



The Bridge

Free

Special Edition 2

www.dunkeldandbirnamnews.co.uk

Local News, Events and Information for the Dunkeld & Birnam Area

Coronavirus Emergency –

The Community Responds and an Appeal is launched – see page 2



137 people have so far offered to help the Community respond to the coronavirus. Annie Le-Roy Lewis takes a moment to look up from her computer where she has been valiantly entering everyone's details and coordinating a whole variety of tasks from allocating volunteers to geographic sections of our community to tracking down offers of mobile phones and safety glasses / eye protectors. Thank you Annie!
Join us by e-mailing your details to Annie at PH8community@gmail.com

Are you self-isolating or vulnerable? Get help with your shopping or medical supplies.

Phone or text one of the numbers across between 10am and 4pm for help with every day items.

If there is no answer leave a message or send a text with your name and phone number.

All the people involved with this scheme are local volunteers who are giving their time for free.

Please note volunteers will not take or receive cash from you.

Volunteers aim to only spread kindness.

They will be asked to wash their hands before and after helping you.

They will keep a safe distance from you, 2m.

They will not enter your house.

For help with shopping see the back cover

Here you will find details of all the shops offering to help and step-by-step guidance as to how you can get your shopping ordered and delivered.

Please note these numbers should NOT be used for emergency or medical support.

For Emergency or medical support contact the Doctors Surgery or dial 111 (see page 2)

Amulree and Glen Quaich	07592 031665
Trochry, and down to the A9 junction	07752 271608
Inver	07592 031946
Dalguise	07759 091124
Little Dunkeld (including Willowbank and Stell Park)	07592 031974
Birnam (Post office side of the road)	07835 078836
Birnam (Birnam Arts side of the road)	07395 961218
Dunkeld (Brae Street, The Cross and High Street)	07592 031940
Dunkeld (Atholl Gardens & Blairgowrie Road)	07395 962350
Butterstone	07759 091139
The Boat Road out to Dungarhill	07835 078833
Dowally, Guay and Kindallachan	07592 040948
e-mail:	
PH8community@gmail.com for general enquiries	

Keep up to date with the community's response to the coronavirus at www.dunkeldandbirnamnews.co.uk

Editorial

How are you all doing? I don't know about everyone else, but I am finding this the most bizarre of times. My favourite response when I'm asked how I am is to say I'm discombobulated. I mean this weekend my diary says I'm supposed to be going to the Niel Gow Festival concert at Birnam Arts. Instead Birnam Arts is shut, and the centre has been put on a care and maintenance basis to reduce running costs. (see page 3) What of the musicians booked to play and Pete and the organisers whose plans lie in tatters? It's just one, albeit a very important one, of the impact this crisis is having on all aspects of our community's life. By the way .. if you have tickets to events that have still to take place at Birnam Arts please consider whether you can afford to donate the ticket money rather than claiming it back. Donated money will be split between Birnam Arts and the performers.

As expected the Community continues to respond in the most amazing ways. Please see the rest of the copy for all the latest info on the support available from our teams of volunteers, revised opening times for the pharmacy and shops as well as information relating to home deliveries.

In the middle of all the gloom there are of course funny stories that cheer us up. This is one that made me laugh at the end of a day spent listening to sad and worrying stories from across our community with most of our businesses in crisis, people in self-isolation and then the burglary at the post office to top it off. However,

before I tell my story please can I send you all very best wishes. Please use the help lines set up in the village – it's so important that we stand together through this crisis. So, here's my story ... I hope it brings a smile to your face too. I called in at Rumbling Bridge cottage to have a neighbourly chat with Lynne and Grant. This was in the pre-shut down days, all of a week ago, when we were just 'socially distancing'. Lynne told me she had joined 'house party' which turns out to be an on-line platform that enabled her and some old uni friends to participate in a virtual pub quiz. Lynne said it had gone "really well." I rushed home with the news and proudly told Andrew and Scott the news about 'House Party.' Andrew looked interested. Scott (now 19!) however just looked up from his phone and smiled kindly as one does at a young child discovering that ice floats in a water. "Mum" he said, and then responded on behalf of everyone under the age of 21, "we've been prepping for this moment for ages."

