Welcome to the third edition of *Angus Life*, the council’s magazine for the residents of the county.

In this edition, we look at an innovative Angus project which supports families with children diagnosed with an autistic spectrum disorder (page 4).

Researching family trees has never been more popular and Angus is cashing in on this rise in interest in genealogy with the launch of an ancestral tourism initiative (pages 8 & 9).

In the centre pages, you’ll find a four-page pull-out on Angus Community Planning Partnership’s five-year plan to deliver better public services in the county.

These are just some of the highlights in *Angus Life* – there’s lots, lots more for you to enjoy inside.

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**Now wash your hands!**

A NATIONAL advertising campaign to encourage Scots to wash their hands is being supported by Angus Council’s environmental health officers.

The key message of the campaign is Germs – wash your hands of them.

It includes television adverts, motion-sensor talking posters in public toilets and prompts for customers using some cash machines.

The Scottish Executive’s campaign has been welcomed by the council’s food safety specialist Jervis Browne, who said: “It is a simple fact that hand washing is one of the single most important things you can do to help to reduce the spread of infections and is key to preventing ill health.

“To put it bluntly, if more people washed their hands thoroughly, then I would be out of a job!”

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**Crossing patrol vacancies**

ARE you interested in becoming a school crossing patroller? The shortage of school crossing patrollers is a problem facing councils across Scotland and Angus Council would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in either a permanent position or a supply post.

If you are interested, call Kate Johnston, or Lesley Eaton, on 08452 777 778 or email johnstonka@angus.gov.uk or eatonla@angus.gov.uk for more information.
Help your child’s education

Parent Councils will play a vital role

A NEW way for schools and parents to work in partnership will come into effect in August. From that date, school boards will cease to exist and be replaced by Parent Councils.

Parent Councils will:
• support the school in its work with pupils
• encourage links between the school, parents, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community
• report back to all parents at the school.

To ensure parents and carers are aware of the new system, a working group of staff and parents has been set up.

Parent member Taletta Jamieson, of Brechin, encouraged parents to become involved.

Taletta said: “This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to become involved in the education of their children.

“By becoming involved in the development of Parent Councils, we have the opportunity to shape and build stronger partnerships with the schools.”

Under the new system, all parents are members of a Parent Forum, from which members of Parent Councils will be selected.

School-based meetings have been organised in March/April to discuss how each school wishes to progress.

Further information is available from the council’s parental involvement team – contact Shona Martin or Alison Kydd on 08452 777 778, email martinst@angus.gov.uk or kyddaa@angus.gov.uk

Information is also available by visiting the Parentzone website at www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk or Parent Network Scotland at www.parentnetworkscotland.gov.uk

Investing in Angus homes

ANGUS Council tenants have once again taken the opportunity to have their say on the council’s rent-setting process.

In the coming year, council house rents in Angus will rise by 4.6 per cent, giving tenants a new average weekly outlay of £41.96 – one of the lowest rents in Scotland.

The work to set the rents is carried out by tenants in conjunction with the council.

The option of 4.6 per cent was favoured by 83 per cent of the county’s tenants who were consulted on a range of proposals. This average increase of £1.85 will allow for investment of over £9.8 million in Angus housing stock.

This will include new kitchens in 1000 homes, door replacements in 400 homes and heating upgrades in 355 homes.

Among the major projects will be the refurbishment of Adam Cargill Court sheltered housing complex in Arbroath and 20 flats in Southesk Street, Montrose.

This improvement and upgrading programme will ensure all council housing stock will meet the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS) by 2015.

No council tax increase in Angus

Council tax bills are currently being sent out in Angus.

The Band D combined council tax and water charge rate for 2007/08 is £1,437.85. This includes £1072 council tax – no increase on last year, and £365.85 of charges set by Scottish Water, which represents a rise of 3.2 per cent on 2006/07.

ANGUS Council is continuing to consult its tenants, with the annual tenant conference organised for early summer this year.

As part of this ongoing consultation with tenants, the council’s fourth tenants’ conference takes place on Saturday 12 May in the Wellbank Village Hall between 10am and 3pm.

All tenants are invited to go along, meet with other tenants and housing officers and talk about housing issues where they feel the council could make changes.

For further information on the event, contact Deirdre Daly, your tenant and community participation officer on 01307 474740.

Monifieth Partnership

MONIFIETH Area Partnership held its Annual General Meeting in January where office bearers were elected for the forthcoming year.

The Monifieth hall steering group will reconvene in the near future to move forward the town/community hall priority.

The Monifieth health improvement sub-group has now collated the results of focus groups held throughout Monifieth, and key themes have been identified.

The next steps for the group are to pull together questions, based on these themes and the questionnaire will be distributed to all households in the Monifieth area in spring.

Monifieth Area Partnership’s top three priorities and costed proposals are now located in the new Angus Community Plan covering the period 2007-2012.

