

DUNKELD AND BIRNAM COMMUNITY GROWING  
SC042496

Also known as DUNKELD AND BIRNAM@THE FIELD

2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2013

DUCHESS ANNE DUNKELD

SECRETARY'S REPORT

## 1 INTRODUCTION

This has been our second year of growing vegetables but has been the third year we have all been working together to grow food organically locally for local people. We were fortunate that we had a superb summer, an increased number of 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 or the Open Day and Tattie Fest. 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 reminder 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 which 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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 2013 there were 9 Trustees until 9th December 2012, when Jim Cockburn was co-opted and became treasurer

Raymond Simpson	Chair
Dave Roberts	Secretary
Dave Amos	Acting Treasurer (until 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2012) now Membership Secretary
Jim Cockburn	Treasurer (from 4th December 2012)
Sarah Davidson	
Madeleine Hand	
Linda Simpson	
Sandy Howe	
John Small	
Karen Kelman	

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 4 new Trustees, Sandy Howe, John Small, Karen Kelman and Jim Cockburn

However it is with great sadness that we must record the sad passing of Vicki Hammer, not only was she one of our founder members, she was our first Treasurer, and an enthusiastic supporter in every way .In particular we could not have managed without her very practical support of allowing us to use the Kettles Cellars to store our produce. I do not know what we would have done without that storage space, it has been invaluable. Vicki we miss you in so many ways

#### 4. MEMBERS

Members are a key part of the organization and we have over 93 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 Corbenic as our first Corporate member. 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  
Pupils and teachers from Breadalbane Academy  
Dunkeld and Birnam Cubs and Beavers (who gave us a £50 voucher from B&Q)  
Duke of Edinburgh Award participant Hamish Reader  
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 and donating prizes  
The Community Orchard for supplying apples to the stall  
People who have donated prizes for the Open Day and Tattie Fest

## 6. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

During the year we were fortunate to receive a grant of £5000 towards the cost of building a new equipment and produce store. This is now erected and in use and looks very good next to our existing shed. Thanks to Kenny .... For building it

We have also received a grant of £250 for the website from the Community Council; this is not completed yet because of our other activities during the summer but should go live soon

We have received visits to the field from similar groups in North Edinburgh, the Postcode Lottery, the Scottish and Southern Electricity Grant coordinator and representatives of the McGarrison Society

We have made the field available for school picnics for the Royal School of Dunkeld and Craigie Primary School

We have been asked to speak about our experiences at several public meetings and conferences and have had speakers at Highland Council's conference on Community Growing in Inverness and the McGarrison Society AGM in Glasgow

## 7. OTHER RELEVANT ACTIVITIES

The following actions have been undertaken during 2013 and have hopefully kept us on the straight and narrow

- The lease - We have signed a five year Short Limited Duration Tenancy Agreement 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 obtained clearance from the Planning Department for 2 new 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 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.
- Reflection We had a Trustees meeting devoted to reflecting on 2012
- Business Plan - we produced a Business plan for 2013
- Facebook - we are on facebook thanks to Sally Small

## 8 THE GROWING

All this preparatory work was to allow us to grow 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.

89 THANK YOU it is not possible to list everyone who has helped us in so many ways but with out you and all our volunteers nothing like this could have happened

But from a personal point of view 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, 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 worth while .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 2013