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Abernethy

Dron

Aberargie

EDITION 38

MARCH 2018

Closing date for articles for the next edition is 30.4.18

**WE WILL ALWAYS KNOW IT AS THE CREE'S INN.**

**GOOD LUCK TO GRANT AND LISA**



## FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON



I don't know how many people will realise that the first Crier appeared in December 2008, so towards the end of the year we will be celebrating 10 years of publication and if anyone still has a copy of the first edition you will see how things have changed. Indeed if anyone has kept every copy to date a potted history of Abernethy will be revealed; how some things change and others go on forever. A fullset of published Criers is available on our website.

Abernethy did have Newsletters in the past which can be seen in the Museum but none lasted as long as The Crier. This primarily is thanks to you, the contributors, the readers and the distributors.

Now turn the pages to read what we have in edition 38.

Thank you to Keir Allan for giving us, in good time, a table of events in Abernethy for Scotland's Open Gardens Scheme. This along with Abernethy in Bloom should avoid a clash of events such as occurred last summer with The Wee Big Dig

David Illingworth has set out a very clear timetable of activities in the village which should keep us all on our toes.

We have our usual reports from the Church, the Council our M.P. and the S.W.I. as well as the Museum, the Burns Club and the Tennis Club

Bob Macdonald is a regular contributor to The Crier and again he entertains us with yet another autobiographical tale as does Ian Cartwright in an account which proves our forces are made of stern stuff.

There are many other interesting articles this month which you will find for yourselves as you turn the pages.

So sit down with your favourite tippie and enjoy a good read!

**Hilda Clow**

## 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. 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 printed.



**Dear Ed**

## PARKING IN ABERNETHY

Just a wee reminder about sensible parking, especially at the corner at the GP's surgery in Main Street. Emergency and large vehicles will struggle to get through this narrow strip of road.

**A concerned resident of Main Street.**

**It is with regret .....we hear of the death of Mary Morrison, Stuart Irving and Grant Rennie.**

**Our thoughts are with the families at this time.**

## MARY BAILLIE MORRISON née McGLASHAN

Brought up and educated in Newburgh along with her three sisters and three brothers, Mary married Robert (Bob) Morrison of Abernethy in 1942. They started married life in the cottage opposite the Round Tower, now the Tearoom.

Mary was well known in the village due to Bob having the local joiner's business. She was a member of the WRI for many years and also had Civic duties during Bob's term as Provost of Abernethy from 1960 to 1975.

She enjoyed caravanning with Bob for many years after his retirement in 1980.

Mary lived in the village for 73 years until march 2015 when, due to increasing dementia, she moved to Catmoor Care home in Scone to be nearer to her son Michael.

She leaves a son Michael, daughter in law Marlene, two grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



## A FRIEND INDEED

I think I can safely say Stuart Irving was a very close friend as well as being a long time neighbour. When a neighbour of more than 40 years dies it is a bit like losing a family member.

The Irving family and the Swan family had a friendly rivalry over the wall as our gardens were connected by a stile. We visited each other on a regular basis, our children grew up and went to school together.

The most interesting bit about our relationship was garden design rivalry (tongue in cheek).

There was a spell of wet weather many years ago and a puddle formed in my garden, Stuart thought I was building a fish pond. So he did, with waterfall, fish and bendy bridge.

Susan and I decided to have a simple wooden porch built on the rear of our cottage, nothing flash. Stuart watched the building taking shape, obviously planning his next move. What a move that was, an all singing all dancing double glazed conservatory with knobs and whistles.

Each others lawns were always a source of competition. I spent so much time tending my area of moss where Stuart spent hours and lots of cash producing something that resembled a bowling green, weeds were fair to grow in his garden.

One thing he didn't bother with was a flag pole, my flag certainly flew at half mast for some time.

He will certainly be missed.

**Jimmy Swan**

**Stuart Wylie Irving 1935 - 2017**

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## SCOTLAND'S OPEN GARDEN SCHEME

2018 is going to be a fantastic year for the open gardens scheme for all of us in Abernethy with more gardens open locally than ever before. Scotland's Open Gardens Scheme (formerly the yellow book garden scheme) is an opportunity to view many amazing gardens which are rarely open to the public. These range from postage stamp sized plots to vast acreages and include immaculate, perfectly managed gardens to wonderful natural oases. On top of this many of the gardens have plants sales, offer teas too and almost all the entry fee that you will pay goes to charity.

Dates for your Diary.



5th May (10am to 5pm) - Abernethy Open Gardens. A range of gardens around the village including Nurse Peattie's Garden (Abernethy in Bloom), Anna Beatha, Main St (Heather Martin), Struan House (Alan Fraser), Eastbank Cottage (Mike Thompson) and many more. Tickets will be available from the Church Hall with maps and details of the all the gardens. £5 entry going to Air Ambulance and Abernethy in Bloom.

20th May - Pitcurran House, Newburgh Rd, Abernethy. A beautiful garden with an interesting mix of trees, rare shrubs and herbaceous plants. £5

17th June - Hidden Gardens of Newburgh. Behind the High St is a jumble of wonderful old gardens, many with spectacular views. Includes a plantsman's garden, a birdwatcher's garden, an orchard, the community orchard and a "phoenix" garden. £5

Many gardens locally will be opening by arrangement. To see these gardens you will have to contact the garden to arrange a date and time that is mutually suitable. This is often a fantastic experience as you will often get a personal tour.

Eastbank Cottage, Perth Rd, Abernethy - 1st Feb to 30th June

Pitcurran House, Newburgh Rd, Abernethy - 1st April to 30th September

7 Drum Gate, Abernethy - 1st May to 30th June

5 Sutherland Crescent, Abernethy - 14th May to 31st July

For full details it is best to look at the Scheme's website [www.scotlandsgardens.org](http://www.scotlandsgardens.org) or get yourself a copy of the 2018 guide by calling 0131 226 3714.



**Keir Allan**

## THE NEW INN @ ABERNETHY

Grant Conway, mine host at the Inn in Abernethy, has spent 33 years being brought up in the licensed trade. He was washing dishes at eight years old and had done every backroom job until he was able to be a waiter at 16 years old and serve at the bar upon reaching 18 years old. He had experience of every aspect of the trade before managing family businesses, including the Ring O' Bells in Perth. This won Sunday Mail 'Pub of the Year', Carlsberg 'Customer Service Pub of the Year' and Gordon's 'Best Served Gin and Tonic'

His wife, Lisa, was born and brought up in Abernethy. She is a qualified hairdresser and worked in Insurance before going into partnership with Grant eight years ago. They bought the Inn four years ago when they realized that with the increase in size of the village there was a demand for a high quality, relaxing licensed venue. They transformed a local village pub into an attractive modern place to socialize.

The next step was to provide food. The Inn was built in 1602 and is one of the oldest buildings in Abernethy. This meant plans to expand to provide a kitchen and restaurant were closely scrutinized by Historic Scotland. The conditions imposed on expansion made it impracticable. When the opportunity arose to purchase the Cree's Inn this gave Grant and Lisa their chance to have room to expand. Their vision is to create a local hub for everyone in the village. There may be quiz nights, comedians, live music or folk sessions depending on the demand from locals.

