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Abernethy Dron Aberargie

Here we are again coming up to the deadline date for The Crier. As I write we are coming to the end of autumn, as you read winter will have arrived bringing whatever weather it has chosen to bring and Christmas and New Year are not very far ahead. The clocks change tonight so early darkness is here.

Anyway, mentioning changes, I am hoping there may be some comments on our new image for The Crier. We are still working on this and your thoughts would be very useful to us.

As many of you know the Roses have rambled off to Aberfeldy. Both Keith and Sally have been very involved in Abernethy since coming to Cherrybank well over 30 years ago. However thanks to the miracle of modern technology Keith will still be able to proof read The Crier. Sally and Keith have been associated with the Museum since its inception, with the Twinning, with the Community in general to name but a few things. We wish them every happiness in Aberfeldy and extend a warm welcome to the new occupants of Cherrybank.

As I mention new occupants, I have a request to make. Life in Abernethy has changed over the years as it has done everywhere else. The population has increased with the building of new houses, there is a constant change of householders, people come and go now. Abernethy is within easy reach of Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow and the north so many people choose village life for home and the city for work. Therefore people should be kept informed of all that goes on in the village, who to contact if they want to become involved in or with various organisations. To name several, in no particular order, The Community Council, the school, the church, the Williamson Hall committee, the SWI, the Masons, the tennis club, the badminton club the curling club, the horticultural society, Auld Abernethy, the Burns club, the community cinema, the museum. I haven't mentioned everything but my request is for a directory which can be printed in The Crier of all the organisations and contacts, dates and venues of meetings. It won't take two minutes to email

the relevant information to the Editor and we (the committee) will sort it out from there.

To finish, congratulations must be extended to David Millar for organising the Star Camp, a big event for the village attracting people from far and wide, to those involved in the making and filling the flower containers to win the Silver award for the best kept village and to all who participated in the Art exhibition viewed by nearly 250 people over 2 weekends and the preview night.

To close,

Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2017.

Hilda Clow, Chairperson.



Closing date for next
Issue 31.1 2017

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Ed.

Welcome to the new look Station Road

With reference to the above letter in the last Village Crier, there seems to be some confusion about the writer(s). At no time were the words "on behalf of" or "all" ever used when referring to the Station Road Residents. Our names (husband and myself) were supplied and the words Station Road Residents were included to let your readers know that we stayed in Station Road!

In response to the comments about houses, flats, industrial projects - obviously nobody wishes this to happen, however, it is appreciated that the owner of the field, as she points out in her letter, has the final say on this. Hedge?? Why would we want a hedge up when all that was merely suggested was for the field to be kept a bit tidier?

Regarding the issues referred to in the letter "Horses make a field beautiful". The horses were never mentioned in the letter, the horses get a lot of visitors every day and there are no problems in this regard and we agree with the words of the poet Alice Walker. The ragwort was NOT dug out as soon as it appeared as there were at least thirty plants in the field when the horses came back. The plants were dug out a day or two after. The burning of the rubbish in the field. This had to be taken away from the corner as instructed by the Fire Department because of the overhead cables. There had been discussions with the owner of the field regarding this matter on at least three occasions and by telephone at lunchtime on the Saturday to say that it was going ahead that day as the horses were not in the field and there was no wind. The owner was happy with this and we were told to "carry on". To say that the fire was "lit in the field without permission from anyone" is not true! As for the comment "I think horses make a field more beautiful and remind us that Abernethy is a rural village and not a manicured suburban park." Well we would reply to this by saying that Abernethy in Bloom work hard to make our village look lovely and their work is very much appreciated. We (a few) Station Road Residents are trying to make our road look good too, is there anything wrong with that?

Finally, on Saturday 16th September one of the Residents worked a good part of the day laying out plants and then planting them at various spots on the grass verge. The next day one of the shrubs beside the fence was ruined by an adult stomping on it and kicking it in a fit of temper until it was flattened. This shocking act of vandalism was witnessed by four people. This type of behaviour is totally unacceptable and the person concerned should be ashamed of their actions.

The Shaws (Station Road Residents)

Dear Ed.

Dear Sir

We would like to thank our many friends and neighbours in Abernethy for their good wishes when we moved to Aberfeldy in October. We both enjoyed our involvement in so many different village activities over the years, and the 31 years we spent living at Cherrybank are the source of many happy memories. While we are sure to be back in the village often over the next few months, we would also be delighted to welcome our Abernethy friends to 23 Burns Brae where the door will always be open.

Best wishes for Christmas and for a happy and peaceful 2017,
Sally and Keith Rose

Dear Ed.

A couple of weeks ago myself and my family had Sunday Lunch in the Berryfields Tearoom. We had an excellent meal in very comfortable surroundings with top class service. Well done to the new owners and good luck for the future. Give it a go folks.

JS

Dear Ed.

Today, 7th September, my wife and I went for a walk up the Witches road, something we haven't done for some time due to advancing years. We were shocked to put it mildly at the state of this walk which is popular with both locals and visitors. Nettles five feet high and overhanging branches almost meeting over the path which used to be several feet wide. In parts it is now about 18 inches. There was a time when the route was regularly maintained but not now. I am Aware that the Council is strapped for cash but I shudder to think what state it will be in, in another couple of years if nothing is done.

Bob Macdonald

Dear Ed.

On Friday the 20th October I spent a very enjoyable evening in the Williamson Hall at the Community Cinema, a blockbuster James Bond movie. There was a reasonable turnout but still poor considering the population of this village. Come on you lot out there get off your a... and support the Community Cinema.

Andy M.

