

# VILLAGE CRIER



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

Abernethy

Dron

Aberargie

53rd Edition

March 2022

Closing date for June edition 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022

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

**MARCH'S WINNER OF THE PHOTO COMPETITION**

**UNPRECEDENTED TIE FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

**CAROL MCMAHON & GAIL DOWNES**

**WELL DONE BOTH**







Carol McMahon



Carol McMahon



Gail Downes



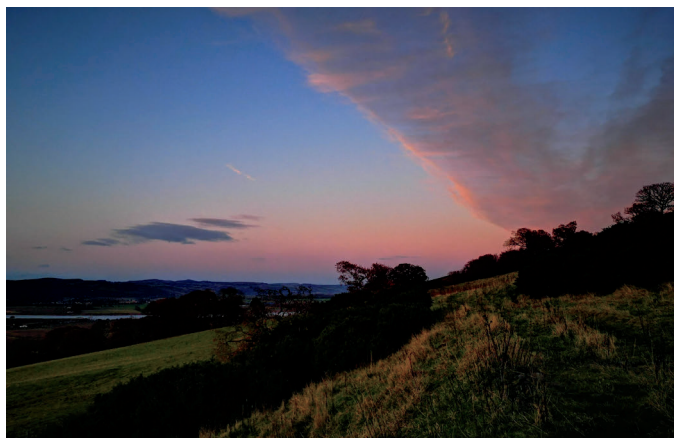
Moira Lacey



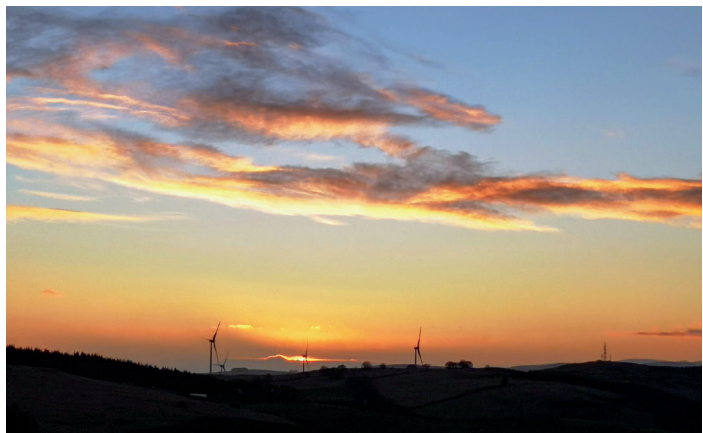
Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey



Moira Lacey

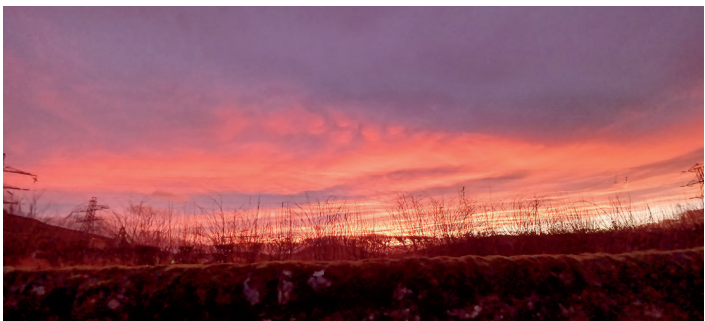


Moira Lacey





Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Evelyn Scobie



Table of Contents	
Editor's View	4
From the Chair	4
The Clow Family	5
Abernethy in Bloom	6
What a Beginning What an End	7
Letters to the Editor	7
From the Archives 4	9
Alison Messenger	9
Being a Volunteer	9
Williamson Hall	9
From Our Archive (1913)	9
Frae Oor Cooncillor	10
Abernethy Community Transport	10
It Is With Regret	10
New Abernethians	11
8 Minutes 49.2 Seconds	13
Kashal's Next Lesson	13
HMP Southfield Meadows	13
Tennis Club	14
Health Service	14
The View From The Hatch	15
Abernethy in Bloom Emporium	15
Report From Councillor David Illingworth	15
Abernethy Scout Group	18
Shedding Light on Aberargie Winter into Spring 2022	22
Burns Suppers	22
Letter From the Manse	26
Kirk News	26
Yet Another Burns Supper	26
Lights at Christmas	28
Professor Robert 'Bertie' Anderson Wood	29
Abernethy SWI	31
Abernethy Senior Citizens Trust	31

## EDITOR'S VIEW

Following on from my December editorial which raised some criticism regarding the fence around the new houses at Sandilands Grove (Southfield Meadows) I have carried out a straw poll in the village and everyone I spoke to thought it was "An ugly monstrosity". My view was on the actual construction and design of the fence and absolutely nothing to do with the Crier being an unwelcoming publication. In this edition you will find an article from a resident of the site regarding his views about the fence.

The new residents will be moving in to Sandilands Grove in the near future and I am sure that they will find Abernethy to be a very welcoming place, and in my opinion the Crier magnifies that, and every new resident is an asset. Hopefully some will get involved with the many clubs and organisations in the village.

I would like to congratulate the Community Council for their hard work in organising the lighting up of the dark nights with the Christmas lights on the lamp standards, and Abernethy in Bloom for all their work putting together the festive display, Nativity Scene and Christmas tree in the Nurse's garden.

Well done to all involved.

**Jimmy Swan**

## FROM THE CHAIR

By the time you have received this edition of the Crier it won't be long until the clocks are changed forward to summer time. The days have become markedly longer already since the darkness of December and January.

One thing which brightened up those dark days were the Christmas lights throughout the village and in Aberargie and our thanks must go to all who were involved in setting them up and also for taking them down, now to be replaced with plants and flowers. Thanks must go to all those involved, The Community Council, Abernethy in Bloom, Caroline Haxton and to the householders as well for individual efforts towards a bright and cheerful festive season in Abernethy.

Abernethy in Bloom is doing a marvellous job.

Good to look ahead to the reopening of the Tennis Club for the season. Reading of the current problems reminds me of the state of the courts when I came to Abernethy in 1968. The club had been non-existent for many years and so the courts and clubhouse had fallen into a state of disrepair, dockens, nettles and every other weed one can think of growing through the ground and the clubhouse quite derelict. However that is another story for another time as I think we have plenty of history in this edition.

Very much on present day affairs, we have a feature on healthcare in our area which is of deep concern to all of us. With an increase in population and a decrease in local medical services the situation is quite troubling.

