

Annual Report: 2018

Introduction:

As in recent years we have prepared this Annual Report as a way of summarising the activities of the community over the past year.

During 2018 we have moved back to a Drumoig Residents Association by establishing an interim arrangement to replace the Drumoig Community Trust. Final decisions on the structure and governance will be discussed at an inaugural Members General Meeting in January 2019.

Planning:

At last year's AGM we had graphic displays of the planned housing and landscaping that had received planning approval. As we are all aware, that work has now started and some of the proposed 36 houses are under construction as part of the Phase 1. The developers, Drumoig Develoments Ltd, have details on their website: www.morendy.com



The Pickletillum Inn has since been demolished but there are no signs yet of the work on new housing on that site. An application to extend the due date of that work by a further 3 years was granted by Fife Council. Also, the ex-Scottish National Golf Centre building remains, despite ongoing plans to demolish it.

Website:

Our DRA website (<http://drumoig.btck.co.uk>) continues to be kept up to date by our volunteers and we are planning more updates to enhance the appearance and accessibility. Although we send out frequent emails the Website is still a source of good information for our clubs, local services, news and events. If members would like to see items added to the site then they should send the details to the Secretary.



Members' Outings:

We are always looking for ideas to hold organised visits for members. We had planned to arrange a visit to the Leuchars Army Base but the Army do not hold external visits so we will look for alternative ideas.

Summer Fayre:

This summer has been one of the warmest and driest for many years but the one day we had torrential rain was when we held our Summer Fayre!! One thing it did demonstrate was the community spirit - over 100 residents came out to support the event. Despite the rain our master Burger-Flipping-Chairman did brisk business, as did our charity and raffle stalls. Many thanks to the people who organised and manned the event and a big thanks to everyone who turned up to see the local Fire Engine and Crew and offer their support.



Plans are already under way to hold another event in 2019 with the hope that the weather couldn't be any worse than that one day in summer 2018!.



Drop In For A Drink:

Another initiative that was introduced this year was the Friday evening Drop-in-for-a-Drink at the Drumoig Hotel. This has proved a big success and is now an established part of our community. Between 5:00pm and 7:00pm every Friday residents can gather for a drink and a blether knowing that there will be other people there. The rule of "buy your own drink" has encouraged people to turn up whenever they wish and to stay for as long as they want. All welcome.

A Barbecue evening was held in September and a Christmas theme evening is planned for 21st December.

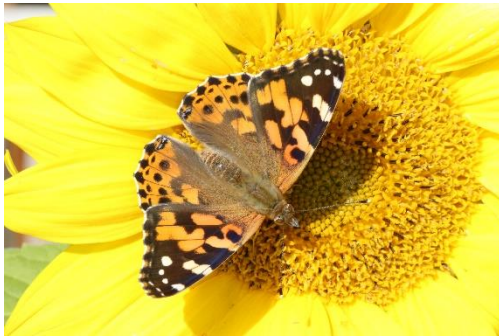
Burns Supper:

For many years Dave and Lil Smith arranged our annual Burns Supper which was a traditional and excellent celebration of the Bard and proved to be popular and well supported by residents. After a gap of a few years, Dave and Lil will be arranging the 2019 Burns Supper for the appropriate date of 25th January. As in the past, the evening's entertainers are all local residents who Dave has convinced to volunteer.

Drumoig Wildlife Forum:

The Drumoig Wildlife Forum (DWF) continues under the stewardship of Christine Edwards. Two very interesting talks have taken place including Bird Migration by Prof Will Cresswell from the University of St Andrews and Forestry and Ecology by Colin Edwards from the Forestry Commission. A guided walk around Morton Lochs also took place with Tom Cunningham, Reserve Manager of Tentsmuir Forest.

An additional eight bird boxes have been put up around Drumoig bringing the total to twenty eight for woodland birds and one for Owls. A NatureCam was purchased and some excellent footage of Badgers, Foxes, Deer and Red Squirrels was captured. Thanks to the generosity of those who purchased books and plants at the Summer Fayre and raffle tickets at the talks a total of £150.45 has been raised and four more bird boxes, an additional squirrel feeder and bird seed have been purchased.



Next years DWF programme is currently being put together, this will have a maritime theme and the first talk will be by Monica Arso Civil from the University of St Andrews on dolphins and seals and will take place on Tuesday 12th February. We hope residents will continue to support Christine and this worthwhile initiative.