The Great War

November 21, 1916

HMHS (His Majesty's Hospital Ship)
Britannic, Titanic's sister ship, sinks after
hitting a German mine. 30 die.

THE EARN SINGERS



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enjoy the Cake and Candy Stall.

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

Session 2016 - 2017

7th December

Scottish Oddities
Hamish Brown

2017

1st February

Antonine Wall
Peter MacDonald

1st March

1715 Rising and the Burning
of Strathearn
Dr James Grant

5th April

AGM and A Talk on "Duchess
Katherine of Atholl" Scotland's
first women MP
Anna Louise Mason

7.30pm in the Museum All welcome



It is with regret we hear of the death of...

Mary Davidson, Pitkerrick, Newburgh Rd Net Roy,
Hall Park, both of Abernethy and Francis
Robertson (nee West) late of Abernethy

Our thoughts are with the families at this time.

The Great War

November 25, 1916

John Jellicoe becomes first Lord
of the Sea

BEST USE OF PUBLIC MONEY?

As I am sure most of you know the Community Council receives a "Top-up Grant" every year from PKC, this is meant to be spent on administrative costs and Community Councillors' expenses.

Community Councillors have historically never taken any expenses and the monies have been given to good causes in the Abernethy and District area.

"Oh no no no" say PKC, "this will not do. They must take the money, and you will not be handing out anything left over to good causes."

Our Treasurer, Mrs Gillespie, received a letter from the Senior Elections and Community Councils Officer, Christine Grant (she sounds scary) and I quote "As discussed with you in my recent telephone conversation, the Community Council is not a grant aiding organisation and should not be giving out donations annually to local groups". Six of the best for you Mrs Gillespie.

She goes on to say "You have been reimbursed for the donation to Abernethy in Bloom this year but will not be in the future". Bend over again Madam Treasurer.

In my opinion a standard grant *should* be paid to all Community Councils, this year we received £454.54, and they should be allowed to spend as they wish, whether on expenses or for good causes, as long as the correct paper work is in order eg. Receipts.

Our accounts are checked annually, what is the problem. Spending public money inefficiently that's rich coming from PKC.



Jimmy Swan

The Great War

December 5, 1916

Henry Asquith resigns
as Prime Minister

THE BRIDGE AT 50

August past saw the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Tay Road Bridge.

In the building of this bridge five men died.

John McQueen (25), Donald Ross (25) and Benjamin Bowness (27) all from Dundee. Archibald Keir (20) from Cowdenbeath and our own James Lennie (50) from Abernethy.

James Lennie was born in Abernethy in 1916, a bairn of the Great War. As a child James stayed in the Bank Buildings, Back Dykes with his parents and then moved to Hall Park, one of the first residents of the new Council Houses.

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THE MITHER TONGUE

When I see my Grandbairns playing in the gairden I hear an Eastenders type accent or an American accent being yaised as part o' the play acting and not Scots.

I dinna mean the Doric or the Ayrshire Scots of Burns, but Abernethy Scots, South Perthshire Scots or nearly in Fife Scots.

I was brocht up listening to my faither yaising Perth Scots and my Grandparents speaking Abernethy Scots.

Many folk see Scots as slang, "it's not proper English", rubbish. Scots is a melting pot of different languages, French, Scandinavian, Old English and Danish to name but a few.

"The Guid Scots tongue - a slovenly debased dialect: The Doric - corrupt English, artificial Lallans, uncouth gutturals: The National Language - an unintelligible dialect of English: Braid Scots - coarse slang, a language that never existed.

Everyone of those terms has been yaised to describe the language I was brought up to speak - Scots"

(A quote by Billy Kay.)

I ken where he is coming from.

We are being influenced by TV, Radio and the latest movies, the bairns hear that type of language all the time and of course there is BBC English.

Britain is one of the few countries in Europe where it is the norm to speak just one language. That is changing however, in Primary school they are teaching French and the curriculum is including Robert Burns.

Folk hae strong opinions on language because it affects class, social advancement for bairns, regional and national identity, inferiority and superiority and of course how we see oorsels.

I am bilingual, I can speak English but I prefer to speak Scots, but not in a way that maks me difficult tae understand. In my everyday conversations I will include as many Scots words as possible. I feel these words are mair colourful, mair interesting. There are many:

I speered the guts oot o' her - I asked her a few questions

She was sweer tae pairt wi her siller - She was reluctant to spend any money.

The tike hid ahint the yett - The dog hid behind the gate

As previously mentioned the Mither tongue is influenced by many languages, Danish being a very good example: Kirk, Kist and Breeks - Church, Chest and Breeches. Brig and Rig - Bridge and Ridge. Lowp for Leap, Ain for Own and Strae for Straw.

Many Scandinavian words are in everyday yaise in Scotland: To flit - To move house, Frae - From, Lug - Ear, Nieve - Fist and Hoast - Cough.

The Flemish have also influenced our language: Pinkie, Golf, Scone and Howff.

Some other words not so common but still survive: Hunkers - Haunches, To Redd - Tidy up and Loun - Boy.

If you already yaise a few Scots words everyday, keep daein it. If you dinni, then start.

You probably do speak a wee bit o' Scots but dinni realise it.

I think frae now on we will include a puckle Scots words in every edition and of course the English translation for those of you who are new tae it.

Gid cracking wi yi.

JS



The Great War

December 7, 1916

David Lloyd George becomes
Prime Minister

The Great War

December 12, 1916

Germany delivers Peace Note to
Allies suggesting compromise

THE CRIER POETRY COMPETITION RESULTS

Children (Class 1)

The judges were impressed by the imaginative and descriptive language used in all four entries.