Kathleen Baird has given us her last report as a councillor as she is retiring from Perth and Kinross Council of which she has been a member for many years.. Our thanks to Kathleen for being our representative. Perhaps she might continue to contribute to the Crier as Mrs Kathleen Baird and tell us what she is up to now: and maybe not!!! Only joking Kathleen

We have welcomed Theresa Hughes on to the Crier committee. It is good to have a representative from Aberargie as Abernethy and Aberargie are more or less one within the Parish.

Now I will leave you to turn the pages and read for yourselves what has been going on over the last three months and what to expect over the next three.

**Hilda Clow**



# THE CLOW FAMILY

Whilst I was searching among some papers recently I came across a piece of Abernethy history written by my late husband Bobby who died in 2009. He wrote this in 1989 and whether it was meant to be given as a talk or put into a publication, I don't really know. However here it is as written by him.

## THE FAMILY

**THOMAS CLOW BORN 1756 (WEAVER)**

**ARCHIBALD CLOW BORN 1803 (MERCHANT) SISTER BETTY**

**ROBERT CLOW BORN 1839 (CLOTH AND PROVISION MERCHANT) 9 IN THAT FAMILY —3 DYING YOUNG**

**JOHN CLOW BORN 1883 (CLOTHING MANUFACTURER) 7 IN THAT FAMILY—3 DYING YOUNG**

**MY FATHER HAD 2 SISTERS AND A YOUNGER BROTHER SURVIVING**

**ANNIE BECAME MRS WILLIE SMITH—BALLOMILL FARM**

**REBECCA (BECKY) MARRIED BOB DAVIDSON—INVERNAHAVEN**

**GEORGE—UNMARRIED WAS KILLED IN FRANCE 1916**

John Clow went to Perth Academy and afterwards was apprenticed to Brydson's Store in St John's Street. After that he went to Glasgow to work in one of the many wholesale warehouses, Mann Byers and Company. This is the period to about 1905 and a taste of the wider world which he never forgot.

His father Robert had got up a General Provision business in 1869 and this included the supply of yarns to the hand looms and the sale of the finished cloth. So there was a connection already with textiles going back in the family to Thomas, a weaver, who came to Abernethy from Perth.

As John was the eldest of the four surviving children and his father Robert not in good health, there is a situation at home even before his father died.

Coming back to Abernethy from the bustle of Glasgow must have seemed a doubtful prospect for my father. A small shop offering supplies on credit to weavers, farm workers and salmon fishers cannot have seemed a way forward.

## THE FACTORY -THE EARLY YEARS

At the back of the Shop and family home (now Kate Hutton's) there was a room for the first workshop making garments. A treadle machine and one machinist, Kate Walker with brother George Clow helping.

When Robert Clow died in 1909 my father was already in negotiation for bigger premises and made an offer for the vacant U. F. Church. So there is a chance to install power driven machinery from 1909, the photostat from the Sandeman is not clear but there must have been fairly rapid expansion. I can count 24 girls.

I think they made cotton underwear, blouses and some babywear. Business must have been interrupted by the 1914 War and possibly some hospital contract work was undertaken.

I begin to remember something of the factory by about 1923, being allowed in to see what was going on, running about and being a pest and getting too near to the pulleys and moving parts.

In those days before going to school, it would all seem warm and wonderful. The smell of the engine, the gas light, the teasing, the girls singing at their machines and special occasions like the week's holiday when there was jelly and ice cream brought in from the Hotel. I would be spoiled no doubt.

I got taken along to factory charabanc outings. Coleen Kemp was my best pal right along the years.

During the 1920's the factory took on its real manufacturing characteristics.

There was new machinery to assist and new ideas coming along. Although chemises and some underclothing were still produced, the new embroidery machines were being used to great effect on nightdresses and especially children's sleeping suits and pyjamas. Big multicoloured embroideries and fancy effects like hemstitching and machine scalloping and artificial silk had come along both for shiny thread and basic material.

From being tied more or less to flannelette and cambrics, the newer and finer qualities of winceyette and twill woven Viyella mixtures were on the market and viscose rayon fabric, plain and printed. Although printed cloth was used more for pinafores with bias binding trim.

The markets to take up production were centred on wholesale distribution. Huge businesses in Glasgow, Manchester and London, with agents in these centres showing factory samples. Leicester was also a big Midlands market.

The management was my father and Miss Kemp, Coleen.

By the end of the twenties, it was clear that a better work area was needed and a start was made to go out at the back of the original Church building by buying ground from the McAllister family. Also mains supply electricity had arrived.

The layout of the new factory remained more or less as it is today, although of the 40 odd machinists, about half would be embroidery, bias binding for babywear, scalloping, hemstitching with special effects with 20 to 30 at one stage doing plain machining assembly of the garments. Much more difficult seaming in those days as the main seams were "run and fell" and no overlocking to speak of.

Markets in the 30's were still through wholesalers, Campbell, Stewart & McDonald, Arthur & Company in Glasgow, with others trading throughout the U.K. and the first export market was also established. Both Hudson's Bay Company and Robert Simpson Company of Canada were regular customers for embroidered winceyette nighties and also for the fine wool nunsveiling cloths and mixtures of wool and cotton of the viyella type.

Prices in the '30's' were very keen and articles were sold by the dozen at from 36/- i.e. 3 shillings each or 15 pence in today's money.

A steady adult wage in the 30's would be around £2 weekly (or less) at a time of very low men's wages, and there was absolutely no inflation. Everything remained about the same price for years on end.

My father John Clow did not consider himself a courageous man but I think he must have been just that when one considers the circumstances. Abernethy is far from main centres of garment making, and he would have very little capital.

The looming shadow of Hitler and the feeling of menace from Germany for the second time, depressed him very badly, but he took up the challenge of being local Provost during those very difficult war years.

The factory became a centre of war effort and fund- raising, and another very fine thing happened. Young machinists arrived from Newburgh, and the story of the Company from 1941 onwards was transformed by their youth and vigour and, I can tell you, by their plain speaking as well. The story of the factory goes on from this point and Newburgh is a big factor in it.

I have never had a chance to tell anyone publicly how I feel about my father. The pity of it is, I don't think I managed to tell him at the time. Regrets Regrets!

I am sorry there are not more photographs of the factory and of the people who are part of my early memories. Of course, some were long serving and very important staff right through to the time I came back in 1945 while many others moved on to other careers and marriage.

