



49th Edition

March 2021

Closing date for June edition 30th April 2021

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

MARCH'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION.

WELL DONE CAROL MCMAHON

This edition's standard of entries was exceedingly high and caused the judges some difficulty.

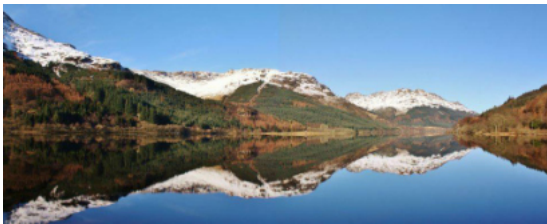




Carol McMahon



J D Millar



J D Millar



J D Millar



Moira Lacey

Photography Competition



Carol McMahon



J D Millar



J D Millar



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey

Photography Competition



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



Paul Simmers



Paul Simmers



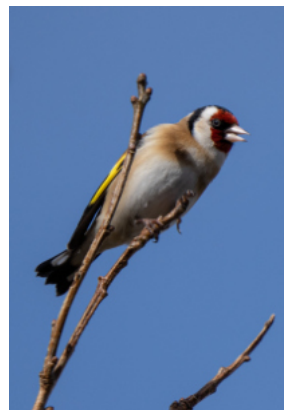
Paul Simmers



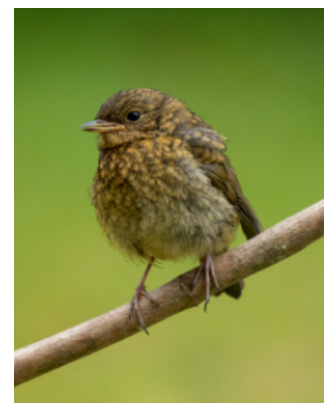
Paul Simmers



Paul Simmers



Paul Simmers



Paul Simmers

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Good morning!

We bought Pittarrow in August 2010. When we arrived it was like stepping back in time. The two old sisters who lived here hadn't modernised it and the place was very quaint, albeit in a state of disrepair. There was no proper central heating, the original lead or tin plumbing that fed the wall-hung oil lamps was still evident, lino squares graced some of the floors with loose rugs covering others. The wiring was antiquated and unsafe and the old AGA guzzled oil at an incredible rate.

The gardens were a jungle but their former glory could be seen - a rose garden with limestone ornaments, an ornate kidney-shaped pond with a small Japanese bridge crossing at the narrowest point. A dilapidated and collapsing Victorian greenhouse lined two perimeter garden walls with vines, figs and other exotic plants. It was heated by an enormous cast iron hot water piping system fed from an old wood-fired boiler in a small underground room in one corner. A once-attractive potting shed with ancient gardening tools sat in another corner, and the old coach-house had been converted to a garage, but the room over it still had the original fireplace where I believe the family driver spent some time.

We have documents and artifacts belonging to Dr Tullis who I believe was the local GP. His daughters lived here until we bought it, one of whom had been an art teacher at Bell Baxter High School in Cupar, and the other was an actor or film director. The latter had married and moved south, but returned home to live with her sister. They had a younger brother but I never met him. I think he lived up north somewhere. The two sisters didn't really want to sell but the house was too big for them to look after, and they settled in a little place in Pitcairn Green. I understand both have since passed away.

With a young and lively family, it wasn't safe to leave it this way so, sadly, men and machines arrived to level the gardens and turn them into usable grounds. After extensive renovations, during which we retained many original features and characteristics, Pittarrow has been a terrific home for bringing up the family.

However, there is still an air of mystery about the place, and that's where I need the help of the Old Abernethians!

I would love to hear from anyone who remembers anything at all about the house, the grounds, the Tullis family we bought the house from, or Mr Wishart who built it. If anyone has any old photos, documents, or experiences of any sort relating to Pittarrow before we bought it, please drop me an email: craig@pittarrowhouse.com.

Kind regards,

Craig Michel, Pittarrow House, Perth Road, Abernethy

EDITOR'S VIEW

My view this time is a bit of a rant.

I write this at mid-day January 8th with snow and ice hanging on outside. The United States is going through political turmoil, Covid 19 is still rampant throughout the world with millions sick and thousands dying and I hear folks in Abernethy moaning about their pavements being iced up. Instead of expending energy moaning, do something about it. Expend that energy clearing your 8 to 10 feet of pavement outside your house of snow and ice then all the footpaths will be clear; clear so people can get about safely. Those yellow bins you see lying about have grit and salt in them, try lifting the lid and having a look inside. If they are needing to be filled phone Perth & Kinross Council. Try doing as some do and get out there and clear more than your own area, guys like Andrew (Mex) Williamson and Keir Allen who cleared much more than their fair share. If you have an elderly neighbour help them with their bit.

Stop complaining and do something about it.

Stay safe and ice free.

Jimmy Swan

ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Hello Crier, we at the Community Council would like to use this opportunity to reintroduce ourselves as we have had new members and new office bearers appointed recently. We currently are Ritchie Young - Chair, Caroline Haxton - Vice Chair, Linda Buchan - Data Controller, Donna Gillespie - Treasurer, Ro Bell - Secretary, Carol McMahon - Planning and Helena McAllister - Aberargie Representative.

We are supported by our local Councillors Kathleen Baird and David Illingworth. Sadly, as everyone will be aware, we recently lost Councillor Henry Anderson and all at the community council are deeply saddened by the loss and send our love to his family.

As per the new normal we now meet over Zoom warm and snug whilst at home. The meetings are limited in time and never more than 90 minutes. There are new proposals, new actions, and a genuine belief that the community council may be an initiator of change.

We have, during the lockdown, used our time to create a village website which will be going live very soon. This is a call specifically for local community businesses and groups to submit their details to us if they would like to be represented on our local business or groups page. There is no charge for this as we are considering it a community service. We will be looking for the name of the business/group, logo, contact details and sector.

Please send any queries to: abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com or join the CC facebook group by searching Abernethy Community Council and get in touch there.

There are plans to deliver a covid safe virtual experience for the village, an Abernethy audio tour platform where in various spots users of a smart phone app can learn about the village, the people whose stories have been lived here and the history of special places and buildings. Songs, poetry, voices of young and old brought together to share something of this wee village. We hope to have something that community members can get involved in and enjoy throughout the year. We hope all content will be created by the community. All ideas are welcome, please do get in touch.

There is work to be done delivering new cycle routes, working with the elected members and statutory bodies. Helping to plan and signpost safe places for us all to take to two wheels.

We are also here to help spread information and give support. We are working with Network Rail to ensure there are wee signs giving information about Samaritans and those who would support someone having suicidal thoughts.

We would like to thank the local ice warriors during the recent bad weather for stepping up and helping as well as the Abernethy Angels for organising the vaccination clinics that have so far run successfully in Abernethy. We were delighted to help and the community spirit shown was wonderful.

Also for the local farming community we should all be aware that lambing season is approaching and the need to be especially aware around livestock in fields is great. Please tread carefully and respectfully whilst out walking. Any queries about walking routes please get in touch.

There is a belief we can bring together more people to deliver action on projects. Projects which are grounded in the community and inspired by community need. So this is us. Keep an eye and an ear open, we will actively keep folks informed. Come and see...

Ritchie Young, Chair

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

It is hoped the association's meetings will resume in October of this year. This will obviously depend on whether or not there are still restrictions in place. The museum interior does not lend itself to social distancing so the committee will take this into consideration when plans are being made for the reopening.

Jimmy Swan (Pres.)

FROM THE CHAIR

I hope receiving the Crier brings a slight measure of normality to your lives.

Looking back to the Crier of March 2020 and reading the contents, all seemed plain sailing; notification of forthcoming events, 60s Night Out in the Williamson Hall in April, Open Garden Event, opening of the Tennis Club, Communion, the Masons' Bingo Tea and Donkey Derby the SWI meetings etc. Little did we know and did we ever think that one year on we would still be under lock and key!

In spite of everything we have succeeded in producing a Crier apart from last June, thanks to all the contributors and to those who deliver.

I write this on the 31st January, still very cold and still snow around but I enjoyed a pleasant walk in the sunshine this afternoon, thankful I am able to see and enjoy the beautiful area in which we live. Every day is another day nearer spring and freedom!

One day leads into the next and we are unable to plan anything ahead, however one does have time to look backwards to both interesting and happy times in the village and I hope these articles will bring back memories to those who remember them and be of interest to those who have come into the village in more recent times.

Keep well, safe and be optimistic.

Hilda Clow

BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

You will all know by now that the club did not hold its annual supper in February due to Covid 19.

However, we hope to hold an event in the late summer if the restrictions have been eased by then.

Hopefully by February 2022 everything will be back to a kind of normal and our annual event will re-convene.

Jimmy Swan (Sec.)

It is with regret.....that we hear of the death of Robin Scotland and Councillor Henry Anderson.

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

Please note

All adverts were correct at time of submission i.e. 31st January 2021 but circumstances may have changed due to Coronavirus restrictions and you should check before relying on the advert.

WHO IS IN YOUR GRAVEYARD?

