



48th Edition

December 2020

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DECEMBER'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION.

WELL DONE ANNE HOLLINGSWORTH



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FROM THE EDITOR

Sitting here on a damp and dreich October Monday looking out the window, we're in another partial lockdown, and so it goes on. I think there was a fear the number of those infected would start to rise during the winter months and the Scottish Government have had to use all in their arsenal to try and slow the infection rate down. I wonder how they coped locally in 1919 with the Spanish flu?

That made me think how very different it must have been more than 100 years ago. One thing we would have been doing then was buying locally. Not as far back as that but when I was a bairn in Abernethy many mothers shopped in the village shops, as there were many of them compared to today. The only one left is Brian's. In the early 1960s there were 2 general merchants, a baker, a Co-op, a Co-op toy shop, a Post Office, a butcher, 2 pubs, a hotel, a bike repair shop, a photographic and general merchant, a library, a bank, a dairy plus all the other tradesmen, builders, joiners etc etc.

With this pandemic we have found, as a country, that we were short of certain essentials because these essentials come from a country at the other side of the globe, things you would have thought we could make ourselves. Do we not make anything anymore?

I think this has been a steep learning curve for governments and possibly a lesson learned by ourselves, so let's do more local shopping, let's do more for ourselves and let's not rely on other countries to manufacture every damn thing. Some industries were short of something simple like a nut and bolt, surely we could make our own.

We will get through this, but at what cost. When buying from a shop or ordering online try where possible to buy from this country; let's make Scotland and the UK great again.

Stay safe.

Jimmy

It is with regret.....that we hear of the deaths of Ian Johnston, May Dack, Mrs Barbara Guthrie and Mrs Marion Goodall.

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

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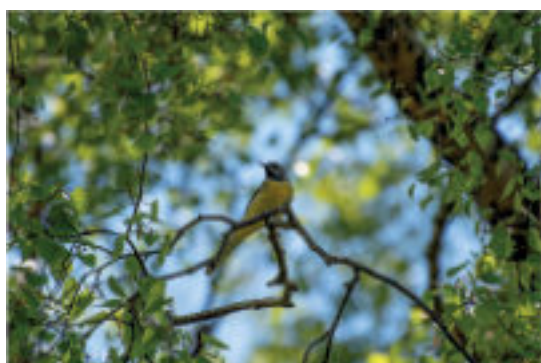


John McRobbie



John McRobbie

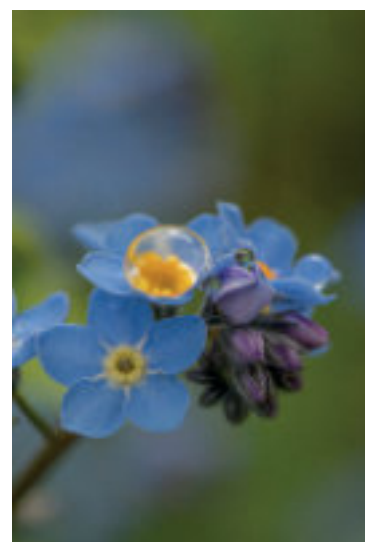
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John McRobbie



John McRobbie



John McRobbie



John McRobbie

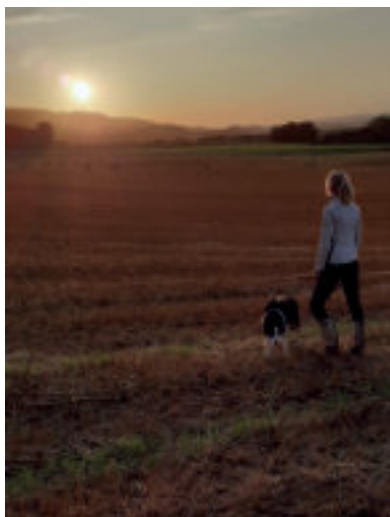


John McRobbie



John McRobbie

Photograph



Michael Tunney

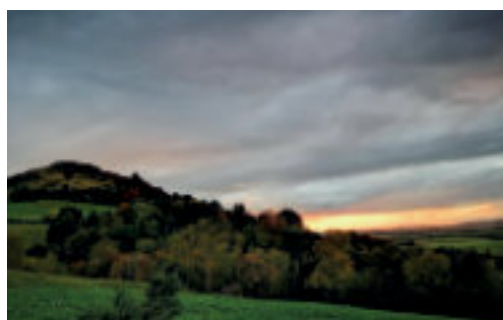


Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey

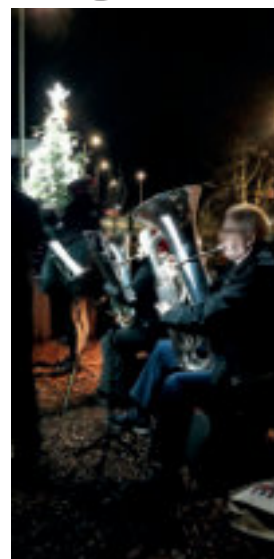
Competition



Moira Lacey



Evelyn Scobie



Anne Hollingsworth

FROM THE CHAIR

I find it hard to believe we are approaching the end of another year. A year to remember or a year to forget? I think it is a year which will not easily be forgotten for a long time to come, a year which has affected the world one way or another as never before. When in living memory were we ever banned from inviting callers into our homes, when were we ever banned from visiting relations and friends either in their own homes or in hospital or care homes, and last December did it ever cross our minds that holidays would be cancelled, cinemas, theatres, concert halls, restaurants, pubs and shops would be closed?



Looking on the bright side, as each day passes we are heading towards a new year and springtime and we have had a beautiful autumn.

Over the end of summer and early autumn we wondered how many articles we might have for the December issue as no-one seemed to have any news because of the limited life-style forced upon us. However, as usual, Abernethy has come up with the goods and once again we have managed to produce thirty-six pages of colour

and interest; quite a change from our first edition in 2008, 1 sheet of A4 paper printed on both sides!. Now we have 36 pages, photographs, adverts, colour and a great variety of articles contributed by you, the readers. Without you there would be no Crier. You have a good read ahead, so forget the doom and gloom for a little while. Plenty here to bring a smile to your faces..

One little point of local historical interest, the bench commemorating the Queen's Jubilee was one of the projects of the first Abernethy Community Council. Prior to regionalisation Abernethy was served by a Provost and Town Council.

Christmas and New Year are nearly upon us and I know we will all be hoping and praying for a better time to come, and I am sure it will. For a start we can look forward to seeing the Christmas tree and lights in Nurse Peattie's garden. Thank you to Branston for giving us the tree and to Abernethy in Bloom for lighting our lives over Christmas and New Year.

My warmest and best wishes to you all.

Hilda Clow



FRAE YIR ITHAR COONCILLOR

After the budget I thought I would do a piece for the Crier but it may be too political.

The SNP Councillors' viewpoint

The SNP have always backed funding a modern and fit-for-purpose leisure pool and sports facility at the centre of Perth. PH20 is a well-designed project, which will attract people to the city and, importantly, offers a much-needed leisure facility for the residents of Perth and Kinross. We can't say how important mental and physical well being is, without then offering people facilities that can help them to stay healthy. Delivering on PH20 has always been a priority for the SNP and if we were in administration we would absolutely make sure this project was up and running as soon as possible. It is disappointing that the current Tory administration does not share the same urgency for developing this project.

This may be controversial, however rather than front load the City Hall project as neither the UK have signed the Cities Deal to release the funding, nor have we had a decision by the Keepers of the Regalia on whether the Stone of Destiny will come to Perth or be housed in a new area being developed in Edinburgh Castle. Thus we put an amendment to pause the development of the City Hall until funding was in place, which is a commitment from UK Government through the Tay Cities Deal, and until we had a decision on the Stone of Destiny. As we are going through such difficult times with financial uncertainty, surely to front load such a project is not financially prudent. Again our Tory administration, bolstered by the LibDems, won the motion; so ahead we shall go, flying by the seat of our pants.

On the positive side we are proceeding with the much needed and long awaited Cross Tay Link Road which will be partly funded by the Scottish Government as a part of The Tay Cities deal. No problem there then.

Again Blairgowrie Recreation Centre had its funding cut by the Tories and LibDems in the last Capital Budget. A proposal was agreed by all to go ahead, but with a considerable additional expense because of the delay caused by underfunding. Not in our area but delays have not been good for the people of Blairgowrie.

Good news for our secondary children is that the go ahead for new Perth High School went through and it will be built to the Passivhaus standards, which will make it carbon neutral, and it will be a school for the future with all the latest technology to give our children and grandchildren the best start in life. This will be a great tribute to the late Councillor Bob Band who started this project off whilst he was Convener of Life Long Learning. Again not in our area but a new primary school at North Muirton was also passed unanimously at full council and again will be of Passivhaus standards so this will ensure that the school estates are kept to the highest standards that can be had.

I hope that this allows the good folk of Abernethy to get a clear view on how council budgets are debated and how conclusions and decisions are come to. However if the administration decides to make a bad decision it is up to those of us in opposition to bring it to the scrutiny of the constituents.

Stay Safe

Councillor Henry Anderson

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NEW NEIGHBOURS

These two new arrivals in Abernethy are called Scottie and Chryssie (for obvious reasons). Imagine my surprise when I passed their garden. I caught them holding hands and enjoying the late summer sunshine!

I am expecting to hear the patter of tiny flowerpot-people anytime soon!



Name and address supplied

“THE DONALD”

Wi’ Sunday lunch we normally
Hae a gless o wine or beer
But “The Donald” is makin’ changes
It’s all gone kinda’ queer.

