



52nd Edition

December 2021

Closing date for March edition 31st January 2022

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DECEMBER'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION

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Carol McMahon



Carol McMahon



Carol McMahon



Evelyn Scobie



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Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Scott Sutherland



Scott Sutherland



Scott Sutherland



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



Helena McAllister



Sandra Gourlay



Sandra Gourlay



Peter Glennie



Peter Glennie



Helena McAllister



Helena McAllister



Helena McAllister



Peter Glennie

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EDITOR'S VIEW

I thought the development out the Newburgh road was housing but travelling from west to east you could easily have mistaken it for a prison with its very high wall. Shame for the folks in the first row. HMP Southfield Meadows does have a certain ring to it.

You folks reading my bit every quarter, if you actually do read it and I don't blame you if you do not, will be saying "He is off again against the council" and why not with the hair brained ideas and very poor workmanship. It's nae wonder.

A.S.A.P. Contracts, A.K.A. Sandy Walker and his team, tarred the Cree's Inn lane about 10 years ago, it may be longer, and since then there has been no deterioration of the surface and not a weed has come through. Well! When was it the new pavement from Aberargie to the bottom of Glenfoot road was laid, less than a year? Weeds galore and wait for the first frost.

Moving on seamlessly from one frost to probably the same frost. Remember the bad weather will be with us and in fact as you read this it may already be here. Again as I said last year remember to help others that are less able to clear snow from their pavements, and remember I have been given a salt spreading barrow from PKC to use in the village. So if you want a go at spreading salt in your area give me a shout and you can have a loan of it. My designated area is Back Dykes, Station Road and School Wynd.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Jimmy Swan

FROM THE CHAIR

Another year is drawing to a close and today, as I write, it has rained solidly from morning to evening. Another day and we'll have changed from summertime to wintertime, next thing will be Christmas then New Year and we wonder what 2022 has in store for us. I certainly think we all have experienced change in some shape or form as we always do with the passage of time, but I don't think I am alone in feeling the changes are a bit different nowadays. For better or worse remains to be seen. One thing we hope remains a constant is the quarterly issue of the Crier.

Lots of interesting articles and comments in this edition. We would appreciate more contributions from anyone; ideas, criticisms, general news or information e.g. gardening tips, cookery tips and recipes, practical hints of any kind. I am sure many of you have some useful information to share with others.

Thank you again to all our regular contributors and for the updates from the organisations.

Congratulations to Abernethy in Bloom on receiving a Certificate of Recognition from Beautiful Scotland. The village was indeed beautiful and colourful this year thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of those involved. Congratulations also to Irene Napier on raising over £3,000 for the Air Ambulance Service. A most worthy cause.

Irene Hallyburton's continued articles "From The Archives" along with Jimmy's findings in the graveyard make interesting reading.

Mentioning graveyards, there are a few very interesting and ancient burial grounds in the area. At Exmagirdle in Bridge of Earn a Covenanter is buried and quite close to the track surrounding Loch Leven is the ruin of an old church surrounded by some very interesting gravestones. Personally I find these old churchyards fascinating as the headstones give so much more information than present day ones do.

Read all about what has been happening in Aberargie, an excellent article accompanied by very good photographs The hamlet is looking so neat and pretty thanks to the imagination and hard work of the residents.

Good to see the horses back in my field again, always added interest for the people going down to the park.

Once you have read through the Crier you will know pretty well what is going on in the village and what is still not going on because of Covid

restrictions.

Finally I leave you to walk "The Witches' Road with our own wizard, Ian Bett!! Abernethy certainly has an interesting history.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS and A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to all.

Hilda Clow

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WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER

When All This Is Over I'll go to the library
browse for three hours and touch all the pages
drive through the retail park where nothing's essential
marvel at people who wander round freely
buy plants in profusion at the out-of-town garden centre
with queuing and chatter and cake in the cafe.

I'll get on the Megabus with random escapees
When All This Is Over and tour around Scotland
heading North on the A9 just for the hell of it
we'll sing When You're Smiling to cheer up the driver
I'll move through the bus with boxes of Roses
hear snippets of stories of courage and grieving.

I'll go for a haircut When All This Is Over
get highlighted spikes and a new sense of daring
then into the pub to meet friends and singers
tell tales of survival, eat chips with our fingers,
play songs until midnight, spill out on the pavement
mock our own smallness and the two-metre rule.

I'll sit on a park bench with a takeaway coffee
and a couple of strangers When All This Is Over
to cry over hard times when life was impossible
stocking up toilet rolls, bingeing on chocolate
promise never again to ignore other people
and keep kitchen dancing just for the hell of it.

When All This Is Over I'll walk up Schiehallion
and share my prosecco with folk on the summit
breathe in clear air and toast our good fortune
savouring the moments of life re-emerging
I'll write epic poems of wreckage and Covid
and the force of compassion sustaining the world.

By Angela Wright



ABERNETHY SWI

Abernethy SWI met on Wed 20th October, the first time since February 2020. Everyone was glad to be back and enjoyed a chat over a cup of tea. Future meetings were discussed, and the next meeting on November 17th is to be a Members' Night. The meeting on December 15th will be a Christmas Meal out, venue to be arranged. No meeting In January, and February meeting to be arranged. Information about each meeting will be placed on the Village Notice Board and on Abernethy SWI Facebook page. New members will be made very welcome.

Elizabeth Taylor
President



Anyone recognise a friend or even themselves?



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FRAE OOR COONCILLOR

The year is rolling on and by the time you read this Autumn will have gone and Winter will be upon us bringing different challenges and opportunities. Since the last edition of the Crier I am sure we are all pleased that Tayside Contracts have been busy resurfacing roads in our area. Great to have roads resurfaced and no pot holes and the good news is another section of the A913, at the traffic lights, will be resurfaced in February. This may be inconvenient for a short time; remember that in February severe weather may delay the work programme. The exact date for the start of work has not been confirmed at the time of writing. The road maintenance budget was increased to £14m this year to allow more roads to be resurfaced rather than patched and we have had our fair share in Almond and Earn. The Conservative Administration are pleased that many roads have been improved this financial year.

Some say Abernethy is the forgotten village with regard to road maintenance etc. but I think that the village and surrounding area are looking good bearing in mind Council services have been severely disrupted for 18 months due to COVID. There has been a lot of investment over the last few years. Lighting installed at the car park above the Williamson Hall, which must be great for those who have lock-ups and also for those who attend events in the hall. Additional car parking for residents at Hall Park has been created and I know that this has been wanted for many years! New walking/cycling path from Aberargie to Glenfoot, new pavement on Station Road, two Puffin Crossings, VAS signs at Aberargie & Abernethy, a section of road resurfaced on the A913 to the Fife boundary, green cycle route for the Glenfoot road and patching on Glenfoot Road. I hope you will agree that this has been much needed investment locally on roads but more resurfacing is required and I do agree Main Street is in need of resurfacing. Not all of the funding has been directly from Perth & Kinross Council. The Housing Revenue Fund was responsible for Hallpark car park and contributed towards the lighting at the lock-ups, and Sustrans for the path at Aberargie (the issue with weeds on path will be addressed).

Aberargie is looking smart with their new seating area, a great place for Aberargie residents to meet, chat and enjoy a cuppa as well as for walkers and cyclists to sit and have their snack. Almond & Earn Action Partnership were happy to support the community with some funding. Almond & Earn Action Partnership have also supported Abernethy pavilion with their application to continue with their upgrade to the pavilion.

At a recent Almond & Earn Action Partnership meeting we allocated from the Community Investment Funding £43k to organisations throughout Almond & Earn (Abernethy, Bridge of Earn, Oudenarde, Forgandenny, and Methven) for projects required either to meet one or more of the priority areas of the PK Offer Economy, Education, Environment, Equalities, Empowerment and Fairness or some of the priorities of the Action Partnership Improvement plan which are Poverty, Skills, Physical and Mental Wellbeing, Employability Digital Participation and Rural Isolation. We had a variety of applications this year, and hopefully similar funding will be available in 2022. Information about Funding opportunities can be found on the Perth & Kinross Council website.

