Enjoy a fantastic summer in the countryside around Angus

Also in this issue:
- Kinloch development
- Dealing with an emergency
- Carers efforts recognised
- Support for your business
Welcome to your new-look Angus Life magazine

Hopefully we’re in for a great summer – it’s the least we expect after being hit with one of the worst winters in recent times!

If you’re planning to make the most of the long summer days, our feature on how the council has worked to ensure that local people and visitors can get the best out of the wonderful Angus countryside, will provide inspiration.

Our cover image is of beautiful Glen Clova, one of the many areas in the county which is being made more accessible for visitors as the council invests in the creation of new paths and cycleways and improved signage in the glens, along the coast and around our burghs.

There are also many organised activities on offer in Angus during the summer – whether it’s sport sessions for youngsters, or the fascinating culture and history of the area, there’s plenty for local people and visitors to enjoy.

Shining a light on our performance

It’s important to us that you know not only what services we deliver but how well we are delivering them.

In addition to the usual selection of news and features, we’ve introduced mini performance guides to Angus Life – look out for these How We’re Doing snippets, with traffic light symbols showing you how we are meeting targets for key services.

The symbols indicate a red for a drop in performance, amber where performance remains the same, and green for improved performance.

This will give you a more user-friendly guide to our performance and will help us to be more cost effective by reducing the number of publications we have to produce.

We continually monitor our performance to identify where we’ve done well and where we could do better, and information is updated all the time at www.angus.gov.uk/performance.
THANKS to everyone who responded to the budget survey in the last issue of Angus Life.

The budget consultation was our first and it set out how we might deliver £23 million of savings by 2014. Nearly 300 of you responded and although that was a relatively small sample, your responses and comments gave us some indication of what you thought. The survey responses are available at www.angus.gov.uk/budgetfeedback.

There was general support for our four pronged savings approach – greater efficiency, fewer staff, more focused services and increased income – to deliver the £8.5 million of savings needed in 2011/12.

The final budget delivered as much of that as possible from efficiency savings – this year almost 50 per cent (£3.6 million) of the departmental savings were from efficiencies. Reductions in staff numbers through natural turnover will deliver a further £3.8 million. These measures, coupled with more focused service delivery and increased income, will deliver the total savings needed.

In response to your comments some savings proposals were dropped. So, for example, subsidised créches at leisure centres are continuing and there is no change to recycling centre opening hours.

We are already looking at the 2012/13 budget which will be just as tough with finances just as tight. We will again be seeking residents’ views but this time we may use the Angus Citizens’ Panel and other established local organisations as sounding boards for the 2012/13 budget proposals.

This would allow us to have earlier and more meaningful discussions with local communities about how services are delivered and where savings could be made. We are also considering how our biennial citizens’ survey can help inform our longer-term financial planning.

We will keep you up to date with these budget discussions through our website, in the local press and in the October issue of Angus Life.

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Our budget – what you said

Feedback from our first budget consultation helps inform our decisions

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Charter has royal seal

AMONG the many treasures held by Angus Archives is a Charter with the royal seal of Mary, Queen of Scots.

The document, dating from 1566, confirms the sale of lands by Matthew Hepburn, chaplain of St Caldhome in the Cathedral Church of Brechin to Sir John Bellendem of Auchnole.

Hepburn was the younger son of Bishop John Hepburn of Brechin, and he served as a canon of the cathedral.

After the reformation he sold off his chaplainry lands.

The charter is one of the largest and has the best preserved royal seal in the Angus collections.

To find out more, contact 01307 468644 or email angus.archives@angus.gov.uk

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Grants for the community

IN 2010/11, local communities benefited from £172,375 from the council’s community grants scheme.

The scheme has proved so popular that the council has added £100,000 to the pot for 2011/12, giving organisations access to even more funds for community projects. Awards have gone to projects as diverse as a bowling club’s kitchen refurbishment to the hall hire for a dance festival.

More information is available at www.angus.gov.uk/externalfunding or by calling the council’s external funding team on 08452 777 778.
WITHIN the next 20 years, there will be an increase of 120 per cent in the number of people over the age of 85 in Angus – a rise of more than 3,000 to an anticipated 5,600.

Angus Council is rising to the challenge of meeting the needs of an ageing population by focusing on what people can do for themselves rather than what can be done for them.

As part of its imaginative new approach to older people’s services, the council has invested in an exciting and innovative new development located in the heart of Carnoustie.

The £9 million Kinloch development marks a major and radical shift in the authority’s provision of services for the county’s older people.