It’s Dettol and ice cocktails
Or Jeyes fluid wi’ a twist
The Covid’s no gonna get me
But I’m struggling tae get p....d!

So drink up yir bleach and cola
Or the Paraquat carafe.
O ma veins are fair shinin’
Bugger ma lugs hae jist fa’in aff

So please stay safe ma trusty friends
And hae a drink wi’ me
But dinnae touch that Donald dram,
The chances are ye’ll dee.

Abernethy’s B****y Poet Laureate

TOWER LIGHTS

I am sure by now that you will have noticed the Tower lights are on again.

Some time ago the Community Council decided it was time the lights were switched back on but in trying to do so they quickly realised they didn’t work and needed a major upgrade. You will have read Peter Glennie’s article in the September issue explaining in great detail the hard work he and others carried out to make the lights workable again.

If I may I would like to explain how the Roy family in the US became involved. Firstly, I am certain you all know where James Roy Court is in the village - just off School Wynd. The Roy family of the 1920s consisted of father and mother and five bairns; John, Willie, Dave, Jim and Jean. Dave, Jim and Jean finished their days in Abernethy, while Willie and John emigrated to the USA. Sadly, none are with us any more, however, their children live on, here and in the USA.

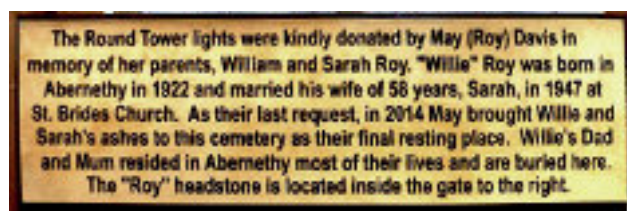
The news got out that the Community Council was hoping to raise enough money to pay for the refurbishment of the Tower illumination and this news reached Georgia, America.

I received a phone call one evening from Dave Roy Jnr. telling me his cousin May Davis would be contacting me from the USA. May explained that she and her husband would like to pay for the installation of the lights in memory of her late father and mother, Willie and Sarah Roy.

I suggested that they might like to contribute to the cost, rather than pay the whole bill, as it may turn out to be very expensive, but they insisted they would be happy to finance the whole project. Many emails went back and forth between Abernethy and the US keeping them up to date on how the project was going.

As Peter explained there was a lot of planning and costing to go through before the work could commence. The Community Council proposed a plaque could be put in place, with the permission of HES, commemorating the occasion. The cost of the plaque was met by the Community Council. The opening ceremony was meant to take place June 2020 but because of the Covid 19 situation this did not happen and it is hoped the event will take place Summer 2021. I still have the brass plaque, beautifully made by Newburgh Graphics, safely locked away in my cupboard.

I would again like to thank May (Roy) Davis for her very generous gift to the village.



Jimmy Swan



THE SLAVE TRADE AND ABERNETHY

And so the troubles and the black/white divide in the USA rumbles on. I sometimes think we live in a wee protected bubble here in Abernethy, sheltered from the worst that society can dish out.

Before we go east between Newburgh and Auchtermuchty, I would like to share with you a few statistics. While the British Government were seen to be leading the way on the abolishing of slavery, 37 members of the House of Lords and 80 MPs were profiting from slave ownership. At the height of the trade there were 800,000 slaves spread over the Caribbean and the American southern states and 40,000 slave owners spread across the globe. When the end came these people were compensated and compensated sweetly for their loss of income as slave owners.

I have been trying to find a slavery connection with Abernethy but happily no luck so far. However, at the height of the trade, handloom weavers were producing rough or coarse linen also known as "slave linen". Did these weavers know where their product was going? Maybe they did and, like the vast majority of society, thought it an acceptable way of making a living and considered the black man or woman an inferior being born to be a slave.

And so to Taylor Cathcart of Pitcairle House, situated between Newburgh and Auchtermuchty.

The lands of Petcarlings originally formed part of the Barony of Abernethy. In 1312 the lands passed into the ownership of the Leslie family. The house was bought by Colonel James Cathcart in the mid 18th century and his family retained the estate until the mid 1960s. There were several notable members of the family, including Major James Cathcart who had a distinguished military career in India; Captain Robert Cathcart who served with distinction under Nelson at the Battle of the Nile and Robert Cathcart who was appointed Vice Lieutenant of Fife in 1886. Ah! Strangely no mention of Taylor the slave owner/manager in the family history. Well let's correct that.

Taylor Cathcart was born 1777, son of Colonel James Cathcart mentioned above. Taylor was a plantation manager on Grandvale plantation in 1812 which was owned by John Cunningham of Craigends, Renfrewshire. On the 29th May 1812 John Cunningham wrote "Dear Taylor, I have had the pleasure of receiving yours accompanied by a list of negroes and stock at Grandvale - I am happy to observe that the increase in births is likely to keep pace with the decrease occasioned by the deaths of the old and infirm people and I am so pleased to you that you afford every comfort to the women in a state of pregnancy. Indeed, I suppose you will always be disposed to do everything in your power for the comfort of all the slaves. It will be a very satisfactory and consolatory reflection to you after you have relinquished the management and retired from that situation in life". Was he moving up and becoming an owner rather than a manager?

Reading between the lines and with further research we find Taylor in partnership with an Adam White on the estate of Mile Gully, Manchester, Jamaica. The enslaved people of this estate were registered in two groups (owned separately by Taylor Cathcart and Adam White) in the slave registers of 1817 and 1820 but registered collectively to Cathcart and White in the almanacs of this period. At some point between 1820 and 1823, Cathcart transferred 'his' enslaved people to Fyffeside, the estate he owned in Manchester, Jamaica. It is assumed the land was owned by Cathcart and White jointly between 1817 and

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1820 although Cathcart may have hired a gang of enslaved people to the estate rather than owning it in partnership. Between 1817 and 1820 Cathcart and White owned 137 enslaved people. Not all estates are named so there may have been more, in estates managed by others.

When the end came Taylor filed for compensation and on the 8th February 1836 received £1285.12s.3d for 52 enslaved people, £102,618 in today's money. This money was invested elsewhere and when he died on the 14th December 1857 aged 80 years, his occupation was "Landed Proprietor" and his wealth at death was valued at £12,103, £956,863 in today's money, a millionaire - all but.

Some of this value included investments in new technology, the railways: The Monkland Railway Company, The Glasgow and South Western Railway, The Caledonia Railway Company and The Clydesdale Railway Company.

Just last month Seagram's liquor heiress Clair Bronfman was charged with various crimes, one of them sex slavery. Well! On it goes into the 21st Century.



Zanzibar slave memorial

Jimmy Swan

RHYMES AND REMINISCENCES

A sincere thank you to all, both locally and further afield, who purchased my book. Thanks are also due to Brian Greig and Jamesfield Farm Shop for selling books on my behalf. The original order of 100 went quickly and only a handful of the additional order of 45 remain to be sold. To date Diabetes UK and Worldwide Cancer Research have shared £1500 equally thus exceeding my target of £500 for each charity.

Further copies of the book have been obtained and are available from me.

Bob Macdonald

VOLUNTEER COOKS REQUIRED!



It is often the simple ideas that are the best and by turning an everyday activity like cooking into volunteering Meal Makers provides a flexible, close to home and very meaningful way to volunteer your time. Meal Makers is a local neighbourhood food-sharing project that connects volunteers of any age who have a passion for cooking and want to be active in their communities (Cooks), with neighbours over the age of 55 (Diners) who would appreciate a home cooked meal. Once a Cook and Diner have been matched, the Cook will prepare an extra meal in their own home and deliver it to their Diner at a time agreed by both parties. Meal shares can occur as often as the Cook and Diner would like, so it might be weekly, fortnightly or just now and again. We offer basic food hygiene training and guidance on how to share meals safely. If you think you could cook an extra portion for an older neighbour or you would like to sign up as a diner, sign up online today at www.mealmakers.org.uk or call us on 0141 551 8118.



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.

HOLIDAY HORROR STORIES AND CONTINENTAL CATASTROPHES

In normal circumstances unlike what we are going through in these troubled times, holidays allow one to relax and leave the day to day worries behind. That is the theory. It doesn't always work out that way as I have discovered over the years. One of my first holidays in the immediate post war years was spent in Aberdeen. Along with my friend and work colleague Dick Paton we enjoyed our week during the summer so much that we decided to book another holiday in the same boarding house in September. It was a mistake. The landlady was unwell and delegated the cooking to her daughter which was not up to the standard of her mother. Worse still, the weather was miserable. One rainy day we sought refuge in a music shop in Union Street, the idea being to play some records in the booth supplied for prospective buyers. The records were in rather untidy and not too stable piles on a large table in the middle of the shop. Making our selections we had just turned away to head for the booth when we heard a loud crash behind us. Our blood turned cold as we visualised what was left of our holiday money having to cover the cost of the broken records as they were the old 78rpm bakelite type which shattered if dropped. On turning round we found that a large section of the ceiling had crashed down just where we had been standing. The staff were more concerned for our welfare than a batch of broken records.

My next holiday disaster was on my first visit to Spain. My destination was the lovely resort of Sitges on the Costa Dorado just south of



Barcelona. Arriving in the middle of a thunderstorm with the plane being buffeted about and the ground below resembling a paddy field was bad enough but arriving at my hotel in the middle of a power cut was even worse. With power restored and having been assured that it hadn't rained since May the sunshine returned and I was really enjoying the holiday until one day on my return from the beach I decided to have a quick shower prior to dinner and another night on the town. The bathroom overlooked the roof of the hotel and the window was slightly ajar. As I bent down to clean out the sand between my toes a slight

breeze blew the window further open as I arose. It caught me in the small of the back and came off the hinges, shattering as it landed on the side of the bath. Treading my way through broken glass I made myself decent and headed down to reception to report this disaster. Thankfully, like the staff in Aberdeen they were relieved that I had escaped injury apart from a bruise on my back.