Community organisations, to be successful, rely on volunteers and Abernethy can be proud of the volunteers who throughout the year give freely of their time, willingly and without thought of reward. This has been another hard year for organisations, trying to open up with COVID guidelines changing as the pandemic continues to be part of our everyday life. I know there are many organisations in the village who would welcome a few more volunteers. If you have never volunteered or are feeling a bit lonely and have some spare time I am sure there is an opportunity to give some of your time and talent to the village. Organisations don't always need money. Volunteers are the best resource, and to thrive organisations need members. For the past 18 months most of us have become used to staying at home and perhaps some members of the community are reluctant to return to the organisations they enjoyed before COVID.

Perth & Kinross Council also values volunteers groups such as Abernethy in Bloom who not only enhance the village for residents and visitors but whose volunteers enjoy the camaraderie of working together. Abernethy is fortunate to have volunteers who litter pick, and we are all very grateful that they are willing to pick up litter dropped by individuals who do not care about the environment.

As winter approaches volunteers are needed to help Councils throughout the land keep traffic and people moving. Locally we are fortunate to have ordinary folk who suddenly become volunteers clearing pavements (we should have at least two pavement barrow gritters available this winter). The grit bins are filled at the beginning of winter, and remember this is for public roads not private drives. Rural routes, if necessary, may get a ton bag of grit dropped at suitable locations for residents to use. If the grit bin is empty use my.pkc.gov.uk to have it replenished. Rural areas are grateful to farmers who after they have cleared their own road and sometimes fed their cattle and sheep are more than happy to help clear roads around the village. All information regarding gritting and snow clearing can be found on PKC website www.pkc.gritting.pkc.gov.uk

We are drawing to the end of another year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our unsung heroes who throughout the year are good caring neighbours who keep an eye on their neighbour quietly, and not forgetting Abernethy Community Transport who have had a busy year driving clients to various appointments. A big thank you to all of the Abernethy in Bloom team who have worked throughout the year maintaining Nurse Peattie's garden, filling tubs, and now the Christmas Tree is shining brightly in the garden. Thanks must also go to the leaders of youth organisations who give freely of their time to give youngsters wonderful opportunities and memories. I personally look back on my own Brownie & Guide experiences and remember my first Brownie pack holiday and first Guide Camp!! Some Abernethy Scouts recently spent their first night of camping in October. Their verdict? It was good!! Thanks to all the staff in schools who have worked under difficult circumstances to keep our children safe and will be all looking forward to a well earned holiday. Lastly thank you to the "Crier" editorial team, and to all who deliver the Crier throughout the area.

This has been a really tough year for many, but no-one need suffer alone, there are many organisation willing to give advice and support.

I hope that we can all celebrate Christmas with family and friends. I wish you all a peaceful happy Christmas and a healthy 2022.

Councillor Kathleen Baird kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk
07584206839

ABERNETHY

I have been reading quite a few old documents and title deeds held by the Museum of Abernethy, or is it Abernathy? Are the signs we see at Aberargie "stating Abernethy 3 miles" or the sign at either end of the village with village's name on it spelt correctly?

The reason I say this is that within these documents there are many different spellings of our village name. Should it be Abernathy like the surname of many Americans that visit the museum and claim to have originated from here, or is it Abernethie, or Abernethi or Abernathi? Are we on the banks of the Nathy burn and not the Nethy burn? Should it be Abernathy biscuits or Abernethie biscuits?

Should it be the Burns Club of Abernathy or the Museum of Abernethie?

I have a headache and I'm just off to phone PKC to get the signs changed, but to what?

Jimmy Swan

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

After much hand wringing and gnashing of teeth it has been decided not to have any meetings in the new year. We did consider having a meeting in February, March and April but the Museum of Abernethy interior does not lend itself to socially distancing due to the small seating area. It is with much regret we have to make this decision. I sincerely hope we can resume again in the autumn of 2022. To all our members have a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jimmy Swan (Chair)

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

I would like to say a big thank you to all the members of Abernethy and Aberargie communities who have been generous enough to donate to our Xmas lights fund.

I would also like to thank

Scotia Cabins.
Wester Greenside Farm.
J L Wilkie & Co.
.Breedon Group.
F B Patterson & Son.
Premier Properties
Tower Garage.
Morrison Scotch Whisky.
Cloutie McToot.

We still have a wee bit to go, but we do have more donations promised. Our biggest donation was from the Community National Lottery Fund, without which we would be nowhere near our target, so a big thank you to them and to Caroline Haxton who put in the time and effort to obtain it. The GoFundMe page is still ongoing if there are folk out there who would like to donate. The bank details are as below if anyone would like to donate by BACS, please remember to identify yourself

Sort Code 83-25-25
Account No 00186388

As the cut-off date for the December issue is the end of October, I apologise to anyone who donates after that date.

To all who have donated, thank you again and Merry Xmas.

Kathleen Pye
Treasurer
Abernethy Community Council

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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

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FROM THE ARCHIVES 3

As part of the research for my Masters Degree in Scottish History, I've spent many hours rummaging in archives. There are lots of interesting bits and pieces about the area that I'd like to share. You might even see a relative's name crop up!

The 18th Century was a time when the agriculture of Scotland, and Abernethy, was changing rapidly. Landlords had expensive life styles and wanted to get the highest income they possible could from their estates. When they agreed to rent farms to tenants they often put very specific clauses into the contracts with the aim of increasing the value of the land. Sometimes these clauses benefited both parties, but the landowner was usually thinking about his own purse.

1756 - James Buchanan and David Buist took possession of a parcel of land on Culfargie estate. They agreed to build a pier on the Earn, at their own expense for landing coal and lime for the whole estate, and to allow vessels in to export goods produced. There is no evidence this was ever built, but it would have been of great benefit financially to the then landowner, the Rev. Alexander Moncreiff.

1766 - Robt. Scott Moncreiff and Robt. Gillespie took on a piece of land, later to be known as Scotsfield, from Mathew Moncreiff. They committed to dividing the land into six equal parts so each could be drained and fenced with a view to improving the quality of the crops. The outline of their land can still be seen on modern maps, though the railway cut through it in 1845.

1792 - William Clink agreed to build a new house and steading at Netherton, on the Aberargie Estate . As part of his rental he also had to take all his grain to Aberargie Mill to be ground and he had to help with the maintenance of the Mill. Of course the Mill belonged to the landowner!

Irene Hallyburton

MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

It has been a good year for the Museum considering we didn't open until June and then only at the weekends for the first month. Thereafter we were back to our usual days.

We installed two new notice boards at either end of the village advertising our opening times. We hope this worked in some little way to increase the numbers through the door. I would like to thank the Haxtons and the Bairds for allowing us to use their land to erect these signs.

We would love if more of the residents of the villages, Abernethy and Aberargie would pay us a visit, as most of our visitors are from outwith the villages. We endeavour to change our exhibits regularly to encourage folks to come back again and I think we have a couple cracking new ones for 2022; not giving anything away.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who staff the desk on opening days and the board members and other helpers for their hard work to keep this valuable attraction up and running.

Jimmy Swan (Chair)



Main Street - Coronation 1937

WHO IS IN YOUR GRAVEYARD?

The vast majority of gravestones in our graveyards have a fairly detailed inscription of the deceased and possibly other family members. However, if you look hard enough you might find tucked away in a corner, and probably covered in ivy, an example of a stone from a bygone age when the stone consisted of mainly symbols, but if you are very lucky there may be a name or even a set of initials to help you identify the deceased.

One against the east wall of our graveyard and another lying flat near the vestry door are two examples of such stones. I will use the one against the east wall as it is easier to decipher, the one lying flat is partly covered with soil. For those of you who don't know east from west, the east wall is the one nearest the Cree's Inn.

This particular stone has the initials "J Y", and with no other information it is very difficult if not impossible to identify the person or persons interred.

From the symbols you can tell many things: occupation, marital status and whether it was a child. In this case I am sure it was an adult. From the photograph you can see a number of very clear symbols.

Starting at the top is the clasped hands symbol. Often two hands are clasped in a final farewell, especially on the tombs of married couples.

As on many gravestones of this age the stone is dominated by the winged head, popular especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, it signifies the fleetingness of life and the soul flying into the afterlife. This is also signified by the hour glass on this stone.