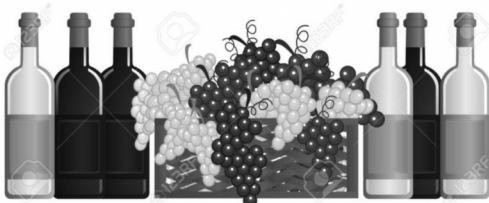
There will be a bar leading to a screened area for dining. The present dining room will still be available as a restaurant, for private functions up to 20 people, as a meeting room or for small gatherings.

Cuisine will be traditional homemade Scottish with a gastro twist. The standard menu will have daily specials to provide variety.

There will be 4 – 5 guest rooms.

Grant has the utmost respect for the memory of Brian Johnson. He admired his dedication to the trade and connoisseurship of fantastic Cask Ales.

He will carry two cask ales, a range of draught beers, cider and lager and a selection of wines and spirits from around the world. He collects whisky and likes the growing market in craft gin. He believes attention to detail in the serving of a drink enhances the quality.



The Cree's Inn has been valued in Abernethy for many years and Brian will always be sadly missed.

THE INN @ABERNETHY is the new name and symbolizes the going forward into the future. The old beams have been brought back to their natural colour. Solid oak flooring, beautiful hand-crafted bar tops and a wood burning stove add to the welcoming ambience.

It is wonderful to see a young professional family prepared to devote themselves to the continuation of this much loved institution and Grant and Lisa would like to thank the community for their support.

We all wish them well in their new venture and are looking forward to raising a glass to toast them in THE INN @ABERNETHY.

AH

## SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Entering the brightly lit hall, all decorated with Christmas garlands, Christmas tree, and with a lovely atmosphere, I knew I was in for a great evening.

A small bar in the corner welcomed each person with refreshment and the hall set with beautifully laid tables with crackers, sweets etc.

After introductions and grace the meal was served, and what a meal. As usual the caterers did us proud. The entertainment was Doreen Arnott and Friends which included Bobby, who had sung with Matt Munro in Blackpool in 1978, Peter, also a very good singer, and Sandra Allan, who in spite of her blind disability was a fantastic singer and pianist, gave a great selection of tunes and Christmas stories. A very enjoyable hour's entertainment. As always lots and lots of raffles.

A memorable evening thanks to Eilean and Margaret and all the committee who devote themselves and give up their time for the community.

Thanks again from me for a lovely Christmas party.



Lillias Johnston

### The Great War

March 3, 1918

Trotsky signs peace treaty with Germany at Brest-Litovsk.



# MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

**Looking for a Great Afternoon out  
Come to The Museum of Abernethy**

The Museum opens again on the **5<sup>th</sup> May** and we look forward to welcoming lots of you from the local area and further afield to come and enjoy a great afternoon out.

## **Thank you**

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who are working tirelessly to get the Museum ready to open for the season and all the volunteers that help the Museum to open and function throughout the year – without you we could not operate.

## **Annual Members Meeting (AMM)**

Our AMM is on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 where we review the last year and appoint new members to the board. We would be delighted to receive volunteers to join the board as we have a few vacancies and we need new people and ideas.

**We have 5 Board Meetings plus the Annual Members Meeting once per year (6 meetings in all).**

## **Member, Volunteer, Board Member**

If you wish to become a **member of the Museum and/or become a volunteer/and or become a board member**, your support would be greatly appreciated. As well as the satisfaction of being involved in a fantastic local resource, you will be invited to a number of events throughout the year. For more information please call the Museum on 850889 or look at the website

[www.museumofabernethy.co.uk](http://www.museumofabernethy.co.uk) or Facebook

[www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy](https://www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy) or email me at [secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk) to discuss further.

## **New exhibits coming this year**

This year we will have some new stones on display which are away at the moment getting refurbished and mounted – more about that in the next Crier and on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy](https://www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy)

We also have a large number of displays about Abernethy life from prehistoric through Pictish times to the present as well as a children's corner with new activities and games for the children to enjoy.

**Bring your friends and family and spread the word about your lovely local museum** - enjoy all our displays, the new children's activities and find out more about the life and times of our charming ancient burgh and parish

We are open afternoons **Wednesday – Sunday** from **1pm to 4pm** until **30 September**.

**Entrance is FREE but donations are gratefully accepted.**  
**Lesley Robinson Chair**

# BURN'S CLUB OF ABERNETHY

## **Annual Burn's Supper**

The Annual Burn's supper was held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>, February in the Williamson Hall.

President Ian Bett opened the evening with his usual wit and enthusiasm.

The packed hall was served up a delicious meal laid on by Heaven Scent from Kinross.

The haggis was piped in by Jamie Stewart, a very accomplished young piper and Susan Swan, not so young, played the part of Poesie Nancy. The haggis was addressed with style and gusto by another young lad from the village, Alex Cook.

A very interesting Immortal Memory was presented by Peter Hill from Dunblane

Alistair Robinson toasted the Lassies, he has women well worked out. His wife Lesley replied with no holds barred.

Tam O' Shanter is always looked forward to by all and they were not disappointed. Bill Maddox from Dundee, with audience participation, fulfilled that task admirably.

Alex McIntyre, with his accordion, played at different times throughout the evening.

Donald Paton, Perth, Ellen Pennie, Dunblane, Irene Macfarlane, Kinross and Jim Lawson from Errol also performed throughout the night. A guid nicht wis had by all.

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# BURN'S CLUB OF ABERNETHY

## School Poetry Competition

At the School Scots Verse competition held on 25th January the overall winner and recipient of the Burns Club of Abernethy Shield was Alex Cook. Joint runners up were Eilidh Donnachie and Paddy Trotter with Daisy Heenan from primary 6 in third place. Well done to all the 69 pupils who took part, the highest number since the competition began. In the afternoon the pupils organised their own Burns lunch and four members of the Burns club along with the children's guests were invited to attend. The children served up a fine traditional Burns meal and then went on to entertain their guests with an excellent and full programme of speeches, recitations, songs, music and dancing. Well done to everyone who contributed to this fine afternoon.

## PERTH BURN'S CLUB

At the Perth Burns Club annual school festival Heather Rodger from Abernethy had a successful afternoon winning the Windyedge Bowl for singing and the Graham Thomson Rosebowl for fiddle playing, well done Heather. Alex Cook also had very high marks with both his Burns and Soutar recitations.

## BURN'S CLUB OF ABERNETHY AGM

The AGM of the Club will be held on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Masonic Hall.

**All Welcome**

## Draft Minutes of the ABERNETHY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**25<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 at 7:00pm in the Mason Hall.**

**Members Present:** Mr J Swan (JS) (Chaired), Ms L Buchan (LB), Mr M Cairns (MC), Mrs D Gillespie (DG), Mr P Glennie (PG), Mr A McIntyre (AM), Mr B McNaughton (BM)

**Attending Councillors:** Mr H Anderson (HA), Mrs K Baird (KB)

13 members of the public in attendance

**Apologies:** Cllr D Illingworth

**Co-option of New Member:** Helena McAllister from Aberargie was nominated for co-option on to the Community Council. A nomination form was completed, the nomination proposed by JS and seconded by AM. The nomination will be submitted to PKC for approval. –

**Resignation:** The chair informed the meeting of CC member Mr Duncan Kennedy's resignation from the CC with immediate effect. The CC thank Duncan for generously giving up his free time to benefit our community, for all his hard work and wish him well for the future.

