

# VILLAGE CRIER



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

Abernethy

Dron

Aberargie



55th Edition

September 2022

Closing date for December edition 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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

**THE SEPTEMBER WINNER OF THE PHOTO  
COMPETITION IS**

**MOIRA LACEY**

**WELL DONE**



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## EDITOR'S VIEW

Phew! It has been warm, although whilst I am writing this it is raining. It is certainly welcome for the gardens.

I am sure you have all noticed the new "Heritage Garden" at the top of Hatton Road; as you know it was a bit of rough ground but now it will add another beautiful corner to the village. It is now open although the planting has not yet started due to the recent very dry conditions. I think the AIB team/committee should be congratulated for their hard work in making this new garden development come to pass, however AIB need more volunteers to help with the extra work that will be involved in keeping this garden tidy. Come along - it is all good fun.

Many thanks go to Keir Allen, Doug Cleeton and the girls from the Silver Lining Hair Studios for clearing the gully, or shuchy as it is known locally, in the School Wynd. What a difference! It's a shame more people don't show the same interest towards the village.

I think a big thanks should go to PKC grounds maintenance team for the fine job that they are making of the areas for which they are responsible around the village. Hopefully they will get rid of the "no mow" area in the Powrie Park as it is an eyesore and has areas of ragwort that can be poisonous to animals.

After a long break due to Covid, some of the village organisations are trying to get up and running again. Auld Abernethy Association is hoping to resume its monthly meetings at the beginning of October, and the Burns Club of Abernethy is also in the middle of planning its annual supper for February 2023, but before that it is holding a folk music night in October. For more details of the function see the Burns Club article.

**Jimmy Swan**

## FROM THE CHAIR

Incredible as it may seem, we are once again approaching autumn and the summer holidays are over for another year. I hope all our readers have enjoyed the last few months and made the most of the less restricted way of life imposed by the pandemic.

This edition of the Village Crier contains a look at the past, the present and the future in the Parish with a mixture of both good and not so good news. I will leave you to judge which is which as you turn the pages.

First and foremost, congratulations to the prize winners in the various categories of the Abernethy in Bloom competition and thanks must go to Abernethy in Bloom for all the hard work it does to keep Abernethy looking bright and cheerful. By the same token it is sad that the Horticultural is now disbanded but I guess Abernethy in Bloom has taken over. The society itself evolved from the Flower Shows held in Abernethy, the first of which was held on the 26th August 1978, so one thing does lead to another.

Something new to activate the brain - Wordsearch. No cheating, don't look at the answers until you are completely stuck!

Also, another new recipe to try out. I hope Ruby's recipes are keeping all the cooks and bakers happy trying out tasty dishes and cakes etc.

We welcome the contribution by our new councillor Michelle Frampton and look forward to her working along with David Illingworth and Frank Smith.

I was pleased to read the letter to the Editor about the Powrie Park. I had a walk there myself in early summer and was saddened to see the state it is in now. I remember it well in the days it was looked after by ONE man, so neat, trim and tidy.

It is good to have a regular article from Aberargie and I just wonder if anyone from Dron might like to let us know what is happening up there.

Of the past there is plenty to read about, witches, railways and racing, and of the present, the Heritage Garden, the Cubs and Scouts, the

Museum of Abernethy and on-going organisations, while of the future, autumn and winter activities restarting after a period of over 2 years, Auld Abernethy Association, SWI etc.

One sad piece of news is that Stan and Aileen will be leaving us; sad for us but good for them and maybe perhaps Aileen will get to Cromarty! I can give them several recommendations of things to see and do on the Black Isle. It is rather worrying, the situation The Church of Scotland is in at the moment, a case of waiting to see what the future holds.

Even if you don't go to church it would be well worth your while to look in and view the Hanging after you have read the story of everything and everyone involved in its production and those who devoted so much time and care in designing, sewing and assembling this beautiful piece of work.

Enough from me. Enjoy what should be a beautiful and colourful autumn.

**Hilda Clow**

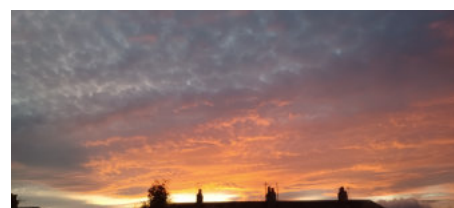
# PHOTO COMPETITION



**Crazy Cactus**



**Evelyn Scobie**



**Evelyn Scobie**



**Evelyn Scobie**



**Evelyn Scobie**



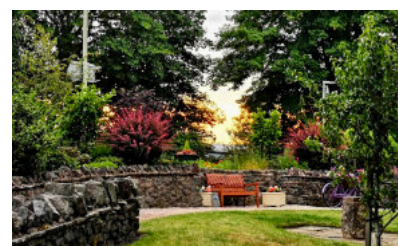
**Moira Lacey**



**Moira Lacey**



**Moira Lacey**



**Moira Lacey**



**Paul Simmers**



**Paul Simmers**



**Paul Simmers**



**Paul Simmers**



**Sarah Chappell**



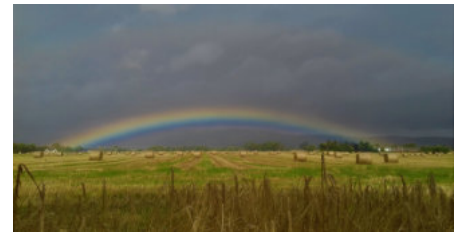
**Sarah Chappell**



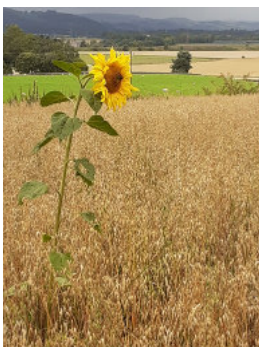
**Sarah Chappell**



**Sonia Simmers**



**Theresa Hughes**



**Theresa Hughes**



**Theresa Hughes**

# ABERNETHY MEMORIAL TO EXECUTED WITCHES

You may have read my article in the last edition of the Crier, or visited the museum to see the Abernethy witch hunts display. If so, you will know that two and a half thousand people, mostly women, were executed for witchcraft in the 17th century, three of them in Abernethy.

So why would we want to remember such an awful time? For me, there are various reasons. Despite there being five times more people accused and executed in Scotland than elsewhere in Europe (twelve times more than in England), the realities of the witch hunts in Scotland have been largely forgotten. The bodies of the three women executed in our village are likely to have been dumped in wasteland, with no memorial for their families apart from terrible shame - all for a crime that cannot exist. Elspeth Young, Margaret Mathie and Jonet Crystie were victims, caught up in terrible events. In all likelihood they will have been a bit different, perhaps 'quarrelsome', elderly, poor and ordinary. Definitely not witches in any modern sense of spells, potions and broomsticks.

Finally, but most importantly, a memorial should look to the future. What can be understood from these events? At the heart of the memorial will be the women's names and a Rowan tree. Traditionally used as protection against maleficence, the tree also symbolises wisdom. Unfair accusation and persecution didn't stop after the 17th century so why not take a moment of reflection when walking around the village?

The plan is to erect a memorial stone beside the witches' path beyond the top of Kirk Wynd. The stone will be carved by a master heritage stonemason based on a design by local artist Moira Lacey. David McGovern specializes in Pictish carving - a modern Pictish stone for our ancient Pictish village? You can see an example of his work in the cross at Forteviot. Andrew and Willem Herd of Bigcat Contracts have kindly offered to prepare the site, gratis, and we have the very welcome support of the Abernethy Community Council and Abernethy in Bloom committee.

Just fingers crossed now to find out the outcome of our grant application with Perth and Kinross Community Heritage Grant 🍀🍀

## Witch-hunt walks

The Museum of Abernethy is taking part in the Perth and Kinross Open Doors weekend of 17th and 18th of September where people will be encouraged to visit the museum, see the witch-hunt display, then walk around the village looking at various witchy sites. P&K Heritage have developed a map, alongside The Museum of Abernethy, with two linked walks. One will go past the modern dwellings where some of the Commissioners lived (they were the local big-wigs who will have investigated, tried and executed the women - no doubt being involved in their torture) and the other will include places mentioned in later stories about Abernethy witches.

Please look out for announcements!

## Audrey

### IN MEMORIAM

**BERYL CONSTABLE 06/03/1937 – 8/05/2022**

We sadly note the passing of Beryl Constable in May this year.

Beryl moved with husband Alf to Aberargie in 1985 from mid-Wales to be near family. A cheerful lady who loved her grandchildren. She worked for many years at Bridge of Earn Hospital as a personal assistant. Sadly losing Alf in 2000, Beryl kept busy in her retirement years helping Perth's U3A maintain its social network by organising many a good lunch for members.

Her family remember Beryl with fondness

**(Name and Address supplied).**

# ACCESS TO ABERARGIE'S MINI MEADOW.

Aberargie waited with baited breath. What was happening to a corner of the green? Turf was stripped back from an area beneath the Nethermill Cottages street sign. This was stacked to create a little turf wall giving definition between the stripped area and the mown green. A few weeks of waiting followed. The plot flushed green and in June began to produce yellow and white flowers, ox-eye daisy, scabious, corn marigold and



common poppy, then blue corn flowers and even a few glorious magenta corn-cockles. Aberargie's mini wildflower meadow, courtesy of Cath's muscle power and seeds from Seeds of Hope became a joyous riot of colour raising many a smile and gasps of pleasure through the summer. The bold red poppies actually made the fresh painted telephone box look fantastic. Well done Cath, and the insects buzzed their appreciation for weeks.

I noticed walking into Perth in July that Perth & Kinross Council had been on the same wavelength as Cath; a new row of trees was planted along the diagonal path across the South Inch last year. Each of the trees was encircled with a bare circle of soil which became a coronette of wildflowers through the summer. Such a simple transformation of a dull area into a super cool feeding place for insects.

**Correction** - I was corrected by the farmer for my comment in a previous issue of The Crier – about the use of insecticides around Aberargie. It seems that farmers do not spray insecticides these days and apply only a minimal dose of anti-fungal spray as the crop ripens. I am so pleased to get feed-back – thanks for that Mr Lawrie – it is good to know that guidelines to reduce pollution and negative impact on the environment are being adhered to.

Another farm issue arose this summer which may have been resolved by the time this goes to print. When the Core Path Network was developed in the years up to 2012, landowners made objection to formalising the off-road access that once existed between Abernethy and Aberargie, namely the old tracks and paths that historically linked both settlements across the fields to the north of the railway line and the Nethererton railway underpass.

The Council did not want to bear the responsibility of maintaining the Fargie Bridge and some sections of paths were ploughed up over the decades. However many of us have nevertheless continued to take that access between Abernethy and Aberargie as we can; around the field edge or along tractor tramways depending on season, crop and soil condition.

While the path along the A913 is there and is much appreciated, it is not a pleasant walk against the thundering lorries and whipping cars. It is just not conducive to peaceful walking or to walk and talk alongside a companion.