I think the deceased is a handloom weaver going by the two symbols at the top left and top right hand side of the stone. This would fit in nicely as there were many families employed in the handloom weaving industry in Abernethy. The left side looks like a handloom gate comb and the right side resembles a loom flying shuttle.

In the centre of the stone you can see the initials of the deceased, "J. Y."

At the bottom of the stone are the pick and shovel symbols. Sometimes there is also a torch but not in this case. The gravediggers' tools are all symbols of man's mortality. The tools would be used to dig the grave, and because graves in those days were dug at night the torch would be used to light up the area of work.

I hope that you find this stone; as usual it is marked with the stick with the pink paint.

Jimmy Swan

BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The committee of the Burns Club of Abernethy have made the decision not to have a supper in February 2022. The covid-19 situation continues to be so fluid, making it very difficult to chance booking caterers and artists. I hope you will appreciate it was a difficult decision to make but we feel it is the correct one.

We hope to hold the club AGM in the spring of 2022.

We would like to wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jimmy Swan



CHRISTMAS 2021: LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

One of the best things about Christmastime is enjoying (and sometimes promoting) the water-tight beliefs that children hold regarding the festive season. Not least is the sure faith they have in a man with a white beard and red suit who will somehow manage to get down their chimney in the dead of night and leave presents on the living room floor. Parents can encourage this belief and often add their own elaborations for more selfish and grown-up purposes, like saying to an innocent child, "As well as leaving Santa a biscuit on the mantelpiece and his reindeer a carrot, why not leave him a glass of whisky and some gin to take home to Mrs Santa?" There is no doubt, that when children begin to grow up and questions are asked and suspicions surrounding the event arise,,

When the adults of the house finally got up later that morning and went downstairs, the reason for Wee Willie Winkie's visit was all too clear. Their lovely flat screen TV, their Bang and Olufsen sound system and Stephen's mum's favourite cushions had all disappeared. Their fairy-tale character turned out to be a real-life burglar. If only the adults had listened to their child and shared in his innocent belief system, a large insurance claim could have been easily avoided.

As I write this at the end of October, already the news about Christmas sounds less than wonderful. Turkeys are being prematurely purchased and put into the freezer “just in case”, parts to construct kids’ bikes are still languishing in North Korea, when they should be in a British factory getting ready for the big day, and the public is being warned that shortages of all kinds may well result in a disappointing festive time for everyone. Our adult cynicism has started even earlier than usual this year.

Perhaps we could all take a lesson from the mind-set of a three-year-old and start believing that this day could herald the beginnings of a new world. The homeless infant in the manger brings Light and Life to our darkness which is slowly adapting to and recovering from a terrible pandemic. With Christ's birth has come the promise of peace on earth, a better way to live and the means of achieving justice for all of humanity. That angel's song sounds fanciful to our hardened, adult minds, but we ignore it at our great peril. We need to switch off the cynicism and for once – just listen and believe. The child spotted early one morning in the stable really is Immanuel and his identity means that God is indeed, truly with us.

Can I wish you all a very joyful
Christmas and a happier New Year?

(Rev) Stan October 2021



THE PARISH OF ABERNETHY & DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS

Slowly and steadily, the numbers of parishioners attending church have been increasing as more and more folk gain confidence in adapting to our post-Covid world. We are currently alternating Sunday Services between the Kirk of St. Bride, Abernethy and Arngask Church in Glenfarg with services starting at 10.00am. In church, we are still sitting one metre apart and face masks are worn during the service including when we sing. Because we serve tea and coffee after each service, it has been necessary to continue to collect Trace and Protect details from worshippers. As I write this, the incidence of Covid-19 is particularly high in our parish, although this will no doubt improve. Even so, the precautions we take, although an inconvenience, are regarded as necessary and sensible. The good news is that the Church Hall in Glenfarg and the Session House in Abernethy are now open and can be hired by user groups in the community once more.

After much consideration by the Kirk Session, special church services for Christmas have necessarily been restricted again this year. We hope, however, to hold the following:

Sunday 19th December at 10.00am: Arngask - Service of Lessons and Carols followed by mince pies and mulled wine.
Friday 24th December at 7.00pm: Abernethy - Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 2nd January 2022 at 10.00am: Arngask - First Service of the New Year.

ALL WELCOME!

The proceeds from our special collections at our Christmas services, this year, will go to support the work of PKAVS (Perth & Kinross Association of Voluntary Service).

I hope that you might be able to join us for some (or all) of our special Christmas Services this year. It would be great to see you!



Joyce White
Session Clerk Oct 2021

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Newburgh has a Community Choir on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 3.30 pm, in the TICC, which you may know as the Institute, on the High Street. All you have to do is turn up and start singing, or even just listen until you feel brave enough to join in. No musical knowledge is needed, the words are projected on the wall and there are two great musicians, David and James, to set your toes tapping.

It doesn't even cost anything although a donation for your cup of tea afterwards is appreciated.

Wear your face-mask, unless you are exempt, until you are in your seat and then relax. I can guarantee you will feel better and your immune system will be boosted.

If you have any questions then call Valerie on 01337 842799.

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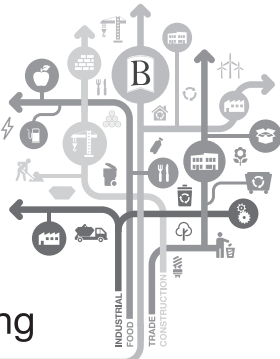
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It is with regret..... that we hear of the deaths of Margaret Galloway and June Johnston. Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

EDUCATING KASHAL

There is a new pony in the field at Station Road. Although he is the tallest pony in the field, he is actually just a baby of two years old.

He is a pure-bred Arab and his colour will go lighter each year until eventually he is the same colour as Bella and Fennela. He cannot be ridden for another two years as his bones are still growing and hardening. Carrying the weight of a person would damage them but he can still learn lots of things.

He came from a remote stud in the Borders so just being in the Station Road field is good for him. He will get used to trains, bin lorries and baby buggies. He will see children on bikes and scooters and watch dog walkers.

He has already learned to wear a head-collar and walk nicely. He has had to be gradually introduced to having a rug put on him and realise it will not hurt him.



He also had his first visit from the dentist. Horses get sharp points on their teeth and these need to be filed down regularly or they cannot eat properly. Kashal had a sedative, so it would not be a bad experience for him, but did not need much work. We found out that he still has all his baby teeth. This reminded us that although he is the biggest pony in the field, he really is very young and we will teach him gradually and carefully. This winter you will see the horse trailer in the field and we will get him used to going in and out of it and then standing in it. He will get his bucket of food in the trailer so that he thinks it is a good place to be.



Sparky chestnut pony, Flora, is in the Highlands for a while. A friend lost her pony and Flora is bringing her great pleasure. She lives between a beach and a forest and enjoys them both.

If you have any questions about the ponies, e-mail them to the Crier and I will answer them in the next issue. Or just ask us when you see us in the pony field. We love talking about our ponies.

AH

ABERNETHY IN BLOOM EMPORIUM

The Emporium is still open for business and as I write this, in October, the total raised so far is £550. For the Christmas period we have some high end handbags and designer ladies' belts as well as all the other very interesting items for sale.

I would like to thank the local family who donated three items of furniture for sale at the Emporium. Two of those items have been sold already. If you are thinking of buying a loved one a very unusual present this Christmas, the Emporium is the place to come.

Merry Christmas.

Jimmy Swan

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ABERARGIE SEAT SQUARE

Through last year and all the restrictions imposed upon us it became clear that there was nowhere in or around Aberargie to sit outside. Everyone was diligently doing their exercise but there was no bench to sit and rest, to pass the time of day, or simply enjoy the fresh air. So in February this year I put out feelers to first see if others in Aberargie agreed with me, second to see where we could place a seat and third to investigate where we could get money to do this.



The starting point

It was like pushing an open door. Residents of Aberargie agreed and many offered to help. The Council said it was a good idea and a community officer, Elspeth Bruce, gave advice. If the seat was on Council land that wouldn't be a problem, as long as the grass-cutter squad could get around it. The issue of holding funds securely was made easy by our dear Community Council agreeing to hold funds as they came in thereby removing the need to form a formal committee with a constitution, AGMs etc. For a one-off project this was wonderful! So everyone kept smiling and offering to contribute.