I find graveyards very interesting places, a place for family research, a place for a history lesson and not a place to be afraid of. My granny told me "It's the living you have to be afraid of and not the dead", so give the one in the middle of our village, next to the church, a visit sometime and you are sure to find some interesting grave stones.

I hope this regular article will give you an insight into some of the very interesting people buried in the graveyard and a bit of history behind that person or those persons. I intend to leave a marker beside the gravestone in question so that you can check it out for yourself.

The Robertson Brothers and the Tay Bridge Disaster.

The Tay Bridge Disaster happened one very stormy night on the 28th December 1879 just after 7 o'clock killing all on board. The train was travelling from Burntisland to Dundee when the bridge collapsed throwing steam engine, carriages and all the passengers and crew into the freezing water of the river Tay.

Two of the passengers on that stormy night were the Robertson brothers from Abernethy, William aged 21 and Alexander aged 22. The brothers were single and lived with their father at Main Street, Abernethy, but at that time were living in digs at 100, Foundry Lane, Dundee. Both were employed as stokers in a gas works in the city.

It was a stormy night when the brothers boarded the train at Abernethy station, hoping to make the connection at Ladybank station with the ill fated train travelling from Burntisland. William was dressed in dark tweed suit, woollen shirt and striped blue and grey socks while Alexander with his dark hair, large whiskers and moustache wore a dark cloth overcoat, light tweed suit, Rob Roy tartan scarf and silver lever watch. We know all this information because as the bodies were recovered great care was taken to detail each individual.

Unfortunately, they did make the connection at Ladybank and the rest is history.

Jimmy Swan

ABERNETHY NEWSLETTER

"It is a very pleasant task to sit down and edit the first issue of your own local newsletter. There was a very wide ranging response to our call for contributions and I hope you'll find what follows is of interest. If you have something to say- news, a complaint, club fixtures or reports, or you want to advertise – get in touch".

This was the editor's opening statement for the newsletter which would be published monthly commencing July, 1980.

In the months leading up to Christmas, a number of items were explored:

- Footpaths: "The maintenance of footpaths in the village and on the roads joining Newburgh and Aberargie."
- Play facilities for children: there were only two swings in the Powrie Park at this time.
- Public Toilets: proposed placement of toilets in the area of ground beyond the Inn.
- Volunteer Car Pool: for the benefit of residents who required transport for medical appointments.
- Flooding: caused by the Ballo Burn, and the need for volunteers to deal with the problem.
- Cycling: a complaint raised by a resident about the dangers of cycling on busy roads.
- Dog Fouling: in the area surrounding the Williamson Hall.

Some of the above were successfully dealt with, some seem to have disappeared and some continue to this day!

There were reports from many of the organisations, some of which no longer exist such as the Girl Guides, the Women's Guild and the Youth Club.

These are only a few of the news items contained in the monthly issues from July to December 1980.

The above information was sourced from the museum where a wealth of material both in artefact and written form can be found.

Museum of Abernethy

THE JOYS OF NOT MOTORING

Attending the Ophthalmology Department at Ninewells Hospital towards the end of December 2019 after referral by my optician the appointment opened with an eye test. The lady doctor then asked me "Do you still drive?" "Yes" I replied, "But only locally such as down to the village or along to Newburgh for appointments with the doctor, and never during the hours of darkness" "Even so" she said "if anything were to happen you would be crucified", her exact words. Well aware that such a dire fate was unlikely in this day and age the message got through to me. She then pointed out how the saving of the expense of running a car would more than compensate for costs of hiring taxis in case of emergency in an effort to soften the blow. It was as they say, a no-brainer.

Initially I decided that, despite the expense I would not give up the car as my three daughters who were all covered to drive it would be able to take us on appointments and shopping trips when required. They would also be able to use it in the event of their own car being unavailable for whatever reason.

In time I began to appreciate the advantages. Cleaning the car was never one of my top priorities but if the girls wanted to drive a clean car it was up to them. For me there would be no need to defrost the windscreen on a chilly morning. No more frustration in my attempts to find a parking place in Abernethy or worse still Newburgh. No more worrying about meeting the bin lorry on a Saturday morning and having to reverse to make way for it, which was never my greatest skill. I would certainly miss the cheery waves from dog walkers and people we know that we would encounter on our narrow road, not forgetting the occasional sullen glowers from the odd ones which occasionally almost tempted me to lower the car window and say "Do you mind - we actually live up here".

My initial decision to hang on to the car certainly came in handy for eldest daughter Jane as her own car was unavailable for a walking holiday in Lewis and she had to borrow mine. However the end came when the expense of bringing it up to scratch to pass a belated MOT test was more than the car was worth and I sadly had to let it go.

Bob Macdonald

OH DEAR AMERICA

Oor world looked on in fear, in fear
While the country oot west damn near fell
A man of ill was leading them then
A nation being led into hell

But sense prevailed as often it does
And order returned, all is still
A new lad's in charge o' it all now
And has been sworn in on the hill

So Joe, can you bring it a' the gaither now
Unite and get over this spat
That man tae man the world o'er
Shall brothers be for a' that

REDISCOVER YOUR LOCAL HERITAGE AT HOME THIS WINTER

With the cold weather, dark evenings and continuing guidance to stay at home, many of us will be missing the warm and welcoming talks hosted by local historical societies over the winter months. Here at Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust we look forward to this time of year when we get out and about visiting communities up and down the region to deliver talks on a range of archaeological topics as part of these programmes. Sadly, the pandemic has emptied our talk diary, so instead, we've recorded a presentation which you can watch online and released a new booklet to read at home.

One to Watch

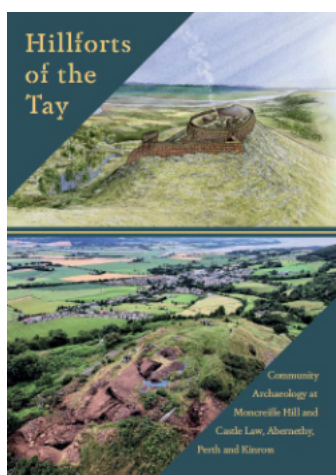


So boil the kettle, pull your favourite armchair up to the computer and join us for a journey through 10,000 years of Perth and Kinross's human story from Mesolithic to Modern. There's a lot of archaeology to pack in so our whistle-stop tour focuses on the key themes and narratives

from each period as highlighted through our current project to develop a Perth and Kinross (regional) Archaeological Research Framework (PKARF). The presentation has been produced near the end of the second year of this exciting project so begins with a background summary and progress update on the work undertaken so far. After returning from your journey through time the presentation concludes with a short discussion on the five overarching themes that are emerging from the Framework. These represent common priorities across all periods which we hope future archaeological research can assist in addressing to give us a better understanding of human activity across the region through time.

You don't need to buy a ticket or put a date in the diary, you can watch for free at any time either by visiting www.pkht.org.uk/pkarf or via the Trust's YouTube Channel www.youtube.com/PKHeritageTrust.

A Great Wee Read



Published in an eye catching, extensively illustrated and accessible format, Hillforts of the Tay is the Trust's latest release and we're very excited about it. The booklet presents the findings from the major community archaeology project investigating the little understood hillforts on Moncreiffe Hill, and at Castle Law between 2014-2018 as part of the Tay Landscape Partnership Scheme. It tells the story of the archaeological work and the starring role members of the local community played in making the project happen.

The booklet is packed with interesting details, examining the structures uncovered and the artefacts found during excavation, including the beautiful Moredun Bronze Pin - a miniature masterpiece of early Celtic art. It also discusses aspects of the construction, use and abandonment of each of the hillforts over 2,000 years ago, before bringing the different strands of evidence together alongside information on the Iron Age environment and landscape to paint a picture of the sites in their wider, natural context. The immersive Virtual Reality modelling by Smart History, University of St Andrews and the beautiful interpretative reconstructive illustrations produced by Chris Mitchell provide a captivating visual culmination to the work.

Copies are on sale for £5 from the Trust's publications page: www.pkht.org.uk/publications. As we are mostly working from home, please allow plenty of time for us to process and ship your order. If you

are interested in hearing about all the other projects we've been working on this year then our annual report is packed with all the latest and is available to view and download from our website.

Gavin Lindsay • Research and Engagement Officer

RHYMES AND REMINISCENCES

Following the success of the above book one of my first reactions was not what was included but how much I had left out. It was not long before I started to jot down other memories amassed over my 94 years which led to the decision to press on with volume two. Due to the work involved in transferring my untidy scribbles into readable condition for the benefit of the printers the decision has been made to take it steady with no set deadline but with the hope that it could be completed by the middle of the year at the latest.

Sadly the rhymes were all included in the first book so this one will be entitled "More Miscellaneous Memories". Again the accent is on the lighter side of life. As in the first book it will be rounded off with a selection of teasers to exercise your brains.

Watch this space.

Bob Macdonald

DID YOU KNOW.....In 1913 the Board of Trade published a report which claimed that Perth was the most costly place to live in the UK. If the prices in London were 100, prices in Glasgow were 99, Aberdeen 101, Edinburgh 103, Dundee 104 and Perth 108.



ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB



Powrie Park has two outdoor all-weather tennis courts and Abernethy Tennis Club members enjoy unlimited use of this fantastic local sporting facility.



Tennis is a sport with built in social distancing and is a great way to keep up your fitness levels while enjoying safe social interaction.

Annual membership for the 2021-22 season is available online now at:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AbernethyTennisClub>

Great value at only: £50 for annual family membership

£25 for annual adult membership

£12.50 for annual junior membership (u18s)

We are an LTA Registered Venue and, when restrictions allow, will aim to run sessions with accredited coaches for all abilities and ages as well as regular informal sessions ideal for newcomers. Look out for full details coming soon.

email – abernethytennis@gmail.com



ABERNETHY IN BLOOM



While the 2020 Take A Pride In Perthshire and Beautiful Scotland competitions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we were very



pleased to receive a Certificate of Recognition from the Royal Horticultural Society and one from



Beautiful Scotland as an acknowledgement of all the hard work carried out during the summer months to maintain a colourful environment throughout the village. So thank you to all in the community who have also helped to keep our village clean, tidy and litter free.

Christmas was a little different this year as we weren't able to get together



to switch on the Christmas Tree lights nor enjoy our usual sing song and festive eats and refreshments. Never the less after a bit of a hiccup with the electricity supply, power was restored and the Christmas Tree was again a beacon of light for all to enjoy. Also, to enhance the Christmas decorations around the village, the community got together to assemble a Nativity Scene in Nurse Peattie's garden which was a very welcome festive addition to the village.



All has now been packed away for another year but it is anticipated that this will now become a regular feature at Christmas.

The spring planting of all our containers was completed in October with various spring bulbs for the first time supplemented by the plants brought on with tender loving care from plugs in our polytunnel. We therefore look forward to a colourful spring in the village when the snow and ice will be behind us and we are hopefully less restricted in our movements. On a trial basis we have retained a number of the summer plants which we hope to over-winter in the polytunnel for this year's summer planting and we are also looking at other ways to make use of our newly acquired asset.

Abernethy In Bloom thanks Jimmy (Swan) who has donated a total of £200 to the Abernethy In Bloom funds from the sale of his many and varied designs of bird feeders and walking sticks etc. Thank you to those who have stopped off at 'Jimmy's Hoose' to make a purchase. I am sure he still has a few left after the Christmas rush. Grateful thanks also go to Paul (Simmers) who has given a very generous donation of £200 for the Christmas decorations fund (especially as we missed out on our fundraising at the Christmas tree lights switch on). This will help to replace the older decorations for Christmas 2021. Paul has also been adopted as the Abernethy In Bloom photographer and Abernethy In Bloom thanks him for the Christmas photos that were made available on the Abernethy Facebook page.

We still need to resolve what to do about retaining the 'Caterpillar' stones as there are concerns that the stones are starting to scatter. One or two suggestions have been received about what to do with them but these may not be practical in the long term. Perhaps the person who initiated this brilliant idea can get in touch so we can decide on a long term solution.

Due to the current situation, we have recently had a few disappointments with our funding applications for the new 'Heritage Garden' project at Hatton Road. However, we have also had successes, which has allowed Abernethy In Bloom with Take A Pride In Perthshire, who are managing this project, to agree a plan to carry out the project in two phases. There are still a few Phase 1 planning issues to resolve but we anticipate we will get approval to proceed in 2021.

Phase 1 will require a greater input from Abernethy In Bloom than was originally planned for the planting, but we anticipate that with help from

within the community we will be able to provide the range of plants, trees and shrubs that were originally outlined.

In the meantime, donations can continue to be made via the Hatton Road project 'Just Giving' page or directly to Abernethy In Bloom which will help to boost the village's contribution for this exciting new project.

While we are having a rest from our activities during the winter months, within any contact restrictions that may still apply, should you wish to join us when spring arrives, to help keep Abernethy a bright and cheerful place to live, just come along when you see us working at Nurse Peattie's garden, 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

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILLOR HENRY ANDERSON.

On Sunday December 27th we learned of the sad passing of Councillor



Henry Anderson after a very short Covid illness. Henry was first elected to Perth & Kinross Council representing Almond & Earn in May 2012 and re-elected again in May 2017. Henry was Convenor of the Licensing Board from May 2012 to May 2017 and Convenor of the the Local Review Body from September 2019 onwards. He also served on the Planning and Development Management and Lifelong Learning committees. Henry was a hardworking local councillor and soon became well known in all the communities in Almond & Earn attending community council meetings and other community events.

Interestingly the last time we "saw" Henry was at an online meeting of the Planning and Development Management committee where an application for Energy From Waste scheme at Binn Farm was being determined. Following this Agenda item Henry excused himself as he was unwell. A few days later he was gone.

Attending an online meeting when you are unwell shows determination and commitment to the community. Henry really enjoyed the Planning and Development Management Committee so it was pleasing that Henry participated in the previous meeting where the next stage of Oudenarde was approved.

Henry was an approachable Councillor and always tried to do his best for anyone who raised an issue with him.

As well as being Councillor, many of you will have known him from his taxi firm, Brig Taxis of Bridge of Earn where he delivered a friendly and diligent service to his many customers for over a decade.

Henry was a hard working conscientious colleague, we had our difference about politics, but much more united us than divided us. We were councillors all working together for the community.

Henry's funeral, due to Covid restrictions, was live streamed with only close family and friends able to attend. I, like others, viewed from home.

Rev Wilson summed up Henry very well - he loved his family and community and worked hard for everyone.

Councillor Kathleen Baird, & Councillor David Illingworth

LINDA DUNCAN



I was born in Perth Royal Infirmary on 7 September 1951 and I lived at Lynburn, 70 Main Street until I married in 1977.

My parents stayed at Lynburn all their married life which was a happy family home. My dad was Andrew (Bunt) Morrison who lived at Pitblae, Abernethy as a young man. My mum, Margaret McGlashan, belonged to Newburgh.

My brother Andrew was also born in PRI on 12 June 1954. We both attended the village primary school which is now James Roy Court.

The class I remember the most was P7 with the headmaster, Mr. Vallance. We used to get 10 mental arithmetic questions every morning and we had to write the answers down in a certain time. Very scary!

One of my earliest memories is that on some Saturdays my mum would give my brother and me 6d (old money worth 2.5p today) each to spend at Mrs Patterson's. We bought sweets but had to keep some for the Sunday. We did not get regular pocket money.

In 1963 I continued my education at Perth High School which was situated where the present Grammar School stands. It was a big change from a small country primary and I suppose I was a bit daunted having to get the local service bus to Perth then walking or taking a town bus. Unlike today, there was no dedicated bus from the village to the school gates.

I liked all my subjects and teachers at Perth High and stayed till my 6th year. I applied to Edinburgh College of Commerce (now Napier) and gained my Dip.Comm. in 1972. After one year at Moray House, I did my two year probation teaching at Portobello High School. In 1975 I transferred to the present Perth High and taught Business Studies for 4 Years. I had met my husband Andy and it was easier to work in Perth. We bought a flat in Glenfarg and then moved to our present house, where we have stayed for 42 years.

Music has been a big part of my life and it all started when my parents sent me to music lessons when I was about 4 or 5 years of age. My teacher was Mr McMorran who was blind. There was always a piano in our house, my dad could play as could some of my aunts. My mum's family had music in their blood too.

During my piano lessons, I was introduced to the church by the minister Rev. T.K.Potts, so I played at Sunday School and then at church services. The first wedding I played at was that of Sandra and Jim Hutchison.

My mum was in the Rural (SWRI) and I became involved if they needed an accompanist for musical evenings. The Tower Singers were formed after a ceilidh in 1982 and Wyn Dobbie was our musical director. We did a lot of village shows, including 'My Fair Lady' and 'Snow White'. We also entertained at the Gala concert. Happy memories!

When I was younger my mum would take us to the berries - Haggart at Earndale, then Ian Bett's. We worked hard and had lots of laughs with the local berry pickers. I also picked tatties at Lister's at Hatton Farm and Stalker's down beside the park. We took our berry money to Aberdeen for our two week August holiday. We always went to the same 'digs' near the Duthie Park. We travelled by train as my dad could not drive. We did not grow up with a family car so it was always the bus or the train.

I can remember all the WRI and Sunday School trips to Arbroath, St. Andrews, Craigton Park and Edinburgh Zoo. The buses would be full of parents and children, often two or three bus loads.

The greatest change I have noticed over the years is the number of cars. Many households have one or even two cars to park in their driveway or on the street but the biggest changes for me in the village are the new school, roundabouts and the new houses at the "Muir's" and "Stephens". I used to go sledging where the Muir houses are built. Abernethy has grown into quite a large commuter village. As you read this article, more new houses are being built in Newburgh Road.

I went back to teaching after an 8 year gap when Graeme was born in 1979 and Fiona in 1982. I was lucky to have my parents to help with the children who were at school. I taught at Perth Academy for 22 years retiring in 2009.