The Core Path network negotiators did a wonderful job securing the alternative route - going up Castlelaw hill, along the ridge and dropping down above Ayton. A truly lovely and adventurous scenic walk either way – but that route is quite beyond the ability of many.

So taking the "low road" across the field tracks by Provost Mains and Carey is a lovely peaceful walk beneath the big sky, seeing Abernethy against the backdrop of the hillfort. It is quite beautiful to appreciate the quiet, to hear skylarks and note the seasons' turn in the crops and the field verge flora.

This summer however, a fence appeared all along the boundary between Morrison and Wilson land, west of the Carey under-pass. The jaggy barb-topped fence is a boundary fence so has no gate in it and thereby makes access impossible unless risking damage to pants or the fence by climbing over, which no one wants. Aberargie residents can clock 60

years of using that way using the Netherton underpass which indicates that the access to the Fargie Bridge and Abernethy was there prior to the railway line.

Happily the owner of the distillery, Jamie Morrison, having had the issue brought to his attention, has agreed to meet up and discuss possible solutions or compromise and this hopefully is on-going as we go to print.

I am curious to know if there have been any negatives with regard the Core Path Network around Abernethy. These routes have now been walked, jogged and peddled by us for a decade now. Have there been any reported negative incidents? Are we celebrating a decade of happy use? It must be hard for landowners if people abuse the right of access but one hopes that the informal policing and the goodwill felt toward the respective landowners must benefit mind and body of all parties!

Aberargie prepares to tuck more bulbs in the soil to make you smile in the chill days of spring and we continue to invite suggestions for environmental improvements.

**Theresa Hughes**



Bath-time at Hughes

## **ABERNETHY IN BLOOM**

### **"Bloomin' Marvellous" Sixth Annual Container Competition 2022**

The weather could not have been kinder. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July dawned bright and blue. Despite the wild mixture of weather in the previous weeks from very dry and ultra hot to sudden monsoon downpours there was a great response from Abernethy and one contestant from Aberargie to this year's contest: the first since lockdown. The themes were "Just Beautiful" and "Heritage". Gazanias, Isotoma and Nemesia joined old favourites Lobelia, Geraniums, Bizzie Lizzies, Petunias and Fuchsias to create clouds of loveliness. Colours were particularly jewel-like this year and despite some people feeling Begonias in particular had not grown as well as usual, the quality and health of the plants on display was very good.

As always it is a difficult decision to pick the winners but the following stood out and received prizes of gardening vouchers:

Just Beautiful category – first – Ian Bett for picture perfect rainbow coloured blooms. Joint second – Pat Miller for flamboyant billowing window-sills and Joyce White for achieving a wonderland of dazzling Petunias.

Heritage – first – Theresa Hughes for Bathtime using an old zinc bath to create that feeling of Friday night in the old tub and Penny Fenwick for her fantasy in red, white and blue.

Special prizes go to Susan Swan for best concept with her clever use of individual plants to recreate the look of flames in a fire pit and Elsa and Mike Thompson for the visual impact of their Begonias which despite wind, drought and heat had grown superbly and to Carol and Frank Cadger for their beautiful "Grandad's Workshop" creation!.

Honourable mentions for interesting containers go to Sonia Simmers for her friendly Daschund, Caroline Sheddon-Brown's big blue boot, overflowing old sink at Irene Napier's and perfectly shaped trough at Christina Cleeton's. Mentions too for all our newcomers this year: Robert and Lesley Watson, Irene Napier, Anna Blackburn and Linda Brown and congratulations to everyone who produces lovely containers each year and provides pleasure to all who see them.

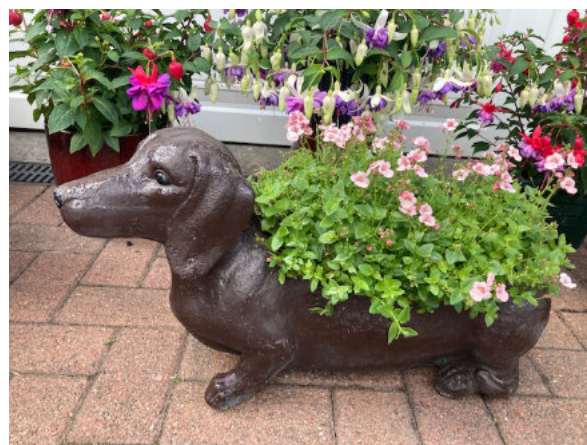
Photos of this year's entries appear on Instagram at the address @abernethyinbloom6 and on display outside the museum.

Thanks go to all our winners and competitors and to Margaret Donaldson in particular for her enthusiastic organisation of the event. Here's to next year when we hope even more of the readers of the Crier will consider braving the elements and planting something Bloomin' Marvellous.

**Caroline Boyle**



Begonias at Elsa and Mike Thompson's



The Dachshund at Sonia Simmers'

# WORDSEARCH

B	U	A	R	I	T	P	K	O	Y	A	L	C	L	O	Y	T	R	R	I	S
I	A	B	B	Z	S	I	R	T	A	J	A	M	E	S	F	I	E	L	D	I
B	L	E	A	E	B	L	A	O	R	S	M	M	A	A	I	Y	Z	O	A	S
A	N	R	L	I	R	I	P	O	T	I	B	P	B	A	S	S	Z	A	K	E
L	R	A	G	Y	Q	N	N	L	A	Q	O	O	Y	H	H	E	T	E	R	E
L	U	R	O	G	U	N	E	E	A	R	N	N	O	S	T	E	E	H	A	A
O	B	G	N	U	Z	L	D	T	I	A	B	B	A	I	D	R	O	N	P	S
M	O	I	I	L	A	I	Q	Z	H	B	W	C	I	G	A	C	K	Y	E	Y
I	L	E	E	W	O	L	K	F	A	Y	R	T	O	S	Y	E	D	K	I	K
L	L	O	N	D	E	R	Y	M	N	E	T	W	P	I	C	T	S	R	R	T
L	A	H	A	T	T	O	N	D	A	G	S	B	Y	P	H	U	S	C	W	I
O	B	L	O	M	O	V	S	K	G	L	E	N	F	O	O	T	I	Y	O	T
F	O	H	R	N	Z	N	Q	C	A	R	P	O	W	P	L	O	N	T	P	K
C	K	I	R	I	N	S	K	I	R	Z	A	C	C	O	R	D	O	N	S	T
F	E	I	S	E	R	A	C	Y	T	S	O	M	F	Z	I	W	Q	X	I	A
A	R	A	S	B	A	S	M	A	S	S	S	A	G	L	E	N	L	A	W	S
A	U	T	O	T	O	O	T	L	A	Z	K	E	F	R	P	O	O	Y	H	P
L	R	F	U	G	L	E	N	C	A	I	R	N	W	U	R	Y	A	T	R	I
T	A	S	E	K	Y	D	K	C	A	B	B	O	B	B	R	I	G	O	K	E
Y	L	E	X	P	E	A	L	G	I	R	B	W	E	R	C	S	O	N	O	S
E	I	L	W	O	G	G	Y	R	I	W	T	U	O	I	E	A	F	R	T	T

This word square contains a number of names familiar in the Abernethy district. In fact there are thirty three in all.

These names can be found by circling the letters within the square, either diagonally, horizontally or in reverse order.

No prizes offered but just a pleasant way to spend a quiet time in the garden while enjoying the sunshine.

Answers on Page 29

## THE STEEPLE CLOCK

Sitting in the sun in garden fair  
Tower clock just struck the hour  
Is that 25 o'clock again  
Or is it half past tower?

It was installed during VR's reign  
It's been there quite some time  
And wound by hand in those auld days  
By local coouncil, syne.

But now it's lecky' and no by hand  
It disnae work just richt  
Yiv' nae idea what time it is  
Is it day or is it nicht?

I dinnae care I hae' a thing  
That's sat by me a while  
And if I need tae ken the time  
It's my trusty auld sundial. **Jimmy Swan**



Macmillan Coffee Morning,

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

!0am – 11 30am.

Masons Hall

Abernethy .

Please come along and support Macmillan Cancer Care

Donations of Home Baking & Raffle Prizes gratefully accepted.

More info from Kathleen 07955252583

# THE SOUND OF MUSIC

On Thursday, 30th June, at the Institute at Newburgh, the halls were alive with the Sound of Music as about 100 people 'Considered Themselves at Home' and sang along to 'The Musicals'.



David Watt on keyboard directed operations and kept everyone singing while versatile James Ford played drums, double bass, trumpet, saxophone, clarinet, and penny-whistle for 'My Heart Will Go On'. Danny and Sandy from 'Grease' were at one table and a monkey was waltzing to 'Edelweiss'.

This fun was to raise funds for Newburgh Wellbeing Choir which meets every Wednesday at 2pm at the Tayside Institute Community Centre, 42, High St, Newburgh. We sing or listen for an hour then have a cup of tea.



and wellbeing'.

Everyone is made welcome. The benefits of singing are mental and physical and we want to share them with the community. The Newburgh Medical Practice often recommends people to join our choir, recognising how singing can be beneficial to 'health

New members are made very welcome and you can just turn up to see if you enjoy the afternoon. There is no entry fee though donations are welcome.

Willie Rennie MSP and Wendy Chamberlain MP were there to show support. They are pictured with Treasurer Bernadette Duncan and President Valerie Walker.



We restart after the summer break on 31st August. If you want more information, call Valerie on 01337 842799.

Anne Hollingsworth



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Sunday 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Organic Veg from our farm

Home baking from our kitchen

Whole Foods

Wines and Spirits

Gifts and cards for all occasions

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### Restaurant Hours

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Saturday 9.00 am to 4.45 pm

Sunday 10.00 am to 4.45 pm

Breakfast 10.00 am to 12.00 am

Saturday 9.00 am to 12.00 am

Lunch. 12.00 to 3.00 pm

Afternoon teas 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Saturday and Sunday 3.00 pm to 4.45 pm

01738 850498

jamesfieldfarm@btconnect.com



## FROM OUR NEW COUNCILLOR

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer weather. I thought I would share a bit about what I have been doing since I was elected as one of the councillors for Almond and Earn.

My role as councillor has been a very busy one so far. I have attended all the induction training in order to make sure I carry out my duties efficiently. I am on Learning and Families, Housing and Social Wellbeing, The Integrated Joint Board (IJB) and Scrutiny Committees.

The Council is in recess just now, so I have a break from Committee meetings until August when they will start up again.

I have had a steady stream of casework from constituents throughout the ward, which I am very happy to delve into and hopefully resolve any issues that are important to residents.

If anyone has any issues/concerns, then please feel free to call or email me. I am always happy to discuss them with you and help if I can.

I hope you all have a lovely summer.

