



Dear Readers,

I don't know how many of you will realise that this is the Fifth Birthday of the Village Crier! Yes, every household in the Parish has received a copy every 3 months, free of charge, since December 2008 and it is still going strong. I wonder if you remember the first edition, a single A4 sheet, printed on both sides, 2 articles, 1 advert and timetables for Brian's Shop, The Surgery, Mobile Library, Bank and Post Office. Things have moved on thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way, be it by articles, reports from organisations, letters and advertisements and now on average we produce around 24 pages in each edition.

Sometimes this takes a bit of juggling as the complete edition always has to have multiples of 4 pages. It is thanks to the expertise of Jimmy, Les and Gareth that we manage to fit in everything one way or another.

Those of us involved in the production wish to extend our thanks to those who advertise. They are the ones who provide the finance which allows The Crier to be delivered freely. Of course those who send in articles etc, you are the people providing the news. We on the Committee put it all together and send it off to the printer and finally, the super team of "Paperboys and girls" which delivers to your door. Without any of these groups we would not succeed

I hope this gives you some insight as to what has gone on behind the scenes over the last 5 years and we hope will continue ad infinitum



I must add our meetings putting the material together can be most entertaining as well as being very interesting. We have many discussions about apostrophes, commas, inverted commas, punctuation and grammar in general which often leads to a great deal of hilarity!

I often mention where I am when I write my "bit". Well, this time it is sitting at the kitchen table in the old homestead, cosy inside, dark and dreich outside but I am looking forward to my last breath of sea-air in Morar before winter sets in. Can you believe a retired person has difficulty in finding time to go away for a few days? I am that person!

It seems no time since October/November last year and everyone seems to be wondering the same, "Where has 2013 gone?" Was it the good summer with its exciting events, Andy Murray at Wimbledon, the birth of Prince George, the build up to the Commonwealth games in Glasgow and the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles in 2014, the farmers getting a decent harvest for once, the children having good weather over the school holidays? Who knows? One thing, we all should have greater resistance to the usual winter ailments after a sunny summer.

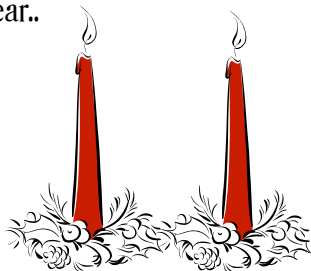
Now all the winter activities are in full swing so I expect various reports to be within the pages.

The innovation last year of an Art Exhibition in the Museum proved to be so successful that it was decided to extend the opening times over 2 weekends this year. I am amazed at the artistic talent there is on our own doorstep. No doubt there will be a detailed account within this edition.

Another interesting article I know has been submitted is about Abdie Curling Club and also 2 personal announcements, a birth and a death have been sent in.

As I too have to meet the deadline date for submissions I don't always know the content of the current edition until it is put together so cannot make any further comment

Once again I close by wishing all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year..



Hilda Clow..

EDITORS VIEW

During the summer, and what a summer it was, my wife and I took our granddaughters up Castle Law.

On the way up we tried to find 'The Witches' cave, a place I spent many an afternoon as a child. it was a struggle as it was very overgrown with birch trees and scrub. It is obvious by this that not too many people are visiting the cave.

As kids we regularly wandered up and played in the cave, great adventure.

Do people know it's there?
Let me know.

It's a long time since we had some vandalism in the Village and as you can see from the letters the local jobs have been busy at the Brandywell Road play park.

Again my grandchildren love going up there to play on the swings and things.

If anyone has any idea who was to blame contact the Police then write to the Crier and name and shame.

Last December we asked our readers to look out for elderly neighbours during the winter months. The message is the same this year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year and thank you for supporting the Newsletter again this past year.

The Ed



LETTERS TO THE ED

Dear Ed

I am writing with regard to the play park in Brandywell Road.

I hope the individual(s) who dug up part of the safety surface are proud of themselves. I hope they're happy when a toddler trips and falls over the mess they've made and I hope they're really chuffed when the maintenance people close the park down because they're not obliged to repair damage caused by vandalism.

Actually, what I really hope is that the parents of the people concerned are aware of what their offspring have done and have dealt with it accordingly. This sort of thing is completely unacceptable. It is even more annoying because it has come at a time when so many people in the village are giving money, time and effort to improve the other parks. It would be nice if people could learn to respect property and, even if you don't want to enjoy it for its proper purpose, appreciate that there are many others who do.

Name and address supplied

Dear Ed

When regular customers of what was the Culdees Tearoom learnt that Heather and Kenny had decided to sell their business, the news was greeted with considerable dismay.

It was a great relief when Hazel and Norman Gordon, a local couple, bought the tearoom and intend to continue the business so that, once more, the tearoom is fully operational after a short closure for Hazel and Norman to carry out refurbishment work including the installation of underfloor heating and complete redecoration.