Helena McAllister had already got a defibrillator into the old red phone box but that box needed tidying up, and labelling. Helena had sourced proper red paint but the box needed quite a lot of work before that could go on. So it was decided to tell the Council that seats were going besides the 'box and we would create a seating area to tidy the whole place up. And then, to address the anxiety of sitting in close proximity, we would have two seats and they would be placed two metres apart. This would be a subtle nod to the inspiring year of 2020.

And so off it went. A leaflet around the hamlet soon inspired offers from local companies to contribute and envelopes appeared in my letter box with individual donations. As confidence was gained I researched the best seats. Recycled plastic would be good for longevity with no maintenance.



Martin the slab layer

Matching flower boxes would make an attractive "square". The old noticeboard was letting in water dreadfully and wobbled terribly whenever you tried to pin a poster. So a noticeboard was added to the shopping list.

As the money mounted the furniture was ordered. Thoughts of getting the seats in for the summer quickly faded as the manufacturers informed us that not only was there a 9-week run-in delivery time but one of their main machines had broken down (through exhaustion because of the fantastic demand for benches in 2020-1!) however we might squeeze it in before the end of August.

So we set about refurbishing the 'phone box with electric wire brushes and scrapers and sand paper and power hose. Praise must be given to Willie and Jane Rowan for their endless energy. Not only have they been the mainstay behind the Aberargie Well planting but they diverted their muscle power to the phone box and cleaned it inside and out.

Then the Council appeared in July and said they were laying the slabs over the next two days! This was way earlier than expected and was a joy to behold as they erected safety barriers and set about excavating the base layer, setting in dropped kerbs and laying the slabs. They even added an extra row of slabs as the benches were longer then they expected. The



Greg and Willie putting up the noticeboard

dropped kerbs create easy access to the seats and to the letter box.

Willie's engineering skills came into play to make the foundation of the phone box perfect as the concrete had been crushed by parking vehicles. Now it is as smart as the rest of the slatted area.

Greg and Willie erected the notice board. It is also in recycled plastic so should weather the future well. Andy fixed the seats in place.



James Burns, the youngest and Willie Rowan, the oldest at the Opening, performing the honours, with Theresa,

So on September 12th we had a little "opening" event where the oldest, Willie Rowan, and James Burns, the youngest present, pulled open the red ribbon. Cllr Kathleen Baird joined us for bakes and drinks and a good natter.



The grand opening

Andy for the Binn Group got a pile of soil dropped off and Cath set about getting the soil into the troughs. Helena planted bulbs around the green and plant fairies have magic-ed more bulbs and plants into the troughs.

We discovered an artist amongst us and Sandie Bailie spent a few days working on a work of art which adds a surprising splash of colour and just completes the scene.

So we are already enjoying our "Square" and we look forward to embellishing it with flowers and plants into the future.

We are greatly appreciative of all the individual contributions which flooded in. To the Almond and Earn Community Partnership, to Perth and Kinross Roads Department, to Patterson's Crane Hire, Netherton Equestrian, Morrison Distillery and The Binn Group for their generous donations. These made it possible to create a good quality seating area which will last the community many years and creates an attractive little "destination" in Aberargie.

We frightened away bad spirits at Hallowe'en and watched the Christmas tree lights go on in comfort!



So here is the invitation to you all from Aberargie - Walk, jog, run, cycle along to the Square and take a rest here - post a postcard in the letter box, exchange a book from the phone box library, see what other goodies might be in there to share, donate something yourself.

Theresa Hughes
Project Coordinator, 2021



ABERNETHY IN BLOOM



All too soon the summer was over again as the bedding plants were removed to make way for the Autumn planting which will again burst into colour come next Spring.

For all the hard work given by the Abernethy In Bloom volunteers, we were pleased to receive a Certificate of Recognition from Beautiful Scotland to acknowledge the seasonal activities that had continued during the uncertain and difficult times presented by the Covid 19 Pandemic.



In September we said a warm goodbye to one of our volunteers when we met in Nurse Peattie's garden to wish Tony and Val (Sargeant) a long and

happy future as they departed the village to move closer to their family. Tony was a keen gardener, so we will miss his horticultural knowledge and his great sense of humour which made him a pleasure to work with.

On behalf of us all, we express our appreciation to the Given family who have replaced the damaged seat in Nurse Peattie's that had been placed there in honour of their father Bill. It is anticipated that the new seat will give pleasure to all who visit and bide a while to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere in the garden.

A recent colourful and welcome addition to Nurse Peattie's garden has been a display of painted stones placed in strategic locations around the garden. We have some thoughts on who this was but we would like to know for certain so we can give our thanks for this lovely addition to the floral displays in the garden.

As we bed down Nurse Peattie's garden for the winter months, we look forward once again to installing and decorating the Xmas tree, which has again been kindly donated by Branston. Our grateful thanks to Kevin Imrie, the GM at the Abernethy plant who supports much of what we do in the village. Unfortunately once again, because of the ongoing Covid 19 uncertainties, we will not be able to organise our community get-together for the Xmas tree lights switch-on which we held prior to these current circumstances. However, we have planned to switch on the Xmas tree lights at 7pm on Friday the 3rd December 2021 to give the community the option to watch the switch-on should they wish to do so.

The community will again be installing a Nativity scene in Nurse Peattie's Garden, which is a lovely addition for Xmas in the garden.

As we now approach the winter months the maintenance activities in Nurse Peattie's garden and the village will reduce until the arrival of Spring in 2022. However, if you would like to join us for the arrival of Spring and help to keep the village bright and cheerful throughout the seasons, please get in touch as we are now very short handed. No horticultural knowledge is needed, just a will to help with another pair of hands.

Hatton Road 'Heritage Garden' Update
A start to the Phase 1 construction of the 'Heritage Garden' was being planned for November this year. However, due to the Covid19 delays experienced by the contractor Thomson Landscapes, the start date has been rescheduled to March 2022.

Therefore, although all the funding required has still to be achieved to complete the project in Phase 2, this is an opportunity to reflect on how the project has progressed and show the support received from when it was first submitted to Take A Pride In Perthshire and Kinross (TAPIPK) in November 2018.

The TAPIPK group was set up 23 years ago, as a charity, with the express aims of enhancing the environment, fostering community spirit and encouraging public participation. It has a unique format in Scotland in that the Board of Trustees, who are all unpaid volunteers, receive proposals each month from In Bloom groups across Perth and Kinross which meet the aforementioned aims of enhancing the local environment. The Trustees will approve, or not, their going forward for the funding stage. Once approved, a funding officer works with the successful proposals to raise funds from a wide variety of sources which are mainly other charitable organisations.

Since the formation of TAPIPK, £2 million has been raised for improvement projects in Perth and Kinross. The Abernethy Heritage Garden is one of these proposals approved by the Trustees and where the funding officer has been busy raising funds on our behalf. To date, funding for the project has been secured from the following:

- Scottish Landfill Communities Fund,
- National Lottery Awards for all,
- Gannochy Trust,
- Community Environmental Challenge Fund,
- William Mann Foundation,
- Abernethy Hatton Road 'Just Giving',
- Abernethy Community groups.
- Individual donations.

Our grateful thanks go to Jimmy Swan, who has to date donated £500 towards the Heritage Garden plant fund from the profits gained from the sale of his garden and variety of custom-made products on sale in the Emporium. This opportunity is also taken to give our warm thanks to Waggytails and Kitty Kats who have recently donated a further £100 towards the plant fund for the Heritage Garden.

Other TAPIPK projects which have been successful in the recent past include work at the Birks in Aberfeldy, the new Heritage Garden at Bridge of Earn, walling in Glenfarg, renovation of the Burnside in Alyth, Garry's Corner in Auchterarder, renovation of the Wash House and Well in Scotlandwell and many more.

At the Abernethy & District Community Council on the 25th January 2019, Abernethy In Bloom presented the proposal to develop the grassed area at Hatton Road as a garden. A letter of support for the project was received in March 2019. Letters of support were also received from local councillors Kathleen Baird and David Illingworth.