Fast forward about thirty years with a wife and three daughters to my name. Our first - and last - holiday in Europe by car was also the last family holiday that we all spent together. We had booked a caravan near the picturesque port of Honfleur in Normandy. It was a lovely holiday punctuated with minor disasters which could easily have been much more serious. Our mode of transport was the Volvo which I had purchased in order to tow the horse box. It might have been a good idea to have attached the horse box to accommodate the girls thus sparing us the regular "Are we nearly there?" questions. The overnight journey to Dover went well and we negotiated the circular road around

London without getting lost. Stopping at Canterbury for fuel I was surprised to see the local General Accident office just across the road. This may have distracted my attention as I omitted to replace the petrol cap. However we managed to acquire a plastic substitute at Dover. Boarding the ferry the exhaust made contact with the ramp and although the damage was minor our progress was noisier than it had been before the impact. Leaving the ferry we joined the line of cars with GB plates as instructed. The first worry came passing through Lille. Unused to traffic lights suspended above junctions I am sure I drove through at least one when the light was at red. That was nothing compared to when we hit Rouen. After one or two attempts to find the route we wanted the kids asked "Where are you going Dad?". My reply was "Anywhere to get the hell out of here". We landed up in the middle of a forest. Calming down and studying the map we eventually found our way out. Finding ourselves driving



alongside the River Seine we realised we were on the wrong side so we continued until we found a bridge. Needless to say it was a toll bridge. Not having needed to use our currency which was tucked away in a folder in Isabel's handbag there was a bit of a delay before we could pay our way and proceed. A near miss which could have had severe consequences as we joined a fast moving line of traffic gave me a bit of a fright but fortunately the kids did not notice. At long last we arrived at our caravan. A combination



of tiredness and frayed tempers led to a cool atmosphere and I had the bed all to myself. Cordial relations resumed, we settled in to enjoy the holiday. As it was June and the holiday season in France was barely warming up it was not too busy. Parking was free and we spent time on the lovely beaches. A trip to fashionable Deauville with all the expensive shops led to an amusing encounter. We spotted a French family of husband, wife and two children. The husband was the spitting image of the late Barry Knight whose wife Helen served with me on the Williamson Hall Management Committee. On relating this to Helen on our return she remarked "I often wondered what he got up to on these business trips".

A fairly long trip to see the Bayeux Tapestry was also on the agenda. Our plan was to continue on to the D Day beaches. Having difficulty in finding where we had left the car when we emerged from seeing the tapestry plus the fact that it was raining meant a change of plan.

Wet and miserable we headed back to our caravan. I cannot recall if it was that day or another, when, on our return to the caravan we were met with a scene of devastation on opening the door. Broken glass was everywhere plus a strong smell of alcohol. A bottle of calvados which we had purchased and left in a cupboard had exploded with the heat during our absence. Just another disaster. A day in Paris was a must so we set out early one day with directions to an underground car park which was only a couple of stations on the Metro from the Arc de Triomphe. We made it safely and managed to fit in visits to the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame etc plus a sail on the River Seine. Returning to the car rather later than we had intended we realised that we would be driving during darkness on our way back and we had not got around to fixing the black strips of adhesive paper to our headlights to avoid dazzling oncoming drivers. With the aid of nail scissors from Isabel's handbag we cut the strips to size and stuck them on. We had more trouble finding our way out of Paris than we had getting in and had to withstand a few blasts of the horns of other drivers before we made it. By the end of our fortnight the noise from the damaged exhaust had almost reached an embarrassing level and I prayed that we could make it home before it finally gave way. An early start to catch the ferry back to Dover and negotiating our way round London by following a bus heading for Worksop and we were on our way north. Plain sailing from now on. Or so we thought. Roadworks on the M74 had led to some locals in the borders area taking a short cut down a short section against the flow of traffic to avoid a long detour, something they could only attempt late at night when traffic was light. This had led to a head-on collision involving Jock Stein the Celtic manager who was returning from Manchester, which almost cost him his life. It was just our bad luck to find ourselves confronted by a similar situation. Due to a gap in the barrier I was able to drive on to the section under repair and avoid a head on collision. Arriving home at 5 am the girls, who had slept during the journey, headed up to the stables to be reunited with their beloved horses. All I wanted was to go to bed.

This was the last holiday that we all spent together as a family with Jane in her mid teens feeling the need to spread her wings.

Bob Macdonald

A TRIBUTE TO MAY DACK

Being the last member of the Clow Family connected to the Factory, I feel it a privilege to write a few words in memory of May Dack (nee Beatson).

May was the last of the generation working in the Factory when it was still under the charge of its founder John Clow, the father of my late husband, Bobby. John Clow died in 1959 and Bobby took over.

May was highly thought of by everyone connected with the Factory, her fellow workers and all the members of the Clow family. All the embroidery on garments was done by May and some of her work can be seen in the Museum. The ravages of time passed by May; she looked very much the same from the days of her youth until the end, always happy, smiling and cheerful.

A lovely person who will be very much missed by all who knew her.

Hilda Clow

REMEMBERING REMEMBRANCE

Remembrance Sunday has been different for all of us this year but I would like to tell you of a different Remembrance Sunday I experienced many years ago, 1984 in fact.

I was very much involved with the W.R.V.S, at that time and was asked by Headquarters in Edinburgh if I would be the Scottish representative at the Cenotaph ceremony in London. This proved to be one of the most moving events I ever attended.

The first notification I had was dated 25th July 1984, showing how far ahead plans are laid for this occasion. I was one of twelve W.R.V.S. members and we were included in the Civilian Contingent along with the Ambulance Services of both England and Scotland and the Red Cross and came under the charge of an officer from the Fire Service.

Our instructions about uniform, travel, accommodation and sustenance were sent from the Home Office Fire Department, very much on military lines along with identification papers which had to be carried with us at all times as "stringent security arrangements are in force".

A second class return railway ticket was provided and accommodation for the Saturday night arranged. Meals were also sorted out, dinner on Saturday 10th November and lunch after the ceremony. Breakfast on the Sunday was served at 7.30 am and we had to report to the Home Office representative no later than 8 am, and thence to the assembly area in the Foreign Office Quadrangle where we were drilled, then inspected and addressed by the Home Secretary, Leon Britten. After that we marched to our position in Whitehall where we were on parade for about an hour.

We had been advised to wear warm clothing under our uniform and also the uniform greatcoat, brown shoes with a medium heel, brown gloves and brown handbag.

It was a beautiful late autumn day with the trees in Whitehall still bearing leaves and there being a very slight breeze that morning the only sound to be heard during the 2 minutes silence was the gentle fluttering of the leaves. I really can't put into words my feelings during that ceremony but to this day it can still bring tears to my eyes.

Being part of this event made me feel very honoured and proud, something I will never forget.

Sadly now there is no W.R.V.S. and I know that I am not alone in regretting its demise. However that is another story maybe for another edition of the Crier.

Hilda Clow.

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.

A YEAR TO REMEMBER

Wow! what a very strange year this has been and now with Christmas approaching at breakneck speed it does make me wonder how we can try and make this year's Christmas as good as possible and as "COVID talk" free as possible

Accepting that this year will be a little different makes me more determined to be positive. Our staff night out won't be all glitz and glamour at a big hotel, it will be in the salon watching Christmas chronicles, with take away meals from the Village Inn and taxis on call so that nobody has to drive. I am thinking of getting someone to come and teach us how to make cocktails too, to liven things up. As a boss I am determined that we will still have a good night out, or should I say night in .

This year has seen our beauty salon change its name to Soul Therapies. We have created a lovely sensory room that is as stress free as possible for our counsellor who will be starting a service that I know, in the coming months, will be vital for the well being of many suffering from mental health conditions.

It makes us appreciate how local services, such as salons, pubs and cafes, are a life line for the vulnerable and the lonely. They are places to meet up, have a chat or just sit and watch the world go by.

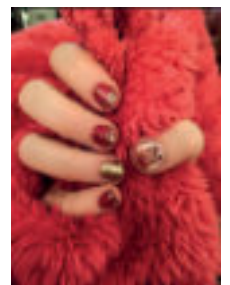
As I am worrying about making sure that we have enough amazing products for Christmas it reminds me that there are those in the community who feel isolated because of the COVID restrictions and that they will feel even more so at Christmas with the cold winter months feeling even longer than usual. So I urge you to be that person, kind even through a muffled face mask, who is asking how someone is or who knocks on the neighbour's window to check on them. This could make a little difference in someone's life.

So as much as I could have used this article to plug our amazing Christmas stock or to show you the up and coming trends on party hair, what's the point? Rather like Tesco selling sparkly tops in the clothing department for Christmas nights out. I feel this would be very optimistic of me, just as believing I'm going to hit the gin bars this Christmas would be.

The best gift anyone could give this year is the gift of kindness and looking out for one another so as this year ends let's hope 2021 is kinder to us all. I'm being positive here when I say have a very merry Christmas from all of us here at the Little Hair Company and Soul Therapies.

Have a good one!!

Tina



MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

It's been a strange old year in the life of the Museum. Even during world wars things at home probably carried on to some extent as normal. These are definitely not normal times and the hard work in preparation to open in May, although not wasted, was unable to be appreciated by the visiting public.