Sally Robertson

The Bridge : *The regular Bridge is suspended during the current Coronavirus Emergency. It will be temporarily replaced by these smaller, more regular, Bridge Specials. We look forward to getting back to normal as soon as possible. In the meantime stay safe and stay well.*

With our best wishes, Sally Robertson and John Gray

Community Update

Dunkeld and Birnam Community Response to the Coronavirus Emergency PH8community@gmail.com

The Organising Group:

Stuart Paton, *Chair of Dunkeld and Birnam Community Council*

Rev Fraser Penny, *Minister of the Church of Scotland*

John Gilruth, *Coordinator, Gien a Haund*

Sally Robertson, *Editor of The Bridge*

Annie Le-Roy Lewis, *Community Volunteer*

Brendy Roddy, *Community Volunteer*

Dr Philip Rutledge, *Retired Public Health Doctor*

Already 137 people in our community have volunteered to help out during the Coronavirus Emergency. If you are prepared to join in please e-mail Annie Le-Roy Lewis on PH8Community@gmail.com with your name, address and phone number. Thank you

Appeal launched to bolster Community Care Group funds

Please donate if you can.

Since 1996 our Community Care Group has been serving the needs of the Community. Perhaps the most visible example of its work has been the lunch club which for the last 24 years has 'provided good, homecooked meal for those living alone and who would benefit from both the meal and the company.' Today the fund is underwriting the food distribution to the vulnerable and self-isolating in the community. Mrs Jean Dickson who has been a leading light in the lunch club and Friday Meeting Place Coffee mornings says, 'The fund is there to help those in the community in any situation such as we are in now.' Donations however small will be gratefully received either by bank transfer to: Bank of Scotland Sort Code 80 06 57

Account 00723706

Or by cheque to the treasurer:

John Gray, Highfield, Brae Street, Dunkeld, PH8 0BA

You can also donate to the appeal through crowdfunder:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/ph8-community-response>

Small fund available to help those struggling financially

This community has rallied brilliantly to put together a team of volunteers ready to help folk in practical ways during this current crisis. Getting shopping delivered is one thing but there will be people really struggling financially just now because of lay-offs or cash flow problems.

If that is you, and you are struggling to provide for yourself or your family please get in contact. We are looking into ways of either establishing a temporary foodbank locally or getting emergency packs from the Perth Foodbank but that will be further down the line so in the meantime don't be stuck.

There is a small fund which can provide help so please get in touch with Fraser Penny, Church of Scotland minister, on 01350 727249 or email him on RPenny@churchofscotland.org.uk. Be assured that every contact will be dealt with on an entirely confidential basis.

Reflection from Rev Fraser Penny

Our Cathedral here has stood through a lot over the years – plague, pestilence, war and reformation. The building bears the scars of its turbulent history and tell its story as much as the bits that remain intact. Yet it is still there, soldiering on! As someone said to me, we bring nothing new to a place like that. Our prayers, fears and longings are the same prayers fears and longings people have brought for centuries. People like us have looked for explanations, comfort and

reassurance. Our scars are part of our story too and at the moment they are still raw, open wounds as we live through the present crisis.

But the Cathedral also stands as a witness to something much more lasting and dependable; the symbol of faith in Jesus Christ in which people have found that comfort and help they craved. A sense of our Heavenly Father's care.

In this modern plague we are all confronted with our frailty and vulnerability and it is not a good feeling. But the Cathedral points to God who offers that peace which passes all understanding to help us through.

Fraser Penny

Church Closures – find us online

At the time of the last Bridge churches were still open but after the Prime Minister's announcement on the 23rd March the Cathedral and St. Mary's were closed, not just for services but for private visits, in order to discourage people from going out.

Thanks to the internet it is possible to find many devotional and worship resources to encourage us when we can't meet together but if you want something more local, Fraser Penny is doing a short devotional piece each weekend which can be found at <http://bit.ly/dunkeldcathedral> and the Scottish Episcopal church has a service at www.scotland.anglican.org/broadcast-sunday-worship There are Roman Catholic Masses from many churches on TV and internet which people can access.

Naturally, many folk are feeling anxious, fearful and stressed at the moment. If you would like to talk to someone in confidence, please don't hesitate to call one of the contacts below.

Fraser Penny, Church of Scotland.

