

Our Estate Newsletter

Spring 2021



Contents

1 LATEST NEWS

- Half a century on Annat Road
- A welcome from Joanna

2 ON THE ESTATE

- Dog Fouling
- Tenancy spotlight
- Community Consultation
- Local Services
- Engagement

3 OUR COMMUNITY

- Gannochy Sunflowers
- Gardener's Corner
- Gannochy Garden awards
- Feeding Birds

4 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

- Emergency repairs numbers
- Staff Spotlight, Estate Manager, Andy Duncan
- Gas Leaks & Carbon Monoxide alarms

A welcome from Joanna

'Gardeners Corner' reliably informs us that Spring is upon us and, with it, the hopes of the season as fruit trees blossom, the birds are nesting, and the Gannochy hedgehogs open a weary eye from their winter slumber. Hopes of easing pandemic guidance are met with threats that a third wave will 'wash up on our shores', but what has made us resilient is the community spirit that is evident throughout Gannochy. Neighbours going the extra mile to offer others support, posts on the WhatsApp Groups that helps find wayward pets and parcels. It all offers hope and keeps spirits high – thanks for being a caring neighbour.

Please watch out for more information on how you can shape the Gannochy Trust's services in the future to better meet your aspirations. The Scottish Community Development Centre will be in touch soon to explain how you can contribute.

Hope you enjoy the season's blossoms wishing you sunshine, better times, and a Happy Easter.

Joanna McCreadie
Chief Executive



Quarrymill Woodland Park

Half a century on Annat Road

As a young "newly married" couple in February 1968, we were delighted to be offered a house on Annat Road. Most of our neighbours were original tenants! Unlike now, when we got the house there was no renovations done – the main form of heating was a coal fire with open fires in the bedrooms, no double glazing or insulation, small paned windows added character and terracotta-coloured tiles were on the bathroom floor. Our house overlooks the "Curly" a lovely open greenspace, which once contained a concrete curling area which was flooded in winter to enable play.

There were bushes and trees surrounding it and in summer the children cleared it for a cycle racetrack where endless hours were spent having fun. The curling area was filled in with the excavations from the 'new' driveways. Many celebrations were held in the Curly – summer picnics, Royal weddings, Silver Jubilee where everyone gathered. Races were run, football and rounders were played and the highlight was bonfire night – nothing was ever arranged – it just "happened". Every year a local joiner offloaded a lorry of



wood for the bonfire. Decorating tables were brought for the food and refreshments and we always ended in a sing song. Fortunately, the Curly has been preserved over the years as an open green space to be enjoyed by all.

Norma Conner
Annat Road





Report Dog Fouling

Perth & Kinross Council encourages dog owners to act responsibly and clear up after their dog. It is an offence for any person responsible for a dog, not to immediately remove and dispose of appropriately, any excrement after their dog has fouled.

Bag it and Bin It

Fouling must be disposed of in a responsible manner by depositing it in the nearest litterbin or your own domestic waste bin.

Report to Perth and Kinross Council 01738 476476

Community Consultations

The Trust had planned to complete a community consultation on our green spaces in early 2020 and this was postponed due to the pandemic. We have now appointed external consultants, the Scottish Community Development Centre, to undertake this work and have asked them to consult on green spaces, housing and community and your aspirations for the future. We hope to have surveys, recruit a Community Reference Group, and focus groups, including one for young people. All residents will have an opportunity to contribute at a level and format that is suitable for you.



Tenancy Spotlight

Fire Safety in your home!

Smoke alarms save lives!

Using Portable Heaters

- Don't dry washing over them
- Keep away from curtains and furniture
- Don't use gas or paraffin heaters
- Always unplug when going out or going to bed

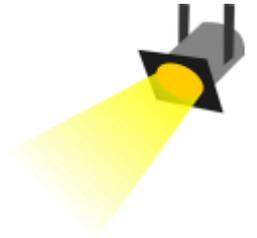
If electricity fails

- Keep battery operated light or torch handy
- Keep mobile handy, so you can make an emergency call
- If you must use candles, ensure in proper holder and away from any material and put out when going to bed or going out

Be prepared by making a plan of escape

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows about it
- Make sure exits are kept clear
- The best route is normally the one in and out of your home
- Think of a second route in case first is blocked
- Practise your escape.
- Review your plan if layout of your home changes

In the event of a fire, get out, stay out and call 999



New Tenant Visits

were not carried out in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, therefore we carried out a Survey Monkey survey using the New Tenant Visit Survey Form. It was emailed to 65 new tenants and as @ 6 Feb, 41 responded.