It seems that Norman had fond memories of picking strawberries in the area as a child - hence the name change.

The open fire has been kept for use during the winter months and the tearoom is now open on a Sunday with the only closing day being a Tuesday.

Hazel provides an extensive range of delicious home made baked goodies as well as filled rolls, toasted paninis, baguettes and salads. Beverages include fresh coffees, various teas and cold drinks as well as ice creams.

I am sure the village wish Hazel and Norman success in their venture and look forward to visiting their local tearoom.

A Regular

Name & address supplied

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum of Abernethy is now closed for the winter season but I am delighted to report that we have seen an increase in both visitor numbers and donations over the summer months. This is due in no small part to the enormous contribution given by our dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers. We are also very grateful to everyone who takes the time to visit the Museum.



We experienced a particularly busy day during the Doors Open Day event in September when we offered free art activities to children. It was a brilliant afternoon and certainly the busiest I've ever seen.

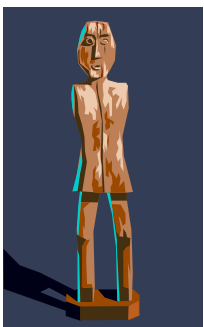
The October Art Exhibition, our second one, was certainly very popular too. I think probably the most talked about piece was the superb portrait of Brian from the Cree's Inn painted by Julie Valentine. We had contributions from 31 separate artists and were delighted with the work on display. It was also lovely to welcome so many visitors to the Museum despite the rain!

As I write we are just about to welcome Red Wine Theatre Productions to the Museum once again, this year to perform a comedy entitled 'Just The Ticket'.

Many of our volunteers have expressed an interest in attending a Christmas get together so we are in the process of organising this. We are always ready to welcome new volunteers. There is always so much work to do both in the Museum and to keep the duty rota filled over the summer months. If you think you would be interested in becoming a volunteer please get in touch.

Over the winter months things do not stop. The salmon cobble 'Emma', is going away to be repaired and we will be starting to think about our contributions to the Tayside Landscape Project. We will also be planning more social and fundraising events so look out for notices around the village.

Rachel Cheer
Chair of the Museum of Abernethy
rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk 850578



DEPARTMENT OF HOARY OLD CHESTNUTS

As time goes on, the situation merely worsens—the topic being inconsiderate parking near the War Memorial, which prevents some from finding a space on their return from work, and makes others 'preesoners in their ain hooses.'

It is clear that there is barely enough space for residents of the square to park, without people from other parts of the village regularly blocking their doorways.

Your Community Council is therefore making a formal request that people have some consideration for the residents of that area.

Abernethy Community Council.

HARVEST SUPPER

A delightful evening was held in the Williamson Hall for the Harvest Supper, it was well attended and had a very happy atmosphere.

A big thanks to all who organised and made it happen. The buffet was excellent with a superb selection, with baked potatoes, fruit salad and coffee and tablet. We were entertained with verse, song and an amusing play.

The vote of thanks was given by the Rev. Duncan Stenhouse.

Thank you again for a most enjoyable evening.

Lillias Johnston

WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

Oct

number 13	Rodger Horner £20
Number 77	Morag Laing £15

Nov

number 64	Jean Ramsey £20
number 9	Joyce Collier £15



POWRIE PARK PROGRESS



Abernethy Environmental Association is delighted to confirm that thanks to a wonderful response by the community to our recent fundraising plea, we have raised sufficient funds to draw down a grant for £60k from SITA Trust.

This means that 'phase 2' works to develop Powrie Park will begin before Christmas and, all being well, should be complete by Summer 2014.

More than 100 households responded to our door-drop campaign, contributing almost £4000 to the Parks Project - a fantastic response, well beyond our expectations and without which we would have missed out on the grant.

Huge thanks to the individuals, businesses and local organizations who donated, it really has made a difference.

A reminder that phase 2 plans include:

- Building a car park behind the Pavilion and improving vehicle access
- Re-surfacing paths around the park perimeter and raising them to reduce/minimize flooding
- Creating a trim trail (5 stations) around the park, suitable for all ages
- Providing picnic tables and new benches
- Creating a sensory area and additional planting
- Adding a zip-slide (or flying fox) to the play area

If you meant to donate but didn't quite get round to it, there's still time! Visit <http://abernethyparksproject.webs.com/> to find out more.

A secondary benefit of this huge community support is that it will stand us in good stead to secure the rest of the funds needed to complete the project.

We plan to achieve this by applying for additional grants, seeking the support of local corporate's and hosting community fundraising activities such as the St Andrews Ceilidh on 23rd November at Williamson Hall

Please keep watching this space and local noticeboards for more updates. And huge thanks once again to everyone who has contributed to the project so far.

AEA committee

Abernethy Horticultural Society Events 2013-2014

Meetings will be held in the Masonic Hall, Abernethy at 7:30pm, unless stated otherwise.

