

Knocknagael: a Green Hub for our Community

Newsletter 2024/3

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www.knocknagael.org.uk

Welcome to the Autumn 24 edition of our newsletter.

In our Summer edition of this newsletter we adopted a somewhat pleading tone in stating that *'we fervently hope that the Autumn update will not state that the bureaucracy entailed in the Asset Transfer process trundles on, and on, and on...'*

We were hoping to be able to share news of some pro-

gress with you, but the message is that the bureaucracy entailed in the Asset Transfer process trundles on, and on, and on. And on!

However in this newsletter, we have reports on summer activities and details of our archaeology survey community event on 9th November. Also Board-member Alastair Simmons describes an initiative in Dunkeld that could inform our own project.

Summer Highlights

Some highlights from this summer include the Bel-field Park Harvest event in September coordinated by Incredible Edible Inverness with other partners. This was part of the Highlands & Islands Climate Festival and supported by the H&I Climate Hub. We had many visitors to our stall, and a fantastic afternoon with lots of chatting, bake sampling and apple pressing.

In October we joined forces with community woodland groups in Inverness to organise a joint ceilidh for the Community Woodland Association (CWA). A great evening was had, with over 90 people and lots of dancing to the band Tweed. The CWA was delighted with the turn-out and the funds raised will benefit all the groups that helped organise it. Quite a lot of members and supporters were present, and thank you for helping us make it a success.



Archaeology survey 5th—9th November:

The archaeology group AOC has been commissioned by us to undertake an archaeological survey of the Smiddy Feld prior to us taking ownership and progressing our plans. The Knocknagael Farm is the original site of the Knocknagael Boar Stone, a Pictish carving dating from 400-600 AD that was moved from a field in the Farm to its current home in the Highland Regional Council headquarters (see [Knocknagael Boar Stone - Highland Pictish Trail](#)). The survey is an important part of our plans and will take place over the week commencing 4th November culminating in a community event on Saturday 9th November from 10.30—12.30pm (see p3 of this newsletter). The survey has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Highland Council.

And finally, some dates for your diary:

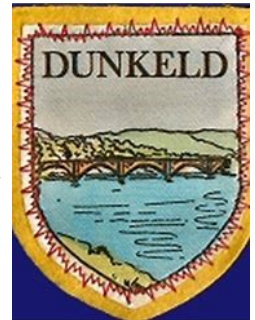
- ⇒ Community Composting Workshop at Holm Grown (by Tesco, Dores Rd): **10-12 noon Sat 2nd Nov**
- ⇒ Archaeology Survey School Day — **Weds 6th November**
- ⇒ Archaeology Survey Community Event at the Smiddy Field — 10.30—12.230 **Sat 9th November**

What could Knocknagael look like?

Case Study: The Field; Dunkeld organic community growing project

A few people have asked what kind of growing projects could Knocknagael incorporate? Here is one example The Field Dunkeld and who kindly spoke at our AGM a few years ago, and a project like this could be replicated at Knocknagael.

The Field, Dunkeld is an organic community growing project in Dunkeld, Perthshire, where a wide variety of fruit and vegetables are grown. It is run by local people for local people. It differs from the traditional allotment model of small, rented plots to a more collective growing approach, where everything is grown and harvested together. It has a membership. No previous knowledge of growing is required. Members can volunteer and receive produce in return for their labour and members unable volunteer can receive a 20% discount on the cost of produce. The big advantage people can volunteer as much or as little as they like.



The project started with the previous landowner trying to stop the land being developed for housing and gifted the site to the Soil Association and who then leased it to a local growing project. It is run as a community charitable trust. Situated on the edge of the village with 3 acres used for community growing, the rest is rented out for grazing. The site is surrounded by deer and rabbit fencing. And overtime the site has gained, various sheds for: tools, volunteers and produce, polytunnels and a compost toilet. All organic waste on site is composted. Crops are grown on a rotation system, and they are experimenting with no dig growing.

It has around 30 regular volunteers, who volunteer 2 days a week. Produce is shared amongst the volunteers and members. With excess sold at a stall in the village twice a week and a stall at the gate with an honesty box. The Field organises various community and harvesting events to bring people together, through the year.

More information at

www.dunkeldfield.co.uk
and on Facebook

Alastair Simmons

Donations:

We have been approached by some members of the community who want to donate to Knocknagael. For clarity we are a registered charity and limited company set up to promote and manage community growing at Knocknagael Farm, Inverness.

Any such donations would be most welcome indeed. Our bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Knocknagael Ltd

Sort Code: 82-12-08

Account Number: 00154301

And please state that this is a donation, and (if you wish) who it is from.

Follow us on:



@knocknagaelhub



Knocknagael Limited



knocknagaelhub

Archaeological Community Event

at the Smiddy Field, Knocknagael

Everyone welcome - come and find out more!

Closest parking available at the Inverness Royal Academy.

This archaeological survey is part of the preparatory work for the Knocknagael green hub project and has been funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Highland Council.

Come on foot or bike if you can!



Commissioned by Knocknagael Ltd and run by AOC Archaeology Group



**When: Saturday 9th
November 2024**

10:30 to 12:30

Drop-in any time

**Where: at the gates to the
Knocknagael Bull Farm,
Essich Road, Inverness,
IV2 4GS**