

DUNKELD AND BIRNAM COMMUNITY GROWING
SC042496

Also known as DUNKELD AND BIRNAM@THE FIELD

3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7TH 2014

DUCHESS ANNE DUNKELD

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1 INTRODUCTION

This has been our third year of growing vegetables but has been the fourth year we have all been working together to grow food organically locally for local people. We were fortunate that we had a superb summer, 80 members, a small but dedicated team of workers who were able to call on a larger number of volunteers for a particular range of tasks e.g. lifting Tatties and the Summerfest. We have many people who have particular skills that we have become to rely on during the year from planning, purchasing, organising, planting, growing, harvesting, selling and generally just mucking in. The chair will cover in his report the crop and selling report which has been a huge success and I will deal with some of the boring but essential organisational details

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 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 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 have had some useful suggestions and would welcome any ideas we can consider.

3 THE TRUSTEES

As SCIO we are required to have trustees who are responsible for running the organization and managing its assets. From 8th November 2013 there were 10 Trustees elected at our 2nd AGM. At the following Trustees Meeting the following officers were agreed.

Raymond Simpson	Chair
Dave Roberts	Secretary
Dave Amos	Membership Secretary
Jim Cockburn	Treasurer
Sarah Davidson	
Madeleine Hand	
Linda Simpson	
Sandy Howe	
John Small	
Elspeth Baillie	

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 were pleased to welcome one new Trustee Elspeth Baillie in the place of Karen Kelman who resigned and we would like to thank Karen for her year as a Trustee. However it is with great sadness that we must record the sad passing of Tom Barker, the husband of Griselda. Without their support we would have never got off the ground. We will miss Tom and his visits to the field and his enthusiasm and support for everything we are doing. We were pleased that Tom and Griselda agreed to be our first life members and are pleased that Griselda has been able to join this evening.

4. MEMBERS

Members are a key part of the organization and we have 87 members. 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. We have also been able to welcome the Taybank who have become our 2nd Corporate member alongside Corbenic. Our members are our strength and we would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation.

5 VOLUNTEERS

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.

Dave Muirhead and Geordie Ness and their wonderful vintage tractors and equipment.

Pupils and teachers from the Royal School of Dunkeld.

Dunkeld and Birnam Cubs and Beavers.

Staff from the Hilton Hotel.

Many people who have donated everything from lawn movers to old Carpet.

The staff at Birnam Arts for the Tuesday stalls.

The Church for use of space outside the Duchess Anne for the Saturday stall.

The bridge for regularly publishing out articles.
Birnam CD for printing posters.
The Community Orchard for supplying apples to the stall.
People who have donated prizes for the Summerfest.

6. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

We have also received a grant of £250 for the website from the Community Council and the website is now available at <http://dunkeldfield.co.uk>, thanks to John Small

We have made the field available for visits from the Primary School, as a base for the Wild Space Summer and Autumn Play schemes and as a venue for the start of the local hill race.

We have been asked to speak about our experiences at several public meetings and conferences.

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

And not forgetting that Dave Amos and Maddie Hand achieved a wonderful 2nd place in the Perthshire Amber wheelbarrow competition. It was good to see our marrows put to good use.

7. KEY ACTIONS.

The following actions have been undertaken during 2014 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 Karen, Fiona and Susanne for all support and cooperation
- The Buildings -We have 3 buildings, a general purpose shed, a machinery and produce storage shed and a polytunnel.
- 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 for the visits and events
- Health and Safety - we have Health and Safety Policy
- Child Protection- we have agreed and reviewed our child protection policy
- Grants and Donations - We have had grants from The Griffin Wind Farm and Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council
- Affiliations - we are affiliated to the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens and
- Reflection We had a Trustees meeting devoted to reflecting on 2013
- We experimented with an open meeting at the shed to prepare for the Summerfest.

- We were featured on the front page of The Annual SSE Grant Giving report.
- We are one of six case studies featured on the Soil Association Land Trust website -<http://www.soilassociation.org/landtrust/casestudies>
- We contributed to the establishment of the Community Supported Agriculture(CSA)UK network -The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Network UK is a new project that brings together CSA groups and enterprises across the UK, to share their skills and knowledge and promote a fairer, more transparent model of food production, where the risks and rewards are shared.-
<http://www.soilassociation.org/communitysupportedagriculture/csanetworkuk>

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

But from a personal point of view , again I would particularly like to thank all my fellow trustees. So much has happened in the last year and none of it could have been achieved without us working as a team. We have achieved a lot, learnt much, and discussed many issues into the night, worked in the field, sold produce, and grown in so many ways. It has been hard work and fun but the end result, wonderful fresh food which tastes fantastic available for all locally has made it all worthwhile. Thank you to each 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 2014