ANN ARTHUR & AGNES BETT

JEANNIE CHRISTIE

CHRISTINA EDMISTON

CUTTERS

MACHINE MECHANIC

FORELADY AT THE WORK TABLE



KATE EDMISTON  
 AGNES DUFF  
 NAN HUTTON  
 ANDREW HAGGART

EMBROIDERY  
 BIAS BINDING SPECIAL SEWING  
 MACHINE TRAINING  
 WAREHOUSE AND INVOICING  
 PACKING AND DESPATCH

Many machinists who left to marry came back in the 1940 war, so it must have been very cheering for my father to see them again and have their help.

The story of the factory in the early years should have been told before 1958 when my father was still alive and I know the Auld Abernethy Association would dearly like to have better records of the time we are looking at now. Essentially it is the first 40 years of the 20th century. Abernethy still profoundly rural in outlook and reacting to the seasons of the year, as the casual work on the land and on the river came round. At the same time let us not forget that before the disaster of 1914 and the loss of so many young men, there had been a lively social scene for those who did not toil for the bare subsistence wage of the time. Abernethy had a golf course, a tennis club, amateur theatricals, two churches going strong with their activities, a very flourishing bowling club, annual games and a Street market. The linen factory of Ireland & Wishart held on until about 1926. So in many ways there was quite a lot of activity.

The railway was the link until a regular bus service started in the late 1920's. John Clow was endlessly thinking about getting Abernethy into the wider world, especially to provide work for men. Abernethy has still not solved that particular problem, but some of the newer contracting businesses are a pointer and I know he would have encouraged every new enterprise. He took a chance himself and made a go of it.

Robert Clow.1989

Hilda Clow

## JAMESFIELD FARM SHOP AND FARMHOUSE KITCHEN

### Opening Hours

Monday -Saturday 9.00 am to 5.00 pm  
 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  
 And a butchery counter stocked by Mimicks butchers

### Restaurant Hours

Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 4.00 pm  
 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



## ABERNETHY IN BLOOM



With the darker days upon us it was soon Xmas and time to add a bit of cheer in the village. So with a little more freedom than the previous year we got the Xmas tree installed in Nurse Peattie's Garden and the village planters decorated. On the 3rd December we switched on the Xmas Tree lights with a little help from the village who gathered in their social groups to join us to celebrate the occasion with some Xmas refreshment and eats, with a few chocolates for the younger generation. We also received some very generous donations from those attending.

In the following days the Nativity Display was installed in Nurse Peattie's Garden and we welcomed the Xmas Lights for the first time in Abernethy following some hard work from the Community Council. We therefore look forward to this addition to our Xmas celebration in the following years.

In November last year, Abernethy In Bloom were very pleased to have been judged winners of the Royal Horticultural Society 'Parks and Green Spaces' award given out at their 2021 Annual Seminar to our Chair, Sonia Simmers, who attended the online ceremony.

Our application including photographs of Nurse Peattie's Garden was deemed to be the best. As a group, we are therefore all very proud to receive this accolade for our hard work to keep Nurse Peattie's Garden looking its very best.



We are pleased to let you know that Phase 1 construction for the 'Heritage Garden' at Hatton Road is programmed to start by Thomson Landscapes in February (weather permitting). The outstanding funding to complete Phase 2 continues to be progressed with Take A Pride In Perthshire & Kinross. This opportunity is therefore taken to thank the community for all the help that they have given directly to Abernethy In Bloom and via the Hatton Road Project JustGiving page to contribute towards completion of the Hatton Road Heritage garden project in Phase 2.

Phase 1 construction will take approximately six to eight weeks after which Abernethy In Bloom will carry out the planting and take over maintenance of this new garden.

In addition to Nurse Peattie's Garden, this will add to the Abernethy In Bloom workload and so we are desperately hoping to attract help from the community to support an ever decreasing group of active volunteers. So, if you are looking for something worthwhile to do in your spare time please get in touch with us to help keep our beautiful village bright and cheerful throughout the year. As we have said many times, although it would be very helpful, no horticultural experience is required, just a willing pair of hands to keep the gardens looking tidy and well kept. Maintenance in Nurse Peattie's Garden will start again in March when we look forward to seeing spring starting to bloom again throughout the village and hopefully aided with a few more helping hands. On behalf of Abernethy In Bloom, a big thank you to the community of Abernethy for all your support.

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



# WHAT A BEGINNING BUT WHAT AN END!

## Last year 2021

2021 saw us welcome a new stylist to our salon. Gary came to us with a wealth of experience and is a good all round character who always has a fantastic chat with his clients.

Both of our apprentices are nearing the end of their finishing school so, as we go in to 2022, we look forward to welcoming new clients for each of these girls.

At each mile stone these girls have achieved they have made me proud. Both are extremely talented and have a keen eye for colour work so we will be doing welcome packages for both girls for any new clients.



Last year again we reached the final of the SHABA awards (Scottish Hair And Beauty Awards ). It's always a good night of glamour and a good party at the Hilton Hotel in Glasgow. We were informed at the event that this now is the second most popular hair competition in the UK next to the British Hairdressing Awards

which is amazing. Joanna and her team have worked hard to make it what it is.

What I love about this competition is that you have to submit creative work, something which I love to do. It takes hours to do one model so to reach the final once again is amazing. Here's hoping that this year might be our year, but regardless it's a chance to network and socialise with my peers. I'm not going to lie; sitting having breakfast with Errol Douglas MBE the previous year was awe inspiring. Having him invite me and Neill over for a chat was more rewarding than any trophy.

As part of my job as an education representative and salon owner I find that networking with others is crucial when it comes to broadening your business and knowledge within your business.

## This year 2022.

Who knows what it will bring but we will always make the most out of any situation.

This has made me think much deeper about our carbon footprint and how it can impact the world we live in. It has made me think how much more environmentally friendly we can become in the salon and still make it workable. We already offer a refill on the products we can refill if you bring the bottle back in.

I mainly use foil where I can and stay away from plastic based wraps when possible. We use disposable towels but it's not always viable when a client's hair is extremely thick or curly.

As countries around the world feel the impact of global warming it has given me a sense of responsibility as a salon owner to do more to reduce our impact.

## Styling

I am seeing so many new styles as we head in to this year. I am particularly loving the shag and wolf cut and I am so pleased to see many younger clients trying out this new trend of textured layers with soft bangs and fringes. Bring back the 90s grunge look, I am all for that. What's your style this year and how are you rocking it?

So till next time guys, stay safe, be kind and keep rocking your style.