**Adoption of Previous Minutes:** Proposed DG, seconded MC.

**Police Update:** No matters arising and no Police in attendance.

**Traffic Issues Report:** Members of the CC met with Daryl McKeown from PKC Traffic Department to discuss traffic issues. Daryl's report (see Appendix 1 attached) was fully discussed and the following points agreed for putting into action.

- A designated parking bay in the Square on Main Street for the Post Office/RBS/Library vans
- Two marked short-term loading/customer parking bays outside the village shop in Main St
- Double yellow lines on the corner opposite the Doctors Surgery in Main Street to **ensure emergency vehicular access is available at all times and enhance road safety**. It was noted that *no further double yellow lines are desirable in the village*. MC pointed out that the community should be made aware of the reason behind the double yellow lines being necessary at this corner to help counter possible objections.
- Permanent vehicle-activated speed signs at the west end of Abernethy and at Aberargie.
- The introduction of a new 40mph speed restriction before the existing 30pmh speed restriction starts at the
- The nameplate signs at Aberargie will be upgraded with a more reflective material to make them more prominent. The 40mph speed limit repeater signs through the village will be increased in size to make them more conspicuous and encourage compliance with the reduced speed limit.

Marked parking bays in the square are not desired as it was strongly felt that it would do nothing to ease the current parking situation in and around Main Street. The chair stressed that the CC do not wish to be responsible for making decisions on parking in Main Street and that parking should be left up to the residents who live there. **The CC once again ask that residents of and**



**to Main Street encourage and demonstrate responsible parking.** An article on responsible parking will be published in the next edition of the Crier.

It was noted that residents from the east end of the village are disappointed with the introduction of a new 40mph zone as a traffic calming measure. PKC will monitor the effectiveness of the new measure and the possibility of a permanent vehicle-activated sign for the east end can be reviewed in the future.

BM reminded everyone that speeding is a police concern and not a traffic issue.  
Speeding incidents should be reported to the Police.

Daryl McKeown is to be advised accordingly– **Action Point - LB**

**Planning:**A full discussion took place on the housing development planning application at Southfield Ref 17/02190/FLL. Whilst it was recognised that housing development supports economic growth, is essential to sustaining rural communities/improving local services and is needed to meet the local housing demand, the following points were raised by residents:-

- Housing density is a major concern. The local development plan cites 12-19 houses but the planning application is for 42 houses.
- Lack of green space/landscaping/trees and adequate parking
- Insufficient buffer area between the housing and Branston industrial site
- Mixed use site not solely for residential development. Branston hope to submit a planning application in the spring to expand their current industrial operations to make use of part of this site. Branston is an important and valued employer in the village and there is concern that their expanding operations could be compromised
- Noise impact from the neighbouring industrial site
- Detrimental visual impact of the housing development to the main Eastern approach of a conservation village
- Design of housing not in keeping with the local neighbourhood

- Detrimental impact on existing biodiversity
- Flooding
- Traffic calming measures around the access point/Newburgh Road
- Impact on public transport – the bus service is unable to cope with the existing demand at peak times

Following the discussion it was agreed that the CC would submit comments to this application, reflecting the **main** issues raised at the meeting and request that the developer provides or financially contributes to traffic calming measures on the Newburgh Road. – **ACTION POINT – BM**

**Chargeable Garden Waste Collection:-**The new chargeable garden waste collection was discussed. It was pointed out that rural communities are at a disadvantage having no local recycling point, having further to travel to dispose of garden waste and the implicated cost. It was also highlighted that there are people in the community who simply cannot afford to pay an additional charge and that the new charge will undoubtedly lead to a marked increase in fly tipping. It was acknowledged that P&K Environment Dept would be running the same service but that waste collectors could potentially be collecting bins which contained only a small amount of food waste, would be wasting valuable time checking bins for permits and that the waste bins are filled in compliance with or without a permit. HA pointed out that the current council tax collected revenue doesn't even cover the Education budget alone, that other local authorities have already adopted a similar waste charge and although the statistics show a drop in chargeable garden waste collection during the first year, the demand increases thereafter. It was agreed that the CC would submit a letter of dismay to PKC regarding the introduction of this charge. - **Action Point – LB**

**Signage:-**The brown village signs have recently been upgraded in order to encourage tourism, help promote local business and to guide visitors to public car-parks. AM advised the meeting that TayLP organised and funded the new signs. It should be pointed out that no planning consent is required for brown signs and that signs are not a legislative consideration in a conservation area. However, villagers have registered complaint about the recently replaced sign at the west end of Main Street. The sign was originally to be erected on the pavement outside the house immediately before the entrance to the public car park. The sign is now erected across the street to where the original 'parking' sign was sited, but on new poles. It was pointed out by residents that the sign not

only gives incorrect directions but is also far too big for its location/use. It was suggested that the sign probably should have been sited at Back Dykes and not Main Street giving consideration to its directional information and size. DG also highlighted that the new signs have 'WC' on them but there is no public toilet facility in the village. The public in attendance were asked if they were happy with the sign in question and there was a majority vote against it. The CC will therefore take this forward

**-Action Point – AM & JS**

**Defib:-**DG reported that the current total banked for the defib fund is £3162 with another £80 (including £50 from the Abernethy Walking Group) being received for the fund at the meeting. In addition, the Just Giving page has just under £700 in donations to date. Sincere thanks for every donation already received and generously supporting this worthy cause. LB stated that the CC has submitted a participatory budget funding application for this coming round applying for £1500 for help to purchase and fit public access defibs.

PG advised that the cost to fit the necessary electric supply to the Aberargie telephone box required for defib purpose is £800 alone. The Doctors Practise has agreed to a defib being sited on the wall outside the Abernethy surgery. Jimmy Russell, who does all electrical work for the Newburgh Practise, is to carry out a survey and provide an estimate for providing an electric supply to the wall outside the Abernethy surgery. JS will contact Duncan Kennedy to request any paperwork relating to the research and work already undertaken on defibs. The CC need to officially adopt and pay the £1 fee for the decommissioned phone boxes – BT are fully aware of our interest in adopting the two booths . BM pointed out that the CC will need to check if the existing public liability insurance covers defibs – **Action Point- PG & JS**

**AOCB:-**

The Tower floodlighting replacement project is still on hold meantime.

It was reported that several grit bins have been removed from the village and that bins are not being refilled as necessary. KB agreed to take this forward.

DG asked for CC agreement to open another bank account if the proposed closure of the RBS South Street branch goes ahead. Member were in full agreement with this proposal.

AM advised that the CC will submit a second participatory budget funding application for help with funding to set up the new volunteer driving group.

JS asked the public and CC members for suggested nominations from members of our community to attend this year's Holyrood royal garden party. No nomination was put forward.

KB encouraged local groups/organisations to apply for funding in this round of the participatory budget. Applications forms are available from councillors or online at the PKC website. £18000 is available in Almond and Earn to assist local groups with funding projects to help combat inequality. The closing date for applications has been extended to the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 due to poor uptake. Voting on projects applications will take place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 in the Williamson Hall.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

**LINDA BUCHAN**

## **ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS**

Abernethy & District Senior Citizens Trust are holding a coffee morning on Sat 7th April 10 - 12 in Masons Hall. Usual stalls. See posters in village notice boards and shop, also Abernethy Facebook page for details.