There have been some personnel changes since last year. Lesley Robinson has retired as Chairperson of the Board as she is moving from Abernethy to Yorkshire to be closer to family. Lesley has done a power of work for the Museum during her time in the chair and will be a very hard act to follow. She will be sadly missed. The Chairperson position will be filled by myself. Another change is the Treasurer; this position will be filled by Doug Cleeton. Doug will bring with him experience in computing, websites and finance. We have a good team on the Board consisting of Irene McLaren, Pat Miller, Angus MacIntyre and Christina Cleeton.

We are very much hoping the Museum will reopen in May 2021 with some new exhibits. We are always looking for new members and volunteers to help with the smooth running of this great village facility. Please feel free to approach any of the Board members if you would like to get involved, don't be frightened to ask.

Jimmy Swan

FRAE YOUR ITHAR COONCILLOR

Hi, All you Crier readers. I hope you are all coping with these challenging times which we have had to endure since March. I don't imagine anyone will forget Covid19 as every generation has been impacted in one way or another.

My thoughts and condolences go out to those who have lost their loved ones during this time whether directly due to Covid19 or the restrictions imposed to protect against Covid19. Not being able to say farewell because we are in such circumstances is so sad for close relatives and friends.

It is regrettable that I have not been able to get around the ward as much as I would have liked. However, don't be shy, I am available either by phone or email; contact details are at the bottom of this article. I have kept busy with ward issues and a bit of volunteering to help when I can, to ensure that those who are vulnerable receive all the support we can possibly give them. You may ask what was done when we were in lockdown? Well, we distributed food parcels to those who asked for help and we need to thank all those who were involved in Abernethy and Perth as we all worked extremely well together to ensure that everyone who needed food received a parcel. Transport was another issue for folks who were key workers in the care sector and those who needed medical appointments. Delivery of prescriptions was a task that many volunteers undertook for their neighbours. All these services and more were done by ordinary folk looking after one another, and it is with great pride that I can say Abernethy folk like many folks in Perth and Kinross rallied round to get all these tasks and countless more done, and I thank you all.

The other thing that Covid19 has impacted is businesses. It is heartbreaking to see all our local businesses being double whammied with Covid19 and the disastrous Brexit that will happen in December. Covid19 could not have been avoided and, as little was known about

this disease, we went into it making the most of what we had. However, Brexit we were well aware of and the polling evidence in Scotland clearly shows that we didn't want it but little notice of Scotland's desire to remain was taken on board at Westminster. In Scotland there are more things that unite us than divide us.

So, what shall we do? We can support our local businesses by shopping locally and eating and drinking locally with locally sourced food and drink for one thing. We must not accept the replacing of local branding by national branding, as we then do not know where the produce is sourced from.

Lastly Abernethy has now lived with the Binn Ecopark for many years. The folk of Abernethy have rightly been concerned when new developments happened. Working with the Ecopark companies and maintaining a dialogue with SEPA, PKC officers and your local councillors will ensure that projects that go ahead are monitored and that health and safety is paramount for the community and for the workforce up at the Binn Ecopark. I will make it my job to ensure that any developments are scrutinised and that expert guidance is followed if these projects are to progress.

Finally, I wish you all a very Merry digital Christmas and pray that 2021 is a far better year and Covid19 is consigned to the history books.

Henry Anderson
Mob 07899062122

WHERE ARE YOU?

Do you know exactly where you are?

In some incidences the answer to this question can be life-saving.

Some years ago I was walking in Pitmedden Forest with my two dogs. It was a lovely bright Sunday afternoon in autumn, so I drove up to the forest, parked my car safely off the path, and off we went. We walked for probably two hours, and as the light was failing slightly, started to go back to the car. But where was the car? Which direction? Surely the dogs would know, so I followed their lead. To no avail, we were walking round in circles and it was starting to get dark. I had my mobile but how could I explain where I was? No landmarks, only trees. Eventually I found a cottage and a kind lady helped me find my car. I was never so thankful to see it!

This is when it helps to know exactly "where you are" and this is when the app - **what3words** - is invaluable. What3words is a free app which can pinpoint your position to within 10 feet. It divides the world up into 3m x 3m squares and gives each square a random three word address e.g. solved.reason.truck. Given this address the emergency services can instantly locate your position and send the appropriate help; saving time and sometimes lives.

The app works on many devices including smart watches.

Use it to find the 3 word address for your current location or enter a 3 word address (your home address) and use Compass Mode to navigate there. No excuse for getting lost now?

Hope this is helpful.

Maureen Nisbet

ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

As the colder weather and darkening nights approach and the summer blooms have faded, we have made a start to replanting the village containers with winter plants and bulbs for the spring. Therefore, although limited by the current situation, we again give a big thank you to all in the community who helped to water the summer displays that we were able to plant out this year.

Nurse Peattie's garden has been given a good weed and trim and, with the addition of some new plants for 2021, will give another colourful display for all to share. So, despite the necessary restrictions that have been placed upon our movements at this time, it is hoped that COVID-19 will be behind us by then and life will have returned to the freedoms we all enjoy.

The good news is that the polytunnel is now in use bringing on three hundred and fifty plug plants for the autumn planting. This is our first venture into growing our own plant stock which we are hoping will develop for a variety of planting as our experience increases with this new venture. Again, thank you to David Stalker for giving us this opportunity.

A few maintenance tasks have also been done during the year. Nurse Peattie's fence and all the village containers have been refreshed with a coat of paint. It was also necessary to replace and repair a couple of the original containers with wood donated by Branston.

Unfortunately, we are unlikely to have our annual get together in Nurse Peattie's at Xmas to switch on the lights and have a sing song with a bit of Xmas cheer to help. However, we are very pleased to say that Branston will again be providing a Xmas tree for the village. So even if we can't get together, we will do our best to decorate the Xmas tree and as many of the planters as we can to brighten up Xmas. We therefore take this opportunity to wish that everybody and, especially the children, will still have a very happy Christmas with those that they love all around them.

The 'Caterpillar' remains on display in the garden and may now become a permanent feature. If so, it may be worth considering moving it to the top path where it will be better displayed and can remain, unless there is a community decision for an alternative use. Please give us a call if you have an alternative idea for the stones.

I am sure many of you will have been stopping at 'Jimmy's Hoose' to admire the many bird boxes and walking sticks etc. that are displayed for sale. Jimmy has very kindly donated the proceeds of your purchases to the Abernethy In Bloom funds for which we give him our grateful thanks. For those who haven't got one yet, I am sure he still has some that will catch your eye. However, Jimmy has asked us to let you know that unfortunately the wood may have split on some of the bird boxes he has sold. If you have bought one and this has happened, please return it to Jimmy and he will replace it, in his words, with a superior model.

Funding for the new 'Heritage Garden' project at Hatton Road has made good progress but we have also received a few disappointments from the applications made on our behalf by Take A Pride In Perthshire and Kinross. This is due in part to the current situation which will potentially delay implementation of the plan for this project. A two-phase approach to enable a start to

construction is therefore under consideration. We now await a revised plan from the architect with a timescale for the completion of the first phase. In the meantime, donations can continue to be made via the Hatton Road project Just Giving page or directly to Abernethy In Bloom to boost the village's contribution for this exciting new project.

The continued help of the community to keep the village clean and tidy is much appreciated, with a special thank you to the litter pickers who give their time to keep the village and its surroundings free from litter.

While our activities will be less in the winter months, should you wish to help us to keep Abernethy a bright and cheerful place to live, come along and join us when you see us working at Nurse Peattie's garden or in the village or just give us a call. No horticultural knowledge is required, just another pair of hands. You will always be welcome.

Please keep safe.

Ian Lamond,
Secretary Abernethy in Bloom
Tel: 850186 E-Mail: lamond0583@hotmail.com

FRAE NUMBER 3 COONCILLOR

Go Wild In The Country. Part 1.

A big thank you to everyone who has been working hard to keep many of the paths clear around Abernethy during the summer. The Council kindly cut back over-growth on the Circular walk. The new-ish owners of the Rough Glen, Mr and Mrs Blaine, have done a sterling job. Kyle Gordon who owns Castle Law has been very helpful with the path up to Castle Law. Allistair Hollingsworth and I, also, went out with our trusty garden shears to do some snipping away.

In these unsettled times, there's nothing like a good healthy walk to lift the spirits, so it's great to see the path network looking so good.

Provisional Date for new Puffin Crossings.

A new Puffin Crossing to replace the existing Zebra Crossing and a new Puffin Crossing outside the Primary School are due to be installed in late January. Although this date could easily change because of weather and the progress of other projects, it is good news that these road safety improvements are on their way.

New Perth High School Building.

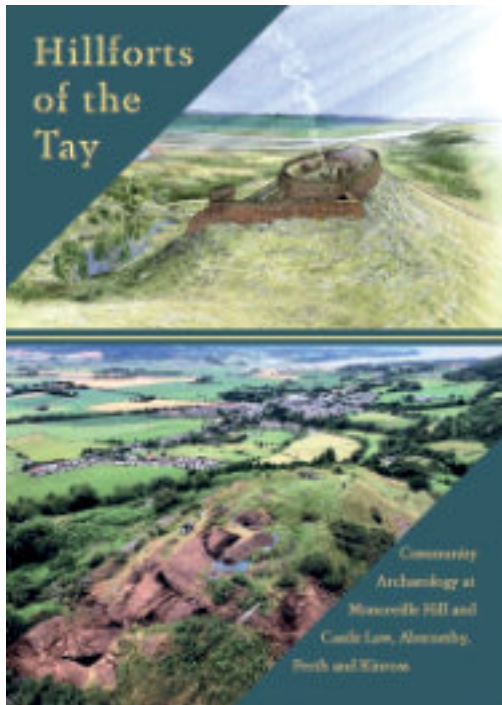
On the 30th September, the Council voted to increase the budget for the new Perth High School building from £50m to £58m. This will allow the building to be built to Passivhaus standard, which will make it highly energy efficient and save money over the life of the building. Everyone with children, or grand-children, at PHS can see that the building is well past its sell-by date and is looking forward to the new school opening in 2024.

