tips on reducing waste.

Snow and ice might produce a pretty Christmas card effect, but isn’t much fun for motorists and pedestrians and we outline how the council will keep the county moving during the winter.

Looking ahead to 2009, our feature on the many and varied sporting opportunities available in the county will hopefully encourage more people to get fit, and with the fantastic prize on offer in the bACTIVE competition, there’s the chance you and your family could be doing it for free.

Work preparing our young people for employment by teaching them practical experience in a variety of skills is featured along with the groundbreaking project to provide community involvement for people with learning disabilities.

As a project to improve the physical environment in Arbroath draws to a close, we examine how effective community regeneration of an area can also involve turning around the lives of local people.

We hope you enjoy this packed edition. The next Angus Life will be coming through your letterbox in March, so look out for it then.
Festive refuse collection dates for your diary

CHRISTMAS and New Year mean there will be different dates for collection of your household waste bins and recycling boxes.

To help minimise householders’ excess waste problems, refuse will be picked up from all households the week after New Year from Monday 5 January.

There will be no waste collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and on New Year’s Day and 2 January, and over the four weeks starting on 15 December, there will be no collection of the green compost bins.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO YOUR COLLECTION DATES

The changes to the grey bin collections for areas on kerbside recycling collection are:

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Changes to grey bin collection dates for towns and villages not on kerbside recycling are:

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Special collections for bulky items requested during the period from 22 December 2008 to 2 January 2009 will be scheduled for after 5 January 2009.

Over the two-week holiday period, recycling centres will be closed on Thursday 25 and Friday 26 December 2008 and Thursday 1 and Friday 2 January 2009. The centres will be open all other days for recycling and disposal of bulky items. Over the two-week holiday period, there will be only Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday collections from commercial premises.

REDUCING WASTE – YOUR GIFT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

AS you prepare for Christmas and New Year, remember the three Rs – reduce, reuse, recycle and cut down on the amount of waste produced over the festive season.

| Reduce wrapping paper and packaging by giving a gift experience or vouchers. |
| Store and reuse decorations, wrapping paper, gift bags, and ribbons. |
| Buy gifts and cards made from recycled materials. |
| Prepare a list before going shopping so you don’t buy too much food and take reusable bags. |
| Reuse leftovers. |
| Christmas trees can be put out for collection on green bin day or taken to a recycling centre. A shredded tree can be added to a home compost bin. |
| If you have a garden, buy a tree with a root ball and plant it out for next year. |
| Some shops provide bins to recycle Christmas cards, or take them to the bins at the recycling centres. Unfortunately, the council cannot accept wrapping paper for recycling. |
| If you are having a clear out before Christmas, sell your unwanted toys, games and clothes or donate them to a local charity shop. Electrical goods can be recycled at recycling centres. |

Book a place to improve your skills!

PUBLIC libraries have always had a role in helping people to learn and improve themselves, and this ethos is being brought bang up to date at Arbroath Library.

The library has joined forces with Learndirect to give local people a flexible way to enhance their skills or study something new, and equip them for living in a technological society.

A range of courses are available, from childcare to IT packages.

Users can enhance existing knowledge or acquire work skills on an informal basis, or use the library as a location for more formal training.

Another development is in partnership working, which includes a pilot starting in January 2009 with NHSScotland to allow a small number of people to use the learning centre to access a dedicated website designed to help those with anxiety or mild depression.

Librarian Henry Logan said: “The development of the library as a learning centre helps keep it relevant to the local community and gives our users a more informal and flexible environment to learn in.”

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Easy ways to contact us

ANGUS Council aims to provide excellent standards of customer care by providing information at the first point of contact for all enquiries about the services provided by the council.

ACCESS Angus offers three ways for citizens to get information on council services – telephone, website or in person.

ACCESSLine 08452 777 778 is a direct telephone line for council services, open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

ACCESS Online at www.angus.gov.uk/services, contains lots of service information through the A-Z of Services. You can request services online, download council application forms and use interactive services such as planning applications and the library catalogue.

Payments can also be made online for council tax, housing rents and non-domestic rates.

If you prefer to visit a council office to speak to a member of staff, ACCESS offices are located in Arbroath, Brechin, Carnoustie, Forfar, Kirriemuir, Monifieth and Montrose, open Monday to Friday, during normal office hours.