The care centre and supported housing project is part of a long-term strategy to transform the housing and care available for older residents, enabling them to lead the most independent lives possible.

When completed early in 2013, the new facilities will comprise a care home with a high dependency residential care unit, a respite care unit, a day care centre and office accommodation. Alongside will be the 28 supported housing units with communal lounge and other facilities.

The development will mark the first phase of the programme to create 265 new supported housing places in Angus by 2028.

Social Work & Health director Robert Peat explained that the Kinloch development is a new model for the delivery of older people’s services, which focuses on supporting their independence.

“We carried out an extensive review of older people’s services in Angus a few years ago, and are now working to address the needs of a growing older population, by enabling them to help themselves and to maintain their independence, wherever possible, in their own homes,” he said.

Ten new council houses for families are also being built and with the community’s plans for a civic centre on the site, the completed development will revitalise and invigorate the centre of Carnoustie.

For more on progress, including a virtual walk round the development, visit www.angus.gov.uk/kinlochdevelopment
The centre for the community

PLANS are well under way for a fantastic new community hub on part of the Kinloch site.

Angus Council has donated the land for the project which is being taken forward by the Carnoustie Centre Action Group.

Chair of the group Rodger Brunton said: “We are very grateful to the council for its support. This makes it possible to have a central site in which to offer facilities to suit the residents of Carnoustie.

“Recently Nicoll Russell Studios of Broughty Ferry were chosen to work with us. The Hub is to be oriented towards the south for maximum exposure to the sun allowing for events to get the best of the weather.

“It’s over one floor in order to be compact and sustainable, but still flexible enough to host a range of community activities.

Alison Paget, chair of the interviewing panel to select the architects, said “Provision will be made for a reception area, an attractive cafeteria, performance areas, areas for meetings, spaces to accommodate activities for children, an IT suite, a recording studio and possibly a dance studio and space for heritage items.”

The architects will give presentations over the summer to engage the wider Carnoustie public in this exciting project.

Alison urged Carnoustie residents to continue to give their views.

“The plan is conceptual and will change throughout the process. People can make their views known by visiting our website or at one of the presentations.”

The group hope to make an application for funding to the Big Lottery.

Angus Council has also pledged a cash donation of £140,000 towards the project, subject to planning consents and a full financial package being in place by the end of June 2013.

For more information, visit www.carnoustiecentreactiongroup.org

River plea to public

NATURE lovers are being urged to help protect one of the most unique environments in Angus.

The South Esk Partnership wants the public’s support in reporting invasive weeds, fresh water pearl mussel poaching, species sightings and many other topics.

Visit www.theriversouthesk.org for more details on the partnership and how you can get involved.

HOW WE’RE DOING

In the first six months of 2010/11, incidents of antisocial behaviour continued to decrease with vandalism down 24 per cent and neighbour related noise complaints down 23 per cent, compared with the same period last year. There has also been a 29 per cent reduction in youth offending for the same period.

Next phase of Cliffburn regeneration begins

LONG-TERM plans to regenerate the Cliffburn area of Arbroath have taken a step forward.

The next stages in the regeneration of the area will include the creation of a community hub; consideration of the best use for Seaton Park and other areas of ground and assets in the area; proposals to sustain regeneration and employment; and the formation of a new federation of tenants to ensure close links between tenants and the local community planning team.

A part-time community development worker, funded by the council, will be employed for at least two years by the Association of Residents of Cliffburn and Hayhead (ARCH) to assist with planning of the next stages of community regeneration.

HOW WE’RE DOING

The proportion of people aged 85 and over who have to be supported in a care home as opposed to in the community is reducing, despite the ever increasing numbers of people over 85. As at March this year, the target of 28 per cent was achieved.
SUMMER’S nearly here, and what better way to enjoy the good weather than to get out and about?

The Angus countryside with its mixture of spectacular coastline, fertile straths and scenic glens is one of the county’s greatest assets.

The council recognised that improved access to the countryside would encourage a greener, more healthy and active Angus and bring economic benefits to the county by attracting tourists. Working with local communities and organisations such as Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, the council has created a network of paths.

As Angus Life went to press, work was under way on creating the latest link in this set of routes, with the construction of a combined footpath and cycleway between Montrose and the Northwater Viaduct.

The £229,000 investment by Angus Council, Sustrans and Angus Environmental Trust will establish a dedicated off-road combined path and cycleway running from Broomfield in Montrose northwards and linking with the southern end of the viaduct. The route will then follow the minor public road to St Cyrus and beyond, and forms part of the designated Sustrans National Cycle Route and the North Sea Cycle Route.