Details of the new garden proposal were published in the Crier (Issue 42, March 2019) and on the Abernethy Facebook Page. A community survey was carried out at the village fete in 2019 to collate the community's support for the project and to get suggestions for a name for the garden. Abernethy Primary School pupils were also invited to suggest a name for the new garden. The most popular one subsequently decided upon from the surveys was the 'Heritage Garden'.

The architect's final design for the garden was placed on display at the Hatton Road site where it can still be seen.

The above demonstrates the hard work that has been done by many to support the planning and funding for this exciting project and we look forward to seeing construction start early next year.

On behalf of Abernethy In Bloom, a big thank you to the community of Abernethy for all your support.

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

A DIFFERENT YEAR

Well what a year it has been. Who knew we would miss our hairstylists and beauty therapists as much as we did in lock-down? But this year will be more exciting, with people planning Christmas nights out. It's the simple things such as a blow dry and a nice new outfit to hit the party nights with friends from work or college or just with family that brings stylists great joy.

Hearing what our customers have planned for this Christmas party season has been a mixed picture but always with an edge of caution on peoples' voices. Sadly things won't be the same as before, but people are adapting and making the most of what they have and what they are allowed to do to while keeping themselves and loved ones safe

It's so strange talking hair and what trends I think will make an appearance this season when it feels like we have jumped straight from summer to winter. I don't think that I am quite ready for winter just yet, I've just put my sandals away.

One trend we have seen the return of is the mullet which is not everyone's cup of tea, but it does look really cool. There are lots of variations such as the wolf cut and the shag cut which help to create volume and texture, and I really do hope that more trendy short haircuts come back next year.

With Christmas fast approaching, deciding how I am going to paint our window is my favourite thing to do. I'm not sure if I'm going to be ambitious and try painting the polar express train or paint polar bears poking their noses out from under a curtain but one thing's for sure, it's going to be full on from now until Christmas. We are pleased to say that my work as a colourist and as an educator has got both myself and our lovely colouring assistant through to the finals of the Scottish hair and beauty awards. Work has to be submitted and is judged by Errol Douglas

and Rick Roberts and Suzi McGill of Rainbow Room International who are well recognised artists within the UK. To bring an award home for best Scottish colourist and best assistant would be the best Christmas present ever; wish us luck!

I look forward to wishing all our customers a Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Let's hope 2022 is a good year for all of us.

Love from us all at the Little Hair Company.

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

Abernethy & District Senior Citizens Committee held their first meeting since February 2020. The Christmas Party will not take place in December 2021 but we hope to hold it in December 2022. It is hoped to hold an event in the Summer of 2022. New members are required for the Committee so if you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Any senior citizen in Abernethy or Aberargie districts who is 60 or over, can join our list to be invited to future events. Further updates will appear in the Village Crier.

Evelyn Scobie
Secretary

We are delighted to hear of the birth of Rory Dow born 9 August.

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ABERNETHY RAINBOWS & BROWNIES

The girls in the village are desperately looking for someone or a group who would be interested in running the units so they can once again enjoy Girlguiding in the village.

They normally met on a Monday night but without a leader the units have not been able to re-open this year. They did hope to re-open but unfortunately that fell through and now some of the girls are travelling to Bridge of Earn and Perth to be able to continue their Guiding experience.

Guiding has been in Abernethy for around 100 years and it would be so sad to see it close down through lack of parent/volunteer support for the girls in the village age 5-10 years.

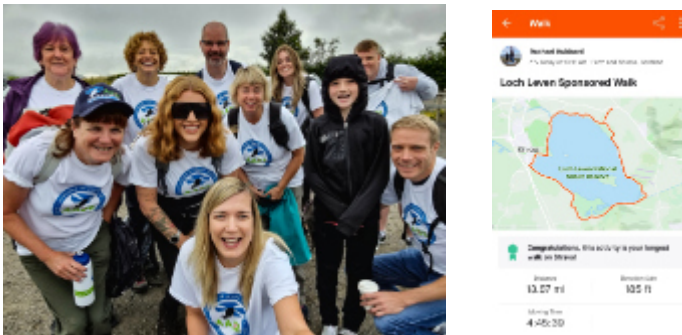
Why not get a group together and take on this worthwhile experience. You might find out that you get as much out of it as the girls. I am happy to support you through the leadership process while giving something

back to the girls and the community.

My thanks also to the Scout Group who have kindly kept the hall free for us during this period with the hope of meeting once more.

If anyone wishes more information or is interested in taking this further please contact me Helen Jackson, District Commissioner on hpiackson10@gmail.com or 07751577771

SCAA SPONSORED WALK



I was away on holiday having a nice time when we were told by the owner of the hotel where we were staying that a man had been injured and was waiting to be rescued; they were waiting for the air ambulance to come. He was air lifted by the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance and taken to Inverness where it was found that he had broken his ankle in two places.

When we got home from holiday I said to my husband that I would like to do a sponsored walk to raise money for the SCAA. I asked my friend Beena Rawlinson and she said she was keen to do it. She had also seen the air ambulance in action when she was on holiday. They had been on their way to a wedding on the Isle of Lewis when they came across a bad accident at Ullapool. I then asked my daughter Rachael Hubbard who also agreed to do it and she arranged for some friends and work colleagues to take part in the sponsored walk.



We did a 13 mile walk round Loch Leven. It was a lovely day and we raised a total of £3115.39 for the SCAA. We would all like to thank everyone who donated to our walk and helped us raise this amazing amount. Rachael arranged for us to go up to the SCAA's base at Scone airport to hand over the cheque on

Saturday 4th September, meet the crew, and see the helicopter. Those of us who were able to go had a lovely time, we handed the cheque over, got told things about their job, had a cuppa with the crew and staff. They really do a great job in all weather conditions.



Thank you also to our team who all took part in the walk and here's to the next fundraising walk we can arrange. Thanks to all the team members Rachael Hubbard, Beena Rawlinson, Kieran Oliver, Mark Wells, Cheryl Ross, Brian Moran, Harry Moran, Sandie Simpson, Ashleigh Williams and Evelyn Scobie, who accompanied me, and a big thank you to the staff at the SCAA - Fiona, John the Paramedic and Dave the Pilot for telling us so much about their job and sharing their experiences. We had a lovely day with you all.



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THE WITCHES' ROAD

A recent walk up the Witches' Road, part of the circular walk from the village to the Glenfoot Road, made me recall reading an account of the witches after which the road was named. This was from the book "Roman Antiquities of Fife" written in 1829 by the Rev. Andrew Small from Gateside whose forebearers came from Abernethy. I am indebted to Bill Drever who used to live at Drumlea on the Perth Road, for bringing the story of the Abernethy witches to my attention. The period referred to was during the 18th century when it was common for witches to practice their beliefs and to suffer the fate of being burnt to death if found out. Indeed the last witch to be burned in Scotland was in Dornoch in 1722, while nearer home at Dunning, a cross marks the spot where a witch was burned in 1657. The Rev Small tells that the accuracy of the story of the Abernethy witches comes from the fact that the story came down from his Great Grandfather, who had been told it by his Great Grandfather. This must have been an important book in its day, as no less than King George IV himself ordered four copies, and a list of subscribers indicate it was taken up by many of the most important scholars of the time throughout the country.

At this time a Mr Ross resided at Innernethy, which as the name suggests was below the village near the where the Nethy burn reaches the river Earn now on Balgonie farm. As a young lad I remember there were ruins next to the burn that we referred to as Innernethy Castle, with an old orchard around it where we used to go and pick the beautiful pears. The ruins were removed to restore the land for agricultural use which was much frowned upon at the time. Mr Ross was told by one of his cottars that witches met regularly on the south side of the Castle Law hill and that there was a red book in which the names of the witches were recorded. Mr Ross was keen to get his hands on this book so that the witches could be identified and brought to summary justice i.e. burnt to death. By way of obtaining this information Mr Ross, dressed as a woman, attempted to join their coven and the tale evolved as follows.