For further information contact Elaine McLeod, community planning officer, on 01307 476106, email mcleode@angus.gov.uk

www.angus.gov.uk 03 ANGUSlife
Support when it’s needed most

An innovative project is helping parents of autistic children deal with the practicalities of the condition

News that their child has an autistic spectrum disorder can be devastating for parents and getting the appropriate support for the family as early as possible can make a big difference.

In Angus, an innovative project is supporting such families by giving practical help and advice in those first traumatic months.

Research suggests levels of autistic spectrum disorder have increased dramatically over the last decade and in response to this upsurge in the condition, Sparkle was launched in Angus four years ago.

Sparkle is a partnership between Angus Council and NHS Tayside and is specifically designed to meet the needs of families living in a rural community.

The Sparkle team is Margaret Cummins, principal teacher pre-school additional support needs; Rachel Grieve, principal teacher autistic spectrum disorders, and Lindsay Law, specialist speech and language therapist at NHS Tayside.

Parents are offered a referral to Sparkle at the time of diagnosis and the team aims to meet with parents within weeks of hearing this news.

Some families may need time to come to terms with a diagnosis before they are ready to accept further help and support. These families are able to contact Sparkle when they feel ready to do so.

Each family receives individual support and advice through meetings, which take place in the family home.

Margaret explained: “A parent whose child has been diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder is likely to have a lot of questions. They will want to know what this diagnosis means for their child and the impact it may have on the family. Sparkle was launched to meet a gap in provision, which meant that parents were often left isolated once a diagnosis was confirmed and unsure where to find further information.”

From an educational perspective, it is important that major transitions from nursery or playgroup to school are handled sensitively and smoothly for a child with autistic spectrum disorder.

Rachel added: “The move from nursery or playgroup to school can be particularly difficult for a child and Sparkle also provides support to staff to help make these moves as easy as possible.”

Sparkle works together with other health and education services to ensure that children and their families receive the best possible programme of support and local parents have welcomed this.

“Since Sparkle was first introduced, we have received lots of positive feedback from families who are understandably worried about what the future may hold for their child following a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder.

“We are able to address these concerns at a very early stage using a friendly approach and tailoring strategies which are specific to their child,” said Lindsay.

Parents should contact their GP if they have any concerns or wish further information about Sparkle. For more information, log on to the National Autistic Society website, www.autism.org.uk

CASE STUDY

Following an appointment at a local paediatric clinic, a pre-school child was diagnosed with autistic spectrum disorder. At this time, the parents met with Lindsay Law, a speech and language therapist, and the role of Sparkle was discussed.

Parents were keen to accept a referral and an initial visit was arranged to meet with the family at home. This took place within two weeks of diagnosis.

During this first meeting, the Sparkle team addressed the many questions that the family had. The grandparents were also present to take part in the discussions. Talk centred on education, behaviour and communication.

Three follow-up visits gave everyone a chance to update the child’s progress and implement appropriate strategies, such as a visual timetable at nursery and home, awareness raising training for staff at nursery and enrolment on the National Autistic Society HELP course for families.

>>Since Sparkle was first introduced, we have received lots of positive feedback from families who are understandably worried about what the future may hold for their child

Rachel Grieve, principal teacher autistic spectrum disorder
Most people know that it is illegal to sell alcohol to a 17 year old or cigarettes to under-16s. But you may not be aware that selling party poppers and nail varnish remover to certain age groups is also against the law.

To ensure that vulnerable members of the community are protected and prevent the use and abuse of many everyday products, Angus Council trading standards has introduced the Responsible Trader Proof of Age Scheme.

The scheme forms the first step in the introduction of a Fair Trader Scheme across Angus taking in all aspects of good commercial practice. Businesses in Angus will be encouraged to sign up to the new campaign, pledging to provide the best possible service to their customers.

An audit will be carried out to make sure businesses meet a set of requirements before being awarded fair trader status.

The scheme is the brainchild of the council’s trading standards service in partnership with Tayside Police, Tayside Fire & Rescue Service and NHS Tayside, and is supported by the Dundee and Angus Federation of Small Businesses (FSB).

By signing up to the initiative and its associated code of practice, businesses are committed to upholding the highest standards of commercial behaviour and to trade in a fair, honest and safe way.

The first phase of the campaign is to educate businesses and customers on the issue of age-restricted goods.

Many everyday items are prohibited for sale to certain age groups. For example, some items sold in a craft shop, such as spray paint and craft knives, would be considered age restricted.

There is also a long list of products which are not illegal to sell to youngsters, but should be considered inappropriate, such as matches, aerosols and garden tools.

Trading standards officers and the police are working with local businesses to give them all the information they need to ensure they are aware of these regulations.

Trading standards have prepared packs with information on the sale of age-restricted products and will keep businesses up to date with any changes to the law.

Charles Goodall, chairman of Dundee and Angus branch of the FSB, said: “The introduction of the Angus Fair Trader Scheme will benefit small businesses owners and operators in Angus. Some people may say it is up to every business owner or manager to be aware of all the legislation that should be adhered to when running a business. To be honest, if we were, all we would be doing every day is reading the massive mounds of legislation and not making a living.

