

# VILLAGE CRIER



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Abernethy

Dron

Aberargie



47th Edition

September 2020

Closing date for December edition 31st October 2020

www.villagecrier.co.uk email info@villagecrier.co.uk



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FROM THE EDITOR

Well, where do I start?

Since the last Crier the world has gone through hell and back again with the COVID-19 pandemic reaching all four corners of the world. I think I am safe to say the last time anything of this scale happened was the Spanish flu of 1919 and it killed something like 50 million people. Irrespective of your political persuasion I think the Scottish Government have made a pretty good job of it and the Scottish people have done well to try to stick to the rules as best they can. It probably makes it a bit easier here in Scotland as we are a bit thin on the ground and it is slightly easier to keep your distance from others. You can walk around Abernethy on a good day and never see a soul.

Throughout this, I think folks have become a bit more friendly and are saying hello more as we pass on the street. As a nation we will be as fit as a butcher's dog with all the cycling, running and walking we are all doing.

A special thank you must go to all in Abernethy and district for their hard work in helping others during this very difficult time, delivering medicines, shopping and just generally keeping an eye on those who are at very high risk. Condolences must go to those who have lost a family member, close friend or have someone in hospital at this time.

Many future events have been cancelled because of the worry of an upsurge of the virus during the coming winter months but I am sure when the dust settles and we get back to some kind of normal all these organisations and clubs will be running once again.

Stay safe.

**Jimmy Swan**

It is with regret.....that we hear of the death of Margaret Shaw, George Brown, Mr Henderson and Mrs Dowie.

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

It has been decided by the committee of the AAA that there will be no meetings held for the first part of the 2020/21 season. This is due to the present COVID-19 situation and the possibility of a surge of the virus in the winter months. Better safe than sorry.

The Committee will make a decision early in the New Year as to whether meetings will take place during February, March and April. Stay safe.

Jimmy Swan, Chair.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I expect (hope!) that you've had many letters thanking Brian and his team at the shop for all they did during lockdown. While the supermarkets couldn't keep their shelves full, Brian was making daily trips to the cash and carry to keep his customers stocked with all the essentials. The physical changes were made to the shop very quickly in order to keep us all as safe as possible and Brian spent most of his afternoons delivering to those customers who were isolating and unable to leave home.

I feel it's important to appreciate how lucky we are to have the shop in the village and I hope the people who visited for the first time during lockdown continue to support it.

**Jill Young**

## FROM THE CHAIR

The Committee is so delighted to be once again putting the Village Crier together for September. Over the last few months I would imagine most of us would have become aware of things about ourselves and others that we did not realise before. It has been an interesting period in all our lives.

There is no doubt in my mind how fortunate I am to be living in rural Perthshire and having a garden and I am sure all of you will feel the same.

So many changes have taken place recently, even our language, words and phrases rarely used in general conversation are now common parlance; pandemic, coronavirus, shielding, quarantine, furlough, social distancing etc. To my mind the latter is a good example of an oxymoron since socialising means getting together!

Other factors have been prevalent in the news over this period, racism, slavery and freedom of speech. Everyone has views on all these subjects and many more besides and must surely be allowed to air them. Different ideas on subjects lead to discussion and debate. Many debating societies in the past have produced some of the greatest orators of our time. History is history and nothing can change that but we can prepare for our future.

Your immediate future is to turn over the pages of the Crier where you will find a wonderful selection of topics. Grateful thanks from the Committee to all who contributed.

There are subjects topical, historical and local. In the current situation it has been prudent to make firm decisions in advance viz. not opening the museum this year, no meetings of the Auld Abernethy Association, no Burns Supper in 2021. On the other hand other organisations have been able to continue, Abernethy in Bloom, keeping the village bright and cheerful, the tennis club and the bowling club opening up. Thank you to all the organisations keeping us informed.

You will also be able to have a holiday at home as you join Nan Campbell in the Scottish Highlands. A wonderful journey long before the North Coast 500 was ever thought of and very little traffic around.

Before I sign off I must mention Brian Greig who has done a marvellous job in catering to the needs of the village, not for the first time. I remember the dreadful winters of 2010 and 2011 when Brian

braved the deep snow to collect and deliver supplies in the village. At that time he also ran the Post Office.

Here's hoping by the time the next Village Crier comes out which will be December when thoughts will be turning to Christmas, that life will have returned to a more normal pattern and we can look forward to more social gatherings.

Meantime keep well and safe, put up your feet and start reading

**Hilda Clow.**

## LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

**Dear Reader,**

I was invited to attend a small but very special anniversary celebration this summer in the garden of one of my parishioners. It was called 'Black Tot Day' and commemorated fifty years since the Admiralty abolished the issuing of a daily tot of rum to its sailors. Our host joined the Royal Navy just four days before the tradition ended, so he didn't enjoy his 'grog ration' for too long, but he certainly made up for it on the day of our party: high strength 'Pussers' rum was flowing and enjoyed by all. Amongst the company were former service men and women and unseen by us, we were joined by countless sailors both retired and serving, at sea and on land the world over. On the button, bang-on 12.30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> July we raised our glasses to Her Majesty the Queen and a little piece of Naval history was celebrated in time-honoured style. Sadly, by the time I joined my first ship, the issuing of a daily rum ration was long over and the signal to '*splice the mainbrace*' was confined to high days and holidays - like the birth of a new royal baby or a royal wedding.

The Navy, like so many other old institutions, has lots of traditions and practices which make it the special thing it is. I am always amazed at how the Church and the RN are similar in so many ways. Both have been around for a long time, both have their own language and both value and cherish their long held customs - which can seem very strange indeed to the uninitiated. Despite this, I enjoyed many of my '*salty*' ways of doing things as a Naval Chaplain and was sorry to leave them all behind. Here on land, customary behaviours and long held traditions have suddenly had to be '*put on hold*' by the effects of Coronavirus and our whole way of life, in every respect, has changed. These strictures imposed upon society will, in time, be lifted and we fervently pray for the day when this will happen: as I write this, many aspects of lockdown are already being eased by the Scottish Government. In the meantime, we soldier on. Perhaps, like me, you wonder if we will ever get back to what we might call '*normality*'. No doubt, certain traditions will be lost and others will change and be adapted. Lovely though it was, an issue of high strength rum on the ocean wave and on a daily basis really didn't fit in anymore, with the requirements of a more technically exacting and professionally minded Senior Service. So it will be with us: undoubtedly changes ahead will be accepted and embraced and we will move on, albeit slowly and cautiously. As a result of COVID-19, our ways of daily living, our recreation and our worshipping may be forever amended and altered. Like old sailors, we might all look back on how things were with a pang of regret but best, I think, to look confidently ahead. Like it or not, we will have to move with technology and employ more modern techniques to achieve our goals - even as far as the Church is concerned. After all, we are all together in this vessel and we have each other for shipmates. Fortified with God's promise that he is with us always and we have nothing to fear, we raise our glasses and pray for a new and brave future for us all: '*to fair winds and a following sea*'.

With my prayers and best wishes.  
Sincerely,

Rev Stan August 2020

## FROM OUR COUNCILLOR I.

### ROAD SAFETY I.

Following discussion at Abernethy Community Council last Autumn, I asked the Council for a new puffin crossing on the Newburgh Road opposite the primary school. This was to make up for losing the School Crossing Patroller a year or two back when the previous lollypop lady moved away and the post could not be filled. I'm delighted to report that detailed drawings are being prepared for this new Crossing and for the zebra crossing at the bottom of School Wynd to be upgraded to a full puffin crossing. This project still has to go through quite a lot of stages before the new crossings get built, but I think we can be quite optimistic that it will go ahead.

### THE BLADE.

According to the internet, (which is always correct), the safety razor was invented at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century "to reduce the level of skill needed for injury-free shaving (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shaving>), thereby reducing the reliance on professional barbers (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barber>)."



When I got an old fashioned safety razor as a Christmas present last year I was perturbed. Would it give as close a shave as a plastic encased twin blade? Would it be as quick? Would it hurt? Well, I've stuck with my new razor. It takes a bit of getting used to, but I've come to love my morning shave. There's a retro feel which is like driving a vintage motor car and it sort of gives me a link to my dad who used the same kind of razor. It's also a way of reducing plastic which is virtually impossible to re-cycle. The blades I use come in a cardboard box and are wrapped in paper. Well, you're probably saying, "So what? He'll have dozens of bits of plastic all over his house

and this won't have any impact on the amount of plastic going into the ocean." to which my reply is - "if we all make lots of little changes to the way we live our lives then maybe, just maybe, we might leave the world a better place for the generations to come". Reduce, Re-use, Recycle.

### ROAD SAFETY II.

Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust have been awarded £90k for a feasibility study into creating a new active travel route from Bridge of Earn to Newburgh via Abernethy. The first stage of this route has already been completed at Aberargie with improvements to the path and new signs guiding walkers and cyclists away from the Baigle Straight onto the Green Route via Dron. The results from the public consultation on a new safer path to run along the Baigle Straight have been published and design work is ongoing on the route through Abernethy. If this comes to fruition, then Active Travel from Abernethy to Perth will become a whole lot safer and easier. Just google Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust for more information.

Survey results are available at <https://www.pkct.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=f1e05528-1d63-4eb9-986a-3ee85edd3b5c>

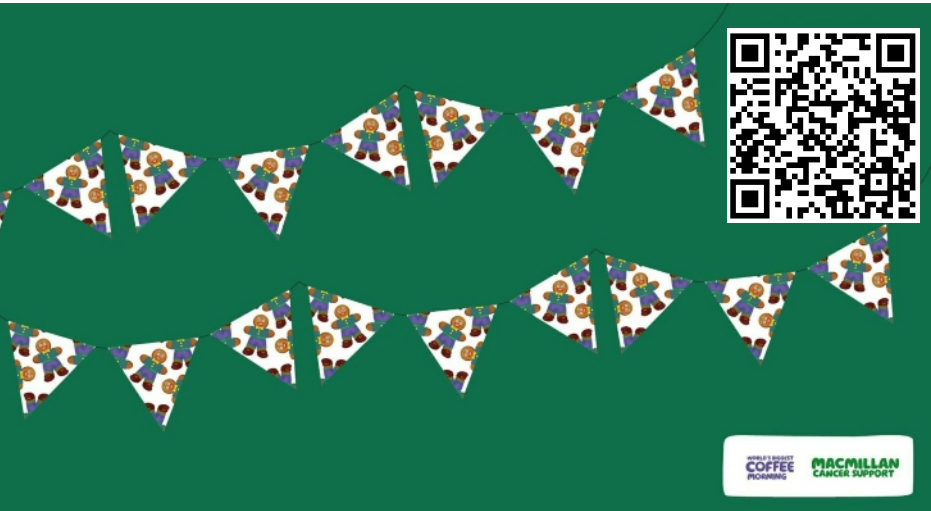
### MAKE ABERNETHY GREAT AGAIN?