1= "Spring" & "Abernethy"

3= "The Poppies" & "Three Sheep"

Adults

The judges enjoyed the variety of styles exhibited in the adults' poems.

1= "Disabled in the Wild" & "Procrastination"

3 "A Saint for Small Kindnesses"

Special Award for writing in the Scots language: "Is it Spring yet?"

Judges comment

We suggest that, for future poetry competitions, providing a theme or topic might add a bit of extra interest to the competition, as well as assisting the judges to compare "like with like". For example this year a topical theme – for all age groups – could have been "Poppies", or "Nurse Peattie's Garden". Just an idea...!

2016 POETRY COMPETITION

The standard of the 2016 competition was very high. The judges were very impressed by the imaginative and descriptive language used in all the children's entries. The joint First Prize winners of £30 each were Hannah Poots for 'Spring' and Hayley Young for 'Abernethy'.

'The Poppies' by Lauryn MacNeill and 'Three Sheep' by Lucy Craig were joint Third Prize winners of £10 each.

The variety of styles exhibited in the adult's poems were greatly enjoyed by the judges. Joint First Prizes of £30 each went to Angela Wright for 'Disabled in the Wild' and to Jill Young for 'Procrastination'.

Heather McVean was third with 'A Saint for small Kindnesses' and wins £10.

It would be great to see the prize winners at the Crier Distributors Party at the beginning of December to present the prizes in person but prizes will be sent out to prize winners who cannot manage to come. Many thanks to the anonymous judges for the extremely demanding task of assessing the high quality entries with thought and skill.

Abernethy

The round tower has power
And it is taller than any flower
The primary school is cool
It makes sure you're not a fool
Nurse Peattie's garden is really nice
And to get in it costs no price
It's great to go to Powrie Park
But I don't think so when it's dark

by Haley Young, age 8

The Poppies

Poppies shine red red really bright bright bright.
Out come the poppy's memory of the soldiers
Proud of the soldiers who fought bravely
Pleased with the poppies that grow higher and higher
You should remember them for their bravery.
Remember them.

By Lauryn MacNeill age 8

Disabled in the Wild

They say you were disabled in the wild,
torn and dishevelled, fallen
from big hunting skies.
Diminished
in that moment,
hunted down and gathered up,
you strained to fly from the falconer's glove.

Grace and beauty defined you,
when you were a bird of prey.

A cliff-edged life, now roofed and walled.
Through the wire we study you:
eyes, unsettling and still.
Once you were
a speck in the sky -
we gazed through narrowed eyes
to follow your peerless flight.

by Angela Wright

Three Sheep

My three sheep called Jill, Bill and Dill
Went for an adventure up the hill
Jill and Bill caught a chill
As they played by the mill
Dill said don't worry I've got a pill
Jill gulped it down with her usual shrill
But when they got to the bottom Bill still felt ill
Jill said 'well, there's nothing wrong with me'
Dill said 'there wouldnae be but you're still an irritating flea!!

by Lucy Craig age 8

SPRING

I can see fluffy brown rabbits hopping across the grass,
I can hear robins tweeting in a tall green tree,
I can taste orange sticky honey,
I can smell the fresh spring air,
I can feel the smooth green leaves

By Hannah Poots age 7

Is it Spring yet?

The new born lamb hings tae it's mither,
An April day wi hellish weather,
Trees wi moss and lichens shiver,
Is it Spring yet?

Maist fields are plooghed their seed awaitin,
Peewit pairs their nests are makin,
The mountain hare it's coat a turnin,
Is it Spring yet?

Rain and mist the sky is laidin,
Nae soond I hear, nae birds are singin,
Summer soon we a' are hopin,
Is it Spring yet?

by Jimmy Swan

A saint for small kindnesses (For carers)

Is there a patron saint of small kindnesses,
who'll witness the changing of sheets in the night,
the popping in of good neighbours,
the kiss to paper cheek when age
has done its work?

Is there a saint who'll recognise the hand that guides
the elbow or the ear that hears the story,
yet again, as if it's new? Who, against the trend,
will champion the loyal and unassuming;
quietly, discreetly.

by Heather Reid

Procrastination

I'm going to write a book, I said.
I've loads of ideas in my head,
Great stories and protagonists,
I'll top all the bestseller lists.
Perfection takes time, so they say.
Perhaps I'll start another day.

I'm going to run a marathon.
I'd better get some training done.
I've made a plan and bought the kit.
I'll head out now and get more fit.
The rain's on though, I'll maybe wait,
And take more time to contemplate.

I'm going to go on BGT.
No-one's got a voice like me.
I'll use my singing to impress,
And all the judges will say 'YES!'
Oh dear, I've missed the closing date.
I guess fame will have to wait.

I'm going to lose a pound or two.
I'll try carb free or the 5:2,
Slimming World or Scottish Slimmers.
Will any of them make me trimmer?
Too many choices, which to make?
I could just have another cake.

I'll write a poem for the Crier.
Everybody loves a trier.
A literary masterpiece,
Along the lines of War and Peace.
That doesn't sound like too much fun.
Maybe I'll just send this one.

by Jill Young

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OBITUARY

Mary Margaret Davidson

Mary was born in Lilybank, Abernethy (now Tayview) on the 23rd April 1925 to Walter Davidson and Lizzie Braid. Mary had a sister Janet Scott Braid Davidson.

She attended Abernethy Village Primary and Secondary School from the age of 5 to 15. On leaving school she went to the Commercial School in Perth for one year, studying shorthand typing and clerical work.

On completing this she obtained a position at Tayside Floor and Cloth Co Ltd in Newburgh which she held for 4 years.