**Evelyn Scobie**

## **AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION**

7<sup>th</sup> March James 1: Excavations on the site of his Murder

5<sup>th</sup> April AGM and a Talk on "Big Stories Wee Places"

**All Welcome**

### **The Great War**

March 23, 1918

Germans use new 'Storm-trooper assault teams west of St. Quentin, taking 16,000 British prisoners



## SOMETIMES.....

Sometimes - you need to push yourself to leave your cosy home on a cold night, particularly if you've had a difficult day or you're just feeling a bit knackered.

Sometimes - some of the moves can be really difficult. Especially all that Yogi, Titchy and Philately Stuff.

Sometimes - you wonder why you spend good money to go and be shouted at, when you could just stay at home and be shouted at for free.

"Physical activity releases positive endorphins that make you feel good all over" or so the boffins say. It does improve your morale, it is good for your health and you get the chance to go out and make new friends. And we are really lucky to have so many opportunities to exercise right here in our own village without having to get into our cars or travel far. OK, we don't have a swimming pool but we can do lots of other activities.

Monday.

The Abernethy Keep Active Club meets at 12.00 at the Session House for an hour. This is aimed at improving balance and reducing the chance of a fall. The cost is £4 per session.

At 7pm the PiYo class starts for an hour. This is a mixture of Pilates and Yoga. This is run by Marian Dodds-Miklosik from Bridge of Earn and costs £5 an hour.

At 8pm, there is an hour of pure Pilates at the Williamson Hall. This will stretch and tone muscles and strengthen your core. This is also run by Marian and also costs £5 an hour.

Tuesday.

Two Tuesdays a month the Abernethy Walking Group meets up to go for a moderately long walk (about 4 or 5 miles). Normally, they get in cars to visit places like the Lomond Hills or Scone Palace. You can find out more from the Notice Board outside the Doctor's surgery.

In the evening at 7.15pm, local girl, Andrea Dewar, has her Aerobics Class at the Williamson Hall. This costs £5 a session or £40 for 10 sessions. It's free for the first class. The Aerobics runs for an hour and is followed by an hour of Body balance which is a mixture of Yoga, Tai'chi and Pilates. I, myself, do the aerobics class and appreciate being properly warmed up, vigorously exercised and then properly warmed down. For me, it's meant not having to think twice about bending to pick something off the floor, I've lost some weight and gained some friends. No. I. Do. Not. Wear. Lycra.... Or Latex.

Wednesday.

On Wednesday evenings you have to choose between 2 activities as it is very hard to be in 2 places at once.

From 6.30 to 7.30 at the Williamson Hall, the Abz fitness Zumba class takes place. This costs £4 a session but the first session is free. It's designed for all levels of fitness and will leave you "Sweaty, but smiling".

And at roughly the same time, from 7pm to 9pm, the Badminton Club meets at the Primary School. This operates from September to March and costs £40 for the year, but a discount will be offered if you were to start around this time of year.

Thursday.

**THE DUSTY BOOTS LINE DANCERS** meet every Thurs from 7.30 – 9.00pm in the Williamson Hall and also hold a monthly weekend dance. Contact Elaine Marr on 850466. The Cheapest activity in the village at £3 a shot. Yee-ha!!

Friday.

Jack Simpson runs J Rock for P3 to P7 children from 6pm to 7.30pm at the Freemasons Hall. The costs are met through fund-raising. This is designed to give kids a high from performing, not substances. They are rehearsing for a performance at the Caird Hall Dundee on the 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Finally DRU YOGA runs from 6.30 to 8pm at the Williamson Hall. This is a very gentle, relaxing form of Yoga and is suitable for everyone. £6 per session.

Of course, when Summer comes along\* both the Tennis Club and the Bowling Club will be getting into action.

Even if you don't like joining proper fitness classes and clubs there are plenty of fantastic walks and places to run around Abernethy. Last year, the Tay Landscape Partnership built a brand new path from the top of Kirk Wynd which will take you right up into Pitmedden Forest.

Now, gentlemen, all the activities are open to us chaps. Granted, it can be a bit daunting to turn up to a class full of lycra-clad lassies, but it is worth going through this particular pain barrier. The more blokes that join, then the easier it will be for the rest of us.

Apologies if I've missed your activity out, but I'm sure we will be allowed to pop anything else in the next Crier.

So come on folks, what's stopping you, it's all here on your doorstep. Get out there and get active.

**David Illingworth**

# ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

From all at Abernethy Tennis Club, we wish you a very Happy New Year!

**We would like to inform you of the following programme of events for the 2018 season: - (details to be confirmed asap)**

Annual Race Night on 17<sup>th</sup> March at Williamson Hall, Abernethy

**Sessions with qualified and experienced Coaches for: -**

Rusty Racquets

(for absolute beginners, those with tennis experience looking to get back into the sport or to brush up on your technique)

Parent & Child Tennis

**OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RUNS FROM**

**01/04/2018**

For 1 year only – we are offering membership at 50% of the annual cost.

We are a sociable and friendly club, offering 2 outside all weather courts. The primary aim of the club is the promotion of tennis in the area, and to offer support and encouragement to its members.

Please take a look at our website -

[www.abernethytennisclub.co.uk](http://www.abernethytennisclub.co.uk),

Our email address is - [info@abernethytennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@abernethytennisclub.co.uk)

Or see our Facebook page for more information

Abernethy Tennis Club

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Abernethy

Perthshire

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[anna@waggytailsperth.co.uk](mailto:anna@waggytailsperth.co.uk)

## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR 2018/2019

Type of Membership	£	No
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FAMILY (2 Adults + 4 Children)	47.50	
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SINGLE ADULT	25.00	
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JUNIOR (Under 18)	12.50	
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RETURNABLE DEPOSIT FOR KEY (NEW MEMBERS ONLY)	5.00	
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TOTAL AMOUNTS

1<sup>st</sup> Applicant (Adult) .....

2<sup>nd</sup> Applicant (Adult).....

3<sup>rd</sup> Applicant (Child).....Age.....

4<sup>th</sup> Applicant (Child).....Age.....

5<sup>th</sup> Applicant (Child).....Age.....

6<sup>th</sup> Applicant (Child).....Age.....

ADDRESS .....

.....POSTCODE.....

TEL:.....

EMAIL:.....

Completed forms to be returned with payment in full to:- THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Susan MacDougall, 17 Nethy Place, Abernethy.

Cheques should be made payable to Abernethy Tennis Club.