Do we need to "Make Abernethy Great Again"? As John Wayne would have said "Hell, No", because Abernethy is already great and it always has been. You've proved it's great throughout Covid because of all the things you've done as a community. Whether it's the community clap for the NHS, the Abernethy Angels delivering food and prescriptions, the mysterious and beautiful painted slates, neighbours keeping an eye on each other or leaving spare produce to share, you have been amazing.

And Abernethy always has been great with all the clubs and societies from Abernethy Burns Club to The Williamson Hall Committee. You are always a community that looks out for others and contributes and shares. Take a bow, Abernethy. Be Proud.

David Illingworth

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



For many years, initially in the session house and latterly in the Masons Hall, we have met on the last Friday or Saturday of September enjoying coffee and cake and raised lots of money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Most of us have a personal reason for supporting Macmillan and throughout the pandemic Macmillan Cancer Support has been there for those who have needed it most. It is now our turn to help them and although we cannot meet this year in a building each of us can have a coffee and cake with friends or families or socially distance in our own home or garden, or if you choose have a Zoom Coffee Morning with your friends.

You can donate in a variety of ways TEXT CUPCAKE to 7050 to donate £5, phone 03001027890 using credit or debit card, using the QR code above or visiting [macmillan.org.uk/coffee](http://macmillan.org.uk/coffee). Hopefully we can have a community event sometime to help to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. If you would like any more info on how to donate please contact me. [cluniefarm@aol.com](mailto:cluniefarm@aol.com) Kathleen Baird

# ABERNETHY PAVILION

If you haven't been to the Pavilion for a while, you may not have seen our swanky new kitchen and shower room or the newly tarred area at the front complete with picnic tables. Much of this work has been paid for through grant funding from Almond & Earn Decides, Almond & Earn Action Partnership and the P&KC Community Investment Fund. We have also spent some of our own hard earned cash and worked hard on fundraising to keep that topped up. Although we have made great improvements, there's still more work to be done and we have been very lucky to receive not one, but two, unexpected windfalls recently in the form of donations from other local groups.

We are very grateful to both Abernethy Community Cinema and to the Village Crier for their generous support and we will certainly put the money to good use.

## Abernethy Scout Group

# ABERNETHY BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS

Lockdown brought us to an abrupt halt and meant the cancellation of camps or trips for all the sections. Not to be completely defeated, the leaders came up with various activities that the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts could complete at home (sometimes with a little assistance from their families!). Beavers had a virtual camp with everyone out in their own gardens on the same evening completing online challenges. Cubs are currently trying to complete their COVID Camp Challenge which includes preparing a meal for their family and creating an artwork incorporating a dirty sock! Scouts Skills Challenge Award asked them to get the laundry clean and ironed, amongst other household tasks, and gain an understanding on why we all need to have enough sleep to stay healthy!

At present, we are unsure when we are likely to be able to resume face to face activities but we will continue to follow the guidelines and will be in touch with parents as soon as we have further information.

## Abernethy Scout Group

# POO POO SOME SAY!

There is a long-standing source of discontent in Abernethy that, quite literally, kicks up a stink. Yes, it's the dog doo doo, the pooch poop, the mutt's muck that hasn't been scooped up and disposed of. It isn't nice and I'm fairly sure that most of us (myself, a fellow dog owner, included) would prefer to avoid it. So that's exactly what I'm going to do here. I'm not saying it's not a problem – it very clearly is – and one that has a simple solution to boot, but I'm conscious that, in focusing so heavily on this one aspect of doggy life, we are failing to see something else, something important, something (I'm going for it here) that actually changes lives for the better.

I have lived in Abernethy for about 14 years and have had 2 dogs during that time (I have children too but we don't need to talk about

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them - those egocentric little munchkins get plenty of airtime on a daily basis - one article without them won't do any harm). So, back to the dogs. Having dogs means I'm inevitably a dog walker, embracing our countryside every day come rain or shine.

Being a dog walker in this village generally means encountering other dog walkers also going about their daily routine and it's in these encounters that I want to highlight the alternative narrative to the errant smelly stuff we so often hear about. In these moments round the glen or the farm tracks or Powrie Park, the dog walkers say 'good morning', they smile at each other, share in the elements, perhaps pause to say a little more, before moving on with their walk.

More often than not in life, we won't know the inner workings of someone else's mind, particularly someone who isn't friend or family. We won't know if they have had a terrible night's sleep, if they are actually feeling terribly anxious, if they are mourning, struggling, sad or plagued with insecurities, and so we may not know that the 'good morning' we said to them with a smile helped them to remember that people can be kind and that, maybe, they are not as alone as they thought.

There has been a lot of focus in the wider world recently on the concept of kindness and the profound positive impact it has on us humble humans. For me, living in this village, walking my dog, I have the privilege of offering and receiving kindness every day. When my first dog died almost two years ago, my fellow dog walkers were open in acknowledging my loss. They let me cry, said they were sad, shared their own stories. In short, they helped me feel less alone in my grief.

In amongst all of life's difficult and messy stuff (dog waste included), I am grateful to the dog walkers of Abernethy and their kindnesses. While those inner workings might still be whirring away in all of us, these seemingly simple moments allow us to connect with each other, often changing the course of the rest of the day, whatever the weather. So I would just like to say thank you to the dog walkers, because they might otherwise never know the difference they make. Now, where are those poo bags...

## Sian Clifford

# THE SLAVE TRADE AND ABERNETHY

Over the last few months the way the black people in the US have been treated by the police and by society at large has come to a head. This has rekindled the issue of the slave trade and its long term after effects. As it was a money maker for some folks in Scotland this got me thinking how close did the slave trade come to Abernethy?

So I started to delve into the records of the people in Scotland who were well known to have been involved in the business. How close can I get to our village? Very close!

All around Scotland there are mansion houses, businesses and organisations that have been involved directly or indirectly with the slave trade. West coast main rail line, Aviva Insurance Company, Royal Bank of Scotland. Lloyds Bank and monuments to the great and good, all from monies made off the backs of the slaves. Five miles west of Abernethy and about the same distance east of the village are two examples of families who made a fortune from sugar, cotton and tobacco picked and processed by slaves.

Let's go west first to the small village of Bridge of Earn and specifically Kilgraston House. Kilgraston House was owned by the Grant family, a Scottish family that go far back into the mists of time. The earliest records of the lands of Kilgraston date back to the 13th Century when it was called Gilgryston. There are conflicting records as to when the house was built. One record states it was completed on 1st January 1800 and other records tell us it was purchased by John Grant, the eldest son of Patrick Grant of Glenlochy, towards the end of the 18th Century from the Murray and Craigie families. The records tell us that John Grant made his wealth in Jamaica, where he was a member of the Assembly, eventually succeeding Thomas French as Chief Justice of that island in January 1783, a post he held until 1790. Funny that the official history doesn't tell you about the family's involvement with the slave trade; very convenient.

When the slave trade was abolished the slave owners were up in arms. They demanded compensation from the British government and lo and behold they got it. The British government paid out 17 million pounds, 20 billion in today's money, as compensation for them losing such a lucrative money maker. Francis Grant of Kilgraston was one of those claimants.

Firstly let me set the scene on how the system worked. There were three brothers named Stirling who were well into the slave trade and ran a very well organised operation. You have to remember slaves never set foot on British soil, only the by-products of slavery, sugar, tobacco and cotton. The Stirling brothers had it sown up, one brother was stationed in Africa, Sierra Leone, where he was involved with the capture and corralling of the men, women and children ready for transportation. Brother two was in Jamaica receiving the slaves packed in the ships hoping most of them had survived the journey and brother three was in Britain receiving, selling and distributing their ill gotten gains to all corners of the country. It was called "The Triangular System."

Lets get back to the Grant family.

Francis Grant was the main man when it came to the family involvement. Francis succeeded his brother as Chief Justice of Jamaica in 1793, taking over from John as previously stated. Francis was also the slave factor at Montego Bay from 1789 – 1792, so as you can see he was in it up to his armpits.

Francis was also a slave owner of Blackness estate in Westmoreland, Jamaica and owned 264 slaves as well as all his other interests, pretty much coining it in. Francis died in 1818 and his executors, the other family members including his wife Anne Oliphant, whom he had married in 1793, were left to make their claim for compensation from the British Government when slavery was abolished. Their claim details on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 1835 amounted to 264 slaves worth £4511. 12s 10d, £640,562 in today's money.

After the payout many of the companies and individuals involved in the trade invested elsewhere, as previously stated.

The Kilgraston house mentioned before was destroyed by fire in 1872.

Next time we will be between Newburgh and Auchtermuchty.

**Jimmy Swan**

## **ABERNETHY SWI**

It is with regret that Abernethy SWI will not be starting up again in September due to the COVID-19 situation. It has been decided to postpone meetings until the New Year, when the situation will be reviewed again. There is a possibility a Zoom Meeting may be arranged in September.

**Elizabeth Taylor President**

## **JOHN WILKIE**

**1912- 2005**



If there is one native of Abernethy who surely would have qualified for a slot in the 'Crier' as an 'Auld Abernethian' had he still been alive, it must be the late John Wilkie. The words of the theme tune to the long running Australian soap opera composed by Tony Hatch and Jackie Trent could well have been inspired by him. Our next-door neighbour at Linden Brae for many years, he had all the qualities of a good neighbour. In his younger days John worked as a chauffeur handyman for James Wishart who lived at Pitarrow in Perth Road. When Mr Wishart passed away, he left a legacy to John which he later used to build Linden Brae in the early 1960s, having purchased a plot of land from my late mother in law Jane Morris. This was prior to my arrival in Abernethy in 1964 when I married Jane's daughter Isabel. He was a deeply religious man and was very much involved with the group which worshipped in the former Gospel Hall in Main Street. They would all gather at John's house later in the day. In those days we would never cut the grass or hang out washing on the Sabbath, a habit we still tend to adhere to, to this day. In the early years of our marriage when we stayed at Loanhead John would regularly collect my mother-in-law's Courier from Norman Peddie's shop and deliver it to her. On one such occasion - a bitterly cold morning - I was having difficulty starting my Austin A35 which in those far off days was by means of the starting handle. When John arrived with the paper I had barely enough energy left to wield a pen, let alone a starting handle. A couple of cranks from John and the engine roared into life. My feeling of inadequacy was replaced by one of gratitude. I like to think that my earlier efforts helped to pave the way for John's success. Always smartly turned out he regularly helped out in providing transport for hospital appointments for those who had no other means of getting there. He was also handy with a chainsaw and when a tree at the foot of his drive was blown over, he was quickly on the spot. The fact that it brought down electric cables did not deter him despite

our advice “leave it to the Hydro board”. On another day when felling a large conifer tree in his drive his tactic of tying a rope to the tow bar of his car to ensure that it fell in the right direction sadly misfired. Fortunately, a high hedge prevented it from flattening our garden shed which did not escape completely as it still has a list to port.

