

# VILLAGE CRIER



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Abernethy  
43rd Edition

Dron

Aberargie

June 2019

Closing date for June edition 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

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**JUNE'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION**

**WELL DONE KEIR ALLEN**





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## HATTON ROAD PROJECT

You will have seen the plan of the Hatton Road Project in the last edition of the Crier. However, this garden needs a name and the Abernethy in Bloom Committee invite you to put forward your preferred name for their new venture. They would like the name to have a local connection.

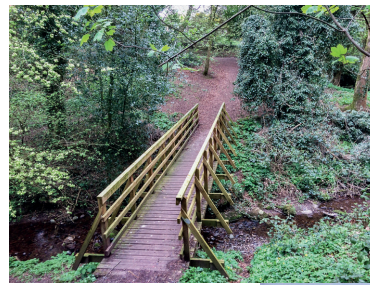
The Crier will collect your suggestions and the Abernethy in Bloom Committee will decide.

So send them to the Crier info e-mail address.

Good Luck

## PHOTO COMPETITION

Below and on page 3 are the entries for the competition. Now you can see if you agree with the committee.



### CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

|                   |        |
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## FROM THE CHAIR

Half way through 2019 already! Where do the days, weeks, months go?

The Crier is even bigger and I hope better this quarter. We are up to 28 pages, lots of news and lots going on in Abernethy. We now have the contents listed on page 2 which will enable you to find articles and information more quickly. We are making a few changes to the format and would be pleased to have any comments, good or bad from you, the readers. Your thoughts on the Crier are important to us.

On page 1 you will have seen the Hatton Road Project and the fact the new garden needs a name. For many years I have felt that some recognition should be made to the years Nurse Mavor gave to the Parish of Abernethy, the babies she delivered and the care and attention tending to both the old and the young. Having Nurse Peattie's garden on one side of the road it would perhaps balance things out to have Nurse Mavor's garden on the other.

Thank you to Linda Buchan for the draft copy of the Community Council Minutes. It is very important that everyone knows what is going on or not going on in the village. The Council is the grass roots of caring and looking after the needs of Abernethy along with the District Councillors. Thank you also to David Illingworth for compiling the list of organisations, clubs etc. There is no shortage of things to do if you live in Abernethy.

Special thanks from us all should be extended to the Litter Pickers. Not a nice job and one which has been going on for years. I can remember during my time on the first Community Council doing the same thing but without the high-viz waistcoats!

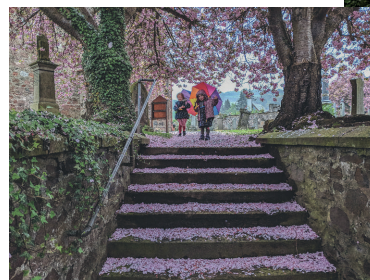
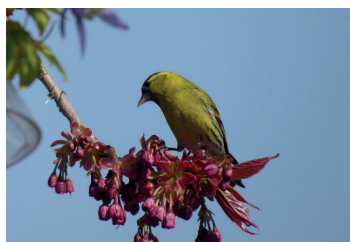
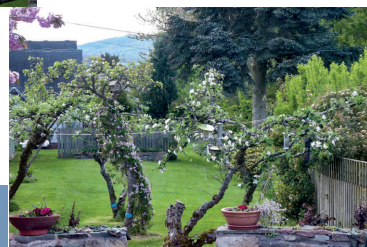
Bob Macdonald's article about his hospital experiences set me thinking with the mention of the red-haired sister. As a YOUNG physiotherapist in P. R.I. I am pretty certain I remember the sister, and I guess Bob would be in either ward 3 or 4. (I can't remember which was the male and female ward). It would be possibly around the late 50's or early 60's. Am I right Bob?

Finally you will find some beautiful photographs, entries in the Photographic Competition. Judging is going to be very difficult.

I hope all our readers have a happy, healthy and sunny summer and we look forward to hearing from you for the autumn edition.

Hilda Clow

## PHOTO COMPETITION (Cont'd)



Thank you very much to all who entered and we hope that next edition we will have even more entries as we will be in to the summer and all the beautiful gardens in Abernethy will be blooming.

THE VILLAGE CRIER IS  
DELIVERED TO MORE  
THAN 800 HOMES IN  
ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE  
AND DRON.



## HOSPITAL MEMORIES

Readers may think that this is an odd subject to warrant an article in the Crier but apart from the less pleasant side a spell in hospital can be very rewarding. You meet people from all walks of life, some less fortunate than yourself which often brings home to you how lucky you are. You strike up friendships with other patients and then go on your separate ways never to meet again. Then there is the humorous side. There is always something which raises a laugh. Laughter is indeed the best medicine.

My first experience as a patient was at the age of fifteen. I was attending an Air Training Corps camp at Leuchars.

On the morning when I was to experience my first flight I didn't feel too well but I was determined not to miss it. Unknown to myself I had a distinctly yellowish complexion, a sure sign of jaundice. Before I knew what was happening I found myself in a bed in the sick-bay at R.A.F. Leuchars being fussed over by the nurses. Knowing how disappointed I was at missing my flight one of them brought her Pilot Officer boyfriend in in the evening and he promised to take me up for a flight as soon as I had recovered. Sadly it was not to be as I was transported home to Stanley in an ambulance the following evening. Needless to say its arrival caused quite a stir. My Granny who had been visiting us had been looking out the window wondering what all the fuss was about when I walked in, still clad in my pyjamas.

About a quarter of a century later after a bad night the doctor was summoned and I found myself rushed into P.R.I. with acute appendicitis which developed into peritonitis. I was kept in for three weeks and it was another three before I returned to work. However a card signed by all my workmates convinced me that all was well as I had been replaced by a rubber stamp. The lighter moments of that visit was seeing my first born taking her first faltering steps across the ward during a visit. The other was when the ward sister, a redhead, whipped off a dressing. My "Ouch" of pain was swiftly followed by my comment "I'd rather be shaved than plucked". Her face turned as red as her hair. During that stay I had the distinction of being visited by no less than three ministers on the same day. Reverend Thomas Potts from Abernethy, Reverend Iain Reid from Stanley and Reverend Tom Gibb from St Paul's who was hospital chaplain. You could say that I was thrice blessed.

My next spell in hospital was in Bridge of Earn for the less serious problem of an ingrowing toe-nail. On my first visit to the theatre I was greeted with the words "What are you doing here Bob?" None other than Jim Roy from Abernethy who worked there. I was well organised. Daisy Winton who also worked there as a cleaner would collect

my "Courier" from the corner shop and deliver it to my bedside. Efforts to save my big toe-nail were in vain and on my third visit it was eventually removed. One of my workmates on my first visit was footballer Joe Gilroy of Dundee F.C.. One of Joe's claims to fame was a T.V. Commercial for Bilsland's Bread in which he was seen scoring a goal with a spectacular overhead kick. He was also a dancer with the White Heather Club on BBC T.V.. At that time I had a silky dressing gown in a maroon colour. He said I reminded him of Noel Coward. Another footballer in for a cartilage operation on a later visit was Bobby Cox of Dundee. Bobby, who has a stand named after him at Dens Park had a pub in Broughty Ferry called "The Sliding Tackle". His wife would bring in a "carry out" on her visits which some of us would share. Apart from a hernia operation when I was in and out on the same day I didn't trouble the surgeons until 2010 when things were a bit more serious. Skipping the medical details two things stick in my memory. One is being greeted by a familiar face coming out of the anaesthetic after a five hour operation - none other than Pauline Jamieson from Abernethy. The other was a visit from the late Dave Halliday. Dave whose party piece was an impression of comedian Chic Murray brought me a book about Chic which was punctuated by his various jokes such as - A man was standing at a bus stop with a dog at his feet. A passer-by asked "Does your dog bite?" "No" was the reply and when he leaned down to stroke it he almost had his hand bitten off. "I thought you said your dog didn't bite" the passer-by accused "That's no my dog" was the response. That book kept me and the rest of the occupants of the ward amused during my stay.

