

Chair Report 2023

It is just under a year since I took over as Chair from Dave Bracken. I would like to formally thank all members of the team for their help, support and patience as I have tried to find my feet in this new role.

Dave Bracken has provided me with guidance and unwavering support. I cannot thank him enough for all he does in and around the community and I for one was secretly pleased when his and Di's plans to sell the manse had to be put on hold. I hope we can continue to work together for many years.

Janet has managed the numbers – I know at times she found this a challenging role, and I have appreciated her fortitude and calm demeanor. This is perfectly demonstrated in her multiple trips to the Bank to get them to finally sort out signatory details. A truly thankless task.

Chris has helped in multiple ways, specifically in supporting the development of the community plan and analyzing and extracting vital information from a myriad of sources.

Finally Hazel, she is the epitome of competence. She manages to keep me organized – that is no mean feat. I could not do this job without her.

We need two more Directors – this will make us more resilient and I would urge anyone who has an interest in the future success of Dunadd to have a chat and see how they could support our work.

Activities in 2023

As a team we have spent much of the last year working on re-drafting the community plan. We have held discussions, analysed surveys, looked at previously published reports and drafted a document that we believe charts a route forward for DCE. We are a small team and recognise that to deliver on the ground – key to our future success will be the recruitment of a Development Worker funded via grants from philanthropic funds.

The Book Swap is an outstanding example of how DCE supports our community – each month folks get the chance to come together, share a simple meal, chat and spend time together. This vibrant activity is one we should be proud of and (assuming the volunteer team are still up for it) look forward to supporting in the coming years.

The work of Dave and his support team in managing the environment in and around Kilmartin is appreciated. The village presents a high quality environment to all live and visit the locale.

We explored the possibility of establishing a Hydro scheme, but to date have not identified a suitable site to allow this project to advance – the objective would be to install a turbine and distribute earnings to community projects.

In April our DTAS worker joined a Board Meetings to talk about our Community Plan and to provide insight into the support that DTAS can provide. Their work in supplying a Community Insight report has been incorporated into our proposals.

Looking forward

We are excited to secure a new mandate from the community to take forward a new suite of work. Following the AGM we will be delivering a brief presentation on the new Community Plan and we really want your observations and input.

Finally we have been approach by the Caln MacAlpin Society from Georgia, USA to discuss the future of Kilmartin Church. They are exploring the possibility of purchasing the building and are keen to understand what the community thoughts are. Again we would appreciate your input and will share your thoughts.

I am looking forward to leading the team for the coming two years and in continuing to deliver for the residents of Dunadd.