

VILLAGE CRIER



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Abernethy

Dron

Aberargie



54th Edition

June 2022

Closing date for September edition 31st July 2022

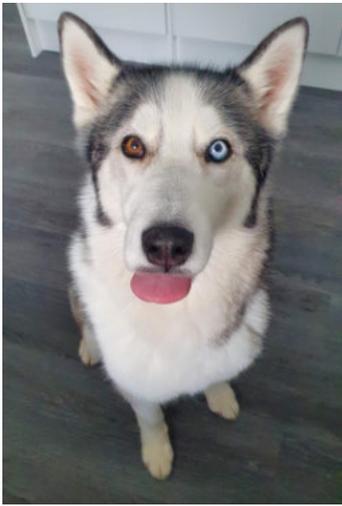
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JUNE'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION

MOIRA LACEY

WELL DONE





Ice (age 10)
Amanda Craig



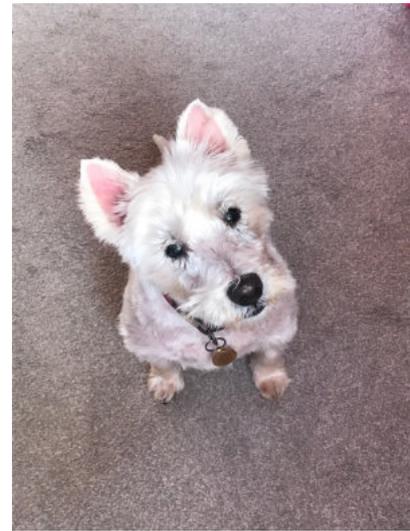
Ice (age 10)
Amanda Craig



Stanley (age 8)
Anne Hollingsworth



'Mamma' clouds which I spotted in the sky above Abernethy on 6th April. They are quite rare and when seen usually hang underneath storm clouds, as on this occasion!
Barry McMahon



Thistle
Denise Goddard



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Stewart Reid



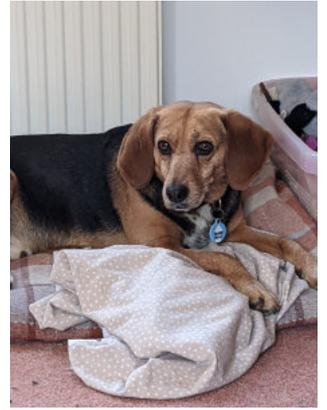
Ruby aged 8 weeks and then 8 months
Ian and Andrea Morrison



Ruby aged 8 weeks and then 8 months
Ian and Andrea Morrison



Jo Avery



Jo Avery



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



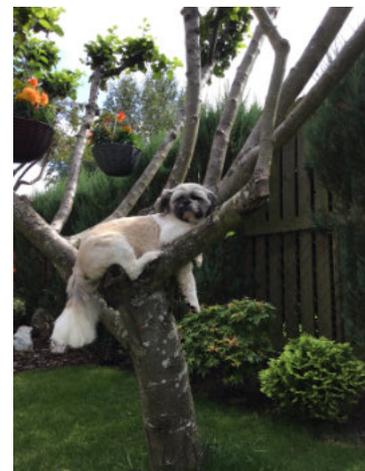
Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



Simon Farrer

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EDITOR'S VIEW

I hope that, by the time you are all reading this, the community will have something in place to acknowledge the contribution Kathleen Baird, Councillor Kathleen Baird, has made to this area over the years. When I was chair of the community council, Kathleen and I had many heated discussions, many differing opinions on Abernethy issues, but she has worked hard for this area, not just as a Councillor, and in my opinion deserves some sort of recognition for her efforts.

Abernethy in Bloom are again busy beautifying Nurse Peattie's Memorial garden and will shortly have an additional area to maintain, the Heritage Garden. The contractors have made a great job of laying it out and building those beautiful drystane dykes. Alas there are always a few people in the village who will moan about things like this and get their facts wrong about who is financing the project. See the Abernethy In Bloom article for the true story of the funding.

By now the Museum of Abernethy will be open and in full swing with some great new exhibits. The museum has a very small team that does big things. Get along there and support this very valuable village asset.

On Saturday August 6th the village is being visited by Mr and Mrs Davis from the US. Mr and Mrs Davis, descendants of the Roy family, very kindly paid for the upgrading of the Tower floodlights and in recognition of their very kind contribution to the village the Community Council are organising an event at the Tower. A plaque will be unveiled by the couple and invited guests will retire to Jamesfield for afternoon tea.

Have a great summer and try and support as many local events as possible.

Jimmy Swan

FROM THE CHAIR

We are living through very strange times. Who would have imagined that within two years we would have experienced a pandemic, food shortages, climate change, a war and economic problems? Not very happy times, but living in Abernethy and its surrounding area gives us more freedom and relaxation than those dwelling in towns and cities both at home and abroad. We are very fortunate people and any of our worries are trivial in comparison to those who live elsewhere.

So, what is happening in Abernethy and District? Quite a lot as you will discover as you turn over the pages of this edition of the Crier.

First and foremost, on a personal note I would like to thank Mrs Kathleen Baird for her long and dedicated service on Perth and Kinross District Council and especially what she has achieved in promoting the interests of the people of Abernethy. It is always a big advantage having a local person on the Council. Hopefully this will continue.

There is a great deal of interesting reading this quarter both present day and historical; from the new exhibitions in the museum to the progress on the Heritage Garden.

On the historical side, I hope everyone will find out more by visiting the museum. Details of opening times etc can be found within the Crier or on the website.

Not too many people around today remember the plane crash but I was speaking to someone quite recently (no longer residing in Abernethy) who was there at the time and managed to pick up a few "souvenirs" however these souvenirs were collected by the local policeman (Yes we used to have our own bobby in Abernethy) and my friend's mother being a highly respected member of the community handed them over.

The Heritage Garden is now surrounded by a beautiful drystane dyke, a real work of art. I am so looking forward to seeing the completion of this project.

I am going to end my contribution here and leave you to read for yourselves the variety of content in this edition from star-gazing to witches, facts and fiction!! Enjoy, what we hope will be a sunny warm

summer and an end to many concerns affecting us all world wide.

Hilda Clow

LITTLE HAIR COMPANY

What a month it has been!

It's been a weird one with things slowly returning to normal although I am not quite ready to pop my favourite lipstick on as we are still being cautious in the salon and opting to still wear masks. With clients it's optional but as a team we feel more comfortable wearing ours; doing without them feels like when you forget to put your seatbelt on in the car.

It's the same old same old with us this month so I thought I would write about what our beauty therapist has on offer. We have a host of specialist pampering treatments on offer, Sheree offers everything from hot stones, deep tissue dermaplaning and most recently micro needling.

Sheree has years of experience under her belt including teaching beauty therapy, so we are delighted to have her with us. I used to work alongside Sheree years ago so it's lovely to have her on our team offering her wealth of knowledge and expertise here at the Little Hair Company.

I have exciting news too!

The salon's hours will be changing on a Monday for the time being as I will, hopefully, be back teaching privately for Medusa Training Academy at their new academy in Edinburgh once a week. The academy is a private training facilitator, so to be back doing what I love is exciting and I hope to gain my internal verification qualification which will allow me to teach other assessors in other salons.

This shouldn't affect my other teaching job for milk-shake UK but it does mean that Mondays will no longer be viable as most "in salon" training days are held on a Monday and with both Morgan and Laura now completed their training I need to keep my CPD up.

The places teaching has taken me to have been incredible and I have certainly covered the miles. Yesterday I was in Peterhead; tomorrow I could be in Fife. But all in all the salons I visit are all welcoming, friendly and we have great fun exploring colour and building confidence.

I've taught so many people over the years, and it's very rewarding when it goes right, I cannot believe I've been teaching since 2009

So as we begin to take a step in to an incredibly busy summer I want to thank all our clients for their continued support and love of us here at the Little Hair Company.

SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

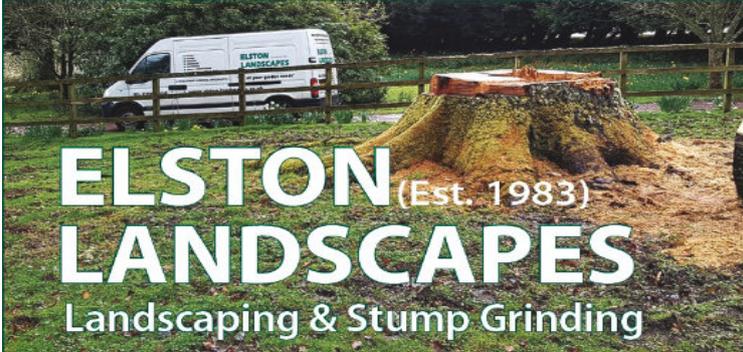
The Abernethy in Bloom committee has decided to hold the sunflower competition again this year. The plants are available from the Abernethy In Bloom Emporium situated in the Cree's Inn lane. There is no charge but there is a limit of one plant per child (of any age). It is up to you to grow them on any way you like, feed with what you like in the hope you will have the tallest flower when the judges come round in August. Next to the plants there is a box containing a notepad, please enter your name and address into this book.

Good luck.

Jimmy Swan

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DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?

2022 is Scotland's Year of Stories, and everyone has a story.