Best Wishes

Michelle

**Cllr Michelle Frampton Ward 9 – Almond and Earn**  
**Email: MFrampton@pkc.gov.uk Work Telephone No:**  
**01738 475125 Mobile Telephone No: 07468 756301**

## ABERNETHY'S RAILWAY A VERY BRIEF HISTORY OF ITS EARLY DAYS

There is very often a sense of nostalgia tinged with sadness around dismantled railway lines and their associated buildings, with their reminders of human activity and community involvement often still clearly visible. Abernethy Station closed to passengers in 1955 but one can still see some remains of the platforms on the bridge over Station Road and the site of the steps going up from road level to the platform. On the north side of the bridge the road up to the small goods yard is still clearly visible. That road must have seen so much goods traffic trundling up and down, all vital to the local economy, everything from coal and fruit to ladies' nightwear and more. At this point I cannot do better than refer you to the wonderful and comprehensive article in the Crier recently by Ian Bett, entitled 'Abernethy Station and Other Memories'.

The line through Abernethy was a product of the frenzy of railway building in the 1840's. Many new companies were formed at that time to build specific railways. Each company attempted to raise its own capital and then sought an Act of Parliament before it could proceed. Parliament was not necessarily sympathetic to all applications and there was much conflict and fighting of corners between competing companies at that stage. Even if it approved the plans, Parliament could still impose conditions. For example it insisted that the proposed line across Fife should be two track, thus putting an unwelcome financial burden on the new company who had originally budgeted for a single track. The line that eventually passed through Abernethy was proposed by a company known as the Edinburgh and Northern Railway, who in 1849 changed its name to the Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee Railway. The line opened in 1848 and the company's name indicates its objective, to carry passengers and freight as directly as possible from Edinburgh to Dundee and Perth, thus avoiding a long overland journey or a coastal sea passage. Another aim was to profit from the lucrative West Fife Coalfield, hence the branch line from Thornton Junction to Dunfermline. North of the Forth the route through Fife started at the Burntisland ferry terminal, which received goods and passenger traffic by ferry from Granton, and headed for Ladybank where the line split. One branch went to Cupar, and eventually through to Ferry-Port-on-Craig, renamed Tayport, where passengers and goods transferred to the ferry for Broughty Ferry and thence to Dundee. The other branch curved westwards towards Newburgh and Perth – and Abernethy, but don't take the station for granted yet!

The line opened in stages, and for a short time the terminus was at Abernethy Road, east of the later Abernethy Station. In late July 1848 the final stretch to Perth opened, joining the Scottish Central Railway's line from Stirling just south of Moncrieff Tunnel (Hilton Junction). The sharing of this last stretch of line through the tunnel to Perth was not ideal but the two companies came to a financial compromise in the end. There was, however, a period when the Scottish Central Railway, who owned the tunnel, would stop other companies' trains and demand a tunnel charge in cash from passengers – including accompanied dogs! – before proceeding. It may look straightforward now but the route from Newburgh to Perth had been the subject of much indecision, involving at least four different railway companies. The company's first plan had been to cross the Tay just west of Newburgh using Mugdrum Island, with a swing bridge across the main southern channel. The line would then have joined the route of the proposed Dundee and Perth Railway (opened in 1847) somewhere near St. Madoes, giving access to both Perth and Dundee. In this case, Abernethy might have missed out on the railway altogether, but that was not to be. In 1845 both the Admiralty and Perth Magistrates objected that the bridge would restrict navigation on the Tay – Perth was worried that it would lose out on seaborne business potential – so the company had to look for another route to Perth without crossing the Tay.

One obvious route lay through Abernethy and Bridge of Earn, to join the Scottish Central Railway's line south of Moncrieff Tunnel. It soon emerged that a new company, not yet incorporated but called the Strathearn Junction Railway, was proposing a line on virtually the same route. To avoid a costly contest in Parliament, the infant company agreed to be taken over by the Edinburgh and Northern Railway. This company undertook to build the line as originally proposed by their new acquisition, thus reaching Perth south of the Tay – and passing through Abernethy!

One other Abernethy related twist is worth mentioning. In the Stevenson Archive of the National Library of Scotland (maps) there is a plan produced by Robert Stevenson and Sons, dated 1845, that proposes a bridge over the Tay at Carpow. This bridge would have carried the Perth and Dundee Railway from Dundee over to the south side of the river, crossing Carpow Bank before coming ashore and swinging west to cross the Earn just north of Ferryfield. The line is shown joining a proposed route of the Edinburgh and Northern Railway coming from Newburgh and heading westwards towards Easter Rhynd. This may have been an attempt by the Perth and Dundee Railway to get access to Perth from the south thus avoiding strong local opposition to a bridge in the area of Moncrieff Island and the use of South Inch for the company's Perth station. Stevenson's proposed route on the plan misses Abernethy by a mile and there would have been a long walk to any station! It obviously didn't come to anything as the Dundee line did eventually cross the Tay at Moncrieff Island and a joint Perth station was ultimately sited west of South Inch. In any case the idea of a bridge at Carpow would surely have fallen foul of the Admiralty and Perth magistrates!

Since these early days the railway companies have changed names and ownership many times. Some lines have been extended, some dismantled and many stations closed, all of which brings us back to where we began at the poignant remains of Abernethy Station.

One last point; the success of this whole railway project through Fife depended heavily on the ferry crossings on the Forth and Tay but these were weak links in many ways and a liability to the whole business enterprise. The company was also facing competition for access to Dundee by the land route on new lines via Stirling and Perth. It is no surprise therefore that thoughts turned towards bridging both stretches of water. But that, as they say, is another story...

**John Trench,**  
**1, Ivy Cottage, Back Dykes, Abernethy. PH2 9JU**





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Tae save all the bugs  
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All oor cats and oor dug  
But we care not a fig  
Cos we're council

The drains are a' fu'  
Wi' leaves and wi' glaur  
Causin' roads tae a' flood  
Divertin' travellers tae whaur  
Do we care? - No  
Cos we're the Cooncil

138k - this big pile o' cash  
Is the Chief Executive's pay  
Runnin' a council in debt  
Poorly run day by day  
We don't care  
Cos we're the Cooncil

**J.S. Wan & P.T.M. Iller**

## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

After the long COVID break it is hoped the Association will resume on the first Wednesday in October. To be on the safe side we are going to hold the meetings in the Masons' Hall, providing it is available, so we can continue to socially distance for the time being. There may be a very small charge to cover the cost of the hall but this will include a cup of tea. Watch Abernethy Facebook, and village notice boards for further information.

**Jimmy Swan**

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

Beryl Constable, Wilma Whyte and Elizabeth Mellersh.

Our thoughts and sympathies are with thier families.

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# MY WORK AS AN INDEPENDENT CELEBRANT

My name is Rachel Cheer and I have lived in Abernethy for 16 years. I have three children, two kittens and one husband! I know many of you, mainly through working at the Museum of Abernethy for a number of years, which was a huge privilege.

I have been thinking for a while that I should write an article, here in The Village Crier, about my work as an Independent Celebrant, so here it is.

It is a great joy to live in Abernethy and I've had the enormous honour of working with many other village inhabitants since I trained in this role in 2019. People often ask me what exactly an independent celebrant does, so let me explain. My job is to help individuals, couples and families through their rites of passage. Most frequently this is by conducting weddings and funerals, although I am always delighted to help you create a ceremony for any significant stage of your life. For example, baby naming ceremonies are popular these days. As I work independently, this means I am not affiliated to any particular beliefs, ideas or structures. As a creative person, this is what appeals to me most! When I help design a ceremony, we genuinely start with a blank canvas, and we build up ideas based on what is important to you. Each of us is completely unique, a patchwork of experiences, preferences and beliefs. I take this mosaic and construct ceremonies that are personalised, individual and meaningful.

My inspiration for becoming a celebrant came after spending 11 years working for CHAS, the children's hospice charity in Kinross. This taught me about the importance of a good life and a good death. I carry this with me, and I see ceremony as a hugely important part of our lives. I describe it a pause, a place to step away from the everyday and really consider things. To think about the path we have taken, as well as the road ahead. It is my opinion that, sadly in our society, we don't take time often enough to hold ceremonies. They can often be healing and cathartic and necessary for our wellbeing.

My business is called Hope Ceremonies and you may have seen my beautiful elephant logo in The Crier adverts. I offer free consultations and you can see more about my work at [www.hopeceremonies.com](http://www.hopeceremonies.com), I can be contacted on 07974 712978 or [rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk) Please do drop me a line!



**Rachel Cheer**



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## SENIOR CITIZENS' AFTERNOON TEA.

Excitement came to the Williamson Hall on Saturday 25th June. colourful bunting adorned the hall, even the stage was dressed up with lights. Tables with posies of flowers just finished off the beautiful atmosphere as each person entered the hall. Glowing faces as each saw friends who had not met for such a long time. Colour filled the room with summer clothes, greens, blues, pinks and whites etc..

Soon the tables were filled with sandwiches, large cake stands with scones, cakes etc.. The caterers were 'Heaven Scent' from Milnathort and they certainly did us proud; friendly staff who served the tables with every need required, coffee & tea..

Soon the entertainment started, and what an entertainment it was too, Willie Cameron on his guitar and accordion gave us songs from the past which we all knew. Toe tapping, arm waving and hand jiving- were on the menu, just a super selection.

Raffles in abundance soon finished the afternoon and a vote of thanks was given by Evelyn. The committee certainly worked hard putting this afternoon all together for us Senior Citizens.

Thank you to you all.

**Lillias Johnston.**

## CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

Hilda Clow	813886
Anne Hollingsworth	850384
Therea Hughes	850460
Les McIntosh	850356
Irene McLaren	850414
Maureen Nisbet	850148
Jimmy Swan	850569

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Very Strange Times

In the last issue "From The Chair" the author brought to our attention that "we are living through very strange times" and her comments took me back some 50 years ago when Bob Dylan compiled the song "Forever Young" which was made perhaps more famous some 10 years later by the German group "Alphaville". The opening lyrics read "...Lets dance in style, lets dance for awhile, Heaven can wait, we're only watching the skies, Hoping for the best, but expecting the worst. Are you gonna drop the bomb or not.....". Again in verse three "Can you imagine when this race is won? turn our golden faces into the sun, praising our leaders, we're getting in tune, The music's played by ...the Madman". In "these strange times" that we now live in we must pay homage to these prophetic words penned by Dylan some 50 years ago .... perhaps he is a philosopher on a par with the great Nostradamus himself!!!! One thing for sure, back in the halcyon days of the 80s music was at its zenith and we all aspired to being "forever young" however I believe "that ship" has now (sadly) sailed and will not be returning to port.