One of John’s sisters who was unmarried stayed with him for some time and he decided to change his car for one which was more suitable for her as she was restricted in her movements. The car that he was disposing of was bought by Bill McCue the well-known Scottish singer. Bill invited John to have lunch with him, but John declined as he had arranged to visit his other sister who lived in the same area. “Don’t worry” said Bill, “It would only have been mince and tatties”. Shortly before the marriage of our youngest daughter Moira in 1998 John, who had received an invitation, called round one afternoon to ask about the deadline for a reply as he was planning a trip down to Dorset and was not sure when he would be back home. He suggested that perhaps we should sit down as he had some news for us. The shock news was that the reason for the trip was that he was getting married. He was then 86 years of age and had met the lady in question when stationed in Dorset with the Pioneer Corps during the war. Isabel gave him a hug and informed him that for all these years he had been a good husband wasted. We then insisted that if they were back in time, he should bring his new bride to the wedding. This he did and we met Sylvia or Syl as John referred to her for the first time. It transpired that they had kept in touch for all these years. Some weeks later when driving down to the village we came upon John who was cutting his large laurel hedge accompanied by Syl who was in charge of the wheelbarrow collecting the clippings. I could not resist winding down the car window and remarking, “So the honeymoon is over”.



Some years later, conscious of the fact that if he passed away Syl would be isolated from the village, he put Linden Brae on the market, and they moved to a retirement complex at Lesmahagow in Lanarkshire. Despite the distance he made regular trips back to Abernethy to keep up with old friends. Sadly, when leaving a clinic following a flu jab he fell and sustained a broken hip. He was soon back behind the wheel after recovery but had difficulty getting in and out of the car. This decided them to move back to Abernethy, having acquired a house in Sutherland Crescent in order to be back where he belonged. He was the proud owner of the car registration number GS1 which he inherited from his father. He received regular offers to buy the number but steadfastly refused to sell. One such bidder was a millionaire from London named George Spencer who would call him when he had a new Rolls Royce on order asking him to name his price. Driving up Main Street one day I was astonished to meet a Rolls Royce bearing what appeared to be the number GS1. The following day I saw John in a car with a run of the mill number plate. I could not believe it! It turned out that John’s car was in for a service and he was driving a courtesy car. Mr Spencer was indeed the man in the Rolls Royce bearing the number CS1 with the letter C doctored to look like a G. Following John’s passing his number plate went up for auction at Thomas Love’s sale room in Perth realising the sum

of £220,000 which was considerably more than he got for Linden Brae. It was also more than the number JB 007 from the Aston Martin in the James Bond film fetched. The auction of GS1 was featured in the evening news on TV and having recorded it we invited Syl round to see herself on TV as GS1 went under the hammer. Sadly, sometime after John passed away, she was admitted to the Moncrieffe Nursing Home at Bridge of Earn where she still is.

It was typical of John that when he sold Linden Brae his choice between bidders was a family that he was sure that we would get on with and he was not wrong. As the song goes, “Everybody needs good neighbours” and we have been fortunate in that respect over the years.

**Bob Macdonald**

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

The Board of Trustees took the decision not to open the Museum at all this season. Although theoretically possible from mid-July, the huge array of protocols that would have been required of our volunteers, not to mention the ‘maturity’ of many of us (ahem), made it something of a no-brainer to remain closed. Many thanks to those who have nonetheless renewed their subscription, and to those who have given donations in these difficult times. This will all help to keep the Museum going this year when we have no income from visitor donations and fundraising. We would be delighted if more previous members renewed their membership and if anyone else would like to support the Museum by joining. Membership fees are £8.50 for a single person, £6 for a retired single person, £14 for a family membership. A form can be requested by emailing [secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk) or you can phone 850889 and leave a message and we will get one to you.

Before the pandemic we were lining up a special programme of events to mark the 20th year of the Museum’s existence. The intention now is to roll that over to a 21st anniversary opening next year.

For the new season the intention is to rearrange some of the downstairs displays and add a display on the two local naval surgeon brothers, James and Robert Guthrie. They both had fascinating careers, and were well known in naval circles during and after the Napoleonic wars.

Apart from the odd letter and photo held by us, of (gruesome) interest is a set of naval surgeon’s implements of the period which we have on loan, and we also have copies of some Royal Navy ship designs from 1812, which Robert owned. It is also hoped at some point to supplement what we have with documentary material held by the Maritime Museum in Greenwich.

Meantime, like a swan on the water, despite appearances there has been a fair amount of paddling below the surface. A few individuals have been keeping an eye on the garden, for which we are very grateful. New upstairs cabinets have been built (special thanks to John Robinson for this large project), the exterior woodwork of the building has been repainted, the garden gallery walls have been repointed with traditional lime mortar, and a new hot water boiler has been installed in the kitchen.

Collections Management Group members have been dotting in to the Museum individually to deal with admin matters, photo cataloguing, general maintenance and the like. Some repairs to the salmon coble

are pencilled in for autumn. Lastly, from being an I.T. mystery, Zoom has become just another tool of the trade for Board members. Every day's a school day.

We hope to be in a position to welcome as many of you as possible next spring and summer. Look out for details in the New Year.

**Angus Macintyre Trustee**

**Museum of Abernethy**

**Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

**Charity Number: SC023100**

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

## **ABERNETHY IN BLOOM**

It seems a while since we gave our last update, all due to the Coronavirus pandemic which brought a halt to our plans for 2020. Therefore, as directed for the lockdown our AGM in March was cancelled. We therefore decided to retain for another year, those who currently hold the primary functions of Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, as required by PKC Greenspace in the constitution mandated for all Bloom Groups. The Treasurers 2019-2020 Statement of account for Abernethy In Bloom is therefore available for anyone in Abernethy should you wish to receive a copy.

However, despite the uncertainty for what lay ahead, the containers around the village had sprung into life to bring some spring colour at this difficult time. Then due to the restrictions of social distancing our orders from the PKC nursery for the summer planting were cancelled. Fortunately, by June the annual allowance given by PKC Greenspace to all Bloom Groups had been released which coincided with the opening of the local garden centre albeit with restrictions on access. This enabled us to have a limited planting for the summer as the spring colour faded away. Due to the restrictions on movement of the Bloom Group the summer planting was limited to the containers which could be supported with help from the community to meet the watering needs. We therefore thank Branston and all in the community who are helping us to support this essential task during the summer months.

Unfortunately, all competitions including 'Beautiful Scotland', 'Take A Pride In Perthshire', and our local 'Best Bloomin' Marvellous Container' had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, not forgetting the Tallest Sunflower competition. So hopefully in 2021, we will have an even bigger entry for the local competitions and another opportunity for the village to attain a Gold award to add to our previous Silver Gilt awards.

Although delayed until June because of the need for us all to keep safe and at a social distance, we were able carry out some maintenance and repair of the village planters including painting Nurse Peattie's fence. However, some of our planters being made from recycled wood will need to be replaced. Our two original planters at School Wynd were replaced last year with commercial items which have inbuilt reservoirs. This was helped by our successful application for funding from the PKC Solheim Cup event. However, due to the high cost of commercially sourced replacements, we will continue with our policy to uphold an environmental ethos and where possible use recycled wood for the in-house manufacture of the planters within the village.

Maintenance of Nurse Peattie's Garden also began in June which has supplemented the wonderful display of decorated stones to form a

'Caterpillar' that is winding around the garden. Every day sees it grow a little more, helped by the highly decorated contributions from the younger residents of Abernethy, although we understand that if the stones are not to remain for display in Nurse Peattie's garden, there is still a community decision on how best to use them.

For those who were concerned that the nurse's bike had disappeared, it has been repainted and is now back in place.

Funding for the new 'Heritage Garden' project at Hatton Road, despite the current situation, is making good progress. In addition to the 'Just Giving' page developed by 'Take A Pride In Perthshire', who are managing the project on our behalf, we have received very generous donations from the Village Crier, Abernethy Masonic Lodge, National Lottery fund, Perth Gospel Trust and the community. Further donations can be made using the Hatton Road 'Just Giving' page or directly to Abernethy In Bloom which will help to boost the village's contribution for this exciting new project.

We would also take this opportunity to thank the Hatton Road community who have been helping to keep the site tidy by cutting the grass until a start can be made to develop the new Heritage Garden. In the meantime, the wildflower patch has given a lovely display of colour and we plan to reuse this year's Spring Bulbs for display at the site next year.

It is worthwhile noting that all the community of Abernethy are part of Abernethy In Bloom, whether you take an active part in our activities or just look after your own patch to keep it tidy and attractive. Your help to keep the village a beautiful place to live and work is therefore much appreciated by us all, and especially those who give their time to pick up litter within the village and surroundings.

We would still like to see more volunteers joining us to help keep Abernethy bright and cheerful. No horticultural knowledge is required and absolute beginners are welcome. Come along and join us if you see us working at Nurse Peattie's garden, in the village or just give us a call. You will always be welcome.

**Ian Lamond, Secretary Abernethy in Bloom**

**Tel: 850186**

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

## **PHOTO COMPETITION**

**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.**

# MEMORIES OF A SCOTTISH SUMMER 1976

The heat had sapped our energy; after many delays it was not until late on Saturday afternoon that we summoned up sufficient strength to make a start. As we travelled along in the early evening, it was pleasantly cool and after a few hours on the road a delightful spot was found for us to stay overnight in beautiful Glen Isla. Unfortunately this was only a temporary halt; there was no time for investigating the wonders of the Glen. A long day lay ahead, so after an early rise an equally speedy departure. Soon we were on the main Braemar road; this was left at the Spittal of Glen Shee and we headed for the Dalmunzie Hotel where permission was readily granted for our vehicle to be parked. Now we were within sight of the day's first summit, Glas Tulaichean.

Boots were quickly put on, rucksacks loaded on to backs and the day's expedition really began. The track leading up to Glenlochsielodge was soon found; in fact it led to an old narrow gauge railway that zig-zagged its way around the hill towards the Lodge. It was built in Queen Victoria's time to take Deer Stalkers up to the Lodge. Just before we reached the Lodge it started to rain! It was the first rain that we had had for weeks. Fortunately the partly ruined lodge was not too far away and provided shelter. The rain was soon over and our progress continued; a long slog, ever onward - onward and upward. The air was now getting warmer. It was rewarding for us that the sun was still obscured. At about 2 p.m. the summit was reached, 3449-ft. and 3 hours after leaving the Hotel.