In the words of that famous comedy duo "Always look on the bright side of life". Or as we Scots put it "If we didna' laugh we would greet"

**Bob Macdonald**



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### 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.



## SENIOR CITIZENS DANCE

With coffee mornings being not so popular, something new was suggested, and finally came together on Saturday night 16th March with a dance: and what a dance it was too. A young band from Bridge of Earn named the Carloways did the music. It was a sell-out.

Some people dressed up in 60s' outfits. It was BYOB and it was fun watching each person bring out their nibbles and even ice for their drinks. What a great night it was too. Stovies were served during the interval and there were lots of raffle prizes.

For a Charity, a bottle of Whisky was placed on the floor and people had to slide pound coins towards the bottle with the nearest being the winner. Evelyn won it. Well done.

Everyone really had a ball and enjoyed it so much. Memories of the nice music that really had a beat. Well done to the band. So good to see the young achieve their ambition. Well done to all the committee for making it all come together and giving Abernethy a night to remember for a long time.

**Lillias Johnston**

## HMRC SCAMS

A client brought a letter into the CAB that was supposed to be from HMRC, the Tax Office. It stated he had a tax rebate and his bank details were required to pay it to him. He wanted to know whether it was genuine. It certainly looked very convincing and only very detailed scrutiny revealed some errors of grammar and that the contact details were similar but not quite the same as the genuine HMRC.

If you get a letter that you are uncertain about then phone HMRC. Do not use the phone number on the letter. Look up HMRC in the phone book or on-line. They will welcome your call as they have a whole department dedicated to scams.

Another scam at the moment is to leave a recorded message stating that legal action is going to be taken for unpaid tax. A phone number is given so you can call and speak to the officer dealing with the case. Do NOT call this number. Once again, look up the real number of HMRC.

HMRC **never** send e-mails about Tax refunds or ask you to use a link. They may text you but will never ask you for any information. This is HMRC advice if you get an e-mail To help our investigations, report all HMRC related phishing emails and bogus text messages to us. Even if you get the same or similar phishing email or text message often, email it to [phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gsi.gov.uk) and then delete it.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is completely confidential. The articles I write for the Crier are always based on true stories but I disguise the client so they could never be identified.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment in the afternoon. If the line is busy you can leave a message and you will get a call-back. The number will come up as Withheld to protect your privacy. 01738 450580 is the Advice Line. This line is often busy but if you leave a message your call will be returned.

Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau.

There is also a web-site run by the CAB.

[Citizensadvice.org.uk](http://Citizensadvice.org.uk) covers many topics and is easy to use.

**A.H.**

## Some of the many photos of Old Abernethy held by the museum



Inside Tower Works, Abernethy - date unknown  
donated by George Brown, 23.8.2011



More pictures on Page 18





## COMMUNITY COUNCIL DONATES

Abernethy and District Community Council recently received three letters of application for financial assistance to help with club funds, the clubs were Abernethy Active Group, Abernethy in Bloom and the Senior Citizens.

It was unanimously agreed to donate £100 to each of the clubs.

If other local organisations would like to apply for funding to the ACC their applications will be carefully considered.

Jimmy Swan Chair.

## ABERNETHY SWI

In February we had Needle Felting with Jay Hutchison. This was "hands on" and members enjoyed making a bumble bee. Competition winners: Victoria Sponge 1<sup>st</sup> B Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Scobie, 3<sup>rd</sup> E Taylor. Flower of the Month 1<sup>st</sup> L Farmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> B Baird, 3<sup>rd</sup> E Taylor.

In March we had a very interesting Talk by Mr Ian Agnew, former Rector of Perth High School, entitled Tales of Russia. Competition winners: 1<sup>st</sup> L Farmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> B Baird, 3<sup>rd</sup> E Kettles. Flower of the Month 1<sup>st</sup> B Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup> S Scobie, 3<sup>rd</sup> L Farmer. In March we also held a very successful Quiz.

In April we had an Open Night when we welcomed Laura from Wiltshire Farm Foods, who gave a very interesting

insight into the company and brought along some meals for us to taste. Competition winners: Small Apple Tart 1<sup>st</sup> E Scobie, 2<sup>nd</sup> B Baird. Flower of the Month 1<sup>st</sup> B Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Kettles, 3<sup>rd</sup> M Corbishley.

Our next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May when we have a Members Night and presentation of the Annual Points Trophies. Competitions that evening will be: Favourite Bowl and Flower of the Month.

Meetings are held in the Church Session House (unless otherwise stated) on the third Wednesday of the month from September to May each year. New members and visitors are always welcome. Information about next year's programme will appear on the Village Notice Board, in Brian's window, and Facebook Page, when it is available.

Abernethy SWI will celebrate 90 years in September 2019. An afternoon Tea will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

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 RAINBOWS AND BROWNIES

Abernethy Rainbows and Brownies have space available for the new term starting in August 2019. We are hoping to increase our membership. Both sections run during term time in the Powrie Park Pavilion and are run by volunteers. We give up our time as it is so rewarding, challenging, varied but most of all great fun to work with the young girls of Abernethy, see them grow and develop through the various activities we provide. We currently have two young leaders who started out with Abernethy Rainbows and Brownies and our newest adult leader in training also started at Abernethy Rainbows and Brownies. So we're definitely keeping it 'in the family'. Girlguiding opens so many opportunities for girls from five upwards, all the way to leaders and Trefoil guild, it helps build firm friendships, self esteem and allows girls to experience activities and events they might not ever have the chance to do in a safe and secure environment. Rainbows is for girls aged 5-7 and is on Monday evenings 5:30-6:30 pm. Brownies is for 7-10 year olds and runs 6:45-8:15 pm on Monday evenings following Rainbows. We have a varied programme. Girlguiding has recently commenced a 'New Programme' and we started this in 2018. We have lots of fun and do various activities including badges, arts and crafts, parties, trips, sleepovers (Rainbows) and pack holidays (Brownies) to name a few. We also attend various events run by Perth Girlguiding County, when available, ranging from discos to Thinking Day events, bag a badge days and in the future county sleepovers/camps. We recently held a sleepover for both Abernethy Rainbows and Brownies at the Loch Lomond Aquarium. We slept under the shark tunnel and had a lot of fun. We have spaces available for both sections, particularly for the new P1 starts in August for Rainbows. We charge £24 per term for subs (covers hire of the hall, unit activities and badges etc.). We also have a separate annual subscription to Girlguiding called census which we pay to Girlguiding UK, this census is paid by all members including the volunteers. Trips and sleepovers etc are charged separately. Any girl if they are the appropriate age is welcome, we are an inclusive society. We will never turn away girls if they are the correct age. If you would like more information or to sign your daughter up please contact myself Mary Gallacher (07801658506) or via email, the Rainbows email is [abernethyrainbows@hotmail.com](mailto:abernethyrainbows@hotmail.com) and the Brownies email is [abernethybrownies@hotmail.com](mailto:abernethybrownies@hotmail.com) You can also look at the GG website at <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

**Mary Gallacher**

## NOT JUST BRICKS AND MORTAR

After watching a very interesting BBC documentary about the history of a house in Newcastle, I thought it would be a great idea for a new, hopefully long running, article for the Crier. What is the history behind *your* house.

Just to get it started.....

IVY COTTAGE, BACK DYKES, ABERNETHY.

The first entry on the title deeds of Ivy Cottage was on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1843 when the land, then owned by James Davidson, was sold to my Great Great Uncle Thomas Greenhill for £40 sterling. The land on the South and the East of this piece of land was also owned by Mr Davidson.

I reckon, reading between the lines along with various other documents, the house and weaver's shop was built between 1843 and 1855. The Valuation Roll gives Thomas as occupying the property in 1855. As you can see, externally, it hasn't changed that much, a few extensions.