Love from Tina and the team at the little hair company.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE WALL,

During the work on the New Pedestrian Crossing, opposite the School, the workmen caused some damage to our and our neighbour's wall. Despite numerous phone calls asking for the damage to get fixed, we got nowhere and were about to give up, when we thought perhaps our local councillor might be able to help. He, after a great deal of effort, was able to sort out the problem and the wall was repaired. It just shows you that if you need help with anything and think that the councillor might be able to help you should give him a call. Thanks again councillor David Illingworth.

David and Irene Napier

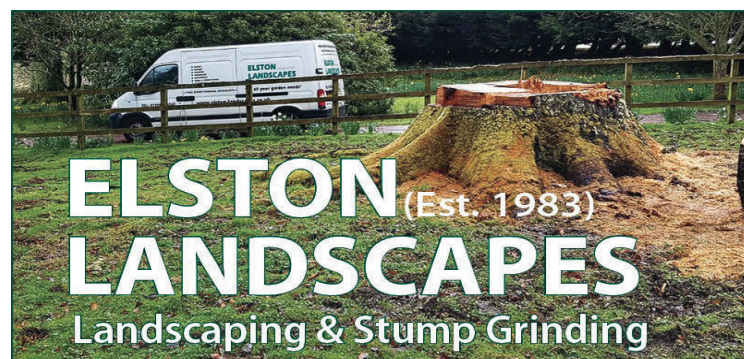
## A. S. A. P. CONTRACTS

We are a small established family business specialising in road surfacing, kerbing, paving, mono blocking, excavations, and concrete work.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for a free estimate and advice on any works you may be contemplating however large or small



2 Sandilands Grove,  
Abernethy, PH2 9FX  
Tel: 01738 850628



**ELSTON** (Est. 1983)  
**LANDSCAPES**  
Landscaping & Stump Grinding

## Perthshire's Premier Stump Grinding Service

Tree and shrub planting  
Seeding & Turfing  
Paths, Patios & Driveways  
Hedge Cutting, Pruning and Tree Surgery  
Fencing, Trellis & Pergolas  
Garden Drainage  
Operated Mini Digger, Dumper & Turf Lifter For Hire

**01738 850 742**

[keith@elston-landscapes.co.uk](mailto:keith@elston-landscapes.co.uk)

[www.elston-landscapes.co.uk](http://www.elston-landscapes.co.uk)

Fully Qualified & Insured





**Premier  
Properties**  
Perth

Estate Agency & Lettings

Contact us for a FREE valuation

**01738 44 22 55**

[sales@premierpropertiesperth.co.uk](mailto:sales@premierpropertiesperth.co.uk)  
[lettings@premierpropertiesperth.co.uk](mailto:lettings@premierpropertiesperth.co.uk)



**Local agency - Big heart**  
Trust our team

"We want to thank you so much for the exceptional service you provided throughout our house sale. And we really mean exceptional. The expert local knowledge and genuine enthusiasm for selling houses really made us feel like we'd placed our sale in the right hands. Premier Properties truly know the market and we will never go anywhere else when we sell future houses." - Jemma Mackle





## FROM THE ARCHIVES 4

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

Old newspapers are an invaluable source of information on the village and its goings on; it's sometimes surprising how people from a small place can have a big impact. These extracts from publications of the 1730s and 1740's show just how a local man was involved in Church politics of the time.

Many may have heard of the Reverend Alexander Moncrieff, one of the instigators of the secession movement in Scotland, and a local landowner. The Caledonian Mercury of Tuesday 15 May 1733 reports on the rebuke of Ebenezer Erskine, and the calling of Rev's Fisher, Moncrieff and Wilson to appear before the Assembly to answer for their contentious opinions. It is not until the edition of the Scotsman published on Friday 02 May 1740 that we see a report of the final decision of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland to depose Moncrieff (sic) and seven other ministers, including Ralph Erskine of Dunfermline, for their secession in 1733 and the forming of the Associate Congregation. The Associate Presbytery in Abernethy attracted national interest, and in August 1743 the Newcastle Courant reported that a Reverend Mr Arrat offended his own brethren so highly they immediately suspended him for heresy! Disagreement in the ranks of the new doctrine were common, even among the leaders. The Scots Magazine on Friday 03 March 1749 carried an advert for a pamphlet by 'Mr Alexander Moncrieff Minister at Abernethy' which cost 4d (old pence) – 'Animadversions [criticisms] upon Mr Ralph Erskine's Fancy still no faith; with some remarks on Mr Hutton's speech to the Associate Synod, April 7th 1748'.

**Irene Hallyburton**

## ALLISON MESSENGER

I first met Allison in 1978 when I moved into Aberargie as she used to deliver Sunday Posts around the village. First conversation "How would you like to come to the Rural with Greta (who lived next door to me) on Thursday?". This opened up a new Chapter in my new country life. I was soon to find out that this was Allison's addiction.

A perfectionist in every craft she did, she went around the country judging Rural competitions, whether it was sewing, baking or jam and chutneys. The Abernethy Flower show was always on her Calendar. She was on the organising committee and did lots of work setting up the hall, providing the bench coverings, obtaining judges and, of course, exhibiting. The larger shows like Perth and Kinross will never be the same without Allison. She did a lot of unseen work on committees. She never stopped amazing me with her demonstrations when she would ask me to accompany her to other Rurals. These demonstrations included box making, icing cakes, sewing skills, baking and cooking. She was always pleasant and loved to be of assistance when needed. Her knowledge was widespread and when gardening conversations took place she knew every flower by its correct name; birds too were something that she could talk about at length.

Whenever we met she was always great company. She did a lot of work in the rural; whether it was by being President or Vice President or organising or participating in competitions etc, she was always there doing her very important bit.

It was sad that she never received the award "In Recognition for her Loyal Service in the Scottish Women Institute." She will always be remembered for her perfection in everything she did.

**Lillias Johnston**

## BEING A VOLUNTEER

Before I retired I was concerned about having enough to do to fill my time as I get bored easily and hate sitting around doing nothing. I do a bit of family and local research and often use the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website to try and track down soldiers killed in the Great War. On one occasion I noticed they were advertising for "Hands on, Eyes on" volunteers. If you signed up you would be given a number of graveyards, where there are CWGC graves, to check and report back to a supervisor on the condition of the stones. Being very interested in and regularly using their website I thought that this would be a very worthy organisation to do some volunteering with.