The Second World War had just begun and many Polish, British Medical and Service Core soldiers were billeted in the village at this time. The men used to attend the local dances at Abernethy and Newburgh and met up with the "local girls", Mary and Jenny amongst them.

After leaving the Tayside Floor Co, Mary went to work at the General Accident Insurance Co. In Perth as a typist in the Fire Dept. She gave up her work there to look after her mother and father who by this time were in need of nursing care. By this time they had moved to Pitkerrick, Newburgh Road.

Mary continued to care for her parents until they died, her father in 1954 and her mother in 1965.

Mary's sister Jenny and her husband Jim also moved into Pitkerrick before moving to a new bungalow they had built on land they owned next door in 1987, taking the Pitkerrick name with them.

Mary lived in this bungalow with her sister and Brother-in-law until they both died, Jim in 2001 and Jenny in 2015. Mary then stayed there with her dog Poppy until she moved into the Moncreiffe Care Home in April 2016.

Mary died on September 15th 2016.

MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY NEWS

The Museum of Abernethy is now closed for the season. It has, again, been a very good season with many visitors from home and abroad enjoying all that the Museum has to offer including our new Pictish Stones display which has been a great success.

Thank you to those of you who have visited the Museum over the summer months. Thanks also go to those of you who volunteer – without your help it would be impossible to run the Museum!

We welcome Denise Wilson on to the Board as Treasurer, taking over from myself. Thank you very much indeed Denise for volunteering for this very important role.

Volunteer and meet a whole new group of people and learn more about the history of this lovely village. We welcome all whether you have lived in the village for a long time or have just moved here. We are looking for more volunteers in the following roles:

Interested in local history? Come along on a Tuesday where a group of us meet to do research into various local history topics, develop new displays and manage the collection of displays and artefacts to keep the museum fresh and informative.

Interested in Oral History? We have a number of recordings of local people, some of which can be listened to on our Oral History “phone” in the Museum but we would like to extract more excerpts so that people can enjoy the rich history of the village. We need volunteers with IT skills who can learn how to do this – training will be given but a confidence in dealing with IT is essential. • We also would welcome anyone who would like to interview local people to capture life in the village both past and present - again training will be given.

Interested in Gardening? We have a lovely Monastic garden and we need people to help at the beginning of the year in getting ready for the season, maintaining it over the summer months and tidying up at the end of the year.

Interested in welcoming visitors? We are open from May to October, 5 days a week, Wednesday – Sunday, and need more volunteers to take a turn at staffing the reception desk – from 2-5pm - on one of these days. All new volunteers will be put on duty with an experienced one so that they can learn the ropes

and be supported.

Interested in Fundraising? We have a Social/Fundraising Committee who are keen to try new ways of fundraising and would welcome new volunteers with new ideas and enthusiasm to help with this extremely important task which helps the Museum to keep going.

Over the winter months will be updating the Garden Gallery Display Boards with new weatherproof ones as part of the Tayside Landscape Project. We also are developing some more exciting activities for the children and our Oral History offering in the Museum.

Please contact me on the following for more information and hopefully to join in with one of our many interesting activities.

Lesley Robinson
Chair of the Museum of Abernethy
secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk
850889

THANKS TO ALL OUR
READERS, AND
ADVERTISERS.
WE HOPE YOU WILL
CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
US IN 2017

The Great War

December 18, 1916

The Battle of Verdun ends - the
longest and costliest battle on the
Western Front.

FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

First of all I must congratulate Abernethy in Bloom for their fantastic achievement in the Pride in Perthshire competition. Well done to all for making this possible. The Competition is not all about flowers, but everyone taking pride in their environment and I think the people of Abernethy rose to the challenge. We can all continue to play our part by not dropping litter and dare I say to the few dog owners who don't clean up after their dog. Please do not let this be the most talked about subject in Abernethy in 2017.

Last time in the Crier I mentioned that Perth & Kinross Council were in the process of establishing Community Action Partnerships, Kinross & Almond Earn held their first meeting at the beginning of October at Loch Leven Campus. Members include six P&K Councillors, six community representatives, one from Abernethy, representatives from senior managers from the Council and one of the partner organisations. The community representatives will serve for a 12 month interim period.

At the first meeting the group discussed - What is good about living in this area? What is working well? What could be better? Rural transport was one of the issues. Your opinion will be sought in the coming months probably through social media.

I attended a seminar on Community Transport recently at Birnam. Most Community Transport schemes are as the title suggests community led. A need is identified by a group and the community responds by providing transport by volunteer drivers. Some volunteers are needed to take people to hospital and doctor appointments, some are shopping trips. We used to have volunteer drivers in Abernethy who drove people to hospital for appointments, we tend now to ask friends to help out. The need can be social. Community Transport depends on volunteers. Happy to hear your views.

The environment is important to us all. I am pleased that P&K council responded to my plea to cut the verge from Aberargie – Newburgh and by the time you read this I hope the overhanging branches will be cut. Road patching on Perth Road and Back Dykes now complete, hopefully Station Road next year. All of this helps to make the area more attractive. The gully boxes and culverts have all been cleaned from Aberargie - County border. No water lying today after torrential rain !

Please remember not all roads and paths are owned by P&K council, landowners have a responsibility to trim overhanging branches. I have been liaising with P & K council officers and various residents to find out who owns and is responsible for the road and bridge near the former Loanhead quarry. We all agree the bridge needs repaired but whose bridge is it?.

Councillors and Education Children Services are now back at 2 High St, contrary to press reports Councillors are not in swanky new offices. Same offices with a coat of paint. Council meetings will be on the ground floor making access easier for the public.