Andy and I are now enjoying our retirement and when it is finally 'safe to go out normally' again we will be booking our holidays abroad.

Linda Duncan

FETE AND HILL RACE 2021

As with so many things in the last year, it looks like neither of these events will go ahead in 2021. It is very unclear how much of a lockdown we will be in by early June or how many will be vaccinated but we will still be 2m separating and still be trying not to hang around in large groups. The great things about the fete and hill race are that they bring the community together and that will be missed (along with the fundraising and the physical challenge).

Keep safe.

Here's to 2022.

The Williamson Hall Committee.

BADMINTON 2021

The badminton club has been on hold since the first lockdown and we will be one of the last things back. As we use the school hall we don't see it restarting until the vaccination programme is complete, for obvious reasons. When that is we will just have to wait and see.

Keep Happy.

The Badminton Committee

ABERNETHY SWI

Abernethy SWI will not be meeting for the foreseeable future due to the Covid 19 restrictions. We hope all our members past and present are keeping well and staying safe.

Elizabeth Taylor President.

FOR SALE

Four Bridgestone tyres 235/40R 19 £80
Four Snow tyres 225/45 17 £80
Nearest realistic offer will be considered

Contact 07808 900084 or jimmyswan36@gmail.com

ABERNETHY SCOUT GROUP

The Scouts managed to get back in October and we managed to stay outside for the duration of our term enjoying dry weather until our final night on 17th December when we had a movie night in the Pavilion as a Christmas treat.

The Scouts were excited to get back and with the Covid 19 Crisis it was great that we could offer them something to look forward to each week. We had a full outdoor programme including some of the following activities.

During November with the Scout evening falling on Bonfire night, David Stalker and Craig Haxton kindly let us use the Lickerstane field below the Powrie Park to have a bonfire at which the Scouts were taught how to build and safely light a bonfire and took turns in safely letting off fireworks as well as remaining socially distanced due to Covid of course.

On another Thursday evening the Scouts participated in the chip shop challenge in Perth. The object of this challenge is for each patrol to purchase one bag of chips from five different chip shops and then discuss, debate and agree on their findings while learning how to respect differing opinions.

The chip shops are scored (1 to 5) in the following categories: friendliness, cleanliness, presentation, taste and value, so there were some interesting discussions on their differing opinions. Everyone knows that when running a scientific experiment conditions need to be replicated as closely as possible so that a true comparison can be made, however this was thrown into complete disarray when one of the scouts had the chips doused in copious amounts of tomato sauce making the like for like basis impossible to judge and in doing so introduced a whole new topic that they weren't ready for; sauce or no sauce. However a fun time was had by all.

Later that month we had some fun cooking outside on open fires, with the Scouts enjoying chocolate bananas and oranges with mint chocolate cooked in tinfoil on hot embers of the fire, there were mixed reviews but with the majority of the Scouts unwittingly eating a warm piece of fruit while trying to devour the melted chocolate within it can't be a bad thing (anything to help towards their five a day).



At the start of December, we were again in Perth and enjoyed Perth Horrible History tour which was hosted by Gary Knight who many moons ago was a scout in Abernethy. Gary has also written a book about the horrible history of Perth called No Fair City which has some fantastic historical stories. Gary, who was dressed in character, told stories of Perth where murder and treason had occurred and pointed out many historical remains and facts as we walked around Auld St Johns Toun.

Before we knew it we had our movie night which was the 30th anniversary of Home Alone (how old does that make you feel). Thanks goes to David Millar for letting us borrow his equipment and for his time setting up the screening of Home Alone.

At the start of January, we were met with the news we dreaded that face to face scouting was again to be suspended. Hopefully we will get the go ahead to return back to outdoor scouting sometime in March, but only time will tell.

In the meantime, I asked the scouts to consider writing about our recent Scouting experiences and how Covid 19 has affected them and Hayley

Young composed a fantastic poem. I'm sure you will enjoy it as much as I did.

This year has been crazy, don't ask me why
COVID was spreading, it isn't a lie
But, by some miracle, scouts came back
The sanitizer came, the pavilion we lack.

The games we played, the fun we chase
The social distancing, firmly in place
The masks flew on, shapes of all sorts
The floodlights building, on the courts

The term was changed, and we went all over
The limits were low, in the COVID takeover
But we still had fun
And some stuff we did, COVID was none.

We did a bonfire, for that night
We got wood, and it was alight
We set off fireworks, they looked great
We got sparklers, it was like old times of late.

We chip shop challenged, around five of the best
We bought, we judged, we ate and rest
Fish and chips, that night, were on everyone's mind
The best or the worst, that we could find.

Castle Law happened, and we went up the hill
We made fires, and toasted, some food on the grill
Chocolate orange and banana, and our own teaspoon
If you looked closely, you could see the moon.

Perth's history, it's not pretty
But we got a tour, of this no fair city
The hangings, the battles, the bloody and gory
Sure made for a really good story.

Then it was Christmas, and all things sweet,
So we got ourselves, a nice good treat
A film, inside, a thing we had forgot
Home alone, popcorn, and sweets had to be got.

But then it was, too good to be true
For lockdown again, another curfew
The games, the masks, the sanitizer, the fun
It seems the year 20 is rubbing off on 21!

Hayley Young



It is also great to see one of Abernethy Cub football players again getting to a National Final and hopefully going on to win the Scottish League Cup. I often wonder where the time goes as it was 25 years ago that David Wotherspoon first started playing the beautiful game at Powrie Park where he was known as "Wee D" by his teammates in Abernethy Cubs. I believe he won

his first trophy with Abernethy cubs winning the league in 1999 - 2000. David was a smashing player blessed with natural ability and coupled with his hard work and exemplary attitude it is no surprise to many that he has surpassed 300 appearances for the team he supported as a boy, whilst being an integral part of the most successful St Johnstone team of all time with more to come.

Finally, the Leaders and Committee will be doing everything they can to get the Scout Group back up and running as soon as it's safe to do so, which hopefully will be sometime in March but only time will tell, in the meantime stay safe.

Gordon Miller Abernethy Group Scout Leader

TOWER CARS AND TOWER GARAGE



Gary Coffey runs a long established Abernethy business which has grown hugely over the past 15 years.

He began by renting part of the garage and then in 2012 expanded by taking in his brother-in-law as a partner and to run the workshop and servicing side of the business. Steven O'Brien had 20 years experience and great knowledge of the industry, giving Gary more time to develop car sales and build a new M.O.T. centre.



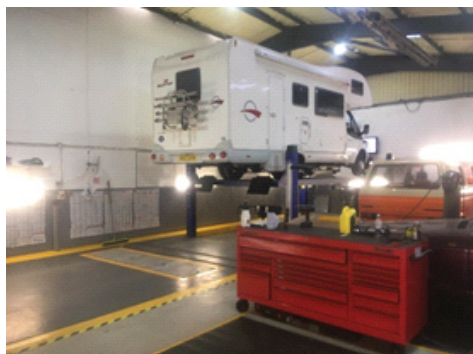
Gary Serbie and Nigel Tyrell work as mechanics and MOT testers in the garage while Gary's son Liam Hally works as a mechanic servicing and repairing sales cars with David Currie valeting and detailing sales cars.

Gary lives with his partner, Lynn Rettie, and when not working he enjoys Stock Car Racing and his Show Pigeons. He doesn't enjoy the long hours and working evenings and weekends but the very worst thing is having to tell customers bad news about their cars. He finds the best part of the job is dealing with and being part of the local community. He would like to express his thanks to all his customers for the good feedback and reviews he gets and which make the job worthwhile.

A & B MOTORS

Brian Greig and Alan Stewart used to repair cars as a bit of a hobby from premises on Cordon Road until the opportunity came in 1995 to buy the current premises on Back Dykes in 1995. Working then were Brian, his brother Alex Greig and Alan Stewart.

Brian's son, Scott used to clean cars for his Dad and that sparked his interest in cars. When he was 16 he started an apprenticeship with Nissan in Perth. Over ten years he became a Qualified Motor Technician and MOT Tester which gave him the confidence to take over the running of the workshop at A & B Motors in 2008. Brian still runs the business and in the workshop with Scott are mechanic Graeme Ewan and mechanic and MOT Tester Stuart Darling.



The business has just opened the refurbished workshop and MOT Testing Centre. Brian combines running the business with his other function as the indispensable public spirited proprietor of Greig's Stores with his partner Angela Smith and shop assistant Susanne Blankers.

Scott is married to Shona, daughter of the esteemed retired Dr. David Booth and they became the proud parents of twins Isla and Fraser on October 20th, 2020. His passion is Classic Cars and motor sport and he is a keen swimmer and cyclist. Scott finds the best part of the job is working on Classic Cars and the social side which comes from being a business owner in a small garage. The worst part is the long hours and working under wet or snow covered cars as the water always seems to manage to drip down the back of your neck and up your sleeves!

Scott and Brian would like to thank all their customers for supporting them over the years and hope to be around to continue to help for many years to come.