At the Museum of Abernethy we like to collect tales old and new, such as the (old) one about the farmer who, while visiting relatives in New Zealand, attended an agricultural fair and chanced upon a fellow Scot who had emigrated there. The visitor happened to mention that his farm's water supply had recently become a bit unreliable, but that he couldn't find the holding tank to investigate. It then transpired that the émigré had farmed the very same Perthshire property at one time, had installed said tank, and so was able to give him precise directions. Sometimes you have to go away...

In April, as I write, we're looking forward to being open for a whole season starting May 7th, Covid permitting, and we have exciting new displays with their stories to tell. It kicks off on May 7th and 8th: tales of a spooky nature with Gary and Lynne Knight (although by the time you read this we'll have been open nearly a month).

As for static displays: firstly, and all the rage just now, we have the story of witches, including some of Abernethy's, and the whole witch-hunting era which loomed especially large in Scotland. There are of course lots of myths about the subject, so come along, by broomstick or otherwise, and get a more balanced, historical view. Display researched and compiled by Audrey Clark.

Then, filling a gap in many peoples' knowledge, including mine, we have the story of Aberargie and its mills, satanic or otherwise. This welcome addition to our offerings is the responsibility of Irene Hallyburton, who has also agreed to join the Museum team. Does she know what she's letting herself in for?



The third full new display is on Freemasonry and the establishment of the Abernethy lodge. Will any secrets be given away, I wonder (well, I don't really). You might be surprised however at some of the famous people in history who were Masons. (Just don't confuse Masonic lodges with Orange lodges, as some people do. They're different animals). Jimmy Swan has compiled this one—spoiler alert, he knows a funny handshake or two.

There is also a sort of half-display which is new. To explain, we recently came into the possession of some aircraft parts, which were discovered in the Nethy Burn. These belonged to two planes which crashed during the Second World War close to Abernethy. One was a Spitfire, which collided with another Spitfire during training, and the other was a Lysander, probably flown by Polish troops stationed locally, about which we otherwise know nothing. These remnants are on display but, since our knowledge is limited, any stories or even rumours that you have heard would be most welcome to help fill out the picture.

Finally, our display on Abernethy's two naval surgeon brothers has a second season. Come and see instruments that were used during the Napoleonic wars to patch up or amputate, without anaesthetic, of course. Horror stories there—if only these items could talk!

Should you have any information or stories, or objects of interest to donate or loan you can contact us by e-mail at secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk or phone us any Tuesday morning on 01738 850889. For any information on what we do, you can check our website at <https://www.museumofabernethy.co.uk> and of course new volunteers are always welcome.

Angus Macintyre.



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SILVER LINING HAIR STUDIO



Well, how a year goes by so quickly. Fran and I took over running the old Berryfields Tearoom back in March 2021, and what a whirlwind of a year it has been! Many late nights were spent getting our new salon ready, and we truly appreciate all the help we were given along with the sweets and biscuits that were dropped in the window while we worked.

It has been a very busy year for both of us and it has been great seeing all the familiar faces come back through the door. We have also gained so many new faces and it has been an absolute pleasure getting to know and see you all again.



As most will know, we unexpectedly won our first award last year for Stylist of the Year at Perth and Kinross business awards; well we managed to go one better this year by winning Stylist of the Year at the Scottish business awards final. We did not expect to receive any awards let alone two. We cannot express deeply enough how much winning both awards means to us and to our little business. When you think about all the salons in the big cities like Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Perth; who would have thought the Silver lining hair studio of Abernethy would be competing with these. Fran and I never expected any of this and when we were nominated, we were just glad to know that our customers appreciate what we do and how we do it. To win the awards means a huge amount to both of us and we could not have done it without our lovely customers supporting us. But even though we have won these awards we will remain humble in the fact that we still have much to learn. Therefore, we regularly attend training sessions with other stylists and colour specialists to make sure we keep up with the latest trends in cutting, styling, and colouring. Much like the clothing industry, being a stylist is knowing about the latest styles and trends, which is why it is important to keep up with the latest cutting styles, cutting techniques and colours.

It has been an absolute pleasure serving the community this past year and we cannot wait to see what the next year brings.

So, what's new at the salon for this year? Well, we have decided to turn the room adjacent to the salon into a bridal room for all those beautiful brides to come and get their bridal hair and makeup done in a more intimate, comfortable, and relaxed atmosphere.

We have also started offering a silent service, "A silent service" I hear you say! Well, we have come to realise that after such a stressful two years many people are looking for that little bit of relaxing time, with no distraction or noise, or for somewhere where they can just close their eyes and not say a word, well this is just that. If you select silent service on the booking, we will ask only one or two questions about your hair and then your time is all yours, no talking just blissful silence. We recognise the strains of work, family life and social problems and sometimes it's nice just to switch the noise off for an hour or two.

We are both very grateful for all the support the village and our clients further afield have shown us and we cannot wait to see what the rest of the year will bring.

Debi and Fran

BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

By the time you are reading this the Burns club will have had their first committee meeting, the first for two years. It is hoped we will be able to hold our annual supper in February 2023 providing there are no further restrictions. Watch this space.

Jimmy Swan (Sec.)

ABERNETHY WITCH HUNTS AND A SEVERE DOSE OF LOCKDOWN CURIOSITY

During the COVID lock-downs my husband bought a book by the Rev Andrew Small, published in 1823, of 'local antiquities'. We had a fabulous time, finding Roman sites at every turn, along with some increasingly dubious sounding stories. One story included the witches' graves, path, hole and how 22 women were caught and executed as witches (as written about in the last edition of the Crier). The Reverend's story sparked many questions for me, not least that 22 was a huge number and how big was Abernethy in the seventeenth century? Like most people I have met, I knew little about the size, scale and reality of the Scottish witch hunts so I set about finding out more.

En route, I contacted Abernethy Museum for more information and they, in turn, asked me to develop a display. Initially I said 'no'. I work, I have too many interests already and I've never done anything like this before. Then I thought about the women (as I had found out the names of the three women almost certainly executed in Abernethy in 1662) and how they had been forgotten. How they will have been ordinary women like me, but stripped of their humanity and dignity through torture and being accused of witchcraft. With little chance to defend themselves against the accusations, facing six local judicial Commissioners, their fate will have been sealed. The display was a chance for me and Abernethy to be involved in setting the story straight, so in the end I could not say 'no'.

The display delves into the world of the Scottish witch hunts – what people thought about witches at this time and the uncertainties, political, religious and social, that may have meant that five times more people were accused and executed of witchcraft in Scotland than in any other European country. Most of them were women, often targeted by neighbours and members of their own community. Yet this terrible time has been largely forgotten and replaced with folk lore and myth, turning cruelty, unfair accusations and persecution into 'witchy fun'.

So it has been an absolute labour of love to create this display – meeting with and contacting some amazing people. It has also come at a great time, given the work being done nationally to remember the people accused, to provide a government apology and a legal pardon. The display includes an information section for most of the sources I have used, should anyone want to find out more. You will be relieved to know that all information comes from 'real' historians, including the Aberargie based historian and archaeologist Irene Hallyburton. Additionally Linda Allen, a PKC artist, has created a modern woodcut of the Rev Small's story.

At the heart of the display are the three women, Elspeth, Margaret and Jonet, as depicted by our very own fabulous local artist Moira Lacey. For me, Moira has brought the whole thing alive – see what you think!

Abernethy Museum, on School Wynd, opens from 7th May to 25th September, Wednesday to Sunday in the afternoon, from one to four pm.

Please promote the display amongst your friends and family – it's a great opportunity for people to visit our wonderful village and find out more. I would love to hear from you if you go along. Additionally I'm in discussion with a stone artist/mason about a design for a permanent memorial for the women, so watch this space.

Audrey



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HAULING THE NETS ON THE RIVER TAY



ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

Invitations are being sent out to Senior Citizens in the Abernethy and Aberargie area, to an Afternoon Tea being held in the Williamson Hall on Saturday 25th June at 1.30 for 2pm. It is hoped we will have a good turn out for this event.

It is also hoped to hold our Annual Christmas party in the Williamson Hall on Saturday 3rd December. More information will be in the next issue of the Village Crier and on the village notice boards.

We are still looking for Committee Members, so if you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Evelyn Scobie, Secretary
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Missing cat

Good evening

Although some time ago now, our much loved cat Oreo vanished into thin air on 2 November 2021 and has never returned. There have been no sightings and no body found and so what has happened is unclear. Oreo is never far from our thoughts and I just wanted something put in the Crier to jog people's memories or to simply say if this lovely cat has found a happy new home, please let me know. Not knowing what has happened is painful, we all miss her but especially her sister, she misses the fun they used to have and snuggling up with her. Please any information would be really helpful.

Many thanks

Julie

Beech Trees

Dear Editor

As the owner of the property adjacent to the Abernethy tennis courts and pavilion, I have to reply to the article in the previous edition of the Crier regarding my large beech trees which overlook the tennis courts and my attitude concerning removing them as the Tennis Club/Scouts and Cubs Committees had requested.

After a great deal of thought, I decided to not have the trees cut down, after consulting with experts who carried out an extensive tree survey. The results of the survey informed me that the trees should live healthily for at least another 40 years and they recommended careful cutting back, which I am now waiting to be completed later this month.

I don't think I could've had the six trees cut down as the tennis club/scouts requested, with a clear conscience, as these trees are regularly visited by owls and many other birds, red squirrels, mice, and home to thousands of invertebrates from around possibly 60 insect species. The beechnuts provide food for all of these animals too.

