



VILLAGE CRIER

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ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

29th EDITION

December 2015

Closing date for next edition 31.1.16

Hello Readers,

It is a dreich October afternoon and I am sitting at home wondering what I am going to write about for the December issue. It always feels strange to be writing something which will not be read for another month or so. My other problem is my cat who always likes to get in on the act by walking over my notebook as I do a rough draft in pencil then walks over the keyboard as I send the final copy to Jimmy. The cat is certainly "King of the Road" in this little enclave in Bridge of Earn and everyone knows him, but I never enquire too deeply into his whereabouts day or night, especially at night; a case of "Where ignorance is bliss".

I can't help but make a comparison between today and what I was doing a week ago; visiting the most fascinating "Cavern of the Dragon" on the Island of Majorca, one of the most amazing sites I have ever seen, which I can't even begin to describe but it does make one think about the wonders of nature.

A day or two later as I pick up my pencil again.

The witching hour is drawing nigh, both literally and metaphorically as tomorrow is Hallowe'en and also deadline day for contributions for The Crier but this evening has been Magic Friday, 30th October, the Grand Opening of The Abernethy Community Cinema, complete with Red Carpet, Piper, Perth Celebrity to cut the film tape ribbon with gold-handled scissors, a welcoming glass of bubbly to toast the new venture and a great film to start things off. Projects such as this do not get off the ground without a great deal of work and effort and having some inside knowledge I realise how much time and effort has gone into the setting up of the cinema by a relatively few people.

I am so impressed with the work which has been done in the Williamson Hall over the last few years. It now looks so bright and cheerful and feels warm and welcoming. As for the kitchen it is now a dream in comparison to the

nightmare it once was! There are still some of us around who will remember.. Well done to all those involved in looking after the Hall, one of the great assets in Abernethy which benefits from the fact it was never taken over by any body outwith the Parish of Abernethy.

One other point before I leave the film night and The Williamson Hall is to say how happy I was to meet up with so many people I hadn't seen for quite some time.

So on to Hallowe'en itself and I can't help thinking how it has changed over the years, when the children went "Guising" dressed up in home-made fancy dress. Why does everything have to be bought now? Half the fun was transforming old sheets, pillowcases and miscellaneous bits of clothing into ghosties and ghoulies and many other weird and wonderful disguises. Hallowe'en was very much a Scottish festival and Guy Fawkes English but now the two seem to have merged in some odd way and "guising" had nothing to do with "Guy Fawkes" How many remember the rhyme?

Guisers guisers guising at your door

A penny or a ha'penny and we won't ask more

If you haven't a penny a ha'penny will do

If you haven't a ha'penny then God bless you.

As you read this the next major festival of the year is fast approaching so

Happy Christmas Everyone and All Good Wishes for 2016



Hilda Clow

EDITOR'S VIEW

A few years ago we changed the Editor's Moan to the Editors View. However, this time round I am not having a moan which the View normally is anyway, I make no apologies for that, by the way.



I would like to congratulate the Horti. Society for brightening up the village with the floral tubs, boxes and baskets through the summer months and into the Autumn.

By the time you read this the Abernethy Community Cinema will have had it's first screening. What a brilliant night, a glass of wine, a bowl of nibbles and great company. If you didn't manage to get a ticket for the first showing make sure you get in quick for the second. Well done to the Cinema team, absolutely fantastic.

The winter is on its way and by the time the Crier drops through your door the bad weather may have set in.

Remember to keep an eye on any elderly neighbours in times of bad weather. Clear a pavement or two of snow when it comes, to help make moving around the village a bit easier for those less able. Have a great Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

And keep reading.

The Ed.

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.

Any submission without these details will NOT be included

Thank You

TO THE DISTRIBUTORS

If you have any copies left over after your bundle is all delivered could you please hand them back to Jimmy Swan.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

ARTICLES

Would you please submit articles in the following format, JPEG, PDF or Word.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed

The church was filled with the sound of music on a Friday evening when the Fair City Singers entertained a full audience. Variety of songs, a violin soloist and beautiful singers were just a treat to the ears. The audience contributed with Doe and Deer with actions, which I did enjoy as I'm sure the rest of the people did.

Refreshment and shortbread ended a most enjoyable evening.

Thanks to Elizabeth & Kathleen for organizing it.

Lillias Johnston

Dear Ed

Hope all well. Just a wee hello to ask if you have seen my new website?

Lots of new courses for the rest of the year and new recipe and time plan ideas.