Signage:

Fife Council Transportation Department have erected additional directional signs in both Craigie Hill and Comerton Place, to aid lost drivers find their way around. Unfortunately the Comerton sign had missed some key information and Fife Council have undertaken to make the correction.

Ramblers:

Our Rambling Group has been rambling for some years now and continue to enjoy outings every six weeks or so. The rambling isn't strenuous but it gives people a good opportunity to socialise, have lunch and enjoy a walk, typically within Fife. See the website for details.



Clubs:

Members have other clubs of interest, namely Mah Jong, Bridge and the Book Club. See the website for details.

There is always scope for additional clubs and if you have any proposals we would like to help get them established.

LPG:

Drumoig residents will be well aware of our reliance on LPG rather than mains gas. For some years now we have negotiated on a bulk-buying basis and have secured very competitive prices and large savings for our members. The current two year contracts will expire in summer 2019 and further negotiations are planned to take place then with the main suppliers. Both Comerton and Forgan, who have their own individual tanks have had a choice of suppliers whereas Craigie Hill who have a communal tank are currently restricted to one supplier. At the suggestion of the supplier we have set up an “Umbrella Agreement” for Craigie whereby all residents were requested to sign the register which allows DCT to negotiate on their behalf now and in the future. This also ties everyone into the same contract period and price, irrespective of the period of residence. Another benefit of setting up this agreement is we can, if necessary, switch suppliers in the future, now that everyone is covered by the “Umbrella Agreement”.

Broadband:

During 2018, BT Openreach laid Fibre Cables throughout Craigie Hill and up to the outside of many of the houses. It proved difficult for residents to find out if Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Broadband was actually available, such was the mixed information from Broadband Suppliers. The DRA wrote to Willie Rennie, our MSP, to ask if we could get a status report from BT Openreach. Following that enquiry, Openreach replied to say it was indeed available throughout Craigie and suppliers then started offering FTTP.

Houses in Craigie were built later than Forgan and Comerton and had ducts laid for the BT lines right into the houses, making it a straightforward job to pull in new fibre cables.

Houses in Comerton and Forgan have direct-buried cables, making it more difficult to get FTTP. However, the main BT Cabinet is near Comerton and Forgan and broadband speeds were generally faster than in Craigie.

Overall, for a rural location, Drumoig is now well-served by good broadband speed. That wasn't always the case!

Logs:

StoveCo, Guardbridge, continue to deliver logs in crates at a price agreed for DRA members. Other local suppliers of seasoned logs are available, please check our website.

Trades and Services:

A service we continue, and appreciated by members, is the list of recommendations from fellow residents about local tradesmen. If a member would like up-to-date information on finding a local company then the list on our website may help or contact the Secretary who will issue the request and then forward any replies. Please note that the DRA do not make recommendations or comments, this list is provided by individual members based on their experience.

Defibrillator:

As you know, or should know, there is a Public Access Defibrillator sited on the outside wall of the Hotel, to the right of the front door. This was installed by a funding partnership between ourselves, Golf Course staff and HeartStart. We still hope to provide a refresher course for members on CPR following the lack of numbers for a previous date.



Drumoig Golf Centre & Drumoig Golf Club:

Both the main golf course, run by Drumoig Turf Maintenance, and the Golf Centre, owned and operated by Stuart Syme, continue to be popular with members, residents and visitors.

Drumoig Golf Club continue to thrive with regular summer and winter competitions for over 300 gents, ladies and junior members. Free membership is offered to juniors under 15 to encourage local youngsters to start into golf. Drumoig resident Iain Lawson will continue as Captain for 2019 and is supported by several residents on the Golf Club Committee.

Data Protection:

During the year we, like all organisations, had to ask our membership to give their positive consent to allow us to retain their email details. Over 100 members have consented to that and receive regular emails and updates from us. However, a few residents did not consent therefore we have had to delete their email address. Those members are still able to access our website for news and events. Remember to let the Secretary know if you change your email address.

We also have a Privacy Policy (on our website) to govern how we use your data.

Inaugural General Meeting:

There will be a General Meeting for interim members of the DRA to be held on 23rd January 2019. The meeting will consider a proposal to re-constitute the Drumoig Residents Association and to elect Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2019. The draft DRA Constitution will be circulated to members prior to the meeting.

We plan to hold a pre-meeting wine reception and hope new residents will come along and meet the committee and fellow residents.

If you have any matters you'd like addressed, you can either notify the Secretary in advance or raise them at the meeting. Any nominations for the DRA Committee should be made to the Secretary before the 9th January.