Yes, the scouts/tennis club offered to plant new trees as compensation, but to replace the existing trees environmentally it would take decades for them to reach maturity and become of comparable benefit to wildlife.

I don't think my trees can be blamed for the moss on the pavilion roof either, as there is moss on the north side of the roof as well.

When I moved to the property 30 years ago, the trees were already a considerable height and there is no evidence that there was ever a hedge, as the trees were planted approximately a century ago.

Several people in the village have expressed their opinion on this as well. I have had many kind words regarding the trees, so thank you to the people of Abernethy who have supported me on this.

Kerina Wallace

FROM AN OLD COURIER

(The paper not the author)

Just after watching the terrible scenes on the news of the war in Ukraine I happened to come across, amongst my "stuff", a copy of the "Courier" from 1943, the year I was born and of course when this country was also at war. We in Abernethy were of course spared the terrible devastation that many of our cities suffered from the German bombers at the beginning of the war. The war by 1943 was turning in our favour and of course the "Big Bad Russians" of the present time were our allies in 1943.

The Courier of earlier years was different from today in that the front page was always reserved for advertising and Abernethy appeared on that day the 29th October in the public notices. Under emergency powers all unnecessary iron and steel railings, posts, chains, bollards, gates were required to be removed and collected for use in the war effort in iron and steel works and foundries, and this work would commence in Abernethy on October 25th. It was hoped that everyone would be prepared to make a free gift of these railings to the nation to help the war effort but if anyone was affected by their removal they could apply for compensation to be paid. One example of where this was done in Abernethy can still be seen in the houses opposite the Tower Garage on Back Dykes where only the gate posts remain of what was once an iron railing fence.

Other interesting facts were in the employment section where several positions were advertised for girls 14 to 16 years old for both office and factory work as the school leaving age was 14 at this time. Horses were still very much part of the agricultural scene and there were several adverts for horsemen, and on 25th October there was a sale at Perth market of 150 work horses and mares, Clydesdale Colts and Fillies, Harness Horses, Cobs and Ponies as well as harness. In those days farm workers were mostly hired on a short term basis. The term days were Candlemass on 2nd February and Martinmass on 11th November. The workers if they were not being kept on or if they wanted a change would go to the feeing markets on these days and offer their services and if they found a farmer willing to hire them he would give them a shilling to seal the bargain. Then the worker would be away home to tell the wife to pack up their few chattels, the bairns, the hens and the dug and be ready to move - most likely not too far away as the flitting would be on a horse and cart. For many this would mean several moves in their lives with bairns having frequently to move schools. A very unfair system thankfully long gone.

Glentarkie farm on the Glenfoot Road was up for sale and there was to be a displeshing sale at Drumcairn farm.

Back to war news, on the second page a Hill of Beath man was fined £5 for absenting himself from Home Guard duties on seven occasions without reasonable excuse. Sadly there were also several photos of soldiers who had been killed in action,

Amazingly in the entertainments section in Dundee, eighteen cinemas or variety theatres offer their programmes for the week

The price of the Courier in 1943 was one old penny it is now £1.40 so it has gone up by 336 times.

In my rummaging I also came across a "Sporting Post" from 3rd September 1932. The "Post" was produced on a Saturday night after the football matches finished at 5pm and was in Abernethy on the seven o'clock train. (See The Museum Calendar for April where you see the wall in Station Road where the men all waited for the train coming with the Post.) In later years I would be amongst the crowd waiting at the Corner Shop to get my Post when the 7 o'clock bus came in, then along to the Hotel for a pint and to read all the football news. This was an amazing publication from D.C. Thomson, having a paper with extensive reports on all the games played that afternoon; senior as well as junior and also news on other sports played that afternoon. St. Johnstone played Motherwell at Muirton Park that afternoon before an amazing crowd of 9000. More than we would get now even playing the Old Firm at McDiarmid. Sadly we lost 1 - 0 and sat mid-table in the first division of twenty teams. Aston Villa led the English First Division with Manchester United fifth from bottom of the second division.

Shooting over Gannochy Moors, Mr J. P. Morgan from New York with a company of seven guns had a bag of 230 brace of grouse.

Lots of Children's Annuals advertised from "The Happy Girls Book" to "The Willie Waddle Book" (No' the fitba player) all for 2/6d each (12.5 pence)

So well done D. C. Thomson for getting all this on the streets within two hours of the games finishing and we still had the Sunday Post to come next day!

Ian Bett

PERTH BURNS DINNER

Perth Burns Club will be holding their Burns Dinner on the revised date of Friday 24th June in the Salutation Hotel and would appreciate any support from our members who might like to attend. Tickets cost £35 which includes a three course meal with a glass of bubbly on arrival. An excellent array of speakers, singers and musicians will provide an excellent night's entertainment.

Ian Bett

THANK YOU

Sean and Kiely Gilmartin, Alan and Sandra Gourlay and family would like to say a massive "Thank You" to everyone for the lovely cards, flowers, texts, phone calls, prayers and visits following the sudden passing of Brenda. The family appreciate all the support and words of comfort from family, friends and Brenda's work colleagues at this sad, and heartbreaking time. Thank you to Methven Gray for his professionalism and personal touch in the handling of the funeral arrangements, Monsignor McNally for his uplifting service at St Mathews Chapel, Kaytlyn for the reading of the poem at the graveside, Michelle of Cordon Farm Flowers for her creation of the beautiful lily sprays and wreathes, and a massive Thank you to Ian and Irene and staff at Jamesfield for all their hard work and organising that went into presenting the excellent buffet. Thank you for the beautiful floral tributes and for the generous donations to Brenda's charities. Thank you to The Crees Inn for their hospitality after the funeral tea. Many thanks to everyone for coming along to pay their own respects to Brenda at the Chapel and the Graveside. xx

Sandra Gourlay, Cordon Farm.

ABERNETHY SWI



Abernethy SWI met on the 16th of March when we had a "Hands On" Papercraft demo showing us how to make small notebooks and gift bags.

At our meeting on 20th April, Evelyn Scobie demonstrated paper flowers, and all members made a flower.

The meeting on 18th May will be our AGM 1.00pm to 3.00pm. After the business we will have a Quiz. This will be our last meeting until 21st September. Further details will be published in the next Village Crier.

Details of all our meetings are placed on the village notice board each month, and on Abernethy SWI Facebook page. If you would like to join us, please come along to our September meeting, we desperately need new members! £3 for visitors, and the membership fee for next year will be published in the next Village Crier, on the village notice board and on our SWI Facebook page.

Elizabeth Taylor

THOMAS EPPS' VISIT TO ABERNETHY: FEBRUARY 2022

TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY:

I had the pleasure of hosting "Thomas Epps, an Operations Chief in the U.S. Navy" for a few days at Abernethy, in February. His vessel USNS Laramie was moored in Hunterston and Thomas had shore leave. We had a hobby in common, and we met through our Facebook group, Astronomy Scotland, so a meet up was a no brainer.



I travelled with Ian Borland to Largs, to pick up Thomas and we had a diversion to South Queensferry on the way home for a spot of lunch and an ogle at the "3 Bridges" Thomas was more than impressed at the old Forth Bridge, cameras and phones clicking away by us all.

We headed back to 'Nethy for some rest, an evening meal and Thomas's drink of choice TEA. (No amber nectar was consumed for the duration).

WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY:

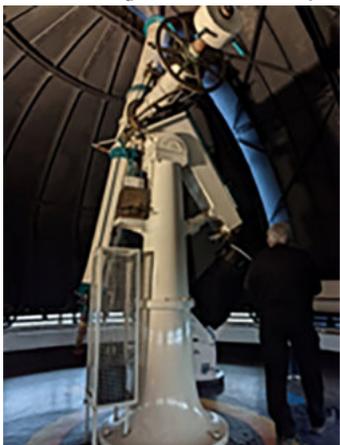
We (Thomas, Ian and I) headed to Dundee to check out The V & A museum; it was closed! The weather was appalling, horizontal rain and a wind that would have tamed even the hardest of Scotsmen. So we ventured to the RRS Discovery display and we weren't disappointed, a great audio visual treat, and the ship was amazing, (if you haven't been, take the trip, it's worth it!) Seeing the ship really drove home how difficult it must have been for those hardy explorers.



While in Dundee, we were hoping to see Mills Observatory, but the access road had recently been closed due to fallen trees, but we risked a drive just in case! "Phew, the road had been cleared". We again got the cameras and phones out to capture some pictures of the old building with its Art Deco railings and papier-mâché dome. We were greeted by one of the attendants and given a brief history of t h e

building, but Thomas was here to see the "star" of the show, the old Cooke telescope and the dome.

Unfortunately, the telescope is out of operation at present due to some cogs needing replaced and the "soft focus" of the lenses needing attention. The facility has a large dobsonian telescope on site for evening events and it is more than capable of giving amazing views of the heavens. Well worth the visit!



THURSDAY 24TH FEBRUARY:

Thursday was a day at home, we did some astro repairs to telescopes for the planned evening ahead, and the forecast for stargazing was good. After some home cooking by yours truly, we took the telescope out into Alan and Doreen's back yard, (they kindly agreed it was ok to use it), we toured the night sky, observing various star clusters, nebulae and actually stood for at least an hour chatting and looking above, a great night, and Thomas's knowledge of the night sky was just amazing.



J D Millar

FROM OUR ARCHIVE (1959)

5TH JUNE 1959:- 1400-YEAR OLD BURIAL GROUND TO BE CLOSED.