A quick wonderful descent followed to Loch nan Eun (The Loch of the Birds). It is the nesting place for Common Gulls and although they are noisy, they are not likely to attack!

The day's trip had hardly started; upwards again to the top of rocky Beinn lutharn Bheag, back along its stony ridge to Mam nan Carn and then on round to the main summit of Beinn lutharn Mhor 3424ft. where the views were really magnificent.

Our time was fast running out; 6 o'clock saw us back at Loch nan Eun skirting around its shores. It was wonderful; the skies had cleared and the heat was pleasantly bearable.

The return journey had to be faced, starting by following the course of the burn running out of the loch (the Allt Easgairdh) Five miles lay between us and the Hotel and the strain was being felt. Luckily we found an excellent path that soon widened into a Land Rover track and a peaceful walk was enjoyed down a beautiful glen. The Hotel and our transport were reached at 10.45 p.m. exactly 12 hours from setting off! We were extremely tired but the feeling of satisfaction more than made up.

Even though longing for sleep, we could not stay in the Hotel grounds; we had to move. Luck was on our side when a lay-by was found just before the Devil's Elbow, and so to bed. It had been a day to remember.

The following morning we would willingly have lingered but the North-West Highlands were calling and we had to answer their call. Soon we were among the hills; starting with the Devil's Elbow (which since Prince Phillip was delayed some years ago, has been ironed out) and over to Braemar. Deeside was soon left behind and we were on our way towards Tomintoul. Usually the Lecht Road can be awe-inspiring, even frightening, but this time, in the glorious sunshine, there was warmth and a welcome in the air. A short rest

was taken by a delightful river which sparkled in the sunlight and then on once again along that "upsie-downsie" road. The heat of the day was now intense and by the time Tomintoul was reached, it was unbearable.

It was too hot to linger so on we travelled taking to the minor roads in order to avoid the heavy holiday traffic. A very worthwhile decision as the narrow ways provided an entry to unspoiled, wonderful countryside.

After passing through Culloden, we quickly dropped down into Inverness where a welcome halt was made for much-needed refreshment. Now we were really on our way to the West; the shores of the Beauly Firth were left behind as were Muir of Ord, Contin and Garve as the journey continued. Peter was lucky; he obtained a wonderful sequence of slides of the sun setting over Loch Garve; then on once again towards Achnasheen. Desperation and need forced us to stop for the night in a layby - in all our lives we had never experienced such a noisy night due to the constant flow of lorries making for the oil rig facility at Kishorn.

The next day we moved on towards Achnashellach. About two miles short of that village at a wee place called Craig we obtained permission to use the Forestry Road; so, over the level crossing, on to the track which proved to be quite a good road although rather steep. After about 1½ miles we reached a turning-point. Here we parked the vehicle and complete with our fully loaded packs took to the hills.

It was a good Land Rover track up to the Lodge; this at least was in our favour as we had virtually to run! The reason? Clegs, those horrible signs of summer! I was covered in the things and it was so hot. Peter said that we would have to put our cagoules on and tie the hoods in order to protect ourselves! I wondered which was worse. Anyway we suffered for about two miles and then had to ford a river to pick up a track that would lead up to the Beallach for the first of our summits.

The car had been left about 8 p.m.; the Beallach Bhearnais was reached at half-past ten. I left Peter pitching the tent whilst I went in



search of water. Imagine looking for water in this area of all places - normally the ground would have been sopping. Eventually I found some about a quarter of a mile away from our camp and filled the gallon container. Another day had ended -

we do seem to pack a lot into each one.

The sun was as hot as ever as we had breakfast. Food was stocked up to last for a long day as we planned a sort of horseshoe round to take in a few more mountains and so back to the tent - but we had not planned for the weather.

The tent was left at 10.45 a.m.; the first summit involved about one mile of walking over fairly steep ground. In normal circumstances this would have taken us between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an hour at the most. Not so on this day; it took us two hours and three stops solely due to the heat and lack of shelter from the sun. The summits of Sgurr Choinnich, Sgurr a' Chasruinn and Bidean an Eoin Deirg were at last accomplished.



We were extremely tired from heat exhaustion and suffering from lack of water. Was this Scotland? All the liquid that we had carried was gone and only half of our trip completed.

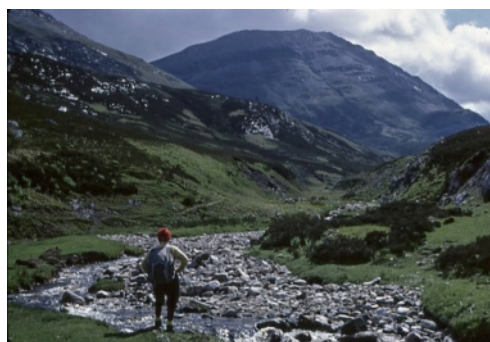
It was now 4.30 p.m. and we wondered if we

should wait until sun-down before continuing? No, we decided to carry on slowly and as we walked I thought that a desert safari could not be so much different from the conditions that we were experiencing.

We were now descending over very rough ground to the shores of Loch Monar whose waters had obviously receded revealing a caked crust that normally would have been well below the surface. An old track had been exposed by the drought. We thought that it would help us in making our way to the head of the loch. Only a few yards of the track had been covered when I sank up to my knees in black, stinking mud! I shudder to think what would have been my fate if Peter had not been there because as I tried to turn back one of my feet plunged further down and I could not feel the bottom! Peter managed to extricate me without too much difficulty. Nevertheless it was a frightening experience, I was shaking and my boots, socks and breeches were covered in evil-smelling bog. We got to a wee burn eventually and I was able to wash the stuff off my boots. I was so intent on removing the filth that I did not notice my surroundings - I sat down and immediately experienced a wet behind just to add to my discomfort!

A few large boulders had been noticed nearby and we decided to make for them. There we decided to stop and brew-up as it was nearly 5.30p.m. The stone I sat on felt like a storage radiator and by the time we had finished eating my breeches were completely dry, enabling me to rub the now caked mud off.

As we resumed our journey, I hoped that my troubles were over. The head of the loch was reached without any further difficulty and then



as we approached the nearby river, we struck some more bog! This time, however, we were able to cross without any mishap. We ran across the river and hardly got our feet wet. That could only have happened in the summer of '76.

Another boggy bit faced us but that was also managed safely. In front of us now was what appeared to be a vertical grassy slope. Many stops were necessitated before we finally reached the ridge. All was worthwhile, however, as the views spread out before us were truly magnificent.

Now we thought, "We're home and dry" but not a bit of it. I was in front of Peter enjoying an easy stroll up what seemed to be the last climb to the summit when there appeared before me a cleft of about 120-feet, a sheer drop between me and the next part! 'Panic Stations'! So far as I was concerned, I knew that I could not get down without a rope and we did not have one with us! Somehow or other we had to manoeuvre a route to by-pass this latest obstacle. We managed, but not without difficulty and the expenditure of valuable time. So much so that as we reached the summit the moon was fully out and the time was fifteen minutes before midnight!

There was nothing for it but to bivouac on the summit. We found a good hollow which the two of us could get into - just. All the clothes we had with us were put on including waterproof trousers, cagoules, scarves, hats and gloves. Our empty rucksacks were laid down to sit on and the wee Gaz Stove was soon heating water for coffee which with biscuits and cheese made an excellent supper - it tasted just great. From our eyrie we looked down on a tremendous panoramic view of Loch Carron with the twinkling lights of Jeantown in the background. It was a magnificent sight that will be for ever etched on my memory. Peter slept well, but, for myself, I dozed fitfully - my complaint being what seemed like a boulder sticking in my back! Our eyrie was on Bidean a' Choire Sheadgaich.

An early morning brew-up of coffee was made at 4 a.m. as we were both feeling the cold (after being burned the previous day). At half-past four the sun was shining and we started to move around. What a wonderful sunrise it was. Peter had already got a splendid picture of the moon reflected on a little lochan at the summit of Lurg'Mhor and now this. We felt privileged and forgot all the hardship that we had endured.

By seven o'clock the heat of the sun was fantastic and we had to keep to the lee-side of the hills in order to obtain shelter. Suddenly: whoo-oosh; whoo-oosh: seven jets hurtled through the air below us! What a sight; looking down we could see the air-crew in each machine. We got back to the tent about 11 o'clock - was it only 24 hours since we had left? A lengthy rest was now called for, so, after a much needed breakfast, we put the double sleeping-bag and spare shirts over the tent in an endeavour to prevent the sun's rays from penetrating and really enjoyed several hours of comfortable sleep.

At about 8 o'clock we broke camp and retraced our steps down the track, crossed the river very easily, on to the main track (a private Land Rover track - very rough) and back to our base camp, the car, which we reached about 10.50p.m. when we lost no time in getting to bed.

A leisurely couple of days followed wandering slowly in the direction of the Torridon Highlands, and finally resting near Shildaig at a delightful spot overlooking Ob Mheallaidh where we absorbed the beauty around us as we listened to good music on cassette.

On the second of our "Rest Days" we moved round to Torridon where,



in addition to visiting the National Trust Centre, we were given a tour of inspection of the new Youth Hostel by its Warden. What a marvellous hostel it is and in such surroundings. From the dining room-cum-lounge

a massive picture-window, overlooks the head of Loch Torridon giving a range of breathtaking views.

The hills were "calling". On the Sunday we wended our way to the car park at the stone bridge behind Torridon House and at 2 p.m. started walking. The aim was Beinn Alligin; this involved a long trudge through midgie-ridden country. We escaped their attention when we picked up a good track leading to the first summit and then on to the main summit. The time had got round to six so we did not attempt the Horns - in any case there was quite a lot of mist about. We returned in good time, especially as we discovered a super track that had been missed on the way -up! An excellent place to spend the night was found at Inver Alligin, complete with a breeze to keep midges away.

On Monday we found the weather deteriorating; rain, thunder, lightning, the lot. An enforced 'Rest Day' resulted; we moved ourselves round to a good patch that we found near Annat and spent the day organising our equipment and preparing for getting out climbing when the weather permitted. But it didn't.

Sitting out terrible weather can be very boring and it was a relief when a couple of friends joined us on the Tuesday. We accompanied them the following day on a trip on the new road to Applecross, after which our friends departed homewards and we returned to Torridon.

We decided to chance our luck the next day and set out to climb Meall a Chean-dearg (The Bald Headed One). The path was soon found (a first class track which goes from Annat to Coulags). The going was quite good until near the summit, when "The Bald Headed One" came into its own! A summit of completely shattered granite that had to be climbed over or manoeuvred round as best we could. We succeeded in reaching the summit cairn and were lucky enough to get shelter as the heavens opened. There was a howling gale and hailstones as big as golf balls! Getting down was really horrible as I was blown off my feet and slid all over. Peter was like a mountain goat and unaffected by the slippery conditions. Anyway we succeeded in finding a break in the rocks which led diagonally down towards the track and, thankfully, we obtained shelter for a short period from the fierceness of the wild wind. Luck was with us when we found a fairly dry dug-out which provided shelter from the storm so that we could eat. Afterwards, when things eased, we reached the track and followed it to its junction with the road to Annat. Soon we were back at our base and lost no time in changing into dry clothing. It was wonderful to be able to relax: in comfort once again. The weather could do what it liked now - we were home and, at last, dry.

