

DUNKELD AND BIRNAM COMMUNITY GROWING  
SC042496

Also known as DUNKELD AND BIRNAM@THE FIELD

9th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> 2020

By ZOOM  
SECRETARY'S REPORT

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This has been our ninth year of growing vegetables but has been the tenth 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.

However the major challenge for us has been dealing with the challenges arising from the pandemic. From day 1 we decided that we must keep all our volunteers safe and healthy but also examine ways in which we could continue to grow. We established an online rota for people to complete so we know who is in the field and when which helps with track and trace. The rota is amended every time the regulations and guidelines change to ensure compliance. We would like to thank everyone who has followed guidance and our safety measures in the field. It has meant that we have not only grown wonderful produce throughout the season but the field has looked superb. And the produce, - it looks and tastes good.

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, transporting, 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. A wonderful warm spring at the start of the pandemic was followed by a mixed summer. 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 and the skills and experience of the volunteers.

## 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 (at the moment almost fortnightly on ZOOM) 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.

Since the last AGM , we reinstated our annual reflection meeting and this is essential on providing feedback. Jim Sutton also provides us with an annual report which always gives us food for thought. We have learnt much from these exercises both about where we do well and where we can do better.

However we have missed our regular chats over coffee on Thursdays and Saturdays mornings and it is a challenge sometimes to communicate all the changes or tasks that need doing. However old fashioned notes in a book and a whiteboard have helped but is difficult when you can only have limited numbers present. 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 there were 10 Trustees elected at the AGM. At the following Trustees Meeting the following officers were agreed.

David Bee	Chair
Dave Roberts	Secretary
Dave Amos	Membership Secretary
Jim Cockburn	Treasurer
Madeleine Hand	
Linda Simpson	
Raymond Simpson	
Sandy Howe	
Elsbeth Baillie	
Jane Bremner	

We are pleased to welcome Jane Bremner as a Trustee and look forward to working with her. During the year Robert Gunn resigned as a Trustee to moving on to new pastures as he said. We will miss Robert's expertise especially as he grew up on a farm in the North East had a lot of practical experience.

### 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.

Adrian Davis for his generous donation from the Hill Race

Birnam Arts for the Tuesday stalls.

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

The Coop for their financial support through their 1% for communities scheme.

And last but no means least those who have given us anonymous donations.

## 6. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

It has been a much quieter year this year as because of the Pandemic, the field has been closed to the general Public.

We have received visits from other similar organisations through out Scotland and as far away as Forres ( the Camel CSA)

We have an active Facebook page thanks to the efforts of Sally Small and website thanks to John Small

## 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 them for their support and all the horse dung!
- The Buildings –We have 4 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)In addition we now have three new storage sheds
- Insurances- We have taken out a number of insurances for public liability, product liability, volunteers, and capital equipment
- Risk Assessments-we have carried out a risk assessments
- 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 a enjoyable, but challenging 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. Your support, knowledge , advice and good humour has kept us going.

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.

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 2020