“It became clear from the beginning that the concept of the scheme was to provide education and assistance to small businesses and for the trading standards officers visiting those businesses and carrying out the audits, that this was going to be the start of an invaluable partnership.”

Charles added that the first part of the scheme, the launch of a pack concentrating on the Responsible Trader Proof of Age Scheme, would be of real benefit to small businesses.

“This is a very comprehensive pack that will keep the business owner fully aware of their legal duties. About 500 of these packs will be distributed free to small businesses thanks to funding received from the Angus Youth Justice Forum.

“I would recommend all small businesses to become involved.”

For information on the Angus Fair Trader Scheme contact trading standards officer Brian Smith on 01241 435600.
A helping hand to get back to work

Working for Families help ease the process for those returning to employment

Lack of confidence can be a great barrier to some people wanting to return to work after a long period out of the job market – but help is at hand from the council’s Working for Families (WfF) team.

Anne Duncan heads up the team, which offers a wide range of support to help parents on low incomes who want to return to work and for those already in work who are looking to change career or their hours.

Parents who are interested in taking up work or training again are often daunted by transition from benefits to full-time work, especially issues such as loss of benefits and childcare.

Anne explained: “There are many reasons why people find it hard to get back to work after a long period away. Sometimes it is a case of building up their confidence or helping them to gain new skills. Most people want to work, but they are worried about coming off benefits and whether they can afford childcare.

“That’s why we have a welfare rights officer in the team to advise them on money issues such as debt management or other benefits they are entitled to.”

Finding childcare is not an issue as Angus has a good range of high-quality childcare facilities – the problem can be affording it.

“It’s initially hard for some people to manage as many childcare providers require a initial deposit. We can arrange temporary finance for this over four to six weeks, but ultimately the parent has to bear the cost on a sustainable basis.”

The WfF team can also provide one-off personal development finance in cases where retraining would specifically help the parent get a new career.

Leanne’s story (below) shows the impact of how this funding helped her gain a qualification and a great new career.

Since last July, the team has advised 166 people and about a quarter of these have already gone on to find full-time work.

The team can also help employers who may be experiencing problems filling posts or if their employees are having difficulties accessing childcare.

Useful Information

Help and advice from the Working for Families team is available to anyone on a low income.

The team can also help

The Volunteer Centre really take time to understand people’s interests and skills so they can place them in suitable working situations.

It gives people a good experience of getting used to a working environment and it

Leanne is given a sporting chance in her working environment

ONE Angus resident who has a spring in her step thanks to the Working for Families team is Leanne Webster from Arbroath.

She was keen to work in the leisure industry after gaining a national certificate in sports, but her next step was hampered because she needed to undertake an intensive week’s tuition in sports fitness.

Not only was the course expensive, but it was also miles away in Carlisle.

It was through a conversation with a friend that she heard about the Working for Families career development fund and got in contact with key worker Julie Murray.

After chatting with Leanne, Julie could see that she was very determined about progressing her career and agreed not only to fund the course, but also the travel and overnight accommodation.

“The course was really

The Working for Families team is looking to expand its numbers with a new key worker who is fluent in Polish to help with migrant workers in Angus who want to remain in the area.

Can You Help?

The Working for Families team is looking to expand its numbers with a new key worker who is fluent in Polish to help with migrant workers in Angus who want to remain in the area.

ANGLUSlife 6 www.angus.gov.uk
new career

intense but really good and now I’m running BodyPump classes at Carnoustie Leisure centre. It’s only part time as my two children are my first priority, but I’m looking to get more work once my sports grading is finished,” explains Leanne.

“I’m very grateful for the help Working for Families has given me because I would have never been able to afford it on my own,” she added.

With its colourful marina and eye-catching visitor centre, Arbroath’s historic and picturesque harbour is undergoing a new lease of life. Once home to a fleet of 36 North Sea fishing boats, the harbour looks set to thrive again as a new development, on the site of the former Gerrard’s boatyard, gears up for opening in early summer.

The regenerated harbour will feature a multi-media visitor information and orientation centre to be managed by national tourism agency VisitScotland, an upmarket seafood restaurant, coffee shop, public toilets and two shops. The seafood restaurant will be operated by well-known local businessman Marco Macari, who said: “It has been great to be involved in such a regeneration in the harbour area. To see the marina take shape and then become a tremendous success was very exciting.

“The new visitor centre is such a striking building and is the perfect addition to the whole scheme. The extra employment it will bring to the area is much needed. Arbroath harbour is taking off as a day-out destination.”

With the harbour gates restored to keep the yachts berthed at the two serviced pontoons afloat at any state of the tide, the marina is already in demand from local boat owners and visitors alike.

There is a waiting list for the 32 berths that are available for annual lease and last summer, 179 boat visits were accommodated as the harbour’s reputation grew. Angus Council has been at the heart of the multi-million pound redevelopment, working with the local enterprise company and private firms to create a magnet for tourists arriving from land and sea.

The partnership has also attracted European funding for the regeneration works.

Environmental improvements such as new lighting, safety rails and street furniture will complete the harbour’s renaissance.