PROFIT IN NUMBERS

Some years ago while we were on holiday in Northern Ireland an excursion took us to Castle Ward. There I spotted a white Mercedes bearing the registration number RGM 15. Although the number 15 had no special significance to me I would quite happily have swapped the number plate on my car for this one bearing my initials. Fortunately the owner was not around so I was not in a position to ask him to name his price. Probably just as well as Isabel might have objected to me putting our house on the market. I quite fancied another number which I saw in one of those newspaper adverts. It was M90 RGM. Now that would have been more appropriate bearing in mind where we live. Personalised numbers have been popular for many years. One of the first that I recall was TT1 owned by comedian Tommy Trinder. During the war years he was appearing regularly at the London Palladium where I saw my first West End Show called "Happy and Glorious" in which he starred. I also saw him in several other revues at the same venue. He was also on the board of directors of Fulham Football Club. He would quip that the number TT1 confirmed that he was the first person to sign the pledge.

Jimmy Tarbuck's car sported the number COM1C. A potato merchant from this area proclaimed his business cleverly with POT 80 as did Dr Matthew Shepherd with DOC 999. When golfer Jessie Anderson won the Scottish and British Ladies Open titles in the same year husband George of Valentines Motors presented her with a new car with the number JES 1, a familiar sight in Perth for many years.

Sometimes a number which resembles a letter can be used to make up a word. One of my wife Isabel's former work colleagues plumped for N4RKY. Hopefully she didn't have that attitude to the customers.

When working at 52 Pall Mall in London the office of a well known whisky firm was just a few doors away. The vehicle parked at the door bore the plate VAT 69 sometimes jokingly referred to as the telephone number of a prominent religious figure. The car which transports the Provost of Perth and Kinross Council has always borne the registration number ES1. When the number plate GS1 owned by our late next door neighbour John Wilkie was put up for auction following his passing it raised the magnificent sum of £220,000. There was as a result great pressure on the Council to follow suit with ES1 to raise much needed funds but I personally am pleased that they resisted as it is nice to carry on these traditions, although many might not agree with me. On the other hand General Accident owned the plate GA1 which latterly was on one of the company's blue vans. Subsequent mergers leading to the formation of AVIVA saw the initials GA lose their significance and they cashed in but I have no idea how much was raised by the sale. With the letters ES being preceded by a different letter in later years one of my colleagues at work Leslie Mansfield, now sadly no longer with us, benefited when his company car was replaced. I can't recall the number but the letters were LES. There is money to be made if you happen to own a number plate which may not strike you as special but might mean something to someone else. The late Allan Stewart who was a motor mechanic once told me that he spotted an interesting number on a derelict car outside a house somewhere in the country. He purchased the car for a modest price and advertised the number plate for sale. It attracted the interest of a company down south who sent up a representative to meet him in the Station Hotel where he was treated by him to dinner before purchasing the number giving Allan a handsome profit.

When the letters ES were preceded by the letter P, I always thought that the combination of letters were more suited to Dundee bearing in mind the natives' manner of pronouncing the delicacies produced by Murrays the bakers in South Street, Perth.

Although my nephews all have personalised numbers the only member of our immediate family with one is eldest daughter Jane with J3 NEM. Sadly the figure 4 to represent A was not available to read J4NEM.

The main disadvantages in having one is that they are too easily remembered if you are guilty of some breach of etiquette while driving. Happily she does not appear to have raised the ire of any other drivers.

My first car bore the number 14 HPH and I have to confess that it did give me a few problems. Hire Purchase Headache could have been appropriate. It was only while I finished off this article that I thought of that description. The moral of this story is Registrations Gather Money.

Bob Macdonald

WE MUST RESPECT OUR COUNTRYSIDE OR PAY THE PRICE

It is heart-breaking for members of the public to see others undermine and, in some cases, completely disrespect, their local community. Far too often our beautiful countryside and iconic landscapes are being desecrated by selfishness and laziness.

In recent months, the incidence of litter, fly-tipping, and anti-social behaviour has been on the increase in Scotland and sadly, that is true in the Abernethy and Earn area too. It has been making life a misery for all those who live in the affected areas.

In the local authority area, hundreds of items including fridges, mattresses, washing machines and asbestos have been illegally dumped and, during the current lockdown, some of the verges are full of Christmas waste including trees, decorations and old bottles.

There is no excuse for dumping waste like this, especially as the recycling centres remain open during this lockdown. Indeed, it is a criminal offence and so it is good to hear that new measures are being debated to increase the ability of local authorities, police and environment agencies to catch the perpetrators. This move follows a huge number of letters, emails and petition signatures received by the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee at Holyrood and the evidence sessions currently being undertaken by the Environment Committee at Westminster.

Whilst the offenders are small in number, their behaviour has disproportionately large implications and costs for the communities they choose to target, and for the nation too. We need legislative changes to ensure that local authorities have more workable powers to address the situation (as they do in England and Wales) rather than having to depend most of the time on the Procurator Fiscal process which can take such a long time, and we need to increase the fines and ensure that these are enforced. In 2018 Police Scotland recorded just 61 fly-tipping offences even though environmental bodies suggest the true total is more than 60,000. This isn't good enough and it makes the perpetrators think they can get away with it. If a fine is not paid, a Community Payback Order should be imposed immediately.

Figures provided by Zero Waste Scotland tell us that litter and fly-tipping costs councils a staggering £53 million of public money each year and they are predicting the next statistics will be even worse.

From a local authority perspective, especially in the current very tight financial climate, that is money that could be far better spent on dealing with potholes in our roads or cutting hedges and grass or tending to run-down cemeteries.

Voters consistently tell the pollsters that environment policies will play a big part in determining which party gets their vote. Not only must we pursue policies to effectively tackle climate change and the green economic recovery, but we must up our game when it comes to tackling fly-tipping and litter.

Liz Smith MSP is the Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform and represents the Mid Scotland and Fife region for the Scottish Conservatives.

MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

The Museum of Abernethy will be holding its Annual Members Meeting on Wednesday 24.3.2021 at 7pm. Due to the current covid 19 restrictions It will take the form of a Zoom meeting. All members with internet connection will be notified by email and the email will include a zoom link to enable you to take part.

Jimmy Swan (Chair)

WRVS IN ABERNETHY

You may recall that in the last issue you read of my representing WRVS Scotland at the Ceremony of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in London so I thought I would continue on the theme of WRVS and in particular in Abernethy.

Sadly WRVS no longer exists and has evolved into RVS which I feel is not quite correct as it is no longer the organisation which was granted the Royal Charter. To explain my reasoning I must give you a very brief history of WRVS.

The organisation was formed on 16th May 1938 by Lady Reading as the country prepared for war. The Women's Voluntary Services was created to help local authorities in preparation for looking after civilians in the event of war. One million women volunteered and undertook countless jobs at the request of Government Departments and Local Authorities, caring for people suffering as a result of war, evacuees, refugees, homeless people and others needing clothing, temporary accommodation or general comfort and care and also running canteens for the troops.

The Royal Charter was granted in 1966.

So much for this briefest of brief histories as we jump from 1938 to the early 1970s in Abernethy.

As with so many members around that time my introduction to WRVS was through Meals on Wheels when I was asked by the Meals on Wheels organiser in Perth if I would organise a team to deliver meals to the elderly and housebound within the parish and so began WRVS in Abernethy.

Meals were delivered 3 times a week to around twenty recipients, either soup and a main course or a main course and pudding. The meals were collected in insulated containers from different venues throughout the years, Bridge of Earn Hospital, P.R.I., Dunbarney School, and Abernethy School. Our area included Abernethy, Aberargie, Dron and the Baigle end of Glenfarg. No matter the weather the meals were delivered. The Abernethy team was fantastic and I know we all enjoyed doing our round and recipients were always glad to see us. Many a tale could be told of our experiences in those happy days. The delivery of meals ended in 2009.

One thing led to another and we became involved in other areas of the service. An Afternoon Club was formed and met in the Masons' Hall where people would come along for a cup of tea, a game of cards or dominoes or just a friendly chat. This of course involved volunteers to make the tea and provide transport if and when required.

In those days WRVS owned two caravans, one in Anstruther and one in Blair Atholl, available to retired and elderly people for a holiday. I remember taking several people from the area to these caravans and bringing them home again always full of stories of the great holiday they had had.

I became very involved with the Emergency Services of WRVS. This was the only area where a training was involved so, after undergoing the initial training myself, I got a team organised in Abernethy. The reason for training was that we could be called out to an emergency anywhere in the country, be it fire, flood or any type of major incident. We had to be able to set up a rest centre to provide food, clothing and shelter to people rendered homeless.

How does one provide food and drink to firefighters, fighting a moorland fire in highland Perthshire? No electricity, no gas, nothing! WRVS could do it. There were store rooms throughout the country where emergency equipment was kept, boilers, kindling, bags of sticks, firelighters and bricks to build field cookers.

To keep teams up to scratch exercises were run using the above mentioned equipment and we were asked by various bodies to provide food and drinks at their fund- raising events, e.g. Riding for the Disabled in Glenfarg (attended by Princess Anne on one occasion), Upper Springlands in Perth, several events at Scone Palace and Glamis and in

particular Abernethy Gala Day.