Joining forces in Monifieth

TAYSIDE Police and Angus Council have joined forces in Monifieth.

The ACCESS office in the burgh is now also the local police station for the Monifieth area.

While Angus Council staff will continue to provide ACCESS services they now also deal with routine police enquiries such as lost property and local police officers will now work from this office.

A new partnership is giving young people across Angus the chance to build a bright future

As well as motivating young people to learn, the aim of vocational learning is to better prepare them for the world of work, so who better to involve in the learning process than employers themselves?

The council has 77 formal partnerships with 45 employers across Angus.

One particular partnership bearing fruit is between Brechin High School, local firm Forster Roofing and Angus College.

Pupils have been taught roofing skills in the company’s training facility by lecturers.

John Forster, managing director of Forster Roofing, said: “Angus Council has a very proactive response to Curriculum for Excellence and Brechin High is a pioneer, allowing young people to enjoy their learning experience, feel more confident about their abilities and achieve in their own vocational areas.

“The partnership has been an exciting experience and one which has added real value for all concerned.”
Learning new skills for life

Pencil cases and protractors are making way for wrenches and scissors as all ages across Angus take up vocational learning to boost their skills.

New centres have been developed that will provide more pupils and members of the community a place on courses ranging from motor vehicle maintenance to hairdressing.

The first – the West Angus Vocational Learning Centre – opened in October last year on the Forfar Academy campus. And in November, the Brechin Learning Centre opens on the site of Brechin High School. Now, pupils in these areas don’t need to travel as far as Angus College in Arbroath to attend accredited Skills for Work courses, although the college still provides places.

Ken Edwards, quality improvement officer for Angus Council, said: “The centres, schools and Angus College provide opportunities that are helping to encourage and motivate pupils to continue to engage with education, as well as giving them the chance to grow and mature by experiencing new learning environments.

“These courses are encouraging a number of young people to stay on at school to access a broader, more varied curriculum that better meets a range of needs and aspirations.”

Schools across Angus are starting to reshape the curriculum to provide a more vocational experience for pupils. At Brechin High, digital photography has become an extension of art and design, and a side project in biology is seeing pupils grow and sell hanging baskets. Pupils at Arbroath Academy have access to a range of accredited courses including early education and childcare and sports leadership.

Forfar Academy head teacher Melvyn Lynch said: “There is great enthusiasm from pupils for vocational learning. The courses give pupils more independence as young adults to learn useful life skills for their career choices.”

The two new learning centres are also great news for the community, which will be able to take advantage of outreach courses run by Angus College in subjects such as information and communication technology.

Ken said: “We are keen to use these centres as a community resource. Key to that is a partnership with Angus College.”

Brechin Learning Centre will host the college’s outreach office for the town, and from January will offer courses during the day and evenings. The council is exploring how a similar partnership with the college could be established at the West Angus Vocational Learning Centre.

An entrepreneur in the making!

One Brechin High pupil, Sean Cannon, 14, has been so enthusiastic about his construction course that he is already using his new skills to make some pocket money. In July, at the start of this year’s summer holidays, he canvassed his neighbourhood to pick up DIY work, ranging from painting and roof repairs to gardening.

Sean, pictured left at the front, said he started his business to “keep busy, pass the time and make some pocket money”.

He continued: “The construction crafts course was brilliant. It gave me skills and confidence that helped to carry out the jobs that I took on.”

Sean is still keeping his business running with work at weekends. And when he leaves school, he aims to add to his skills by becoming a plumber.
Angus residents are urged to play their part in preparing for journeys when bad weather strikes as the council gears up for winter on the roads.

The council has produced a leaflet, available from council offices, libraries, police stations and some filling stations, detailing the winter maintenance programme in Angus. It is also available online at www.angus.gov.uk/wintermaintenance and by calling ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

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

**Priority routes are:**
- given extended winter maintenance coverage
- treated before non-priority routes
- kept open or opened in preference to non-priority routes during prolonged snow conditions.

**Non-priority routes are:**
- treated after priority routes are completed
- only dealt with after priority/auxiliary routes have been satisfactorily cleared during prolonged snow conditions.

**Auxiliary routes are:**
- generally at a higher altitude than the rest of the network
- more prone to icing
- more lightly trafficked than priority routes.