#### Office use only

CHEQUE  
RECEIVED

CASH  
RECEIVED

KEY  
ISSUED

SHOE TAG  
ISSUED

ENTERED IN  
DATABASE

**The Great War**

April 21, 1918

Legendary German flying ace Manfred Von Richthofen, known as the Red Baron, shot down and killed



Following the beautiful game has taken me around quite a bit and I have watched some memorable games. There have been occasions however when the journey to and from the venue produced more memories than the game itself. Stationed In Austria in 1946-47 I was posted to the H.Q. of the 38<sup>th</sup> Irish Brigade when my battalion the 8<sup>th</sup> Argylls broke up following the end of World War II. The Argylls plus three Irish regiments had formed the 38<sup>th</sup> Brigade, a potent mixture. The Brigade football eleven which oddly enough didn't include any Irishmen were pretty good and myself and a few others followed them around when they played other teams in the area. As befitting their Irish connections they sported the green and white hoops. Winning the B.T.A. (British Troops in Austria) Championship led to a challenge match being arranged against the C.M.F. (Central Mediterranean Forces) champions, an RAMC team based at 154 British Military Hospital at Mestre, near Venice. The match was to be played at the St Helena Stadium in Venice. This was an opportunity not to be missed and one or two of us who were regular fans were included in the party. We had an overnight stop at Udine where the lads drew 1-1 with an R.A.F. eleven and then proceeded to Mestre where our accommodation turned out to be a ward in the hospital. Due to overindulgence by the troops only beer was available in Austria but this did not apply in Italy. As a result our night out on the eve of the match turned out to be a tactical error as temptation took over and the team members played their part. On a hot afternoon on an iron hard pitch with barely a blade of grass the match ended in a 5-1 rout. Still we enjoyed seeing the sights of Venice.

In 1950 Scotland arranged to play France in a friendly match at the Combes Stadium in Paris. There was some talk of running a special train to the match from Glasgow which whetted my interest. In the end I booked a few days in Paris based on a coach-air trip from London. Departing from the Victoria Air terminal the coach took us to an airfield in Kent where we boarded a flight to Beauvais. A coach then took us into Paris passing along the Boulevard Macdonald (named after one of Napoleon's Generals who was the son of a Scottish Presbyterian schoolmaster). It made me feel quite at home. My arrival coincided with a state visit from Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. As a result my taxi to my hotel could not cross the Champs Elysees due to the official procession. The obliging taxi driver slid back the roof of his cab and we stood on the seats to enjoy a grandstand view of the parade. What a welcome to Paris! For the record Scotland won by a solitary goal scored by Lawrie Reilly.



Sightseeing and the night life made it a trip to remember. Various trips to Wembley met with mixed results but I did see Scotland win and draw and thankfully missed the 7-2 and 9-3 defeats. The one that sticks in my mind however is more about the lead up to the game. A group of us planned to go but one of the lads who had a wife and young daughter pulled out of the trip, due we suspected to pressure from his better half. He agreed however to stick to a pre-arranged plan to gather at his house for a few drinks before we caught the train to London. During the evening he remarked rather wistfully that he wished he had a ticket. That was my cue to announce that I had a spare ticket. The look on his wife's face said it all. If looks could kill there might have been two spare tickets. That was in 1953 but I can't remember the score. (2-2 Ed). My first trip to Cardiff to see Scotland play Wales at Ninian Park, the former home of Cardiff City was also quite eventful. My plan to travel overnight by train from Glasgow was changed when I was approached by a fellow as I made my way to the booking office. He explained that there were one or two spare seats on a Rangers Supporters Club bus. The price was reasonable and with another chap by the name of Bob Armstrong who claimed to have been on the books of Aberdeen F.C. prior to the war we boarded the coach. Refreshments were freely available on the journey South, so much so that one or two who had over-indulged had to utilise an open window. This necessitated a stop at a filling station so that he driver could hose down the outside of the coach before we entered the Welsh capital. The game ended in a win for Scotland - again I can't recall the exact score- and after an overnight stay we set out on a more sedate return trip to Glasgow arriving after midnight too late to catch a train to Perth. My new friend Bob came to my rescue. He obviously knew his way around and we ended up in what turned out to be an all night gambling club. Food was available and we feasted on a mixed grill accompanied by refreshments and whiled away the hours until I caught the early train to Perth. Some months later I bumped in to him working for a bookmaker at Perth Races.

My travels also took me to Windsor Park, Belfast where I witnessed a couple of victories over Northern Ireland. On the first trip I was wait-listed for a berth on the ferry from the Broomielaw. On checking at the Purser's office I found that I had been lucky. My cabin-mate turned out to be ex-Dundee F.C. footballer Tommy Gallagher who was to be covering the match for the Courier. We spent half the night talking football. On the return trip I was prepared to rough it. That was until I ran into Geordie Miller from Luncarty who was part of the official S.F.A. party in his capacity as President of the S.J.F.A. He had a twin cabin for sole use and kindly offered me the use of the spare bunk. Prior to the game a couple of years later Danny Blanchflower, the Irish skipper, on T.V. had revealed their master plan for the game. Tongue in cheek he explained that they planned to equalise before Scotland had scored. In the event Scotland won 4-1.

Passing the entrance to the Royal Avenue Hotel in the evening after the match we observed Danny standing at the reception desk. We dared Ted Sime, one of our party, to ask him what had become of the master plan. Ted was up to the challenge and promptly marched in and posed the question. To Danny's credit he took it in good part.

Journey to venues in Scotland were not without incident but they can be saved for a later issue.

Nowadays the extent of my travels to see a game is the short trip to the spare room to switch on the T.V.



**Bob Macdonald**

## **WHY SEX MATTERS IN THE ANIMAL WORLD**

Christmas morning I was letting the geese out, "Good morning Ozzie and Skye and Merry Christmas"; they have a pen to themselves. Ozzie is 27 years old and Skye 10.

Going on to the shed Pearl and Bud share, I opened the door and was about to say the same to them when I could not believe my eyes; Pearl was covered in blood! I froze till I took it in. "Oh Pearl what ever has happened to you?", Bud was okay. I bathed her to get the blood off. The only explanation was that a stoat must have got into the shed. Day by day Pearl got weaker till finally she died. I felt so helpless. Meanwhile Bud knew something was wrong, and started moping so I started looking on the computer for any geese for sale. I saw some advertised at Gorebridge near Edinburgh.

I phoned and made arrangements to purchase five geese at £20 each, making sure they were all geese as I already had two ganders I finally made the deal. So off with my husband, son and myself in the van, which was lined with straw to contain them, on a very cold snowy Saturday morning. Reaching our destination, Jim, the person whom we were buying them from, caught them and in the van they went. I said to him a few times are you sure they are all geese as I already have 2 ganders, he assured me they were and I took his word for it.

Arriving back home I opened the gate into the garden and shouted to Bud to come and see what Mum had brought him. He went so coy with his neck arched and seemed to welcome them, which I have a wee video of. I noticed one had ruffled feathers so I just said to it you will soon grow up to be a beautiful goose, and thought nothing of it.

One week later we started to see the character changing in one of the geese with a stronger neck. My fears came that one was a gander, meantime the one with the ruffled

feathers would not go in the shed with the others and would run around the garden two or three times before I managed to get it in. Little did I know about the pecking order of which he was the victim. I called it Road Runner, double R.

During the next few weeks I realised I had three ganders not counting RR. When I would let them out in the morning poor RR would be pecked and bleeding. It turned out that I had four ganders and one goose. Sally I called her, and she is a beautiful goose.

My husband and son were away for two weeks during the worst time for me. I dreaded each night shutting them in but I knew there was a fox coming around as it had dug up Pearl and pulled her to the end of the garden. I was at my wits' end, and finally I had to leave RR out at night, when I would be up a few times to check if he was okay. I made a shelter for him with a bird ornament wrapped in a white sheet for company, which I must say did not work.