Would love to hear your feedback on the website and if there are any courses you would like to see for 2016 do let me know by replying to this email.

And do remember you can purchase a place on a course as a gift or monetary ones so people can decide which course to attend. The vouchers make great Christmas presents for all of you organised early shoppers.

Do get in touch as it would be lovely to hear from you.

Sarah Mellersh

Lets Cook Scotland



CAROL SINGING

Abernethy Community Council and Abernethy in Bloom invite you join us for Carol singing around the Christmas Tree in Nurse Peattie's garden at 6:30 pm on Friday 11th December:

Free Glowsticks for the Children!

Mulled wine for the Adults!

Watch Facebook for further information



Alistair Robinson

ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS



Morning worship

for December takes place in Abernethy at 11am and in Glenfarg at 9.30am.

In 2016 the service times will be reversed with those in Abernethy being at 9.30am. **However, generally, on the last Sunday of each month** we meet together with the Glenfarg part of our congregation, at 11 am while alternating locations. **Therefore, there will be no service in Abernethy on Dec 27- or Feb 28- 2016.** Instead morning worship will be in Glenfarg at 11am. Anyone wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01337 840 218.

Children's Sunday club

It meets in school term time during the morning service at each location. Please bring yourself and the children along for a time of fun, games, crafts, Bible stories and songs. Outwith term time there are always toys and books for younger children to play with, located in the adjacent hall cupboard. Drinks and refreshments will be served after the services. You will be very welcome to join us at either church.

Open Doors

The Church is open on every second Tuesday afternoon while teas and coffees are served in the adjacent hall between 2.30 and 4pm. Please come and join us. The next date is Dec 8th and fortnightly thereafter.

Christmas services

Sunday 20 Dec at 11am; children will be taking part in the service

Christmas eve at 7pm in Abernethy and at 11.30 pm in Glenfarg

Thank you!! to all who so generously gave for the Macmillan coffee morning, Harvest Thanksgiving, Shoebox appeal and came to the Fair City singers concert

Famous son of Abernethy; Rev John Brown (born Carpow 1722). A large illustrated copy of his 'Self-interpreting Bible' has been generously donated to the Kirk of St Bride by a Christian fellowship group in Leicestershire. It may currently be viewed in the church, on request.

Village 'Welcome' packs

The packs contain useful village information, telephone numbers, activities in Abernethy plus the current bus timetable. The plastic folders may be picked up from the church vestibules. If you would like to welcome someone moving in to your street, why not collect a pack and add something to it – perhaps a packet of Abernethy biscuits or some flowers! The information sheets are also in the museum and Berryfields tearoom. The information will be updated regularly but if you are aware of any errors or omissions in the current version, please let Celia King know on Tel: 851 010.

Church/ adjacent Church hall bookings

The Church (with the Minister's permission) and the adjacent church hall are available for hire. To enquire about charges and book the facilities please contact Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850 477.

Our Locum minister is the Rev Robert McCrum; tel 07914 937 446

Minister@abernethydronarngaskchurch.org.uk

Website;

abernethydronarngaskchurch.org.uk

Celia King (on behalf of the church)



The Great War

December 8, 1915

Evacuation of Suvla and Anzac
ordered

ABERNETHY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

With a month between preparation of the Community Council update and publication in the Crier, intervening events have a habit of contradicting the status of key topics currently under discussion or consideration at the community council so this update is set against that backdrop:

Village parking proposals - after an encouraging start, progress has ground to a halt in that five months after the initial meeting we still await PKC's proposals for the possible introduction of hatching in three small areas of the Square that is designed to ensure free passage and movement of vehicles and reduce the likelihood of inappropriate or inconsiderate parking. After repeated requests for update, we have triggered the complaints process with PKC in an effort to elicit speedy production of the proposal, after that PKC will present their ideas either at a future community council meeting or an on site meeting.

Main Issues Report - for anyone not familiar with the terminology this is PKC's five year plan that sets out broad development proposals for the region. Our interest in this is acute in that several areas around Abernethy and Aberargie have been suggested for future and significant development. PKC have given no firm date for issue but on publication of the consultation document we will devote the following community council meeting to discussion of the proposals and development of a community response. Once we have that date we will post an update on the village website, Facebook and the notice boards.

Binn Wind Farm - through our participation in the Binn Wind Farm Community Liaison Group we know discussions regarding routing of an underground cable from the wind farm site to the Abernethy Sub-station are still ongoing, given the topography and bed rock depth this will be a tricky and costly undertaking but far preferable to unsightly over ground cabling and the associated poles. At the last Liaison Group meeting the community council signed a pre-agreement that sets out the general terms of reference for the future establishment of a community benefit fund that will accrue during the lifetime of the wind farm.