Tel: 01350 727249 – e-mail: r.fraserpenny@gmail.com

Jane Anderson, St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Tel: 01350 723203 – email: janeanderson180@btinternet.com

Fr. Neil Gallagher, St. Columba's RC Church

Tel: 01796 472174 – e-mail: stbridesrcchurch@yahoo.com

Thank You

A huge thanks is due to a great team of people and a vast number of volunteers who have rallied to the cause of helping out the whole community over the weeks ahead. I am not going to single anyone out but what a great response and, despite the bad things we hear of in the news, there is so much goodness and kindness in humanity.

Thank You and keep safe!

Fraser Penny



Doctors Surgery Craigvinean Surgery, Dunkeld Drs Hewitt, Gunn, Charles and Jack Telephone 01350 727 269

From Monday 23rd all patients who think they have COVID 19 symptoms are to first phone NHS24 on: 111 not the Surgery. NHS24 will then triage appropriate patients to the Surgery where you will be speaking to one of our GPs.

The Surgery Door is locked. Admittance will only be given to patients with pre-arranged appointments.

Appointments and Prescription requests can only be made by telephone.

Repeat prescription requests can be left in the black mailbox adjacent to the Surgery door.

Samples requested are to be left in the purple bin by the Surgery door.

Please give the Chemist of your choice one week before going to collect your prescription unless otherwise advised by our staff as the Chemists, like the Supermarkets, are being overwhelmed by current demands.

Community Update



Birnam Arts – Current Situation and Immediate Future

We are all aware of the devastating impact of the spread of Coronavirus in our communities and its effect on businesses and our daily lives. Over the next few months at the very least we will have to make considerable adjustments in order to help contain the virus and protect the vulnerable.

Regrettably, like most organisations, Birnam Arts has closed its doors and will not reopen until assured by Government that it is safe to do so. The last few weeks have had a serious impact on the ability of Birnam Arts to provide the community facility that is such an asset to the area. It often comes as a surprise for people to learn that Birnam Arts is not a council or government owned facility but is in fact wholly owned by the community of Dunkeld and Birnam. Birnam Arts raises 95% of its income from its own activities – the café, shop, Beatrix Potter Exhibition, hosting conferences, sales of tickets for performances, workshops, hosting private events and functions and renting space to community groups who use the centre for their activities. The library and community learning offices are leased to the council to run these activities but are not owned by the council. We are happy to host these activities because they are so important to have here in the middle of our community.

All of these activities have had to be suspended to help protect the community but with them has gone the income that keeps the centre functioning. It is no secret that Birnam Arts has been through a difficult few years financially and the loss of our business income just in sight of Easter and the summer season is extremely disappointing. However, the important thing now is to find a way through this period of difficulty and make sure Birnam Arts is there for the community whenever it becomes safe again for people to enjoy each other's company.

For now Birnam Arts is shut and the centre has been put on a care and maintenance basis to reduce running costs. This includes keeping essential licences, utility connections, fire and burglar alarm systems, insurance cover etc. This will require about £5,000 a month. How long we will be able to sustain this is uncertain but given our current financial reserves we anticipate that we can do this for the next 3-5 months. We have a good insurance policy that includes business continuity and covers closure due to infectious disease as long as that is mandated by government authority. We are in discussion with our insurers but so far we do not have assurances that we can claim. Failing that we will look at other sources of income to keep going until we can reopen. To retain our staff we will be dependent on the government's Job Retention Scheme and we are currently exploring how we can access that.

There is no doubt that the current situation is tough for us but we share that with many organisations and we will find a way to keep going. It is not all negative. Over the winter our new catering team has turned around our café and to the end of February from November we were over 10% up in income on the previous year reversing three years of declining cafe income. Attendance for performances were up on previous years, our conference use was also well ahead with big multi-day repeat customers. We had recently received capital funding to carry out the first phase of entrance/reception improvements. We hope to obtain funding to complete the external access works later this year. Last week we received confirmation that a major capital application to the SSE Griffin & Calliachar Community Fund had been successful which will bring huge business and user benefits to Birnam Arts. Just two weeks ago our volunteer fund raising team had raised £2,600 following a hard week's work at the Blairgowrie Thrift Shop. Altogether this year with Quiz nights, the thrift shop, talks and donations we have nearly reached £10,000 from volunteer supporters.