The holiday had commenced in tropical heat; now it was ending with tropical storms as the following day we were returning home. With all its incidents and vivid memories, it had been a holiday to remember.

**Nan Campbell**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**In the late 1790s the war with revolutionary France was draining all military resources and recruitment was beginning to dry up. The Government were going to introduce conscription to increase the numbers in the military but it was very unpopular. Conscription had never applied in Scotland before but had been used in England. The population in many parts of Scotland became hostile to the concept and disturbances broke out, including one in Abernethy.

# LIGHTS BACK ON - ABERNETHY ROUND TOWER

Our beloved Abernethy Round Tower is a scheduled monument under the guardianship of Historic Environment Scotland (HES). Abernethy Community Council was responsible for the installation of the original floodlighting of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Round Tower but the lighting has not been operational for several years and Abernethy Community Council agreed that it would add to the status and attraction of the village if the illumination of the Tower was re-established.

As a member of the Community Council with a background in electrical engineering I volunteered to manage the reinstatement project. My first impression was that it would just be a simple matter of replacing the old lights with modern LED equivalents and installing a new timer. However, my initial investigations revealed that more work was needed as well as ensuring that all parties and stakeholders who had an interest in the project gave their prior approval.

Due to the Round Tower's location and scheduled status the list of stakeholders, as well as the Community Council and HES, included Gillian Monro, the Kirk of St Bride, Perth & Kinross Planning Department and Bereavement Services, EDF and Scottish Power.

HES was very supportive in assisting the Community Council with the design and specification of the new floodlighting scheme. They provided modern detailed CAD drawings of the Round Tower and used modelling software to predict the illumination footprint. The resulting design provides spectacular illumination of the north side whilst minimising any adverse impact to residents in the Square. The new timer is currently set to switch on the floodlighting at sunset and off again at 11pm each day.

Once the design was finalised the next step was installation. The use of temporary scaffolding on the gable end of the Old Town House facilitated the installation of one of the lights.

For readers with a technical interest the existing electricity meter and floodlighting controls were located in a "confined space" under the ground floor of the Tower. Mitigating this risk required trained personnel to test that the air had sufficient oxygen and did not contain any poisonous gasses. The new installation considerably improves the operation and safety of the site for the future as personnel are no longer required to enter the confined space in order to read the electricity meter or adjust the floodlighting timer.

I was fortunate to be able to secure the services of the Enterprise Contracting Division of my old employer SSE, who very generously undertook to carry out the installation work free of charge to the Community Council and complete the work as one of their "Community Engagement Programmes". SSE's Health and Safety ethos was a perfect match to HES's rigorous requirements.

There are many people to thank.

Firstly, a huge thank you from the village to the family of James Roy in the USA who very generously paid for the new LED lights, time switch and all of the installation materials.

Thanks also to Gillian Monro for allowing the use of her gable wall for the light installation, Elizabeth Taylor and the Kirk of St Bride

who kindly arranged for welfare facilities to be made available to the SSE team and to Cath in the Berryfields Tea Room for making delicious bacon rolls and coffee each morning.

Finally, a huge thank you to the SSE team of Conor, Ray and James who completed the work safely and to an excellent standard of workmanship.

**Peter Glennie**

# AULD ABERNETHIANS



## JENNY WHITE

Jenny White was born Jenny Bett on the 29<sup>th</sup> October, 1926 at 34, Main Street known as Betts Close.

She was the eldest of seven children born to Arch Bett and Annie Hutton. Her brother Charles is 91 and lives in Canada, her sister Anne is 80 and her brother Ian has also featured as an Auld Abernethian. Sadly her brother Stewart and the twins Archie and Arthur are no longer with us.

She attended Abernethy School where the teachers were all very good, but strict. After finishing at Abernethy she went to Ross's Commercial College in Perth and hated it. She wanted to be a nurse but her father thought she would be better learning shorthand and book keeping so that she could be on hand to help her mother with the younger siblings at home. She worked for Condie McKenzie the Solicitor and then the GA.

As a child she used to play a lot in the Square and enjoyed going round with Gladys Beatson and her father to light the gas street lamps in the evening. Mr Beatson had a long pole to reach the gas mantles in the lamps. The Tower Bell rang at 8 o'clock to tell the children it was time to get home but this was a rush if she was playing in the park. The Girl Guide Movement had begun on the same day as she was born and she joined on her 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. They met in the Guide Hut at West Park and Janet Paton's mother was Guide Leader with Bertha Powrie and Miss Guthrie.

It was a frightening time during the war. The siren was on Brian's shop and so was very loud in Bett's Close. Dad was an ARP Warden so had

to get up and report to the Town Office while Jennie jumped into bed with her mother. She remembers swapping her sweet coupons for soap coupons because she didn't like chocolate!

She met her husband, Bob at her friend Isobel Kemp's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party at the Moncrieffe Hotel in Bridge of Earn (now the Care Home). He had just been demobbed from the RAF after a long time in Burma. They had three girls and a boy, all now retired. Margaret was a nurse, Aileen was a dental nurse then a phlebotomist, Joyce was a head teacher and Jim was in the Scots Guards and was a helicopter pilot in the Army Air Corps.

She remembers Abernethy as having a lot more shops and a lot less cars. Everyone had to help with the berry-picking and the potato picking. Where the Surgery is now was Ritchie's Grocers with a billiard table at the rear. The Martin's house was Miss West's Photo Shop. Brian's shop was Scott's General Store.

She lived in Newburgh for a number of years but now is back in the house where she was born with her Super-Carer, daughter Joyce.

**AH**

## 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.

## ABERNETHY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (ACT)

Unsurprisingly, we have been very quiet during lockdown. With routine hospital appointments cancelled, shops closed and everyone told to stay at home, there hasn't been much need for a driving service! Now, as we gradually move out of lockdown and towards this 'new normal' that everyone keeps talking about, we are starting to receive calls again.

Obviously, in the current climate, we have had to make some changes to keep our drivers and clients as safe as possible:

- Our drivers will now thoroughly clean and disinfect their vehicle prior to collecting a client.
- If a car has fabric seats, a washable or disposable seat cover may be used.
- Both driver and passenger must wear a mask in the vehicle and the passenger must sit in the near-side rear passenger seat (to be as far away from the driver as possible).
- Whenever possible, clients should have the exact fare in an envelope to minimise the exchange of cash.
- For the time being, we will only cover drives to medical appointments.

As the additional requirements will bring some additional costs, we have had to increase our fares although, as before, we have tried to keep these as low as possible. Details of our new fares are below.

Our final challenge is to make sure we have enough drivers to continue to provide the service. A number of our volunteers are in vulnerable groups so, due to COVID guidelines, will be unable to drive for the foreseeable future. If you might be interested in volunteering with us, please get in touch for more information. Our number is 07840 212747 or email [abernethyct@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyct@gmail.com).

Fares (return journeys)

- Bridge of Earn £5
- Newburgh £5
- PRI £10
- Ninewells £25
- Stracathro £40

Abernethy CT

ALLAN'S CHILLI PRODUCTS



Allan Ferguson is a joiner to trade and is Maintenance Manager with G.S. Brown construction.

Alan's new adventure began in 2013 when he was enjoying trying a new recipe in his kitchen at The Glebe in Abernethy. The recipe called for Chilli Jelly. He did not know where to buy this so he made his own.

A friend popped by for a visit. She said, 'I would buy that. It's so good.' It was so successful that he made more jars and sold them to

farm shops, delis and other outlets. He began the business in his own kitchen but has now converted his garage to a commercial kitchen and produces 12 award winning flavours of chilli jellies and chilli sauces. He now also produces chilli chutneys, award winning chilli marmalade and chilli oatcakes.



He only uses natural ingredients. His apples and pears come from Abernethy and Bridge of Earn. His chillies are now grown for him in Coupar Angus and Joan, his wife, smokes them in her own smokery in the back garden for the Smoked Chilli Jelly.

His wife Joan, mother-in-Law Betty Cairns and daughter Emma are all enthusiastic parts of the business

His proudest moment was when he won the Perth Chamber of Commerce Award in 2017 for Excellence in food and drink. He is a regular at farmers' markets, shows and events and has many stockists, the most distant being in New Zealand!

He has survived the pandemic by selling online through his website



Betty with Trophy

[www.allanschilliproducs.co.uk](http://www.allanschilliproducs.co.uk) and having a stand at the virtual Royal Highland Show.

He is grateful for the support from the local community and happy that people ring his doorbell to buy a jar or bottle. All his products reflect the care, love and enthusiasm that go into their creation and bring a little spice and zest to life.



AH

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

It is with regret that we have to announce there will be no Christmas Party this year due to the Covid-19 crisis. The situation will be reviewed after the New Year.

Secretary, Evelyn Scobie Tel: 07719240294 or 850 496.

The Crier is run by volunteers who give up their time freely but who all have other commitments. To make their jobs as easy as we can there is a date of submission every quarter for articles and advertisements. If this is not adhered to then either the advertisement and/or the article will not be published or the volunteers have to make special, and often time consuming, efforts to accommodate the submitters and publish the item. From now on any item submitted after the deadline will only be published if the committee consider there are exceptional circumstances which justify its inclusion. We are sorry to have to issue such an ultimatum but circumstances make it necessary. Please help us to provide an acceptable service. Thank You

100 CLUB  
THE WILLIAMSON HALL,  
ABERNETHY (SCOTTISH CHARITY  
003200)

Dear existing supporters and potential new ones.

As with everyone and everything, this year has been very different. We haven't been able to deliver the prize money, we are a bit behind on draws and also we haven't been out chasing payment for those who pay by cheque or cash. We promise that all the necessary draws will be done and we will get all the prize money out to people as soon as possible. We'll also contact folk who are due and make sure everyone is up to date but please be assured we'll keep everyone in every draw.

If you aren't signed up for the Williamson Hall 100 Club we are always keen to get more people joining in. The 100 club works by the members paying in an annual subscription and from that money 50% goes to supporting the hall and 50% is paid back to the members through a monthly draw. It is an important income for the hall and even more so just now as the hall hasn't been able to earn income from letting the hall since lockdown began.

The annual subscription is £12. The monthly rewards are currently £25 for the winner and £15 for second place.