Sheriff A.M.Prain at Perth yesterday ordered the closure of Abernethy burial ground which is believed to have been in use for 14 centuries. He heard during evidence of the frequent unearthing of old bones and skulls.

The Sheriff had been asked by Abernethy Town Council to authorise the closure of the burial ground.

A report was submitted to the court and it pointed out that the first church at Abernethy had probably been built about 577 A.D. although the burial records were far from complete. The earliest burial recorded was that of the fourth Earl of Angus in 1463 and it appeared that burials had taken place on the same site throughout the last 1400 years.

Forty three year old John Provan, former gravedigger at the cemetery, said in court that the churchyard was so congested that he frequently unearthed old coffins, bones or skulls while digging new graves. Many of the graves were very shallow.

The location of many existing graves was not accurately known because through the ages many headstones had been removed, as when there was a shortage of building material headstones had been used instead.

The closure order on the old burial ground would be subject to certain exceptions for relatives of persons already interred there.

Jimmy Swan

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear Reader,

When many of us think of the Canary islands, we tend to imagine sunny skies, vast expanses of sand and a jolly good relaxing holiday. My wife and I are recently back from there, except our experience wasn't quite as idyllic as the one portrayed in the travel agent's window. Wet, wind-blown and battered by horizontal rain would be a more accurate description of our vacation and the island in question was one that few (if any) have ever heard of, let alone visited. In many ways, it turned out to be like the 'island that time forgot' - a volcanic outcrop in the stormy Atlantic surrounded by very steep cliffs. Our walking holiday on El Hierro was 'challenging' to say the least. As soon as our little propeller plane touched the airstrip at the edge of the Atlantic ocean and we disembarked and started to make our way up the formidable escarpment to the top of the island, we knew that we were in for some strenuous physical experiences. One good thing was the fact that, although we undertook the walks as a couple alone, there

were constant and reliable indicators to show us that we were always on the right path. Little coloured rectangles painted on walls, wooden posts or big stones were helpful signs which told us we were 'still on track'. And clever little painted crosses, left us in no doubt that these were roads that we shouldn't be tempted to go down. When we were faced with a choice as to which direction to take, these island signs kept us right. They reassured us.

After Easter and the resurrection, Jesus famously appears to two of his disciples. Like many of us today, they too were confused and in despair over a world seemingly gone mad, not only seeing the principles of the world around them being shaken but living in fear for their own lives. They were coping with the aftermath and horrors of the crucifixion. As we wrestle with a post-Covid world, global warming, and the unending atrocities in the Ukraine which threaten to spill over into Europe and bring our planet to unthinkable war it would seem that we are all on that road to Emmaus.

But, something happens on this road. Christ joins the disciples, walks beside them, and opens their hearts with his conversation in a way that is so overwhelming, that the world no longer seems to be the crazy place that it was, and his words which encourage us to love our neighbour, pray for our enemies, forgive all, welcome the stranger and refugee, care for the sick and provide for the least among us – are as relevant today as they were two thousand years ago.

Frederick Buechner once wrote: 'I believe that whether we recognise him or not, or believe in him or not, or even know his name, again and again Christ comes and walks a little way with us along whatever road we're following....he offers us new hope and a new vision of light that not even the dark world can overcome.'

No matter the state of our world, our confusion, or the conditions in which we find ourselves, he leaves clear signposts. Reassuring, is it not, that in this wonderful, challenging, bewildering journey that is Life, that he walks alongside us, quietly showing us the right path?

With all good wishes.

Rev Stan (April 2022)

KIRK NEWS

At last, as I write this in late March, the remaining restrictions on our Church worship have been lifted and there are definite signs that, slowly and steadily, people are returning to the kirk. We currently hold services alternately between the two villages of Glenfarg and Abernethy on a Sunday morning at 10.00am. In Kirk of St.Bride, Abernethy, the Sunday Club for children takes place during church services.

Highlights for us recently, have included the presentation of long service certificates (30 years or over) to elders which were awarded as follows:

Arngask – on 13th March 2022

Ian Fairweather	47 years as a ruling elder
Alex Johnston	40
Rosemary Johnston	34
Helen Clark	30
Margaret Scott	30

Kirk of St.Bride, Abernethy – on 20th March 2022

Bill Christie	46 years as a ruling elder
Ian Miller	42
George Gardener	34 (also serving as beadle)
Kathleen Baird	33
Elizabeth Taylor	31

At Easter, croissants were served before the start of our worship in Abernethy and for the first time in two years, once again we have been able to hold our Stated Annual Congregational meeting.

A special meditation service with candles and prayers for the people of Ukraine was held in both churches as was a collection for the Ukraine

Appeal which raised £509. Additionally, the church in Abernethy was used as a drop-off point for physical items donated to the appeal, which were then transferred to the depot in Errol.

A great deal of interest has been shown in the triptych wall hanging which centres around the life of Saint Bride. This work, depicting the ecstasy of Saint Bride as she is filled with the Holy Spirit by the River Tay and flanked by symbols of her life and that of the locality, was designed and created by many skilled parishioners in Abernethy and Aberargie, and is almost complete. The church intends to hold a 'hanging' evening when it will be unveiled in situ. This will involve prosecco and canapes and much celebration – a symbol of better times ahead. Details to follow.

Current worship information can be accessed through the Church ADA (Abernethy & Dron & Arngask) Facebook page. You are especially invited to attend our events and services and you would be made most welcome.

Joyce White (Session Clerk) April 2022

ABERNETHY CASTLELAW CHALLENGE (AKA THE HILL RACE)

19th June 2022. Start and Finish in the Square

Registration from 12.30. Race Starts 13.00

£3 per adult. £1 for U16s

The Castlelaw Challenge is a wonderful community event and is open to almost everyone (6+). The route takes you from the Square, down Main Street to Nurse Peatie's Garden. From there you follow the Rough Glen to the road. A quick section up the side of the road and then onto the Castlelaw Path which is followed all the way to the top. Then it is just a matter of heading down back to the square to complete the 3.5km challenge. Some folk will manage it in under 16 minutes while others will be closer to 50. All will receive a big cheer as they come over the line! The route is very well marked and has at least 10 marshals dotted over the route. All under 16s have to have a parent sign them into the race and we ask that younger kids are accompanied by a responsible adult on the route. We are at the mercy of the weather on the day, so dress appropriately and bring something warm if it is looking cool or damp for the finish as we hold a prize giving after the event.

Hopefully we will see you on the day to either take on the challenge, marshal the hill or cheer on everyone. Finally, a big thank you to Branstons for sponsoring the race numbers.

Thanks.

Keir

ABERNETHY HILL RACE CASTLELAW

SUNDAY 19TH JUNE '22
REGISTRATION FROM 12:30PM
RACE STARTS AT 1PM*

Meet in the Village Square
All welcome!

Race Entry
Adults £3
Kids £1

For further info
Sue 07534 786072
Chris 07584 078524
Keir 07801 428940

* Subject to course inspection.
Please keep an eye on Abernethy Facebook for announcements

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NEW ABERNETHIANS.

Little did I think, as a teenager playing in a tennis tournament at Kilgraston School, that I would ever have the good fortune to live in this area. Young as I was, I remember being impressed by the beautiful countryside and the peace and quiet. many years later we sent our daughters to be boarders at the school.

I consider myself a Glaswegian as most of my life has been spent in and around Glasgow.

In 1984 things changed as my husband got a job as sales manager at Frews Garage in Perth. We bought a house in Woodside near Burrelton, the girls became day pupils, and we all settled into a new life in the country. In the next few years I worked in Frasers, McEwens and finally became manager of Barnardos Charity Shop in George Street. I was there for 15 years until I retired in 2004.

I first heard of Abernethy from my daughter's boyfriend. He had been brought up in Abernethy and his mother still lived there. I often had to drive him home when he missed the last bus and would drop him at his house on Perth Road. On one occasion I mentioned what a nice place Abernethy was, and he pointed out that I really hadn't seen the best bit. He directed me up through the village with the tower, church and monument. I was smitten!

There was a cottage on Main Street for sale, a bit run down, but now that I was on my own with my dogs and cats it would be ideal.

I moved in in December 1995. Freezing, and only a coal fire for heat , but I was never happier. My neighbours were very kind and helpful, and one even gave me a gas canister fire, which was a blessing when coming into a cold house after work.

Soon I was going to functions in the village and getting to know people. There were coffee mornings, quizzes and sales, and in June there was the Gala. A whole week of community activities culminating with the crowning of the Gala Queen in Powrie Park. What a show that was! Bagpipes and Scottish dancing, dog show, pony rides and majorettes, all the fun of the fair, and in the evening



a dance in Williamson Hall. This was village life at its best. I loved it and knew I had done the right thing coming to Abernethy.

The first few years were spent slowly improving the house and garden, and there was the hair-raising day when I got a phone call at work from the police to say that part of the roof had blown off the cottage and I had better get home. On turning into Main Street I saw that the road was closed and emergency vehicles were at the house. The chimney had been made unstable by roof cladding having being blown against it. Thankfully no one was injured. There followed many weeks when I "camped out" in the house and my long suffering neighbours had to put up with all the noise and vans and workmen while the roof was repaired.

I lived in the cottage, with various dogs and cats, and the children coming and going as their jobs allowed, for eight years. It was a very happy time and although I was often alone, I was never lonely, kept busy with the garden and some very amateur DIY.