First Planning Approval For Oudenarde.

Planning Permission for the first phase of 159 new homes at Oudenarde has been given. Although this isn't actually in Abernethy, some of you have been in touch to see what can be done to tidy up the eye-sore that greets you as you come off the

M90 at the “Pringles” roundabout. When this first phase is completed, the area will look much better.

New Book about Castle Law and Moncrieffe Hillforts.



Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust have published a marvellous little book, “Hillforts of the Tay” about the community-based archaeological digs at the tops of Moncrieffe Hill near Bridge of Earn and our very own Castle Law.

Packed full of glorious photographs and illustrations, it tells the story of digs that took place over the summers from 2015 to 2017, what was discovered about life

in the forts 2,500 years ago and who took part in the digs.

The book costs £5 to buy and will be available from the Museum when it re-opens next summer or directly from the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust Web Site.

Go Wild In The Country. Part 2.

Now we are in December going swimming outside is probably quite far from your mind but over the summer we were delighted to discover the pleasures of wild swimming in the disused Lochmill Reservoir near Newburgh.

Obviously there are no changing facilities, no lifeguards, no vending machines, so you do need to be a confident swimmer before you get in. However, on the plus side there are no queues, no crowded lanes, no noise and while the water is not heated, because it's relatively shallow it did warm up as the summer progressed. Because it's neither salty nor chlorinated it's a very pleasant experience to swim round the reservoir while admiring the local wildlife.

The reservoir is now owned by the Newburgh Community Trust, so anyone can use the loch, but you need to be a member of Newburgh Angling Club to go fishing.

Contact Details

If you'd like to get in touch with me about any matter, you can email me on Dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk or call on 07767006275.

Councillor David Illingworth.

FRAE OOR COONCILLOR

This has been a very strange year for us but nature has carried on regardless. We have experienced spring, summer and autumn with Covid and have all enjoyed and appreciated the beautiful countryside either on a short walk or a more adventurous ramble. Unfortunately there is a minority of the population which thinks it is clever to drive out into the countryside and dump their, or someone else's, rubbish on someone else's land. There is absolutely no excuse for this behaviour; this antisocial behaviour is a cost to everyone. It costs the landowner to remove and it costs us the public, as individuals, if the council has to remove it from the roadside. Please be wary if someone offers to collect garden rubbish or household clearances at a bargain price, it may not be going to a recycling centre.

Here in Abernethy new puffin crossings will be installed in January and at the same time the flooding problem at the bottom of School Wynd will be addressed. Talking about flooding, Abernethy and district escaped the havoc caused by the torrential rain in August. Homes flooded, culverts washed away, the plant rooms at Perth Leisure pool and at the Council Buildings flooded. Unfortunately Perth Leisure pool will be closed for sometime.

The shared path from Aberargie to the Glenfoot road should be completed by the time you read this. Another step to try to please all road users.

Abernethy and District Community Council met on Zoom in October and sadly again one of the main topics was speeding on Perth Road. Comments were made that most of those who speed are local people. Please can I ask everyone to obey the speed limit twenty four hours a day. It is now dark at 5pm and people are out walking a bit more than used to be the case so please SLOW down. I do not want people to have to be named and shamed.

Perth and Kinross council is moving ahead with an ambitious capital programme - City Hall, Cross Tay Link Road and the replacement Perth High School, which will be built to Passivhaus standard, (energy efficiency and quality). Completion of the Perth High School is likely to be 2024; good news for Abernethy pupils.

Climate Change Engagement

The Council launched a Climate Change Engagement consultation document recently and it can be accessed at <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/21853/Climate-Change-Engagement>. The opportunity to contribute is now open and closes on 5th Jan 2021. This is your opportunity to influence council policy on climate change.

Perth and Kinross Offer

What is the offer?

The offer is about how everyone in the Perth and Kinross community can genuinely connect to make our vision for Perth and Kinross happen. Everyone has something to offer and communities have many superb volunteers who volunteer regularly and this year it has been great that others have helped out in the pandemic.

Council Officers have been engaging with numerous stakeholders, individuals, residents, businesses and community leaders to build a comprehensive picture of how the pandemic has affected them. This includes making contact with our seldom heard communities. The Council has also held a number of Ward meetings to find out how the pandemic affected their communities, Ward 9 Almond and Earn

meeting was postponed twice due to lack of available people at the time. There will be another opportunity for us to give our views of the issues locally. If you or your group would like to be part of this group please contact me.

Some of the findings of engagement so far have shown an increase in volunteering, strong sense of community, provision of support for most vulnerable, quieter roads, more people walking and cycling, people more aware of open space and a greater use of technology. This could be Abernethy.

Perth and Kinross Offer has a web page which provides details of what is meant by the offer, how to get involved and examples of the Perth and Kinross offer in practice <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/pkoffer>. Hopefully you will take time to read this.

Covid19

At the time of writing Perth and Kinross council are working on contingency COVID plans. Who knows what lies ahead? But I trust that we will be able to look out for our neighbours and make sure they are SAFE AND WELL by helping out while remaining mindful of all the RULES.

Abernethy Angels did a fantastic job during the earlier lockdown and we all know the value of volunteers. Here in Abernethy there are many people who volunteer regularly - youth leaders, In Bloom members and those individuals who litter pick and those who informally look after paths and in winter help to grit paths.

Prior to the COVID pandemic the council were requested by the Scottish Government to consult on a Draft Food Growing Strategy and the finalised strategy would meet the requirements of the Community Empowerment Scotland Act and contribute to the Scottish government's vision to be a Good Food Nation by 2025 Check out the Council webpages and you can contribute to this consultation. It is really interesting with lots of ideas.

This year has seen a huge increase in the number of people showing an interest in not only growing their own fruit and vegetables but sharing the results with others. There is a demand for allotments. I hear of people looking for more ground to cultivate and others who feel their garden is too big for them, so sharing your garden could be a possibility. An open space could be a community garden although I hear some saying that we need more car parking if there is available space.

During the past few months the workload for Perth and Kinross council has not diminished in any way, it has increased. Some examples are: The regulatory team of food safety, environmental health and trading officers have undertaken more than six hundred and seventy compliance visits to businesses.

New 20mph areas and 2m pavement markings have been agreed. All of the flooding issues.

This is on top of all the other duties, waste collection, ground maintenance etc..

I, as a councillor, have been just as busy working from home, having many meeting on teams but am available to be contacted as usual kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk.

This has been a year with many challenges and we have coped with them. Well done to all the young people who have accepted that Home is Best !, I am sure we are looking forward to the day when we can

open our door to family and friends. However we celebrate Christmas this year, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family well on what will be a different Christmas.

STAY SAFE AND WELL

Kathleen Baird

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

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

Unfortunately there will be no Christmas Party this year due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The situation will be reviewed again after the New Year.

Secretary, Evelyn Scobie

Tel: 07719240294 or 850 496.

ABERNETHY SWI



Abernethy SWI will not be meeting for the foreseeable future due to the Covid-19 restrictions. The situation will be reviewed again in the New year.

Elizabeth Taylor President

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

FROM THE MINISTER

If we are to believe the old marketing slogan, then Christmas is a time for giving. As I write this, the list of the top ten toys for Christmas has just been released. I noted some familiar favourites which never seem to age like Lego, Monopoly and Barbie but the most coveted children's gift is predicted to be a little green monster from Star Wars, all cutely wrapped in sackcloth called 'Baby Yoda'. Alarming, I noticed an entry for a 'Pooping Flamingo'. Imagine waking up to find one of those in your stocking, even if it is made from plastic?

Even before the Wise Men made it to the manger, the baby Jesus was to be the recipient of gifts whilst still in the womb. The presents took the shape of intangible things: kindness and hospitality. His young parents, struggling to find somewhere to spend the night safely, in an overcrowded Bethlehem, were shown to a stable. We assume that the innkeeper's hospitality didn't stop at basic accommodation but extended to food and drink too and thanks to that one simple, human and kind act shown to Mary and Joseph, the baby is born on the first Christmas in a box for animal feed. The incarnation is thus achieved in all its wild contradictions: holiness meets grubbiness; all-powerful meets vulnerability; and God meets humanity.

It is perhaps a sign of getting older and maybe wiser, but my ideas of what constitutes a present are rapidly changing. High monetary value, great intrinsic worth and lavish spending do not always equate with what makes for a well appreciated gift. Some things like human kindness, carefulness and patient companionship can be presents that are beyond price, especially at a season that brings acute loneliness and isolation for many. This year, the necessary restrictions caused by the pandemic of Covid-19 will only add to the difficulties many face and 'hospitality' may well still be a 'no-no'. Even so, maybe this Christmas, we should re-think our Santa List and dispense more on a low-cost but high-value basis. And return to 'stable values.'

Baby Yoda and the Pooping Flamingo might have their day, but the gift of one small act of compassion can last an eternity.

Despite all our tribulations can I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and a much kinder and safer year ahead?

Rev Stan

KIRK NEWS

One piece of positive news is to report that Joyce White was appointed Session Clerk at the last Kirk Session meeting which was conducted by Zoom. Joyce brings a wealth of teaching experience and school management to the job and we thank her and wish her well in this important role.