If you would like to join the 100 Club, please complete and return the form below to Keir Allen, Mornington Cottage, School Wynd, Abernethy, PH2 9JJ. **Please note that it is preferable to pay by standing order which eliminates the need for yearly reminders and reduces the amount of cash-handling for the committee.** Please note that should you wish to cancel your subscription this can also be done at any time by cancelling your standing order with your bank. A standing order mandate is attached at the bottom of this letter so please consider paying via this method as it is so straightforward.

If you should wish to cancel your subscription at any time could you please let me know by email to keir.allen@gmail.com or by phone on 01738 850676, so that I can allocate your number to another party.

The Management Committee acknowledges and appreciates your support of the Williamson Hall and the contributions made by the members of the 100 Club.

**Keir Allen**  
**100 Club Co-ordinator, The Williamson Hall**  
**Management Committee**

Name(s): .....

Address: .....

Post Code: ..... Tel No: ..... Date: .....

Method of Payment (Tick one)

☐Standing Order - please complete section below

☐Cheque made payable to Williamson Hall Management Committee

☐Cash

Standing Order Mandate

To: The Manager

Name and Address of

Bank.....

.....Post

Code.....

I hereby direct you remit from my account number.....Sort code.....to

The Royal Bank of Scotland, Perth Chief Office, 12 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 5RB

Sort Code 83 47 00 Account Number 00284315 - Williamson Hall Management Committee, the sum of £12 (twelve pounds) only quoting reference

"WHMC\*.....", on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_ and subsequently on the first day of \_\_\_\_\_ each succeeding year. (\*Please insert your name here)

Payments are to continue until you receive further notice in writing.

Signed ..... Date .....

# WILLIAMSON HALL

We hope this edition of The Crier finds you all well and back to a new normal way of life. It has been a very strange time indeed. The hall closed its doors when the rest of the country closed theirs, way back in March, and hopefully by the time you receive this edition the hall doors will once again be open and back welcoming the community onto the premises. We are looking forward to re-opening and want to reassure you that we will be making sure we comply with all government requirements to ensure that we are “Good to Go” and that you have a safe visit. If you are now considering an event or party then please get in touch, we are once again taking bookings and are here for you!

While we have been closed we have eventually managed to fix the problems with the outside water pipes. As I write a new path is being laid, large holes are being backfilled and the grounds tidied up ready for our visitors. Prior to this we saw a much needed updating of the mens’ toilets plus easier access to a new shower room; this was completed at the end of Summer 2019. We are hoping the Boys Brigade like the new look facilities when they return for their annual residential in May 2021. A massive thank you to Alasdair Mallinson for all his hard work.

We are currently working on the plans to install CCTV plus a new defibrillator. The defibrillator will be in addition to the one currently in situ on Main Street and many thanks to the Community Council for supporting this initiative and part funding the cost of the unit.

The number of bookings will of course be very low this year, but we do have faith that once the doors open they will once again pick up. Earlier in the year we unfortunately lost a couple of our regular bookings (Monday Pilates and Wednesday Abz Fitness). This now

## \*\*\*\*Contact Details\*\*\*\*

For enquiries or to book the Williamson Hall please contact

Andrea Dewar  
07968978432  
dewarandrea1971@gmail.com

leaves the hall available for hire on these nights and any interested groups should get in touch regarding availability and costs.

The following activities are still on each week. These groups are right on your doorstep and are a means of the community coming together and enjoying the services they offer, so please come along and support these groups.

### Tuesdays

7pm Aerobics/circuits/toning  
8pm Body Balance  
(taichi, pilates, yoga)

Contact – Andrea Dewar  
dewarandrea1971@gmail.com

### Thursdays

9.30am Mother & Toddler Group

Contact –  
abernethytoddlers@hotmail.com

### Thursdays

7.30pm Line Dancers

Contact – Elaine Marr  
marr91w@btinternet.com

We do not have exact dates when the groups will resume, therefore before visiting it would be best to make contact with the group to ensure that they are back up and running.

### Hire Charges

(charges have not increased since 2015)

Monday to Thursday anytime and Friday before 6pm = £10 per hour

Saturday and Sunday before 6pm = £12 per hour

Friday, Saturday and Sunday after 6pm = £18 per hour

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [www.williamsonhall.org.uk](http://www.williamsonhall.org.uk)

**Andrea Dewar**

## FRAE OOR COONCILLOR

March 2020; when our lives changed overnight! No one will ever forget 2020 when plans made for all sorts of events were cancelled overnight. We were all facing uncertainty and the priority was STAYING WELL. I do hope you are all well and adjusting to the new normal.

Home schooling became the new norm. A big thank you to all children, and parents who kept their children motivated along with working from home for most, or worse being furloughed. I want to thank all those who have demonstrated acts of kindness throughout the pandemic particularly the Abernethy Angels who carried out lots of “missions within the village”. A special mention must go to Jill Young who “volunteered” to be the co-ordinator, which was a big relief to me! Thank you also to Beth Johnston who looked after the food larder and took surplus donations to Perth Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who has looked after their neighbour in true community spirit. There are so many good stories of kindness, of people helping those who were on their own.

For many it has been a really hard time, but I hope that now you have the confidence to go out a bit more.

Many have taken up new hobbies, gardening, knitting and baking, learning new skills, new words, and ZOOM has a new meaning. Via Zoom we can meet friends for coffee, partake in quizzes, SWI meetings, Community Council meetings, while Council meetings are via TEAMS. Extraordinary examples of fundraising for charities, spurred on by the inspirational Sir Captain Tom Moore known to all as Captain Tom. I only know this through social media as like most of you I have been at home. For someone who was in Perth at least four days a week and out most evenings to suddenly be at home is quite a change. Councillors and the majority of Perth & Kinross Council staff are working from home. Perth & Kinross Council were well prepared for the pandemic and quickly staff were redeployed where they were most needed. Throughout the pandemic eighteen essential services continued; keeping those in need of social care at home safe and well, delivering food to those who were shielding, providing childcare for key workers, dealing with numerous grant applications, maintaining regular collection of household waste, to name just a few. The Council has responded to 254 pieces of guidance from the Scottish Government since March.

Key workers kept us all safe, well and fed. I think we all realise that the list of key workers grows and grows. Everyone played their part.

Council meetings, planning committee, licensing committee and licensing board have all met virtually since June, and Abernethy residents have had the opportunity to participate in virtual presentations for planning applications all in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

Unfortunately during the last few months fly tipping has been a huge problem for many landowners and the Council. I know the recycling centres were closed for a few months for very good reasons and we all wish they had been permitted to reopen a bit sooner but that is no excuse for people to drive out into the countryside and dump furniture etc. Please be extra vigilant when paying someone to dispose of waste for you as they may take the money and then dump the waste illegally. Landowners were very grateful for the fund set up to help clear up the mess. Landowners or individuals can apply to this fund either to clear up an area or to pay for preventive measures, either fencing or boulders, to help prevent vehicular access.

As lockdown has eased Waste Service and Greenspace have had requests for litter picking equipment. To minimise the transmission of COVID-19 through borrowed litter picking equipment the council are buying 200 new litter pickers and implementing new procedures. Equipment will be offered to Community Councils or other groups who have shown interest, these will be on long term loan. Perth & Kinross Council's webpage will have more information, featuring Keep Scotland Beautiful guidelines. Community groups will be responsible for their own risk assessment with regard to litter picking. I know some people in the village have their own litter picker and regularly litter pick and their efforts are much appreciated. We can all help by not dropping litter.

In May, the council roads department contacted local councillors and the school with regard to the proposed upgrade of the zebra crossing to a puffin crossing and I am delighted that this will be changed to a puffin crossing, another puffin crossing will be sited east of the mini roundabout at the school and the flooding issue on Back Dykes at the bottom of School Wynd will be addressed. This work will be completed this financial year.

What are the next steps? Perth & Kinross Council along with its partners and volunteers has been responding to COVID-19 for 4 months and the impact of the virus on communities is rapidly changing as we come out of lockdown. We are now at the recovery and renewal stage and local authorities are tasked with working alongside their partners, agencies and members of the community to facilitate this. The impact of COVID-19 across the area has been considerable but it is too early to quantify.

Schools will have reopened by the time you read this and we will be gradually learning to live with the "new normal". The council have introduced Space for People throughout Perth & Kinross to encourage more people to walk or cycle, and locally Glenfoot Road is now a designated Green Route. I do hope that drivers will adhere to the new speed limit.

Perth & Kinross Council has worked with communities throughout the pandemic and this will continue as we all recover. This is a challenging time for everyone and reliable digital connectivity is a priority as working from home is the new norm for many people. Perth & Kinross Council acknowledges that local volunteers have played a significant role in keeping those who were vulnerable safe and well and hope those who have volunteered will continue to play an active role in their community. Your community needs you!

Meeting people and being part of the community and seeing the issues is probably what I have missed most during the last few months. Who knows the challenges we may face in the coming weeks and months? Please remember you are not alone, there are many individuals and organisations willing to help. Please ask. Stay Safe and Well

### **Councillor Kathleen Baird**

I can be contacted as usual: kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk or 07584206839

*(Details correct at time of going to press, Ed)*

## **ABERNETHY ANGELS**

Back in March with lockdown on the cards, concerned residents began to comment on the Abernethy facebook page...'how will people manage'...'we should do something'...'I'd be happy to help'... Taking the initiative, the Church rounded up a few volunteers and Abernethy Angels took flight! Leaflets were delivered throughout the village to make sure everyone had a number to call if they were isolating and needed help with collecting shopping or medication or just wanted a friendly chat.

Initially, the calls to the help line were from more willing volunteers asking for their names to be added to the list but, gradually, requests for help started to come through. The pharmacies in both Newburgh and Bridge of Earn were delighted to hear about the Angels and were soon asking us to collect as many prescriptions as we could each day. It was much easier for them to have one person collecting a list of prescriptions rather than lots of people queuing on the street outside their door. The Angel could then deliver the items to the relevant people.

We also instigated the Angels' Share box that took up residence on the Museum railings for a while. The instruction was to 'give what you can and take what you need'. Of course, being Abernethy, much more was donated than was taken and the box soon became a collection point for Perth Food Bank allowing us to help the wider community too.

Over recent weeks, as we have tried to return to some sort of normality, the number of requests has greatly reduced. Both pharmacies are happy for everyone to collect their own prescriptions again and supermarket delivery slots are much easier to find so the Angels have been able to return to their 'day jobs'.

Thank you very much to everyone who volunteered as an Angel. Many of you were never called into service because we were never as busy as we expected to be but we were still grateful to know you were there. We have also had thanks from the Provost of Perth and Kinross, Dennis Melloy and from Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Perth and Kinross, Stephen Leckie.

It says so much about our village that we were able to pull together a service like this at such short notice and make it work as successfully as it did.

Well done Abernethy Angels!!