And finally but most importantly: those familiar with the Community Council election outcome will know there have been a number of changes recently but none so significant as the retirement of Ann Sangster as Abernethy Community Council Secretary after twenty-five years service with an unrivalled 100% attendance record. During that time Ann has seen off many a community council chairman, been the scourge of petty bureaucrats, bane to those blighting the lives of others and a fount of knowledge for anyone looking to navigate the seemingly impenetrable layers of local authority legislation and process. Never one to avoid controversy or confrontation in trying to effect the most appropriate outcome for the community, Ann's heart has always been in the right place and the community council will be the poorer through her retirement. That said and with Ann now at the other side of the table, we expect to be regularly brought to task through Ann's robust challenge of future community council business.

Colin Morrison

Chair.

Ping-Pong Anyone?

During term-time, a fine table tennis table is available in the school between 7pm and 9pm on Wednesdays. This is the same time as the badminton, although the table tennis is next door in the General Purposes Room. All welcome. Bats and balls supplied.

Angus Macintyre.



BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The final arrangements are being made for the 2016 Burn's supper.

Members will be notified with all the details mid-December.

The supper will be held on Saturday 6th February in the Williamson Hall.

Jimmy Swan

ABERNETHY COMMUNITY CINEMA



Our 1st milestone has been successfully reached and surpassed. We have shown our first movie *Sunshine* on Leith in the village in the Williamson Hall, Kirk Wynd, Abernethy. We can definitely say it has been a great success – Jamesfield Garden Centre loaned us the splendid shrubs which stood proudly outside the Hall, making an attractive entrance and our red carpet, literally, has been provided by Ally Mallinson who also contributed in fixing “behind the scenes” issues, thank you Jamesfield and Ally. Iain Roddick piped us in. Iain has many honours from a long pipe band career and we were both delighted and grateful that he should donate his time, and skills, for free, thank you Iain. Our official opening was performed by Michael Ellacott. Michael has provided help and raised money for charities, receiving the prestigious David K Thomson Award in recognition and more recently has collaborated on the Broadway musical ‘Power’ about the early life of Bill Clinton, thank you Michael. With the bubbly, oh and the obligatory speeches, what more do you want from an opening night?

Many people have worked hard to bring this facility together from the initial chat between David Millar, Hilda Clow and Jan Barrance. The Inn, has given us a roof (and a bar) for our meetings, thanks Grant. Our basic communication sources, Facebook, web-site (abernethycommunitycinema.co.uk), e-mail (abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com) and Twitter is down to Chris our Graphic Designer from Glasgow, thank you Chris. Allan’s Chilli Products has sponsored our web-site for two years, thanks Allan. Our Newsletter and Front Row pamphlet is thrown together (yeah right) by David, thank you David. Jan put in the successful application to The Big Lottery, bringing in £10,000 which has been spent on our cinema equipment, provided by A & C Audio-Visual, Kirkcaldy, thanks to you both. We could not have afforded the film hire, covered print costs or got our ads/information out there without our fantastic committee, volunteers and fundraisers who have put in their time and in no particular order include Susan McDougall, Gillian Marsh, Christina Cleeton, Ally Ferguson, Doreen Allan, John Robertson, Louise Hether-

ington and Heather Martin and we mustn’t forget the Williamson Hall committee allowing us to install the screen, thank y’all.

Abernethy Community Cinema is part of the UK Cinema For All and has been one of the first to be invited to join the Scottish branch. Cinema For All Scotland is an exciting new venture whose aim is to address issues faced by rural cinema. With the films for our first season having been chosen; It’s a Wonderful Life for the evening of 11th December and Miracle on 34th Street for the morning of 12 December we conclude our first season. Our second season commences Friday 12th February 2016 with the 1998 comedy, crime/romance movie *Out of Sight*. You can reserve seats any time – please contact us via Facebook, our web-site, e-mail or telephone.