**Brian Boyes**

### Thank you

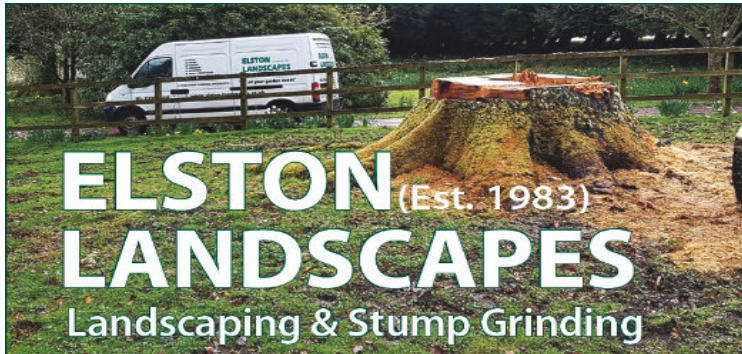
I would like to express my appreciation of all those involved in the Abernethy Community Transport operation. I have benefited greatly from their service in recent times and would have been unable to keep many appointments and visits without their prompt, efficient and kind assistance. It is, of course, quite a commitment for those offering their time and transport. I know I am not alone in wanting them to realise how grateful we customers are for such a service.

Also, may I mention the many, many friends who have enriched my life in the past difficult (for me) last three years. You know who you are!! Thanks is not enough!!

**Wyn Dobbie.**

**Dear editor**

Many people have been commenting on the wonderful display of floral



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boxes around the village and all due to the hard work of the team from Abernethy in Bloom. They must be commended for their efforts.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for Powrie Park! What any visitor must think when entering the place must make them shudder for they are faced with what looks like a hayfield gone wrong!! The four 'wild flower' beds at the bottom of the park should be renamed 'weed' beds because that's what they are. The other problem is that walking the path down the side of the wooded area is practically impossible as the weeds have now laid claim to much of it. I doubt if a mother could manoeuvre a pushchair.

Of course the whole idea is to help the environment but do those in authority not realise that Abernethy is in the middle of the countryside and we are surrounded by a multitude of flora and fauna.

In the 'olden days' ONE man kept the whole area in pristine condition. The edges were trimmed, the weeds kept in check and the paths were kept free of the numerous cones and twigs that now lie there.

What will be done? Nothing I fear as this is what's known as progress!

## Name and addressed supplied

# THOMAS EPPS VISIT (PART 2)

*Due to my error in the last edition when we published David Millar's account of the days spent with Thomas Epps the Friday, Saturday and Sunday episodes were missed off. I hope that this did not spoil your enjoyment of the article but it can be found on the website if you wish to read this part in context.*

## FRIDAY 25th FEBRUARY:



An early rise was scheduled, as we had a long drive to Moffat; we had booked a VIP tour at Moffat Observatory. We took the scenic route to Moffat, via Edinburgh and the borders. The hills snow-capped and bright sunshine made the drive a real pleasure with a few stops photographing hills, sheep

(yes sheep) and a brief stopover at The Devils Beeftub which was stunning in the sun and snow. We arrived at the observatory and were greeted by Jeff Furner and Jim Paterson, volunteers at the observatory. The observatory is a community facility run by members of Moffat Astronomy Club.

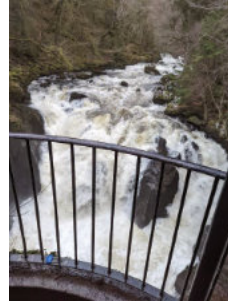
It was officially opened by Astronomer Royal Catherine Heymans last year. A stunning location with a perfect southern aspect. The observatory is state of the art, with a huge Meade telescope and warm/control room. Some teething issues are being ironed out, minor ones. The facility will be used by members of the club and astro enthusiasts from the area. We had a cuppa and were presented with a Moffat Dark Sky mug, a lovely touch by the members. Many thanks to those who made our visit possible and enjoyable. Friday night was another stargazing episode; we did another tour of the night sky using large binoculars and due to Thomas's depth of knowledge I saw many objects I'd never seen before. Every day's a school day.

## SATURDAY 26th FEBRUARY

Another earlyish start for a whirlwind tour to finish off Thomas's visit to Scotland. We headed to East Lomond car park to view the vistas available. Me, I quickly hurried back to the car, a biting wind and the wrong clothes put paid to me seeing the views again. We headed downhill to Falkland and had a walk around some of the village, unfortunately the palace was closed. A short drive later took us to Maspie Den. Our guide assured us he



knew where it was, but it had moved, really it did! We drove over to Scotlandwell and supped from the waters. Thomas was intrigued by the water filtering through the sand and bubbling up from within. Another camera opportunity. I chatted with a friendly gent who was filling a 5 gallon container from the well; he told me his wife would only drink this water. Ian Borland had organised with his mum a few gifts for Thomas, so we headed to Kinross and firstly took in the viewing platform at Loch Leven, where many bird watching enthusiasts had what looked like canons atop tripods, (huge camera lenses), then to Mrs B's



house for a rest break and a chat. Daylight was possibly going to beat us, but I risked a speed limit drive (honest) to "The Hermitage", a cool walk filled with forest smells, unusual rock formations, and kayakers braving the white waters enthralled us on our leisurely amble to the old bridge and then Ossian's Hall. Cameras clicking again. The falls were full and roaring, filling the air with mist. A magical place! It was getting dull, so we headed for a brief walk around Dunkeld and finished off with good old fish and chips to top off the day.

## SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY

Home time! Ian B. and I drove "Tom" to Largs, and his trusty vessel awaited. A sad ending to a fantastic week. Tom had talked on many occasions on history; he is a big fan. His depth of knowledge on naval history is quite amazing and kept us listening for many hours during his visit. He assured us we haven't seen the last of him and promised to come "home" (he has family ties to Paisley) again with his wife Lucy.

Haste ye back sir, it was our pleasure!

## J D Millar



# MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

This will be our first full year of opening since all the Covid lockdowns.

As you may have seen we now have "Museum Open" signs at each end of the village. We are fairly confident that this has helped to increase the visitor numbers this year so far. A further attraction has been our four new exhibits, History of Abernethy's Masonic Lodge, The Witches of Abernethy, Mills of Aberargie and Spitfires of WW2 lost in the hills behind the village. We are encouraged by the many visitors from afar but still disappointed by the lack of local folks that come through our door.

We were awarded a grant to fund a series of story telling events in connection with "Scotland's Year of Storytelling" this has also helped bring people to the Museum.

The garden at the rear has had a face lift thanks to Catherine Latham, our resident gardener from Aberargie. I thank her for her dedication and managing to turn round a wilderness in to a very attractive display of flowers and medicinal plants.

I would like to sincerely thank all our volunteers for their hard work, if it wasn't for them this four star visitor attraction would not exist.

## Jimmy Swan (Chair)

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# ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Community Council has returned to in-person meetings with the past two meetings being held in the Masonic Hall. The meetings take place on the last Thursday of the month and we encourage residents to come along.

With Perth and Kinross Community Council elections taking place later this year, ACC is putting out an early call for any interested members of the community. ACC require five committee members to form a community council and can run with a maximum of nine members. Nominations open on the 25th of August 2022 and candidates have 4 weeks to complete and submit nomination forms. If, on closing, there are more nominations than places on ACC, it will go to a postal election to be held on Thursday the 3rd of November 2022. Otherwise candidates would be deemed duly elected without the need for a postal election. The election will be advertised on social media nearer the time.

There is an ask. ACC is without a Secretary. The Secretary role is pivotal to community councils running smoothly. The role involves handling communication, setting meeting agendas and taking meeting minutes. We desperately need a Secretary. Can you help? There is also the option to pay someone to take meeting minutes if a potential Secretary doesn't come forward. If you or anyone you know of can spare a few hours per month, are interested in getting involved in either the Secretary role, as a paid meeting minute taker or in joining ACC at election time, please get in touch with one of the community council members or by email to [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com)

Ritchie and Linda have been busy representing ACC on the Binn Eco Community Wind Farm working group facilitated by Foundation Scotland. The Final Report and Shared Fund Strategy was agreed and signed off last week. Paving the way for a substantial amount of funding heading in our direction, certainly over the next couple of years but, potentially over the period of the community-owned wind turbines' operational term. The two community turbines at Binn Eco Park have been running under the ownership of Our Community Energy Ltd (OCE), a Community Benefit Society set up at community request. OCE will be looking to recruit 1 (non CC) volunteer director from each of the four communities involved towards the New Year.

The turbines have now generated enough surplus for a Community Benefit Fund to be set up. Auchtermuchty & Strathmiglo, Glenfarg, Earn and Abernethy Community Council areas will benefit from the fund. Earn CC has opted for a different funding strategy whilst the remaining three CC's decided to adopt a joint funding strategy. A joint funding panel will be formed comprising three representatives from each of the three communities and will sit to consider/recommend community funding applications. The main fund has set criteria and will open to applications from local community constituted groups for one round this year in the Autumn followed by two rounds annually thereafter. In addition to the main fund, the three Community Councils will each manage a small microgrant scheme open to individuals and non-constituted groups. This year's funding will be about 100k to be split between the four communities. The projected funding for 2023 is around 300k to be shared equally between the four communities. Coming soon: the funding scheme in finer detail/opening to be advertised on Foundation Scotland website, locally in the press and on social media.

Well done to everyone who took part in this year's successful Hill Race and special thanks to the organisers.

The next community council meeting is Thursday the 25th of August, at 7pm in the Mason Hall. Everyone welcome, as always.

**Linda Buchan**

## ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 30th June 2022 @ 19:00 – In-person meeting at the Masonic

Hall

Members Present:  
Linda Buchan, Donna Gillespie, Helena Mcallister, Carol McMahon (minutes), Councillor David Illingworth  
Public Present: 8  
Total Present: 12

Apologies given: Ritchie Young, Caroline Haxton, Ro Bell, Kathleen Pye, Councillor Frank Smith, Councillor Michelle Frampton

Adoption of Previous Minutes:  
Minutes from May 2022 approved.  
Helena proposed. Donna Seconded

Matters Discussed

### 1. Community Benefit Fund

Ritchie and Linda attended a meeting this week. The working group will meet the director of OCC in July and will be looking for a director plus two community councillors and a member of the public from each of the three community councils in the fund. From late August the community benefit fund will be available for online applications from community groups to apply for funding. Foundation Scotland is setting the fund up. The first round will be £70,000 between four community councils. Bridge of Earn community council will do their own thing, which leaves 75% of the fund for the other three community councils. The funds will be awarded in November. In year two of the community benefit fund the money available will be £300,000. Micro grants of up to £500 per application can also be awarded from Abernethy Community Council for community projects or projects that bring benefits to the community.

Harmony Energy will also donate between £5000-£6000 a year from the Jamesfield battery storage facility for Abernethy Community Council to hand out as community funding.

### 2. Abernethy Community Council Election

Nominations open on Thursday 25th August 2022 and close on Thursday 22nd September 2022. If there are more nominations than vacancies there will be an election on Thursday 3rd November 2022 which will need to be advertised.

Also, there is a need to advertise in the Village Crier for a secretary to take community council meeting minutes. They could be paid £10 per hour.