Graeme Brown of Sustrans said the organisation was delighted to have worked closely with the council over the recent improvements to the National Cycle Network Route 1.

“This project provides facilities that allow the people of Angus and visitors to the area to travel in ways that benefit their health and the environment,” he said.

To ensure residents don’t have to go far to enjoy the countryside, a series of burgh path networks have also been created by the council.

Forfar, Arbroath, Brechin, Kirriemuir and Monifieth now have designated path networks, and over the next few years paths will be created around Carnoustie and Montrose. These networks of linked, signposted routes have created improved access to the countryside around towns. Where possible, routes are accessible to cyclists and horse riders as well as to walkers. Some of the routes are also suitable for disabled users and families with pushchairs.

Along the coast, the council has created a path, which now extends from the Angus/Dundee border to East Haven, covering 12.5km. Just over 85 per cent of the route is on dedicated off-road paths and all is suitable for people with disabilities.

The extension of the coastal path from East Haven to Arbroath, covering 6km, is programmed for 2011/12.

In the glens, almost 150km of paths were created and improved as part of the Eastern Cairngorms Access Project complete with signage and guidance leaflets.

The work was carried out over a 225,000 hectare area which makes up 60 per cent of what is now the Cairngorms National Park.

Path info
If you’d like to enjoy the fabulous Angus countryside, there are leaflets available giving lots of details on the path networks.

These are available at libraries and other council offices and there’s also a wealth of information on the internet via the council’s site at www.angus.gov.uk/paths and at the Sustrans site www.sustrans.org.uk

Out and about
In Angus, we have fantastic countryside – and there’s no better time to enjoy its benefits.

The extreme weather over the winter period impacted on the number of people being able to access the outdoors, with the number of visits to Angus country parks falling slightly by 3 per cent.
Council allocates an extra £400,000 to its budget to help tackle extreme winter weather conditions

Extra funds to help repair roads

Last winter’s Arctic conditions and sub-zero temperatures left Angus with a big pothole problem.

In common with other areas across the country, Angus roads suffered extensive damage during the big freeze.

The weather affects the severity of potholes as they are formed when water repeatedly freezes and expands in cracks in the road, and the resulting gaps can cause damage to vehicles.

But the council is rising to the challenge of restoring its roads network with more than 2,600 potholes being repaired by May.

Engineering crews are out tackling the worst affected spots identified by roads staff or reported by members of the public.

The council inspects the road network on a rotation basis, with the busier routes inspected more often than more minor roads.

Defects are categorised according to the safety risk and are repaired within timescales which are in accordance with a national Code of Practice. Potholes are also being filled as part of planned maintenance and resurfacing work where roads need more extensive repairs. These repairs are prioritised taking into account the road condition and its traffic use.

In order to repair potholes quickly to keep the travelling public safe, some repairs are only temporary, with further work being carried out if and when necessary.

Some of the repair work is being carried out using a road patching system that is cost effective, eliminates waste and minimises disruption. The Rhinopatch system ticks all the boxes in terms of environmental considerations, health and safety and cost and is being used with great success in Angus.

To help deal with the potholes and other problems that have emerged in the wake of the severe winter, the council has pledged extra funding for the upkeep of the county’s roads network in 2011/12, bringing the total roads maintenance budget to more than £12m.

An extra £400,000 has been allocated to the winter maintenance budget to help tackle conditions which appear to be getting more extreme year on year. Some of that money will be used to provide another 100 grit bins across Angus, to assist residents to help themselves during spells of winter weather.

£

To report a pothole contact the council’s ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

HOW WE’RE DOING

Although there was an increase in the number of roads in Angus needing maintenance from 27.1 per cent in 2009/10 to 29.4 per cent in 2010/11, an independent survey by SCOTS – the national organisation for senior transport officials – revealed that the county’s road network is the fifth best in Scotland. The extra finance committed by the council will help keep Angus among the best performing authorities.
Fabulously fun days out

The Signal Tower Museum in Arbroath has been revamped

Whether you’re a culture vulture, an outdoor enthusiast, or a harassed parent hoping to keep the kids occupied during the holidays – there’s something happening for you in Angus this summer.

Across the county there are numerous events and activities for all ages to enjoy.

There’s no excuse for kids to cry “I’m bored!” during the hols – there are lots of sporting and leisure events on offer while school’s out.