Thomas was a cotton and wool weaver and a net fisher during the fishing season. As mentioned before part of the house was a weaver's shop. I can only assume they mean a shop as we know it or was it a building containing a loom stand where he wove garments for sale from his house, who knows? Weaving and salmon fishing were very important industries in Abernethy at that time. You can see how important it was from the fish on top of the flagpole on the Tower. That's how important it was.

Thomas Greenhill was born in Abernethy in 1795 and in 1830 was wed to Euphemia Duncan and they had seven bairns. Knowing Ivy Cottage very well, having lived here since I was a bairn, the cottage of my childhood probably hadn't changed much from Thomas's time, one bedroom, a living room, a kitchen and an outside toilet and of course the shop cum loom stand.

In 1868 Thomas died leaving his property to his daughters Helen and Barbara Greenhill. However, the Valuation Roll of 1875/76 shows the house and weaver's shop is occupied by their brother Thomas Jnr, occupation Salmon fisher. Is he now running the business or just living there?



(to be continued)



# **Draft Minutes of the Abernethy and District Community Council Meeting in the Mason Hall On the 25th of April 2019 at 7:00pm.**

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

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

7 members of the public in attendance

**Apologies:** Mr D Illingworth (DI)

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

**Police Update:-** Jim Pentley and a colleague attended the meeting to report on a recent incidence of vandalism at Abernethy Primary School which is currently being investigated. Jim also mentioned that a third party had reported a dog attack on Cordon Road last week. Jim urged members of the public with information on any of these incidents to contact one of the community officers.

## **Planning:-**

**Binn Wind Farm** - The recent planning application to increase the size of the proposed turbines has been rejected by PKC Planning and Development Committee by 7 votes to 5 on the grounds of unacceptable adverse landscape impact and visual impacts. Decision notice attached Appendix 1.

**Plastic Plant** – Recycling Technologies SEPA appeal is still ongoing.

**Southfield** – The planning application has still to go before Perth & Kinross Planning and Development Committee.

signposted and registered.

**Book Exchange:-** We got a positive response on social media to the idea of utilising the decommissioned BT phone box in Abernethy into a free book exchange library for the village. An article will be published in the Crier seeking community views on the proposal.

**Tower Lights:-** Ongoing – Abernethy Church have still to give written permission for

**Local Area Maintenance and Upkeep:-** KB agreed to chase up the proposed Hall Park car-park which hasn't been started yet.

JS submitted a written response to PKC Road Partnership Provision of Winter Services request.

With the Committee's approval LB will submit a referral for Community Payback Team for help clearing/cutting back the banking off the Perth Rd opposite Nurse Peattie's garden and replacing the fence next to the pavement.

A sincere thank you to the group of volunteers who have been out twice recently doing litter picks in the area resulting in a remarkable improvement especially between Aberargie and Abernethy. If any groups in the village would be interested in carrying out litter picks please contact the CC by email at [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com).

## **AOCB:-**

**Hatton Rd Project:-** The final drawing of the new garden is complete and attached to the minutes at Appendix 2. Funding applications are underway to get the project off the ground. Abernethy in Bloom are currently seeking suggestions of a name for the new garden. Name suggestions should be submitted to the Abernethy in Bloom Committee.

**Sunflower Competition:-** The village is holding a kids sunflower competition. Plants can be collected from Jimmy Swan's home on Back Dykes. Judging will take place in August in each participant's garden. Stem measurements will be judged. Contact information should be left with JS to enable ease of judging coordination come August. Take up has been slow and youngsters are encouraged to get involved. LB will advertise the competition on social media.

**Funding Applications:-**The Committee has received 3 written letter of funding applications from local groups. It was agreed to pay the sum of £100 each to Abernethy Keep Fit group, Abernethy and District Senior Citizen Trust and to the Abernethy in Bloom group. Cheques were presented to reps from the groups at the meeting. Funding applications are now closed until the next full financial year starts in November 2019 keeping in line with the new CC Establishment Scheme Guidance.

**Volunteer Driver Group:-**There has been a slow update for this service and villagers are reminded that the driver service is operational and looking for customers.

**Slovak Embassy Event:-**AM advised the meeting that he has received an email from the Slovak Embassy in London looking to visit the grave of R.W. Seton-Watson and hold a social event sometime in August this year. The plan is to visit the grave then hold a small reception, possibly at Jamesfield. Honorary guests from Slovakia, the Scottish Government and representatives from Abernethy are to be invited to attend. Further information to follow.

**Retiral:-**Bruce McNaughton announced his retiral from the Community Council due to family commitments. The committee warmly thanked Bruce for his time serving on the council and for sharing his expertise and knowledge. Bruce was wished well for a long and happy retirement.

The meeting closed at 8:05PM

Date of Next Meeting: AGM on Thursday the 30th May 2019 @ 7pm

**Linda Buchan Sec.**

## FLORA IS GROWING UP

Abernethy residents may remember the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2011 at 7.30am when Flora was born in the pony field at Station Road.



She was very tiny and you have read some of her adventures in the Crier as she has grown up. Her mother, Bella, is a

long distance pony. She has been Scottish Endurance

Champion and in 2009 she won the National 160km ride at the Dukeries in England by completing 100 miles in one day.



Flora has started to follow in her mother's hoof prints. In 2017 she had her first ride of 18km with her mother for company and then another with Fennela. In 2018 she did 8 rides of between 20-25km by herself as well as enjoying learning to jump.

2019 has seen her start her novice Year in Endurance and she is discovering new experiences all the time on rides of 30km.



The wind was blowing hard on the beach near Dunbar which took some getting used to.

River crossings have to be negotiated.



After all this she has to trot up nicely for the vet and stand to have her heart rate taken by the vet. So if you

see her round the village wish her good luck with everything she is learning. The pony field at Station Road is having a summer rest but when she is back there you can say hello to her and she will always appreciate an apple or a carrot. Seeing all the children and bikes and buggies is all a useful part of her training.

**AH**

**It is with regret that we her of the death of Mrs Betty Kemp.**



## TWO YEARS IN.

It's been two years since the voters of Almond and Earn decided to elect me to be a councillor at Perth and Kinross Council. It certainly wasn't my silver tongued skills of persuasion that got me there, as I couldn't even persuade my own children to vote for me. To be honest, I'm not even sure how my wife voted. It is a secret ballot, y'know.

Anyway, what have I learned since 2017?

For a start, the council is massive. It employs over 4,000 people and has an annual turnover of over £400 million pounds. It's complex and provides a wide range of services, some of which you may not even be aware of. These include cremations, kinship care, bin collections, Kids' clubs, community engagement, care in the community, health care and that's only some of the things that alliterate with K. Judging from my mailbox, the topics that generate the most interest among constituents are road safety, potholes and dog fouling and I think we are making progress on those three issues.

A lot of the complexity comes from the wide of groups of stakeholders who have an interest in the running of the council. Constituents, service users, Community Councils, employees, senior management, the Scottish Government, the Care Commission, Councillors all have to have a say. Like all large organisations, including private companies, the different groups of stakeholders operate like a coalition. There are, and should be, some conflicts between the stakeholder groups, but on the whole, the organisation operates reasonably well. Many of the decisions the council makes are constrained by laws made by the Scottish Parliament and the UK government. Most of the time, the council runs on precedent, that is, it depends on things running the way they have always run. That is not necessarily a bad thing as it allows services to be delivered day to day, but it can make things difficult to change when change is needed.

One of the greatest privileges of being a councillor, is meeting with the many super-citizens who volunteer so much of their time to organisations that create a sense of community. Where there is a sense of community, where people feel they belong all sorts of things go well: less vandalism; less litter; improved school results; reduced loneliness and better mental health amongst many other benefits.