We have many more good things planned and with your help we are going to get there. When we return we will need you all to come back and use the centre, we will need our excellent staff to be there and help grow the business, we will need our team of wonderful volunteers to get the shop and Beatrix Potter Exhibition going again and get our fundraising activities up and running. My best wishes go out to all of you for the tough times ahead and when we get through this I look forward to seeing you again at Birnam Arts.

John Anderson
Chair, Birnam Arts

Jessie Macs

We are currently closed to regular accommodation enquiries, however, in the event that people need accommodation as part of the emergency response they should give us a ring. Examples might be emergency service providers or carers of vulnerable people.

You can contact us on 07849 632333 or at info@jessiemacs.co.uk

Dunkeld & Birnam Businesses

Is there a way that you can help the community and the volunteer network to deal with the Covid-19 emergency? You might have a van, space, beds, excess stock, who knows. Be creative!

Please email any ideas to ph8business@gmail.com



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL

Perth & Kinross Council

Perth and Kinross Council have a community support page on the PKC website.

www.pkc.gov.uk/coronavirus/communitysupport
Information includes:

- What we can all do to help with the situation?
- What you can do to help in your community?
- What the Council is doing?
- What are third sector organisations doing?
- Help and support for those self-isolating
- Financial support for communities
- Community Investment Fund (CIF)

Davidsons Chemist

We would like to remind you all that we will remain open during these unprecedented times.

In order to remain open and keep our staff and the wider public healthy, it's highly important that you do not enter or queue outside our pharmacies if you or anyone in your household has a temperature over 37.8 degrees and/or a new and continuous cough. Please stay at home.

If you are a regular delivery patient, we will continue to deliver to you. If you can't collect your prescription as you or your household are self-isolating, we suggest that you ask a family member, friend or volunteer to collect on your behalf.

We ask that you give a sensible amount of time for us to process your prescriptions once sent from your surgery. Turnaround times are slower than normal due to the enormous increase in workload. We suggest that you sign up for our text messaging service, find out more here:

<https://www.wdavidson.co.uk/text-message-service-authorisa.../>

During this time we can only stress how important it is not to stockpile medication, only order what you need. Pharmacies will remain open.

We would also like to remind you of our temporary opening hours which are 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. This extra time is to allow our staff to catch up with the workload.

Please continue to be patient and kind to our staff, they are working extremely hard and want to continue to strive to give you the best service possible during these extremely difficult circumstances.

OPENING HOURS

Important information for all patients



1 REDUCED OPENING

To support you & our staff our pharmacy will be open as follows:

10:00am - 1:00pm

2:00pm - 5:00pm



2 WE ARE BUSY!

We are facing **UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND** and **SIGNIFICANTLY BUSIER** than usual but are **WORKING HARD** to look after all our patients. If your prescription is not urgent please call back tomorrow.



3 THANK YOU!

These are **UNCERTAIN** times for all of us. **ORDER ONLY** what you need and give us **MORE TIME** to prepare your medicines **SAFELY**. Thank you for your understanding.

LAST UPDATED 2020-03-18

Hey Techies, hackers, makers and coders ...

Thank to the people who have already responded to this advert – we hope to get a chatroom up and running next week.

If there are any other volunteers interested in joining our tech team and trying to work out how we can create a more 'virtual village' please contact us on: PH8community@gmail.com.

Merci!

Shop and Cafés Update Opening times and days and service likely to vary

Food and drink shops - staying open

Co-op – Opening hours 8am-8pm. Priority shopping for vulnerable customers Monday-Saturday 8am-9am, Sunday 10-11am.

Chattan Tea Room and Post Office – Fruit, eggs & veg etc –
Phone: 01350 727342.

9am -11am open to elderly, vulnerable and carers.
2pm – 5pm – open to everyone else

Birnam Shop Best One – Opening Monday to Saturday 6.30am-9pm;
Sunday 6.30am-8pm.