I filled in the application form online and sent off to let them decide whether I was suitable for the task or not. This "Hands on, Eyes on" scheme was brand new as like all Government departments at this time they had very limited resources. With this scheme the volunteers report any defects/issues with the gravestones and then the full time stone masons and maintenance staff can deal with the problems. If there are no problems then there are no wasted journeys checking the hundreds of graveyards in the UK.

I received a reply and was signed up as a CWGC volunteer and was given five graveyards to check; Abernethy, Dunbarney, Arngask Old and Arngask New and Kirkton of Mailer. In all there are 17 stones to check and clean, with water and a stiff brush, and these checks are carried out every six months. It is a very interesting pastime and it takes longer than it should as I end up reading other private memorials whilst I am there. It is a very humbling experience when you read some of the ages of the men that volunteered to fight in various wars and are laid to rest in our local graveyards.

I must at this point explain that the men interred in the UK under the maintenance of the CWGC are soldiers who died of their wounds after returning home. Those who were killed in action are laid to rest where they fell in foreign fields all over the world and their graves are also very well looked after by the CWGC.

## WILLIAMSON HALL

The Williamson Hall management committee is aiming to hold the Fete and Hill Race on the 4th and 5th of June, respectively. This of course is subject to the local restrictions in place at the time due to the Coronavirus. Further details will be made available nearer the time by posters around the village, Facebook and in the Village Crier. If you are interested in helping, having a stall or supporting the hall in any way please get in touch via the face book page. (<https://facebook.com/WilliamsonHallAbernethy>) or the contact details on the website ([www.williamsonhall.org.uk](http://www.williamsonhall.org.uk)).

Thank you.

**Keir Allen**

## FROM OUR ARCHIVE (1913)

A SHOCKING fatality occurred in the Strathearn Linen Works, Abernethy, (now Branston) which belonged to David Wishart. John Sandilands, a young man of 22 years of age, who resided at the Orchard, Abernethy, was busily engaged at work in close proximity to the shafting of a power loom, when his clothing became entangled in the machinery. He was whirled round the shafting with massive force with the result that he sustained terrible injuries before the machinery could be brought to a standstill. Despite every attention, the injured man died, causing quite a gloom in the village, where he was greatly popular with those who knew him.

**Jimmy Swan**

## FRAE OOR COONCILLOR

It is difficult to comprehend that it is 2 years since Covid 19 hit the world and changed the way we live our lives. Going back to all the old ways seems more and more unlikely. Perth & Kinross Councillors had hoped to be back in 2 High Street in January 2022 for some meetings but unfortunately the instruction from Scottish Government is to work from home if possible.

I know that you are reading this in March but I am writing this on Twelfth Night and I would like to thank all those who added sparkle to the village at Christmas, the Abernethy in Bloom team who not only decorated the tree in Nurse Peattie's garden but added decorations to all the planters. The Nativity scene was once again a focal point and thank you to the willing volunteers. New for this year were the Christmas lights on several lamp standards and this was very much appreciated. Last but not least to all the householders who added outdoor lights to their houses and garden. Well done to all. Now all stored away for another year.

Last autumn some of you may have noticed that the grass under the trees round the perimeter of Powrie Park was not cut. This area was part of Council wide Long Grass Trials. There were 29 "No Mow" areas in 2021 and there will be 11 additional "No Mow" areas in 2022. Perth & Kinross Council did receive some comments about the trials regarding the importance of bio-diversity and the benefit to wildlife. This should have been policy years ago. Those not supportive say it is only cost saving, unsightly and a place for litter and dog poo to gather! I hope this will not happen in Abernethy. The perimeter of Powrie Park is the only area in Abernethy that will be part of this trial. Consultation is scheduled to take place prior to grass cutting season.

The Long Grass trials contribute to Land Use actions included in the Climate Change Strategy Action Plan approved at the Perth & Kinross Council meeting on 15th December 2021.

Perth & Kinross Council has a legal responsibility for emission reductions and climate resilience within the Council operations as well as across Perth & Kinross. In order to fulfil this responsibility the general public were consulted under a climate change engagement exercise between October 20<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup>. Engagement was either by online surveys or climate change network meetings. Most people who responded were concerned about the impact of climate change and had made lifestyle choices by reducing car usage (harder to do in rural areas with a limited bus service) with working from home contributing to the reduction. I know that my car use has reduced dramatically due to home working. We can also all contribute by recycling more and reducing our use of single use plastic, although it is a bit difficult to reduce single plastic use at the moment when we are all asked to take Lateral Flow Tests regularly.

One of the questions in the survey was about grassland management and the majority who answered the question fully supported reviewing the council's grassland management policy and supported wildflower meadows being cut only once a year. This would help reduce emissions from grass mowing machinery and enhance biodiversity.

A dedicated one stop Climate Change web platform will be ready early in 2022. This will map out, and provide links to, climate change activity undertaken by the council and the wider community. The council website provides information about the Climate Change initiative and what the council and the public have done so far. As we know, climate change is a global problem and we must all play our part.

The Perth & Kinross Council budget will be agreed at the end of February and you can be assured that difficult decisions will have been taken. Council tax will likely be increased. In a recent survey most who answered indicated that they would rather pay more council tax than have a service cut. Covid 19 as we all know has increased costs for everyone including local authorities.

This will be my last contribution to the Village Crier in my capacity as Councillor Kathleen Baird as I am not seeking re-election in the council elections on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May. It is more than 20 years since I was first elected to Perth & Kinross Council as councillor for the smaller ward of Abernethy & Glenfarg as it was known in 1999. One Councillor per ward. Now there are three Councillors for the larger Almond & Earn ward.

The village has changed over the years; additional housing, a new school, upgraded parks, a new path, and traffic calming measures to mention a few. I have enjoyed working with community groups but what gave me most satisfaction was being able to help individuals.

Sadly some of the issues from 20 years ago are still unresolved today. Dare I say inconsiderate parking in the village, speeding cars and litter, but all that I will have to leave to my successor.

I have enjoyed representing you and hopefully I have helped make Abernethy, Aberargie and the surrounding area a better place to live.

It has been a privilege to serve the community as an elected member and never forgetting my guiding promise I have always tried "to do my best".

Thank you .

**Finally Councillor Kathleen Baird**

**kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk 07584206839**

## ABERNETHY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

We provide door to door transport for people without access to a car to enable them to attend appointments, do their shopping, visit friends, etc.