***(Name and address supplied)***

# ABERNETHY CLUB & ORGANISATION CONTACT INFORMATION

Abernethy Bowling Club  
Contact: Mrs Frances Easton  
Tel: 01738 850788

Abernethy Community Cinema  
Contact: Jennie Marshall  
Tel Home: 01738 370246 Mobile: 07788370246  
Email: [abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com)

Abernethy Community Transport  
Contact: Jill Young  
Tel: 07840212747  
Email: [abernethyct@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyct@gmail.com)

Abernethy & District Community Council  
Contact: Ro Bell  
Tel: 07976157022  
Email: [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com)

Abernethy & District Senior Citizens Trust  
Contact: Evelyn Scobie  
Tel Home: 01738 850496 Mobile: 07719240294  
Email: [Evescobie22@btinternet.com](mailto:Evescobie22@btinternet.com)

Abernethy & Dron Parish Church  
Contact: Alex Johston  
Tel: 01577 830776  
Email: [session.clerk@ada-church.org.uk](mailto:session.clerk@ada-church.org.uk)

Abernethy Horticultural Society  
Contact: Jane Sanderson  
Tel: 01738 850610  
Email: [abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com)

Abernethy in Bloom  
Contact: Ian Lamond  
Tel Home: 01738 850186 Mobile: 07703318488  
Email: [lamond0583@hotmail.com](mailto:lamond0583@hotmail.com)

Abernethy Keep Active Club  
Contact: Evelyn Scobie  
Tel Home: 01738 850496 Mobile: 07719240294  
Email: [Evescobie22@btinternet.com](mailto:Evescobie22@btinternet.com)

Abernethy Primary School  
Contact: Suz McKenzie  
Tel: 01738 472676  
Email: [abernethy@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:abernethy@pkc.gov.uk)

Abernethy Tennis Club  
Contact: Chris Farmer  
Email: [abernethytennis@gmail.com](mailto:abernethytennis@gmail.com)

Abernethy Walking Group  
Contact: Anne Macdonald  
Tel: 01738 850403

Auld Abernethy Association  
Contact: Jimmy Swan  
Tel Home: 01738 850569 Mobile: 07808900084  
Email: [jimmyswan36@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyswan36@gmail.com)

Baby & Toddler Group  
Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/Abernethytoddlers/>

Badminton  
Contact: Keir Allan  
Email: [keir.allen@gmail.com](mailto:keir.allen@gmail.com)

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts  
Contact: Gordon Miller  
Tel: 07763098141  
Email: [gordonmiller146aol.com](mailto:gordonmiller146aol.com)

Keep Fit  
Contact: Andrea Dewar  
Email: [dewarandrea1971@gmail.com](mailto:dewarandrea1971@gmail.com)

Line Dancing  
Contact: Elaine Marr  
Tel: 01738 850466

Rainbows & Brownies (& Guides from August 2020)  
Contact: Mary Gallacher  
Tel: 07801658506  
Email: [firstabernethygirlguiding@gmail.com](mailto:firstabernethygirlguiding@gmail.com)

SWI  
Contact: Elizabeth Taylor  
Tel Home: 01738 850477  
Email: [elizabethtaylor43@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elizabethtaylor43@hotmail.co.uk)

The Burns Club  
Contact: Jimmy Swan  
Tel Home: 01738 850569 Mobile: 07808900084  
Email: [jimmyswan36@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyswan36@gmail.com)

The Masons  
Contact: Roy Sutherland  
Tel: 01738 850785  
Email: [roy.caroline@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.caroline@btinternet.com)

The Museum  
Contact: Lesley Robinson  
Tel: 01738 850889  
Email: [secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk)

The Village Crier  
Contact: Les McIntosh  
Email: [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk)

The Williamson Hall  
Contact: Andrea Dewar  
Email: [dewarandrea1971@gmail.com](mailto:dewarandrea1971@gmail.com)

*To keep the contact list information up to date please email club contact info changes to either  
Linda Buchan at [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com) or  
Les McIntosh at [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk)*

*Thank you*

# ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

Like every other activity, tennis has felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic this year. In line with government lockdown rules the Powrie Park courts were closed completely for more than two months from March to late May - precisely the time of year when the club usually comes out of winter dormancy (or 'badminton season' as it is sometimes known). Some earlier hard graft from members in clearing the usual winter coating of leaves and moss (thanks in particular to Dougie Cleeton for that) therefore left the courts tantalisingly ready to play on, but alas, empty. This coinciding with a prolonged spell of glorious dry and sunny weather was also rather galling, but as we all remember it was a strange and worrying time and tennis rightly took a back seat to the wider effort.

There are some silver linings though - tennis is something of a unique sport in that 'social distancing' is built into its very nature. Thanks to this, as lockdown restrictions were eased, tennis was among the first activities to be able to recommence. This was not without a whole host of extra rules and measures to be followed (the instruction that players must not handle anyone else's balls may have caused a little sniggering in some quarters). The committee acted quickly to install the required signage and hand sanitiser etc to allow the courts to reopen as soon as allowed as well as offering a reduced annual membership rate and a new 'contactless' online registration and payment system. The club has seen an immediate jump in our membership numbers compared to recent years, with now nearly 100 members signed up. Many of these are returning members from a few years back while others are completely new members and we extend a warm welcome to all. Unfortunately, as of the time of writing, the restrictions on groups of households meeting mean we have been unable to organise any events to be able to welcome new members in person, but we hope you are all enjoying your tennis for the time being and to be able to meet soon!

The lockdown also meant regular weekly coaching sessions and an Easter Holidays coaching camp for juniors from our newly affiliated coach Daniel Reed could not go ahead as planned. We are very pleased that, in line with current government guidance, juniors group coaching is set to resume and RPT European Professional Daniel Reed aims to be running regular coaching sessions in Abernethy for ages 4-16 on Saturdays for the duration of the Autumn school term (10 weeks from August 15th to October 17th). For more information or to book a place please contact Daniel at [dartennis@gmx.co.uk](mailto:dartennis@gmx.co.uk) When further restriction lifting allows, Daniel hopes to be able to offer coaching sessions for groups of adults, which will probably be held on a weekday evening.

For up to date information on coaching, or to join and get unlimited access to the courts, please visit the club website at: <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AbernethyTennisClub>

**Chris Farmer**

## THE MASONS

With regard to our last piece in the Crier, unfortunately all our events had to be cancelled due to COVID -19 this wasn't just for us, sadly many other local events had to be cancelled, from business and club events, down to family and individual events, birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, holidays etc. The COVID-19 virus has affected everyone, and still is. Rightfully the saying "We're all in this together" has been and still is very paramount everywhere. As the pandemic took hold in the UK we took the decision to close our meetings early for our usual summer recess. Within a week, as the virus took hold, the Grand Lodge

of Scotland sent out an instruction for all Lodges to close until further notice.

I missed out on one event above, that being bereavement. This is a very difficult time for anyone, at any other time, but just now, even more so, the rules have changed! With access to loved ones limited, limits on numbers for gatherings, no church service, travel restrictions, lack of flowers etc. it is an extremely different and difficult experience. Our thoughts go out to all who have lost anyone at this time, and I personally fully sympathise with anyone who has, having done so myself. Lodge Abernethy Round Tower at the time of writing (29/07/20) has said farewell to three of its members.

William Steedman – *Joined in 1955 - Became Master of the Lodge in 1964*

George Brown – *Joined in 1972*

Jimmy Russell – *From Lodge Lindores in Newburgh – Was made an Honorary Life member of Abernethy Round Tower in 1997*

Usually during our closed season, we would maybe do a bit of final planning on any events, and then have the events, and most possibly do some maintenance work on the building itself. Nothing like this has been possible so far this year, and we have no idea yet as to when we can resume, but we seem to have been just as busy, mainly with correspondence re COVID-19. The 640 Lodges in Scotland under The Grand Lodge of Scotland are grouped into Provinces, each Province having a Provincial Grand Lodge. These Provincial Lodges (*made up from Masons in the province*) then represent their Lodges at The Grand Lodge of Scotland. Our Lodge and 17 others are governed by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Perthshire East. Our Provincial Grand Lodge, immediately upon lockdown, looked to helping those in need in the province. Very quickly a source of visors meeting NHS spec was found in the area, and a price agreed. These visors were to be distributed to local nursing homes, hospices etc. within the Province. Lodges in the province were then asked if they would like to join our Provincial Lodge in their venture, by making a donation to them, to assist in the purchase of these visors. Abernethy Round Tower made an immediate sizeable donation towards the cost of the visors required, as did many of the other Lodges in the province, so much so, that the first ordered amount was able to be doubled. Over 1,000 visors were delivered to the 15 care homes in the province that required them, plus Upper Springlands, the District Nurses in Auchterarder and the Macmillan Nurses in Perth.

The Grand Lodge of Scotland opened up a media page at the beginning of lockdown for all its Lodges to be able to show what they had been doing during lockdown. These lodges were not just those in Scotland; Grand Lodge is the heart of many overseas lodges as well. This has turned out to be a great meeting point for Masons, and with many countries represented, has shown the effects of COVID-19. In the past week alone Masons from Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Botswana, East Africa, Far East, Fiji, Jamaica, Malawi, Middle East, North Island New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Western Province of the Cape of Good Hope and Zambia joined the group, telling stories, some with pictures, of their charity acts in their neighbourhoods during the pandemic. The monetary support alone, given by the Lodges on this page, value to date, is £214,170.

Back to Scotland, and the Lodges here have been busy too, sourcing and delivering PPE of all types to every possible person they could find. Also money and produce to food banks. Masons have also volunteered their time in many ways to help out. I know of one, who was driving an ambulance in London for about a month. I don't know

if we will ever know the total amount donated by the individual Lodges and their brethren.

I looked to see if Abernethy Round Tower could assist anything local in the village. I had heard and seen the work that the Abernethy Angels were doing for locals. I contacted them, to see if we could help support them, and was thanked for the offer, but told they were well funded at that time. I was then told of some locals making face masks for anyone who required them in the village, and also how the Abernethy In Bloom members were trying their best, to add some colour to the village during these difficult times; it was suggested that we supported these groups to help with the cost of materials or PPE that they required. Both recommendations were approved by the Lodge members. As these two recommendations were being considered by the members of our Lodge, the Grand Lodge of Scotland announced a COVID-19 funding scheme, whereby if any Lodge was making a COVID-19 based donation, it could be considered to be matched from the Grand Lodge fund. I put forward the details of the two donations we were making, and was pleased to tell both groups that our donation to them had been matched by Grand Lodge, thus doubling the donation amount to them. 70 projects throughout Scotland have benefitted by £103,394 under this scheme.