In Abernethy, we are blessed to have:

Abernethy in Bloom;  
Abernethy Keep Active Club;  
Lunch Club;

Guides;  
Scouts;  
Williamson Hall Committee;  
Abernethy Community Cinema;  
The Church;  
Toddlers Group;  
Abernethy Primary School Parent Council;  
Abernethy Community Council;  
Abernethy Tennis Club;  
Abernethy Bowling Club;  
Abernethy Walking Group;  
Abernethy Burns Society;  
Various book clubs;  
JRock;  
Badminton Club;  
Abernethy Museum;  
Auld Abernethy Association;  
Abernethy Horticultural Society;  
  
The ladies who recently picked many bags of litter from roadside at both ends of the village;  
  
And not forgetting the volunteers who run this fine journal – The Abernethy Crier.

Apologies, if I've missed out a group.

Across the whole ward of Almond and Earn there are similar organisations who make everybody's life so much better.

Of course, Councillors do not have magic wands and I won't make promises I can't keep but it is a real pleasure when people come to you with a challenge and you're able to make a difference and sort it for them, for example, housing. If there is something, you'd like me to help with then let me know and I'll do my best. My email address is [dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk)

**David Illingworth**

## THE TANK

"You're kidding me? It's four weeks before Christmas and you won't deliver heating oil!"

"There's nothing wrong with that tank, it's eighteen years old and scratched that's all!"

"What do you mean, you can give me the name of someone who can replace the tank? This is a sales pitch!"

Well, next morning. I went out with a rag and my T-cut to polish out the scratches on the plastic. I'd show them. And we wouldn't be spending New Year in the cold, either.

Except... the scratches didn't polish out. There definitely were two teeny-weeny itty-bitsy polka dot bikini hairline cracks in the tank\*. So I googled and yah-hoo'ed and YouTube'd, but there was no way to repair it, even temporarily. Tanker drivers have a legal responsibility to check tanks for damage before pumping oil because 28 Second kerosene is incredibly toxic and spills can be extremely damaging to the environment. Large leakages are also expensive to fix and can make your home uninhabitable for months.

Due to shifts and annual leave, it took a couple of days to get through to the lady I'd been so rude to at the heating oil company. There hadn't been any foul language, but it was inappropriate to be so angry, when she and the tank driver had only been obeying the law and doing their job properly. She was very kind when I said how sorry I was.

After a lot of phone calls and emails, we got a temporary oil tank installed and, thankfully, Christmas and New Year in our house was warm and cosy. We, now, have a snazzy new double skinned, fully bunded oil tank. It hasn't been cheap, but it would have cost a whole lot more and been massively inconvenient if 1200 litres of poisonous oil had leaked out onto Kirk Wynd.

\* you're showing your age if you remember that song,

**David Illingworth**

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

Digitally discover Abernethy in the 1070s - a meeting place for medieval kings  
Virtual Reality Exhibit at Museum of Abernethy

The Museum of Abernethy has a new virtual reality exhibit revealing how Abernethy (in Perth and Kinross) may have appeared in the 1070s, when it was the scene of a meeting between the rulers of Scotland and England.

In 1072 William of Normandy, who had recently conquered England, brought a fleet of ships up the River Tay. He was met at Abernethy by the King of Scots, Malcolm Canmore, and the two entered into peace negotiations.

At this time Abernethy was a major religious centre, and the home of a community of Culdees (holy men following a strict form of religious life popular in Scotland and Ireland).

Today the main reminder of Abernethy's extraordinary early mediaeval history is the tall round tower, which perhaps served as a bell tower for the Culdees.

The new exhibit at the Museum of Abernethy places the round tower in its eleventh-century context. Visitors can now virtually explore the ancient church of St Bride, and the wider religious enclosure as they may have been in the Early Middle Ages.

The digital reconstruction of Abernethy was created by Smart History (a spin-out company from the University of St Andrews, which specialises in the digital representation of history and heritage). The project arose from a collaboration with the Tay Landscape Partnership and Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, and was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The reconstruction of mediaeval Abernethy was inspired by study of the surviving round tower and its surroundings, and comparison with early monastic sites in Ireland.

We, at the Museum, are thrilled with this exciting addition to our repertoire which adds a new dimension to how people can visualise Abernethy's past.

The Museum of Abernethy is open from 1pm to 4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 4 May to 29 September.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you here.

**Lesley Robinson, Chair, Museum of Abernethy.**  
**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**  
**Charity Number: SC023100**  
**[www.museumofabernethy.co.uk](http://www.museumofabernethy.co.uk)**



*Abernethy as seen in the Virtual Reality Exhibit - come and experience being there.*



## VILLAGE SHAME



Helena Mcallister, Carole Thomson, Evelyn Scobie, Bridget McDonald and Maureen Henderson picked at least 16 bags of litter from the roadside between Aberargie and Abernethy. In addition Bridget and Sheena McNaughton have been collecting litter in and around the village for many years. The community spirit displayed is to be applauded and we cannot say enough in support of them but two thoughts;

- Why is it there in the first place? Who is throwing it away?
- Why aren't we organising this on a regular basis with village volunteers?

It should not be left to a few to do our clearing up. We have Abernethy in Bloom who have done a wonderful job of beautifying the area. Now we need to have a Clean Abernethy.

## WILLIAMSON HALL REFURBISHMENT

It is with great pleasure that we announce stage 2 of the Williamson Hall refurbishment. Rewind 'four years to 2015 and you may recall the hall had some major works done to the main hall, ante room, kitchen and ladies' toilets giving the community a much more desirable village hall. Bookings continue to go from strength to strength, with the hall hosting childrens' birthday parties to 100-guest weddings - we like to think we have the facilities for most of your needs.

Thanks to the money raised at the annual fete, which is very well supported by the community, and a Community Investment Fund grant, stage 2 of our refurbishment sees us updating the men's toilets which will give us new access into shower room facilities - this will be even more beneficial to the residential groups that visit and stay at the hall at least twice a year! The work is planned to start

over the summer holidays as bookings are naturally quieter. We will keep you updated of progress via our FB page Williamson Hall, Abernethy - please follow this page to keep updated.

If you would like to book the hall for your next event then please contact Andrea Dewar on 07968978432 / [andrea.dewar@talktalk.net](mailto:andrea.dewar@talktalk.net).

Also, did you know the following activities are on each week up at the hall. These groups are right on your doorstep and are a means of the community coming together and enjoying the services they offer as well as the great facilities of the hall. Please come along and support these groups:-

Mondays at 8pm - Pilates (contact [miklosik.mariann@gmail.com](mailto:miklosik.mariann@gmail.com))

Tuesdays at 7pm - Aerobics (Body Attack)/circuits/toning and at 8pm Body Balance (taichi, pilates, yoga) (contact [andrea.dewar@talktalk.net](mailto:andrea.dewar@talktalk.net))

Wednesdays at 6.30pm - Abz Fitness (contact [Kinnes115@sky.com](mailto:Kinnes115@sky.com))

Thursdays at 9.30am - Mother & Toddler Group (contact [louisehale@icloud.com](mailto:louisehale@icloud.com))

Thursdays at 7.30pm - Line Dancers (contact [marr9lw@btinternet.com](mailto:marr9lw@btinternet.com))

Thank you for your continued support, as without it refurbishment works like these would not be possible!

**The Williamson Hall Committee**

## KIRK NEWS

Look out for the summer newsletter from the Rev Stan Kennon in the Crier.

Thanks to all of you who helped with or supported the Church coffee morning in April. The sum raised was £554.20.

**You are warmly invited** to come to any of the services or activities below.

Morning worship

**For 2019, the service in Abernethy will be at 11am** and in Glenfarg at 9.30 am. However, on July 28<sup>th</sup>, and Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be **no** service in Abernethy

**United services:** are at 11am in Abernethy on June 30<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> August at 11am in Glenfarg on July 28<sup>th</sup> and Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

There will be **no service** in Abernethy when the United Service is in Glenfarg.