It should be noted that 80% of the responses were from tenants moving into homes in the housing expansion area. Survey responses are largely very positive and reassuring. Staff were already aware of most of the issues raised and new issues and repairs are in the process of being followed up.

Summary of New Tenant Visits Survey Jan 2021 (count 41)

- | | |
|--|------|
| • Information and advice pre-offer home visit | 92% |
| • Viewing arrangements of property offered | 90% |
| • Tenancy Information received at signing | 95% |
| • Standard of home when moving in | 88% |
| • Understand rights & responsibilities as a tenant | 98% |
| • Able to operate heating system | 90% |
| • Able to read service meters | 100% |
| • Have contents insurance | 95% |
| • Satisfaction with repairs & snagging systems | 84% |

Local services

Davidson's Chemists in Bridgend and Scone

Standard hours Mon to Fri 9 am to 5.30 pm. Sat 9 am to 5 pm. (Bridgend closed at lunchtime on Sat)

Offering a free repeat prescription collection and notification service by registering online -

<https://www.wdavidson.co.uk>

Bridgend Post Office

Standard hours Mon to Fri 9 am to 3 pm. Sat 9 am to 12 noon.

Scottish Parliament elections - Thursday 6 May 2021

Gannochy Community Hall will be opened as a Polling Station on Thursday 6 May. Please follow the displayed social distancing guidance. Please note that registration to vote at this election will close on 19 April.

Quarrymill Coffee Shop - Proposed date for opening, Monday 26th April 2021



Gannochy sunflowers..

The annual competition for the tallest Gannochy sunflower is back on for 2021. We had 32 entries in 2020 with the winning sunflower measuring 3.54 metres. Pick a sunny sheltered spot and plant your seeds now for judging on 24 August. Use your own seeds or request a pack of seeds from the Trust by calling 07545 164359, emailing events@gannochytrust.org.uk or on the Gannochy Events WhatsApp group. If you would like your sunflower judged, please register it at <https://tinyurl.com/Sunflowers2021> Ordering seeds will not automatically enter you in to the competition.



..and scarecrows

The Gannochy Events Group Scarecrow competition is also open to all Gannochy community residents and will be judged on Saturday 1st May 2021. Register your creation at <https://tinyurl.com/Scarecrows2021> You can also view where the Gannochy

Scarecrows are on this link - <https://tinyurl.com/GannochyTour21>

Gannochy WhatsApp Groups

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that lets users text, chat, and share media with individuals or groups.

- The **Gannochy Events WhatsApp Group** organises, promotes and delivers events in the Gannochy area. You can join it by texting 07305 081566 with a message saying, "Add me to Events WhatsApp".
- The **Gannochy Community WhatsApp Group** shares community news, items for sale or free and for general chat. You can join it by texting 07545 164359 with a message saying, "Add me to Community WhatsApp".

Feeding Birds - Feeding

birds in gardens is common and is valuable in conserving garden bird numbers, particularly in the winter months, and gives pleasure to many. The RSPB recommend that fresh water and shelter are necessary in the winter to help birds. However, the numbers of rats and mice in built up areas is on the increase. Un-suitable or excessive bird feeding methods contribute to this rise. Excessive or careless bird feeding can also cause noise and fouling problems for neighbours, particularly where larger birds such as pigeons, crows, magpies or seagulls are attracted. The larger birds will sometimes discourage the smaller birds from feeding. Most people would be horrified to think they were attracting rats and mice to their gardens or causing problems for neighbours.



The Mute Swans on Gannochy Pond have built their nest and are on their first brood for 2021. They are wild birds and will be particularly protective of their territory at this time and they didn't get the social distancing memo, so please give them plenty room. The RSPB advises against feeding them, so please be kind and "do not feed them"



Gardener's Corner

Spring has sprung and the grass has riz, time to get the rake and mower to biz.



The snowdrops are first in the year to arrive, often shedding the snow off their shoulders to raise their heads in a welcome stunning white bloom. Their scientific name is Galanthus, derived from ancient Greek for "Milk flower", and the name of the predominant species that we have in Scotland, "nivalis", is derived from Latin, meaning "of the snow". They've now been and gone, but don't forget to greet next year's offerings with the majestic title of Milk flower of the snow!

About a fifth of all of the gardens in Gannochy have a very young lawn meeting its first Spring with both vigour and enthusiasm. Before you get the mower out and go into battle, a word of caution for those new lawns. Top-soil that's not been compacted over time and high-water levels will have loosened and exposed stones. These stones are quickly turned into missiles when they meet your mower on the battlefield, and care not what they hit. Outfox them by using a loose spring rake on your lawn before mowing. This will both remove the stone missiles and break up the older lower growing grass that creates a thatch layer on your lawn.