### 3. Tower Lights Plaque Unveiling

Jimmy Swan is sending out invitations this week. Mr and Mrs Davis from the US have paid over £2000 to upgrade the tower floodlights. They have a family connection to Abernethy. They will unveil a plaque on Saturday 6th August 2022 at 13:00 and afterwards the invited guests including Abernethy Community Councillors will go to Jamesfield for afternoon tea. Abernethy Community Council will pay about £300 for this on the day.

### 4. AOB

Linda thanked the organisers of the recent Hill Race.

Theresa Hughes mentioned that there was no core footpath linking Aberargie, Netherton and Carey. She mentioned it to Jamie Morrison who said it was not a right of way. Councillor Illingworth has requested that PKC look at the issue of footpaths and said he will try to resolve the matter.

Helena mentioned drainage ditches around the fields being filled in.

Jimmy Swan asked if Abernethy community council were doing anything to thank former PKC councillor Kathleen Baird for her years of service to the community.

Jimmy Swan asked why Abernethy doesn't have a 20 mph speed limit like Bridge of Earn. Councillor Illingworth said it was because the main road through Abernethy doesn't go past local shops.

Jimmy Swan also mentioned pavements not being cleaned and ragwort growing in the local park which is poisonous to dogs. Councillor Illingworth to look at this.

Audrey Clark asked ACC to support her application for a memorial in the village to the three women who were executed in Abernethy for witchcraft. She has applied for funding for the memorial from the Community Heritage Fund. The ACC members present supported her application.

## HILL RACE HISTORY

Having noted the very bright invitation in the last Crier to take part in the ABERNETHY CASTLELAW CHALLENGE I thought I would take a step back in time to 1979, the year of the first HILL RACE.

It was a time when we were trying to get some new ideas for Gala Week when the Hill Race was conceived, born and has now reached the age of 43!

At that time we had a full week of events to raise money for the Williamson Hall, culminating with a dance in the hall when the Pictish Maid was chosen. She was then the Gala Queen for the following year's Gala Week.

The idea came to me because I knew some people who took part in the Lomonds Race and along with John Brown from Glentarkie Farm we started making plans and joined by a group of willing helpers (most of whom are now retired) the wheels started turning.

First of all we had to check that there was a possible route. John with a scythe managed to clear a track through the Rough Glen and the route to the top was marked out using ties from the Factory tied to various branches and stakes. (Ties were strips of cloth used to hold bundles of sleeves, collars, fronts and backs of garments before they were put together).

Then we had to decide the categories

Children	8 to 12 years
Young people	13 to 16 years
	17 to 25 years

Over 25.

Next the entry fee and prize money. I can't remember how much either was, but it was not very much. Prizes would be awarded to the first three in each category, to the first female and to the over-all winner.

Registration would take place in John's caravan which would be parked in the Square and every entrant would be given a number with a safety pin to attach to their shirt or blouse. A group of young men, among them Jimmy Swan and Robin Macdonald acted as marshals on the hill to make sure everyone followed the track and did go to the top of Castlclaw. Meanwhile Irene McLaren and myself set up a table in the square selling fresh orange juice.

So the first race was run and was won by Bryan Mair who was in the 13-16 age group in a time of 18 minutes.

I only have a note of the winners up to 1996 and the fastest time over those years was run by Tom Ross in 16 minutes 27 seconds. I am not sure how many entries there were that year but in 1980 there were 22, in 1981 there were 36 and as the years passed there were more and more competitors.

Each year the race was sponsored by local businesses, Mr and Mrs Lamb in the Corner Shop, Randy and Margaret Wallace in the Hotel, the Morland family who had the butcher's shop at that time who also gave a shield for the over-all winner, Sandy and Angela McKinnon in the Tower Bakery, A.D. Walker of A.S.A.P, and the Double M Dairy, to name a few.

It was all very Heath-Robinson at the start but the enthusiasm was there and lots of fun and I guess that is why it has continued over the years. Now it is much more sophisticated and has to comply with Health and Safety. No Health and Safety in 1979!

Julia Banks very kindly gave me the following extracts from her diary which I can share with you.

### 1984 Sunday June 24th

*Ran in the Hill Race. Jeff came 2nd again, I came 4th*

### 1985 Sunday June 25th

*Wet morning. Hill race in the afternoon Jeff ran but I didn't. He came 1st and got a trophy and everyone got a certificate. Anne Hamilton got a trophy for 1st lady*

### 1986 Sunday June 22nd

*Hill race. Jeff ran and came 4th. I checked at the stile. Lovely warm afternoon*

### 1987 Sunday June 21st

*Nice sunny day. Catherine and I ran the hill race. Jeff officiated. Andrew and Beatrice watched.*

### 1988 Sunday June 19th

*Hill race. I left after the start to go to work.*

### 1990 Sunday June 24th

*We all ran the race, Andrew for the first time. Jeff won a prize for his fancy dress.*

### 1991 Sunday June 23rd

*Catherine and Andrew set off for the hill race. On the way up the road with them I decided to have a go as well and managed fine.*

I hope that you have enjoyed reading this little bit of history and that it has brought back happy memories to some of the grandparents in the village.

## Hilda Clow.

## LITTLE HAIR COMPANY

Hello everyone from the Little Hair Company. I hope everyone is well and trying to survive the heat we have been having lately, some may find it enjoyable others I am sure unbearable. As a hairdresser who spends most of her life indoors I was worried I might combust in the sun like a little vampire so, yes, factor fifty was applied when I did enjoy time off up at the loch paddle boarding which is a new hobby I took up last year. It has been great fun.

The salon has been busy and lots of new faces have been in for consultations and strand tests which has been lovely.

It's funny how many mistake busy with making money but with energy bills getting ridiculous, stock prices increasing and clients increasing the time in between appointments many salons have had no choice but to increase their prices to cover the cost or close the door. I was left heartbroken to hear that Vidal Sassoon's closed the door; one of the Glasgow branches that have been on the go for 35 years or so. So sad!

Others choosing to work smarter not harder which after COVID seemed like a great idea. Maybe not so much now when we are about to hit a recession unlike any other experienced in our life time.

Hair and Beauty are a luxury, a real treat but it can make a massive difference to people's well being which makes me appreciate the job I do and how I view my profession. Many a time my husband has witnessed clients come in carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders only to then see them leave with a spring in their step and a smile on their faces. This means more to me than cash in the till ever will.

When someone tells you that they love their job we have to hold that in high regard. What makes someone who loves their job different to someone who says they like their job? Pure and simple is how that person



is treated by the environment and the people they work for and with. We would never in a million years say "No but I like my wife or my husband" now would we? Our lives wouldn't be worth living! It just doesn't sound right does it. So when someone tells you that they love their job you know that they value it on the same level as a loved one and that is extremely rare and I am glad to be in a job which is regarded as one of the happiest Industries to work in.



So nostalgia aside what have we been up to? Well Milkshake have brought out some fab new toning shampoos which are so popular that Redhot the importer ran out. Thankfully the distributors now have it back in stock but it's so popular one of the salons we deal with took 30 bottles just to be safe. Ice blond really does keep yellow brassy tones at bay. It's a charcoal based shampoo which doesn't leave the same type of residue as purple based shampoos Which is amazing for

cool blondes. Equally we now have a cool brunette shampoo which helps keep unwanted red brassy tones at bay. The salon has had some new services. Our beauty therapist recently got married to Danny and had a lovely honeymoon in Bali. She is now back and is also doing make up which she is extremely experienced at. We have been getting some great feedback on this.

We are all excited about the mini arrivals that are due this year at the Little Hair Company, both Laura and Morgan are expecting and we are all thoroughly excited and cannot wait to meet these little bundles of joy. Morgan is due in August and Laura due in October. We have told both girls that when they come back to work Michelle and I will babysit while they do clients.

With another quarter gone who knows what the rest of summer will hold? So till the next time have a great summer.

Love from us all at the little hair company



## REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID ILLINGWORTH.

### The Abernethy Hill Race The Shocking Truth Revealed.

The Abernethy Hill Race was run this year on the 19th June and 47 hardy souls took part. It runs from the lamp post outside 47 Main St, down Main Street, up The Rough Glen and then onto the top of Castle Law Hill itself and back down. Although it has been officially measured as 2.39 miles with 663 feet of climb, for most people it feels a lot longer to run and a lot higher to climb. The event is a celebration of community, fun, fitness and dark, dark masochism.

Cups and shields are awarded to the winners in each category and 2nd places are rewarded with medals. I, myself, have never come 1st or 2nd, but in 1999 I did come 4th in the Blue Riband Over 16 Men's event. (Ed's Note - Aye! Out of 4!). If you aren't fit enough to make the top 2, then having a good excuse for a more leisurely time is vital. In the Hill Race, as in life, a good excuse should be both plausible and heart-rending. Some parents run with their small children and one runner completed the race with a broken bone.

Everyone knows that practising for the Hill Race is cheating. Now, blackmail is an ugly word, but it's accurate and a perfectly affordable four-figure sum paid into a numbered Swiss bank account, (monthly), will avoid any names being revealed and any reputations being ruined.

Veteran runners know to stop for a rest on the way down just before Nurse Peattie's Garden, in order to be prepared for an impressive sprint to the finish line where everyone gets a fantastic cheer from the crowd however

fast, or not-so-fast, the runner. It's that clapping and noise that makes the whole effort worthwhile. However, it's not just the athletes that need applauded: the marshalls; the glamorous ladies who look after the ice poles and registering and filling out the certificates; the people who manned the finishing line and, especially, Keir Allen, who did a great job of leading and organising the whole event, they all deserved to be cheered as well. The actual truth about the Abernethy Hill Race is that it is a marvellous event in which everyone in Abernethy can be very proud.

### Lake Back Dykes



Although it is frankly preposterous to be writing about flooding during one of the driest periods for many years, from time to time after very heavy rain a very large puddle forms at the bottom of School Wynd by the new Puffin Crossing. Known as Lake Back Dykes to local residents, this causes a great deal of nuisance to motorists and especially pedestrians and has also the potential to cause a significant accident. Lake Back Dykes usually has a slightly smaller sibling - Lochan Bus Stop - at the top of Manse Road. These puddles happen

despite the efforts of the Council's Road maintenance team to give the drains regular scourings. The good news is that the council is planning to completely redo the drains and resurface Back Dykes, which should reduce this problem. Unfortunately, the not-so-good news is the only timescale available at the moment is "Not this financial year". I'll keep you up to date with progress.

### Dark Clouds over the Council's finances.

In June, the Council's Director of Finance reported that the forecast deficit for Perth and Kinross Council in financial year 2023-24 is currently predicted to be £24m. It's unlikely that the Scottish Government are going to be able to help Scottish local Authorities with extra cash. They face a deficit black hole of their own of over £2.1 bn. It's also unlikely that you, as Council Tax payers are going to be happy to pay up a possible extra 24% on your Council tax. You have enough inflationary pressures to deal with already. So, hard decisions are going to have to be taken by the Council to find savings. Time will tell how well these decisions will be taken by the new administration.