To our future: It all takes money... we have had such a good reaction to our Newsletter and requests for advertising that we are now considering going ‘double sided’ with adverts starting from £20.00 (please contact us for further information). We will continue with house-to-house distribution of our *Newsletter* and *Front Row* pamphlet in Abernethy, Aberargie and Dron. *Front Row* gives us the opportunity to tell our community about the films we will be showing. Our success with the Fashion Show at McEwens, which sold out, (raising £400.00) means we will most likely do this again for next season’s wardrobe. The Quiz (yeah, I hear you say), brings out the knowledgeable and will also be run, possibly around May and finally. The Treasure Hunt earlier this year was so much fun for all the family that we have persuaded the organisers to arrange a Hunt for us for the better weather. And the car boot sale... we can never have too much, again we’ve decided to wait for the better weather, so we continue to collect and can collect if you’ve ‘stuff’ you no longer want.

We hope the community of Abernethy, Aberargie and Dron will have many enjoyable hours at the Cinema watching, perhaps, chick flick, action movies, comedies, musicals, and even cartoons for the youngsters. We hope to offer ‘themed’ nights such as film and a curry, *Mama Mia* and a disco and the Italian job with spaghetti! We hope you like our ideas and we look forward to seeing you at your cinema.

David Millar



ABERNETHY CUBS & BEAVERS

This time of year is always a good time to reflect back on the past year and remember what an exciting year the Cubs and Beavers have had with their varying activities and camps and the laughs that we have shared with the boys and girls along the way. I always feel that the children are a great reflection of their families and the wider community in which we live and what a great community we have in Abernethy something we often take for granted.

The Beavers had their first taste of camping under canvas in September with a parent and child camp at Powrie Park which was a great success. The Beavers were at fever pitch at the prospect of camping and had great fun around the camp fire with hot chocolate, marshmallows and campfire songs. All the parents agreed in the morning that despite their greatest fears they had actually enjoyed the experience of camping.

The Cubs have just completed their Outdoor Challenge Award which was 6 months of work and are now undertaking their Teamwork Challenge Award which consists of trying new team sports and games. They are scheduled to have this completed by December 2015. Three of our older Cubs, Andrew Kinnear, Jamie Stewart and Ross Stewart are close to achieving their Chief Scout Silver Award which is the highest award that a Cub Scout can achieve and will be the culmination of all their hard work over the last 3 years.

The Cubs are currently sitting top of the Cub Football winter league but only by a point and are being pushed all the way by Bankfoot for that privilege. The great thing about the cub football league is that the football is played in a sporting manner with the boys learning to win and probably more importantly how to lose well, something that seems to be sadly lost in today's modern game.

2016 is a big year in Cub Scouting with this coming year marking the celebration of 100 years of Cub Scouts. With this in mind we are appealing to the community of Abernethy to share any photographs, stories or other memorabilia involving Cubs in Abernethy or Cubs in general. We are hoping to hold some form of celebration possibly in the summer, celebrating Scouting in Abernethy and intend inviting ex-cubs, leader's volunteers far and near and indeed the community of Abernethy along to celebrate this

unique occasion in Cub Scouting, so please get in touch if you have photographs and other memorabilia to share.

Finally if you are interested in helping or becoming a leader and would like to join the adventure then please get in contact with myself or any of the leaders.

Gordon Miller

01738 850869 / gordonmiller146@aol.com

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

2016

3rd February Dundee's Anti-War Movement
William Kenefick

2nd March 200 years of the Lodge of Lindores
Alistair Wilkie & Jim Aitken

6th April AGM and A Talk on Abernethy School
Frank Zwolinski

It is with regret.....we hear of the death of Sandy Gardner (once of Abernethy) and Rebecca Sangster.
Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

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NURSE PEATTIE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Have you noticed the changes at Nurse Peattie's garden?

The latest have been the removal of the big fir at the fence on the roundabout side of the garden and the rebuilding of the wall which was in front of it. The fir tree spoiled the look of the gardens when entering the village from Perth and overshadowed and restricted growth in parts of the garden.



Many of us do not realise how much effort is put in by Abernethy in Bloom - a select band of navvies, all volunteers - to maintaining the garden.

At the time this work was being planned for the garden the Community Council were looking for somewhere to site a second Christmas tree as the one at the school was not seen by those entering the village from the West. What could be better than this new space created right at Perth Road, Back Dykes and Main Street junction? When the fir tree was removed there would be an opportunity to get the council to put in a socket for a reasonable sized tree and to provide a power source for the tree lights. After all there was a lamppost very conveniently sited at the fence.



When the tree was removed the council were approached and agreed to do the work *but at a price* - and **what a price!** To have this work done someone will have to pay £1800 and neither the volunteer gardeners nor the Community Council have that sort of money.

It is the ideal site for the Christmas tree and it would bring a bit of seasonal cheer to the village, maybe the charity carol singers who perform in the streets of Abernethy every Christmas would give a carol concert under the tree.