The ever-changing regulations regarding church services have proved to be a challenge, but despite many restrictions, physical services are now taking place again at Abernethy and Arngask. Sadly, our war-memorial services had to be cancelled on Remembrance Sunday and due to the inability to sing and the need to wear a face-mask whilst in church along with heavily restricted congregational numbers it will not be possible to hold any Carol, Christingle or Watch-night services this year.

On a more hopeful note, a mid-week afternoon service has been taking place every fortnight, alternating between the two churches. A Zoom Café Church service has also been held fortnightly and in addition to

this, Rev Stan has been sending out 'Virtual Church' services every Sunday. Current worship information can be accessed through the Church ADA (Abernethy & Dron & Arngask) Facebook page. Here you can find details about how to 'register' your 'Trace and Protect' details, get the weekly service sent to your computer and join in with Café Church by Zoom.

Rev Stan

ABERNETHY SCOUT GROUP

It was away back in March 17th 2020 that face to face Scouting in the United Kingdom was suspended until further notice, with the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts coming to an immediate halt and worse was to follow with summer camps and activities cancelled a couple of months later, much to the disappointment of the more than sixty children involved in the Abernethy Scouting Group.

Abernethy did get the go ahead to start outdoor Scouting in August but with restrictions on the numbers able to attend. We felt as a group that we wanted to be able to welcome everyone back at the same time and didn't want to be in a position of having alternate weeks for the kids involved. We knew we needed to get something in place with the pavilion to make it more Covid compliant in order to be in a position to offer the Scouting Sections a continuous program indoors and outdoors, so our attention turned to the building in August. After completing the risk assessment for the Scouting Group and the Pavilion, which I would imagine is a similar task to solving the Brexit trade deal negotiations, it was clear which areas were in need of improvement to allow our return.

The Scout Committee already had planned building improvements for 2020, but due to the Covid crisis we had to make alternative plans to put in new hand washing provisions, new hot water systems, hand dryers and additional outdoor lighting and protective parking bollards to enable the Beavers and Cubs to walk safely from the car park to the pavilion. This required work meant that we had considerable plumbing and electrical work to be carried out with the work scheduled to be completed for August /September. Unfortunately, the tradesman scheduled to carry out the plumbing work was unable to do so within the agreed timescale, leaving us with a bit of a headache. So we were delighted when Ally Mallinson kindly stepped in and carried out the required plumbing work so we could get things back on track with the electrician due to start in Mid-October so we could make our scheduled return targeted for Tuesday 27th October.





Ally Mallinson hard at work with the bathroom alterations with wash troughs and hot water systems being installed.

Thinking everything was in hand we were informed at the last minute that the electrician was now unavailable for several weeks and was unable to provide a firm commitment. Faced with the prospect of having to further delay the start of the Scout group, we started searching for alternative electricians and approached Mark Haddow of L.W. Haddow Plumbing, Heating and Electrical and informed him of the Scout Groups predicament. By this time the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were aware of the scheduled return date and I know that they would have been bitterly disappointed if the return was to be cancelled. Mark listened to our plight and kindly rescheduled work so that he could free up an electrician in order for the work to be carried out for us to return as planned.



Pictured above Electricians from L W Haddow. Mark Haddow stated that L W Haddow were delighted to have helped and to have been involved in all aspects of completing the electrical work for the Abernethy Scout Group. We would like to wish them every success going forward in the future.

Beavers / Cubs and Scouts return

So, after seven months we were back with Beavers and Cubs on Tuesday 27th and Scouts returning later that week on Thursday 29th October.

The Leaders have worked hard to offer an outdoor programme but with the provision that we can hold Scouting indoors on the evenings with the worst weather. However, that said, the night the Beavers

and Cubs returned it was torrential rain with the kids having an absolute ball outdoors, so here's hoping that we can continue uninterrupted by the ongoing Covid crisis. The Beavers are pictured below on their return on Tuesday 27th Oct in the now illuminated tennis courts allowing us to have an outdoor dryish area.



Leaders left to right Dave Cheer, Chris Farmer and Nicola Coulter.

Abernethy Cubs Return



Leaders pictured left to right – Andy Smith, Ian Craig, Iain McLaughlin, Jim Cook and Angela Dunn

Pictured above front centre is Freddie Farmer who was the latest winner of the Gavin Robertson Memorial Trophy. This trophy is usually awarded every term, but this was the first opportunity to award the trophy in 2020. Freddie was awarded the trophy after his hard work in completing the virtual Cub Camp which the cubs took part in during the summer lockdown.

Throughout the time I have been involved with the Scout Group both Binn Group and Branston have supported us and once again when approached they were happy to assist in helping with the return of Scouting to Abernethy. Both John MacGregor and Kevin Imrie operate businesses either within or close by Abernethy. John has lived and run businesses beside Abernethy for over fifty years and Kevin Imrie has worked at Branston (previously known as West Cumberland Farmers) for thirty years working his way up to General Manager. The Scout Group wanted to recognise their continuous support, so both John and

Kevin were delighted when we invited them along to the unveiling of our new sign at the pavilion.



Pictured above left is John MacGregor of Binn Group and Kevin Imrie General Manger of Branston (Abernethy)

In the background of the above picture you can see a fully restored bench. The bench was previously in two or three pieces and ready for the skip but, thanks to the Community Pay Back Team, the bench was taken away and fully restored. As you can see it was donated for the Silver Jubilee in 1977 by the then Community Council so hopefully it will last another 40 years.



Finally thanks have to go to all the Leaders and the Scout Committee who have worked very hard to assist in the returning of Abernethy Scout Group, so huge thanks to all their efforts as there would be no Group without them. A special mention must go to Brian "The Saint" Stewart whose knowledge in the building trade has again proved invaluable unlike his knowledge in fitba' with him persisting to support the wee Tayside team fae Tannadice Street.

Stay safe and well

Gordon Miller Abernethy Group Scout Leader

PONIES IN LOCKDOWN.

Last year Flora made us all very proud when she was Scottish Novice Endurance Champion but this year has been very quiet for her. All organised Endurance Rides stopped immediately when lockdown hit us in March and have only begun very cautiously since September. It has done her no harm to have a quiet year. In October Flora and



Kirstie had an adventurous ride on the hilly terrain between Dunning and Path of Condie.

This looks like the last ride this season now that we cannot travel between areas.

Bella has been enjoying the stubble fields but this was the last



summer when Fenella could be ridden and now she has retired and has had her shoes off.



Mac is still happy although he looks so thin. Do not worry about him when you pass the field because he really is getting a lot of specially made mashes. He can't take an apple or a carrot from you because he has so few teeth but he will enjoy a slice of bread.

Flora and Fennela have their own half of the field so that their hay can be rationed. We want them to lose a bit of weight over the winter.

The ponies do enjoy getting out but they are content to be with each other in the field and are always interested in visitors. You can give them an apple or a carrot over the fence but do not go in the field.

AH

AULD ABERNETHIANS

Eileen Webster

I was born in 1949 in 7 Den Park, Abernethy, the third of four children. Doctor Tullis attended my birth and I was named after one of his daughters, Aileen.

My earliest memory is of moving two houses away from number 7, to number 11 Den Park, where we had an extra bedroom. I remember carrying a small black shovel along to our new house. I was three years old.

My parents were Margaret and Willie Sutherland. My dad was an only child and my mum was one of nine children. They grew up in Abernethy and knew each other all their lives. Mum went into service when she left school at fourteen, dad left school at eighteen and served his apprenticeship with the GA in Perth. They both volunteered for the RAF in 1940, and they were stationed at different locations in the UK. They married in 1943 just before dad left for Burma where he remained until he returned home from Singapore in 1946. He joined his father who was a blacksmith and farrier in the newly built Tower Garage in 1947.

My parents went on to have four children Margaret, Billy, myself and Maureen who all went to Abernethy Primary School. Margaret, Billy and Maureen went to Dunbarney Secondary School, and Maureen attended Perth High School for a further year which she hated!

Family Christmas was a happy time at home. I remember one year our Christmas tree caught fire, but luckily we were at home at the time and it was quickly extinguished. My favourite present from Santa was a doll's house which I treasured, and later a Beatles LP which I just happened to "find" in mum's wardrobe. I played it when mum was out before Christmas; I never ever told my parents that! I read lots of books at that time, the Famous Five and Chery Aimes amongst others.

Margaret married David Cole in 1968, Billy married Evelyn McDonald in 1970, Maureen married Alex Greig in 1974 and I married Ogilvy Webster in 1972. Margaret and David lost their beautiful wee boy in 1975 and she lost her lovely husband in 2002 but she found happiness again when she met Welshman Eli Davies on a cruising holiday in November 2005. Maureen passed away in 2006, followed by her husband soon after. Margaret still lives in Abernethy and also Kevin, her son, and his family, as does my brother Billy, sister in law Evelyn and their boys, Billy, Scott and Roy and their families. Maureen's girls Katy and Ashleigh, now live in Glasgow and Perth. Ogilvy's mother Elizabeth settled in Abernethy before her passing, and his brother Allan

and his wife Elizabeth started their family here and their daughter Lynn and her family now live in Milnathort.

Margaret and Maureen both worked in administrative posts; Margaret was the matron's secretary at Bridge of Earn hospital and Maureen was secretary to one of the Nurse Managers at Murray Royal Hospital. Billy served his apprenticeship at Tower Garage, and worked there as a mechanic. He was also involved with the caravan site and berries. He still drives one of the school busses for Earnside.

Mum and dad were married for fifty nine years, and were happiest when they had their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren around them. Their four children brought them nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Julie was their first granddaughter after six boys, then two more girls.