"Accordingly, the meeting is said to have taken place on the Castle Law. In one of those hollows in that hill where the golden cradle is said to be hid; and a more sequestered spot could scarcely have been fixed on, as two of these are completely concealed from every other object, though on the top of a pretty high hill. The day and hour were also fixed, and the meeting was said to have been held on a Sabbath day, in broad daylight, in order the better to favour his project, when the red register book was to be ready for him to enter his name in, and with his own blood too.

Mr Ross had an excellent well tried mare on which he could depend and is said to have been himself such a superior and steady horseman as to be able to ride down a hill with a sixpence lying loose on his foot without allowing it to fall off.

Having everything well pre-concerted for the meeting, the last thing he did was to warn the miller of Ballo Mill, a little up and west from the town, to be sure to have his mill going, not surely to grind corn on the Sabbath day, but only that it might make a noise, as witches were said never to come within the clap of a mill. So it seems he fully expected a hot chase, and meant this to be the first relief or breathing space from it. Accordingly, when he came to the meeting, agreeably to appointment, he was allowed to sit on horseback, by way of deference, and the red book given to him to subscribe; but, instead of doing this, he immediately secured the book, put spurs to his mare, and galloped down the hill, the easiest way no doubt, which would be to the south where the ground rises high at the back; and he would soon come upon Drumcairn ground, and then along the back of the hill till he reached the road.

The witches are reported to have swarmed about him and clung to him and his mare both by the tail and mane, in the same manner as those from Alloway Kirk as represented by Burns are reported to have clung about Tam O' Shanter's Maggie. The laird still kept his seat, and the mare her tail, till he reached the mill, which was more than a mile and a quarter distant; and there as he anticipated, there was a cessation from hostilities for a little. Whether this was from the clap of the mill, the crossing of the running stream about two hundred yards down from the mill, or the passing of the end of the town, is uncertain. He is said to have got a good way ahead of them; but there seem to have been supple long legged Nannies among them; for, notwithstanding of this, they soon overtook him, and were on him again long before he reached Innernethy, which was another mile farther. But the Laird of Innernethy's mare seems to have been of still better stuff than Tam O' Shanter's Maggie; for the one only saved her master at the expense of her "ain grey tail" after running only

about two hundred yards; but the other not only saved her master and also kept her tail, (for I have never heard of it being pulled away) but likewise carried off the prize so nobly contended for in a chase of two and a half miles. As soon as he got into the court, he gave the mare to his man, and got into the house, locking the door behind him. He then went upstairs and copied their names as fast as he could possibly do; for he knew he would not get leave to keep it long from such clamorous and troublesome visitors, as they threatened to come in at the lumhead upon him, if he did not give it back. Whether he took down all of the names contained in it, or only a few, is not mentioned; but as soon as he got what he thought sufficient, he drew up the window and threw it out to them, and thus got quit of his noisy visitors."

The author then tells how the witches met their fate and of how he knows where the remains of twenty two are buried on the Castle Law

The route taken by Mr Ross to escape his pursuers was, I reckon down what we now refer to as the Rough Glen, as it then passed the Ballo Mill. The sight of the mill was probably just upstream from the bridge into what is now the property of Mr and Mrs Glennie, still I think called Ballo Mill. There was a mill in operation on this sight well into the 19th century and it was powered by water from the large dam further upstream which is still there. Water from the dam was carried by a lade that was on the east side of the burn half way up the banking and its passage can still be identified today. Around 1914/15 after a huge storm, the dam burst at its eastern end and hundreds of tons of stones and gravel were washed downstream ending up on the field on the west side of the burn down Hatton Road. My uncle born 1901 told me one of his first jobs working for his father was for weeks on end, carting off all these stones and gravel by horse and cart to restore the land for agricultural use. It's fortunate that the two bungalows on the left side of Hatton Road were not built at this time or they might well have been washed away.

There then is the origin of why the Witches' Road is so named and the terrible fate that the witches suffered by failing to catch Mr Ross as he made his epic ride to escape them. My picture shows the road probably taken in the 1940s and shows it as I remember it, much wider and used by horse and cart to reach the fields below the road. The road from the village leading uphill from the Williamson Hall was referred to by my late aunt as "The Coo Road". This was the road taken by villagers years ago if they owned a cow and would have taken it to graze on Abernethy common. This was an area of land to the east of the old quarry now on Gattaway farm.



In the book the Rev Small says he had identified the spot on the Castle Law where the remains of twenty two witches identified from the Red Book were eventually interred after burning. I think I also know where it is but I'm not telling anybody !

Ian Bett



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On 18th September whilst enjoying a lovely walk in Pitmedden Forest, our puppy got spooked with a cyclist and bolted. I couldn't find him and frantically asked passers by for help. The cyclist was great, he helped look, then neighbours of the forest Christine and John were called upon, you were amazing. Unfortunately our efforts were not successful so contact with Lost and Found was made. The Community of Abernethy and neighbouring villages helped to look for Shadow who did not want to be found until Monday teatime. Moral support, physical support, bbq items, water and cereal bars were given by kind villagers. It was a dreadful couple of days for us but everyone who helped deserves a huge thank you, you know who you are and especially to Anne Scott who found him, thank you so so much. We are eternally grateful you saw him and made contact. He said he didn't enjoy his adventure so we aren't going to return! Thankfully a happy ending but it could've gone very differently. Thanks again everyone, what a kind, supportive area we live in, very best wishes, Julie & familyX

Thanks

Julie Cockburn

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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.

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REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID ILLINGWORTH

The Wall. Abernethy is blessed to have three excellent play parks in the village - behind the Williamson Hall, in Powrie Park and just off Brandywell Drive. There are also at least two rope swings for children to play on and there is "The Wall". "The Wall" outside the Williamson Hall



has probably been used by Abernethy children to play on since the hall was built in the 1880s. Children build their confidence by walking along the top of the wall and enjoy climbing down the old cast iron lamp post from gas light days.

Schools in Perth and Kinross are now being encouraged to provide more outdoor play areas where children are allowed to take more risks for themselves when outside. Personally I think that children seem to spend too much time

inside in front of screens when it would be better for them to be having fun outside. The old adage, "if children don't pick up the odd small scrape and bruise here and there, then they aren't having enough fun", is definitely true.

The Good Side Effect. A very nice lady was telling me while out on a walk that one of the good side-effects of continued lock-down regulations is that people are more likely to talk to each other. It's like when during snowy weather everyone stops for a chat. When we talk to people in the street it makes people feel appreciated, it makes people feel they belong here. When you have that sense of community, all sorts of fantastic things happen as if by magic. This is what makes Abernethy such a fantastic place to live.

Four great reasons not to overtake on the Baigle Straight.

1. Your poor car won't like the stresses and strains placed on the engine and transmission by revving hard to overtake.
2. Fuel consumption is also increased and that isn't good for your wallet or for the environment.
3. Normally, you probably won't get home much quicker. There will almost always be some other vehicle or obstruction to slow you down.
4. Being charged with Dangerous Driving (or worse!) will definitely spoil your day.

So take it easy when you're out driving and make sure you and everyone else gets home safely.

Promises The whole of the council met recently to agree a new Capital budget. On your behalf, we made a lot of large promises to borrow money to invest in important infrastructure.

Against a background of substantial construction price inflation, we promised continued additional support of £35.4m for the following major projects:

Perth High School £8.3m
Blairgowrie Recreation Centre £8.9m
Harris Academy/Invergowrie Pupils £4.2m
Investment in Information Technology/Digital Capacity £10.5m
North Muirton/Balhouses Primary School £3.5m.

We also promised to continue to work on building a strong business case for replacing the ageing, and expensive to run, Perth Leisure Pool and Dewars Ice Rink. Currently, the rough estimate for this huge project is £70m and this is likely to increase with inflation. It's important that the Council does not make promises to go ahead with any project of this size unless there is a strong business case. It would not be fair on you to spend your money without making sure it was going to be well spent.

The Bridge.

A local resident pointed out that a V.I.G. (Very Important Guide Dog) had nearly fallen through a hole in the small bridge into the Powrie Park from Cordon Farm Road.

could be done and V.I.G. the council temporary repair put in a concrete course, despite the on Council land. example of what



I asked the Council to see what to the delight of the made an excellent and have promised to replacement in due fact the bridge is not This is a small



Councillors can do to help. Now, we won't make promises we can't keep, but we will do our best to help if there is something you think we can help with. My contact details are below.