As the year draws to a close I would like to thank all the volunteers in the village who give of their time freely whether it be a leader in uniformed organisations, museum volunteers who provide social events for the community to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who volunteers in any way to make Abernethy what it is whether it be looking out for a neighbour or caring for the environment.

A special thank you to the few members of Abernethy Community Council who have tried so hard to keep the Community Council quorate. Another by-election is imminent.

I am sure you will read more about the Community Council elsewhere in the Crier. Thank you to CC members who all give of their time freely. I do hope members of the community will consider being a candidate for the forthcoming Community Council by-election. The CC meetings are held in public. P&K Councillors attend CC meetings when they can.

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy Healthy 2017.

If you wish to discuss any matter with me please contact me kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk 07584206839

A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

ABERNETHY STAR CAMP 2016

An account by Tony Hayes aged 71
(*Dundee Astronomical Society*)

Friday early afternoon, I with my bag carrier, Edna, arrived at the campsite and as we were the first to arrive I was able to select the prime site for my tent. Edna, to whom I am eternally indebted, remained on site until I had pitched the tent and my considerable amount of gear was safely under cover.

We then decided to have a quick look around Abernethy and shortly found a small tea room and had a pot of tea by which time Edna was ready to return to Dundee. I should point out that Edna had absolutely no desire to remain for the week-end and had only accompanied me to help carry some of my gear. She caught the 14:21 bus to Perth and from there on to Dundee. I discovered the next day that the last bus from Abernethy was at 14:21 every day so Edna had been lucky, and I am sure she would have been unhappy with the walk back.

As Friday evening drew on it was clear that the sky was not, clear that is, and would remain cloudy for most of the night. Fortunately, a few hardy souls had the foresight to have an ample supply of beverages and the evening was spent in the comfort of the 'Pavilion' which has changing rooms and cooking facilities. After a few drinks and some convivial company, I retired for the night, leaving my companions to enjoy the late company. Unfortunately, the few drinks I had enjoyed, along with the rapidly dropping temperature, did nothing to help me sleep and I had to visit the gents several times, each time my boots got wetter and wetter in the damp grass. At about 4am after shivering for two and a half hours in my uncomfortable mummy style sleeping bag, I was obliged to make another trip to the gents with my sopping wet boots and when I opened the tent flap and crawled out, was met with the most glorious sight, stretching across the sky from the West to East was the Milky Way, faint but clear, and in the South East, like a beacon stood Orion, belt aglow, and the incredibly stunning Pleiades (*seven sisters*), truly the jewel of the heavens. Desperate to get a picture, I returned to my tent to find my camera. Sadly, the battery must have suffered from the cold and refused to work and as my toes were beginning to freeze from the ice forming inside the boots I returned to the tent and got dressed. As my boots were by this time soaking wet, I decided to go to the kitchen and sit in the relative warmth of the pavilion.

I went to Perth that morning and purchased a pair of waterproof boots and a double sized sleeping bag, the only one available in the local store, returning just as the camp was coming alive. The dozen or so tents on Friday night had grown to 15 or more and as the afternoon continued more people arrived and set up camp. I set up my Lunt solar telescope and found the sun, but was not happy with the image, small prominences and filaments were visible but there was something not quite right with what I was seeing. The Planetarium arrived and was set up in the main hall and the local populace were enjoying the shows and looking at some of the telescopes on display, so I was kept rather busy showing the sun. As the evening drew in and my telescope was packed away I took to the main hall, hoping to see a planetarium show but was told that was it for the day. I had a meal and when I went into the field there were some clouds covering most of the sky but I was shown photos taken by all and sundry of the sky when it was clear earlier. Nathan had some excellent views taken with his mobile 'phone. Just my luck, missed it all!

Patchy cloud hid most of the sky and like an idiot I assumed it would continue like that all night. Thus, I decided again to retire and at about 2.30am, as I opened the tent flaps for one of my regular visits, the same sight that greeted me on Saturday morning, greeted me again. This time it was even more glorious, the milky way impossibly bright and I am sure I could make out The Orion Nebula with my bleary, naked eyes. This time I was determined to get a picture. I rummaged through my gear and found the DSLR and switched it on. Nothing! There was no battery in it! Search as I may I was unable to find any batteries although I had packed three myself. I stood there shivering for a long time simply scanning the sky, hardly able to recognise some of the constellations with which I had become familiar. There were so many bright stars it was hard to determine what exactly I was looking at. Finally, dawn approached and the stars began to fade, so I went into the pavilion and made breakfast.

The sky remained clear for the best part of the day and my solar 'scope was put to good use, even though I was still not happy with the view. People were still looking but I was worried that perhaps something was seriously wrong with the optics.

Early in the afternoon, Ken Kennedy arrived, and I asked him to take a look and see if he could suggest anything. He looked and agreed that there was something not quite right. The prominences were still visible, as was the surface detail, but not as good as it had been in the past. He suggested that it might be the secondary image we could see and removed the

eyepiece. Peering down the tube and with Nathan looking at the shadow formed on the front optics Ken found the correct image and with the eyepiece replaced the sun could be seen in its' full brilliance once again.

I was about to re-align the sol searcher when several people came along wanting to view the sun now the 'scope was back as it should be, so for the next hour or so people gathered around taking pictures with their mobiles. Finally, I asked if I could try and get my sol searcher aligned and loosened the screws, just as the sky clouded over! Fast moving clouds being the order for the rest of the day I was unable to align the sol searcher which remained loose until I returned home the next day.