The summer programme includes activities at all council leisure facilities, sports-specific coaching, dance workshops, the rural summer active club, Angus Scottish FA summer football, sport and recreation for people with a disability, and holiday clubs.

Details will be distributed to all Angus primary schools before the end of term and will also be available from leisure facilities, country
Soak up the summer with the huge array of activities and attractions on offer in Angus

parks, libraries, museums and ACCESS offices.
Angus countryside rangers will be encouraging everyone to get out and enjoy the fabulous Angus landscape from their bases at Crombie, Monikie and Forfar country parks, Montrose Basin and Glen Doll.
Activities include a guided walk across the mud at Montrose Basin, windsurfing, a bat watch and a number of fascinating events related to the International Year of Chemistry, including an illustrated talk on the dark side of plants!
For more info on any of the above visit www.angus.gov.uk/leisure

A glimpse into the fascinating past of the Angus burghs and surrounding areas is on offer at the county’s museums, including Arbroath’s refurbished Signal Tower.

Thanks to £450,000 investment by Angus Council, the revamped museum boasts new displays focusing on the burgh’s fascinating maritime heritage and the link with the famous Bell Rock Lighthouse.

This famous structure is celebrating its bicentenary this year, and over the summer a number of special events are planned to mark the anniversary. For details visit www.angusahead.com/bellrocklighthouse

These are just some of the ways local people and visitors can while away the summer days in Angus.

HOW WE’RE DOING

There has been a year-on-year increase in the number of visitors to the AngusAhead website looking for tourism and leisure information, business information, and local service and community information.

For more information, visit www.angusahead.com

THE GREAT ESKAPE IN ANGUS

A NEW visitor experience highlighting the history and natural beauty of one of the most remote parts of Angus has been launched.

The Great Eskape is a collaborative venture between Angus businesses with support from the council’s business advisory service.

Setting out for scenic Glen Esk on a luxurious vintage coach with an expert guide, the tour offers visitors a fantastic opportunity to experience the sights, tastes and culture of Angus.

The Great Eskape takes in the historic burghs of Carnoustie, Forfar and Brechin, before arriving in scenic Glen Esk.

There’s a chance to soak up the glen’s natural beauty, before arriving at The Retreat folk museum and restaurant for some traditional Scottish cuisine.

Also included are a demonstration of traditional crafts and a tour round the folk museum bringing the area’s rich heritage to life.

For more information visit www.thegreateskcape.com
Emergencies do happen, so it’s essential to plan ahead to protect yourself, your family and your business from the unexpected.

Hope for the best, prepare for the worst.

“Taking a few minutes to think about what to do in an emergency now could make such a difference to the outcome for you, your family and your business.”

You can ensure your family is ready by taking simple steps such as:

- Having a wind-up or battery operated radio and knowing how to tune it into your local radio station
- Agreeing meeting points
- Ensuring you have adequate contents and buildings insurance
- Undertaking a basic first aid course and having a first aid kit
- Completing a personal emergency contact list
- Having a ‘go bag’ which contains essential items such as a torch, batteries, medication, toiletries, water, spare keys etc
- Preparing a household emergency plan
- Checking on neighbours.

Emergencies can also disrupt businesses, hitting profits and operations, affecting employees, customers and communities.

Businesses should have systems in place to be able to continue to trade. There are some simple steps that businesses can take such as:

- Backing up computer records off site
- Identifying ways to deal with significant staff absences
- Accessing essential equipment at short notice
- Identifying processes which are critical to continuing in business
- Preparing a business continuity plan.

Working together
At some point, communities in Scotland will be affected by a situation which will challenge their normal day-to-day existence. Angus must be prepared to deal with these situations.

HOW WE’RE DOING
The severe winter conditions contributed to a 36 per cent increase in the number of incidents requiring the out-of-hours emergency planning service. All were responded to and actioned.
Go online for the latest jobs

The recruitment minisite at www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/angus holds information on all current vacancies within the council, and allows applicants to apply online and store details for future applications.

New Brechin High School moving forward

Following an extensive consultation process, Angus Council has reaffirmed its commitment to the creation of a new Brechin High School and community campus.

The authority will now move the £24 million project forward, with the commissioning of design and technical services.

Further discussions with community groups, pupils, staff and parents will also take place to explore their requirements for the new facilities.

Views to be considered

The consultation on proposals to amalgamate Muirfield and Timmergreens primary schools into a new single school on a site adjacent to Hospitalfield House closed on 1 April.

The responses are now being collated by the council and will be the subject of a report to the authority’s Education Committee.