One morning I got up and wondered where RR was, there he was hiding under a barrow all shook up, something had attacked him. I don't need to tell you how upset I was. Then it occurred to me that if I could put Skye and Ozzie right into the kennel and shut the door I would then get RR into the front of the kennel with some straw for a bed. After a bit of persuasion with them all, it paid off and it was not too bad.

After I realised the first two were ganders for sure, I phoned Jim (I still have his number) but he did not believe me, and did nothing about it. I even wrote him a letter with the little address I had. I still do not know if he got it.

As spring was there the fighting began. I was a nervous wreck! Poor Bud whom I had got them all for, just pined away as all the flock I got were keeping themselves to themselves. I saw him sitting at the gate, then I could not believe my eyes when Ozzie tried to kill him, not the first one to try to kill another. I knew something drastic had to be done and started asking around if anybody would like to take the ganders. A woman who keeps geese in Newburgh said she knew a man from Auchterarder who would give them a home. He came and got one which he and I managed to corner and catch. Then the next week he came and got the other two; I had them in the shed for him coming so they were easier to catch. The garden became quieter and more pleasant for the geese and myself I might add.

**Lillias Johnston**



## FOUR CENTURIES

I witnessed with my own eyes the return of the beaver to Aberargie one day in November. What a thrill that sent through me. A very loud splash caught my attention as I was walking by the River Farg and there it was. Having belly flopped into the shallow river off the bank it waded five metres before it dived under a large leafy overhang and disappeared.

Castor Fiber, to give the Eurasian beaver it's Latin name, have been working their way in this direction over recent years, with people in Bridge of Earn and indeed Aberargie, reporting trees being gnawed in the tell-tale pointy way, and garden trees even removed entirely. So I wasn't exactly surprised, but was none the less thrilled to actually see a beaver for myself in broad daylight.

I pondered the return of a native to a neighbourhood they had been eradicated from by the reign of Elizabeth II

In 1900 there were only 1200 beaver across the whole of Europe. They were hunted to extinction for fur, bush meat and the castoreum they have in a sac near their anal gland - historically prized for medicine and as a perfume base. At that time local need was always satisfied, no one realised the latest pelt may have been the last.

I wondered, and worry if and how the species will survive. Will we in this 21st century tolerate sharing our environment with a small mammal who takes down trees? Will we be able to hold back trying to control them and let them do their thing? Can we appreciate and understand the landscape they create? Like badger, deer and fox, we are often ambivalent about nature when it encroaches too close, or affects our arrangements. What do we feel when the beaver takes away the apple tree we so carefully planted in our garden, what if they dam the River Farg and cause it to flood?

The discussion and debate about reintroducing beavers to Scotland developed in earnest in 2001 culminating in 16 Norwegian European beavers being released in a partnership of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland and the Forestry Commission, in 2009 and 2010. So possibly an eighth generation grandsire of this beaver splashing into the Farg was given a home in the remote wilds of Knapdale, Argyll.

Mr Beaver was clearly not going to come out for a photo call for me so I walked on.

When I got home I pulled out my map of central Scotland and looked at the systems of rivers and lochs the beavers must have travelled to arrive here in the Farg. It is impressive. It's over 100 miles, as the crow flies, from Knapdale to Abernethy, but the mountains, not to mention the main roads, between present a formidable landscape, but to the beaver a stream or a loch provides food and shelter and I imagine the next juicy tree root is no different to us enjoying the next horizon on a walk in the hills. The ancestors of "my" beaver had swum the Crinan Water, the River Add and the Argyll Douglas water, they had snuck across the Duke of Argyll's estate and by Inveraray Castle or swam across Loch Fynne, Loch Eck, Loch Goil and Loch Long. They wove their way around Ben Lui into the Tay watershed system where it must have been a strong and easy draw just to go with the flow down our great river system. But I wonder if beavers clamber up and over passes? Did they find the burns that clad the Ben More range too much of a barrier and so avoided Balquidder, or was the Glen Ogle water enough for them to traverse into the Loch Earn system?

Beavers tidy up river banks, munching twigs, leaves and roots of willow, birch, alder and buds and shoots of all sorts of plants. They sample all the incomer plants that now populate our river banks. Near Dunkeld beavers are setting in about Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed – which makes them are an environmental ally and surely is a reason to welcome them. I shall be intrigued to see if they make inroads to the insidious Butterbur that dominates the indigenous and lovely Meadowsweet that used to lace the banks of the Farg. The Japanese treat butterbur buds as a special spring delicacy, I hope that beaver find it a delicacy too.

Today and into the future I fear the debate will turn on their interference with our highly organised infrastructure, our farming needs and our riverside gardens.

So now the beaver is a companion to the water vole and otter along our streams, rivers and lochs. Their instinct to nibble and gnaw and build is phenomenal, their engineering minds are as great as any employed to build the Queensferry crossing in being able to project exactly which direction their gnawing will cause a tree to fall.

### The Great War

April 1, 1918

Royal Air Force founded by combining  
Royal Flying Corps and Royal Naval  
Air Service.

Just like badger and deer these creatures do not invite contest, the beaver does not know that the garden apple tree they felled was treasured, the deer do not know the new saplings they nibble were planted by the Woodland Trust to create a woodland, the badger does not pass on the TB it catches from the cattle in one form to the next door farm on purpose. In 2016 the Scottish Government announced that the Beaver is now an accepted resident of Scotland. In fact the beaver introduction had been so successful and their spread so wide that the Government could no longer say that the original "Beaver Trial" was in under any sort of control!

Farmers for centuries have created embankments, or dams, along rivers to enable them to grow crops in river-side meadows all year round for us. But we all know that this banking causes rivers to flood in unprotected areas – as communities along the Tay and Earn know only too well, but can we and our farmers tolerate a beaver making a dam that creates a new wet woodland area? Can we appreciate that this creates a flood absorption area which prevents the flooding of a village downstream?

My sighting made me smile, particularly as my son, now living in Canada, the "home" of the American beaver, *Castor Canadensis*, has been pleased to send me pictures of beavers, their dams and trails, and here was I seeing one literally in his own old back yard!

**Theresa Hughes, Aberargie**



## CORONATION DAY



I was at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in my senior term in 1953. My intake was told that we would line the route of the Coronation of H.M. The Queen. We became known as the "Coronation Intake". Unfortunately I did not keep notes of the event, but have many happy memories of the day.

On Coronation day we went from Camberley to London on a special train. We arrived at Vauxhall Bridge Station at 4a.m. and were served breakfast - a hard tack biscuit and a small mug of tea. The experts had decided it would be a long day and this meal would reduce the need to visit toilets.

It was raining as we marched from Vauxhall to our positions. My sector was immediately opposite the main entrance to Westminster Abbey. When we arrived there was already a big crowd of spectators. The rain continued. We had been issued with waterproof capes (Army ground

sheets) to wear. We had rehearsed drills to put capes on and to remove them. A contingent of Marines stood in front of us. Each service provided a guard of honour outside the Abbey.