Scottish Deli – Open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 10am-3pm for shop and small selection of sandwiches - 01350 728028. Bread available Tuesday and Saturday

Dunkeld Smokehouse Shop – Can deliver locally – 01350 727639

Dunkeld Butchers – Can deliver locally – 01350 727266

Rotmell Farm (the egg shed) – Eggs delivered locally – 07717 659479 or 07827947143

Dunkeld Whisky Box –

Online only, will deliver – drams@dunkeldwhiskybox.co.uk

Takeaway Food

The Darjeeling Bangladeshi Takeaway – Open 5 – 9 collection only – 01350 727527 or order via www.darjeelingdunkeld.com

The Taybank – Takeaway food only – can deliver – 01350 727340

Birnam Reader – Bookshop open – Friday – Monday – 11am – 7pm - take away coffee only

Cafes & Restaurants – Closed until further notice

Aran Bakery – Closed but may do bread/subscription service (TBC).

AmaZing Brasserie, Birnam Arts, Birnam Inn, Clottie Dumpling, Corbenic, Dunkeld Fish Bar, Hettie's Little Teapot, Perthshire Arms and Palmerstons.

Other Key Shops

Chemist – Open 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm, one person at a time, ring bell and social distancing to be observed outside.

Shopping Delivery Service for PH8 Area

This service is for people who :

1. Are self isolating because you or someone in your family have symptoms of Covid-19.
2. Are in a vulnerable group (anyone over 70, anyone under 70 with underlying health condition, if you are pregnant).
3. Have received a letter from NHS Scotland saying you must follow the Shielding Measures.
4. Are in the above groups but do not have family, friends or neighbours who can get food for you.

The following shops will provide deliveries on the following basis. In each case, **email orders are preferred** but telephone can be used if required.

Co-Op.

The shopping delivery service will run from Tuesday - Saturday initially. Orders for the Coop should be made to: PH8Communityorders@gmail.com if at all possible.

If it is impossible for you to access email, you may phone 07821 785381 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday or 07834 918385 on Tuesday and Thursday for telephone orders.

Orders must be made by 4.00pm for delivery mid to late morning the following day (ie for delivery on a Tuesday, orders should be placed by 4pm on Monday etc).

Payment for orders will be made in the shop, in the first instance by the Dunkeld and Birnam CIC.

You should reimburse payment within 24 hours by either Bank Transfer (Internet or Phone Banking to Acc Number 65862830; Sort Code 089299) or cheque upon receipt of goods to Dunkeld and Birnam CIC.

We would ask you to be patient as we endeavour to bed the system in. All shopping will be delivered in Coop shopping bags.

Birnam Village Shop - Best One.

Open daily. Orders by email to birnamvillageshop@gmail.com or telephone 01350 727395. Orders will be delivered late afternoon. Payment to be made over the phone.

Scottish Deli.

Will open 10pm-3pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Will take orders by phone or email between 9-10am for delivery later in the day. Payment must be made over the phone. Tel: 01350 728028 or email info@scottish-deli.com.

Chattan Tearoom.

Open daily. Orders by email to chattantearoom@yahoo.com or phone 01350 727342. Orders will be delivered later in the day.

Dunkeld Butchers.

01350 727 266. Dunkeld Fine Foods will deliver.

Dunkeld Smoked Salmon.

01350 727 639. Dunkeld Fine Foods will deliver.

Dunkeld Whisky Box.

Order on-line or e-mail your order to drams@dunkeldwhiskybox.co.uk Place your order by 2pm on Friday to catch the weekly delivery made Friday pm.

A huge thank you to all the shop owners for their support in keeping their businesses going and the team of hard working volunteers delivering the messages.



The Duchess Anne Hall stands ready as our 'distribution depot.' Volunteers will come here every day to pick up deliveries and take them out to the self-isolating and vulnerable in our community .. from Amulree to Dalguise and Butterstone to the Boat Road .. and of course to Dunkeld and Birnam. Many thanks to the Church of Scotland for offering the Duchess Anne Halls for use during the Coronavirus Emergency.



JGBC Dunkeld and Birnam

The JGBC team have been very busy over the last week supporting small businesses and self employed to understand the support in place to help them financially and I wanted to take a few moments to highlight the core support available to businesses.

- Job Retention Scheme
- Self employed help
- Time to pay HMRC taxes
- Business interruption loan
- Business rates relief and grants

For full details on the above support visit gov.uk.

The JGBC team are here to support you. Our number is 0330 1248002 and our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/jgbc.co.uk.

You do NOT need to be a client to contact us and get advice, we are here to support at this time of need free of charge.