11th December 2013 **Gardeners' Question Time, AHS style.** Participation for all, BYO questions

8th January 2014 **Bees** A gardener's guide to bees by Dr Gavin Ramsay of the James Hutton Institute.

8th or 12th February 2014 **Snowdrops at Cambo** AHS outing to view the snowdrops at the Cambo Estate

12th March 2014 **AGM and the Abernethy Gardens Survey.** Don't miss this for the results of Caroline Boyle's survey of Abernethy gardens.

9th April 2014 **Berries** Growing berries at home, speaker TBC

17th May 2014 **Dundee Botanic** A guided tour of Dundee Botanic Gardens with ex-curator Les Bissett. Time to be confirmed

11th June 2014 **The Monastic Garden in Scotland,** by Marilyn Brown, author of 2012 publication "Scotland's Lost Gardens"

June 2014, day TBC **The Annual AHS Road Trip** - venue and time to be confirmed

Keir Allen

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(info@villagecrier.co.uk)

ABERNETHY KEEP ACTIVE CLUB



Abernethy Keep Active Club is happy to announce the community have been very supportive of the four free taster sessions organised by community residents Evelyn Scobie and Pat Miller. The gentle exercise group supported by Healthy Communities Collaborative Project Worker Margaret Weir, and led by fully qualified activity instructor James Knight, has been very well attended and we would like to offer our thanks to the local community as it is your support that has made this a success!

Local residents from Abernethy and District recently offered feedback on the activity and the response showed a positive desire to continue the group on a weekly basis at Kirk of St Bride session hall!

There will be a small cost introduced to future sessions to meet the instructor and hall fees.

Future sessions will be going ahead on a weekly basis from:

Monday 4 November

12.30-1.30 pm

Cost per session: £3.00

The exercises run from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m.; doors will be open from 12 noon. Refreshments will be available for people who wish them, with a separate donation requested to cover costs.

Participants should wear suitable clothing and footwear.

We are keen that people from Abernethy & District who are interested in taking part, have an opportunity to do so. If someone has difficulty with transport we would ask they contact us, as we may be able to help.

The club welcomes new people so please come along and join in the fun!

For more information on the Abernethy Keep Active Club please contact:

Evelyn Scobie: 01738 850496 or mobile 07719240294

Patricia Miller: 01738 850879 or mobile 07849 152693

Margaret Weir at Healthy Communities Collaborative: 01738 473718

Abernethy Keep Active Club is supported by Perth & Kinross Healthy Communities Collaborative joint partners with NHS Tayside and Perth & Kinross Council.



Craig, Caroline and big sister Isla, from Wester Greenside Farm in Abernethy, were delighted to have Fraser join them on the 29th of May weighing 11lb 9oz. Many thanks to the labour team and maternity unit at Ninewells.

Deryck, Ruth and Lily Swan from Edinburgh (Deryck formerly Abernethy) are delighted to announce the arrival of Esme Georgina on the 24th August at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. She came into the world at a lovely weight of 9lbs

It is with regret we hear of the death of Mrs Marjorie Caldwell. Mrs Caldwell was the wife of the late Rev. James Caldwell minister of Abernethy from 1978 until he retired in 1984.

ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH

By the time of the December publication we very much pray that we will soon be welcoming a new minister. After interviewing and hearing a potential candidate in her current church, the elected nomination committee unanimously recommended that the Kirk Session invite her to take a united service in Abernethy on 17 November. We hope many of you will have taken the opportunity to hear the potential new minister and (if eligible), to vote afterwards whether or not to call her to serve our parish.

- **Sunday club** for children age 3+ continues during term times and we can also cater for younger children during morning worship
- **Christmas Eve service** is to be at 7pm on 24th December
- **Please note that morning worship at Abernethy will be at 9.30am in 2014!**
- **The Service at Glenfarg will be at 11am for next year**

Celia King

POPPY SCOTLAND APPEAL



Before she died in 2010 my wife had been the convener of the annual appeal in Abernethy and Aberar-gie for about 25 years. Since her death I have been doing it, I now want to stand down and need a volunteer(s) to take over for 2014.

In recent years around £1200 has been raised annually in Abernethy and surrounding area.

This excellent result has been achieved by a team of helpers going from door to door and with the support of the Church, School and local businesses, it is a real community effort.

Anyone one who is interested in taking on the job of convener, please contact Ian Cartwright on 850740

ABERNETHY SWRI

Meetings are held in the Session House at Abernethy Church, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. The subscription for this year is £17. Visitors £2 per meeting. We still need new members so please come along and give it a try. If you are not sure if this is for you, please feel free to come along as a visitor first. Contact person Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496. Mobile: 07719240294.