The council only attends to listed public roads and footways – unadopted roads and footways are the owners’ responsibility.

Trunk roads are the responsibility of the Scottish Government and the A90 in Angus is managed by BEAR Scotland Ltd on its behalf.

The A92 between Dundee and Arbroath is also

**Sea change at sea front**

AS Angus Life went to print, work was about to start on the transformation of Carnoustie seafront.

It is anticipated that the project will take around 24 weeks, with completion in time for the start of the summer season.

The £864,514 contract, awarded to Dundee Plant Company Ltd, includes new play equipment and play surfaces, footpaths, soft landscaping, a new shelter, the refurbishment of the paddling pool; a crazy golf course and the creation of a dedicated area for teenagers.

In addition, the council will install CCTV within Carnoustie Leisure Centre. This, in conjunction with the main works, professional fees and contingencies, brings the total budget to £1,197,500 – which will be met in its entirety from the sale of the Dalhousie Clubhouse site.

**How you can help**

WITH the council ready to tackle the elements with a stockpile of salt, the public is also encouraged to follow the advice in the leaflet on how to prepare for winter.

- The message for the public is to travel with care and attention, taking account of the prevailing conditions
- Mini-tractors are used for salting/snow clearing on footways. Residents are asked to ensure their wheelie bins do not obstruct the passage of these vehicles. In snow...
New year, new look in Forfar

WORK starts on the regeneration of Forfar town centre early in the New Year. The environmental enhancements to the area around the Town & County Hall and Municipal Buildings begin on 5 January and are expected to be complete by June 2009.

The £178,256 improvements contract has been awarded to Land and Building Services Ltd. who will be following a plan drawn up by Angus Council following extensive consultation with Forfar residents and businesses.

The work is starting in January to avoid disruption to shops in the town during the busy Christmas period.

Regeneration and countryside planning manager Roy Madden is overseeing the town developments.

He said: “We have been looking at enhancing Forfar town centre for a number of years and we carried out a town centre health check to find out what improvements people wanted.

“The health check lets us work out how people view the town centre as it is just now and what needs to be done to make it better.”

One of the findings from the health check showed that people are happy to shop in the town centre, despite the fact that it is so close to Dundee.

The regeneration work will improve the look of the town centre and make it easier for pedestrians to make their way about the town, creating an even more pleasant shopping experience for locals and visitors alike.

The proposals include:

■ pavement widening in front of the Town & County Hall and Municipal Buildings
■ resurfacing the area in natural stone paving and salvaged setts
■ removal of the raised bed at Municipal Buildings and replacement with a seating area
■ construction of a pedestrian crossing island next to Somerfield
■ cycle parking
■ stainless steel bollards
■ new litter bins and seats outside the Town & County Hall
■ uplighters to illuminate the Town & County Hall and the columns in the front of the Municipal Buildings.

Roy added: “We are looking forward to seeing what the new town centre looks like and hope that Forfar’s residents enjoy the improvements made.”

DID YOU KNOW?
The salt helps prevent ice from forming and snow from accumulating by lowering the freezing point on the road. Where temperatures fall below -5°C, however, the salt is less effective and even treated routes can still be prone to icing.

looked after by BEAR on behalf of Angus Council and Dundee City Council. Both routes receive 24-hour coverage.

Footways
Adopted footways are categorised into priority and non-priority routes. Priority footways are main thoroughfares in towns and larger villages.

Other footways are treated on completion of priority routes. Priority footway routes vary between weekdays and weekends due to different patterns of usage.
Chris Hoy, Andy Murray, Chris Paterson, Liz McColgan – a roll call of Scottish sporting greats whose exploits highlight what can be achieved through participation in sport.

Sport means many different things to many different people – to some it is a passive spectator interest, to others an active hobby, while others use it to earn their livelihood – but what is clear is that involvement in sport provides play, enjoyment, physical activity, health, competition and achievement.

In Angus, the council recognises the role sport can play in improving people’s quality of life by promoting social inclusion, improving health, countering antisocial behaviour, raising individual self-esteem and confidence, widening horizons and, of course, encouraging sporting achievement.

Whether nurturing the gold medal winners of the future, or just encouraging people off the sofa, groups and individuals are encouraged to be active and participate in leisure and sporting opportunities.