Drivers rally together to help vulnerable people

Case study

There are often ways individuals and groups can use their practical skills to support communities during an emergency.

A great example of this in Angus was during last year’s severe winter weather, when local groups stepped in to help with the delivery of vital services.

As the council staff battled the elements to try to reach service users, it became clear that during the Arctic conditions only four wheel drive vehicles were going to be able to reach some areas.

An SOS call went out and among those who responded with offers of help was the Tay 4x4 club.

Mary Don was one of these volunteers and, as she explained, she was pleased to help out her local community. "My dad received community meals, and I know how important the service is for elderly people. I felt that I could give something back by volunteering to help during the severe weather."

“We had members assisting with everything from driving district nurses, to transporting medical supplies all over Tayside and into Fife. We are all used to driving in all sorts of conditions – at one point I was caught in a very bad snowstorm, we still got through it!

“All the club members were happy to help, it’s important that we all muck-in and help each other out in these circumstances.”

Robert Peat, Angus Council’s director of Social Work & Health, paid tribute to all those from the community who rallied round to assist the authority during the extreme winter weather.

“The appalling conditions meant we were facing unprecedented challenges in reaching some of our service users,” he said. “Thanks to the help we received from community-spirited individuals and groups such as the 4x4 club, we were able to deliver vital services and provide support to people who are vulnerable.”

How we’re doing

The amount of municipal waste going to landfill has reduced by 7 per cent in the nine month period April to December 2010 compared to in the same period last year.
Shannon Dalzell is a normal teenager who enjoys reading Harry Potter and watching spooky TV. Shannon (13) is also the main carer for her mum Dorothy, who was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder three years ago.

Due to her condition, Dorothy has mobility and other health issues, and relies on Shannon for practical and emotional support.

Shannon admits to having to be “pretty well organised” as a typical day can include shopping, household chores and providing personal care for her mum.

Life was tough for Shannon following her mum’s diagnosis, and with no outside support, she was under great stress.

Shannon said: “I was so worried every time I left the house about what would happen to mum while I was away. She was having dizzy spells and I would be just out of the door and want to go back to make sure she hadn’t fallen or anything.”

Before too long, the stress had an impact on Shannon’s attendance at school, setting off alarm bells.

And it was the support of the school which turned both her and Dorothy’s circumstances around.

From then the family were referred to agencies who provide support and assistance. This has reduced Shannon’s pressure, allowing her to catch up on school work and enjoy some free time.

Among those agencies is the Angus Carers Centre. Through the centre, Shannon was able to meet other young carers and share experiences. She also received support to deal with the emotional impact of her mum’s illness and having to take on a caring role.

“All my friends have been really understanding, but it was great to meet other people my own age who were carers and could understand what I was going through. Through the centre, I’ve been able to talk about my feelings and this has helped me worry less.”

“Young carers shouldn’t feel alone or be afraid to ask for help,” she said. “Lots of young carers don’t want other people to know what is happening, but if you approach a trusted adult like a teacher there is lots of help out there.”

Dorothy also acknowledged the help: “It’s been great and really helped relieve some of the tension. With help and support, I have managed to stop worrying about Shannon worrying about me!”

Young carers’ worker Karyn Brady has watched Shannon grow in confidence since becoming involved in the young carers service.

“Young carers should feel how much they care.”

Shannon Dalzell

Across Angus, young people spend significant time and energy caring for family members.
Caring for the carers: how the council helps

It is difficult to estimate how many young carers there are in Scotland, but research would seem to indicate numbers are increasing.

The Scottish Government is spearheading a national campaign to identify and support this hidden army of children and young people.

The Getting It Right for Young Carers strategy recognises that some children and young people like being young carers. Their role allows them to show commitment and love to a family member, helps them gain skills and to become more grown-up and independent.

However, there is also recognition that the negative aspects caring can sometimes have on young people’s lives needs addressing.

In Angus, professionals from across children’s services have been working for some time to identify and provide support for young carers, and this work will now be taken forward in conjunction with the national agenda.

Fiona Robertson, of Angus Council’s education service, said: “By raising the awareness of staff, such as social workers, health visitors and teachers, they will better understand the issues affecting young carers and will be more able to identify those who provide care. This in turn will remove some of the caring being done by young people by providing better support to the person being cared for.”

A key part of the support for carers in Angus is the partnership between Angus Council and the Angus Carers Centre, a local charity which is part of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers network.

Angus Carers aim to improve the quality of life for all carers in the county, and have specific services catering for young carers under the age of 18.