At our meeting in October we had Lou Jaap from "Loving Hands" Knitting for Charity Group. Members were enthralled by Lou's story about how she set up her group, and she showed many wonderful items knitted and sewn by her members. The items go to many charities and organisations in this country and all over the world. Competitions: Baby's Beanie Hat – 1st Sandra Hutchison, 2nd Pat Miller, 3rd Ann Christie. Flower of the Month – 1st Anne Brews, 2nd Alison Smart, 3rd Betty Morrison. There were 12 beanie hats entered and they were donated to "Loving Hands", along with another 50+ knitted by members and friends. Well done ladies!

Future Meetings will be as follows:

Wed 20th November – Betty Graham will give a "hands on" demonstration using "plastic canvas".
Competitions:
"Embroidered Article" &
"Flower of the Month".

Wed 18th December – "Christmas Meal" – At Berryfields.

Wed 15th January – "Talk on Red Squirrels" by Simon Poots
Competitions:
"Photograph of an Animal" & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 19th February - "Hands On Floral Arranging" with Frances Drysdale.
Competitions: "3 Half Dipped Chocolate Peppermint Creams" & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 19th March - "Porridge Making" by Neal Robertson.
Competitions: "3 Oatcakes" & "Flower of the Month".

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.

100 YEARS AGO

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Two cases of whooping-cough reported in Infant Room to-day. Several absentees in same Division through colds.

Wretched weather has prevailed all week. Colds are prevalent in Infant room where attendance has been 76%. Senior classes are better and attendance for whole school works out at 89.1%

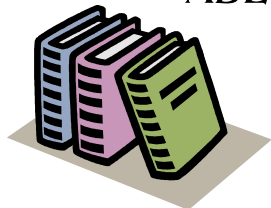
Headmaster off duty owing to his having to attend a funeral in Dundee

The present week has been another of good progress. Attendance has been very good, working out at 94.2%.

There are still cases of irregularity, however, that of the girl In the supplementary Class being a glaring case of exploiting child labour.

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

ABERNETHY'S VERY OWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



ESTABLISHED 1981



THE ASSOCIATION'S MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE MUSEUM BUILDING, SCHOOL WYND.

AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE DATES BELOW THE MEETINGS ARE THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH STARTING IN OCTOBER.

THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS £5, PROBABLY THE CHEAPEST MEMBERSHIP OF ANY ORGANISATION IN THE WORLD.

ALL WELCOME

2013/14 SYLLABUS

2013

December	4th	Way of the Wanderers	Jess Smith
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2014

February	5th	Admiral Cochrane	Joseph Giacopazzi
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March	5th	Glenshee Pictish Longhouse	David Strachan
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April	4th	AGM followed by a talk about Alexander Buses	
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BAL DE PLEIN HIVER

On Feb 8th Central France will be coming to Abernethy, by way of a French dance workshop and evening Bal. This will take place in the Williamson Hall, with live music from Dancing Feet Ceilidh Band, and the dances will be taught by Lara Russo. Dancing Feet are Abernethy's own ceilidh band, resident in the village. They recently played for Abernethy Horticultural Society's fundraiser ceilidh, and can also be found on the last Sunday of the month in the Cree's Inn, hosting the open music session. Lara Russo is currently living in Edinburgh, and has teamed up with Dancing Feet to share her enthusiasm for, and expertise in French dance. The dances are from the Massiv Central, in the centre of France. They are simple in structure, and great fun to dance - anyone who likes a good ceilidh will enjoy this!

The day will commence with a workshop, taking place from 3 -6pm. The evening Bal is from 8 - 11pm. You can come to either or both of these events - if you attend the workshop you will be ready to go in the evening, but the dances will still be called for newcomers, so you do not have to attend the workshop to enjoy the Bal. For those attending both the workshop and the evening bal, a meal will be provided - there is no charge for this, just donations.

The cost of the workshop is £10/£8 concessions, the evening Bal is £8/£6 and for both it is £15/£12.

For more information or tickets please go to www.abernethymusic.com or contact Kate on 01738 851079 info@abernethymusic.com



Please note ALL articles must be accompanied with a name and address BEFORE they will be published in the Crier.

On request, the name and address may be withheld from publication.



Abernethy Music
presents
Bal de Plein Hiver
8th Feb 2014

with music from
Dancing Feet Ceilidh Band
and dances taught by
Lara Russo

Come and learn the traditional dances of central France.
The dances are simple to learn, but great fun to dance.

3 - 6pm Afternoon workshop
Dances will be taught by Lara Russo with live music

8 - 11pm Evening Bal
An evening of French music and dance for everyone to enjoy and participate in

Price ; workshop only £10/£8concs
Bal only £8/£6concs
combined ticket £15/£12concs

For those attending both the workshop and the bal, an evening meal will be provided - no charge for this, just donations

Contact kate on 01738 851079
info@abernethymusic.com
www.abernethymusic.com

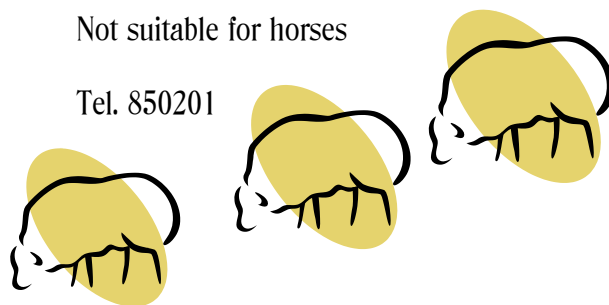
FREE GRAZING

Free grazing available.