With the sky looking dull, I decided to try and get a look at a planetarium show and was fortunate to get to the final show of the weekend. We were promised an immersive, all round surround sound experience, I for one was not disappointed. We were treated to a film about the search for extra-terrestrial life with stunning 3D 360degree graphics followed by a look at the night sky and finally another short film, again with amazing all round vision.

Early on Monday morning as Nathan still slept I had breakfast and started clearing up the hall and emptying rubbish. Soon our friendly organisers appeared and in no time the pavilion was spick and span, just as Edna arrived to help me carry my gear back to Dundee.

I would like to thank the organisers, the local people who allowed this camp to take place, all the friends I met and Edna.

Would I go again next year?

You bet I would

Tony



COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON A KNIFE EDGE

Due to recent and impending retirements by long serving Community Council Members, Abernethy and District Community Council, now finds itself with below the minimum number of required Councillors.

To remedy this, Perth & Kinross Council have triggered a by-election, to allow residents to put themselves forward to serve on this valuable local body.

By the time you are reading this a Notice of Election will have been posted on the 3rd of November, you may have seen posters to that effect in businesses and bus shelters around the village. Nominations will close on Thursday 8th December – further details are available on the Abernethy Facebook page.

Your Community Council is a valuable local resource, acting as a conduit and focus for local issues that can be channelled to the relevant department at Perth & Kinross Council who are represented at our meetings by our Local Councillors, Henry Anderson, Kathleen Baird and Alan Livingston.

We have a maximum of 10 meetings a year usually lasting about one and a half hours, so the demands on anyone's time are not onerous, but they are important – they give a direct Community input into Police Matters, Local Planning issues, Local Maintenance issues and others, but without new blood putting themselves forward to give a little of their time, Abernethy and District Council will cease to be. Please consider giving a little of your time to help and support this fantastic community that we have here in Abernethy and to continue to make it an even better place to live.

For more details on how to put yourself forward as a Community Councillor please go to Perth & Kinross Council website and search for Community Council Elections, or contact us directly on

AbernethyCommunityCouncil@pkc.gov.uk.

It's your Community, please give it your support.



You may already have heard the good news that in early September Abernethy in Bloom received a Silver Gilt medal for our work around the village from the judges of Take a Pride in Perthshire. We were also thrilled to receive the Best Newcomer prize 2015-16. We were presented with our awards by the Provost of Perth at a ceremony in the Salutation Hotel. The judges made an inspection visit to Abernethy a few weeks earlier to look at projects such as Nurse Peattie's Garden and to get a sense of how well the village is cared for and whether it is a good place to live. The days leading up to the visit were a frenzy of last minute weeding and watering, with a mass sweeping of roads and paths. Our small team was delighted to be joined on Main Street/School Wynd by several ladies who were watching our progress and decided to come out and help - with brooms! So many people have helped us in this first full year as Abernethy in Bloom whether on a weekly basis or lending a hand once in a while. We are very grateful to all of them for their commitment and gift of precious time. We are always looking for new volunteers who can offer individual skills for the good of the village as a whole whether it be gardening, painting, joinery, general D I Y, cleaning - you name it. If you would like to get involved in some way or would like to know more of our plans for 2017, please get in touch. The success of this year has inspired us to go for Gold!

In mid-October with Autumn on the way we emptied the village containers of their summer bedding and replanted with bulbs, wallflowers, pansies and violas. We put in about 1,000 bulbs so fingers crossed for a glorious show when Spring arrives.

Finally - a date for your diaries. Thanks to your generosity we raised all the funds needed for our electricity supply to Nurse Peattie's Garden which will power a blaze of new Christmas lights for the village Christmas tree. The big festive Switch on will take place in the garden on Friday December 9 at 6pm. There will be posters around the village as reminders. You are all invited to come along and help light up the night sky in readiness for a wonderful Christmas 2016.

Caroline Boyle
Secretary, Abernethy in Bloom (tel: 851190)

Locum minister; Rev Douglas Main continues to lead us. To contact him; Minister@ada.org.uk. Or Telephone; 01738 860 867. A committee has been set up to search for a permanent minister. The vacancy continues to be advertised.

Christmas services;

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

Christmas day at 11am in Abernethy

Morning worship for 2017 will take place in Abernethy at 11 am and in Glenfarg at 9.30am. On the last Sunday of each month, however we meet at 11am, together with the Glenfarg part of our congregation, while alternating locations.

On 29 Jan service is to be in Glenfarg, 26 Feb in Abernethy, 26 March in Glenfarg, 30 April in Abernethy, all at 11am. Anyone wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01337 840 218. Drinks and refreshments are served after most services. You will be very welcome to join us at either church.

Children's Sunday club 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. Out with term time there are always toys and books in the adjacent hall cupboard for children to make use of.

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.

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 want to welcome someone new 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 packs 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.

The manse is being let on a short term assured tenancy basis.

Website new domain name ; www.ada-church.org.uk for further information

BIRTHDAY BASH THANK YOU!!

We would like to thank the following local businesses for their support at the Birthday Bash Fundraiser which raised £1098 to be put towards the upkeep of the Pavilion:

Abernethy

Caledonian Kiltmakers

Elysian Plumbing Services (Gary Mills)

Renaissance Curtains

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Abernethy Licensed Store

A & B Motors

Berryfields Tearoom

Bridge of Earn

The Retreat Beauty Salon

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Davidsons Chemist

Tanya Black's Hairdresser

Tower Bakery

Marshall's Desserts

The Village Inn

Dental Practice

Newburgh

Jamesfield Garden Centre

Post Office

Co-op

Minerva Blue

We would also like to thank everyone who helped on the day or came along to support the event!