### It's great when a plan comes to fruition.

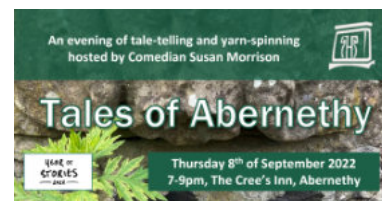


tidier now.

Back in the March edition of the Crier, it was reported that Hillcrest were going to work with PKC to tidy up the bins in Clow Square. It's a pleasure to report that a new bin shelter has been completed and things are looking a lot

### And finally...

If you think I can be of any help then please let me know. Email [dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk) or call 07767006275



Join us for the culmination of our Year of Stories 2022. A relaxed evening listening to folk tell their tales. Some may be true, some may be tall, but all will be told. Hosted by comedian, Susan Morrison. The event is free to attend, but tickets should be obtained from the Museum, or via Eventbrite (search for Tales of Abernethy)

Do you have a tale to tell? Contact us if you would like to share your story on the evening. [stories@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:stories@museumofabernethy.co.uk) - this event is supported by the Year of Stories 2022 Community Stories Fund. This fund is being delivered in partnership between VisitScotland and Museums Galleries Scotland with support from National Lottery Heritage Fund thanks to National Lottery players.

# BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The club are holding a folk music evening in the Williamson Hall on Saturday 8th October (7.00pm for 7.30pm)

The music on the night will be provided by Moleskin Joe and Willie Cameron. Tickets will cost £10 per person. For tickets please contact Ian Bett, Margaret Folan or Jimmy Swan.

## A NEWCOMER TO THE VILLAGE – SOME MEMORIES

I moved to Abernethy in September 2007 as I was looking for a new home after a separation.

I had one main factor to consider when searching, could I do stargazing from the house? Weavers Cottage ticked that box.

I met Hilda and Bobby (Clow) in Struan who gave a warm welcome and a few healthy drams. Joe and Irene (McLaren) also offered a warm welcome, a friendship that grew along with Hilda and Bobby. Hilda moved to Bridge of Earn, and always knocks my door when delivering "The Crier", she's always welcomed. Alan and Doreen (Fraser) moved into Struan House and they too have become great and helpful neighbours and friends. I am really blessed having amazing neighbours.

They all probably wondered what was going on in the winter months in the early hours of the morning hearing clunks and the odd curse of me slipping in the garden. I was of course setting up my telescope equipment.

The Crees played a big part for me in the early days, meeting some new people and eventually running quizzes for Brian and the Museum committee. These were fun nights.

I organised a three night Star Camp at Powrie Park a few years ago which was a success and ran an out-reach night on the Saturday where villagers could come and look through the many telescopes. The Planetarium in The Pavilion also was a real favourite. *There may be another small stargazing event soon, fingers crossed.*

Later on, I had the opportunity to help setting up a Community Cinema in The Williamson Hall. A great facility enjoyed by many villagers. Covid closed us for a couple of years, *but we hope to remedy that soon, watch this space!*



Here are a few pics from the early days! Who remembers the tall trees in the "horse field"?



I couldn't write of all the great times Abernethy has bestowed on me, but this newcomer is glad he found Abernethy!

**David Millar**

## ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

With the summer planting completed and the return of the hanging baskets after an absence due to Covid, the village was again looking splendid in all its colours. Those who have worked so hard in the polytunnel to get the plants ready can now take a little break. Having said that, the plants still need continual watering, feeding and attention throughout the Summer. So we give a big thank you to all in the community and at Branston's who help us to keep the floral displays looking so good.

Nurse Peattie's Garden is also back to looking its best for all in the community and our visitors to share and bide a while.

We are pleased to welcome Julia Banks and David Illingworth who have joined us to look after Nurse Peattie's and all we do throughout the village. We also thank David Stalker who is not only our landlord for the polytunnel but who makes sure all is well when we are not there. I also believe that he has been out planting snowdrops in Powrie Park for next year. We also plan to continue with the planting of our old daffodil and tulip bulbs from our displays to add to the spring colour throughout the village. All of our activities depend on the financial and maintenance support we continue to get from Branston and Jimmy's Emporium. Our grateful thanks therefore go to them and to the community for their support.

After a gap of two years, the 'Bloomin Marvellous' competition is welcomed back. At the time of writing this is being well supported with a large number of entries which will have been judged on the 30th July. As in previous years, the wonderful variety and the ingenious displays on show will be recorded and the results published on our Facebook page and in the next issue of the Village Crier.

Following in August, the tallest sunflower competition will be judged. We therefore look forward to seeing the results of the tender loving care that has been given to get the tallest.

In our association with the community's younger generation, we are very pleased that the Scouts have taken on the maintenance of the Sensory Garden in Powrie Park. They can therefore look forward to receiving a big bag of left over bulbs to plant there!

The Heritage Garden Phase 1 is substantially complete although there is still some work required to get the plant beds in a condition for planting. Planting is planned to begin September/October for completion before the wintry weather arrives. Work is therefore ongoing to progress additional weed control on the grass and plant beds which will be supplemented with top soil and a suitable nutrient for plant growth.

As listed in the previous issue of the Crier, thank you to all within the

community who are planning to donate the plants planned for the Heritage Garden. This can be done by purchasing a plant and looking after it until planting begins or purchasing a plant and giving it to Jimmy at the Emporium for onward care until planting begins or donating towards the purchase of a plant.

Phase 2 which includes the Mini Tower, Interpretation Boards and Lighting will start once all the funding is in place.

In the meantime, it is pleasing to see the seating area being well used by many to rest awhile.

Should you wish to lend a hand please give us a call. Your help would be very much appreciated by our small band of dedicated volunteers.

**Abernethy in Bloom Tel: 850186**  
**E-Mail: lamond0583@hotmail.com**

## ABERNETHY SCOUT GROUP

At the time of writing (end of July) the Leaders have been enjoying a very much deserved month off during the summer holidays and I imagine feel very much like school teachers, with the last year behind them but already starting to think about the next academic year ahead. The scout group are all volunteers and have work and family commitments of their own so we appreciate the time that they find to run such a fantastic group, I can't thank the Leaders, Section Assistants and committee members enough for all the time and effort they put in, as someone once said to me "scouting will take every available minute you have and more", which is very true, so a huge thanks to them all with what has been a very challenging couple of years.

Reflecting on the Scouts that have recently left at the summer, some have been with us for 8 years having joined as Beavers at (6 years old) then Cubs (8 to 10 ½ years) before becoming Scouts where they can remain until they are 14 years old. This was the reason that we decided to start the Scout troop so that we could offer the kids the chance to continue with the Abernethy Scout Group for another 3 ½ years more or less doubling their time with the group, so hopefully they will have enjoyed their experience and their own adventure as much as the leaders have enjoyed working with them and I hope that they look back on their scouting adventure with fond memories with hopefully some going onto become leaders someday.

The Beaver Colony has continued to grow and over the last term they enjoyed various activities with a woodland walk and litter pick, den building and attending Willowgate Activity Centre which is located on the river Tay adjacent to the Friarton Bridge. This is a fantastic place to enjoy water sports safely and it's on our doorstep, where years ago we would need to travel to Lochgoilhead to undertake water activities at a Scout Centre.

The Cubs managed to get back to the normality of camping after having to cancel the last two years due to the pandemic and managed to attend their now traditional annual camp to Fordell Firs Activity Centre (Near Dunfermline) where there's a variety of activities with the all-important trained Instructors, where they can go climbing, abseiling as well as crate climbing and high ropes. This really takes the pressure off leaders with the training and risk assessments needed to do anything remotely adventurous. Years ago, as a scout we would periodically attend at Abernethy Quarry tie a rope round a tree make some kind of rope harness with our brief being don't let go of the other end of the rope whilst scouts were trying to abseil down. Nobody got hurt well not anything other than bruises but trying 1980s Scouting would certainly get you into a lot of trouble in today's risk averse society.



As the cubs are awaiting breakfast you can tell from their faces that there's not been a great deal of sleeping going on during the night.



A bit of trepidation as the Cubs await their turn to go crate climbing, which is just milk bottle crates stacked singularly upside down with the task of being to be able to get to 16 high and stand on top without them falling over. The higher you get the trickier it is to add another crate to the top while you stand on the handles at the sides. The picture doesn't do the Cubs any justice to the amount of fun they had, but again for some of the Cubs this would have been their second or third camp if it wasn't for the Covid pandemic, resulting in this being the first camp for most, so fear of the unknown had a lot to do with the activities as they are designed to get them out of their comfort zones.



Over the past term the scouts have been busy with various activities. They were kayaking at Willowgate, they also took the time to learn about the area that they live in and contacted a local foodbank, who kindly came along and gave them an input on how it operates. The Scouts kindly brought along donations on the night for the foodbank. It's sad that in today's society that foodbanks have almost become a necessity for people to survive and we're all proud of the scouts taking the time to find out about how it works and what they could do to help.

The Scout Troop is busy planning a camp to Meggernie Centre Bridge of Balgie, Glenlyon where they undertake a variety of activities in the middle of August, so again at the time of writing the Scout Leaders are busy planning and arranging so the Scouts can benefit from this experience. Hopefully the weather and the midges will be kind to them.



Again, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to anyone in the village that was a scout in Abernethy to get in touch with any stories, pictures, and memories so we can start to collate information for our forthcoming centenary Abernethy Scout year in 2023. From my own enquiring I believe that Roy Miller and Ian Bett are the oldest Abernethy Scouts, and we are planning on speaking with them in the near future.

If anyone would like to join our adventure as a Leader or as a Section Assistance or Committee member, then please get in contact as I'm sure you'll find it enjoyable and rewarding as we all do.

Finally, a massive thanks to Angela Dunn who has been with our group for five years firstly as an Assistant Beaver Leader and then as an Assistant Cub Leader. Her contribution to the group has been huge and we wish her all the best with her future charity work. Angela despite having to carry the burden of supporting the fake Saints from Paisley is always enthusiastic and will be sorely missed. However, I have been reliably informed that her husband Euan is looking to assist with the Scout Group which will be a welcome addition

to our team. (Now it's in the Crier he's committed to help).

**Gordon Miller**  
**Abernethy Group Scout Leader**

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## RUBY'S RECIPES

### Ruby's Fruit Tea Loaf

#### Ingredients

8 oz/228 gms Sugar  
112gm/4oz Marg or Butter  
112gm/4oz Sultanas  
2 tsp Bicarb of soda  
12 oz/340 gms Self-raising flour  
1/2pt/27m ml Water

Oven Gas 3 160°C

#### Method:

Put all ingredients EXCEPT flour into a pan and bring to the boil, simmer for 5 mins.

Remove from heat and cool.

Add flour and beat thoroughly.  
Put into a lined, greased loaf tin.  
Bake for 1 hour then test with skewer.  
Cool, slice and butter if desired.