In 2003 I remarried and " moved up in the world" to a new build house in Brandywell Road. It was another December move, but at this time at least, to a lovely warm house, although we were surrounded by a sea of mud! We were the second of the new houses to be occupied and had a

long time to wait until there were proper pavements and paths. It was all very exciting fitting out a new house and designing the garden. We couldn't have wished for nicer neighbours and it was a delight to see youngsters growing up around us. A new area of Abernethy and a new life for me.

I lived there for nine years and then had another move to live nearer my daughter when my marriage split up. Leaving Abernethy was a real wrench but I kept in touch with friends and got all the village news from them. Eventually I was able to consider moving back and was extremely lucky to find the ideal house within days of starting the search. By August 2015 I was back in the village cosy and comfortable, and secure, and very very happy.

I know I am a "New Abernethian" but I feel as if the village is in my blood and I hope I will never have to leave here; for all its quirks and idiosyncrasies it's the only place I want to be.

Maureen

The following article from a previous issue is being re-printed because we feel that with the loosening of COVID restraints it is probably appropriate to remind our readers of this service. Also recent incidents with walkers have highlighted the advantage of the system.

WHERE ARE YOU?

Do you know exactly where you are ?

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

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

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

The app works offline, and on many devices including watches,

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

Hope this is helpful,

Maureen Nisbet.

It is with regret that we hear of the deaths of;

Ron Black

Our thoughts and sympathies are with his family.

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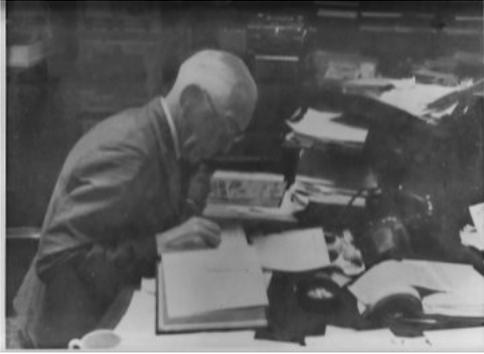
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CLOW'S FACTORY

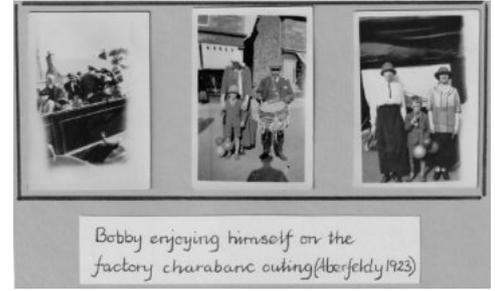
Following on from the article produced in the last edition, which had been written by Bobby Clow about his family's business in Abernethy, we have now received photographs from the Museum which are pertinent to that article. Remember the Museum has a wealth of local information and history and will always welcome your interest and your support.



John Clow working on costings for the "Abermaid" products in his office at Tower Works.



Mr and Mrs Clow along with the Polish soldiers enjoying an evening of entertainment (1940).



Bobby enjoying himself on the factory charabanc outing (Aberfeldy 1923)



Bobby Clow having a word with Andy Haggart who dealt with dispatching the products.



The machinists hard at work in the 1920s/1930s.



Tower 2 Works decorated for the coronation of King George VI.



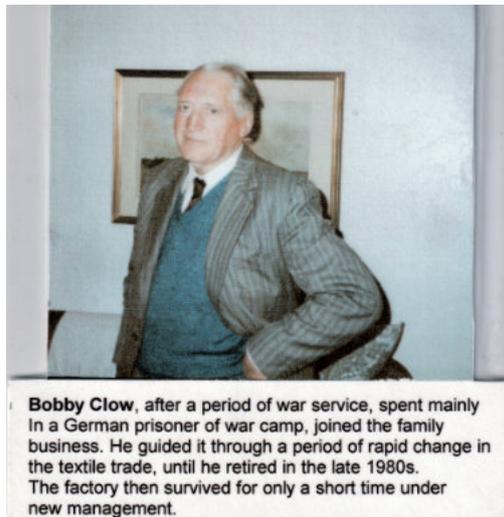
The factory in 1931. Notice the disappearance of the belfry.



May Dack demonstrating her skills as an embroiderer to the Polish soldiers.



Robert Clow (1839 - 1909) ran a general provision business in Main Street, Abernethy in 1869. This included the supply of yarn to local handloom weavers, and sale of the finished cloth to city cloth merchants.



Bobby Clow, after a period of war service, spent mainly in a German prisoner of war camp, joined the family business. He guided it through a period of rapid change in the textile trade, until he retired in the late 1980s. The factory then survived for only a short time under new management.



John Clow (1883 - 1958) after apprenticeship in Perth and Glasgow returned to the family business and set up the factory in 1909. He was Provost of Abernethy during the Second World War, when the factory was often used as a venue for social and fund-raising events, as in this picture. John Clow is on the left.

YOU ARE IMPORTANT!!



We have now published over 50 editions of the Village Crier and I think that it can be said that it has been a successful venture so far.

All of the information which has appeared in these editions is available on our website, www.villagecrier.co.uk, where any of the issues of The Crier can be downloaded in its entirety. In addition the website has brought together the contents of each issue under topic headings. For instance, all the recollections can be found in one section, all the information about the children's organisations can be found in one section. In this way we hope to build a resource which will be of value in years to come for those people looking back on Abernethy to see what it was like in the early 21st century. The museum currently has to search all sorts of sources to find the information it needs to mount its annual display; how handy in future to be able to find a central source giving useful leads to start those searches.

This article is not about blowing our own trumpet, however, but is about getting your support for the Village Crier by submitting regular updates about what has been happening in the various social, sporting, educational, recreational groups in the village. It has been the case that the content of the Crier has decreased over the last couple of years as fewer organisations have been meeting regularly due to COVID restrictions and those that have been meeting and giving regular updates have been giving smaller updates because of the lower activities of their groups.. We would like more input from the groups; the Scouts' input is an example of what we would like, so that an accurate record of the village's activities can be recorded.

That aspect is only part of our requirements however as we believe that our villagers are an imaginative, talented and interesting group with many experiences to share. If you know anyone who has an interesting story to tell us or who is a dab hand at writing poetry then try to get them to write it down for us, and if you are a member of any group in the district then please try to ensure that someone is providing us with updates. We would love to see the children involved in the Village Crier and perhaps for the September edition they might like to write and tell us what they did in their holidays.

The committee are proud of the magazine which they produce and deliver to your homes through their team of volunteers but they would like the magazine to go from strength to strength so please consider writing something for us. Don't be afraid to express yourself and don't worry about not being able to express yourself in a suitable fashion as we do edit all contributions before publication and will contact you if necessary with revisions.

Thank you

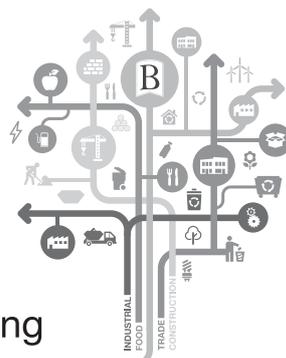


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REPORT FROM (COUNCILLOR) DAVID ILLINGWORTH

The Election

On behalf of Councillor Frank Smith and myself, I'd like to say that we are both humbled and honoured to have been re-elected as councillors in the Almond and Earn Ward in the recent local government elections. Whichever way you voted, we are here to work for you. We don't have magic wands and we won't make promises we can't keep but we will do our best. We'd also like to congratulate Councillor Michelle Frampton on her election. We look forward to working with Michelle for the benefit of everyone in the ward and we aim to do as much as we can to help her settle into the job of being a councillor.

Good Job Jill!

Well done to Jill Young for organising a fantastic rock night in the Williamson Hall on the 22nd of April. Brocks Den played a blinder of a set with well-known hits designed to get us all up on the dance floor. We got into the groove, we rocked around the clock and bopped until we dropped. The band even played the Thin Lizzy song with the lyric voted one of the worst in rock history - "There's gonna be a jailbreak somewhere in this town". Mmmm, wonder where? The whole night had the glorious atmosphere of an end of term disco, except without the smoochy last dance. (Ed's Note - Awwwww!). It was fabulous to be back in the hall, at last, partying our hearts out. So, well done Jill for organising the event and thank you to Brocks Den for playing for free. In addition to being a great evening, the amazing sum of £660 was raised for DEC Ukraine relief. Good job everybody.

THE LADY IN THE VAN.

Did you know that once a fortnight Culture Perth and Kinross send one of their mobile libraries out to Abernethy to lend out books and other library things. It's a great pleasure to visit the van, have a wee natter and it's an opportunity to help children to engage with reading. The van parks somewhere on Main Street every other Tuesday between 2.30pm and 3.30pm before it trundles off to Forgandenny and Dunning. By the way, the mobile library can be staffed by male or female staff, it's just that "The Lady In The Van" sounds more dramatic.



KATHLEEN.



Councillor Kathleen Baird was first elected to Perth and Kinross Council in 1999 and has served in various wards over 23 years and sat on many committees and boards. That sentence is factually correct but it does nothing to describe Kathleen's service to our community, not only as our councillor, but in the Church, the Guides - where she was County Commissioner - the Williamson Hall Committee and many other community activities in Abernethy. I first met her in 1999 when she came to help the playgroup that

we, as parents, were involved with at the time. Her latest project is to help with sending goods for the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

But, it is as a hard-working, highly effective councillor that she will be best remembered. As a local councillor, she was extremely good at dealing sensitively with people's concerns and diligently seeing them through to a satisfactory completion. Many people who did not share her political views voted for her because she had such a strong reputation for getting things done. We called these voters Kathleen Baird Conservatives or KBCs for short.