The Pavilion Management Committee

Swallows

Living in the countryside, we always welcome the swallows in the spring, and enjoy listening to the chatter of them on the wires, meeting their mates and making nests. The interesting time is seeing the babies come out of the nest and having their first flight. What a wonderful feeling that must be for the young ones.

This year was a funny year as the first lot of swallows had their first flight and I never saw them again. I reckon there were not enough flies and midges. Soon though all the building and repairing nests started again, a busy time for the parent swallows. I knew we had four pairs nesting but I will never forget the scene I was to have on early afternoon of September 2nd when more than twenty young swallows all came out of their nests at the same time, all doing their flying techniques, swooping and swerving and landing on the roof for a rest and to catch flies etc. I stood watching them for a long time till they dispersed, getting more confident and flying further over the surrounding fields. They line the wires now just gaining weight and getting ready to fly off later on in the month.

I wouldn't choose to live anywhere else and miss all the wonders nature provides

Lillias Johnston

Bob and Isabelle Macdonald are retiring from the Crier delivery team, many thanks to them from all the committee and welcome aboard Ian Bett and Allistair Hollingsworth.

Happy birthday to Bob Macdonald and Jenny White. They have just celebrated their 90th birthdays.

happy
birthday

Some More Sporting Memories

The fact that I spent the first ten years of my life on a farm probably accounts for my love of horses. I would accompany my Dad down to the stable in the evenings to "sort the horse" i.e. settling it down for the night. My role was usually to give it a neep. Some days during the summer we would go out to the fields when work was ended for the day and return to the farmyard perched on the back of one of these mighty steeds. The ground seemed to be a long way off.

When it came to the "Sport of Kings" the Derby and the Grand National were the two races that caught the imagination of the public. Many, who did not bet on a regular basis would have a flutter. My elder brother Tom was no exception. He offered to put sixpence each way for me on my selection for the Derby. I plumped for Pasche strongly fancied and ridden by Gordon Richards the champion jockey. Needless to say it did not win. Little did I know that in later years I would not only see the great man in action, I would be there to see his last race.

In my teenage years I developed a passion for paperback novels with a racing background written by a fellow named Nat Gould. A sort of poor man's Dick Francis, his characters all had alliterative names such as Hilary Hollycroft. The stories were pretty corny but they all served to whet my appetite for the sport.

While stationed in Hampshire in 1946 a trip was organised one Saturday to Salisbury races. It was there that I experienced the thrill of seeing my first winner thunder past the post in the flesh. Kind Regards was its name ridden by Tommy Carey thus establishing him as my favourite jockey. Gordon Richards also had a winner by the name of Combat owned by the Hon. John Dewar of the whisky family. The colours were white with a tartan cross. It was well fancied for the 2000 Guineas but did not win. However I shall never forget the 1000 Guineas that year. I had my modest stake on a filly named Hypericum, sired by the great Hyperion whose statue stands proudly outside the Jockey Club H.Q. In Newmarket. Listening on the radio I was horrified to hear that my horse had bolted from the start and ran almost the entire length of the course before being caught. Needless to say the odds lengthened and when the race eventually got under way it won at 100-6 a much needed boost to my modest pay as a private soldier. The yellow flowers of the shrub of that name brighten up my garden to this day.

In Coronation year, 1953, Gordon Richards at last won his one and only Derby on Pinza, owned by Sir Victor Sassoon and he became the first jockey to be knighted. Later that year I was lucky enough to be at Ascot when

he rode the same horse to victory in the King George and Queen Elizabeth Stakes, one of the top races in Europe. I shall never forget the roar from the stands as the horses passed the post. Not from me as my money was on Zucherro ridden by a certain Lester Piggot. It was a different story for Sir Gordon at Sandown Park the following year. He was due to ride a horse called Abernicky. First signs that something was amiss was when the board listing the runners came down and his name was replaced by W. Rickaby. It transpired that the horse had thrown him in the paddock and rolled on him, fracturing his pelvis thus ending a career which produced 4870 winners. He then took up a career as trainer.

On another occasion following a holiday in Paris I decided to spend the rest of the week in London. I headed for Windsor races and boarded the coach at the Station which would take me to the track. Guess who came and stood beside me? None other than



Prince Monolulu by RBM

Prince Monolulu, the legendary tipster with the colourful costume with waving plumes and his well known slogan was "I've gotta horse!". I don't know if it was my aftershave but he suddenly changed his mind and went to sit elsewhere.

Thoughts of a lucrative day as a result of his tips evaporated. I was on the train home that very night. His outfit is on display at the Horseracing Museum in Newmarket.

Another champion I saw riding his last race was National Hunt jockey Richard Dunwoody at Perth Racecourse. Following the meeting he flew to the U.S.A. to consult a specialist about an arm injury. He was advised that if he continued it could cause everlasting damage and he had no option but to retire.

A final special memory was a trip organised by Perth Racecourse to Aintree in November where the main feature was the John Becher chase featuring many of the prospects for the following year's Grand National. At £20 a head it was a bargain including a hospitality suite with refreshments (excluding drinks) and a race card. To see the famous course and the statue of Red Rum was a thrill in itself but the icing on the cake was seeing Amberley House trained by Red Rum's trainer Ginger McCain win the feature race prior to going on to win the Grand National the following April. That was one big race winner that I didn't miss out on.

The facilities at Perth Racecourse have improved greatly over the years and the meetings now attract the top trainers and jockeys from all over the U.K. and

Ireland.

If you have never experienced a day at the races I can heartily recommend it.