“There’s a real buzz about Arbroath harbour these days,” said Roy Madden, regeneration and countryside planning manager for Angus Council. “This project is breathing new life into the whole Arbroth area.”

The seven-year project has been a real marathon effort by the council and its partners.

Following the completion of the visitor centre at Arbroath Abbey in 2001, the council turned its attention to how it could develop the tourism potential of the harbour.

Roy said: “We looked hard at how we could tap into the tourism market. With the Abbey at one end of the High Street and the harbour at the other, it made sense to link the two.

“One of big problems we had was that visitors would often arrive in Arbroth and go for a walk around the harbour.

“If it rained – as it occasionally does, despite Arbroath being one of the sunniest spots in Scotland – there was nowhere for them to go except back on the coach or into their cars.

“That’s all about to change. We have constructed a roundabout on the A92 road that gives direct access into the harbour from Burnside Drive.

“This will allow coaches to drop off their passengers outside the Harbour Visitor Centre, where they can enjoy a meal or coffee, visit the shops, and find out more about the many attractions of both Arbroath and Angus.”

www.angus.gov.uk 7}
How much do you know about your family history? Genealogy – the study of your family's history – has become an increasingly popular pastime in recent years.

Television programmes such as the BBC series Who Do You Think You Are? have triggered a huge rise in people who are keen to delve deeper into their past. In addition, Scotland has the best record resource in the world now available on the internet via www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Scotland has benefited from this boom in genealogy due to the huge diaspora of Scots who have emigrated throughout history. There are an estimated 50 million people around the world who can claim Scots ancestry.

Every year, thousands of visitors, drawn largely from the US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, come here to trace their family roots. This has given rise to what is now known as “ancestral tourism” – a market believed to be worth more than £150m per year to the Scottish economy.

Angus has also benefited from this interest in genealogy. Thanks to the Angus & Dundee Ancestral Tourism Initiative, set up in July last year, the area is tapping into the growing global interest in tracing family trees.

Researching your family tree can be a complex process and Norman jokingly warns that it should carry a health warning: “Once you get the bug for it, it can become obsessive. It can take a long time to do the research, but when you discover the information you are looking for, it can be like a road to Damascus-type experience.”

MORE INFORMATION

The Angus Archives can be contacted on 01307 468644 or by email at angus.archives@angus.gov.uk

The postal address is Angus Archives, The Hunter Library, Restenneth by Forfar DD8 2SZ

Visit the website at www.angus.gov.uk/history/archives

Stewart Wilkie, Angus Council marketing and special projects manager

Tracing your history is a popular pastime – and the extensive archives in Angus are the ideal place to dig out those long-lost secrets

Who do you think you are?

Centuries of history

THE Angus Archives house 800 years of the area’s written, photographic and printed history. This includes major genealogical sources such as the International Genealogical Index (IGI), the 1841 to 1901 national census and some local burial records.

There are also copies of the Old Parish Registers (OPRs), which contain records of births and baptisms, banns and marriages, some of which date as far back as the 16th century.

The Angus Archives are unique in that they house all this information under one roof. They hold large and unique collections of documents, photographs, valuation rolls, directories and indexes which can add substantially to a family history. It was also one of the first such research facilities to acquire microfilm copies of Angus records from the National Archives, making them more accessible for researchers.

Norman Atkinson administers the Archives, which are managed by senior archivist Fiona Scharlau and he has noticed an increase in the number of people tracing their family history. He said: “People have been researching their family trees for years, but it has certainly become more popular as a result of the programmes on TV. It has been building for some time and now it is genuinely starting to bring in a lot of tourists to the area.”

The Archives are equipped with computers and internet access for people to carry out their research. The information is free and staff will help researchers get started. For those who don’t have the time to spend hours digging around in old records, staff at the Archives can also do the work for you – for a fee.

Researching your family tree can be a complex process and Norman jokingly warns that it should carry a health warning: “Once you get the bug for it, it can become obsessive. It can take a long time to do the research, but when you discover the information you are looking for, it can be like a road to Damascus-type experience.”
excellent resources for international visitors. These include registrar services for developing affordable family tree packages and visitor attractions, such as National Trust venues, with a heritage focus to show international visitors how their ancestors lived.

The initiative also works with tour guides, experts on local history and ancestral-friendly accommodation providers. It is set to launch a new genealogy website focused specifically on the region and an annual week-long festival.

The site, www.tayroots.com, will be dedicated to Angus and act as a one-stop shop for anyone looking into their family roots in the area. The website will act as a portal and bring together many resources and websites with an interest in genealogy in Angus.

Stewart Wilkie, marketing and special projects manager with Angus Council, is the chairman of the project, which is also planning to stage the first Angus & Dundee Roots Festival. This week-long event, from 6-13 September 2008, will be the centre-piece of Angus’ year-round ancestral tourism activities.

The website and festival are designed to bring tourists to Angus all year round. Stewart said: “The unique thing about ancestral tourism is that the visitors who come stay longer and spend more money while they are here.”