But none of this can happen unless the money can be found to pay for it. If each household receiving the Crier contributed £2.50 to the cause this would pay for the work and for the new tree lights necessary since the ones purchased last year were damaged by person or persons unknown.

Any contribution, the bigger the better but still acceptable however small, will be gratefully accepted and can be placed in the boxes provided at Berryfields and Brian Greig's shop. We are all very grateful to both of these enterprises for making the facility available. Donations will also be accepted through the letter boxes at the addresses below. In these cases please put the donation in an envelope with a note of your name and address. All donations will be acknowledged.

Ian Lamond, 12, The Glebe

Margaret Donaldson, Rowan Bank, Back Dykes (up the lane and opposite the Cree's car park)

Maureen Corbishley, 1, Ballo Braes

Sonia Simmers, 21, Nethy Place

Bill Christie, 31, Castlelaw Crescent

Les McIntosh

The Great War

December 15, 1915

Field-Marshal Sir John French
Resigns as Commander-in-Chief
Of British armies in France

VILLAGE CRIER WRITING COMPETITION



Thank you very much to the Judges of this years Writing Competition. They had no clue as to the identities of the writers but used their expertise to select the winners.

The most entries were in Class 1 : Primary 1-3. The winner of the £30 First Prize was **Kalani Anderson** for the story 'The Red Panda'; Runner up and winner of £20 was **Fraser Young** for 'The Crazy Eliminator'. 'My Dance Show ' by **Hayley Young**, My summer Holiday in 2015' by **Lucy Craig** and 'My Trip to Edinburgh Zoo' by **Hannah Smith** were judged to be of equal merit and will all receive Third Prizes of £10 each.

There was only one entry in Class 2: Primary 4-7 and Class 3: Secondary but the judges had no doubt they were worthy winners and no hesitation in awarding First Prizes of £30 to 'The Most Excellent Day' by **Kimi Anderson** and 'My Movie Experience' by **Imogen Graham**.

The Adult winner was 'Knickerbocker Glory' by **Anne Hollingsworth** and the runner-up was **Gordon Burns** for 'Childhood, Petrified'.

Thank you to all our entrants. I would have like to have seen more, especially from the adults. I thought they would welcome the chance to share childhood memories.

Next year's Writing Competition will be a Poetry Competition. The classes are the same as this year for a poem on any subject, any length. The closing date will be July 31st 2016 so there is lots of time to either be inspired or dig out something you have already written.

Knickerbocker Glory.

I was born in 1942 so most of my childhood was spent with rationing. There was only one kind of National margarine, National bread, no cream and very little butter. Everyone was the same and this was completely normal to us.

We still had our treats.

My mother would take us shopping in Lewis's Department Store which had a Soda Fountain in the basement. My sister and I were thrilled to get a sixpenny ice-cream in a dish. This would be 21/2p in today's money.

The pinnacle of the menu was a Knickerbocker Glory. This was in a tall sundae glass with ice-cream, red jelly, tinned fruit and topped with a whirl of synthetic cream. This sumptuous creation cost a whopping Two Shillings and Sixpence (12 1/2p) and was clearly so far beyond our wildest dreams that we didn't even ask for one.

It is very sad that, now I am in my seventies, even as a pensioner, I could afford a Knickerbocker Glory. But I don't want one. It sounds revolting.

The Moral.

Perhaps a dream is better than the reality.

But I do feel that if a child yearns for something, and you can afford it, it is nice to fulfil their dream.

Childhood passes and adults learn the hard way that you cannot always have what you want. But it is very nice to have treats to sweeten the hard facts of life.

Anne Hollingsworth Adult section.

PRIMARY 4-7 ENTRY 1

The Most Excellent Day

I woke up on a sunny Saturday morning, all excited for the most excellent day of my life. It was the day of the fete. When I was getting changed out of my pyjamas into my clothes I was thinking of all the massive tubs of candy-floss, and all the huge cones filled with the fantastic Mr Whippys ice-cream. But before the fete I had a Glee rehearsal. I had to practise extra hard in rehearsals because in the real show I had a solo!