This was always great fun from beginning to end. We made gallons of tea and the WRI (as it was called then) served this up along with all the home baking generously provided by the bakers and cooks in the village.



The team gathered together in the morning to assemble the equipment, taking into account the direction of the wind so as not to smoke out our neighbouring stall-holders, fill the



boilers, ensure we had enough fuel to keep the boilers going all afternoon, light the boilers and then it was full steam ahead for the afternoon.

At the end of the day all the equipment had to be dismantled, cleaned



and dried ready to be transported back into storage and our working area left in pristine condition. This could not quite be said of the team, having been stoking fires all afternoon we were somewhat smokey and sooty by the end of the day. It was a day we all enjoyed and I hope this article will bring back happy memories to all those who were involved with the WRVS in Abernethy. Two essential qualities were required to become a volunteer;

1) Reliability

2) A sense of humour

and certainly the Abernethy members had both 100%.

Hilda Clow

THANK YOU

I'd like to say a big "Thank you" to the mysterious Abernethy Elf who seems to have been popping around Abernethy spreading a little joy just before Christmas Day.

Late Christmas Eve I found, on my front doorstep, some lovely flowers and a box of chocolates!

Having just, only days before, lost my lovely dog Bru I was feeling a little sad and down.

That kind and thoughtful gesture, while it brought a tear or two to my eyes, along with kind friends so helped to raise my spirit.

Once again "Thank you" Elfie - it was much appreciated.

Margaret Donaldson.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER (SPRING 2021)

Dear Reader,

As I write this, we seem to be emerging from a prolonged period of ice, frost and snow. But days are inexorably lengthening and we look ahead to the first signs of Spring. Like many, I am sure, I have been using the dreich, dark days to do some badly needed tidying up, starting with my chaotic study. Having borrowed an incinerator from one of my kindly parishioners, I am steadily burning reams and reams of sermons, bank statements and receipts and heading for a paper-free life. Such has been my enthusiasm to destroy hard copies that the bin has suffered a bit of metal fatigue. In the words of a local worthy, it would seem that I have inadvertently 'burned the erse oot o' it!' During my clearing-out, however, I stopped to read a yellowing national newspaper cutting which had been kept since 2000. It bore the headline "Sleepy hollow rings to pot-shots at Maggie" – a reference to one of my sermons whilst still in the phase of youthful and rebellious ministry in the Borders. It was a review secretly conducted by a journalist who (incognito) sat through one of my services and who then published it in a Sunday newspaper. A more complimentary (I think) comment was: "The Rev Stan is a gentle giant...who looked gorgeous in his blue robes and gown.... some of his loyal ladies swooned for him." But the crux of the matter was my comment on the Iron Lady's assertion that "there is no such thing as society". Seemingly, I stated that we only exist in relation to our network of obligations and contacts of which our family is the most important. Even hermits, I noted, have to relate to others because it is only in relation to other people that we find meaning and context. I must have made some sort of sense, because I achieved four stars out of five for my preaching, according to the newspaper's 'sermon-ometer'. Since it was Trinity Sunday, I could well imagine that I would be 'banging-on' about the Godhead being a bit like a family. Nevertheless, the experience reminded me of some valuable truths. It is incumbent on us, whether we have any faith or not, to look continually towards the Spring and the new life it contains, but from a community aspect. The message remains that darkness, death and the coldness of Covid is never the finale. We were made together for life and light and not the depressive lonely greyness which can become our default human condition. Between the effects of the virus and other painful losses that our communities have experienced, these past months have been something of a dire record. But however severe the winter might have been in terms of human loss, bereavement and sadness, we cling on to a great hope. With the start of the vaccination programme, better times are just waiting to transform our grey world. I have had the privilege to see how families, neighbours and friends have rallied around to support each other and their fellow villagers. So although these words will never get further than the bounds of our parish and won't make headline news this time, they are still worth repeating: we do not just exist as individuals. Like the inner workings of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we too exist only in relation to each other. It is when we achieve such 'community' in our family, village and world that, that we become truly human.

With all good wishes.

Rev Stan (Spring 2021)

KIRK NEWS

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to hold physical services at Christmas-time but the 'angels' which were placed on the gates of both our churches were a great success. These were taken away by villagers, along with a seasonal message from the Kirk. We say 'thank-you' to all those who knitted them. Such was their popularity, that of the hundreds produced, only four were left by New Year. Likewise, our 'carol-trails' in both Abernethy and Glenfarg attracted quite a bit of attention and younger people especially enjoyed utilising the QR codes to hear a rendition of their favourite Christmas music. The Nativity Tableau in Nurse Peattie's Garden was a new venture for Abernethy and created by many talented village volunteers. The stable and characters (both human and animal) were greatly admired over Advent and Christmas.

As I write this, again, even the small congregations allowed to physically attend church (sixteen in Abernethy and fourteen in Arngask) have currently been suspended by the Scottish Government due to Covid

precautions.

On a more hopeful note, a monthly Zoom Fun Church has been taking place for our Sunday Club children. The minister and volunteer team continue to send out and deliver 'On-Line 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 (if necessary), get the weekly service sent to your computer and join in with Zoom events. Regulations are forever changing and so you are encouraged to access up-to-the-minute Kirk news in this way.

GEORDIE'S JOTTINGS



Celebrations and Snow

Life has been very different for Mum and me, especially in the last few weeks. We haven't had any visits from friends and family, we are restricted to the same walks day in day out, and I am getting a bit fed up with it all. I did so love having my pals round for a romp in the garden while the mums had tea and chatted in the house. Mum says it won't be forever. But it seems forever.

However, today is different; when we opened the door this morning the world was white! I took one look, rushed out into the garden and ran round in circles. Very cold on the paws but lovely and soft. Mum called me in to get my coat on and when we were both warmly wrapped up, we set out for our walk. Down the slippery steps.....trying not to pull Mum.....and out into the bright, white world.

Which way to go? Up or down? I had a sniff around and decided some of my pals had already passed by, going down to the park, so off we went.

I charged off on the pavement and did a "Bambi", landing splay legged on my tummy. Mum laughed, I didn't think it was funny! Perhaps this white stuff isn't so much fun after all! Gingerly we made our way to the park. No-one about, but I had a lovely run on the pristine snow and was not too happy to leave this wonderland, until Mum said we had to go because we had a surprise coming today.

When we got home, I could smell that someone had been in the garden. I rushed to the door, no sign of anyone, but, when Mum opened the door to the porch there were three parcels there and a small pile of letters. I had a good sniff at them but decided they weren't for me, pity, I do like opening parcels! Mum said "it's my birthday". I didn't know what she meant but she seemed happy, so it must be a good thing! She opened the parcels and I got the wrapping to play with.....chocolates, flowers and a bottle.....not a dog treat in sight!

Now we must get organised" said Mum, "we are going to have some visitors". She got busy setting up her 'talking machine', and soon, the family was on the screen and it was just as if they were in the room. I recognised the voices and wagged my tail but I couldn't find them

anywhere. Then the doorbell went, what a busy day! Someone gave Mum another box and when she opened it, it was full of delicious food, "this is my birthday afternoon tea" she said. All the family had an afternoon tea on screen too. What a lovely idea! There was a lot of talking and laughing but soon it was time to say goodbye and close down the 'talking machine'. Mum was a little sad but happy to have seen everyone.

She slowly got up and closed the curtains with a last glance at the snowy scene.

Well, it had been a different day for us both. A day of snow and a day of celebration.

A birthday to remember.

Geordie

FRAE OOR COONCILLOR

The year did not start as we had hoped. Increasing numbers of Covid cases followed by some real winter weather, enough snow for families to enjoy sledging and snowboarding locally, and outdoor fun in winter sunshine was welcomed by many.

The days are now lengthening, and hopefully many in the community will have had their first vaccine and are perhaps feeling a bit more optimistic about the days ahead, days out, some spring sunshine but most of all seeing family and friends.

Looking back to the icy, snowy winter days I would like to thank the good citizens of Abernethy and Aberargie who have helped their neighbours and the community by clearing footpaths and roads. A volunteer in the village now has a push along grit barrow from the council to use on public footpaths to augment gritting by the council and Tayside Contracts. The grit barrow has been well used. Great to see the able bodied coming out to help.

Grit bins and gritting have been a topic of conversation over the last few weeks. Grit bins are strategically placed throughout the village, usually on steep gradients or a bend but not on routes which are routinely treated. Bins are filled prior to winter. Perth & Kinross Council service more than 1300 bins and have no capacity to provide additional bins at the moment. This winter I have had several requests for additional bins from several villages and this will require to be looked at during the budget process. Perth & Kinross Council rely on the community to inform them when a bin requires filling using MyPKC portal or calling 017384746476. Grit bins are provided for use on public roads and not for private roads.

Perth & Kinross Council has over 1,500 miles to grit and unfortunately every road cannot be gritted by 7.30am. All routes have been assessed and given a priority based on usage and their importance. Category 1 routes may, in severe weather, require to be gritted/salted twice before gritting can begin moving on Category 2 routes.