Two small fields.

Not suitable for horses

Tel. 850201



BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The club held a very successful evening in October, hosting another evening with the Scots folk duo Gab-erlunzie.

With a packed hall the assembled crowd enjoyed an evening of Scottish folk music and song.

The club is delighted to be able to give £500 to the very worthy Park Project.

The next Burns club event is the Burns supper in February.



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY ON YOUR DOORSTEP

One of Abernethy's local sporting clubs, Abdie Curling Club, was involved in Fife Doors Open Day on 8th September. This is when Fife opens its doors to buildings, walks and exhibitions all over Fife for members of the public to come and have a look at things and places of interest that are not normally accessible.

It was the first time Abdie have been involved in Fife Doors Open Day and indeed the first time in living memory the Abdie Curling House has been open to non-curlers and its contents revealed. Nearly 90 members of the public came to look round, with one elderly resident of Grange of Lindores marvelling at the contents as she had never been allowed to play near the House as a child, in case she fell in the Loch!

Built in the early 1860's at the north end of Lindores Loch it is a very rare and charming example of its type as there are very few curling houses left in Scotland, and fewer still filled with old outdoor curling stones and implements to mark the ice prior to the game and to clear snow off the playing surface.

Also on display were other original artefacts associated with this Scottish winter sport plus winner's medals and the beautifully hand-written early Minute Books of Abdie Curling Club. The club was formed in 1831 making it one of the 10 oldest in the world.

As the result of participating in Fife Doors Open Day our President Andy Messenger was invited to speak at a Civic Reception in Dunfermline City Chambers by Provost Jim Leishman to give an account, as a new venue, of how our day had been and what Abdie had got out of it.



Two of Abdie's most famous past members deserve a mention. Capt. James Ogilvie Dalglish RN was not only an early club member but also one of the founding fathers of the governing body of curling - the Royal Caledonian Curling Club - that was formed in 1838, seven years after Abdie was formed. He was the first Vice President of the Royal Club in 1838 and became President between 1850-52.

The other famous Abdie man was Rear Admiral Sir Frederick Lewis Maitland who took the surrender of Napoleon Bonaparte on his ship HMS Bellerophon in July 1815, marking the end of the Napoleonic Wars. Both men are mentioned in the Abdie Minute Books but more as humble curlers like their fellow winter sportsmen than men of stature.

If you would like to come and try curling this season contact Keith Rose or Andy Messenger of Abdie Curling Club on jkeithrose@hotmail.com or messandrew@btinternet.com

FOLK JAM IN THE CREE'S

On the last Sunday of the month the Cree's Inn hosts an informal session of folk music led by Kate and Roddy. October found a varied group of people enjoying first class music

The atmosphere is very relaxed and welcoming but there are some professional standard musicians singing and playing all kinds of folk.

I started counting instruments. These included guitars, of course, banjos, mandolins, an accordion, flute, Border bagpipes, and a mouth organ. The music varied between Country and Western, blues, toe-tapping jigs and traditional Scots songs.

This real treat happens on the last Sunday of every month and all for the price of a drink. There is no other charge except to enjoy a taste of whatever takes your fancy from Brian's great selection behind the bar.





A.H.S



The AHS Garden Day on Saturday September 21 was our most successful yet. Thanks also to everyone who came along and made it so. Thanks too to our local sponsors Jamesfield Garden Centre and Branstons. Our congratulations go to the talented winners of our various competitions: Aron Robb, Hannah Smith, Ross Lacey, Celia King, Ann Christie and Sally Rose. We hope even more of you will come along and take part in 2014.

The same day our fund-raising ceilidh made a fantastic evening. Local band *Dancing Feet* provided fabulous music and cajoled everyone up onto their feet dancing again and again. Special thanks to them and to the Cree's for wonderful stovvies.

The whole day raised almost £1,300 and the majority of this will go towards the creation of the Abernethy Fruit Trail. It will provide added colour and beauty for the village and be a source of delicious eating. Work on the Trail is now underway. The best locations in and around the village have been identified and permissions for planting are being sought. The first saplings have arrived from the Woodland Trust and are due for planting in mid-November with children from Abernethy primary helping to dig in. Accompanying the project is the new AHS website

<https://sites.google.com/site/abernethyhorticultural/home> It carries full details of developments and in time will include a map of the Trail. If you want to know more about the Trail or get involved, please contact us via the website. We are hoping people may be willing to take cuttings of their own fruit trees and bushes and share them with us to add to those we are buying.