As-quick-as-a-flash, it was time to go to the fete. The fete was "EXTREMELY" busy! I can remember when I went to one of the stalls everyone was pushing and shoving me, because they really wanted to get to the front of the queue. After that I think I went to get some of my favourite ice-cream, Mr Whippy. It was so yummy. My mum makes tablet and truffles so she had her own stall at the fete. I went and sat down next to my Mum and had a drink. When I was sitting down

next to my Mum, when she wasn't looking, I took a truffle and then a bit of tablet, they are scrumptious. I also remember playing some games with some of my friends. Then I started to get tired so I sat down again and had another drink. When I went to look at my watch it was time for my Glee concert. I said 'Goodbye ' to all my friends and got into the car. 15 mins later we were at Perth Concert Hall. It wasn't really a long time to the Show and I was really nervous but I knew that everything was going to be fine. My solo was in a song called Love Me Again by John Newman. One of my old friends Freya also had a solo in the same song. Freya and I were rehearsing for our solos when our friends came up to us and said 'We are all going to sit down and watch a movie'. I think we watched a movie all about dragons. We also had something to eat and drink. About two hours later it was time for the show to begin. I had loads of butterflies in my stomach. I was really nervous. I had some money with me so that when the show took a break I could go and get some ice-cream. In the show we also sang Hey Brother, Proud Mary and Caledonia. My mum, dad, brother, auntie and uncle were all there watching and listening to me. About an hour later the show had finished and it was time for me to go home. It was an excellent day!

Kimi Anderson
Age 10

Primary 1-3 ENTRY 5

The Red Panda

One of my best memories was going to the Highland Wildlife Safari Park with my family. We had never been there before so it was really exciting. There was loads of different animals that we had never seen before like Polar Bears, Snow Owls and Red Pandas. The Red Pandas were my favourite because they were so cute. You probably think that Red Pandas belong to the bear family but they actually belong to the racoon family. Red Pandas are not really red they are more gold and brown with a touch of white around the eyes. When it gets cold a Red Panda curls its long, furry and stripey tail around its body to keep warm.

Kalani Anderson
Age 7

My movie experience

People seem to think that being in a movie is easy, and the editors and the directors are the only ones doing the work. But I can say that from my experience that the actors do a lot of work too. I was asked by the theatre group that I attend, to have the role as a child assassin in the local movie 'Time Teens' filmed in Perthshire. And members of my family were offered the role as extras. When we got there my family members were given Victorian costumes while I was taken aside with another girl from my theatre group and told that we are twin assassins and we were given matching costumes. While all the extras were waiting we were getting makeup done to look as white as a sheet. After that the cameraman (who happened to be very nice and funny) told us to walk down a small alleyway past all the extras. A very simple short scene that ended up taking about 30 takes. Not because we were doing anything wrong, but because the cameraman had to get a shot from every possible angle. And that was the same for EVERY other scene. It was fun but very tiring. After a couple of hours (and walking round Perth dressed as a Victorian assassin) we were told that we only had one scene left but that had to be at night (as it was a killing scene). So we sat around and waited, and waited, and waited. By about 11 we started filming. And by 12 we were leaving. I was called back on a few other occasions. Some were fun like filming in Perth Academy and shooting blow darts at victims. Some were not as fun like more alleyway scenes resulting in 30 takes. But it is fair to say that the experience was wonderful. Having to make laughing and crying sounds in the microphone for the sound crew. Having fun with the directors and the actors also in the film. All together I had a ball. And when it came to the big film premier on the IM-AX screen at Perth. wearing suits, fancy dresses, and as many chains as you can fit round your neck, I was thrilled watching myself on the big screen. After this experience I had a lot more respect for actors in big movies complaining that they work so hard. Because now I realise that they probably do. This is my experience of being a child actor and despite all the work I had a great time and I hope that there will be more films for me to do in the future.

Imogen Graham
Age 12

MUSEUM NEWS

We have had a good season at the Museum with an increase in visitor numbers from last year. Thank you to everyone who took the time to visit and to volunteer to support the Museum. We also had another good Art Exhibition with a number of new artists joining us. We look forward to the winter months with Red Wine Productions coming in November and a Volunteer Christmas Party in December.

One area we are struggling with is recruiting new volunteers. We are desperate for more people to join the Collections Management Group. If you could spare a couple of hours on a Tuesday we would really like to hear from you. The group is responsible for putting up displays, looking after the collection, answering queries and maintaining the Museum building and garden. No particular skills are necessary and tea and biscuits are always available! Please call Sonja at the Museum on 850889 if you can help.

Next season we hope to have our Pictish stones properly displayed and other areas enhanced so watch this space ...!