In most areas footpaths will only be treated on one side of the road. This enables resources to be used to provide more widespread treatment. All information regarding gritting and snow clearing can be found at www.pkc.gritting.pkc.gov. The budget for winter gritting was £3.715 million, and between 11th and 18th January 3,500 tonnes of salt were spread throughout the roads network. Contrary to comments on social media (not Abernethy facebook) and the press, gritting crews are not idle during the night. Crews work throughout the night trying to make the roads as safe as possible.

Emails in my inbox moved from grit bins to garden waste permits; nobody likes paying for a service which at one time was free. When brown lidded bins were first introduced funding was initially in the form of a grant from the Scottish Government to encourage residents to think about separating waste at home, with garden waste either being composted or collected. After a few years the Scottish Government funding was stopped and councillors took the decision to continue with the service but charge to uplift. Collecting garden waste is not statutory

and is not offered to all residents in Perth and Kinross; subsequently this charge cannot be included in the Council Tax. The increase to £40 from April 2021 was part of the budget process in March 2020.

Perth & Kinross Council was one of the few councils who did not stop any kerb side collection during the pandemic. Collecting and disposing of household waste is a costly business, with dry mixed recyclates being collected at the kerbside. The size of the green lidded bin was decreased to encourage more recycling and I am delighted more people are recycling or better still re-purposing.

Collecting waste is probably a service most people take for granted and sadly crews often have abuse hurled at them if they are late or, worse if they are early and the bin has not yet been put out. I plead with residents to exercise some patience in severe weather.

The Environment Service during this last year has had probably its busiest year dealing with the aftermath of summer flooding, numerous fly-tipping issues, collecting kerb side waste in appalling weather and manning recycling centres whilst following strict Covid regulations. Kerbside collections are a service which we take for granted and we are not happy when it is disrupted. I don't need to remind you that the Council are still dealing with an increased workload due to COVID regulations.

The Perth & Kinross Council website has all the information you need about recycling, with a calendar for bin collection. The MyPKC portal is by far the quickest and easiest way to inform the council of environmental issues especially at this time when council offices are closed and the majority of staff are working from home.

At a recent council meeting the decision was taken to temporarily suspend all committee meetings except those of a quasi-judicial nature to free up officer capacity in order to focus on COVID19 response. Essential council business will be taken to additional council meetings. It is vitally important that officer capacity at all levels is released to focus on the pandemic at regional, national and local level. Perth & Kinross Council is responsible for a broad range of vital operational services which protect life and limb, help stop or slowdown virus, provide children's learning at home or school, and support the local economy. Staff continue to be re-tasked to work in essential services and some staff have volunteered to be COVID responders or to support mass vaccination.

Along with other councils, Perth & Kinross Council's budget meeting will take place in early March, and we will be taking some tough budget decisions. Like all businesses and households it needs to balance the books. No-one wants to see services cut and the council strives to be more efficient. At the time of writing councillors are waiting to read findings from public consultation re budgets.

It is hard to believe as you read this that it will be almost one year since the first lockdown. It has been a really tough year, everyone is tired, families having to cope with home schooling and working from home. Older people have missed their outings, meeting with friends for coffee and many now without work.

The teenagers are not only missing physically being at school but they are missing socialising with their friends, playing sport, window shopping and generally having fun. Do not be lonely.

Please, if you need help, talk to someone; there are many council and national agencies who can offer help and support, or phone a friend! We need to follow the rules and STAY AT HOME STAY SAFE

Councillor Kathleen Baird
kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk
or 07584206839



UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID ILLINGWORTH.

Grisy-Suisnes Re-twinning?

Long-time residents of Abernethy will remember that there used to be a twinning arrangement with Grisy-Suisnes in France. Indeed, it is not that long ago that the Grisy-Suisnes twinning sign at the entrance to Abernethy was taken down.

A resident of Grisy-Suisnes, (which is just outside Paris), has been in touch to see if there is any support within Abernethy or even any enthusiasm to re-establish the link between the two communities. The contact from Grisy-Suisnes has the support of both the City Mayor and the municipal councillor for cultural affairs. Now that we have left the European Union, it could be that there is more benefit to be had from this arrangement.

Important Facts about Grisy-Suisnes.

The ties between Grisy and Scotland stem from the fact that Grisy is the location of the old "Ferme des Ecosais" (Scots Farm) which was bought and created way back in 1325 (!) to finance the bursaries of Scottish students studying at the University of Paris.



Ferme des Ecosais main entrance

The farm is still there though the oldest part of the structure is probably 16th or 17th century at most, still quite charming. The Ferme des Ecosais eventually contributed to the funding of bursaries to students at the Scots College Paris which was created in the early 17th century and whose building still stands near the Latin Quarter in Paris. Very deep and interesting history!

It is pronounced Grisy-Swee-es. According to Wikipedia, (which is always correct by the way), inhabitants are called Grisysoiliens.



Mairie or Village Hall

The parish church is just off the village green and was built in the 1960s replacing an older church demolished at the beginning of the 20th century. The Commune is located about 25 miles from Paris and is part of the Seine-et-Marne department. With a population of nearly 2,500, the municipality comprises the village of Grisy which over time annexed nearby Suisnes, the hamlet of Cordon and other neighbouring "lieu-dit".

Perhaps the village's most famous inhabitant, the French explorer, botanist and politician, Admiral Louis Antoine de Bougainville, bought the château Suisnes at the end of the 18th century. Bougainville gave much encouragement and support to his gardener, Christophe Cochet, whose work and career would make Grisy-Suisnes a world-renowned rose growing and horticultural centre for more than a century and a half.



Place du Village Village green

If you would like to get involved in twinning with Grisy-Suisnes, then get in touch with me through the contact details listed below and we'll get together with them to look at what can be done, either through visits to France or by video-conferencing.

New Puffin Crossing outside the school.

At the time of writing, Back Dykes and Newburgh Road were in the throes of construction of two new Puffin crossings. One is a replacement of the Zebra crossing at the bottom of School Wynd and the other is a brand new crossing outside the Primary school.

In recent years we've seen a number of other road safety improvements along the main A913 road through Abernethy:

- two vehicle activated signs at either end of the village;
- A new 40mph limit from just past the bridge over the railway to the outskirts of the village at the east end of the village.

This, in addition to the existing three roundabouts on the road, makes it harder for vehicles to speed through Abernethy. None of us can ever afford to not be careful when walking or cycling along the main road but these improvements make it much safer for everyone.

Registering to vote.

With a Council by-election coming up soon and the Scottish Government election on 6th May, you may wish to make sure you're registered to vote.

To check if you are registered then contact the local Electoral Registration Officer by emailing perth@tayside-vjb.gov.uk or call 01738 630303.

You can now register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You can also register to vote by post by downloading and printing off a [voter registration form](#).

For more details go to www.gov.uk/yourvotematters

If you're not online and you'd like some help with either getting registered or getting a postal vote then call me on the number below.

Finally...

If you think there's anything I can help you with then please get in touch and I will do my level best to assist.

Councillor David Illingworth,
Phone 07767 006275 or email
dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk



See the following pages for the Postal Voting Form

Voting by post

Voting by post is an easy and convenient way of voting if you do not want to vote in person at a polling station.

You can use this form to apply to vote by post for a particular election or referendum, for a set period of time or for all future polls. Postal votes can be sent to addresses in the UK and abroad.

You must be registered and eligible to vote.

How do I apply to vote by post?

- Fill in the postal vote application form.
- Make sure you complete all sections of the form and supply your date of birth and signature. Your date of birth and signature are needed on this application form, and again when you use your postal vote. This information is needed to prevent fraud. If you are unable to sign this form, please contact your local electoral registration office.
- Return your form to your local electoral registration office. **You can find their details and more information at electoralcommission.org.uk/voter.**

Please do not return your form to The Electoral Commission.

You must return your postal vote application form by **5pm, 11 working days before the poll**.

If you are not already registered to vote, you must register before applying for a postal vote. The deadline to register to vote is **midnight, 12 working days before the poll**. Register to vote online at **gov.uk/register-to-vote**

This form and these deadlines do not apply in Northern Ireland. Visit **eoni.org.uk** for more information.

What happens after I've returned this form?

- When an election or referendum is going to be held, your ballot paper will be sent to you in the post. To find out when your ballot paper will be issued you can contact the elections office at your council.
- Make sure you return your postal vote so that it arrives by the close of poll, otherwise it will not be counted. A Freepost envelope is included in your postal ballot pack. But, if you are sending it from overseas, you may need to pay the postage.
- If it is too late to send your vote back by post, you can hand it in on polling day to the elections office at your council, or drop it off at certain polling stations.

Privacy statement

We collect information under the legal basis of a task carried out in the public interest, as set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983 and related regulations. We will look after personal information securely and follow data protection legislation.

If you opted-out of the open register we will only use the information you give us for electoral purposes, including matching it against other sources of data to support the electoral register. We will not give personal information to anyone else, unless we have to by law. The law requires us to share your information with candidates, political parties and campaigners for democratic engagement purposes and credit reference agencies to check your identity when you apply for credit.