Can I please take this chance to thank all those who have helped out over the lockdown months, The Abernethy Angels, Members of Abernethy in Bloom, Sue Swan - who singly carried on the making of masks, and anyone else who “done their bit.”

**Colin Hewlett RWM 1429**  
**The Handover of funds from Lodge 1429 Abernethy Round Tower**

Margaret Donaldson (AiB)  
- Dave Morris (Treasurer 1429) – Sue Swan (Masks)  
– Colin Hewlett (RWM 1429) Sonia Simmers (Chair AiB) – Ian Lamond (Secretary AiB)



**LITTLE HAIR COMPANY**

It's good to be back



With these strange times we are living in I found it hard to find something other than COVID to write about. As a business owner what has this taught me? You either roll over and give in or you keep being stubborn and keep going.

We, like many small business owners, wondered during lockdown about our future, what would it hold financially, would our customers be in the same boat, would they be able to help support us? With the dreaded looming price increase and PPE measures we had to create and install also at the back of our mind we had the constant worry of not knowing what will happen in the near future and in the distant future. It did make me question whether it was worth it, but it has made me very humble to see so many local businesses, including my own, supported by their communities; encouraged to keep going; helping us to survive .

We made some fantastic new changes to the salon which makes it such a lovely homely place to be and much more relaxed. The new iPads seem to be a hit and I take no responsibility for our younger members of team showing some very mature clients how to play candy crush .

I could talk hair all day and I am finding it in places you don't even want to know! We have been so, so busy snipping and colouring that it has been crazy since we got back.



Like many salons it's been mind blowing, so much so even I value my job more than I ever did and it's so wonderful to see so many, even with the scary prospects of not knowing if they are doing everything correctly, coming out for a much needed pamper.

Supporting locals has always been at the forefront of our community but now more than ever your smaller local businesses need you and I am sure many of them will agree with me when I say a heartfelt **thank you**.

**KIRK NEWS**

Although both Abernethy and Glenfarg churches currently remain closed, the Kirk Session and Minister are working hard to find ways to re-open.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 regulations this is proving to be a challenging but ongoing task. It is an ever-changing situation and therefore difficult to predict.

Meanwhile, our worship continues every week and you are most welcome to join. It can be accessed through our ADA Facebook page by going to Abernethy & Dron & Arngask Church.

Here you will also find the most up-to-date information of virtual services and the latest news about the physical re-opening of our buildings.

Thanks for your patience. As you can see, The Church is not ready to open yet in any meaningful way, for now.

**Celia King**

## MY STORY – HOW I COPEd IN LOCKDOWN

How did I cope in lockdown? Well, some days I coped better than others, but on the whole I coped fairly well. I think the fact we live in a beautiful part of Perthshire helped. Also, I have a great view from the back of my house, and that helped too. It might have been a different story if I lived in a big city in a house or flat with no garden.

Walking in this beautiful countryside of ours was my saving grace, whether it was just round the wee park out my back gate, or some of my longer adventures as time went on, and we were allowed to go a bit farther. And of course, the weather did help.

My garden too was a godsend, especially in the early days of lockdown when we weren't allowed to go too far from home. During that time, I planned to do all sorts of jobs, like de-cluttering, decorating, painting the fence and shed, etc, etc. I also looked out an unfinished knitting project intending to finish that jumper that had been on the pins for about ten years. I even dragged the keyboard out, intending to watch videos and teach myself to play and hopefully be able to knock out a tune! Did any of that happen? No, I'm afraid not. The shed is half painted, the fence isn't yet painted, decorating not done, de-cluttering not done, the jumper is still in the bag, and I still can't play a tune! Instead we spent our time doing jigsaws and playing games that hadn't seen the light of day for years, and sat in the garden when it was nice, and I did get a bit of gardening done. We also had lots of facetime calls with family in the early days, and we still have a weekly family quiz.

As I said, walking is my thing. I have done some calculations and it turns out I have done 30 walks (ranging from 2 miles to 8 miles) between 18<sup>th</sup> March and 2<sup>nd</sup> August, a total of 150 miles, and taken about 1,000 photographs! I have shared lots of my photos from walks on Facebook and several people have said how much they enjoyed seeing them. This definitely gave me a boost when I needed it most. Others have said I should compile a book of walks, so you never know, watch this space!

One good thing that has come out of lockdown is that I have learned to appreciate my own local area, and have realised how beautiful it is, and how many beautiful wild flowers we have. I have followed the changing seasons on the farms, from the fields being ploughed, the seeds being sown, the tatties being planted, and the "braw strecht dreels" that I am sure my late father would have remarked upon. Then the growing and cultivation of the grain crops, and the joy of seeing the tatties coming through and flowering.

The most enjoyable thing though, has been seeing all the wild flowers in their cycle, starting with the whins in March, along with the primroses and daffodils, followed by the broom in April and the trees just beginning to bud. The spring flowers in Nurse Peattie's Memorial Garden were looking magnificent this year, and the wigelia and camelia were stunning, as were the primroses and tulips in the tubs around the village. The pansies in the tubs at the church were also greatly admired.

In April I was lucky enough to spot a wee deer on the witches' road and he stood still long enough for me to get a picture! Also in April I climbed half way up Castle Law and along to Ayton Wood past the witches' cave, for the first time in years and was amazed to see the trees that had been cut down in Ayton Wood and the beautiful views that one can now enjoy. It was truly amazing and I got quite emotional and even took a wee video! The sheep and lambs were now out in the fields and growing fast, and dandelions were now in full bloom.

May was apple blossom time and the broom was now starting to flower, along with the red campion and meadowsweet. The barley and wheat were growing well in the fields, and the whins were now at full flourish on the hill. The lambs were growing fast and the mayflower (hawthorn) starting to appear. By mid-May we had the comfrey, speedwell and dead nettles on the road verges. May also brought another climb up Castle Law and another visit to the witches' cave, the oxeye daisies were now starting to make their appearance and the whins were still in full bloom and the leaves bursting forth on the trees with the hawthorn now in full bloom too. I think it was the best I've seen for a long time, or was it I just had more time to stand and stare? I didn't see many bluebells though, only a few in the Den. Aquilegia and wigelia were now a joy in my own garden. By the end of May, the grain was growing well and the barley swaying in the wind at Cordon and Broadwell. Dandelions were now past and the dog roses starting to appear. They were also the best I have seen for a long time. On 31<sup>st</sup> May we had the lovely big moon during the day and I managed to capture a photo from Castle Law. I made it to the top this time and boy was it worth it! Emotions got the better of me again and I cried at the beauty all around me. I took another wee video! In the Rough Glen were yellow welsh poppies in abundance.

In June, oxeye daisies now in full bloom, and foxgloves and yellow welsh poppies in the Rough Glen along with hypericum and honeysuckle in abundance. Dog roses have really come into their own now, and clover, birds foot trefoil, cow parsley, and a wee orange flower called fox and cubs had now made an appearance along the roadsides. Oxeye daisies and dog roses lined the verges on the approach to the Screw Brig and were there for all to admire with creeping thistles appearing everywhere. Meadowsweet and feverfew were now lining Jamesfield Road. By the end of June the cow parsley was looking very pretty with their purple centres while barley and wheat ripened well in the fields.

Nurse Peattie's garden was looking beautiful with poppies and lupins. In my own garden the peonies appeared in abundance as did the foxgloves and geraniums.

In July, the spear thistle or common thistle with its distinctive purple top had made an appearance, and rosebay willow herb was now appearing, giving a wonderful splash of colour. The roadside verges had now been cut and were all looking very neat. In July I was alerted by a friend to a bonny blue flower he had seen growing in a field of other wild flowers, which turned out to be chicory, the coffee root plant. This was my most exciting find! Crops are now all looking good and some ready for cutting, beans looking well, with lots of butterflies some Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood butterflies. Also purple tansy (Phacelia) in a strip of wild flowers at Hatton, and flowers on the tatties. I ventured up Stewart's hill in July and was rewarded by the views and wild flowers. harebells, lady's bedstraw and tormentil growing together with some eyebright, a very pretty wee flower. Some summer colour now in Nurse Peattie's garden; marigolds and petunias, and a lovely red crososmia, even berries on the variegated holly tree! Last day of July and fruit and berries in the Rough Glen; plums, wild raspberries, black currants, and red currants, also rosehips making an appearance and rowan berries. I decided to walk down Glenfoot Road and try out the new speed limit of 30mph. Glad to say everyone kept to the limit and were very courteous. Himalayan balsam was now evident on river banks, very pretty but very invasive. Angelica growing tall on the railway embankment, along with meadowsweet and lots of rosebay willow herb.

For my most recent walk I ventured into Fife and saw some scabious and what I think was viper's bugloss. Who knows where I will end up next!

**Evelyn Scobie**

*Some of Evelyn's photos*

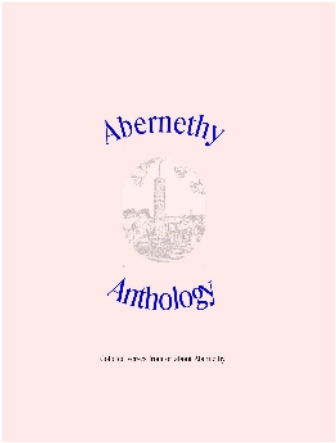


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**Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.**

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**Jim Pentley D2043**

Community Officer

Telephone: 101

Email: [jimmy.pentley@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jimmy.pentley@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

*Myself, and Constable Pentley, are the local community officers for the following areas: Bridge of Earn, Abernethy, Forgandenny, Luncarty, Stanley, Bankfoot, Murthley, Almondbank and Methven.*

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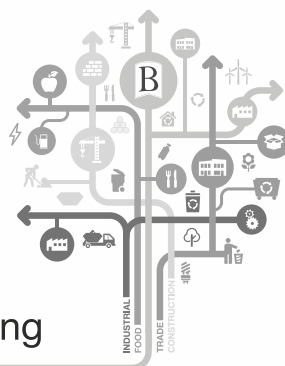
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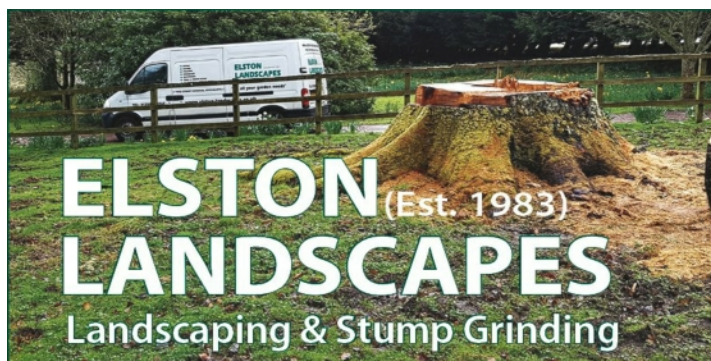
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