Among the local athletes who have benefited from the facilities on offer in the county is top cyclist Jamie Bremner, part of Scottish cycling’s under-19 performance team.

Jamie said: “As a member of the National Athlete Support – Angus (NASA) scheme, offered by Angus Council, I gain free access to training facilities. Adding this to the support and advice I get from Tayside & Fife Institute of Sport staff, hopefully I can reach the very top in cycling. The NASA scheme also helps me with training and competition costs.”

At grassroots level throughout Angus, many dedicated individuals and groups are involved in organising and participating in sport across rural areas and larger communities.

The development of specific sports and activities is a major part of the commitment of the council, with two generic development officers promoting sports including athletics, badminton, basketball, golf, gymnastics, hockey and dance.

Three sports-specific officers target football development, rugby and sports and recreation for people with disabilities.

Colin Knight, senior sports development officer, said: “The aim of our sports development team is to provide, support and enhance sports and physical activity opportunities across the county.

“We work closely with our many sports partners to try to ensure that opportunities exist across Angus and beyond for anyone involved in sport to reach the highest level that they desire, whether this be simply participating in or coaching a recreational activity on a weekly basis or reaching national or international level in their chosen sport.”

Angus residents are also well served by a variety of sports facilities, including nine leisure centres and seven swimming pools. Extensive programmes run throughout the various leisure sites incorporating adult fitness classes and junior coaching sessions.

Investment has also recently gone into refurbishing facilities at Lochside Leisure Centre in Forfar, Montrose Sports Centre and the two facilities in Arbroath at the Saltire Leisure Centre and the town’s sports centre. Consultation is also under way for the provision of a new pool in Montrose.

Iain Stevens, sports facilities area manager, said: “Our aim is to provide affordable physical activity for all people in the region to reflect Angus Council’s commitment to get the community fit and healthy.”

The great outdoors in Angus also offers world-class opportunities for leisure activities, from walking in the Angus Glens to the three country parks which provide opportunities for sports and activities, as well as hosting major sporting events.

Angus Sports Awards
Look out for nomination forms in January and nominate your Angus sporting achievers for these prestigious awards that recognise and reward sporting success during 2008. Please call 01307 474243 for further details.

For information on everything sporting, including leisure classes, sports development, offers and promotions, visit www.angus.gov.uk/sportscountryside where you can sign up for our email list to receive the latest news about what is offered by sports and countryside services.
Rugby and football development

Rugby development
ANGUS Council is working with Angus Rugby Development Group and the Scottish Rugby Union to promote the development of rugby.

Angus Rugby Development Group includes Arbroath RFC, Montrose RFC, Strathmore RFC and Angus Colts. A new development officer, Stewart Ross, has been appointed by the council.

Stewart said: “I am looking forward to working with Angus rugby clubs, schools and the Scottish Rugby Union to create effective partnerships for the good of the game.”

Football development
Angus Council has also increased its commitment to football by working with the Scottish Football Association to appoint Scott Nicoll as its first development assistant for football. Scott will work alongside the current development officer for football, Steven Baxter, to enhance the many programmes that are on offer for a number of age groups across Angus.

To contact either Stewart, Scott or any of the development officers of Angus Council sports development team, please call 01307 475368.

bACTIVE competition

GET 2009 off to a flying fitness start for the whole family by entering our fantastic leisure competition!

Angus Life has teamed up with bACTIVE to offer a lucky reader the opportunity to win a year’s family membership to Angus Council leisure facilities – worth a whopping £700.

And as an added bonus, everyone who enters the competition will receive a day pass to the leisure centre of their choice – completely free of charge.

A bACTIVE membership can help with all your sports and fitness needs by giving you unlimited access to the council’s nine main leisure sites and three high school pools. They offer a wide range of leisure facilities, including bodypump, bodycombat, bodyattack, aerobics, Fit to Live courses, badminton, swimming, football, health suites, fitness suites… and much more.

At less than £1 per day, the bACTIVE unlimited leisure membership is a real bargain – and considerably less than any national fitness chains.

You can buy membership for an individual, a couple, or the whole family and there are concessionary rates available too.

What is the name of the unlimited leisure membership scheme run by Angus Council?

Send your answer by post to Angus Life bACTIVE Competition, Public Relations Unit, Angus Council, Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar DD8 1AX. Alternatively, complete the online coupon at www.angus.gov.uk/anguslifecompetition

The closing date for entries is 5pm on Monday 5 January.