Drinks and refreshments are served afterwards. Anyone wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01337 840 218

**Children's Sunday Club** meets in school term time during the morning services at each location. The young people enjoy a time of Bible stories, fun, games, crafts, drama and songs. Out of term times, there are toys and books in the adjacent hall cupboard which parents and carers can access as well as 'fun bags' in church for young children.

**Holy Communion:** is to be on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August in Glenfarg

**Church 'Open Doors':** meets fortnightly on Tuesdays from 4<sup>th</sup> June onwards from 2.30 - 4pm – a time for refreshments and chat in the adjacent church hall. If you want to spend some quiet time or have a 'look around' the church as well, you are invited!

### **Village 'Welcome' packs**

These packs contain useful telephone numbers and information, about 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! 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 upgraded facilities please contact Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850 477.

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

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

Rev Stan Kennon, 01738 850 194  
[Session.Clerk@ada-church.org.uk](mailto:Session.Clerk@ada-church.org.uk)  
Bill Macpherson; Tel: 01577 830 430

## **FROM THE MINISTER**

As I write this, the endless problems of Brexit continue and the postponement of the event has done nothing to alleviate people's anxieties. Regardless of our political views, it is true that Scotland has always looked outwards towards Europe and the world and Edinburgh has aye been a very cosmopolitan place. Scots have generally welcomed others and historically, in turn, have populated the furthest reaches of our globe. But having said that, we are always rather wary of folk that we don't recognise and they arouse in us a feeling of suspicion which is hard to ignore.

In my last parish, on one Sunday, the congregation had an unexpected visit from a very smart unknown man in a dark suit. He stuck out like a sore thumb because he chose to sit alone in a pew in which no-one ever sat and in a remote part of the kirk that hadn't seen a worshipper since the place was built. Despite me making a big thing of welcoming him, he sat quietly, head down and throughout the service he seemed to be scribbling notes in a little book. At the end, before I could even shake hands with him at the door and quiz him about his identity, he shot off like greased lightning.

The next weekend, all became perfectly (and slightly frighteningly) clear. It turned out that he was a part-time journalist for *The Scotsman* newspaper snooping in on our worship incognito and he wrote an article about the church service which was published the following Saturday. I received four stars for my sermon, which I thought was OK and he described me as "gorgeous" which I wasn't so sure about! So he was forgiven for the initial consternation he caused. Just as well everyone had been nice to him and had given him a warm welcome. It just goes to show that we never can tell who the stranger in our midst might be.

The Bible is full of instances where the stranger or visitor is made welcome. A very deeply held middle eastern trait even to this day. And so, in this respect, Islamic and Jewish cultures are quite similar to our own Scottish characteristic of extending hospitality. We read in our Christian scriptures of this hospitality often being followed by wonderful and unexpected things. And we know that Jesus himself put into practice the advice we find in the Book of Leviticus (a book not always regarded as politically correct in so many ways): *"count him as one of your own countrymen and love him as yourself for you were once strangers yourselves"*.

Whatever the realities of Brexit, the last thing we should do as Christian people or indeed Scottish folk of any religion or none, is to become xenophobic because we never have been like that. Shady men in black suits, unknown strangers and unexpected visitors should be welcomed as indeed should all who draw near to our fellowship this Summer regardless of where they might come from.



Whether you intend to stay at home or go away over the holiday period, I wish you all a very happy time. And whilst I cannot promise a four star sermon every Sunday, there is always plenty of room in the kirk pews for visitors. And whether you ever drop in or not, I really do hope that, in your journeying, you receive some four star sunshine.

**Sincerely, (Rev) Stan.**

## **FRAE OOR COONCILLOR**

**Spotlight on Road Safety.** What matters to you matters to the Council and Councillors. The Council's Traffic and Network team probably is one of the busiest departments of the council receiving numerous requests from Councillors, Community Councils and members of the public on all traffic and road safety issues. Everybody uses the road network. The team are also responsible for the promotion of initiatives which encourage healthier lifestyles through cycling and walking. These initiatives can assist in the reduction of traffic congestion and improve the local environment. Significant investment has been made to improve road safety in Perth & Kinross. Speed of traffic and bad driving are on the Agenda at most CC meetings. Additional funding has enabled the team to deliver many road safety schemes, progress has been made but there is an ever increasing number of requests for the implementation of additional road safety measures. It is a challenge for council officers to decide which community's need is most important. Each community thinks their request should be top of the list. There is a backlog of 500 requests waiting to be added to the list, and each request requires design, consultation and funding.

**How to manage this?** I am Vice Convener of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee and at the meeting in March we agreed a criteria based system for prioritising incoming requests for road safety schemes. All requests will be listed in descending order of priority, with highest scoring requests being programmed into the work stream as resources allow, once assessed and scored against criteria.

**What are the criteria?** Assessment criteria are based on number of reported collisions, casualties, environment, school travel plan, sustainable transport, road alignment, cost and land availability. By the end of the year the prioritised list will be available online through [myPKC](#). I hope this will make it easier to understand why any request for a VAS sign or similar request may have to wait. The public must realise that this is not a waiting list. If subsequent requests are received which are deemed a priority they will be placed higher on the list than existing

requests which have been on the list for some time. I hope this gives a little insight into the challenges facing councillors.

The environment matters to everyone and we can all play a small part in looking after our own neighbourhood. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in a litter pick in April whether with a group or picking up litter when you are out for a walk. We all notice the difference. We just need to stop dropping litter or throwing from a car or van!!

Volunteers are the backbone of communities and in March Almond & Earn Partnership through Community Investment fund awarded funding to the following groups in Abernethy providing funding for the Williamson Hall to upgrade the gents' toilet, the Pavilion to help with renovations and to Abernethy School Nursery for blinds. The Partnership will again have funding of £50k for the year. As yet we have not decided how best we can use the money to tackle any inequality within the whole ward. Almond & Earn Partnership really would like someone from Abernethy/Aberargie to join the partnership. I am happy to have a chat. An interest in community and equalities is essential.

Abernethy in Bloom spring planters have been enjoyed by visitors and residents and I look forward to the summer displays. I am sure they would welcome more helpers to help with watering and weeding.

By the time you read this summer will almost be upon us, I wish you all a good summer and hope all events planned; the Fete, School Sports, Gardens Open Day, etc. are successful.

**Councillor Kathleen Baird**

**Contact details [kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk) , 01738475086, mob 07584206839**

## **FRAE YER ITHAR COONCILLOR**

Time has once again come round for the people of Abernethy to be kept up to date with what is happening in the Council and its impact on all that live in the area of Abernethy.

The biggest impact for all is the increase in Council Tax by 4% per year for the year plus the same 4% increases over the next two years. That is an increase of 12.7% compound.

Well you could say that this will protect the services that we expect from our council. After all its been well said that all the so-called easy cuts have been taken and any other cuts will have a far greater impact on local communities. However the administration budget did nothing to convince or comfort anyone that this is the scenario. The past budget came on the back of SNP budgets and some of the administration were very quick to point out that "the SNP set this up and we cannot change it". That narrative is well past its sell by date.

You may say that I would say that anyway. Really? We are now "in the midst" of a review that will most likely make a reduction in School Crossing Patrol Officers. This service is not statutory, the administration being content that if new light-controlled crossings are installed, these areas will lose the School Crossing Patrol Officer, regardless of how busy or not the road happens to be.

The administration in Perth Council also succeeded in pushing through a motion that school meals production will be relocated outside Perthshire to Dundee with the cost of 50 jobs throughout rural Perthshire. If this plan goes ahead our school children are expected to eat meals prepared by staff employed at a Dundee based unit, then frozen transported to the schools to be defrosted and then reheated. No consultation before this decision. No proper costings into how this proposal will be cost effective. Crucially we have no resistance from the administration group in Perth Council to this scheme even though the impact on rural employment in PKC. Councillors should have at least requested council officers that recommended this motion to consider any idea of centralising the preparing of school meals to be kept within PKC boundary that would perhaps reduce the impact on employment within PKC.