PS. I'm very sorry to the young lady who thought her childhood had been taken away when this repair was made.

My top tip for Christmas. If you are lucky enough to have small children with you at Christmas and they are lucky enough to get lots of presents, then spread out the present opening over a number of days. That way, they'll give each present the attention it deserves and you will have an opportunity to encourage good behaviour by suggesting that if they don't behave, presents will be delayed.

A Very Merry Christmas to one and all. With what Tesco are now calling "The Present Giving Season" almost upon us, I'd like to wish everyone a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Hopefully, next year will see the complete end to all the lock-down restrictions.

And finally...



If you think I can be of any help then please let me know and I'll do my best to help. Email dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk or call 07767006275.

Submissions

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

FURTHER THOUGHTS OF ANOTHER INCOMER



It is easy to concur with everything Angus Macintyre had to say about all things Abernethy in the September edition, which leaves one pondering for long periods what to write that isn't just repetition, or worse still plagiarism! Jeez this is just like being back at college, why did I ever agree to putting some thoughts on Abernethy from the incomer's perspective in an article?

It's 10 years since we moved into Struan House, better known and always referred to by Abernethians as "Hilda and Bobby's hoose". We came across the property by chance, having viewed another property that day and popping into The Crees to mull over the pros and cons thereof. Much to our surprise it was a very well-kent face that served us from behind the bar, big Brian Johnston. We knew each other well from our time in Kinross, yet I had no idea he had settled in Abernethy. It was Brian who pointed us in the direction of Struan House, but more importantly he gave us a first insight into life in Abernethy as we chewed the fat over times gone by and the potential of setting up home in Abernethy. We miss Brian immensely and won't forget the kindness shown particularly to Jennifer and Rebecca in giving them part-time jobs in the pub.

So it was we went on to meet The Chair, I mean Hilda Clow, the oracle of Abernethy, or so it seemed to us. We have since learned there is an immense history to Abernethy both recent and ancient and many experts within the village to tell the tales. Hilda however is a good listen and has often served up chapter and verse when we have wanted to know about different aspects of the village. Never before had we purchased a house and struck up such an immediate rapport with the seller. A friendship was formed that endures, the first of many in Abernethy. One character we would have loved to have met and heard so many tales about was Hilda's husband Bobby, however if it weren't for his passing, we wouldn't have ended up in Struan House nor had such an insightful introduction to life in the village. As time has gone on, I find myself agreeing more and more with Angus, plenty of characters and plenty of cheery banter in Abernethy.

I mentioned Kinross where we have spent a large part of our lives. One of the aspects of Abernethy which really made us feel comfortable right away was the similarities to life in Kinross when it was a much smaller town. That is until, ironically, "the incomers" came and changed that feel. There is a friendliness where people greet each other in the passing, the different clubs and organizations and events for all age groups, the community spirit, the wee shop, the open countryside, the pubs and the locals in them, the farming influence, the museum, Earnside coaches passing by or parking up, the fish van and even The Village Crier all bore a remarkable resemblance to what we had experienced before and helped us to quickly settle.

Getting involved in community life is all important to settling in, becoming a kent face and I suppose to being accepted. For me it was joining the badminton club, aerobics classes at the Williamson Hall, the hill race, the wee dig, open gardens and a one and only entry into the Abernethy hill race and for Doreen along with the aerobics and very occasional badminton game, it was the museum and the cinema. These all introduced us to the social side of life in the village, be it nights at the pub, race night fundraisers or comedy nights up in the hall, so it was we got to know, got to enjoy and grew to care about the community we live in. I know there is more it has to offer and there is more to explore and get involved in, but the pace of life in Abernethy teaches you it doesn't all have to be done today.

For many a community the advent of this horrible pandemic has been a real setback, however I would like to finish with what we have experienced and observed as benefits and positives during such dark times. Walking and exercise, the village has many an active enthusiast in this respect, however, to observe families out together as a unit talking and enjoying the countryside, exploring areas they might never otherwise have found the time to do, feels right and what life should always have time for. We enjoyed many a daily walk, managing never to repeat the same route twice over some two and half months of lock-down. Okay, we may have pushed the boundaries slightly in terms of time you were allowed out for exercise, however there were only benefits to be had. Being out and seeing the many different perspectives of the picturesque village, its countryside and lots of wildlife was not only good for one's physical health, but mental well-being also. Good habits have been formed as a result.

Neighbours, everybody needs good neighbours. It's the luck of the draw and often you will find there is a high turnover in this respect, or that they want to keep themselves to themselves. We have been lucky, surrounded by neighbours willing to chat, offer a lift or a helping hand, but mainly there to support each other when required. The pandemic has drawn us that bit closer, rather than rushing off to work with a cursory greeting, our paths cross more regularly and there is more time for a chat and a laugh. Whether it's the news from the pews (you'd be surprised!) or an irreverent look at crime prevention, tips on horticulture, to shared boundaries or even an insight into deep space, there is always plenty to discuss. All the funnier when it's beer o'clock! But more often it is about family and how their lives are progressing, the latest update on the activities of the children and what advice and support may be required.

All in all, life in Abernethy suits us down to the ground. Hopefully as life eventually returns to normal there will be the opportunity for the many recent incomers to involve themselves in the life of the community. In our homes and as members of our community we must remember, we are but custodians right Doreen where's the for-sale sign? Once they've read this..... we'll be driven out of town!!

Alan and Doreen Fraser

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

Clement Clarke Moore

*'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,
And Mama in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap -
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,
With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
"Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen,
"On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem;
"To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
"Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys - and St. Nicholas too:
And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:
He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
A bundle of toys was flung on his back,*

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SHIFT, with Cycling UK. When more people ride bikes to get around, the whole community benefits. We're working with Cycling UK to help people who want to cycle rather than drive do just that. If you need a hand, eg a loan bike, a confidence booster session, a repair or a bit of advice, please drop me an e.mail or give me a call.



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NAN (PART 2)

I forgot to mention that I worked in CREAMOLA FOOD PRODUCTS. The older people will remember Creamola Custard, Blancmange and Creamola Foam. It was around this time that we had a new minister at the United Free Church, the Rev. Dr. Sheppard who had just returned from Africa. Little did I know that 26 years on I would meet relations of his.

I worked in Bilsland the Bakers as a wages clerkess and a young engineer apprentice carried the box of wages to the top floor where I gave them out to the girls in the biscuit department. Again I would meet up with him under different circumstances about 7 or 8 years later. I left there to get married but I was not allowed to return, that was the law in those days.

We bought a second hand caravan and got a site near Clarkston, but not for long as we didn't like the farmer. It was a big site but with no facilities. We were fortunate to find a smaller site outside Newton Mearns, off the A77.



I found a job in a builder's office in Cathcart to which I cycled most days but when the weather was bad, we had to walk a mile and a half to the main road at the Malletsheuch Inn, to get the bus. Later we managed to get a Maicoetta 250 scooter which we used to tour the Highlands. We also had a tent.

Eventually, near the end of 1959 we got a Fiat 600.

Peter, my husband, applied for two jobs, Dounreay and the Hydro Board. The Hydro answered first, he got an interview and a few weeks later he was told he had the job. He started on the 1st March 1960. I had to hand in my notice to Mr. Dickie who told me that his



brother-in-law, who was a farmer, was looking for a clerkess. I had an interview in the Station Hotel and I got the job. I also started on the 1st March 1960.

We arrived at St Martins on the first and were there for two years in our caravan. Some of the locals objected to the caravan, so arrangements were made for a house to be built there but we had to find somewhere in Perth to live for ten or eleven months. We got a small flat in Annat Lodge. I had to help the housekeeper in the mornings and Peter had to cut the lawn. All went well so our caravan was taken to Ledaig, Benderloch, Oban and used as a holiday caravan. All went fine until I was asked to waitress at a dinner party. The first one had Lord and Lady Cadogan and six others. Everything was fine as I didn't spill anything! Our spare time was walking all the old drove roads and various paths in the north east.