The part of being a councillor that most people don't see is the important role that councillors play in the running of the council. Perth and Kinross Council has an annual turnover of £400,000,000, employs 5,500 people and plays a massive part in all of our lives. Kathleen was at the heart of the council and was respected by everyone for her down-to-earth common sense approach and her aptitude for hard work. She is skilled at chairing meetings and this skill was fully used when, as Deputy Provost, she chaired large parts of difficult, contentious, full Council meetings and she took great care to make sure that everyone had their say.

Kathleen leaves huge shoes to fill and a large legacy of successful projects in her portfolio. She is looking forward to spending more time in her retirement from public life with her husband, David, and her children and grand-children and getting some much deserved me-time. Everyone wishes her well in her retirement.



David Illingworth

RUBY'S RECIPES

Easy Muffins - makes 12 (or 16 cup cakes)

Dry Ingredients in a bowl

336gm/12 oz Self raising Flour
112gm/4oz caster sugar
1 tsp baking soda
pinch of salt

Wet Ingredients

1 egg beaten
1 tsp vanilla essence
4 tbsps any veg oil and milk to make up to 25ml/8fl ozs

Method:

Whisk wet ingredients together and add to dry ingredients
AFTER you've decided on your choice of muffins.
Choose from 112gm/4ozs of

- 1: Blueberries plus zest of lemon - with or without white chip cookies
- 2: Raspberries
- 3: Choc chips - various kinds
- 4: Raisins or orange zest
- 5: Grated carrot and 1 tsp cinnamon
- 6: Replace 1 oz flour with 1 oz cocoa, add choc chips dark or white

Stir mixture gently and place one tablespoon in each muffin case.

Bake at 180°C/170°C fan for 18 to 20 minutes
Cool on wire rack

Best eaten on day baked - can be frozen
Great for lunch boxes.

Enjoy

Ruby



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Museum of Abernethy

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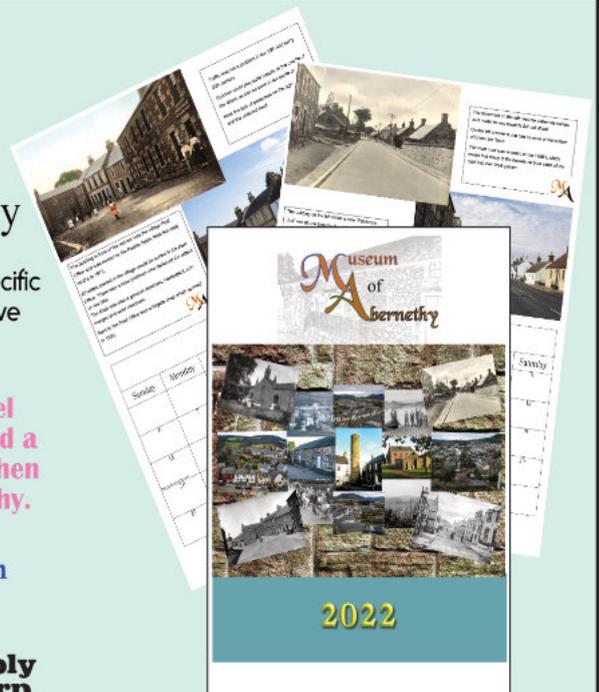
The Museum has a tea towel featuring Abernethy icons and a calendar for 2022 showing then and now pictures of Abernethy.

Both items are on sale from Saturday 5th June.

There is a limited supply of calendars so be sharp, be bright, be on time.



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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

ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

As I write this article at the end of April, the spring bulbs are still giving us a welcome splash of colour in the garden and throughout the village. The cheery daffodils were followed by the tulips and pansies and have put on a lovely show for us all.

It is another busy time for us in the polytunnel looking after our plug plants for the summer planting (300+) and, of course, work is progressing well in the new Heritage Garden across from Nurse Peattie's. Once again, I'd like to remind everyone that all the funding for this exciting new project has come from external parties - Scottish Landfill Community Fund, lottery money, grants from various organisations and bodies, and donations from charities and individuals. Our contractor, Stewart Thomson Landscapes is making an excellent job of all the hard landscaping (walling, paths etc) in Phase 1 before Abernethy In Bloom take over the planting. There is an opportunity here for the locals to sponsor a plant and quite a few of the villagers have said they'd like to do this which is most appreciated. Our plant expert Caroline (Boyle) will be taking the lead on the planting and so please see the separate article below for further details.

Once all of the funding is in place for Phase 2, the construction of the replica Abernethy Tower will start, together with the interpretation boards, audio post and lighting. The Museum is helping us with the historical information for the boards and we hope to enlist the primary school to record the text for the audio post. We are all looking forward to seeing the finished garden which will celebrate the Heritage of our village and also complement nearby Nurse Peattie's.

We held our AGM in March and, as there were no other nominations, the same office bearers were re-elected. Myself as Chair, Ian Lamond as Secretary and Margaret Donaldson as Treasurer.

We have increased our activities in the village over the past few years and we would love to have some more volunteers to help us. There is no commitment to coming along every Monday, and even if you can only manage now and then, every little helps. Catch us on a Monday morning at Nurse Peattie's or throughout the village on any other day!

Now that restrictions are behind us, we will restart the "Bloomin' Marvellous Container" competition this year, see details below. Judging will be end of July and we'll be hoping for a bumper entry after a couple of years absence.

We've decided not to run the "Best Street" competition, largely due to the same street winning every time (well done Ballo Braes!).

On behalf of Abernethy In Bloom, we look forward to your continuing support throughout the year - but for now, Happy Gardening!

Sonia Simmers
Chair Abernethy In Bloom (s.simmers@hotmail.com)

HERITAGE GARDEN PLANTING – DONATIONS WELCOME

Once the works in the new garden are finished we shall begin planting in keeping with Abernethy's rich history from medieval to present times, using plants from monastic and agricultural sources in particular. This will feature a range of fruit trees, specimen native trees and hedging and appropriate herbs and flowers. If you would like to donate a plant from the list below (also to be seen at Abernethy In Bloom Emporium in Back Dykes) or make a financial donation to help purchase trees then that would really help make the garden look its best. Individual plants and herbs are being grown in the village and donations received so far include raspberries, roses and lilies.

We are looking for: two plants of Yellow Broom (*Cytisus praecox*), two plants of Guelder Rose (*Viburnum Opulus*), as many Snowdrops as

possible, four plants of red "apothecaries" peony - *Paeonia officinalis*, ten plants of Hollyhock, five plants of the Blue Flag Iris - hardy bearded intermediate blue, ten old-fashioned scented pinks, as many lily of the valley as possible and herbs - ten of each of parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme.

For further information or to make a donation please contact either Jimmy Swan at the Emporium or Caroline Boyle (tel: 851190).

With many thanks.

2022 BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS CONTAINER COMPETITION, SATURDAY 30 JULY

It's back! After a gap of two long years you are invited to enter this year's competition to find the most beautifully planted container in Abernethy. As usual you can fill whatever container you have - pot, trough, hanging basket, wheelbarrow - whatever. Let your imaginations flow. Judges will be looking for healthy blooms, explosive colour and texture and general loveliness.

There are two categories open to everyone of every age:

1. Bloomin' Marvellous - freestyle
2. Container and planting on the theme of Heritage - to celebrate both the new Heritage garden and the history of Abernethy parish and/or to remember the Jubilee.

Entry Forms will be available in the Village Shop and from Margaret Donaldson (tel: 850881) who will also be reminding you personally nearer the time. Posters will feature around the village and on Facebook just to give some added encouragement.

Happy Planting!

KATHLEEN BAIRD

A career as a councillor

We asked Kathleen to give us her feelings on leaving the council after 33 years. Here is her story.

I was first elected in May 1999 as a member of Perth & Kinross Council representing the Abernethy & Glenfarg ward when it was one member per ward. This was a life changing moment, I was delighted, surprised, excited and honoured that the community had elected me to represent them and that they did it again in 2003.

One of my earliest memories was the grant of planning permission for the new primary school resulting in the exciting day for the community of Abernethy when the turf cutting ceremony took place.

Soon the day came when the pupils would walk from the old to the new.... I remember vividly walking with all the pupils along Back Dykes from the old school to the new school following the piper. In 2002 I had the honour of officially opening the New School; a special day not only for me but the whole village.

I cannot believe that that was 20 years ago; an early highlight but one I cherish. The village was flourishing at that time - two new housing estates built simultaneously - houses were selling as quickly as they were built. New life into the village!

I found when the voting system was first past the post, one councillor per ward, and a smaller ward where it was much easier to get to know people and what the issues were, I never needed to hold a surgery. My surgery was everywhere, whether it be walking round the village, at

Church or invariably washing dishes at any event in the Williamson hall or out for a meal.

I did need to have a good memory however.

Multi-member wards came along with the Single Transferable Vote in 2007 and I was elected to the Kinrosshire Ward as Abernethy/Glenfarg was split. Abernethy to Almond and Earn, Glenfarg to Kinrosshire. I found it tough representing Kinrosshire and was not surprised when I was not re-elected in 2012.

A Community Council Election took place during "my retirement" and I served for a time as a member of Abernethy and District Community Council. In 2016 following the death of a councillor in Almond and Earn a by-election was held. I was delighted to be selected as a candidate and really pleased to win the vacant seat!