Please tick the appropriate box if you would like to be kept informed of the fantastic leisure opportunities and special bACTIVE offers available in Angus:

BY EMAIL ONLY
We would prefer to contact you by email as this helps us save money and trees

BY POST ONLY
Your details will only be used by Angus Council (the “data controller” for the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998) to process your entry and/or keep you informed about leisure opportunities in Angus. The information will be held securely by the council and will be treated as confidential except where the law requires it to be disclosed. This competition is open to residents of Angus only.

Answer
Name
Address
Contact number
Email address

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Making a real {\textcolor{red}{\textbf{diff}}}

Regeneration work near Arbroath is transforming the lives of local residents

Effective community regeneration must go beyond the look of a place to the sense of a place, and this philosophy is making a real difference to life in some of the most disadvantaged areas in Angus.

Physical regeneration work in the north of Arbroath has already seen the transformation of the Cliffburn and Hayshead area, with an extensive programme of demolition, construction and refurbishment of properties, including much of the housing stock.

Recognising that the physical transformation of an area must be matched with a turnaround in the opportunities available to local people, money allocated by the Scottish Government has since focused on social and economic regeneration.

To enable authorities to carry out projects in their own area, the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) was established and distributed throughout all local authorities to undertake work in the 15 per cent most deprived areas of Scotland, with north Arbroath meeting the criteria for investment.

The priorities were:
• getting people back to work
• improving health
• building strong, safe and attractive communities
• raising educational attainment
• engaging young people.

The group had its first meeting in October, with partners from the Association of Residents of Cliffburn and Hayshead (ARCH), Angus Council, Hillcrest Housing Association, Angus Housing Association, Tayside Police, NHS Tayside and voluntary organisations.

ARCH chairperson Margot Reilly said: “Through the Cliffburn & Hayshead Community Planning Group we hope with all our partners to take the priorities for our area forward. Already there have been fantastic changes in our area, but we feel that there is more to be achieved. The group is in its early stages at the moment. However, we feel that it will be very successful.”

Debbie Gowans, community regeneration officer, explained: “Community regeneration is first and foremost about people, and our aim is to support and encourage a thriving local economy and to promote community wellbeing.

“The work is not intended to replace existing mainstream services but to complement them for the benefit of the community and individuals living in the area.

“For example, one of the targets of the fund was to reduce the number of people on anti-depressants. Although there are existing services to deal with this issue, a new service was established in north Arbroath which allows local people almost immediate access to professional counselling for which they might otherwise have to wait a considerable time, if they even sought the help in the first place.”

This year, the CRF has been incorporated within the Fairer Scotland Fund, and Angus has received enough funding to continue the work under way during the current financial year.

To offer advice and assistance to the local community to enable the continuing regeneration of the area in terms of health, educational attainment, the environment, social welfare, economic development and housing, a Cliffburn and Hayshead Community Planning Group has been established.

The group has its first meeting in October, with partners from the Association of Residents of Cliffburn and Hayshead (ARCH), Angus Council, Hillcrest Housing Association, Angus Housing Association, Tayside Police, NHS Tayside and voluntary organisations.

ARCH chairperson Margot Reilly said: “Through the Cliffburn & Hayshead Community Planning Group we hope with all our partners to take the priorities for our area forward. Already there have been fantastic changes in our area, but we feel that there is more to be achieved. The group is in its early stages at the moment. However, we feel that it will be very successful.”

Regeneration funding has been made available for Showcase the Street and Angus College to develop an SVQ in hip hop not available anywhere else in Scotland.

Showcase the Street is a registered charity providing classes and activities for young people in many art forms including dance, music, media and drama. Dance styles include modern, contemporary and Irish.

It has new facilities in Arbroath offering a world-class dance studio and music room, and also offers classes in Friockheim, Forfar, Kinnaird and Brechin.

Some other examples of community regeneration projects in the area are:
• An expansion of the already successful adult cooking classes, teaching healthy eating and cooking skills to children
• Additional wardens to patrol the north Arbroath area and to

ANGEUS life 10 www.angus.gov.uk
Buddy To Work gathers pace!

A PROGRAMME which assists people to get back into employment is starting to make a difference, according to Tony Simpson, development officer at Angus Council training services, who manages the Buddy To Work programme.