Dad served on many local committees, and started the first Gala Day, while on the hall committee. This progressed into Gala Week. Mum loved the SWRI. They were both keen gardeners and loved being together. We were a happy proud family. Mum passed in 2002, and dad never got over that, he passed three years later.

School days at Abernethy Primary were very happy for me. We all knew each other, had separate playgrounds for boys and girls, relatively small classes and went home for lunch. We all walked to school, no dropping off at school gates and no lollypop ladies. Many's the time we had to squeeze past Bett's horse and cart, delivering coal in School Wynd! Mrs Martin was the primary one teacher, who I thought was a bit scary! First impressions of my first teacher stayed with me. I liked Miss Rollo, and headmaster Mr Vallance. We always had lots of music and singing in his class, I learned to sing the descant to 'The Lord is my Shepherd' in his class. I remember filling up the ink wells on the desks and I also remember the small frozen bottles of milk thawing under the radiators which put me off milk for life. I was sports champion two years running there and did well academically, so I was happy with that! I went to Perth High School for my secondary education. We got the service bus from Abernethy into Perth then the city bus to Muirton. We didn't have induction days then, or a mentor to see that we were all right. It was such a big change going from a wee village school to a huge secondary school where we hardly knew anyone. However, confidence was built and new friendships made.

In fourth year, we had a school trip to Paris, my first time abroad, and I enjoyed it very much. One of my friends met a sixth year pupil on that trip and they ended up getting married! My favourite teachers there were Mr Young, science, and Miss McWhirr, anatomy and physiology, and these were my preferred subjects.

After six years at Perth High School I went to Glasgow to university to train to be a Physiotherapist. I shared a flat in the West End with three other girls, one of which I had become friendly with in my last year of secondary school, and we have remained friends to this day. I liked the Glasgow people very much, they had a great sense of humour, very friendly and ready to chat, but my liking was not so great when I caught nits from a patient and had to be sent home for my mum to deal with the pests. I attended many different hospitals in Glasgow for training and I can remember an area where the cadavers were dissected. That was quite eerie to begin with.

I had a very happy childhood in Abernethy. We had lots of places to play. In summer time we headed to the park, where we played tennis and rounders, with what seemed like every child in the village in two teams. We frequented the den too, where we tried to catch sticklebacks

or baggy minnows in the "Bally" burn. We built dams in the burn, climbed the "wall of death" or headed further upstream to paddle. We walked up to the witches' cave, camping overnight in a tent up Gattoway Hill. We were always outside enjoying the long sunny days we had then. We picked berries in the summer, gathered tatties in the October holidays, and planted tatties in the Easter holidays. It was a way of life for most families, and certainly didn't do us any harm.

When my sister Margaret was eight, she fell ill with pneumonia. Dr Tullis advised some sort of physical exercise to improve her lung



function, and that's how the highland dancing started! Very soon after that all three girls were involved and it played a big part in all of our lives. We travelled all over Scotland to the Highland Games in the summer months. We entertained at concerts, old folks treats, and went to Bridge of Earn Hospital on Christmas Night to dance. What with dancing lessons and practice sessions, we had quite a busy time. Maureen and I used to not take things quite as seriously as Margaret did and would frequently get into trouble for laughing at the practice sessions! We were very successful and all the hard work paid off. We were all placed in World Championships and won many Scottish Championships, which took place at the Cowal Highland Games at Dunoon. I can proudly say I won the best dressed Highland dancer there for seven years in a row. My best memory was the spectacular march of the thousand pipers and drummers, and my worst is when I caught my Irish Jig skirt on the door of the van ripping it half way round, more repair work for mum!



In my early teenage years I went to the youth club in Abernethy. We went to an organised trip to see the Rolling Stones in Dundee,

and went by train to Dundee to see the Beatles. A few of us went from school, including my now sister-in-law Evelyn. We had such a great time and got so excited that we broke our seats in the Caird Hall! Peter and Gordon actually came to Abernethy, and did a concert here and we got to meet them, in person, at the garage. The Kinks and PJ Proby came to the City Hall in Perth and we went to see them too. We had record hops and dances in the village hall and frequented the café in Newburgh on Sundays, which my dad seriously disapproved of!

I met my husband to be, Ogilvy Webster, at our local youth club in the village and we had our first "date" at our local bonfire night here in Abernethy. He was born at Enochdu near Bridge of Cally in 1947 but he lived at Glentarkie at the time we met. He worked with Sandy Walker and his father, who was manager at Bell's Quarry. A year later he was on his way to work when he had a serious motorbike accident in which he nearly died. That was the end of the motorbike. We were married in 1972 and have two children. He was regarded as an incomer then, and remains so to this day! Nick was born in 1977 and Julie was born in 1980. Prior to Nick being born Ogilvy went into business in partnership with his brother Allan initially doing small contracts then larger farm buildings. After many years in construction they then decided to open a builders' merchant with one depot in Abernethy and one in Milnathort. They went back to their roots renovating old properties into homes, and doing some new builds too.

I qualified as a physiotherapist in January 1971 and started my first job in Bridge of Earn Hospital in February of that year. It was a very happy hospital to work in and we had a great team of twelve physiotherapists at that time, working with the legendary Miss Welsh. She was a bit of a tyrant but ran a very orderly ship. I loved orthopaedics where the patients were generally well except for having their surgical procedures and I enjoyed working with stroke patients and seeing them returning to some form of independence. We covered PRI, as well as Bridge of Earn, at weekends on call to help chest condition patients. That for me was the best part of my career. I left in January in 1977, to have our first baby Nicholas, and I was genuinely sad to see the hospital razed to the ground a few years later. When I started working at Bridge of Earn, I was a basic grade Physiotherapist, and when I left I was a senior two.

A few years on I worked at Tayside Nursing Home and then went back to NHS working at Murray Royal Hospital with dementia patients. This area of work could be very challenging, but equally rewarding, requiring a tremendous amount of patience. It's such a devastating illness and can affect anyone at any time. I remember going in to work one morning and meeting a new patient in the day centre. He was one of my maths teachers from High School. My career ended when I retired from Murray Royal in 2012 where I was an advanced Physiotherapist practitioner. I loved my job and if I had to choose again I would make the same career choice.

I got my first taste of Scottish Country Dancing at a class at Abernethy School which was held by Mrs Fraser. I danced for the PHS team at the Perthshire festival. Later in life there was an adult class in the hotel in Abernethy. We entered Perth and Aberdeen festivals and the best thing was the fish supper on the way home! I completed my country dancing teaching certificates at St Andrews and took over the class in Abernethy. In 1990 I joined a Perth group to dance at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. We had some fabulous nights there over a three week period with capacity audiences and a fantastic atmosphere. We performed there every year until our last performances in 1999. I also taught children at Abernethy Primary

School for many years, while continuing to dance myself in Perth, and I currently dance at a class in Newburgh.

Ogilvy was a keen wildfowler and bought a springer spaniel pup and went to gundog training classes in Newburgh with Billy, and George Brown. He worked and trialled his spaniels very successfully over the years and became a judge in his own right. He was asked to be a member of a committee to set up a small country fair, which was held at Halliburton Estate near Coupar Angus. Through the committee's hard work a small beginning developed into the Scone Palace Game Fair that we know today. Nick loved that time in his life, he became a mini version of his dad and had all the matching gear! Both our and Allan's families, children, dogs, and buggies were loaded in to the van and off we went to watch the trials...happy days!

Both our children went to playgroup in the village then to Abernethy Primary School and on to Perth High School. Nick's only interest was, and still is, trucks, earth moving and agricultural machinery and that hasn't changed. He drives a class 1 HGV lorry with the Binn Group, and has been there for 13 years. Previously he worked with his dad's and uncle's builders merchant yard. He enjoys going to truckfests, gamefairs and agricultural shows. He has a great sense of humour, a wide circle of friends, and enjoys socialising with them. When Julie left school she went to university at Hartpury in Gloucestershire. She graduated with a BSc in Equine Science. From an early age she was infatuated with ponies and horses. Santa brought her her first pony when she was 8 and that was the start of the fun and games. She loved showjumping and quickly moved up the rankings, enabling her to showjump for Scotland. She gained thirteen caps for her country up to young rider level, before she went to university. We travelled all over England, Ireland and Wales for the internationals and all over Scotland for competitions and qualifiers. She was partnered with Bramble, her 128 cm pony, and Robert Smith, who is Harvey Smith's son, at Olympia where the top twelve juniors and seniors in the UK jumped in pairs, and she was on TV which her grandparents proudly watched at home! She also won the national 138 cm showjumping championship at Hickstead, with her pony Trumount Lad, who jumped his heart out that day.

After Julie left for University Ogilvy and Allan decided to start their own horse breeding programme. They went to Ireland and bought an Irish Draught mare which was in foal. They soon added to the herd, and left the stables in Abernethy to go to Milnathort, then added to the herd again and moved to Binn Hill Farm where there was more ground. They started showing their young stock at agricultural shows both North and South of the border with great success, claiming the best Irish Draught Yearling Colt at the National Breed Show on five consecutive years. They have bred Irish Draughts which have gone on to compete in every discipline, and have sold their horses all over the UK. They have only recently decided to retire, and this part of their lives will be greatly missed.

I see lots of changes in the village, especially how it's changed in size, and now there is so much traffic on the road. Abernethy in Bloom has made such a difference to the appearance of the village with all the seasonal flowers. Nurse Peattie's Garden is beautiful thanks to the volunteers. The opening of the volunteer-led Museum has brought lots of visitors to the area and it's a pleasure to be a volunteer there. The new play areas and remodelled park with the sports pavilion are great assets. Our son Nick, and another young lad, Stuart Bett, as cubs, had their names drawn from a hat to cut the first turf for the pavilion, and my husband Ogilvy, his brother Allan and Allan Gourlay played a major part in the construction of it, along with other cub

and scout dads. I feel very blessed to be part of a loving and caring family and we wish, from our family to yours, that you keep safe and well in these troubled times.