He added: “We are looking for interested individuals or tourism businesses in the area to support the project. There are many thousands of people across the world with links to Angus and if we can bring a percentage of these over here, it will be a huge boost to the economy of the area.

“We want to attract tourists from across the world to come here and walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. A lot of people do their research while sitting at a computer miles away, but we want to bring the process of genealogy alive.”

If you are interested in getting involved in the Ancestral Tourism Initiative or the Roots Festival, contact Louise Connor, marketing officer on 01307 473765 or email connorl@angus.gov.uk

Sheila Simpson, archive assistant

If you are interested in getting involved in the Ancestral Tourism Initiative or the Roots Festival, contact Louise Connor, marketing officer on 01307 473765 or email connorl@angus.gov.uk

USEFUL GENEALOGY WEBSITES:
www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk
www.tayvalleyfhs.org.uk
www.angusahead.com

OTHER USEFUL GENEALOGY RESOURCES IN ANGUS

Angus registrars
There are three registration offices in Angus – each can help with researching records of births, deaths and marriages in the area.

Angus libraries
Angus Council operates seven full-time libraries which offer internet access and a wide range of information for researchers.

Angus museums
Angus offers a wide range of museums and historic visitor centres which house information on the area’s past.

From Angus to Milwaukee by motorcycle!

William C Davidson, the father of Walter, Arthur and William A Davidson (co-founders of Harley-Davidson Motorcycles) was born in Netherton of Melgund, near Aberlemno, Angus.

The 1851 census shows the Davidson family living in the cottage next to the smithy on the Carmyllie estate prior to the family’s emigration to the US. The cottage where the family was brought up, right, still stands.

William C Davidson’s great-grandson, Willie G Davidson, is currently head of research and development at the company in Milwaukee.
By voting, you’re helping to decide who will make decisions on the issues that affect you every day, whether they’re on a local or national level.

The next council elections take place on 3 May – the same day as the Scottish parliamentary elections.

These elections will mark a new way of voting for local elected members with the introduction of a form of proportional representation called the single transferable vote (STV).

Councillors have traditionally been elected using the “first past the post” system, where the candidate with the highest number of votes was elected.

Under the new STV system, instead of marking a single cross on a ballot paper, voters will be able to indicate their preferences on the ballot paper by ranking candidates in order (1st preference, 2nd, 3rd and so on).

Voters may vote for as many or as few of the listed candidates as they wish. The candidates you vote for may be from the same party, from several different parties or be independents – but every single choice counts!

If your first choice has already won enough votes to be elected, or is eliminated as a result of having the least number of votes, then your vote is transferred to your second choice and potentially on to your third choice and so on, until either three or four candidates have been elected, depending on the size of the ward.

Candidates are then elected according to the preference of the electorate.

Under this system, the number of wards in Angus will be reduced from 29 single councillor wards to eight.

>> Voters are urged to check on their polling cards which polling station they should use.
multi-member wards, with three or four members representing each ward.

Each of the new wards will have three or four councillors. However, the overall number of councillors will remain at 29.

To reflect these new wards, there will also be changes to the location of polling stations, and voters are urged to check on their polling cards which they have. The dates, times and venues of the information days are:

**Monday 23 April**
3pm-7pm Carnoustie Library, upstairs gallery
3pm-7pm Damacare Centre, Brechin

**Tuesday 24 April**
3pm-7pm Kirriemuir ACCESS office

**Wednesday 25 April**
3pm-7pm Montrose Library
3pm-7pm Monifieth South Church Hall

**Thursday 26 April**
3pm-7pm Arbroath ACCESS office

**Friday 27 April**
2pm-5.30pm No 1 for Youth, Forfar

**NEW VOTING INFORMATION**

The council has organised a number of events across the county to give voters information on the elections and the new voting system for councils.

Election staff will be on hand at each information day to chat to local people and answer any queries they have. The dates, times and venues of the information days are:

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**NEWWARD INFORMATION**

The table below lists the new wards and the number of members allocated to each ward.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Number of members</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 1 Kirriemuir and Dean</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2 Brechin and Edzell</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 3 Forfar and District</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 4 Monifieth and Sidlaw</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 5 Carnoustie and District</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 6 Arbroath West &amp; Letham</td>
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<td>Ward 7 Arbroath East &amp; Lunan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 8 Montrose and District</td>
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**Support your community**

A number of community councils in Angus are looking for new members.

In Angus, there are 26 active community councils. Their job is to gather views of the community and pass them on to Angus Council and other bodies. In turn, community councils are consulted about proposals by a variety of public bodies.

There are vacancies on the following community councils:
- Fowlis, Liff & Balruddery
- Monikie & Newbigging
- Newtyle & Eassie
- Murroes & Wellbank

If you are concerned about what is going on in your community or are interested in supporting your community council, find out more about at www.angus.gov.uk/comm council or contact ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

**Rural planning**

A quarter of the population of Angus lives in small rural settlements, some in the Cairngorms National Park, and many of which lie in areas that are gateways to the park.

