

DUNKELD AND BIRNAM COMMUNITY GROWING  
SC042496

Also known as DUNKELD AND BIRNAM@THE FIELD

8th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> 2019

DUCHESS ANNE DUNKELD

SECRETARY'S REPORT

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This has been our eight year of growing vegetables but has been the ninth year we have all been working together to grow food organically locally for the people of Dunkeld and Birnam. This year we had a dedicated team of volunteers, larger than last year, plus we were able to call upon a larger number of volunteers for a particular range of tasks e.g. lifting Tatties. We have gained some new working members whose skills and enthusiasm is much appreciated. We have also missed some regular volunteers who have not been around this year for a number of reasons and we look forward to welcoming them back.

We have many people who have particular skills that we have become to rely on during the year from planning, designing, purchasing, organising, planting, growing, harvesting, selling and generally just mucking in. The chair will cover in his report the crop and selling stories which have been a huge success and I will deal with some of the boring but essential organisational details,

However before I do this, the weather has been unpredictable again; we had another variable year. But this is one of the challenges and we are learning to adapt to the issues around climate change and making use of our new large polytunnel.

## 2 THE ORGANISATION

We are a Scottish Charitable Incorporation Organisation (SCIO) and it is useful to remind ourselves of our Charitable Objectives.

- To advance citizenship and community development by encouraging cooperation and mutual support to produce food organically for local consumption in a changing economic and physical environment
- To achieve this by managing a sustainable and environmentally responsible growing project for the benefit of all
- To promote education within in the community in organic food growing, care and harvest and distribution and ensure a better understanding of the connections between what we eat and how it is produced, delivered and prepared.

We still have much work to do to meet all these objectives but we see it all as a long term project which evolves in a flexible manner and allows us all to learn as we go along. The constitution is available for any members who wish to see it. At the present time, the Trustees meet regularly (usually once a month) to oversee activities on and off the field and set the general direction but we are

increasingly realizing that we need to do more to involve members and volunteers and are looking at ways in which we can do this. We did not have our annual reflection meeting this year but we have expanded our regular chats over coffee on Thursdays and Saturdays and generally try to listen to what all the volunteers are saying to us. We also have detailed debates in our trustees meetings. But there is always more we can do to listen and learn. We have had some useful suggestions for improvements and are always open to suggestions.

### 3 THE TRUSTEES

As SCIO we are required to have trustees who are responsible for running the Organisation and managing its assets. From 2nd November 2017 there were 12 Trustees elected at our 7th AGM. At the following Trustees Meeting the following officers were agreed.

John Small	Chair
Dave Roberts	Secretary
Dave Amos	Membership Secretary
Jim Cockburn	Treasurer
Sarah Davidson	
Madeleine Hand	
Linda Simpson	
Raymond Simpson	
Sandy Howe	
Elsbeth Baillie	
David Bee	
Robert Gunn	

In addition to their formal roles each Trustees has undertaken a wide range of roles and we are fortunate to have so many skills available. We would also like to thank John Small for his able Chairmanship during the year as Chair, but John has decided to stand down as Chair and take a sabbatical from being a Trustee. We have really appreciated John's term as Chair and before that as a Trustee. He has made an invaluable contribution since 2012 when he was elected as a Trustee. We will miss his skills, his good humour and his rare ability to keep the trustees meeting to 2 hours or less! We would not have had such memorable events such as Carrot Javelin and Potato Croquet without him. We look forward to welcoming him back as a Trustee.

### 4. MEMBERS

Members are a key part of the field and we would like to thank you all for being here this evening.

Each member can contribute in many different ways and we are delighted that so many of you have decided to join and take a role, from supporter through buying and using the produce, to active volunteering and selling at our stalls. The many hours spent in the field really do make a difference. Our members are our strength and we would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation.

### 5 PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS WHO HAVE HELPED US.

We have been lucky enough to have a number of different groups and individuals over and above our core group who have helped out and every little bit of help has made a big difference. Here are just some of the people who have helped out.

Geordie Ness for his wonderful vintage tractors and equipment. And time devoted to ploughing and harvesting and advice to us.  
Pupils and teachers from the Royal School of Dunkeld.  
Many people who have donated everything equipment to the field  
The staff at Birnam Arts for the Tuesday stalls.  
Peter Flood for his sessions in the field on the first Sunday of each month, which are producing an interesting record of the field through out the year.  
The Church for use of space outside the Duchess Anne for the Saturday stall.  
The Bridge and Atholl Quair for regularly publishing our articles.  
Dunkeld and Birnam in Bloom for their support  
Tiffy and Flora for cooking us a wonderful harvest Supper in November 2018  
The Coop for their financial support through their 1% for communities scheme.

Everyone who helped at the Summerfest, which was again very successful.

## 6. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

We have made the field available as a base for the Wild Space Summer and Autumn Play schemes, and as a venue for the start of the local hill race that kindly made a generous donation to our funds. The local cubs and scouts have also used it for some of their activities.

We have received visits from other similar organisations through out Scotland  
We have an active Facebook page thanks to the efforts of Sally Small and website thanks to John Small

Asurvey of member about their views on the field.

We have also been the focus of media attention including an article in Kitchen Garden Magazine, a lot on Radio Heartland, a feature on Beechgrove on BBC and a film by the Soil Association Land Trust on Living Legacies. The last two will be shown later tonight.

## 7. KEY ACTIONS.

The following actions have been undertaken during 2019 and have hopefully kept us on the straight and narrow

- The lease –We have continued with our lease with the Soil Association for 3.2 Acres. The rest of the field will continue to be leased to the horse owners and we would like to thank Caroline and her friends for their support and all the horse dung!
- The Buildings –We have 3 buildings, a general purpose shed, a machinery and produce storage shed and 2 polytunnels (One impressive new one as a result of a generous donation)
- Insurances- We have taken out a number of insurances for public liability, product liability, volunteers, and capital equipment
- A session on the first Sunday of each month where a group of people and met and recorded their thoughts about the field in different forms of media.
- Risk Assessments-we have carried out a risk assessments for the visits and events
- Health and Safety – we have a Health and Safety Policy.

- Child Protection- we have continued to implement our child protection policy
- Completed all our OSCR reports.
- Affiliations – we are affiliated to the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens

## 8 THE GROWING

All this preparatory work was to allow us to grow and sell produce and so much has been achieved here. I will not cover this in any detail as it is in the Chairs report but I have been so impressed by what has been achieved literally on the ground. It is impressive and the food is fantastic.

## 9 THANK YOU

It is not possible to list everyone who has helped us in so many ways but without you and all our volunteers nothing like this could have happened . I am sure there are omissions in this report but it has been a particularly active and enjoyable year and it is difficult to document everything!

But from a personal point of view, again I would particularly like to thank all my fellow trustees.

It has been hard work and fun but the end result, wonderful fresh food which tastes fantastic available for all locally has made it very worthwhile. Food from the field to your plate on the same day with no food miles, no fertilisers; it is tasty and looks so good. For those of you joining us at the Harvest supper after the AGM, you will be able to experience and taste the good food from the field.

Thanks you to each and every one of you, it has been a good journey so far and I look forward to the future

Dave Roberts  
Secretary Dunkeld and Birnam Community Growing

November 2019