While we waited for the Royal Party to arrive there was always lots of activity to watch as guests arrived. The rain continued. Before the Royal Party arrived we were ordered to "remove capes". We took off our capes and placed them at our heels. By this time it looked as if somebody was pouring milk over the marines in front of us - white liquid was flowing off their white helmets and running down the backs of their blue uniforms. We were kept active by drill movements and saluting V.I.P.s as they arrived.

When the Royal Party arrived we enjoyed watching the ladies-in-waiting stepping down from the high horse drawn carriages. They showed a lot of leg!! Once the service started we were ordered to replace our capes, but they had disappeared into the spectators. By this time it did not matter, we were soaked to the skin. It was now possible to go to the toilet. To do so you had to find at least two others - it was rehearsed drill. Contact was made by tapping the rifle butt on the ground, you then grounded your rifle, fell in and marched off to the toilet in threes.,

I cannot remember too much about what happened after the service which had been relayed to us outside. I can remember arriving back to Sandhurst in the afternoon. As soon as we were dismissed, we dashed for our accommodation, threw off our soaking clothes, dried our rifles and changed into civvies before running to Camberley Station and catching a train back up to London.

London was alive with civilians and troops from around the Commonwealth. It was one great party. I caught the "milk train" from Waterloo back to Camberley, in time to wash and brush up and be on parade for just another day.

It had been a great day. A one off event I was privileged to have experienced.

**Ian Cartwright**



**It pays to advertise in the Crier.  
Delivered free to 800 households**

# WEIGHT WATCHERS FOR PONIES

Ponies are like people in that some seem to maintain a slim figure quite easily and some only need to glance at a biscuit or a blade of grass and it goes straight to their hips. Ponies are also like people in that it is not healthy for them to be overweight and it is difficult for them to lose the extra pounds. We call these chubby characters 'Good Doers'

That is why the pony field at Station road is sectioned into two halves.

The half of the field nearest the railway embankment is 'Slimming World'. In there are grey Connemara, 'Fennela' and young threequarter Arab, 'Flora' They stuff themselves with grass and anything else they can find and get too fat in summer. In winter they get a tiny feed, vitamins and a ration of hay. This should help them get nice slim figures before the grass starts to grow in spring.

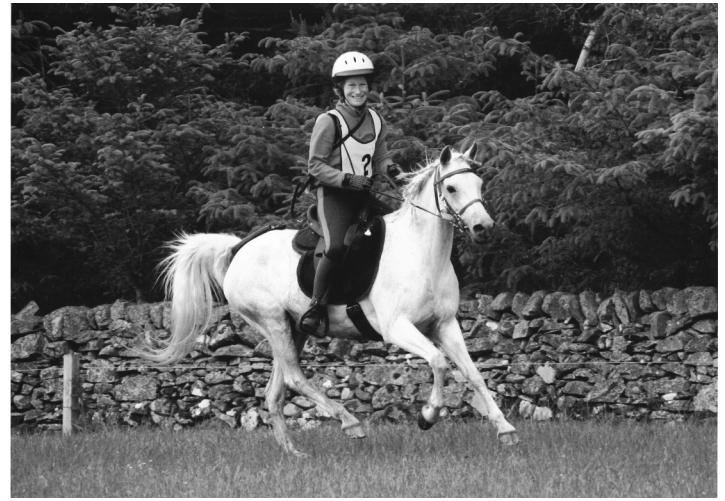
Little old brown pony, Mac, and grey half- Arab, Bella, are in the other half of the field which is 'Weight Gain Clinic'. They are fussy eaters. They get big buckets of high calorie pony cubes. Even with these they are choosy about the brand.

They have a big round bale of nice hay from a local farmer. Bella picks at this and Mac has hardly any teeth and can't really digest hay so he and Bella have lots of high-fibre mash to replace it. If Fennela and Flora could get to this hay they would demolish it in days and their waist-lines would expand.



It is hard not to give the Good-Doers extra hay when the weather is terrible but mostly we manage to ration them and tell ourselves, 'It is for their own good'. I'm not tempted by hay but must apply this to myself when weakening over chocolate and cake. It's not easy. These are before and after pictures showing the benefits of diet and exercise.

AH



## ABERNETHY SWI

We enjoyed a lovely Christmas Meal at Berryfields on 20<sup>th</sup> December. Unfortunately, our January meeting had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather.

Our next meeting is on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> February when we have a Demonstration on Felting by Ursula Stewart.  
Competitions: Two Birthday Cupcakes – everything judged, and Flower of the Month.

Meetings are held in the Church Session House on the third Wed of the month from September to May each year. New members and visitors are always welcome. Membership for this year is £20, visitors £3 per meeting.

Future Meetings will be as follows: 2018

Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> March	<b>Open Night</b> - Jess Smith – Lives of Travellers. Competitions: Favourite Necklace & Flower of the Month.
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Entertainment from Forteviot SWI. Competitions: Savoury Paté & Flower of the Month.
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> May	AGM – Members Night. Competitions: Choc Tray Bake & Flower of the Month.

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details about meetings.

Should you have any queries about Abernethy SWI please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary Barbara Baird on 01337 840307 or President Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850477.

**Evelyn Scobie**





## ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

Writing this on another cold, frosty night but thinking positively have just ordered lots of seeds to sow next month and am dreaming of masses of summer colour and scent.

Our group met in mid-January to discuss activities for the year ahead. We're hoping to add more In Bloom features around the village. So, if all goes to plan, look out for an old cart, a boat or two, some extra planters and a new flower bed. We are losing our current information board by the Cornkist but will have a new wooden waterproof leaflet holder in Nurse Peattie's Garden. We will be entering the countywide Take a Pride in Perthshire competition again this year which will be judged in July/August. There are now 47 separate In Bloom groups within Perth and Kinross all vying for those prized Gold medals!

Key Diary dates for 2018 are:

Monday 19 March 19.30 - AGM at the Session House

Saturday 5 May 10-5 - Nurse Peattie's takes part in the Abernethy Open Gardens event

From Saturday 26 May - Planting up summer bedding around the village

Saturday 28 July - Judging the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Village

Container Competition - (entry forms available in June)

Saturday 13 October - Planting Autumn Bulbs

Friday 7 December 18.30 - Annual Christmas tree lighting event

We begin our weekly weeding, planting, watering and tidying sessions at the beginning of April.

We have expanded our activities in the village in the three years since we established and are keen to do more but to be honest we are not getting any younger!! If there are people out there of any age who would like to help make Abernethy an even lovelier place to live, work and visit - please get involved and get in touch. No horticultural knowledge required and absolute beginners welcome. At just an hour or so a week it is just what the doctor ordered for your health and wellbeing and a good way to meet people!

And finally ... we are delighted to announce we have been awarded £1,000 from the Tesco Bags of Help fund to boost our work in 2018. A big thankyou to everyone who took the time to put their tokens in the Abernethy in Bloom box at the supermarket.

Looking forward to a great gardening year.

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



## CHURCH NEWS; Kirk of St Bride

**Morning worship** - Since we share a part-time minister, for **2018** the service will be in **Abernethy at 9.30 am** and in Glenfarg at 11 am. However, **on the last Sunday of each month we meet at 11am**, together with the Glenfarg part of our congregation, while alternating locations; Abernethy on the last Sunday of March, May and July and in Glenfarg in April and June. **There will be no service in Abernethy when the united service is in Glenfarg.**

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. Outwith term time there are toys and books in the adjacent hall cupboard for children to make use of.