The website also provides details of our speaker meetings and outings and all our other projects. We are keen to feature local plants, trees and gardens. We are also beginning a survey of village gardens to create a snapshot of the different growing conditions, garden successes and failures, and generally how people feel about their gardens. We will present results at the March 2014 AHS meeting and on the website. If you would like to take part, please contact AHS Secretary Caroline Boyle on 851190.

Our meetings programme for 2013/14 is now underway. It began in October with a lively and inspiring talk from Mags Hall of the Fife Diet.

Everyone went home enthused by the benefits of growing and buying local food and produce. Events start at 7.30 in the Masonic Hall. They are free to members or £2.50 at the door for non-members. There is a lot going on horticulturally in Abernethy. If you are keen to know more about gardening and growing and talk to others who share your interest, why not come along? You will be very welcome.

Caroline Boyle
Secretary

IMOGEN AND FENNELA GO BRONZE

Imogen Graham and her Connemara pony, Fenella went to Kelso for the Scottish Endurance Riding Club Championships to try for a Bronze Thistle award. They had already ridden two rides of 30km to qualify and at Kelso they had to ride for 50km at at least 9.5km an hour. This involved a break half way for Fenella to be checked by the vets.

As Imogen was 10 she had to ride with an adult so Mum, Kirstie and part-Arab Arabelle were part of the team as were Grannie and Grandad, Anne and Al-listair, who helped by meeting up with the riders on route with refreshments for ponies and jockeys as well as cold sloshes and sponges for the ponies to help cool them down before they were vetted.

50 km is a long way for a little girl and her pony but they did very well and Imogen now has her Bronze Thistle award.



GIRL GUIDING IN ABERNETHY



Hi my name is Jane Brown I have been involved in guiding in the village since 1985. Firstly as a member of Friends of Guiding a group of adults who help to fundraise for the units ie. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. Then my daughter started Brownies. As I stay up Glenfoot it was suggested I could stay and help as by the time I got home it was time to come back (at that time I did not always have a car) This was the start of my Guiding and what a time I have had never a dull moment. The friends I have made the adventures I have had on the way, Abernethy was the first Brownie unit to go camping under canvas, if it was not for guiding I would never have gone to India. This changed the way I looked at our wider world of Guiding and since then I have become involved in different charities in India which I will continue to do. Guiding opens up so many doors for both adults and girls. This year we had Eilidh Simpson from the village represent Scotland at an international camp in Ireland, I am sure it is a time she will remember always the fun and friendships she made. Along the way I have had help from many friends to run the units and to them I give many thanks.

Now you will be wondering why I am writing this article, I have decided to hang up my Guiding whistle, something I have been trying to do very reluctantly and with some sadness for some time but now I would like to give more time to other interests. Debbie who helps me is also leaving so we require someone to take on the running of the Guide unit this is girls 10yrs-15yrs. I would hate to see Guides close in the village after being involved for so long, also because we have strong Rainbow and Brownie units, Guides is the next step on for the girls. If you are interested in looking for adventure and having at least one night not in front of the television I can guarantee a fun filled never dull moment for an hour and a half. Please give me a call on 850631 and arrange to visit us. We meet on a Wednesday night in the Pavilion, Guiding is a female only organisation. Help Christmas is my leaving time. Do you want to see teenage girls hanging around the village with nothing to do or can you help prevent this?

Jane Brown

ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

"A Voice for the People"

A lexicon of modern day management speak would feature glib terms like partnering, reaching out and engaging, there would be a place too for the current practise of assigned personal ownership to high street stores and telecommunications companies so we have Your M&S and My BT. What is undeniable though is that Abernethy Community Council is Yours and while we might not be in a position to partner we do want to reach out and engage with the community: the trouble is we often feel ill equipped to represent the views of the community when so few take time to come to our meetings. We have a good example of this at the moment in that within our local area there are potentially three separate wind turbine or wind farm proposals to consider and while the Community Council members will objectively and fairly assess each proposal we lack any sense as to how the community as a whole might view these developments.

Recognising that not everyone can make the meetings, various members of the Community Council have been proactive in turning up at some of the clubs and gathering that take place in the village, both to summarise the more recent workings of the Community Council but also listen to issues and ideas of villagers. Most on the Community Council have day jobs to do so this is not something that can be undertaken on a regular basis, this is a gentle reminder that Your Community Council meets at 7.30pm the third Wednesday of the month in Abernethy School; it would be comforting to know that when we are required to take a position or provide an opinion on emotive topics like wind turbines we do so based on the consensus view of residents.

Colin Morrison Chairperson

Dates of Meetings –Wednesday Evenings, 7.30pm.

Venue: Primary School Abernethy

2013

December – No meeting.