Tony explained: “We relaunched Buddy To Work in September and are already starting to see an increase in the number of individuals who are seeking support.

“The programme aims to bridge the difficult gap people can experience when they move from benefits into employment. Day-to-day expenses for travel and food suddenly need to be met and Buddy To Work can help offset some of these initial costs.

“Support from Buddy To Work would typically include travel warrants to assist with travel to and from the client’s place of work.”

Support for people returning to work, going to interviews, looking for training or trying to improve their skills for work is also available through the Get You To Work grant scheme administered by the Volunteer Centre Angus.

Debbie Gowans added: “The partners anticipate that work will continue and grow but without the constraints of the old funding streams and services may be available to anyone, anywhere in Angus where a need is demonstrated.

“One of the main factors which has contributed to the success of the regeneration in Arbroath is the commitment of all community planning partners to work together and the public, private and voluntary sectors have all made a significant contribution.

“Looking to the future, it is hoped that successful projects will continue with support from partners and the local community.”

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“Looking to the future, it is hoped that successful projects will continue with support from partners and the local community.”

New name for partnership

MONIFIETH Area Partnership has now been relaunched as the Monifieth Landward Partnership.

This reflects the partnership’s aim to become more inclusive and accessible to the neighbouring areas of Monifieth and every second meeting will be held in a landward area. The partnership also wishes to extend future projects into these areas.

In September, Monifieth received a Bronze award for its first entry as a town into Scotland in Bloom, and a highly commended award for the war memorial. The Monifieth Business Association (MBA) is currently being formed and most businesses in the area will soon receive a letter inviting them to join.

The partnership is also busy working with the organisers of the Angus Farmers Market to bring it to Monifieth.

Please contact the community planning team on communityplanning@angus.gov.uk for more details.

Moving Montrose forward

THE Montrose and Area Partnership has voted to change its name to Montrose Together.

The new chair has outlined proposals to take the partnership forward recognising what is already taking place and how the partnership can add value to developments for the benefit of Montrose and the surrounding area.

The Montrose Extravaganza and Montrose Music Festival were discussed as examples of good work.

The partnership plans to discuss possible gaps which could be filled by the partnership adding value to these events.

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Hollywood blockbuster Days of Thunder has come under attack for the use of offensive terms to describe people with learning disabilities. The filmmaker’s defence is that the movie satirises Hollywood attitudes, but sadly, abuse against people with learning disabilities often begins with name calling, which in turn can lead to bullying or other targeted attacks.

Negative language used in films, television and music is particularly powerful in influencing the outlook and behaviour of young people and children. In Angus, groundbreaking work is being carried out to break this cycle of misunderstanding and prejudice.

At Lilybank Resource Centre in Forfar, a pioneering project is promoting understanding towards people with learning disability through personal contact with others within the same community.

The centre, which is operated by Angus Council Social Work & Health for adults with learning disabilities, has created a biodiverse garden in its grounds with green-fingered helpers from local children’s nursery The Wendyhouse and Angus College’s horticultural unit.

Inspiration for the project came from day centre officer Pierre Bernard, who is delighted with its success.

“This project shows that given the opportunity to work together, barriers can be broken down and service users become more valued as members of the community,” said Pierre.

“Service users and the children have become increasingly confident in working happily alongside each other. The community have also rallied round the project, and neighbours now ask for regular feedback.”

Throughout the seasons, the garden is now full of colour, and thanks to a £6000 grant from the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership, nesting boxes for...
Kirriemuir and The Glens

COMMUNITY planning activity continues in the Kirriemuir and The Glens area through a pilot project which is focusing specifically on tourism. The pilot project group is focusing on sustainable developments that will boost tourism in the area, particularly supporting the community in their work for the 150th celebration in 2010 of JM Barrie’s birth, but also other longer-term projects including:

- support to Kirriemuir Town Hall development
- town improvements
- Kirriemuir Hill and Den improvements
- development of links with the Cairngorms National Park
- development of a programme of events for the area
- promotion of the area as the Gateway to The Glens.

Please contact the community planning team on 01307 476107 or email communityplanning@angus.gov.uk for more details.

Carnoustie partnership dissolves

THE Carnoustie Partnership decided to dissolve in June this year, however Carnoustie Community Council have agreed to take forward any community issues that may arise.