March 1963 saw us back at the now completed Friars Cottage, St Martins. Later on in the spring we managed to get the garden looking much better than a building site. By now we had a ten foot caravan as a base for climbing Monros.



We also bought Italian Folding Bikes which we used to tour the Outer Hebrides.



Around this time, the farmer had bought the new type of electronic calculator which was a great help in calculating the weight of cattle and sheep. Of course it needed maintenance now and then. I was at the office when the engineer arrived and I recognised him straight away but I couldn't remember which job I had been in. Then it dawned on me! It was Bilsland the Baker. He was the young apprentice who had carried the wages for me to the top floor. In the summer months I had to cut the

grass with a motor mower and it was like a stampede because the cattle in the field came and stood at the fence and waited for me to put the cuttings over for them.

By 1969 we decided to see if we could get a mortgage to buy a house as we were already saving with the Halifax Building Society. That is when we looked at the houses in Castlelaw, Abernethy. I got an interview with NOSHEB at Blackfriars Perth and got the job, starting on 1st October 1971.

Nan Campbell

ABERNETHY SCOUT GROUP

All three sections within the Scouting group are operating very well with the Cub Pack and Scout Troop at capacity and the Beavers increasing in numbers all the time. It is refreshing for the leaders to be able to provide back-to-back terms without the almost usual stop/start caused by Covid rates disrupting plans or even forcing complete lock-downs. The Scouting group are still very much enjoying being an outdoor group with the weather being favourable so far (end of October at the time of writing). A big thank you to all the leaders who continue to give up their own time to run their respective sections, allowing the kids to have much needed fun and adventures in what's been a very challenging 18 months for everyone.

Beavers

The Beavers are led by Nicola Coulter and assisted by Chris Framer. Beavers were recently competing in their teamwork challenge over the previous term, with all tasks being team related as well as educational. A quiz was developed by Chris where there were over a hundred laminated 1" x 1" flags placed upside down on a table. The object being that each beaver would then select a flag by turning it over, race to the next station and identify the flags country by comparing them on a large coloured poster, then head to the next station and find which continent the country belongs too, before dropping it in the tin labelled with the appropriate continent and repeat. I have to say I was really impressed by their knowledge and enthusiasm with very few mistakes.



Scouts

The Scout Pack is led by Stephen Trotter assisted by Jude Trotter, Ian Craig and Dave Cheer. The Scouts took the opportunity to get back to basics and managed to squeeze in a Friday night camp under canvas at Wester Greenside Farm (thanks to Craig and Caroline Haxton for letting them camp). The weather on the preceding days was awful with torrential rain but luckily it stayed fairish for most of the evening that the Scout Troop were away, and the weather didn't put off any of the Scouts or leaders attending and enjoying their evening under canvas.



27 Scouts and 4 Leaders ready to camp for the first time since 2019

Abernethy Scout Centenary

Although the actual centenary date is September 2023, again in keeping with scouting "Be Prepared", we are looking to contact and trace, over the next 12 months, anyone who was involved in the scouts. Again, can I ask anyone who was an Abernethy Scout, especially if they're over the age of 60 to get in contact with myself, so we can arrange for scouts to contact you to record your memories and stories of scouting in Abernethy. As well as recording the information, we are hoping to display various aspects of scouting through the years in Abernethy during our centenary year with the help of Abernethy Museum.

Pavilion

I personally missed the construction of the Pavilion as I was at Agricultural College in South Wales between 1988 -1990 (studying how to be an alcoholic amongst other things) and I also worked and lived in Italy during my industrial year and wasn't home very often. When I left there was an old wooden changing hut near where the pavilion is now and when I returned, we had a fully functioning Pavilion which is still the envy of numerous Scout Groups.

Since the last Crier I was recently made aware of the huge contribution that Allan and Ogilvy Webster had made towards the building of the Pavilion. The Websters' Building Yard used to be just after the railway bridge off Cordon Farm Road where there's now a dwelling house. The Websters, as well as working as volunteers on the site, would order and take delivery of building materials, and even constructed a gate in their then perimeter fence allowing access to the pavilion with materials. So apologies for not mentioning them before, but we look forward to welcoming them to be part of our Pavilion Celebrations in the spring of 2023. The Scouts will be researching the pavilion construction during 2022 and will be looking to interview those involved so we can accurately record all their contributions.

I'm very pleased to say that the Scout Committee has again been successful in our application to the Community Investment Fund and will be looking to continue with the ongoing upgrading of the pavilion by replacing windows with double glazed units and upgrading fire exits, amongst other planned works.

Finally, a big thank you to Jill Young who has recently stood down as our treasurer. Jill has overseen not only the group's accounts being moved to electronic banking but also maintained the group's registration with Gift Aid and the implementation of the Online Scout Manager (OSM) system which manages personal records, attendance records, programs and online payments for activities and camps. This undoubtedly allows leaders to operate easier and safer, so a huge thank you to Jill for all her efforts over the past five years. We did tell her that it was a Ten-Year tenure, but she wasn't having it. I often think the national treasury could take a leaf out of Jill's book as she runs a tight ship and very much "Nae Receipt, Nae payment policy".

Although Covid has changed a lot of things it was refreshing to see some things don't change, and St Johnstone once again putting Dundee United to the sword at Tannadice at the end of October. Thought I should mention the score as I know our chairperson Brian (the Sainte) Stewart would be very disappointed otherwise. (It was Dundee United 0 Saint Johnstone 1)!

Have a great Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Gordon Miller
Abernethy Group Scout Leader



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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:-

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

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

South

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TaysideStrathallanCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

TaysideAlmondEarnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk

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Abernethy Community Cinema
Contact:
Tel Home:
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
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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
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Email: jimmyswan36@gmail.com

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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: Helen Jackso, District Commissioner
Tel: 07751577771
Email: hpjackson10@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

AN EARLIER ABERNETHY



Photo names are back l-r Paul McNeil, Michael Walker, Paul Martin, Mark Jones, Gordon Miller, David Cairns, Tommy Grehan. Middle l-r Dawn Watson, Helen Watson, Anne McDonald, Susan Ritchie, Lorna Baird, Joan Hutchison, Julie Grant, Elizabeth Gray, Linda McKay and Miss Shaw. Front l-r Lee Warren, Samantha Mitchell, Morag Ramage, Jane Kemp, Moyra Mair, Alison Messenger, Maureen Gourlay, Douglas Brown. Hope we have got all the names correct.

The above photo landed on my desk recently with a note saying “one for the archives Miss Leslie Shaws class at Abernethy Primary 1979/80”, unfortunately not knowing who Miss Shaw was I had to ask for some more information and the following story was submitted.

I spoke to my daughter re the school photo that she is in, so she put together a wee story regarding the class and teacher. My daughter is Maureen Gourlay. She is now a Primary School Teacher in Perth. She recalls that this class was a split class between p 5/6 at the time of the photo being taken, term 1979/1980, and she was 9/10 years old at the time. The teacher in the photo was Miss Lesley Shaw. The classroom of p5/6 was in the main corridor of the old Abernethy School. One of the good things about the old school as far as the rural kids were concerned was the outside toilets, as they used to freeze up during icy cold weather and the rural kids had to be sent home, much to the village kids’ disgust as they had to stay on since they could run home at lunchtime to the toilet. This was always a bone of contention!!

Maureen recalls that Miss Shaw got married during this year 79/80 and Maureen remembers her bringing her wedding photos in to show the class and that she went to Venice on her honeymoon. Years later my daughter Maureen who is now a Primary School teacher herself happened to bump into Miss Shaw (married name can’t be remembered) at the Leisure Pool where they were both attending with their classes from different schools. After recognising each other again Maureen recalled the bringing in of Miss Shaw’s wedding photos and the honeymoon trip to Venice.... She then discovered her memory recall wasn’t quite accurate after all as it wasn’t exotic Venice but Weston-Super-Mare. My daughter always had a good imagination!!

Sandra Gourlay



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



Miss Shaw's class
Preparing for the 1980
June 1980
On the left: Miss Shaw, Miss Shaw's class, Miss Shaw's class, Miss Shaw's class





Village Crier

wishes

all

our

readers

a

Merry
Christmas
and a
Happy
New
Year