2014

January 22nd February 26th

March 19th April 23rd

May 21st – This will be the AGM

June 18th July – No meeting

GET INVOLVED

Would you like to get more involved in village life?

Do you sometimes go along to an event and think 'I could have done that better'?

Would you like to help maintain an essential village facility for future generations?

If you answered 'yes' to any of the above questions, please read on – this could be just what you're looking for!

The Williamson Hall Management Committee are holding their Annual General Meeting at the hall at 8pm on Monday 10 February 2014 and, as always, we are looking for new members.

We are a small but very enthusiastic committee, responsible for the maintenance and day to day running of the hall and we meet on Monday evenings, approximately every eight weeks. As well as dealing with the general upkeep of the hall, we also organise fundraising events, the biggest of which is the fete in June. In addition to this, we have big refurbishment plans which we hope to bring to fruition in 2014.

If you'd like to know more about our plans for the hall or if you'd like to be involved in organising 2014's fete, the AGM is the time to join us. If you'd just like to find out more about what we do, please come along. We're a very sociable bunch and you'll be made very welcome. You might even get a cuppa!

Jill Young, Williamson Hall Chair Tel: 850087

MEMORIES OF SCHOOL TRIPS IN THE THIRTIES

I sometimes wonder if youngsters nowadays realise just how lucky they are. A couple of years ago my eldest grandson enjoyed a five day school trip to New York. This year the younger brother is bound for Switzerland.

When I was a lad in Stanley my first trip was a day in Edinburgh with visits to the castle and the zoo. For weeks leading up to the outing we took sixpence to school which we handed to the teacher to cover the cost. At the castle I was impressed by Mons Meg and seeing the Scottish regalia. I can still recall the thrill of crossing the Forth Bridge for the first time and tossing a coin out of the train window for luck.

I purchased a box of Edinburgh rock to take home to my parents but sadly, it did not survive the journey home home. Filled with remorse I bought a bar of

chocolate from the vending machine at Perth Station to replace the rock. At least the thought was there. However, the most memorable outing with the school was a visit to the Empire Exhibition in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow in 1938. There were pavilions representing the various countries in the then British Empire. My favourite was the Canadian Pavilion with two members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, resplendent in their red tunics, on duty at the entrance.

I can still taste the Canadian apples which I sampled. Had I ever decided to emigrate Canada would have been my destination. Alas, my boyhood ambition of becoming a 'Mountie' never came to pass.

One of the main features was the Tower of Empire which was designed by the prominent Scottish architect, Thomas Tait. Cardboard models of the tower were on the agenda at the handiwork class on return to school.

There was also a reconstruction of a typical Highland village called the Clachan.

Another feature was the indoor waterfall representing the Niagara Falls if I remember correctly. The day ended with time spent in the adjacent fun fair which surpassed anything we had experienced at the South Inch in Perth when the 'shows' come to town.

All in all a day to remember.

Perhaps we didn't do too badly after all.

Bob MacDonald



HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS With THE EARN SINGERS MULLED WINE, MINCE PIES, GIFT and BAKING STALLS and SEASONAL MUSIC

On Friday the 13th December the Earn singers would like a chance to fill you with Christmas Cheer. They will be in **Dunbarney Church Hall** between 7pm and 9pm to help you enjoy a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie while you look round the gift and baking stalls and are entertained by seasonal music and song.

All are welcome to relax and enjoy a no-stress approach to the season for a modest donation of £3 per ticket or £5 for a couple

PENSIONS FOR WOMEN

The Basic State Retirement Pension has usually been fairly simple for men. They have worked, signed on at the Job Centre or had sick lines and when they were 65 they got a state pension because they had paid enough National Insurance contributions. This could include an amount for their wife.

The Basic State Retirement Pension is currently £110.15 per week.

Women have tended to have a more varied working life with periods of looking after their families or in part time jobs where they did not earn enough to pay National Insurance.

Pension age used to be 60 but is gradually rising and will eventually be 68 for both men and women.

When this age is reached the amount of pension will depend on the full years of National Insurance paid or credited. There will be credits for some of the years spent caring for family or disabled people.

What is important is to know how much pension you will get and how it can be improved.

You can find out by telephoning the Future Pension Centre at 0845 3000 168 also available on line. You may find that you have some contribution years that are incomplete and you can pay the missing contributions. I would advise doing this if you can possibly manage it. Once you know your situation there may be ways to increase your entitlement.

If you have paid enough contributions you will get the State Pension for yourself even if you have a private pension or are still working or have a partner with lots of money

This is a brief look at the State Pension. If you wish to know more contact the Citizens Advice Bureau or look on-line at pensions-service.direct.gov.uk

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment in the afternoon. 01738 450580 is the Advice Line. Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau.

There is also a web-site run by the CAB. Adviceguide.org.uk covers many topics and is easy to use.