The next chapter had begun and I was back, ready to serve the people of Almond and Earn.

I have always tried to do my best for all parts of the ward. I have met so many lovely people and shared their joys and sadness. I think I have served on most committees during my time as Councillor.

Some people ask why would you want to be a Councillor, and on a bad day I asked myself the same.

From 2017 I was a member of the administration group on the Council and was convener of the Licensing Board, a member of the Life Long Learning Committee, Vice-Convenor of Environment and Infrastructure and for the last two years Deputy Provost, but most important of all dealing with constituents' concerns and the issues that were important to them.

I enjoy helping people and have tried, whilst working with others, to improve where we live work and play. The budget for road maintenance was increased and we locally have seen the benefits (I know road works can be an inconvenience), improved road safety measures and improved foot/cycle paths. Council funding has helped community groups improve

their halls here in Abernethy; the Williamson Hall and the Pavilion have benefited from the funding through Almond & Earn Action Partnership.

I have attended numerous Parent Council Meetings, Community Council meetings etc. but sadly some things have not changed over the years. Parking in the village, dog poo, litter and fly-tipping. All caused by members of the public, but the public expect the council to find solutions and use taxpayers money to fund it. It would be great if you can all prove me wrong and Abernethy becomes litter and dog poo free.

Most of my work as a councillor was not what makes news headlines but about helping individuals. This can be frustrating and disappointing as I didn't always get the result that they or I wanted but it is very satisfying when an individual says "Thank you for all your help".

There is no doubt that the workload and responsibility of a councillor have greatly increased over the years. I have enjoyed the challenges and the privilege of serving as an elected member of Perth & Kinross Council.

Thank you to everyone who VOTED for me and to my family who quietly in the background supported me. No matter where I was I never forgot I was a councillor and was happy to listen to anyone who wanted to talk about issues.

Once a councillor is elected their duty is to all of the electorate irrespective if they voted for you or for whatever reason made the decision not to vote.

Best wishes to my successor.

I am looking forward to the next chapter, maybe just being me.

Kathleen Baird



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WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

1.9.1926

MORE WINDOW BREAKING

Another merchant had a shop window in the town square broken this week. Two smashes within two weeks are too many. The disappointing fact of the matter is the indifference of the culprits who seem to have no respect for the property of others. The Town Council will presume to take up this matter and provide protection for the rate payers.

6.2.1926

SAFETY FIRST

An opinion is prevalent the burgh thoroughfares are not all free from dangers of motor traffic. As a case in point the School Wynd is a tunnel of a street in which there is no defined footpath, motor wagons run to and from the station. It would appear that some of these vehicles travel at too high speed are apparently hornless. They certainly make plenty of racket and with the din and rattle of loose joints and spasmodic engine fire an accident may happen any day now. The playground from the school empties itself directly onto the wynd. Kids rushing out of the playground have no view of approaching traffic and find themselves on the roadway for there is no pavement or sidepath. Speeds must be slowed or a better route followed. The second alternative might add 30 seconds on to a journey, but safety first.

I took this from a paper in the Library years ago. It is word for word as written in the paper.

Jimmy Swan

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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:-

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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

FROM OUR ARCHIVES (1980)

Courtesy of the Museum of Abernethy

Abernethy Newsletter July 1980

Community Council News

Public Toilets :- The District Council have proposed placing toilets in the area of ground beyond the Inn. There is some talk of a joint venture between the District Council and the owner of the Inn, but we feel this is not in the best interests of the village and it seems Mr McRobbie is of the same opinion. We have asked for a further meeting with the planners.

Abernethy Newsletter September 1980

Vandalism :- The tennis hut is a sorry sight. The worst vandalism took place during the summer and now only two walls remain partially standing leaving the roof dangerously unsafe. Graffiti cover the walls, beer cans litter the floor – half of which has been destroyed.

Spokesman for the tennis club, Hilda Clow, is disgusted with the vandals who have albeit wrecked the hut. Knowing who the culprits are she declined to name them, but felt very strongly that they should be made to pay the £2000 required to make it functional again.

The hut was furnished in 1970 with toilets, a sink and cooker with room also for changing. At the time the court was made secure and fully tarred. The court could become available for year-round use but the nets cannot be left out until full security can be provided by the new netting in the process of being erected. This task is now half complete.

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



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Contact: Mrs Francis McMillan
Tel: 0777 414 33 60

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
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: gordonmiller146@aol.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 Jackson, District Commissioner

Email: hjackson10@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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CLOOTIE MCTOOT V. GORDON RAMSAY

What has leading a group abseiling down through terrifying cracks in a cave got to do with Clootie Dumplings?

This was just one of the hair-raising challenges facing Michelle Maddox of Abernethy business, Clootie McToot, when she appeared in 'Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars' on BBC1.



Twelve contestants went through a series of hair-raising challenges to prove to Gordon Ramsay that they would be worth an investment of £150,000 in their business. They jumped out of helicopters and off cliffs. Michelle led the caving challenge, abseiling down vertical shafts, squeezing through 22cm cracks, crawling through tunnels and then choosing the best



Cheddar cheese.

Her starring moment was when she won the challenge where a salmon was filleted.



There were some very big talking characters with ambitious ideas but Michelle was always working away supporting her team and outlasted the loudmouths. She did not make the final but is now back home having had amazing experiences and gained publicity for her international business.



You can try the dumplings, along with other delicious treats at Clootie McToot in the square. The café is open Wednesday till Sunday, 11am-4.30pm and the upstairs Bistro will be opening soon.

HARMONIOUS LIVES

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Jaine Hollis-Watson and I am the owner of Harmonious Lives Dog Training & Behaviour. I stay with my husband and Skye the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier who is pictured with me.



I'm a dog trainer, running puppy and adolescent dog training classes in the lovely Pavilion in Abernethy.

I have always been an animal lover and, from the age of 4, I was pestering my mum to go and see the horses when I visited my grandma. I had many pets as a child but it wasn't until I was an adult that I was in the position to give dogs the lives they needed.

I started getting interested in training after finding that my miniature schnauzer Tinkerbelle (pictured here) was very stressed and reactive to other dogs. Having initially gone to a trainer who suggested I use a spray collar to scare her when she barked, I began to think there must be a kinder and better solution and so started my journey into researching more ethical ways. Although I'm sure I made mistakes along the way, it was heart-warming to see how much Tinkerbelle's barking improved and how she became less anxious.



Fast forward some years and I was asked to re-home another mini schnauzer. Her owner loved her to bits but had had to move to a busy area from the country and just could not cope with the stress that her reactivity caused her. She had been to numerous trainers, who believed in punishment but she was at her wits' end and it was with a very heavy heart she decided she wanted to do what she thought was best for the dog and let her live in a calm rural environment. Looking back now, I wish I was then in the position I am now and could have worked with her and her beloved dog to allow them to be happy together.

I believe we should train our dogs with respect and take time to consider what they would choose, not just the behaviour aspect that the guardian wants. The goal for me is about the relationship and quality of life the dog and its guardian have. Everything I do is not to just ensure that a dog is 'obedient' for the sake of the humans in its life but that both dog and family can live together happily and harmoniously. Once you look at your dog in this way, you'll be amazed how much happier both you and your dog will be. It therefore goes without saying that I believe in force-free training. This means that we never intentionally cause the dog pain, fear or stress. I do not advocate the use of aversive practices such as prong collars, spray collars, pet corrector sprays, water pistols, choke chains, slip collars or pull-free harnesses.

I am a qualified and experienced school teacher as well as a dog trainer, and so I am used to working with/training people as well as dogs. My dog training qualifications are on my website. The world of dog training is changing all the time as science discovers more about the ways dogs think and behave and I believe it's imperative to keep abreast with this. Therefore, I am continually furthering my knowledge – a good trainer will never stop learning. I am currently studying for an Advanced Diploma in Canine Behaviour Management.

As well as the puppy and adolescent classes I run at the pavilion, I also run workshops and enjoy working on a one to one basis with dogs and their guardians to help with problems such as pulling on the lead, jumping up, reacting to other dogs and not coming back when called. Training should be fun for the dog and its guardian so I incorporate games into how we work. If it's enjoyable, the dog guardians are more motivated to do it after a busy day at work or with the kids.

I looked around for places to hold my class locally and I just loved the pavilion. It's a perfect size for my small classes and great that we can also use the park when we need to. This means we can either work so the dogs have few distractions or we can get them used to other dogs and people too when appropriate. It will also be a great place to practise recall and walking nicely on a lead. Gordon was so helpful and welcoming and it's great to become part of the community.

Jaine Hollis-Watson



FOR A HEARTBEAT SPRING INTO SUMMER, BUT WATCH YOUR STEP

A car turned into Nethermill Cottages cul-de-sac and stopped. Two women got out and peered into the telephone box. Thinking they might be thinking it had a phone in it I said "Hello and can I help?". "No thank you, we are fine", they said, "We are doctors from Spain and we noticed the red box. We are fascinated and very impressed that you have a defibrillator like this" They had never seen this before and thought it was a great idea. They took pictures of each other against the box to take back home from their "wonderful trip around Scotland". It tickled me to think there will be some holiday snaps of the Aberargie phone box whizzing around Spain when they get home!