- Clients call our co-ordinator at least two days before their appointment to book a driver.
- There is a nominal charge to cover the driver's costs.
- The driver will collect the client at the arranged time and return them home following the appointment.
- Our drivers are fully insured and carry identification cards.
- Our drivers clean and disinfect their vehicle prior to collecting a client.
- Both driver and passenger must wear a mask in the vehicle and, if able, the passenger must sit in the rear passenger-side seat (to be as far away from the driver as possible).
- Whenever possible, clients should have the exact fare to minimise the exchange of cash.

For further information please call 07840 212747 or email [abernethyct@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyct@gmail.com).

**S.Worner**

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

George Swan November 2021

Allison Messenger November 2021

Margaret Black December 2021

Jenny White December 29th 2021

Professor Bertie Wood January 3rd 2022

Our thoughts and sympathies are with their families.



## NEW ABERNETHIANS

### Anne Hollingsworth

Allistair and I became Abernethians when we moved into our newly built Muir home in January 2004. We had lived on the West Coast since the



70s. Allistair was a Warrant Officer Submariner at Faslane and I taught at Garelochhead Primary School. We both retired at the same time. We moved because our daughters and families were in Perth and Abernethy. We had lived on the Rhynd for four years and had already appreciated the drier weather and the lack of midges

compared to the west. Our house in Rosneath had beautiful views but you dare not step outside after tea in summer or you were eaten alive.

I trained as a Volunteer Generalist Adviser at Perth Citizens' Advice Bureau. This was demanding but interesting. I learned that people have terrible things happen to them or find themselves in difficult situations without really understanding what is happening. I used this experience to write regular articles in the Crier in the hope of helping our readers. I had to retire in 2019 when Allistair's illness began to increase in severity.



In 2000 I began working as a part-time Gallery Attendant at the Fergusson Gallery and in 2008 achieved an SVQ in Heritage Care and Visitor services and won the

prize for Outstanding Award for Tourism at Perth College.

In 2005 our ponies moved into Hilda Clow's field at Station Road. Bella was a young, frisky, top class endurance competitor. I acted as support crew while she competed in Endurance Riding competitions, culminating in winning the National 100 miles race at the Dukeries in Nottinghamshire. She is now 27 and semi-retired but still frisky. My granddaughter Imogen began to compete on Fenella, riding up to 60km. I took over the ride on Fenella and rode all over Scotland, even winning a rosette riding for the Tayside team at the Inter Branch Challenge.



Fenella is now retired but is enjoying helping in the education of baby Kashal.

Allistair and I loved singing with the Earn Singers and Perth Choral Society, especially the Messiah, and I am singing with Newburgh Community Choir.



Allistair was working as a janitor for several village schools in Perthshire and at Christmas was a visiting Santa, causing great excitement when he arrived.

In 2014 he changed to part-time hours with Abernethy as his only school. I wonder how many people remember the School Fete where he and the other ancillary staff dressed up and sang Y.M.C.A!

I am a proud granny of seven grandchildren and a great-grandson. Daughter Kirstie lives in the village with her husband, Steve. Their daughters, Imogen and

Morven, attended Abernethy Primary School. Morven graduated with 1st class honours in Engineering from Glasgow University and now works for RBS. Imogen is a 2nd year student in Mental Health Nursing at Stirling University. Eldest daughter, Katie, and her husband, Shaun, have four lovely children and run a Riding School at Rumbling Bridge.

I have always appreciated the welcome and friendship I have enjoyed over the years in Abernethy, especially when Allistair's illness started to show. We were both shown great kindness and support from the community. Grant and Lisa at The Crees, and their customers, were very kind. He loved the church and the Rev. Stan and church members were welcoming and caring. Without this support he could not have stayed at home for so long.

I have been Treasurer of the Village Crier since it started and enjoyed meeting some very interesting Old Abernethians.

It will be great when things are back to normal and I can enjoy the village events. I am looking forward to the Auld Abernethians and the Film Nights. I cannot imagine a better place to live.

AH

#### FRAME IT

#### BESPOKE FRAMING SERVICE

Tues - Sat

1pm - 5pm

**Bank Buildings, Back Dykes, Abernethy PH2 9JU**

**Tel 07512 075576**

Frame-It started in 1999 from a workshop in rural Perthshire. A few years on and we are now based within Pandora's Box in Abernethy.

We have a fantastic range of over 300 quality wood mouldings in a variety of finishes. We also stock a variety of natural woods which can be hand finished with wax, paint or stain.

We can frame: watercolours, oils, photographs, prints, football shirts, cross-stitches and many other items, just ask us.



TRADITIONAL  
**CLOOTIE  
McTOOT**  
DUMPLINGS

**CAFE EXTENSION COMING SOON!**

**JOIN US FOR SOME SCRUMPTIOUS  
FRESH CLOOTIE DUMPLING.**

**WE ALSO HAVE A GREAT SELECTION  
OF GIFTS AND OTHER TASTY TREATS.**

**Wednesday - Sunday 11am - 4:30pm**

[www.clootiemctootdumplings.com](http://www.clootiemctootdumplings.com)

01738 850 795    [info@clootiemctootdumplings.com](mailto:info@clootiemctootdumplings.com)

Main Street, Abernethy, Perth, PH2 9JB



Please see the website for more  
information

[www.thecreesinn.co.uk](http://www.thecreesinn.co.uk)

Particularly for

**Opening Hours**

**New Menus coming soon**

**Room Details and  
Booking**

## — THE — **CREES INN**



At The Crees Inn you will find the  
best Scottish cuisine using locally  
sourced seafoods, game and 30 day  
matured beef.

After taking The Crees Inn under new ownership, we have completely refurbished our restaurant and bar with a style fitting in with the old but yet contemporary, so it retains some of the original features of a countryside hotel.

- Private function facilities for up to 23 people.
- Wood burning stove
- Funeral teas of all sizes
- En-suite letting rooms

Perfect for retiring to after a day exploring in and around Perthshire and Fife.

**For bookings contact us as below**

Telephone: 01738 851086    Email: [team@thecreesinn.co.uk](mailto:team@thecreesinn.co.uk)  
Address: The Crees Inn, Main Street, Abernethy, Perth PH2 9LA



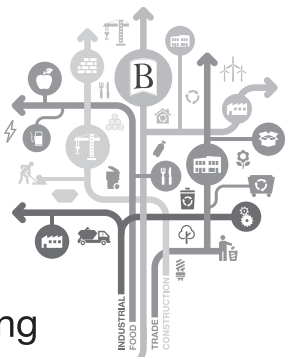


Scotland's largest independent  
Waste Management company.