Angus Community Planning Partnership is committed to identifying ways the development of these settlements, and delivery of public services, can be improved and achieved in a sustainable manner.

The council and its community planning partners are working with the Cairngorms National Park Authority to deliver objectives set down in the Cairngorms National Park Plan, Angus Community Plan 2007-12 and draft Angus Rural Strategy 2007-12.

This will ensure that policies impacting on rural communities are taken into account by all agencies involved in community planning.

Copies of the Cairngorms National Park Plan are available on www.cairngorms.co.uk

www.angus.gov.uk 11 ANGUSlife
Make some new friends!

Angus Council is organising a multicultural festive event involving various communities who work or live in Angus. The event is part of Tartan Week, held from 1 to 8 April.

Sharing a good time with music and food from around the world is a good way to get closer to each other.

Different services from the council and other agencies will provide information on how they can help different communities, and there will be an evening dedicated to music, dance and food from different parts of the world – Scotland (ceilidh, pipe bands), India, China, Cuba, East Europe, etc.

Look out for publicity confirming the venue and date nearer the time and share this unique experience with the various cultures of Angus.

Montrose Partnership

The Montrose Area Partnership hosted a successful community coffee morning in November.

Local organisations took the opportunity to promote themselves and feedback revealed that those who took part found it to be of benefit and would be keen to be part of similar events in the future.

A sub-group of the partnership has been established to progress a range of community events to promote Montrose during this year’s Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie.

The partnership continues to work towards its top three priorities of civic pride, business development and promotion.

The priorities, along with costed proposals, are in the new Angus Community Plan covering the period 2007-2012.

For further information on the partnership, contact Elaine McLeod, community planning officer, on 01307 476106, email mcleode@angus.gov.uk

Feature

Domestic abuse no excuse

Breaking away from a violent relationship can be difficult, but don’t suffer in silence – there is plenty of support available

In Angus, victims of domestic abuse don’t have to suffer in silence.

Shocking statistics show that in 2005/06, 729 incidents of domestic abuse were reported to the police in Angus.

But the very nature of this form of abuse means that it often goes unnoticed, unrecognised and unreported – or, worst of all, ignored.

In Angus, the council recognises that domestic abuse in all its forms is unacceptable and works with other organisations to ensure there is a strong support network to raise awareness of the issue and offer support to victims.

The council forms part of the Angus Partnership on Domestic Abuse (APODA), which includes Angus Women’s Aid, the armed services, Barnardo’s, NHS Tayside, Tayside Police and Victim Support Angus.

The partnership aims to make sure that those who are vulnerable to domestic abuse are given adequate protection, and to work towards preventing all forms of abuse, particularly against women and children.

Partnership co-ordinator Mark Watson said: “All forms of violence and abuse against women are unacceptable and victims need not suffer in silence.

“There are a range of services in place in Angus to meet the needs of women and children who are affected by domestic abuse. If a woman is being abused, it can be sometimes be difficult to see any way out. People often say you should just leave, but it’s not that easy.

“Lots of things can keep someone from leaving – fear, money worries, where you’ll end up, about letting people down, about how you’ll cope on your own, and how it will affect your children.

“These are big issues to deal with, but help is available from people who understand what victims have been going through and with practical support and advice, victims can make positive and informed decisions on what to do next.

“Wherever they live in Angus, victims of domestic abuse do not have to suffer in silence.”

Angus Women’s Aid

Women’s Aid provides information, support and safe refuge for women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

In Angus, Women’s Aid operates a community-based outreach service, making it easier for women suffering domestic abuse, whether they live in rural or urban areas, to access help and support within the community.

Case study

MARY is married and has two children, aged 10 and seven. Early in the marriage, everything seemed fine, but when Mary found out she was pregnant with their first child, the relationship began to change.

It was during this pregnancy that Mary’s husband assaulted her for the first time. She was upset and confused by her husband’s sudden change, but had no-one to turn to for help. So when her husband apologised and promised it would never happen again, Mary believed and forgave him.

However, this was not the last time her husband hit her. As the years went by, the situation became worse.

Finally, Mary’s doctor noticed bruises on her ribs and back. She broke down and told the doctor about the attacks and that she was terrified for her children’s safety.

The doctor suggested that she would contact Women’s Aid and find out how they could help. Mary agreed.

Candy Runge, Angus Women’s Aid outreach co-ordinator, called Mary and arranged to meet her at the doctor’s surgery. She discussed Mary’s options about refuge or outreach services and her experience of domestic abuse.

As she chose outreach services, Candy then
Outreach workers can arrange to meet women, young people and children suffering domestic abuse at a mutually convenient venue such as a supermarket, café, medical centre, school or council office.

A woman doesn’t have to be ready to leave home to contact Angus Women’s Aid – the organisation aims to prevent women, and their children, having to leave their own homes.

However, if a woman does need to leave her home, the worker can help with housing, information on benefits, finding a solicitor and supporting the family with the transition to their new home.

Angus Women’s Aid also has two refuges and two dispersed flats in the county, providing safe, comfortable, temporary accommodation where women and children can take shelter.