**Easter Sunday** service on 1<sup>st</sup> April, Abernethy 9.30 am, Glenfarg 11am

**Holy Communion** will be in Abernethy on Sun 22 April at 9.30 am  
And in Glenfarg on the same day at 11am.

### Open Doors

The Church is open on Tuesday afternoon of 13 March and fortnightly thereafter. Teas, coffees and home baking are served in the adjacent hall between 2.30 and 4pm. Come and join us.

**Locum minister;** Rev Douglas Main left at the end of this year to enjoy a much belated retirement. We are very grateful for his work in the Church, schools and villages which he has served so well. He has done far more than his part-time contract. In appreciation, he was gifted with a cheque for almost £500. A committee continues to search for a Minister for the whole parish and a new locum minister is also being sought. For now we look forward to having a series of Readers, Worship Leaders



## Village 'Welcome' packs

These packs contain useful village information, telephone numbers and activities in Abernethy. 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 leaflets are also in the museum and Berryfields tearoom. The information will be updated regularly but if you are aware of any errors 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.

**Church Website:** [www.ada-church.org.uk](http://www.ada-church.org.uk) for further information.

**Contact Details ;** [Minister@ada-church.org.uk](mailto:Minister@ada-church.org.uk)  
Session.Clerk@ada-church.org.uk

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## JUST WHO'S GIVING?

There have apparently been some comments regarding the Just Giving page devoted to raising funds for defibrillators in Abernethy and Aberargie. I understand that these comments mentioned the lack of names of members of the Community Council. To be clear, members of the C.C. **have** contributed towards the purchase of these machines, but have preferred not to advertise the fact.

This topic has been discussed at C.C. meetings over many months. As part of the process, the September 2017 meeting included a talk and defib. demonstration by a representative of NHS Tayside, and a local doctor also shared his expertise with us at a later meeting. Furthermore, an enormous amount of time and effort in between meetings has been put in, to what has been a multi-faceted issue, by some members of the C.C. (although not myself) to bring the project to fruition, and so it would be greatly appreciated by members if any interested person who is not clear about how things are progressing would attend a meeting and make comments there rather than *via* other means.

**Angus Macintyre.**

## FROM OUR COONCILLOR

A word of thanks to all those who helped with the organising, transporting and decorating of the Christmas trees for Abernethy and Aberargie. A special thank you to Aberargie residents who not only erected and decorated the tree but raised the funds to buy the tree all in a week. Switch on events at Abernethy and Aberargie were very well supported by the communities. Lots of community spirit !

Thank you also to those who helped clear snow during the January winter spell; great to see neighbours helping each other. Perth and Kinross Council have assessed and prioritised roads based on their usage and importance. The categories are on the Council website, unfortunately Main St is not a priority area. Hopefully grit boxes will all be filled before the next icy spell.

I mentioned in the December 2017 issue of the Crier about inconsiderate parking on Main St and the Square, not surprisingly this topic is mentioned daily on Abernethy Face Book page, this topic has been discussed many times. I know the topic was raised with me in 1999. Has the situation improved ? The answer is NO there are more cars trying to park in a small area. Council officers have been consulted and have offered various solutions. The community can help to make it better, not solve.

Please think before you park. I really do wish I had the solution. Yellow lines have been suggested, if agreed this will take some time to be finalised. In the meantime just imagine there are yellow lines and avoid parking at the corner please.

Kinross-shire, Almond and Earn Action Partnership held a participatory budgeting event last April. This year the partnership has £18,252 for deserving projects, applications for up to £2K will be closed by the time you read this but YOU will decide who gets the money. Come along to the Williamson Hall Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 10.30am and VOTE for 3 most deserving projects. This money comes from Perth & Kinross Health & Social Care Partnership and the Scottish Government Community Choices Fund.

Hope to see you at the Williamson Hall on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want any more information about Action Partnership or if I can help with any other matter.

**kathleenbaird @pkc.gov.uk 07584206839**

**Councillor Kathleen Baird**

Welcome to my first newsletter of 2018. I would like to wish you and your family a very happy new year.

Since being elected in June, I have tried to make the position of MP as accessible as possible; holding surgeries around our constituency, establishing 2 offices and helping those who have run into obstacles when dealing with the various levels of government in our country.

These first 6 months have passed in a flash and thanks to your help we have been able to make a real difference to individuals and communities in our constituency, as well as securing more funding for Scotland in the UK budget.

The team and I would like to thank all those who have supported or assisted our work, and we look forward to working with you in 2018!

If you have any issue or concern that you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

luke.grahamoffice@parliament.uk

Or call/pop into one of our offices:

2 Comrie Street, Crieff, PH7 4AX 01764 680384

38 Primrose Street, Alloa, FK10 1JG 01259 764407

## Royal Bank of Scotland

I strongly oppose the Royal Bank of Scotland's decision to close branches in Alloa, Kinross and Comrie. Since the announcement I have met with representatives of RBS, tabled questions to the Treasury and taken part in a debate on the issue. In the New Year I will be meeting with Treasury Ministers to discuss what the Government can do to put pressure on RBS to ensure they serve the communities in which they serve.

I have also met with Bank of Scotland regarding their proposed closure of their branch in Alva. In the meeting we agreed an action plan and next steps that I will be following up in the New Year.

## Brexit

The EU Withdrawal Bill has continued to progress through the House of Commons. I was pleased that the two amendments I supported were accepted by the Government:

Amendment 3 - Introducing a sifting committee and limiting the "Henry VIII" powers of the Government.

Amendment 8 - Using Charter for Fundamental Human Rights as an aide memoir + produce gap analysis

between U.K. And EU rights and ensure none are lost after Brexit.

In the meantime, the recent agreement between the U.K. and EU allows the Government to provide more clarity on EU nationals' rights in U.K. and British nationals' rights in the EU. This is an issue I have campaigned on since being elected - 'Global Britain' must be clear: those who live, work and contribute to the UK must have their rights protected post 2019 - this has now been confirmed.

## Investment

I have continued to push for further investment through the Tay and Clackmannanshire City deals. Ministers have now set a deadline of Q1 2018 to agree head of terms for both deals. In order to ensure Clacks and South Perthshire & Kinross-shire do not miss out, I have submitted additional projects for consideration by the Treasury to deliver specific investment for our communities.

I have also met with a number of banks and private enterprises to discuss bringing more investment and tackling youth unemployment in Ochil & South Perthshire. Although many of these meetings will not yield results in the next few weeks, I hope they will deliver further investment over the coming years. Updates will be provided here.

## Planning

Many residents in Kinross-Shire would have received my letter outlining my opposition to the Westfield development in Fife. The current proposal means that too many negatives will impact homes, businesses and roads in Kinross-shire. I will continue to work with MPs, MSPs and councillors to try and find a constructive way forward that will deliver jobs, but also protect our constituency.

## In Parliament

In addition to the key issues raised here, I speak in a number of debates in Westminster that are relevant to our constituency and the UK as a whole. For the latest, please follow me on Facebook <http://bit.ly/2CulekR> or through my website: <https://www.lukegraham.org.uk/>

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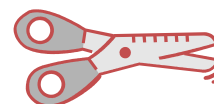
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