01577 830833

binngroup.co.uk

Your waste is changing



## 8 MINUTES 49.2 SECONDS

Last November my father George Swan or the "Auld Man" as he was affectionately known, died at the guid auld age of 93. He was born in Perth in 1928 in North Methven Street to Jimmy and Margaret. After finishing school at 14 his mother decided he needed a job and she knew a baker that was needing an apprentice, so off they set to the bakery. As it happened he wasn't in and the rest is history. The history being my father started an apprenticeship in plumbing instead of baking and served his time with Moffat and Carscadden. His brother Jimmy, you probably gather by now it's the family name, was also a plumber and had set up his own business in the Craigie area of Perth taking over the premises of McIntyre and Son, Priory Place, Perth. To cut a very long story short my father joined his brother and went into partnership with him. McIntyre having been a well established business at one time with a name above the door and reams of headed note paper they thought why change the company name and from then on the Swan brothers remained McIntyre.

My father married my mother in Abernethy in 1953 in the kirk in the village and set up home in the very same house I bide in today, Ivy Cottage. My father's hobby long before he married was cycling and going by the number of medals I have he was very accomplished in that sport. He was one of the founder members of Perth United Cycling Club and I still have one of the original blazer badges they had made at the time.

He was a very keen hill climber and competed in many events throughout Scotland. One of his success stories was the Abernethy Annual Hill climb. The route of this race was from the bottom of the Glenfoot road to the cottage at the top, before the road drops away to Strathmiglo, two and a quarter miles. I am not sure of the year but he broke the race record by 25.8 seconds held by Tommy McLeod of the Dunedin Cycling Club. The record he set was 8 minutes 49.2 seconds and he held the record for a number years before it was broken, although I am not sure by whom.

All you cyclists out there, have a go, only 8mins 49.2sec to beat.

## KASHAL'S NEXT LESSON

Even the smallest horse is stronger than their owner. Before they can obey their rider they have to want to please and understand what they are being asked to do. Kashal has learnt; 'Walk on, Trot, Whoa and Stand'; which were very helpful for his next lesson, 'Going in the Trailer'

At any horse event there is often a horse that has decided it does not want to go into its trailer and a red-faced owner getting more and more embarrassed. Often there are people giving helpful advice and making things worse. We would always help if asked but feel it better to let the owner get on with it. We have been there and we sympathise. The first time we went to Tentsmuir it took two hours to load the ponies for the return journey.

I have to admit that we feel a bit smug when we can rely on Bella, Flora or Fenella to stroll quietly up the ramp into their trailer but this is because of the hours spent at home feeding them in the trailer until they became used to it. We want Kashal to be relaxed about loading but we

have to persuade him into it before we can start feeding him in the trailer.

Step 1. We opened the trailer right up and Kashal watched Fenella walk through twice. I don't know if this helped as he hesitated a little until the combination of seeing his feed bucket and hearing Kirstie say, 'Walk On!' encouraged him to walk through the trailer and be rewarded with his feed bucket. The next time we did this he was quicker and the third time there was no hesitation.

The next step was to stand in the trailer and eat his food. Fenella no longer walked in front but she stood and ate her feed next to the trailer ramp so he felt safe. This was easy for him. He did it perfectly.

Step 3. The Breast Bar was in place and when his feed was finished, he had to wait until it was released before he could stroll out.

Step 4. Once he was eating the back ramp was lifted up behind him. He was a bit surprised when it banged behind him but Kirstie was there to reassure him.



We will do this regularly through the winter and then he will actually get towed. His first trip will be short and Fenella or Bella will be in the trailer with him. Flora's first trip was to Aberargie, round the roundabout and home.

It is a long time before he will actually be going anywhere but we are laying foundations for life.

AH

## HMP SOUTHFIELD MEADOWS

An inmate's view (or not).

I agree with the Editor's comments in the last issue. I am born and bred Abernethy and have lived here for over 73 years but it's the first time I have felt imprisoned.

Don't get me wrong, our Hadden bungalow in Sandilands Grove is everything we were expecting, well built and finished and we are delighted with it.

The so-called acoustic fence towers above the back garden and blocks out the sun. It is built on top of a made up unconsolidated bund of earth which washes down the 1 in 3 banking on to our grass every time it rains leaving handy wee spaces for the local wild life to pop their heads in under the fence to say "hello" and give us much needed peep holes for a view point! As far as stopping any noise ( of which there is really none to speak of ) they would have done as much good hanging up a line of string vests!

The approximate overall height is 14 feet on our garden side but this could be remedied by removing the bund in Branstons yard and refitting the boards back down to ground level but this time using common sense and have the stupid H iron beams on their industrial side and the wood only showing on our residential side. This would reduce the 1 in 3 slope, the overall height would be reduced by approximately 1 metre and take the prison effect away somewhat. I could live with that.

Sandy Walker

## TENNIS CLUB



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

Join or renew your membership for the 2022-23 season online now at:

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

Great value at only:

£50 for annual family membership (2 adults and up to 4 children)

£25 for annual adult membership

£12.50 for annual junior membership (u18s)

We are an LTA Registered Venue and aim to run coaching sessions with accredited coaches for all abilities and ages as well as regular informal sessions ideal for newcomers. Look on the notice board at the court gate or on our website for more details of the programme for the coming season when they are available. You can also get in touch anytime at [abernethytennis@gmail.com](mailto:abernethytennis@gmail.com)

Finally, a word on the topic of trees. Who doesn't like trees? Unfortunately, trees and tennis courts don't make for ideal neighbours. Leaves and other debris falling from trees create an ongoing maintenance problem and, as a small community-led club, this burden is met by the efforts of volunteers. We are also very grateful to the Scout Group who always pitch in to help with clearing leaves – now they do make for ideal neighbours! The tennis club are pleased to have been able to assist in return in recent times by providing a suitable outdoor space to help the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers stay up and running through the periods of restrictions on indoor activities.

Despite these efforts, every year when autumn rolls around the maintenance burden becomes too great to overcome. The result is that our 'all weather' tennis courts are all but unplayable for several months each year. Leaves are the most visible problem, but are far from the only one. Root spread, sap falling from trees and shading leading to moss and algae growth can all damage the surface of the courts, blocking their porosity and reducing their ability to drain rainwater away, making them considerably less 'all weather' than they should be. This can even affect the availability of the courts in the summer months – some coaching sessions had to be cancelled at short notice last year due to standing water/puddles from rain which fell much earlier in the day.