Although the planning for the additional height of 4 turbines at the Binn Eco-Park was unsuccessful, I am sure the community hope that an acceptable solution is found to the supply of power the Eco-Park. An Eco -Park with such a carbon footprint as the Binn has, with the reliance on diesel powered generation, is very concerning. Binn Group are an important employer within the area and sustainability of operations is crucial to ensure employment levels in our area are retained or increased in the future.

I wish you all a guid summer with plenty of opportunities to get a great tan.

**Yer Ither Cooncillor**  
**Henry Anderson** Contact details – 01738  
475039 - mob 07899062122  
Email- [handerson@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:handerson@pkc.gov.uk).

## VISITORS FROM SLOVAKIA

Around the 20th August (date t.b.c.) representatives from the Slovak Embassy in London will be visiting Abernethy to mark 140 years since the birth of Robert W. Seton-Watson whom they, and others in that part of Europe, hold in high regard. Their visit will be more widely advertised nearer the time.

Robert's family lived in Ayton House, Aberargie, and he is buried in the walled compound of Abernethy cemetery.

He was a distinguished historian, politician and writer, and he campaigned vigorously for the self-determination of ethnic groups long subjugated by the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As a result, he was thanked for his efforts on their behalf by the delegates from Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia after the Paris Peace Conference in 1919, although he was considerably less popular with the major powers (UK included) whom he described as the 'pygmies of Paris'. Later, too, he opposed Neville Chamberlain's appeasement of Hitler, as Czechoslovakia was sacrificed. Slovakia was part of Czechoslovakia from 1918 to 1993.

R. W. Seton-Watson died in 1951 on Skye.

More information, including an image of Robert on a postage stamp, is available in the Museum of Abernethy. Just another prominent individual connected to the village!

**Angus Macintyre.**

## CONTRIBUTORS

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.

**We would request that you submit all your contributions to [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk). This will mean that we can maintain a readily accessible archive of all submissions. Those who currently send content directly to Jimmy Swan should use the new address. Those of you who submit their content on paper may continue to do so.**

**Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.**

In keeping with the village Facebook page we are looking to you, our readers, to send us your best Abernethy photos for publication in the Crier. Each quarter the committee will select their champion for publication on the front page.



## AULD ABERNETHIANS



The family and life of Ian Bett embody the working history of Abernethy.



His Grandmother was Janet Powrie. The Powries were salmon fishers in the Spring and Summer. This photo shows Ian's father, Archie Bett, third from the right on the back row. At the end of the nineteenth century the Powries were salmon Tacksman. They rented the fishing on the River Tay between Newburgh and Perth and provided crews, boats and nets. Many men in the village worked at the salmon fishing and their kists would be carted down to Ferryfield from where men could be taken by boat to their seasonal stations. At the turn of the century they lost the fishing as farmers and landowners formed syndicates and more fish were left to go up river for sporting estates. The Powries then went to the Dee in spring, where this photo was taken, and the West Coast in summer.

Archie Bett was born in the corner house on the square, known as the Binque. The shed next door where Clotie McToot's Dumplings now trade was the headquarters of the family business of carters, coal merchants and contractors.



This photo is about 1918 as the house on the right was demolished to make way for the War Memorial. Ian's Grandfather, Charles is holding the horse on the left. He died in his forties and Ian's father, then in his twenties had to take over the business and responsibility for eight younger siblings. He ran the business in winter and was away to the fishing in the spring.

One of these horses might have been the one taken by Archie by train to Achnasheen via Inverness. Archie then rode him up Glen Docherty. They spent the night at the Loch Maree Hotel and continued to Laide on Gruinard Bay. The horse transported the salmon from the west coast fishing stations over rough moorland and tracks to Gairloch from where a boat took it to Kyle of Lochalsh then a train to Billingsgate Fish Market in London.



*Archie and Annie Bett, Ian's parents.*

Ian was born in 1943 in a cottage in the close opposite the Square which was known as Bett's Close and where his sister still lives. He was the youngest of seven children, five boys and two girls. He was educated at Abernethy Primary School and Perth Academy then joined General Accident Insurance as a Trainee Underwriter where he met his wife, Liz, and they were married in 1967.



When his father retired he took over the family business. He bought the first lorry and these gradually replaced the horses. The last horse retired about 1970. The yard was where the new houses are in Clunie Street.

All goods came in by railway; coal, beer, provisions and bolts of cloth for Clow's factory. Carted to the station from Abernethy were potatoes, sugar beet to

Cupar and of course, raspberries. They also had raspberry fields all over Abernethy and cattle at Midfield. They collected the refuse and it was dumped along Hatton Road below the railway.



Competition from Europe and South America led to the decline of raspberry growing and Ian went back to the insurance business. He joined Wesleyan Insurance and became the Collections Manager for Scotland. He and Liz had two boys, Stewart, who gained prizes for showing cattle whilst at Midfield before going into farming and Alan who went into publishing in Edinburgh.

Ian was part of a group on the Williamson Hall Committee who ran an annual Burns Supper and then formed the Burns Club of Abernethy in 2004. He is also Past President of Perth Burns Club and the Kinross Jolly Beggars, which was founded by a great-nephew of Robert Burns. He is Past President of the Bowling Club and was twice Club Champion and played for the Perthshire team, both indoor and outdoor bowls. He was Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Abernethy Round Tower and received a certificate commemorating 50 years of membership from the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Ian remembers when street lighting in Abernethy was by gas lamps which were lit every night. The tower bell rang every evening at eight o'clock to remind children to go home to settle down for the night. The biggest change he has seen is the demise of raspberry growing. Abernethy

was surrounded by raspberry fields and there were a dozen full and part time growers. He is very pleased that the influx of newcomers into the village has helped with the growth of so many thriving organisations including, of course, the Village Crier, which he helps deliver.

**A.H.**

## **ABERNETHY OPEN GARDENS**

**Saturday, 15th June 2019 10am-5pm.**

**£5 for Adults, Kids free. (All funds go to Abernethy in Bloom and Scotland's Garden Scheme)**

As part of the Open Gardens of Scotland Scheme a number of gardens in and around Abernethy will be opening their gates. This should prove a lovely day out with a chance to see into a variety of gardens, from the wonderful postage stamp vegetable plots of James Roy Court to the large expanses of Pitcurran or Carey.

Tickets will be available from any of the gardens on the day or from Mornington Cottage, School Wynd the week before (keir.allen@gmail.com). This will have a map of all the gardens, the best way to travel and details of any refreshments or plant sales at each garden. On the day we will have large yellow signs at each garden and arrows if the route is in any way complex. Some of the gardens have long access paths on very narrow roads so please consider walking or biking. If you do drive please consider where safe passing is possible and park where indicated.

An na Beatha 27-29 Main Street PH29JH (Heather and Reid Martin): The garden is on the main street within the conservation village and is a classic example of the village long garden that is common to the area. An orchard, vegetable patch and polytunnels are complemented by a wide range of perennials.

Broomhill, PH2 9LQ (Jane Anstice): TBC

Carey House PH2 9LN (Caroline Boyle): An artist's garden with impressive planting, sculptures dotted throughout, ponds, summerhouse and much more. This large garden has been created from bare fields in the last ten years and continues to improve with age.

Eastbank Cottage Perth Road PH2 9LR (Mike & Elsa Thompson): Traditional Scottish cottage, a third of an acre garden, walled and bounded by a small burn to the east. Erythroniums, varieties of wood anemones, trillium, a fine display of clematis, rhododendrons and azaleas.



This garden is also open by arrangement 1 April - 30 June.

Gattaway PH2 9LQ (Chris Farmer): A work in progress but the progress has been spectacular. A pair of walled gardens, one with hens, the other with soft fruit and pigs, a series of lawns with border are all being developed into a beautiful garden with views down onto the village.

James Roy Court, School Wynd, PH2 9JJ: Postage stamp wonder gardens. The development on the site of the old school, each resident has a small area of garden and has utilised it to the full with colour and uniqueness a plenty.