Bob Macdonald

ABERNETHY



SWI

Abernethy SWI meets in the Session House at Abernethy Church at 7.15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Our meetings run from September to May. We are a friendly group of ladies who give a very warm welcome to new members and visitors. The subscription for this year will be £20 for members. Visitors £3 per meeting. If you would like any other information please contact Elizabeth Taylor (President) Tel-01738850477 or Karen Jerrard-Dinn (Secretary) Tel- 01738850437

Syllabus for 2016/17

2016

- Sept 21st Sarah McArthur-Life in Peru
Competitions- Flower of the month
-Marmalade loaf
- Oct 19th Karen Bryson - Creative tiles (hands on)
Competitions- Flower of the month
-Favourite plate
- Nov 16th Sylvia Troon-A presentation
about Puppets/Story Telling
Competitions- Flower of the month
-Sewn Apron
- Dec 21st Christmas Party- venue TBC
(Please bring a pretty parcel to the value of £5)

2017

- Jan 18th The Rev Gillian Munro-NHS Chaplaincy
Competitions- Flower of the month
-Shortbread (3 pieces)
- Feb 15th Allison Messenger-Cake icing
decorations (hands on)
Competitions- Flower of the month
-3 cupcakes (cake & decoration
being judged)
- Mar 15th Caroline Boyle-Ceramics (hands on)
Competitions- Flower of the month
-A decorated egg
- Apr 19 Open Night-James Knight,
Nutrition, Tai chi, Yoga
Competitions
- Flower of the month
A vegetable based cake
- May 17 AGM -Members Night
Competitions- Flower of the month
- Small jar lemon curd

Karen Jerrard Dinn

ABERNETHY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Abernethy Baby and Toddler Group has been running in the village for more than 40 years. The group is run by volunteers and provides a place for mums, dads, grandparents and carers to take their little ones from birth to 5 years for a bit of fun and socialising.

There are lots of different toys and activities available for the children to play with, it's an ideal way for them to meet and make friends with other children in the village. A healthy snack is provided and high chairs are also available for the younger children, it's lovely to see the little ones sitting around the table, sharing food and chatting to each other.

Tea, coffee (and often some home baking) are there for the adults to enjoy, as well as a good old chat. It's a great way to catch up with friends and get to know other people in the village. The group is friendly and welcoming and we would love to see some new faces and welcome new members.

The group runs on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in Williamson Hall between 9.30am and 11.30am. The cost each session is £2.50 per family. All proceeds go towards the hire of the hall and renewing toys and equipment.

If you are interested in coming along you can contact us through our Facebook page or call Liz on 01738 851001. Or please feel free to drop in.

Hope to see you there!

Abernethy Baby and Toddler Group.

Pamela Paton



DID YOU KNOW.....

In 1889 Abernethy had

2 Bakers, 4 Blacksmiths, 3 Boot and Shoe Makers, 3 Coal Merchants, 10 Grocers and General Merchants, 4 Joiners, 5 Linen and Woollen Drapers, 2 Millers, 3 Spirit Dealers, 4 Taylors,

As well as.....

1 Slater and Plasterer, 1 Traction Engine Owner, 1 Inspector of the Poor, 1 Druggist, Ironmonger and Seed Merchant, 1 Mason, 1 Flesher, 1 Sexton and Billposter and a Milliner.



INVITATION

All distributors of the Crier are invited to the annual get together in the Inn on Thursday 8th December at 7pm.

The winners of the poetry competition are also invited.



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FROM THE TRENCHES

December 1915

I met a chap the other day a-roostin' in a trench,
'E didn't know a word of ours nor me a word of French,
An' 'ow it was managed - well, I cannot understand,
But I never used the phrase book, though I 'ad it in my hand,

I winked at 'im to start with; 'e grinned from ear to ear,
An' 'e say "Tipperary," an' I says "Sooveneer";
'E 'ad my only Woodbine, I 'ad 'is thin cigar,
Which set the ball a-rollin', an' so-well there you are!

I showed 'im next my wife an' kids, e up an' showed me 'is,
Them funny little Frenchy kids with 'air all in a frizz;
"Annette" 'e says, "Louise," 'e says, an' 'is tears begun to fall,
We was comrades when we parted, but we'd 'ardly spoke at all

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Grand-Père

War poem by Robert Service published 1916

And so when he reached my bed
The General made stand:
“My brave young fellow,” he said
“I would shake your hand.”

So I lifted my arm, the right,
With never a hand at all;
Only a stump, a sight
Fit to appall.

“Well, well. Now that’s too bad!
That sorrowful luck,” he said;
“But there! You give me, my lad,
The left instead.”

So from under blanket’s rim
I raised and showed him the other,
A snag as ugly and grim
As his ugly brother.

He looked at each jagged wrist;
He looked, but he did not speak;
And then he bent down and kissed
Me on either cheek.

You wonder now I don’t mind
I hadn’t a hand to offer....
They tell me (you know I’m blind)
‘Twas Grand-pere Joffre.

Marshal Joseph Jacques Césaire Joffre 12 January 1852 – 3 January 1931), was a French general who served as Commander-in-Chief of French forces on the Western Front from the start of World War I until the end of 1916. He is best known for regrouping the retreating allied armies to defeat the Germans at the strategically decisive First Battle of the Marne in September 1914. His political position waned after unsuccessful offensives in 1915, the German attack on Verdun in 1916, and the disappointing results of the Anglo-French offensive on the Somme in 1916. At the end of 1916 he was promoted to Marshal of France, the first such promotion under the Third Republic, and moved to an advisory role, from which he quickly resigned.



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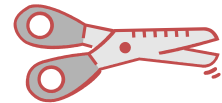
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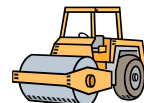
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