Candy Runge, of Angus Women’s Aid, said: “By providing emotional and practical support to women and children, we hope it will enable them to make informed choices.

“Often when in an abusive relationship, a woman will have lost confidence. We will help them build up their strength and self-esteem in order to make the best possible choices about their future.

“On the practical side, we can provide information on a range of issues such as housing and finance, and attend appointments with a client.

“The emotional support provides opportunities to women, young people and children to explore and discuss their experiences and feelings.”

Angus Women’s Aid is raising awareness of domestic abuse and the services offered by the organisation in the county. This has included presentations to professionals, voluntary groups and public bodies to give them information on the outreach service and provide a brief understanding of domestic abuse.

To request a presentation, contact either Candy, Nicola or Margaret on 01241 439457.

If you are a victim of domestic abuse, remember:

- You’re not alone
- You don’t have to deal with it on your own
- It’s not your fault
- You cannot change your partner
- Domestic abuse is against the law
- No-one ever deserves, or asks for, abuse.

assessed Mary’s needs and produced an individual support plan. She also talked to Mary about her housing and employment situation. Candy met with Mary on a regular basis, helping her to build a support network and accompanying her to appointments with solicitors, housing associations etc.

Mary also asked if there was any help available for her children and outreach children’s worker Nicola talked to her about her children’s experiences of domestic abuse and the support that she felt they needed.

Nicola met the children to offer them support and work with them to address their specific needs.

Mary will receive support from Angus Women’s Aid until such time as her husband is excluded from her home or she has been suitably rehoused.
### Put Brechin on the map

The Brechin Partnership has undergone a rebranding to include the burgh’s surrounding areas.

By adopting the name The City of Brechin and Area Partnership, it is hoped to encourage more organisations to play their part in efforts to promote the area.

The partnership’s member organisations and voluntary groups have an important role in bringing increased optimism to the town.

They are working together to develop projects to enhance the anticipated regeneration and promote Brechin’s heritage under the theme of Brechin, Wee City of Culture.

Projects include:
- The Friends of Brechin Town House Museum, above, were awarded a grant of £11,800 to help preserve the memories of people in the Brechin area as a living history project
- A series of Brechin lectures, on the heritage of the local area have been introduced

Other planned projects include the illumination of Brechin Bridge and a programme of events to celebrate Tartan Day in April.

To find out more about the work of the partnership, contact Elaine McLeod, community planning officer, on 01307 476106, or email mcleode@angus.gov.uk

### Carnoustie Partnership

The Carnoustie Partnership’s priorities are the development of an industrial estate, future use of the Kinloch Primary School site, and the introduction of a town centre bus service.

The partnership is also discussing plans for Tartan Week 2007. Events include a mini Burns’ supper event on 2 April, a best-dressed window competition and a Highland dancing competition.

For details, contact Siobhan Fagan, community planning officer, on 01307 476107, or email fagans@angus.gov.uk

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### Case study

From a young age, fostering children was something that Caroline Hutchens felt she wanted to do one day.

A mother of three, Caroline waited until her youngest child was at secondary school before pursuing becoming a foster carer.

And a year ago, this lifelong desire was realised when Caroline and her husband Robert were accepted as foster carers.

Since then they haven’t looked back and are currently caring for three children under the age of two in their Kirriemuir home.

Caroline said: “Fostering has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I find it so rewarding and although it can be very challenging, it is so worthwhile to think you have helped a child to find permanent parents or go back to the family home.”

Caroline said that foster caring isn’t just about providing a roof over a child’s head.

“You need to be very focused,” she said. “There’s no doubt some of the children who need care may come from very disturbed backgrounds and need a lot of support.

“Some may be with you for months, but you have to let them move on. It can be a bittersweet moment when a foster child leaves your care, but it is also a great feeling to know you have helped and supported them in reaching that stage.”

Caroline’s advice to anyone thinking of fostering a child is to do some research.

“Ask to be put in touch with a foster carer and visit their home and speak directly to them about their experiences. Don’t be put off by some of the misconceptions there are about foster caring such as that you have to be married or own your own home.”

She added: “The family placement team in Angus are fantastic. You only have to lift the phone to get advice or support. I would recommend foster caring to anyone.”

### USEFUL CONTACTS

If you’re interested in finding out about becoming a foster carer, the council’s family placement team would love to hear from you.

Visit www.fostering and adoption.angus.gov.uk, complete the enquiry form and send it to the address listed, or call the family placement team on 01241 435078.
A whole new ball game!

Saltire Leisure Centre extension is up and running

THE new extension to the Saltire Leisure Centre in Arbroath is now up and running – improving community and college access to local sports facilities.

The £1.8 million partnership project between the council and Angus College, with support from sportscotland, has seen the existing leisure centre double in size.

This has provided a new games hall, fitness studio, changing rooms, two classrooms and office accommodation.

The extension provides dedicated sports facilities for Angus College’s sports team, students and staff between 9am and 5pm during term time and additional facilities for the community at all other times.