AH

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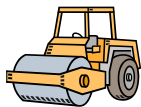
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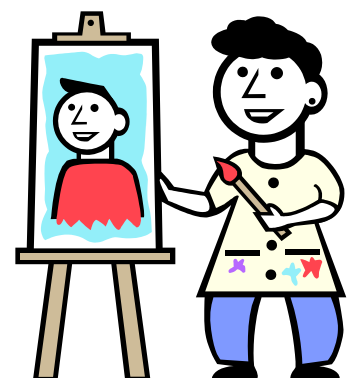
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THE MYSTERY OF THE GOLDEN TEAPOT

Tuesdays have become a very busy day since we bought Berryfields Tearoom. Being my only 'day off' I cram in shopping, medical appointments, catch ups with friends, baking and much more. Tuesday 21st October was no exception.

As it was half term, and the children had been working hard too, Norman and I decided we should have a family day out restricting the essential shopping and baking to first thing in the morning and last thing in the evening. Originally the plan was to go to Dunfermline and Milnathort. A couple of days beforehand Norman spotted a link to a blog on twitter which mentioned 'Steptoe's Yard' in Montrose, so it was decided we would head up that way in the hope of finding additions to my collections of vintage china, and looking out for bowling or something along the way to entertain the children.

Arriving at Steptoe's for the first time we were overwhelmed with the massive selection of items, many of which were not what we were looking for, but interesting all the same. We spent some time looking around and were passing the time waiting for 'the boss' to come and give us a price on some items. My daughter Beth and I were looking at teapots and Norman was elsewhere in the shed (looking at monkeys!) I picked up a very shiny gold teapot, not at all to my taste so I have no idea why I

picked it up, and I opened the lid. Inside were some newspaper cuttings and I lifted the first one out. As I did so something caught my eye in the centre of the cutting. A very familiar address!

I read the rest of the cutting and quickly realised it was an obituary, not just any obituary, but that of Norman C Gordon who died at his home in Perth in 1983; my husbands' paternal Grandfather!!! I think at this point I went white, and a little teary. I handed the paper to Beth and called Norman over. They were as surprised as I was! The other cuttings are mainly obituaries and a couple of news stories but of no relevance to us. How bizarre to have picked up THIS teapot, what were the chances?!

Anyway, 'the boss' eventually came and priced our items; she threw the teapot into the deal after hearing what we had found (and looking quite shocked!) On the journey home we were discussing the find. What were the chances of one of us going to THAT place, picking up THAT teapot AND opening it? Billions to one! Was it a sign?

We decided that Granddad Gordon must be looking out for us, and this was his way of telling us that he approved of the tearoom!

The golden teapot is now proudly displayed in Berryfields, complete with cuttings. Although I have been told it would be a good pourer I think it will stay just as it is with the cuttings inside!

Mrs Hazel Gordon
Berryfields Tearoom



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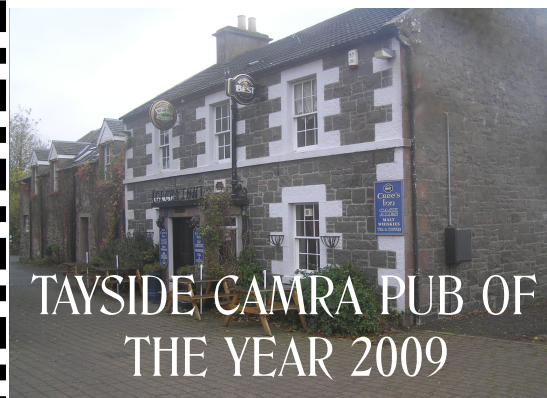


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As a NHS professional I do not understand how Cranial Sacral works,

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E Crawford. Perth

Just want to say thank you for your kindness and understanding.

I had to let you know how much I enjoyed my therapy and how it left me feeling

Relaxed and stress free and a great sense of wellbeing

**Thank you ,
Jennifer B.**

Hi Linda,

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for the treatments both in the past but especially most recently.

I have really found the energies used within the therapies very relaxing and therapeutic. Having had a fall at the airport you were able to detect and successfully treat the issues that arose as a result of this. I have since felt much better and not had a recurrence of these issues.

I would also recommend you to friends and family also you beauty therapies..

Again many thanks for your help . **Dorothy H .
Perth**

Hi Linda,

Just a few words to update you on the condition of my sciatic nerve trouble.

It has now been three weeks since this began and the doctor could only prescribe drugs for the pain.

Having been a little sceptical of alternative therapies I can only say I am delighted to have been to see you. The two treatments convinced that without a doubt you knew exactly what you were doing and how

doubt you knew exactly what you were doing and how to help ease the problem, which was no mean feat considering my height and weight . I am looking forward to going back to work possibly next week and thank you very much for making this possible.

I will return at some stage time permitting for a easier type massage without the pain.

Thank you very much

Dave H

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS



AND A



HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO YOU ALL