Work carries on between Angus Council and the Carnoustie Centre Action Group who are looking at proposals for the use of part of the old Kinloch school site.

A contractor has won the tender for carrying out improvements to the seafront which will be starting soon.

Any community planning queries or issues should be forwarded to the community planning team at communityplanning@angus.gov.uk or 01307 476108.

Silver Success

IN June, service users and staff at Lilybank celebrated a successful visit to Gardening Scotland 2008.

Lilybank bio-diverse project entered the Scottish Gardening Forum Pallet Garden Challenge Competition. The competition involved designing and creating a 1m² garden to be exhibited at Gardening Scotland.

Lilybank’s entry combined native and cultivated garden plants to show how a rich habitat for bees, butterflies and other wildlife can be provided even in a tiny space. The garden was awarded a Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society Silver medal.

Originally, the garden was to be set up at The Wendyhouse Nursery, but it was decided that a more child-friendly mini garden is to be set up as a permanent feature.
A new video unit is tapping into the global fascination with the internet to help put Angus on the world map.

**Angus** is taking advantage of the internet broadband revolution to promote the county via the web, podcast and interactive DVD.

Following the adage that every picture paints a thousand words, rich multimedia content such as video, audio, animation and motion graphics is now seen as a major requirement for marketing and promotion.

"In operational terms, this small team works on tourism-related projects for economic development and they have a full calendar all the year round to meet constantly changing priorities."

The flexibility to undertake video productions at short notice to take advantage of filming opportunities as and when they arise – knowing that we have a guaranteed and consistent professional quality standard and full editorial control over content – is vital to ensure our marketing and promotional expectations are being met," Stewart explained.

Some of the video coverage to date includes golf events such as the Carnoustie Country Classic, Tartan Week golf used by Chinese television broadcaster Phoenix Television and the International Pairs tournament.

Coverage of the Angus and Dundee Roots Festival and a five-minute short of the Angus Summer Festival have also been produced.

Among the current projects which the team is working on is a series of entertaining short films focusing on the lives and times of some of the county's most famous characters.

AREP hopes to make significant progress on this next year.

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**Planning an event?**

A NEW pack has been produced full of valuable information for anyone planning an event in Angus.

Recognising that organising a public event can be complex, with many tasks to consider, the new guide offers wide-ranging advice and information.

Issues covered include safety, risk assessment, who to contact, licensing and, importantly, guidance on having a safe, legal and fun event.

The pack has been produced by the council's emergency planning team and gives all the information required by anyone organising an event for the first time, and an update on legal changes for those who may have many years of experience of event planning.

For a copy of the event pack, contact ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

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**Focusing on issues in rural Angus**

MORE than one quarter of Angus people live in rural areas and enabling local communities to take an active part in decision-making is central to achieving a more inclusive and integrated approach to sustainable rural development in Angus.

Angus Council and partners have recently established the Angus Rural and Environment Partnership (AREP) to consider the main issues facing rural areas of Angus and the county’s natural environment as a whole.

AREP has now met on two occasions, with one of the first issues being actively discussed being how to involve rural communities, particularly those in the Angus Glens and Sidlaw and Newtyle who are not currently directly involved in the community planning process.

AREP hopes to make significant progress on this next year.
Improving customer service

TO make it easier for customers to have their requests for services dealt with at first point of contact, a new system has been installed in ACCESSline and ACCESS offices.

The Customer Relations Management (CRM) system will be used for requests for special uplifts, pest control, bins and kerbside recycling.

It gives ACCESS staff instant access to the information they need, which makes it easier for customers to have their requests for these services dealt with at first point of contact.

For example, when a customer now calls for a special uplift, the operator can retrieve their address easily and pinpoint the location.

Using mapping technology, the local office will be highlighted and the customer will be advised of the day of collection for that area.

The CRM system will be rolled out to include other council services in the future.

A website that works!

A NEW website is proving popular with jobseekers keen to join Angus Council.

Since its launch on 10 October, the new recruitment minisite at angus.myjobscotland.gov.uk has had more than 118,000 hits.

The site holds information on all current vacancies within the council, and allows applicants to apply online and store details for future applications.

www.angus.gov.uk 15 ANGUSlife
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For further details please contact your councillor.