If you have not opted-out of the open register your name and address can be bought by anyone and used for lots of purposes, including direct marketing.

The Electoral Registration Officer is the Controller. For further information relating to the processing of personal data you should refer to their privacy notice on their website. You can find their website address and contact details at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter**.

Application to vote by post

Only one person can apply to vote by post using this form

Please write in black ink and use CAPITAL LETTERS. When you have completed every section and signed the form yourself send it to your local electoral registration office. You can find their address at **electoralcommission.org.uk/voter**.

1 About you

Surname

--

First name(s) (in full)

Your address (where you are registered to vote)

Postcode

Postcode

Phone number (optional)

Email (optional)

Providing an email and phone number gives a quick and easy way to contact you about your application.

2 How long do you want a postal vote for?

I want to vote by post (tick one box only):

- ☐ until further notice (permanent postal vote)
- ☐ for the elections/referendums to be held on

D D M M Y Y Y Y

- ☐ for the period

from

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

D D M M Y Y Y Y

to

D	D	M	M	Y	Y	Y	Y

D D M M Y Y Y Y

3 Address for ballot paper (only required if different to the address where you are registered to vote)

Please send my ballot paper to (address):

Postcode

Postcode

The reason I would like my ballot paper sent to this address, rather than my registered address is:

4 Your date of birth and declaration

Declaration: As far as I know, the details on this form are true and accurate.

I understand that to provide false information on this form is an offence, punishable on conviction by imprisonment of up to two years and/or a fine.

Date of birth: Please write your date of birth in the boxes below using black ink.

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D D M M Y Y Y Y

Signature: Sign below using black ink, keeping within the grey border.

--

If you are unable to sign this form, please
contact your local electoral registration office.

5 Date of application

Today's date





D D M M Y Y Y Y

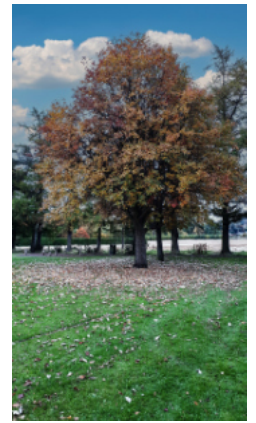
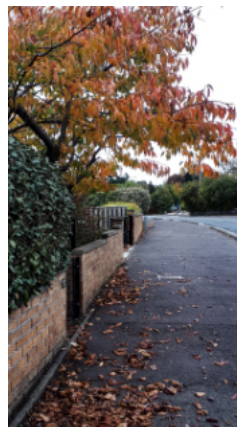
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SECOND LOCKDOWN – HOW AM I COPING?

How am I coping in the second lockdown? Well, much the same as the first one; some days I cope better than others depending on the weather, but on the whole I cope fairly well. Only difference is, the days are shorter, although they are getting longer all the time. I have still managed to do some great walks during autumn and winter, and will share some pictures with you at the end from my autumn/winter walks. The autumn colours were glorious this year and it was a joy to be out and about admiring the trees. It has been a joy to follow the changing seasons, from last spring, through summer and into autumn/winter time. I am now looking forward to this spring and we will have come a full circle! I still haven't started that walk book yet but there's still time!

In the months leading up to Christmas there was a lot of activity on the SWI Zoom Skill Share nights and I spent the dark evenings learning a few new crafts, and took part in some old ones. I learned how to make poppies from plastic bottles and that was very satisfying when I saw the results, I crocheted granny squares and made them into Christmas tree decorations and Christmas tree decorations made from plastic milk bottle tops. Painting stones was another thing I enjoyed, and I painted some for the Memorial with poppies on for Remembrance Sunday. I also painted some ladybirds to remind me of the glorious summer. I also learned how to make paper gift boxes and paper snowflakes for Christmas decorations, and I found that very therapeutic. In the lead up to Christmas there were several SWI Zoom Christmas parties with cocktail making, and quizzes. It was a hectic time but very enjoyable. I also enjoyed knitting some angels for the Church Angel project when time permitted in between the other activities. Everything then stopped for a couple of weeks over Christmas and New Year and I felt at a bit of a loss some days, especially if it was a dreich day and I couldn't get out to walk. But then the snow came, and we had a few crisp sunny days, where although it was a bit slippery underfoot, there were beautiful sunny skies and it was a joy to be out. Then this week we have had the Burns Nights and Suppers on Zoom which were very enjoyable. No doubt we will be having a Valentine's party on Zoom, and of course there is my birthday before that, so I hope the family have something planned for that! Hopefully I will get my Covid vaccine jab soon and that will be a lovely birthday present.

I really enjoyed my garden last year, and now that Spring is just round the corner, we hope, I am making lots of plans for the garden for this year. Hopefully, all these jobs that I planned to do like decluttering, decorating, painting the fence and shed will get done this year! Sorry to say I still haven't finished knitting the jumper I spoke of – maybe this year! The keyboard is still sitting there and I still can't play a tune! We have carried on with our family quizzes every Saturday night and we do enjoy these and catching up with the family! We take it in turns to be question master but we are now in danger of running out of questions! It doesn't matter how many times we have the same question, none of us can remember the correct answer! Steve and I play dominoes occasionally and I do enjoy that, especially when I beat him. He says it's luck but I say it's skill!



Evelyn Scobie

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

Abernethy Senior Citizens Committee would like to thank Branstons for their very generous cash donation, also their generous donation of food hampers, bottles of wine and spirits, and several bags of potatoes. These were raffled and delivered, socially distanced, by members of the Committee, and were gratefully received by all the winners. We hope all our Senior Citizens are well and staying safe. The members of the Committee were sorry that they were unable to hold the party this year but hope that you all enjoyed spending your Christmas vouchers in Brian's shop.

Grateful thanks must also go to Brian Greig for his help in organising this.

Evelyn Scobie

ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

The sale of bird boxes and feeders will resume shortly at the Abernethy in Bloom Emporium in the Cree's Inn lane. As before all profits will go to the Hatton Road project.

Jimmy

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: Joyce White
Tel: 01738 850754
Email: whitejoyce34@aol.com

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

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Admin Notices

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.

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

TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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

We would request that you submit all your contributions to info@villagecrier.co.uk. 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.

OPEN!

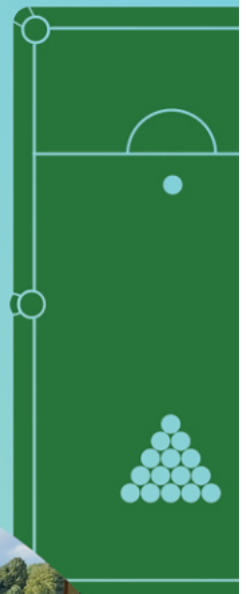
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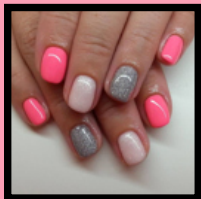
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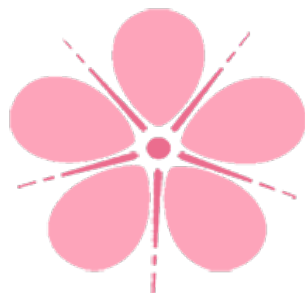
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- Electric bike sales, servicing and repairs
- Hire/Demo fleet, all sizes
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- **WE HAVE STOCK!!!!** Bikes are likely to be hard to find in 2021, but we have stock.

PRE SCHOOL RIDER SUPPORT

If you have a pre-school aged child, live in the Abernethy Crier catchment area and want a hassle-free way for your child/children to ride a Frog bike throughout their childhood, please get in touch and we'll help you if we can.

SCOTLAND CYCLE REPAIR SCHEME

We know it can be difficult to pay for a bike or essential bike repairs right now. If you need a helping hand to get your bike into shape, or to replace your bike, we have various options that might help including, but not limited to, us delivering the Cycle Repair Scheme.



RALEIGH

07813941287



As we receive reports of crime, the information is shared on <https://www.pkcommunitywatch.co.uk/>

I would encourage you to sign up for notifications.

Guidance on how to protect your property is available via Community Watch as well as on the Police Scotland Website, just click or copy and paste the following links:-

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

<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>

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

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

<https://twitter.com/policescotland>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<http://www.pkcommunitywatch.co.uk/>

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

South

TaysideKinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

TaysideStrathallanCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

TaysideAlmondEarnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

TaysideStrathearnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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Breakfast 10.00 am to 12.00 am
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Lunch. 12.00 to 3.00 pm
Afternoon teas 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm
Saturday and Sunday 3.00 pm to 4.45 pm

01738 850498

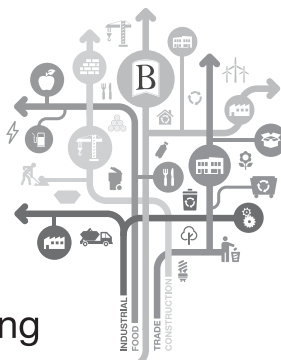
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