Rachel Cheer

Chairperson of the board

Museum of Abernethy

GIVE YOUR GLASS TO *CHAS*

Perth & Kinross Council and Children's Hospice Association Scotland are working together to recycle more glass. Just now, 55% of all glass jars and bottles in Perth and Kinross are recycled, but 45% are disposed of in landfill. For every extra glass bottle or jar that you recycle, the Council will give CHAS Rachel House one penny. Find your nearest Recycling Centre or Recycling Point by visiting www.pkc.gov.uk/recycle.

Rachel Cheer



ABERNETHY SWRI

The new Session began in September with a Talk by Ian Bett on "100 Years of The Berries". This was very much enjoyed by everyone and brought back a few memories. In October we had Janet McDonald who told us how to get new ideas off the ground. This too was very much enjoyed by everyone.

We have several new members this year, so why not come along and join them? 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.

Meetings are held in the Session House at Abernethy Church (unless otherwise stated) on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. The subscription for this year is £20. Visitors £3 per meeting.

Future Meetings for 2015-2016:

Wed 18th November – Talk – "Stars of the Silver Screen" with Andy Paterson. Competitions: "4 Pieces of Turkish Delight" & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 16th December – "Christmas Meal" – at Berryfields.

2016

Wed 20th January – Talk on CHAS – with Rachel Cheer. Competitions: "Sewn or Knitted Toy (to regulation standards)" – to be donated to CHAS, & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 17th February - Talk by Angus Whitson, "Courier" columnist – "Man with Two Dogs". Competitions: "3 Fruit Scones" & "Flower of the Month".



Wed 16th March -

Demonstration – "Middle Eastern/Asian Cooking" with Rekha Cairns. Competitions: "3 Samosas" (recipe supplied) & "Flower of the Month".

Fri 25. March -

"Fundraising Quiz" in the Masonic Hall – details later.

Wed 20th April -

OPEN NIGHT – Masonic Hall - Four Corners Demonstrations – Fabric Boxes, Upholstery, Cards, & Flower Arranging. Competitions: "Small Arrangement with 3 blooms" & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 18th May -

AGM – Talk by Caroline Boyle on "Abernethy in Bloom". Competitions: "Fruit Drink (non-alcoholic)" & "Flower of the Month".

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.



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Abernethy Horticultural Society Evening Talks and Meetings 2015-2016

The evening talks will be held in the Masons' Hall, Abernethy, at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.

All are welcome, just turn up on the day. Prices are £2.50 on the door, or annual membership is only £10 (£18 for couples) and members get entry to all talks for free!

9th December

The return of The Quiz and Gardeners' Question Time, AHS style

Participation for all, BYO questions.

13th January 2016

Bellfield Organics, Derek Alexander. A talk on what life is like as a commercial grower of organic vegetables in Abernethy, for supply to households across central Scotland.

10th February 2016 The Country Garden Company, Amanda Fawzi.

Amanda makes her living selling flowers for weddings and events, all grown in her back garden in Cupar.

16th March 2016

AGM. With updates on "Abernethy In Bloom" and maybe even a mystery speaker.

13th April 2016

Pollination and Beasties, Angela Lloyd. Angela is a lecturer and researcher on organic growing and the role of insects in horticulture.

June 2016, date and time TBC

The Annual AHS Road Trip – location and date to be confirmed.

The Great War

December 19, 1915

General Sir Douglas Haig succeeds Sir John French as Commander-in-Chief of British Armies in France

Fitba' Crazy, Fitba' Mad



Back in my single days, when I was contemplating looking for a job abroad the then current girlfriend asked me if there was anything I would miss. My reply was "the football". Not quite the answer she was hoping for I suspect. Despite my efforts to convert her, my wife could not be described as a fan. After over half a century of patient explanation, the offside rule is still a mystery to her. At best, it can be said, that she tolerates my passion for the game. It is not for want of trying on my behalf.

During our courting days, she had to attend a function in Glasgow, in connection with her work as a travel agent. I agreed to meet her off the train on her return and perhaps we could go out for a meal. What I had overlooked, was the official opening of the floodlight system at Muirton Park on the same evening, when the FA cup holders West Ham United were the visitors. When she alighted from the train, all dressed up, she was whisked up to Muirton Park, to a seat in the stand, no less. In retrospect, perhaps I should have treated her to a half time pie!

Having missed the home game versus Kilmarnock, due to an important appointment at Abernethy Church, we set off for our honeymoon at Largs. By a stroke of luck, Saints were playing Greenock Morton on the following Saturday. As Greenock is just up the coast from Largs, what better way to spend the afternoon than a visit to Cappielow. Sadly, Saints lost by three goals to one. The following year, we booked a holiday in Spain. By this time, we were expecting our first child. A trip to Barcelona was a must, especially as Barca were playing Valencia at the Nou Camp Stadium. The stadium was certainly a cut above Cappielow and I did splash out a few pesetas for cushions to sit on. Always the gentleman!