Cath Latham has been wielding her spade and created a little wild flower meadow around the Nethermill Cottages name sign next to the benches. Where the soil is already poor she scraped off the turf and raked in sand and "Seeds of Hope" wild flower mix. This will add to the floral cheerfulness begun by Jane and Willie around The Well, continued in the two plant troughs by the benches and in the daffodils around the green. We enjoy the colour but of course the real benefit is to our insects and through the summer.

If you would like to create your own Wild Flower Meadow do ask Cath for some seeds (Aberargie FB page) and if you think it would be nice to have more/another wild flower meadow somewhere about do let us know. With the lack of flowering crops around our insects, small mammals, and swallows and house martins etc etc need the flowers we plant more and more!

I really did not want to write this next bit – but needs must;

Also making Aberargie a nice place to live is Helena and her heroic poop stations. Some people maybe think this is a council provision - let me remind you – it is not. Out of the goodness of her heart, and her own purse, Helena places dog poop bags at strategic places in case a dog walker is caught out without a bag when their dog poops, and she put the poop bin beyond where the council men would uplift from making it even easier to poop, pick up and bin it.

Helena, who doesn't even have a dog, then hauls the stinky sack of poops from the poop station to the council collection point every two weeks. Hooray for Helena!!

This enables us all to enjoy the view and the sky when walking, not to have to watch our feet all the time. Great.

I call it our Doggie Dootie; if you buy a dog, you buy dog food and you buy bags to put its poop in.

Why is there still an issue?

I know that sometimes we head out and have forgotten to pop a poop bag in our pocket when we put the pooch on a lead – (someone should put that to music) - that's what Helena's stations are for – for when we forget. But it seems that some people are still walking away from their dog's poop and some people are taking advantage of Helena's generosity and are not bothering to take their own bags at all and are even lifting whole rolls of the bags, not just the one they need!! So she is putting more and more out.

So ... now that you know that this admirable provision is not out of your Council Tax but from Helena's generous pocket – I am suggesting that we all a) pay attention to our Doggie Dootie and b) occasionally put a roll in one of the dispensers or, c) even put a pack of rolls in the telephone box as a contribution to the system.

The sheep that were mentioned in the winter newsletter page munched all the swedes and turnips and were taken away. Now the crop sown after

them is greening and growing up. The landowner has removed another area of bio-diversity by filling in the ditches toward the railway line. Lets hope the frogs and newts dug their way out. While one understands the urge to make profit out of every metre of ground it is a shame to witness "nature" being edged further and further out locally. Last year we watched with sadness the loss of a much loved walk on the west side of the Farg. A two acre sand quarry that was dug and abandoned in the 1980's developed an incredible diversity over just a few decades. Dropping down beside the bridge over the Farg we enjoyed walking through this little patch of evolving nature. Grasses and fescues blew in, quickly settling in the sandy soil. Through the seasons the flowers were delightful from tiny vetches, marigolds and ox-eyed daisies to the flame coloured Fox And Cubs (*Pulsella aurantiaca*), rosebay willow herb and butterbur gave shelter along the riverbank. Latterly in the summer a fine patch of acid yellow evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) gave the bees a nice supper. Shrubs of willow and alder created secret spaces, saplings of birch and pine were providing all sorts of habitat. Birds - willow warblers, robins, wren, tits of every hue, sparrow, dunnock and skylarks fluttered about. Bats flitted across in the evening. The ground water pond at the lowest level encouraged a population of newts, frogs and toads. Rabbits dug burrows in the slopes encouraging passing fox and badger to nose around. It was here I saw the beaver dive into the river. We enjoyed this quiet area where dogs could have a scurry about safe away from the busy track. But through 2021 the topsoil from the whisky bond shed site was trucked across to fill in the pit. Now all that diversity is gone beneath a desert of grain. We try not to think if the skylarks will survive the spraying of weed and insect killers.

Finally, finding we had some money left over from the project, a table is now completing the phone box square – so we look forward to more outdoors togetherness.



If you have an idea for a community project there are lots of funding bodies wanting to give money to community projects. Put any ideas on the Facebook page or a note on the notice board, or written on

a note through Helena's door (No 4 N'mill Cottages) or mine at No1 N'mill Cottages.

And if you want me to write about a local issue for you in a future newsletter – let me know.

Theresa Hughes

MASON'S APPEAL FOR PROSTATE CANCER

Two brethren from Lodge Stormont and number 3 took it upon themselves to visit every lodge in the province of Perthshire East by pushbike to raise funds for the Grand Master's aim to raise £1million for Prostrate Scotland. The picture shows them arriving at 1429 and being handed a donation cheque for their endeavours. (£112.50 = 225 miles at 50p per mile). The Lodge will also be making a donation directly to the Grand Master's appeal, and also to the provincial lodge of Perthshire to enhance their donation to the Grand Lodge.



Colin Hewlett

MORE WHAT THE PAPERS SAID

PERTSHIRE ADVERTISER AND STRATHEARN HERALD

April 1833 NEWBURGH

On Friday last a beautiful schooner was launched, "The Isabella". After the launch Mr Brown the owner, along with other gents, celebrated with a dinner in the house of Mr Inglis and there was a merry dance.

Jan 30 1834 NEWBURGH

On the night of Friday last a man about 50 years of age, when sitting by his own fireside and in the act of giving a neighbour a snuff, leaned back in his chair and instantly expired. He had performed his days work as usual.

PERTSHIRE ADVERTISER 3.6.1837 NEWBURGH

Saturday last was a gala day to the inhabitants of this place. Early in the morning the waving of several flags from the turrets of the steeple indicated that something was about to happen. At last it was announced that the foundation stone of the gas works was about to be erected there. A band of music from Errol, which spirited exertions of Mr Cameron secured and another from 'Mughty. About 3 o'clock the proprietors of the gas works attended by the Magistrates, Town Council, the Odd Fellows, Friendly Weaver and Mason societies wearing their respective badges drew up in procession in front of the Town House and proceeded to the spot, when the laying of the stone was performed by Alex Sinclair RWM of Lindores Lodge amidst a great concourse of spectators. An appropriate prayer was then offered by Rev. Anderson.

CUB REPORT

Since the last edition of the Crier, the Cubs have been involved in some significant fundraising and our senior Cubs enjoyed an Outdoor Activities Day at Megginch Camp Site near Muthil.

The Fundraising came out of a discussion initiated by the Cubs on what they could do to help some of the children and people in Ukraine. Over the course of 20 minutes, we chose an activity, a venue, a pricing policy and agreed on ways to promote the event.

We had decided to simply buy some doughnuts, set up a stall and offer them for sale to residents of the village and this is what was posted on Facebook that evening. However, a tsunami of support, help and goodwill immediately came from across the village and beyond. By the time the Saturday came along, we had not only our doughnuts, but countless donations of cakes, scones, shortbread, brownies, muffins, candy floss, rocky road and millionaire's shortbread. The food stall was



complemented by stalls of plants, books, toys and household items as well as a well-supported raffle.

The turnout from the village was phenomenal and the Cubs had to work extremely hard to keep up with the demand from customers. It really was so heartening to see how this village is so ready and able to turn up and help for a cause so far away, yet so worryingly close.



We had several local businesses offering goods and support, including R&S Disco Dome,

Michelle Wilson and Balgowan Bakes.

We also had cash donations from the Abernethy Masonic Lodge, the Burns Club of Abernethy, Scotia Cabins, the Bloom Emporium as well as others very generously handing in cash left, right and centre. It was really rewarding to witness, but very difficult to keep a track of, so please accept my apologies if I have missed out anyone and please let me know so that I can thank you properly. I would also like to specifically mention Reid and Heather Martin and Liz Duff for going that extra mile to help out, as well as the Cub leaders and parents who gave up their time and energies to help this event come together.

I can officially announce that we made a grand total of £1660 for the Red Cross Ukraine appeal.

A few weeks later, we took our Senior Cubs to an Activity Day. This involved learning how to erect and strike different types of tents, cooking their lunch on camping stoves, orienteering, six-figure grid references, making their own burgers



and campfire pizzas and cooking them over an open fire and guddling about in a burn. What's not to love about that? It was a long, challenging, but rewarding day and it provided a fitting farewell to our older Cubs as they continue their journey into Scouts.



Finally, we are looking forward to Cub Camp in June.

This will be three years since our last camp and the leaders have really missed the chance to sleep on the ground and look after 24 children who wake up at 6am because "it's too light to sleep". Wish us luck!

Jim Cook, Abernethy Cub Leader.

KASHAL'S APRIL LESSON



Kashal, the young Arab, will be three in July and is still a baby in Arab terms. He cannot be ridden because his bones are still soft and developing. He has successfully learned to load and travel in his trailer and his latest lesson was to learn to be led from another horse. This is a useful skill to have as it means two horses can be exercised together or moved together. For example, if a rider is injured their horse can be led home by another rider.

It helps if the horses know each other so we had a good start as Kirstie's mare Bella shares the field with Kash. Our first attempt was very brief. Kirstie mounted Bella and Kash was led over to her. They did a very brief circuit with a surprised Kash and an agreeable schoolmistress Bella. His only problem was when they

turned downhill he found it hard to control his long, gangly, baby legs and started speeding up.

By the next lesson we were delighted that he understood completely and was able to change the rein and do circuits going in either direction. Horses do not forget so that is one more useful life lesson for Kashal.

AH

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

The Museum of Abernethy have very kindly allowed us to use some of their photograph library to show what our area had been in the dim and distant past, in this case probably early twentieth century.



Aytoun House