It's now time to take your mower onto the battlefield. For any age of lawn, the first cuts of the year should be at a high cut setting and this is more vital for young lawns which will benefit from a high cut level for the first 4 cuts before slowly and progressively reducing the height in time for your summer barbeque and the Gannochy Gardens and Patios Awards!



Gannochy Gardens and Patios Awards In partnership with Beautiful Perth

The Gannochy estate is renowned for its exceptional gardens and patios and each year Beautiful Perth help us to select finalists and winners of the Gannochy Gardens and Patios Awards. Residents do not need to apply to be judged for these Awards, but we will request your permission to visit your garden or patio in July if you have been selected as a finalist. Trophies and vouchers are presented to all finalists and the previous year's winners are not included in the following year's shortlisting. Thanks to all for your efforts in making Gannochy a beautiful place for visitors and residents.

Grocery deliveries just a 'phone call away

Morrison's has a 'phone delivery service for the elderly and vulnerable. Make a note of your shopping needs and 'phone **0345 6116111** (Option 5) to place a 'phone order Mon to Sat for doorstep delivery .



Staff Spotlight: Andy Duncan, Estates Manager

How long have you been working for The Gannochy Trust?

I started in August 2014 so almost 7 years now.

What is the best part of your job?

Being part of the team providing much needed housing, and meeting our tenants.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you at work?

Being mistaken with the then Chief Executive as the new couple moving into one of the houses at Gannochy Walk.

What do you do to relax after work?

Play my guitar and howl at the top of my voice in the spare room; or more recently a lot of my time has been spent playing with our 18 month old grandson Hamish (although that isn't exactly relaxing!)

What is the first thing you are going to do? when all the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

Go to a music festival as I've really missed being able to enjoy live music.



Andy relaxing with his grandson Hamish

Emergency repairs arrangements

Spring Office Closures 2nd to 5th April & 3rd & 31st May 2021

The Trust's contractors will continue to provide cover for emergencies during the Spring closure period. Emergencies would include issues such as the loss of heating or hot water, carbon monoxide alarm activation, blocked drains, burst water pipes, constant electrical faults which will not re-set, jamming doors or locks which compromise security etc.

The Trust's Covid 19 risk assessments with our regular maintenance contractors ensure that they are following latest government and industry guidance. The main precautions they will take when undertaking work in your home are:

- Checking that no-one in the house has COVID symptoms or is self isolating before undertaking any work.
- Wash or sanitise their hands before entering your home.
- **Wherever feasible, tenants should wait in another room while work is being undertaken.**
- Observe 2m social distancing and where this is not possible or where the tenant requests it, wear a face mask.
- Wear gloves where appropriate and/or sanitise surfaces that have been touched with anti-bacterial wipes.

Repairs requests should be reported via the Trust's main telephone number **01738 620653** during working hours in the spring period. Emergency contact numbers are noted below and are always available on the Trust's answerphone system for out of hours emergencies. New housing tenants, apart from 42-46 Gannochy Road, should use the numbers in their Tenant Pack.

Gas leaks and carbon monoxide alarms

In the event of a gas leak or suspected gas leak, or if your carbon monoxide detector activates with a continuous alarm, please contact National Grid Gas Emergencies on 0800 111 999 immediately and please take the following steps;

- Turn off gas at meter (Quarter turn the handle on pipe at the side of the meter).
- Turn off all gas appliances.
- Don't use electrical appliances or light switches.
- Open all doors and windows.
- Don't smoke or use naked flames.
- Don't turn supply back on until remedial action is taken and authorised by a competent person.

Trade/Issue	Contractor	Tel. No.
Gas and Heating Systems		
• Boiler/heating not working	Kingdom	0800 389
• Radiator leak which cannot be controlled	Gas	9463
• No hot water		
• Carbon monoxide detector activating/faulty		
Plumbing and Drainage	Thermal	01738
• Blocked drains which are preventing the use of toilet or sink	Comfort	787860
• Leak to cold water supply pipes	Frank	07703
	McDonald	107364
Electrical and Smoke Alarm Systems		01738
• Electrical faults which will not re-set	Dave Peebles	447591
• Faulty smoke or heat alarms		07709
		365071
Joinery	Graham	07493
• Jammed or faulty door/lock or window which compromise security	Davidson	233844
Roof leaks	Alan Robertson & Sons	07808
• Missing or broken slates causing water ingress		171396
Sheltered Housing Aid-Call System	Age-UK Aid	0800
• Faulty control unit	-Call	0851587
• Faulty smoke or heat alarms		