Eileen Ogilvie

TRADITIONS OLD AND NEW AT CLOOTIE MCTOOT

Clootie Dumplings are an ancient Scottish tradition which has been brought into the 21st century by Michelle Maddox.

There are many delicious flavours and no one is excluded as there are gluten free, dairy free and Vegan choices. The dumplings are healthy with a high fruit, low sugar content and no preservatives so have a short shelf life but they can be frozen.

An old tradition was a silver charm or two hidden in the dumpling. Finding a coin meant wealth, a ring foretold marriage and a wishbone gave you your heart's desire. Ortak jewellery are now producing charms which would make a lovely Christmas gift.

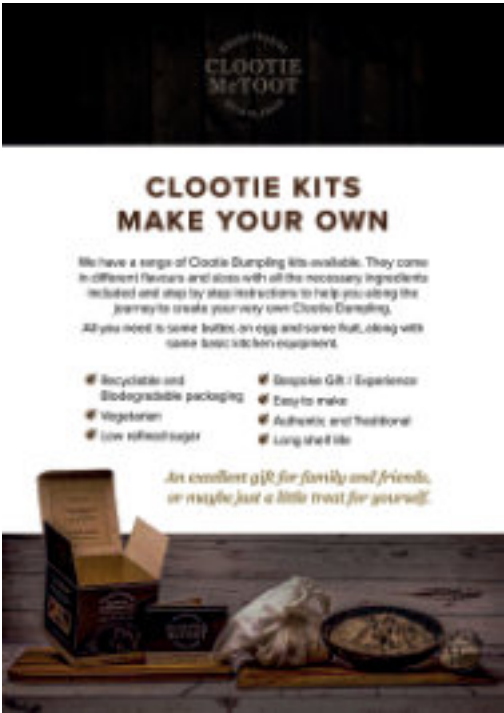


New for this season is the Doddie Weir Dumpling. Clad in a Doddie Weir tartan clood, 30% of profits go to the “My Name’s Doddie Foundation”, which Doddie founded for research into Motor Neurone disease. In the words of the foundation “Doddie wants to help those touched by MND – be it fellow sufferers or their families having to deal with the daily consequences – with basic and practical relief,

whether that be to help with mobility and transport needs, with care and respite, or access and basic living requirements.”



Another gift idea is a ‘Make your own dumpling’ kit which has a long shelf life and is produced in biodegradable and recyclable packaging.



All these, and other gifts, can be found in the showroom in the square or ordered on-line at the Clootie McToot website.

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

Abernethy Community Transport
Contact: Jill Young
Tel: 07840212747
Email: abernethyct@gmail.com

Abernethy & District Community Council
Contact: Ro Bell
Tel: 07976157022
Email: abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com

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

Abernethy & Dron Parish Church
Contact: Alex Johnston
Tel: 01577 830776
Email: session.clerk@ada-church.org.uk

Abernethy Horticultural Society
Contact: Jane Sanderson
Tel: 01738 850610
Email: abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com

Abernethy in Bloom
Contact: Ian Lamond
Tel Home: 01738 850186 Mobile: 07703318488
Email: lamond0583@hotmail.com

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

Abernethy Primary School
Contact: Suz Mckenzie
Tel: 01738 472676
Email: abernethy@pkc.gov.uk

Abernethy Tennis Club
Contact: Chris Farmer
Email: 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

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

Badminton
Contact: Keir Allan
Email: keir.allen@gmail.com

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts
Contact: Gordon Miller
Tel: 07763098141
Email: gordonmiller146aol.com

Keep Fit
Contact: Andrea Dewar
Email: 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

SWI
Contact: Elizabeth Taylor
Tel Home: 01738 850477
Email: elizabethtaylor43@hotmail.co.uk

The Burns Club
Contact: Jimmy Swan
Tel Home: 01738 850569 Mobile: 07808900084
Email: jimmyswan36@gmail.com

The Masons
Contact: Roy Sutherland
Tel: 01738 850785
Email: roy.caroline@btinternet.com

The Museum
Contact: Jimmy Swan
Tel: 01738 850569
Email: secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk

The Village Crier
Contact: Les McIntosh
Email: info@villagecrier.co.uk

The Williamson Hall
Contact: Andrea Dewar
Email: 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 or Les McIntosh at info@villagecrier.co.uk

Thank you

Abernethy Halloween under Coronavirus

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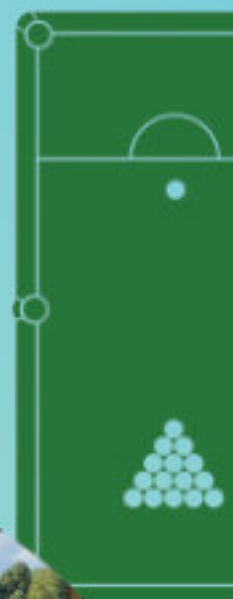
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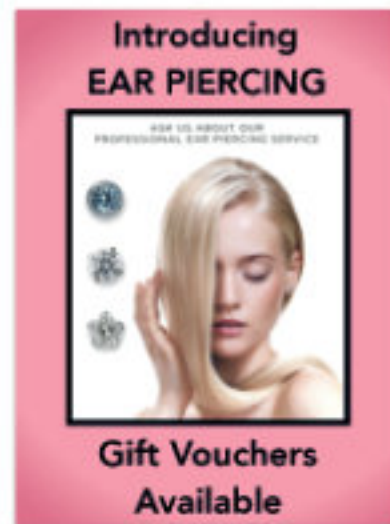


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Please note ALL articles must be accompanied with a name and address BEFORE they will be published in the Crier. On request, the name and address may be withheld from publication. Any submission without these details will NOT be printed.

We would request that you submit all your contributions to info@villagecrier.co.uk. This will mean that we can maintain a readily accessible archive of all submissions. Those who currently send content directly to Jimmy Swan should use the new address. Those of you who submit their content on paper may continue to do so. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.

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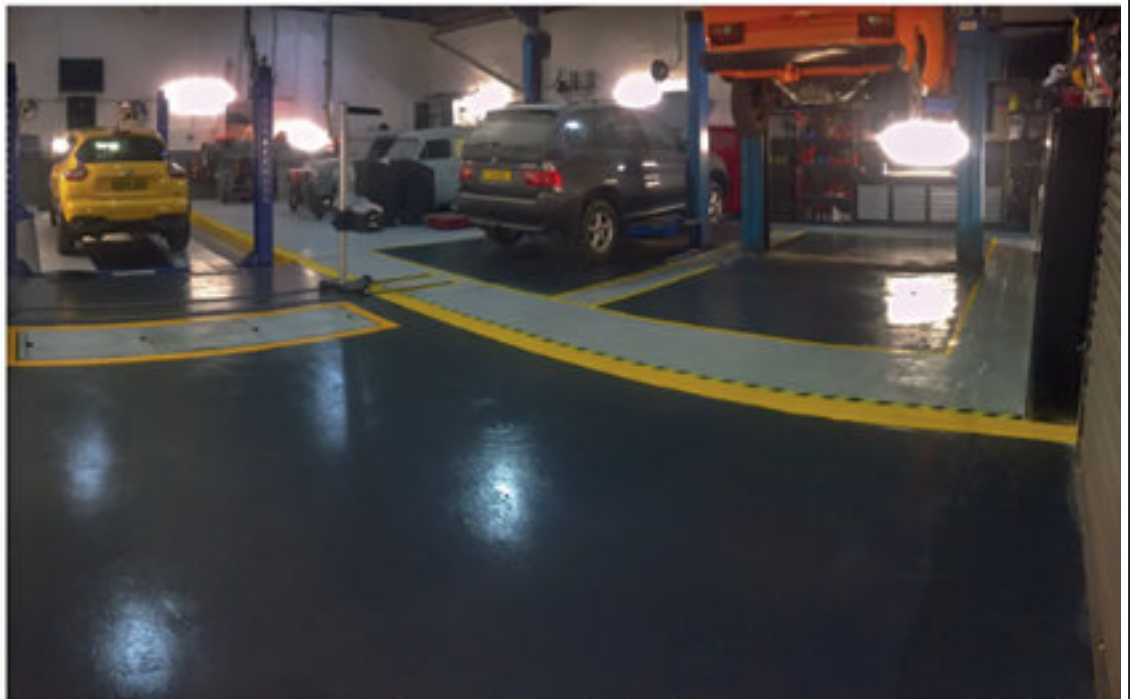
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<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-garden-and-outbuildings>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/keep-your-bicycle-secure>

Guidance on how to deal with and report bogus callers can be found on the Police Scotland website -

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/doorstep-crime-and-bogus-callers>

For information on vehicle and personal property security please go to the Police Scotland website page; just click or copy and paste the following links:-

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-car>

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Keep up to date with everything we are doing and all appeals by visiting the following sites:-

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If you wish to make contact with your local community officer please use the following e-mail addresses:

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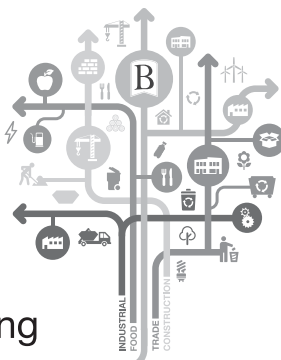
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