It was when our third child was on the way I finally decided to forsake the beautiful game and concentrate on the family. It was following a game against Rangers at Muirton Park, which the visitors won 4-1. Three of the goals were from the penalty spot, which was a bit much even by Rangers standard. For once in my life, I left before the final whistle. Rather ironic, when I recall that it all started when I proposed when I was still on a wave of euphoria after watching a young Alex Ferguson put three goals past Rangers in a 3-2 Saints victory at Ibrox.

Recently, our 51st anniversary fell on a Saturday and my wife remarked "we should have been spending the weekend in Largs". "What a good idea" I replied "Saints are playing at Kilmarnock!". That's what you call pushing your luck. It didn't happen, which is probably just as well, as Killie won 2-1 as a result of a freak deflection. I would have been accusing her of being a jinx.

Bob MacDonald

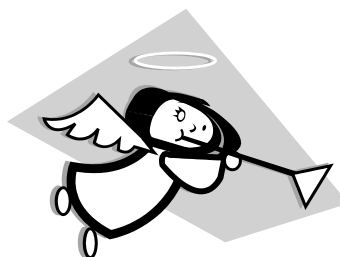


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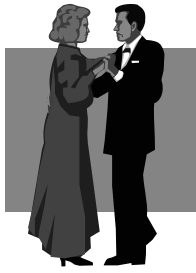
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We would like to wish you a very
Merry Christmas and a Prosperous

2016



COME DANCING



Hilda Clow's mention of the dancing scene in Perth in her foreword to the last issue brought memories flooding back of happy nights at the 'Sally' and the City Hall. Monday night was Big band night at the City Hall when the likes of Joe Loss, Sid Phillips, Teddy Foster and Johnny Dankworth played, to name but a few. The norm was three tunes and then change partners but Ken Mackintosh was the exception to the rule and seemed to play on forever. I used to maintain that if you asked a girl up to dance you could end up going steady.

Then there was the traditional jazz bands such as Chris Barber and Mick Mulligan with George Melly on vocals. Who can forget his rendition of 'Frankie and Johnny' with George ending up flat on his back when the gun went 'rootatoottoot'.

Resident band was the New Cavendish Orchestra under the leadership of Ronnie Spiers on trumpet. Ronnie worked in Paterson's music shop in South Methven Street where I was a regular customer in search of the latest records by the likes of Duke Ellington and Harry James. Sadly Ronnie passed away last year at the age of 93. Largs in County Place was another source of records which reminds me of an amusing incident when I went to collect a record which I had ordered. It was the Peggy Lee recording of "Mr Wonderful". The girl assistant looked at me enquiringly and said "Mr ?". With my mind firmly focused on the record I had ordered I instinctively replied "Wonderful". She must have thought this guy really fancies himself.

Harry Ogilvie's Orchestra was the resident band at the Salutation Hotel on Saturday nights. As the only set of wheels available to me in those days was a bicycle I was slightly disadvantaged when it came to pulling the birds compared to the young farmers dangling their car keys. "Dae ye fancy a bar hame" is not the ideal chat up line. Despite that, I did try which led to an embarrassing situation when it transpired that the lady in question was on a hen night with her pals and was due to be married the following Saturday. The lesson I learned was always check the left hand. Getting home was another problem as the

last bus for Stanley left at 10.45. Hitch-hiking was often successful but one evening we persuaded a friend to run us home if we paid for the petrol. He owned an ancient Daimler saloon which was built like a tank. There were five of us in the car plus the driver and his girlfriend. Negotiating a double bend just short of Stanley the car hit black ice and ended up on its side in a field. I was trapped in the front passenger seat below the driver and his girl friend with the others in a heap in the back. Getting out was a problem as the doors weighed a ton but we all crawled out relatively unscathed. Just then two passing cars stopped to give assistance. The occupants must have been to a ball as the men wore kilts and the ladies long dresses with tartan sashes. Our reaction Good Lord, its the White Heather Club! They transported our obliging friend and his girl back to Perth while we walked home to Stanley. My Mother never knew that I had been in an accident.

Bob MacDonald



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The Great War

December 20, 1915

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The Great War

December 31, 1915

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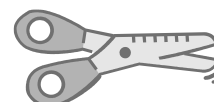
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