Mhairi Blyth, deputy manager, explained: “We offer varying levels of support to around 200 young carers living in the Angus area. We know, however, that this is only the tip of the iceberg and that there are many more young carers who have not been identified and, in fact, may not even realise themselves that they are a young carer.

“We are currently working in partnership with Angus Council and other local organisations to try and raise awareness of young carers and promote the work which we are carrying out to improve the outcomes for young carers in Angus.”

• If you are a young carer in Angus, then why not get in touch with the Young Carers Worker, by calling 01241 439157, by letter to Young Carers Worker, 3 Fisheracre. Arbroath DD11 1LE or by emailing angusyoungcarers@anguscarers.org.uk

Work on new pool begins

Work has started on the £9 million new Montrose Pool.

Angus Council is funding the project with a £1 million contribution from sportscotland and the complex is planned to open in October 2012.

The sports centre is closed during the works and the town hall will act as the main administrative hub for sport and fitness activity bookings, enquiries and comments about decant facilities.

The hub is open Sunday to Friday 9am until 10pm and Saturday 9am until 8pm. Its telephone number is 01674 676211.

• Information is also available via the website at www.angus.gov.uk/montrosesportscentre

HOW WE’RE DOING

There has been a year-on-year increase in the number of young carers identified in Angus, from 135 in 2009 to 155 in 2010, and in the number of carers who receive some form of support from Angus Carers Centre.
How do you turn a good idea into a great business?

Well, the good news for aspiring Angus entrepreneurs is that there’s a wealth of information and support available to new and fledgling businesses in the county.

The team of business specialists at Business Gateway Angus offers mentoring to small and medium-sized businesses – helping turn business dreams into reality and providing invaluable support.

David Valentine, who heads up the council’s economic development service and chairs the Business Gateway Scotland Board, said: “Even in these tough times, there is a strong entrepreneurial spirit in Scotland. We need to support this to ensure the vibrancy of the local and national economy.

“By combining our expertise and the vision and ambitions of local people, we can help local firms get established, grow and prosper.

“It’s clear from our engagement with the Angus business community that they need all the support they can get in the current economic climate. Business Gateway can offer a wealth of free information, advice, support and signposting that can help them to survive and thrive.”

In Angus, Enterprise North East Trust delivers the Business Gateway service for the council.

The team offers expert advice to companies on market research, finance, business plans and the law.

Free regular workshops for people thinking of becoming self employed or starting a business are also run. For existing businesses, workshops in subjects such as accounting and finance, marketing, e-business and general management are also available.

£ To get your business idea off the ground, or to access support for your existing business, just give the Business Gateway team a call on 0845 609 6611 or call 01382 443400.

If you want to work for yourself, Business Gateway is here to help you realise your dream

Have a big idea?

Case study

Ecobase

Dave Robertson’s brainwave for a new business opportunity came when he began to notice recurring problems on buildings sites relating to the insulation of both timber framed and traditionally built houses.

Dave, an experienced architectural technician, quickly recognised a need to find a product that could be fitted retrospectively to rectify the poor insulation that was, and still is, commonplace in the UK’s housing stock.

After months of research, Dave realised there wasn’t a simple solution available in the UK. He started to look further afield and came across the RetroFoam product in the USA. Dave struck an agreement with the main manufacturers of RetroFoam to bring the product to the UK and established Ecobase Insulation in September 2009.

Dave sought advice from the Business Gateway on setting up a limited company and was introduced to business adviser Bob Morrison. Together they worked through many of the obstacles facing a new business including raising finance, marketing and networking.

“This guidance proved extremely valuable and laid the foundation for the company,” said Dave. “It is fair to say that without the involvement of Business Gateway and Angus Council, I would have been unaware of the finance available and this would have severely hampered progress. The free advice and support was quite possibly the difference between success and failure.”

£ For more information email sales@retrofoam.co.uk

Despite the current economic climate, 98 business start-ups in Angus were supported by the Business Gateway between April and September 2010 compared to 65 in the same period the previous year.

How we’re doing
Make sure you don’t fall victim to bogus sellers, pushy salespeople and other types of doorstep crime. The Doorstoppers campaign protects Angus residents – particularly those who are vulnerable – from crime by creating zero tolerance areas for cold calling. Doorstoppers packs with stickers and leaflets are available from Angus Council trading standards, just call 01241 435600.

Doorstoppers is a partnership between Angus Council, Angus Neighbourhood Watch, Tayside Police and Angus Care and Repair.
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