Mornington Cottage School Wynd PH2 9JJ (Keir Allen): A large vegetable garden, bordered by espalier apple trees and a range of soft fruits. The garden is linked to the old garden of Morfnington House with an orchard, a croquet lawn and borders of shrubs and flowers.

Nurse Peattie's Garden Main Street PH2 (Abernethy in Bloom): This garden is the hub of the work that Abernethy in Bloom carry out around the whole village. It is a colourful and tranquil escape which has been restored to its former glory in the last four years.

Pitcurran House PH2 9LH (Patricia Noel-Paton): At the east end of the village this large garden contains an interesting combination of trees, rare shrubs and herbaceous plants. The rose pergola is a wonderful place to sit and gaze out over the Tay. This garden is also open by arrangement 1 May - 30 September.

**Keir Allen**

## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

With lighter evenings and (hopefully) some decent weather the tennis season is now getting in to full swing.

We hold a couple of regular weekly events (weather permitting) - Rusty Racquets is on Monday evenings and has two qualified coaches on hand to help you improve your game, whether you are already an accomplished player or a complete beginner. Club night is on Wednesday evening and is a great way to get to know other members and have a friendly game. Newcomers and prospective members of all abilities are very welcome to come along and join in on either evening.

For this year we are offering 50% off the usual annual membership costs - it is now only £25 for an annual adult membership and £47.50 for family membership (2 adults and up to 4 children), which entitles you to unlimited use of our two courts at Powrie Park all year round. For details on how to join and for more information please take a look at our website - [www.abernethytennisclub.co.uk](http://www.abernethytennisclub.co.uk) or find us on

facebook.

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

**Chris Farmer**

## ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Following March's AGM, Abernethy Horticultural Society will now be operating on a somewhat different basis than in the past. Rather than holding a regular monthly programme of meetings with guest speakers through the winter months, the society will now be running ad hoc events throughout the year. We hope this will provide the opportunity for more garden visits, practical activities and community events, in addition to talks by guest speakers when they are available.

It was also decided to no longer charge any annual membership subscription – yes, it is now completely FREE to be a member of the Horti! Being a member is the best way to be kept informed about upcoming activities and events – to be added to our contacts list please get in touch at [abernethyhorticultural@googlemail.com](mailto:abernethyhorticultural@googlemail.com)

**AHS Committee (Jane Sanderson, Evelyn Scobie, Margaret Donaldson, Gerben De Vries)**

## MORE FROM THE MUSEUM COLLECTION



Abernethy Station c 1900



Off to the Kirk



I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore  
So, remember I do like you  
And wish that you were here  
But now it's nearly mail time  
So must say "goodnight dear"

There I stood beside the post box  
With a face so very red  
Instead of mailing you my letter  
I had opened it instead

## WHA'S LIKE US?



The average Englishman in the house he calls his castle  
slips into his national costume — a shabby raincoat  
patented by – Chemist, Charles Macintosh from Glasgow,  
Scotland.

En route to his office he strides along an English lane  
surfaced by John Macadam from Ayr, Scotland.

He drives an English car fitted with tyres invented by John  
Boyd Dunlop, veterinary surgeon from Dregdom, Scotland.

In the office he receives the mail bearing adhesive stamps  
invented by John Chalmers, bookseller and printer from  
Dundee, Scotland.

During the day he uses the telephone invented by  
Alexander Graham Bell born in Edinburgh, Scotland. At  
home in the evening his daughter pedals her bicycle  
invented by Kirkpatrick Macmillan, blacksmith, from  
Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

He watches the news on TV, an invention of John Logie  
Baird of Helensburgh, Scotland and hears an item about  
the US Navy founded by John Paul Jones from Kirkbean,  
Scotland.

Nowhere can an Englishman turn to escape the ingenuity  
of the Scots.

He has by now been reminded too much of Scotland and,  
in desperation, picks up the bible, only to find that the first  
man mentioned in the good book is a Scot – King James  
VI – who authorized its translation.

He could take to drink but the Scots make the best in the  
world.

He could take a rifle and end it all but the breech-loading  
rifle was invented by Patrick Ferguson of Pitfours, Scotland.

Entertainment in Abernethy

## ODE TO OLD AGE

Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And more mixed up in the head  
For sometimes I can't remember  
When I stand at foot of stair  
If I must go up for something  
Or I've just come down from there  
And before the Fridge so often  
My poor mind is filled with doubt  
Have I just put food away, or  
Have I come to take some out  
And there're times when it is dark out  
With my night cap on my head  
I don't know if I'm retiring  
Or just getting out of bed  
So if it's my time to write you  
There's no need in getting sore



If he escaped death he could find himself on an operating table injected with penicillin discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming of Darvel, Scotland and given chloroform, an anaesthetic discovered by Sir James Young Simpson, obstetrician and gynaecologist of Bathgate, Scotland.

Out of the anaesthetic he would find no comfort in learning that he was as safe as the Bank of England founded by William Paterson of Dumfries, Scotland.

Perhaps his only remaining hope would be to get a transfusion of guid Scottish blood which would entitle him to ask-

**Wha's like us**

## **ABERNETHY IN BLOOM**

The first of April was the start of another year for Abernethy In Bloom. Just in time to start clearing away all the old growth and getting ready to welcome in the Spring in all its glory.

Just a thought; if you have any spare bulbs, have a look at where you might plant them to add to even more spring colour throughout the village next year.

Unfortunately, the deer took a liking to the Tulips in and around Nurse Peattie's garden, so they were rather depleted this year. Will have to think of something different to plant next time.

At our AGM in March the current management team were re-elected for another year; Sonia Simmers as Chair, Margaret Donaldson as Treasurer and Ian Lamond as Secretary. Other members of the group were co-opted to help in a number of supporting roles.

As you go about the village you will notice us wearing our new Hi-Viz waistcoats. These were kindly sponsored by Jelf Clark Thomson, local insurance broker, based at Whitefriars Street in Perth. They will improve the safety of our group especially when working on the streets and roundabout.

The school had their Eco day on the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Abernethy In Bloom had a lovely time with the children helping to plant out their pots and containers. Will just have to remind them not to forget to water the plants.

June 15<sup>th</sup> is Open Gardens day in Abernethy. Keir Allen is organizing the day so get out with the family and see the gardens on display within the village. This includes Nurse Peattie's garden which Abernethy In Bloom are now working hard for all to see it at its best.

We have received a kind donation of £100 from the Abernethy Community Council. This will be used towards the purchase of plants to keep Abernethy bright and cheerful.

We now have the final plan for the Hatton Road Project which we will display throughout the village. Timescales for a start to the project are now dependent upon raising the Funding which is being managed by 'Take A Pride In Perth & Kinross'. However, we still need a name for the new garden. So please give it some thought and let us know your choice either through the Community Council or to the Abernethy In Bloom secretary.

The return of the warm weather has reminded us that we will need help again this year to water the floral displays around the village. If you have a planter near you, your help to keep it moist throughout the summer would be much appreciated. Thank you to all who assisted with the watering last year and hope that you will be able to volunteer again this year, especially for the summer planting.

Following our successes in 2018, we are taking a break from competitions this year. This will allow us to concentrate on our gardening projects so we are ready again for competition in 2020.

### ***'Bloomin Marvellous Container Competition':***

This year's Container and Street competition will be held on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>. You can use the attached Entry Form or pick one up from the 'Berryfields' Tea Room. This is the opportunity for all ages young and old, to take part and enter either a single container or a group of floral displays of any shape or size.

Last year we had some terrific displays, from a Marine scene, a Bathing Beauty displaying her floral attributes and a flowering replica of the Tower.

There will be a small prize for each category. So we hope you will let your imagination run wild and surpass last year's entries with lots of original ideas on display.