Perfect for afternoon tea.  
Enjoy

Ruby

## TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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

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

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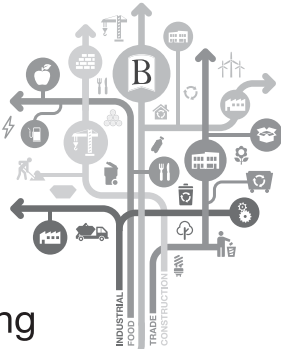
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I decided to ask my friend Theresa Hughes if she would like to help on the project, knowing she is a very talented artist in many fields. We decided on another meeting with the minister, with some rough sketches to be discussed, after which the final designs would be confirmed, and the search for suitable fabrics would begin. At this point only one panel was being talked about, but this all changed after Rev Stan saw my rough sketches and Theresa's not so rough sketch of St Bride, and after a lengthy chat we ended up talking about not one but three panels!!

So the process began, with the choosing of fabrics for the backgrounds of the various designs, the central panel of St Bride, and the fabric they would all eventually be mounted on, as well as backing fabric, threads, and various embellishments. Having finalised the designs and decided on the finished size of the three panels, I transferred them on to background fabrics ready for the ladies to start stitching, and put together a type of kit the ladies would need for said stitching. Various ladies in the church were then approached and asked if they would be happy to help stitch the design squares that were to go on the two outer panels.

There were four squares on each panel, each with a design relating either to St Bride or Abernethy itself. The squares were tilted to look more like diamonds and the designs were drawn on to them in a central position. Once the designs were stitched on the squares, they were applied to the main background fabric. This would then have a backing fabric applied, and finished by hemming the bottom of the panel, whilst the top was stitched, leaving openings either side to slip in the poles which they were to hang from. We decided the poles should be brass, and would hang from the picture rail in the kirk on brass chains attached to picture hooks.

The next step was to contact the ladies and organise a meeting in the session house which was now allowed after the relaxation of lockdown regulations, this was duly done and the meeting was set. The ladies asked to come were Patricia Miller, Anne Robertson, Anne Brews, Evelyn Scobie, Aileen Kennon and Wilma Whyte. The ladies chose which square they would like to stitch and were given the squares which I had transferred my designs on to, along with the threads and embellishments needed to complete it. It was arranged that if they had any problems or needed more supplies or advice, they could phone me and I would call on them and help in any way I could.

The squares were chosen in October 2021, and after Christmas and New Year were over, stitching started in earnest, and the poles were ordered.

Patricia Miller stitched the Raspberry design which was an important local crop for many years. Anne Robertson stitched the design of the Round Tower, one of the main historic buildings of the village. Anne Brews stitched the Salmon being netted, again salmon netting being an important industry in the area. Evelyn Scobie stitched the Oystercatcher design which links to St Bride. Wilma Whyte stitched the Anchor and Serpent with help from Aileen Kennon. Theresa Hughes stitched the Pictish symbol design taken from the stone at the bottom of the Tower. Carolyn Smart stitched the Celtic Cross and Harp designs. The squares once complete were returned to me and I edged them and applied them to the background fabric, and completed the two side panels. The design and stitching of the St Bride panel was done by Theresa as it was decided to machine quilt that panel before applying to the background fabric, but I will leave it to Theresa to describe her thoughts and design process to you.

Lastly but by no means least, I would like to pay tribute to my late friend Wilma Whyte who is sadly no longer with us, but was determined to do a square on the panels, the Anchor and Serpent. She chose this as a link to her family ancestry of fisherfolk. It also signifies steadfastness in the Christian faith and Wilma had faith. She was one of the kindest, funniest, people I knew, always smartly dressed, petite in stature, but with a huge personality. Hard working, with many talents she was a good friend and neighbour, and will be sadly missed by all who knew her in the village, especially those who knew her well.

**Carolyn Smart, Abernethy, July 2022.**

**The Central Panel Theresa Hughes**

The inspiration for the main banner image literally appeared as I went home after our planning meeting in the Kirk and I drew it out immediately. As I passed the bulk of Castlelaw hill fort on my way home I thought the hill must figure in the image as it would have been an



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## ST BRIDES CHURCH PANELS

### Carolyn Smart

In the beginning.....July 2021, my neighbour Joyce White approached me (Carolyn Smart), to ask if I would be happy/able to design and sew some panels to hang in Abernethy church. I answered yes, provided the minister could meet me to give me an idea on the type of design, how large said panels were to be and what the budget was for the project. I met the minister for the first time a few weeks later, and after much discussion a layout for one panel was provisionally chosen. I was also asked if some ladies from the church could be involved in the stitching process, and as the basic design lent itself to this, it was agreed to choose people who might be able to give their time to the project.

The basic design ideas were to be linked to St Bride as this is the name of the church in Abernethy.

important feature of the landscape then as it has now. The hill fort being well before Christ links to the pre-Christian stories which waft around "St Bride" or Brigid as she is known in Ireland.

Whether Brigid herself travelled as far as Abernethy we cannot know and I suspect perhaps not, but her Irish influence most certainly did - as the local landmark that is the round tower clearly shows. There are two round towers on the east side of Scotland; at Brechin and Abernethy, indicating that the Irish religious culture from the 9th - 10th century reached this far. Ireland has more than 60 extant today with evidence of about 120 evident intact or as ruinous ghosts under grassy mounds. So the powerful influence of St Bride and St Patrick and the other Irish saints Columba, Cormaic and Finbar made its way across the sea coming to rest sufficiently near the confluence of the rivers Earn and Tay then on to Brechin.

**St Brigid** The image I stitched shows a suggestion that a young Brigid did in fact travel over sea and land and was welcomed at a community she found between the Rivers Tay and Nethy. Grateful for her safe passage and inspired by the loving welcome, she kneels in prayer in a meadow in the vicinity of where the monastery/church would eventually stand. She is facing west from where she came. Her arms are in the open stance with hands raised - releasing ownership and opening to the universe. I showed my early sketch to a learned friend and they immediately said that is a more correct way to be shown "praying" as many early medieval manuscripts confirm. (This was not something that I consciously knew!).

She is barefoot. This also seemed right for a simple person of the 5th century, but I then noted in the Book of Kells that the only person who wears shoes was the person who paid for the work, even God goes barefoot, so I felt sure that Brigid would not want to place herself above God!

**Holy Ghost** The spirit is represented by a cloud-like dove from which inspiration showers down.

**St Bride's Cross** This links many things in St Bride's story; her simplicity, her rural background, her inspiration to others and it links her to the Christian religion. A story is recorded that Brigid went to the death-bed of a sick man who was a pagan chieftain of Kildare. She busied her hands weaving the cross and when asked, told him what it represented. So impressed was the chieftain of her, her manner and what she said, that he asked to be baptised before he died. This suggests that whatever pagan traditions were strong at the time, the Christian church was superimposing itself on them.

I experimented with making the iconic cross of St. Brigid. First, I climbed the hill beyond the motorway to gather some nice big rushes. That was a nice little pilgrimage itself as I didn't then know how to weave them but I worked it out when I got home. Carolyn and I discovered the technique by going on-line and researching the modern way!

**The fire of St Brigid** St Brigid wears a robe and cloak. I made the sleeves in a "flaming" fabric to reference the story about her ordination.

When Brigid went to Bishop Mel to receive a blessing as a nun with a group of other women she wanted to be treated no differently to the others, however a flame appeared above her head which leapt to a beam and to the church roof. It is said that she laid her hand on the burnt church timber and the wood became fresh again. Bishop Mel saw this and brought her forward. Then the Bishop found himself saying the words of consecration for a bishop, not for the initiation of a nun. Although this was complained about, Bishop Mel said that this was divine intervention and such words could not be undone. So Brigid, in effect, became the first female bishop of Ireland.

**St Brigid's cloak** Her cloak is meant to look like land and this represents another miraculous tale associated with her. Brigid went to the King of Leinster seeking some land on which to build her nunnery. He refused her whereupon she asked if she could have as much land as she could cover with her cloak. Laughing - he agreed. Somehow, when four nuns took the corners of her wrap, the cloak grew and stretched until it covered some acres. And there her church was established. Perhaps this references again the power of her goodness. Perhaps seeking and asking for little and then giving away what you have can impress people more than asking for a lot.

**St Bride's White Cow** As a child and adult Brigid was generous with her giving. Stories exist about her milking her mother's cows and giving the milk away and of her having and milking a white cow, with red ears, which gave much milk when Brigid milked her. Brigid gave the milk away to the hungry much to the annoyance of her family who were clearly of more ordinary earthly human stock!

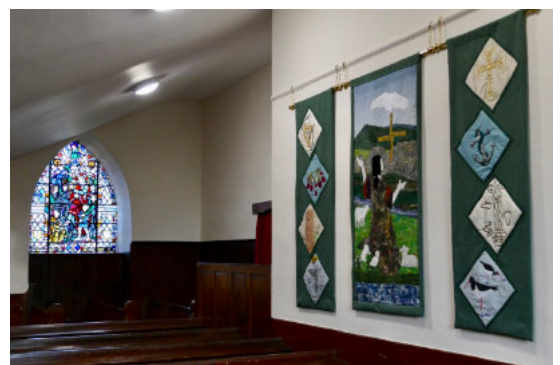
**Christianity** Brigid's adoption of the Christian faith is symbolised by the Lamb of Christ sitting beside her in the meadow - sharing or observing her experience of receiving the spirit.

**Imbolc** (1st day of February) is a cornerstone of the pre-Christian world when nature begins to move under the chilly winter mantle. At what point Brigid became associated with Imbolc is not known but she certainly covers the early year issues of needing to stave off hunger as the harvest is nearly gone and crops not yet growing. The snowdrops being our February flower are included to remind us when St Bride's feast day is.

**Fishes** The silver fish in the River Tay are obviously Tay salmon but make an obvious biblical reference to the whole.

Although I have never made anything remotely like this before I have little doubt that 'Bridey' was helping me along now and again - even though she wouldn't have a CLUE what the gadget machine was on which I was making her image! I had many little revelations of my own whenever I felt stuck or troubled by how to do things. It is many decades since I felt similarly connected to the distant past.

Theresa Hughes, Aberargie, July 2022







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## IAN BETT'S MEMORIES



Photo with my Aunt Annie Bett as she was then in Perth High Street in 1950.

Before the days of digital cameras and mobile phones it was common for street photographers to "snap" you as you walked down the High Streets of our towns and if you wanted to have the pictures you paid the fee and they were then sent on to you. This photo taken in 1950 shows my Aunt Annie Bett, as she was then, taking her dog for a walk down Perth High Street.



The second photo from 1970 when Abernethy was still very much a "Raspberry village" shows Ian Bett in his coal lorry with a load of rasps ready to be collected by a Perth and Angus Fruitgrowers Association lorry for overnight

transportation to the Fresh markets in the likes of Liverpool and Manchester. No polytunnels in these days so pickings like this were very much weather dependent. It must have been a Wednesday as you can see the Co-op is closed for the half holiday.