Alastair Wilson, of Angus Council’s sports & countryside services, is delighted with the creation of these new facilities.

“This is an excellent example of partnership working and underlines our commitment to the provision of high-quality leisure facilities for the people of Angus and visitors alike.

“The increased capacity will help us as we work together to achieve national targets for a healthier Scotland.

“Part of that work is to improve the prospects of our competitive athletes and sportspeople, and give local students access to top-class facilities to help them get the best possible start in their chosen careers.”

Angus College’s sport and fitness team leader Stephen McGregor added:

“We now have some of the best facilities on offer to sports coaching and development students anywhere on the east coast of Scotland, making the college more attractive to potential students.”

Arts centre on the agenda

THE upgrading of the BMX track and involvement in film-making workshops were just two of the items up for discussion at the last meeting of the Kirriemuir and the Glens Partnership.

The agenda featured discussion around the Angus Community Plan 2007 to 2012, and the partnership’s top priorities – creating a community/arts centre, regeneration of the town and improving facilities and activities for young people. The next meeting of the partnership is on 19 March.

To become involved, contact Siobhan Fagan, community planning officer, on 01307 476107, or email fagans@angus.gov.uk

Working in partnership

THERE was a full agenda at the last meeting of the Forfar and Area Partnership.

The meeting considered the Angus Community Plan 2007-2012 and there was a discussion around individuals’ participation in the partnership.

Reports were given from the sub-groups – crime, editorial, IT, tourism and youth shelter, and there was a presentation on the Focus on Alcohol project.

To become involved, contact Siobhan Fagan, community planning officer, on 01307 476107, or email fagans@angus.gov.uk

Free furniture for groups

DURING the next few months, Angus Council will be disposing of some surplus office furniture. The council is offering the items, free of charge, to organisations and groups who contribute to the improvement of the Angus community.

Details of arrangements for bidding for items as they become available is on the council’s website at www.angus.gov.uk/surplusfurniture

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Welcome to a golfer’s paradise!

If Scotland is the home of golf, then Carnoustie lies at the very heart of it. The Championship Course there plays host to the 2007 Open Golf Championship in July. The tournament is making a return after eight years ... but that doesn’t mean that you have to wait that long to play golf in Angus.

The east coast of Scotland is where the game was born and is home to Carnoustie Country, where you can choose from more than 30 of the country’s best courses including the famous Carnoustie Championship Course itself.

Golf passes available through Carnoustie Country are the best way to enjoy golf in the area and cost £60 during 2007. This entitles you to play three rounds of golf over three days, including a round at one of the four Angus championship/qualifying courses. There is a supplement to play the Carnoustie Championship Course.

There is also the Dream Ticket, which lets you play on four of the world’s classic links courses – Montrose Medal, Monifieth, Panmure and Carnoustie Championship – for £240 between April and October.

Golf also features heavily as part of the annual Tartan Week celebrations in Angus and last year saw the inaugural Scotland’s Tartan Day Golf Challenge, matching teams from the US, China and Scotland on Carnoustie Championship and Montrose Medal courses, plus St Andrews and Gleneagles.

But for the ultimate in golfing holidays, visitors are flocking to take part in the Carnoustie Country Classic.

The event, now in its sixth year, is four rounds of golf played at Montrose Medal, Panmure, Monifieth and Carnoustie Championship Course and is open to ladies and gents. Entry for the event can be purchased as a package that includes B&B accommodation, transport, gala dinner and entertainment and it’s a golfer’s dream.

The sport has never had a higher profile internationally and events such as the 2007 Open put Angus firmly on the global golfing map.

The council and the Scottish Executive have promoted the game and tourism hand in hand to encourage visitors to the area for short break holidays centred on golf.

This has a major impact on the local economy and secures the long-term prosperity of one of Scotland’s most popular destinations.

For more information, check out www.carnoustiecountry.com and www.angusahead.com

Getting to the event

About 170,000 visitors are expected to attend the 2007 Open Championship in Carnoustie (15-22 July).

The council, police and other partners have been working to ensure travel and parking arrangements run smoothly and the overall plans have now been agreed.

They are very similar to those used successfully in 1999, but the new dual carriageway on the A92 means no commuter diversion route is needed this time. Local offices in Monifieth and Carnoustie have the plans on display and they are available online at www.angus.gov.uk/open07traffic or call ACCESSLine on 08452 777 778.

Lunan Lodge – Open for business

The Open is a chance for hoteliers and hospitality providers to go the extra mile and make the experience a special one for visitors.

That’s exactly what Samantha Unwin and Jules May have done at the Lunan Lodge guesthouse, just outside Arbroath.

They decided to offer a special fixed price for the entire 10 bedrooms of the guesthouse during the Open.

Jules said: “It made sense to do this because of the layout of the house. We offered the deal via our website and we have let the house to a party from Reading.

We are laying on mini-bus travel to and from the course each day, and even offering to set up day trips for members of the party who aren’t golf fans.

“Then in the evening, we will be showing a recording of the day’s play where the fans can catch up on the golf they didn’t get a chance to see.”