In addition to the container competition there is the 'Best Bloomin Street Competition' This could be your street, road, cul-de-sac or Wynd no matter how large or small. So get together with your neighbours to take part. 'Ballo Braes' who have been winners for the previous years will not be entering this year. So get together with the neighbours, this could be your year.

### ***'Tallest Sunflower Competition':***

Don't forget to enter the 'Tallest Sunflower Competition'. Pick up a potted sunflower seed from 'Ivy Cottage' on 'Back Dykes'. You can grow it in a Pot or in the Ground. Judging will take place in August.

We really do appreciate all the positive comments from the community for all our efforts to make Abernethy a brighter and more colourful place to live. So why not join us? No gardening skills required, all ages welcome. You will see us out and about every Monday.

Key dates for 2019:

Open Gardens – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Sunflower Competition – Judging, August 2019

Container and Street Competition – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Xmas Tree Lights Switch On – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Ian Lamond

Secretary, Abernethy In Bloom

E-mail: [lamond0583@hotmail.com](mailto:lamond0583@hotmail.com)

Tel: 850186

Mob: 07703318488

## "WE ARE THE SURVIVORS"

### Born Before 1940

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, frisbees, and the pill.

We lived before radar, credit cards, split atoms, electric blankets, laser beams and ball point pens; before dishwashers, tumble dryers, air conditioners, drip dry clothes, and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together - how quaint can you get? We thought that fast food was what you ate in Lent, a Big Mac was an oversized macintosh, and crumpet we had for tea.

We existed before house husbands, computer dating, and dual careers; when sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus; when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins, and 'now' meant 'now' long before this point in time.

We were before day care centres, group homes, and disposable nappies. We had never heard of FM radio, tape decks, or electric typewriters, let alone word processors or yoghurt.

There were few, if any, artificial hearts, and young men didn't wear earrings. A chip was a piece of wood, or a fried potato. L.S.D. was money, and you could buy a decent cotton shirt for 14 shillings and 4 pence (72p in today's currency), or go to the Shifty Filling Tailors (actual name Fifty Shilling Tailors) for an affordable suit. Hardware meant nuts and bolts, software wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you fared in your exams. A stud was something used to connect a collar to a shirt. And 'going all the way' meant staying on a double decker bus until it

reached the depot.

In our day it was fashionable to smoke cigarettes, grass was mown, a fix was what the unwary got into when bills were unpaid, coke was kept in the coal house, a joint was what you had on Sunday, and a pot was what it was cooked in. Crack was what caused the toilet to leak, and rock was grandmother's lullaby.

El Dorado was an ice cream, and a gay person was the life and soul of the party, and nothing else. Aids just beauty treatment, or helping someone in distress; 'that bad' was an unused term, but things were not as bad as that!

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of just these few ways in which our world has changed, and the adjustments we have had to make leave one wondering that we are not more confused – and then there is the generation gap!

But ..... by the grace of God, we have survived ..... Alleluia!

(This was a notice displayed on the notice board of a school staff room. I imagine it was written by a teacher showing his or her age, at the end of term!)

July 1996.

## ABERNETHY COMMUNITY CINEMA

Our 2019 season is well and truly underway with our showings in March and May being well attended. Our second showing 'Mary Poppins Returns' was screened at the earlier time of 6.30 pm as many parents thought children would find 7.30 a little late.

The next showing on **20<sup>th</sup> July** at 7.00pm for 7.30 pm is Bohemian Rhapsody. A film not to be missed, even if you have seen it already.

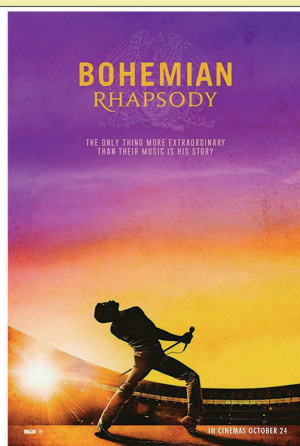
Thereafter the season takes a different approach in its selections with **21<sup>st</sup> September** screening Hunter Killer, a film described as '*American submarine Captain Joe Glass is on the hunt for a U.S. sub in distress in the Arctic Ocean. He soon learns that a secret Russian coup is in the offing, a conspiracy that threatens to dismantle the world order. With crew and country on the line, Glass must assemble an elite group of Navy SEALs to sneak through enemy waters, rescue the kidnapped Russian president and prevent World War III.*' On 23<sup>rd</sup> November we are showing Aquaman a film with the following description "*Once home to the most advanced civilization on Earth, the city of Atlantis is now an underwater kingdom ruled by the power-hungry King Orm. With a vast army at his disposal, Orm plans to conquer the remaining oceanic people -- and then the surface world. Standing in his way is Aquaman, Orm's half-human, half-Atlantean brother and true heir to the throne. With help from royal counselor Vulko, Aquaman must retrieve the legendary Trident of Atlan and embrace his destiny as protector of the deep.*". On 14<sup>th</sup> December we hope to show Christmas



Chronicles although this has not yet been released for film club showing. If it is not released in time we will screen a different festive season offering and details will be found on our facebook page and website; facebook 'Abernethy Community Cinema' and website 'www.abernethycommunitycinema.co.uk'



## New Season Movie



**Saturday  
20th July  
The Williamson Hall**

Bohemian Rhapsody is a foot-stomping celebration of Queen, their music and their extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury. Freddie defied stereotypes and shattered convention to become one of the most beloved entertainers on the planet. The film traces the meteoric rise of the band through their iconic songs and revolutionary sound. They reach unparalleled success, but in an unexpected turn Freddie, surrounded by darker influences, shuns Queen in pursuit of his solo career. Having suffered greatly without the collaboration of Queen, Freddie manages to reunite with his bandmates just in time for Live Aid. While bravely facing a recent AIDS diagnosis, Freddie leads the band in one of the greatest performances in the history of rock music. Queen cements a legacy that continues to inspire outsiders, dreamers and music lovers to this day.

**7.00 for 7.30 p.m.**  
**Adults £5.00 Children £3.00**  
**Family £15.00**  
(family ticket is 2 adults and 2 children)  
**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

For more information on any of the above, please contact us:  
Facebook: Abernethy Community Cinema - Website: www.abernethycommunitycinema.co.uk  
Twitter: AbernethyCinema - Email: abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com  
Tel: Sue Parsons 07980 023404



## GOLFING NEWS.

A member of Abernethy Burns Club has made fame at Dunning Golf Club by making a "Hole in One" on the 12th April on the 4th hole. His modesty does not allow me to name him but I guess a number of golfers in Abernethy will know who it is.

He sure is a true marksman, "The Son of a Gun"



H.C.



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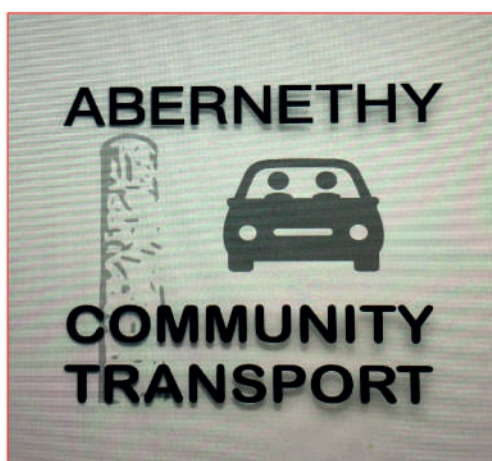
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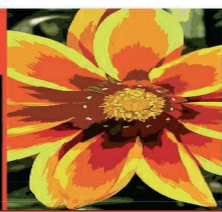
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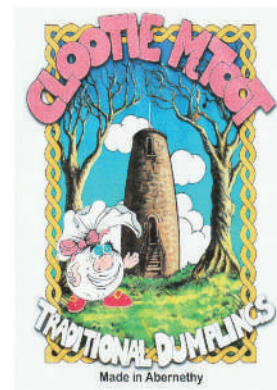
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