## SAD NEWS

We received the following communication from the Abernethy Horticultural Society email address. We presume that this is not a hoax and is an accurate notice of the sad decline of another village institution.

*"Could you please include the following notice from the (ex) committee of the Abernethy Horticultural Society in the next issue of the Crier (and also update the club & organisation contact info page to show that the society is now disbanded.*

Thanks

### **Abernethy Horticultural Society Dissolved**

*Prior to the pandemic, there was a general feeling among members that the Horticultural Society may have run its natural course. Efforts were made to re-invigorate the society, but ultimately these were all stymied by covid. All momentum was eventually exhausted and at an AGM held on 29th May 2022 no one was willing to stand for election to form a new committee. In accordance with the constitution, the society was therefore dissolved and all remaining funds were donated to Abernethy in Bloom. It is fortuitous to have such an appropriate beneficiary in Abernethy in Bloom, which originated as an offshoot of the society and has since firmly taken root and continues to flourish. It is impossible to adequately acknowledge all the activities of the society and the individuals who supported them, so will simply say a big thank you to all who contributed to the talks, garden days, visits and various other projects over the years. This was not the first incarnation of the Abernethy Horticultural Society to have come and gone, and who knows, maybe it won't be the last?"*

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# LUCY JAMIESON – THE “PIPER”

Lucy has been piping for about eight years now.



Her grandpa started her off with her first “chanter” when she was about 2 years old and was amazed that she could actually get a sound from it!!!!

She joined Kinross and District Pipe Band and played a bit with her chanter then progressed on to the pipes and at that time she entered the “Chanter” competition at “Perform in Perth” and won 1st place. That set the ball rolling!!!!



Lucy then moved on to join Vale of Atholl Pipe Band and during her time with “the Vale” she performed with the band and had success at various solo competitions. She has played solos throughout the district including “Festival of the Arts” in Perth St John’s Church and on 11 Nov 2018 she played “in the dark” at our War memorial at 6.00am to commemorate the centenary of the ending of World War I.



Lucy has now progressed to be a member of Edradour Pitlochry and Blair Atholl Pipe Band and is being kept busy with them entering the various major competitions at Grade 3B level and so far this year they have been successful bringing home some trophy shields and silverware. Let’s hope their success continues for the remaining major championships of this year (including “The Worlds”)



Apart from practicing and playing with the band Lucy has been kept busy. Recently The Federation of Perth & Kinross SWI were delighted to have her play at the door to welcome guests and members to their 100th birthday celebration at Crieff.

Some of you may also have heard her play outside Abernethy Primary when she had been asked to pipe the P7 class out from school on their last day. She also has 2 weddings to play at in the near future and another planned for February next year and so the list goes on!

A busy young lady, well done Lucy in all you have achieved with your piping, we wish you even more success in the future.

(Name and address supplied)

# ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

Our Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea held on Saturday 25th June was well attended and a lovely afternoon was enjoyed by all. A delicious afternoon tea was provided and served by Heaven Scent, and musical entertainment provided by Willie Cameron. Judging by the happy smiling faces in the photographs, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th October at 7.30pm in the Session House at Abernethy Church. Members of the public are welcome at this meeting.

The Annual Christmas party will be held in the Williamson Hall on Saturday 3rd December. Committee members will be in touch with people in their districts nearer the time with the details.

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

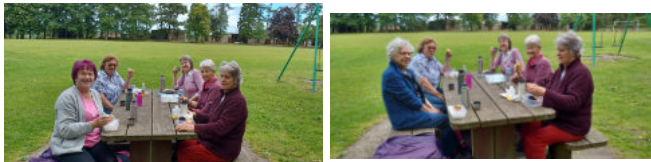
**Evelyn Scobie, Secretary Tel: 07719240294**



# ABERNETHY WALKING GROUP

The Abernethy Walking Group walk on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, with an extra walk if there are 5 Tuesdays. We meet at 9am at the Corn Kist Car Park, unless otherwise stated. Details are posted in the Notice Board in the Square a couple of days before the walk. Our walks can range from two miles to around five miles. Sometimes slightly longer. They can be local, or sometimes a bit farther afield when we will share cars, with the cost of fuel being shared. We are a happy, friendly bunch and invite anyone from Abernethy or the surrounding area to join us. Our numbers have depleted recently so we would welcome new members. If you require further information please ring Evelyn Scobie on 07719240294.

I attach a couple of pics from our recent summer picnic.



## WORDSEARCH WORDS

<b>Words:</b>	Abernethy	biscuits	tower	Wynd	raspberry
	Castlelaw	Balmanno	Dron	Glencairn	Glenlaw
	Carpow	Jamesfield	Balgonie	Cordon	Earn
	Crees	Backdykes	PowriePark	Ballomill	
	Balloburn	rural	Hatton	Den Park	
	Screwbrig	hotel	Glenfoot	Ayton	Bein
	fish	Aberargie	Gowlie	Inn	Picts

Evelyn Scobie



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### SCOTLAND CYCLE REPAIR SCHEME

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# RALEIGH

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## 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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# LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear friends,

Now that the long, hot days of summer are receding into the mists of time, it might be appropriate to look back on what were our holidays – if we were lucky enough to actually go anywhere. Aileen and I decided to book a few quiet days in a cottage on the Black Isle. She was more enthusiastic about this destination than me since I found the heady lure of the summer sun brochures just a bit too irresistible. As she left for work one morning, I sat peering at my laptop and surfing the booking sites for the best deal. By the time she returned home after a long shift, she cheerfully asked, “Well, did you manage to get us accommodation somewhere in Ross and Cromarty?” I answered her as truthfully as I could: “I got us somewhere to stay, alright”, I replied sheepishly, “...only, it’s a bit further south.” The inevitable question was then asked, “How much further south, Stan?” To which I replied, “Menorca!”

Our plans for journeys very often start out as one thing, with good intentions and high ideals, but often the actual destination is not what was expected. As Rabbie Burns reminded us in ‘To a Mouse, on Turning Her Up in Her Nest With the Plough’ written in 1785:

*The best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men gang aft a-gley,  
An’ lea’e us nought but grief an’ pain, for promis’d joy!*

As you know, the Presbytery of Perth, faced with the hard task of cutting out nine and a half ministers from its clerical workforce has made drastic cutbacks, not least the eventual dissolution of the Parish of Abernethy & Dron & Arngask. The folks in Glenfarg and district will become part of a church grouping in the Kinross area and share their ministers, whilst the people of Abernethy, Aberargie and Dron will become part of a group of churches whose minister is based in Bridge of Earn. Although none of these changes can happen until I retire, there seemed little point in me lingering on and blocking the future plans of the Kirk in this part of Perthshire. Hence my firm intentions to remain here until I became an OAP were suddenly challenged and I had to make a difficult decision to demit. This then, will be my last letter to you, since I will depart this Autumn - towards the end of October this year.

I am sure that, as a destination, the Black Isle holds many attractions, but the journey there went in a surprising and unanticipated direction and we were never to experience them. On the other hand, Menorca proved to be everything I hoped for – sun, sea and a swimming pool. Likewise, my journey with you all as your parish minister is ending prematurely, but I wish you all well in all your future travels in life, and likewise when the time comes, planned or not, a happy destination.

With all good wishes.

**Rev Stan July 2022**

## KIRK NEWS

We were very sorry to hear of the Rev Stan’s decision to take early retirement at the end of October. We thank him sincerely for all his support, guidance and kindness over the past four years, especially throughout the challenging times of COVID when restrictions were constantly changing. We will miss his stimulating and inspirational sermons and the many hilarious stories of his life at sea. We wish Stan and Aileen a long and happy retirement and hope Aileen finally makes it to the Black Isle one day!

The café we hold every week in the session house of Kirk of St. Bride is called ‘Biscuits and Bletcher’ and it goes from strength to strength. It is open to everyone and we regularly host both visitors to the area as well as local folk from all over the parish. It is held on Wednesdays between 10.00am and 12.00 noon. Not only does it provide those who pop in with a welcome cuppa and a time to chat but also gives them the opportunity to look in the kirk and view the amazing three-part wall hanging which has recently been created and installed and which is based on the life of Saint Bride, the patron saint of the church in Abernethy.

Donations are still being invited for the Ukraine Appeal and we say a big thank you to those who have been leaving goods for this charity. Items can be dropped off either on a Sunday morning at Kirk of St. Bride during morning worship or on a Wednesday morning between the hours of 10.00am and 12.00 noon when our café is open. Things which are particularly welcomed as donations include both cans of food and dried food and also toiletries and nappies.

**Joyce White Session Clerk**

## OLDIES’ PAGE

Today we have some memories of happy days in the village when the Gala Week included the traditional procession of local organisations in tableaux. How many of the participants can you identify?



Scouts



Cubs



Sunday School





Playgroup

As harvest time is now upon us we have chosen to display some photographs of how it was a while ago. Extremely labour intensive.



Threshing machine or 'mill' which separated the grain from the straw.



Horse drawn binder and stooking the sheaves.



Massey Harris combine of the 1950s



Loading the bogie (trailer)



Building the stacks

## ABERNETHY SWI

Abernethy SWI meet on the third Wednesday of the month from September to May. The first meeting of the new session is on Wednesday 21st September in the Masonic Hall from 1pm to 3pm. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome.

The rest of our programme will hopefully be as follows:

Wed 19th October we will have an afternoon of Christmas Crafts.  
 Wed 16th November we are having a Quiz Night, which will be an Open Night – watch the notice board and our SWI Facebook page for details.  
 Wed 21st Dec will be our Christmas Meal out.

2023

Wed 18th Jan – Visit to Branstons – TBC  
 Wed 15th Feb – Pyrography/stained glass – TBC  
 Wed 15th March – Spinning Demonstration  
 Wed 19th April – Learning to Knit in Shetland  
 Wed 17th May – AGM – Members Night

If you would like to join us, please come along to our September meeting, we desperately need new members! You will be made very welcome. Members Annual Subscription will be £30 plus £3 per meeting, £4 for visitors. Look out for further information each month on village notice boards and on our SWI Facebook page.

**Evelyn Scobie**



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Abernethy Bowling Club  
Contact: Mrs Francis McMillan  
Tel: 0777 414 33 60

Abernethy Community Cinema  
Contact:  
Tel Home:  
Email: [abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com)

Abernethy Community Transport  
Contact: Jill Young  
Tel: 07840212747  
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Auld Abernethy Association  
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Baby & Toddler Group  
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Badminton  
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*Thank you*



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UPSTAIRS

@JAMESFIELD, ABERNETHY



## INDOOR PLAY

"Love the whole ethos of the treehouse. The open and airy space makes you feel like your outdoors. The facilities are so clean, even down to the well thought out changing facilities. We've enjoyed meeting friends here several times"

"A beautiful soft play, bright and clean. Lovely cafe area for the grown ups. My child had a wonderful party here which was so easy and well organised. What a local treasure this is."