All this damage also reduces the life expectancy of the courts meaning they will need resurfaced sooner, which comes at huge expense. It is worth remembering that the only reason the tennis courts exist and are available as a valuable resource to the community is due to a lot of hard work and fundraising activities by a great number of volunteers over many years. There are far too many contributions to acknowledge them all individually, indeed, knowledge of many will be lost to history as tennis courts have existed on this site at Powrie Park since at least the 1960s. The current tennis club committee's task is to protect and build on that legacy.

At our recent AGM we discussed the tree problem at length and much of this discussion was about ways of mitigating the environmental impact of any actions. Another hugely important factor that must be considered is safety and the potential for damage to people and property by falling branches or trees. Our hope is to play our part in finding a positive solution that is beneficial to all parties. Ideally, work on that might have got underway by the time this is printed, but unfortunately, things currently seem to be stuck at something of an impasse that really helps no one.

**Chris Farmer**

## HEALTH SERVICE

Over my fifteen years as an MSP for Mid Scotland and Fife, I have vigorously defended local health provision, fighting to ensure it is both available and accessible to all. Indeed, going back as far as 2001, I was part of a campaign defending Perth Royal Infirmary from downgrading, and I was subsequently involved in the launching of the "Hands Off PRI... for good" campaign following renewed drives to move services to Ninewells.

Like many, I am deeply concerned by the recent trend in Perth and Kinross of primary care services being cut back and moved. In the notable case of the Bridge of Earn surgery, the surgery was closed in 2019, and with little justification considering 3,000 patients were still registered at the location. At the time, the evasive manner in which NHS Tayside representatives dealt with the concerns of local people and myself was unacceptable. In the following months and years, my office has been contacted countless times by elderly constituents who have been in serious distress about the new arrangements, missing crucial appointments, or who are increasingly finding the Perth alternative difficult to travel to because of a lack of public transport options.

With the increasing backlog of NHS treatments – exacerbated by the pandemic – it is clear local health care is needed more than ever. Yet time and again, communities are being devastated by these decisions by their health board to cut services, severely impacting people's health and well-being. I echo Perth and Kinross Councillor Roz McCall's demand that NHS Tayside take "a cold hard look at themselves" over their delivery of local health provisions moving forward.

**Liz Smith**  
MSP (Mid Scotland and Fife)

**ANDREW MILLER FIREPLACES**  
**THE CONSERVATORY**  
**JAMESFIELD FARM SHOP & KITCHEN ABERNETHY**  
*View our displays of*

**FIREPLACES**

**ELECTRIC / GAS / WOOD BURNING**  
**FIRES / STOVES & ACCESSORIES**

**SELECTION OF OAK & CAST BEAMS & SHELVES**

*All enquiries: Andrew Miller*  
**The old Smiddy Westerloan Milnathort**  
*Showroom by Appointment*  
**01577 862173 / 07870 284868**

## ALLAN'S CHILLI PRODUCTS



**FRESH 'N' HOT**



ALLAN'S CHILLI PRODUCTS is an established business selling jelly and sauces in Abernethy, made from quality natural ingredients.

Email: [ferguson584@hotmail.com](mailto:ferguson584@hotmail.com)

1, The Glebe, Abernethy, PH2 9GF

Tel. 07599238170



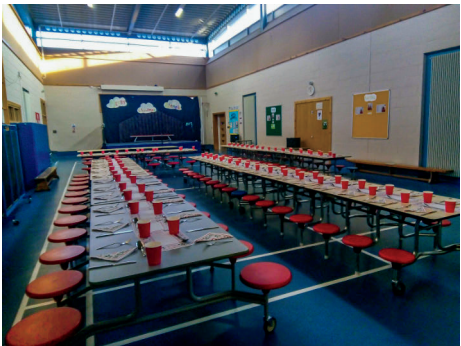
# THE VIEW FROM THE HATCH.

When I first started as the dinner lady at Abernethy School I thought - 'I'll do it for five years, or till Alice (my youngest) leaves Primary' - Alice graduated from Uni two years ago!



It is hard work being a school cook and not very glamorous, but I have loved being in the centre of the school life for all these years - before the school was extended EVERYTHING that wasn't classroom-based happened in the main hall where I could hear every word and note.

Recorder groups (thanks Mrs Patterson and Mrs Hollingsworth they were- ahem - lovely!) Choir rehearsals, guitar lessons, dance groups, all the hard work that went into school productions - actually I should've been official 'prompter' for all the shows as I heard every class do every rehearsal and knew all the songs and lines off by heart.



PE classes too, although with the basketball hoop being right above my metal hatch it could feel a bit like being in a war zone when shooting practice was in progress.

The annual dreaded Social Dance sessions too - they love it really, you can see their smiling faces and I am sure all the kids are very grateful that they know vaguely where to stand during the Dashing White Sergeant or the Gay Gordons later in life at weddings and ceilidhs - even if they sometimes had to dance with a teacher!!

I have enjoyed dressing up the hatch, my big cuddly monkey, and sometimes ourselves for the many theme days and special events over the years - Hallowe'en, Children in Need, Red Nose Day, World Book Day to name a few.

It has been a joy to watch the children progress from little, often unsure, nursery tots who can barely see over the hatch into tall, confident p7s (I swear some of them grow overnight!)

The lunch menus have progressed hugely in my time - no more turkey twizzlers here! (There never were any turkey twizzlers here actually) and there is now a large, varied, nutritionally balanced lunch on offer every day. Some of the favourite items have been the Oatie Biscuits, Caramel Flan, Macaroni Cheese - funny how lettuce never features in the favourites!



I have been lucky to have been helped in my endeavours by an amazing succession of "Blue Pinnies", as our catering assistants are known. You ALL know who you are! I couldn't have done it without you gals! We have had a lot of fun, in amongst the dishes and cups over the years, we even had a barbeque outside one day.



Christmas Dinner is always a highlight in the school kitchen diary with music, Santa hats, more kids eating than normally and Brussels sprouts available for the connoisseurs!

So, I believe there is a little girl in nursery this year whose father I remember

coming up to the hatch for his lunch and that means it's time for me to hang up my white jacket and put away the serving spoons - a whole generation of Abernethy kids fed.

As school dinners move into a new phase I wish everyone involved "All the Best" and I hope the kids will still greet me in the village - "look- it's the school cooker!"

**Julie Illingworth**  
**Aka Mrs McDinners**

## ABERNETHY IN BLOOM EMPORIUM

"You will probably have noticed that the Emporium has been closed for a number of weeks; this has been for staff training so we can provide a first class service to all our customers. Stock taking also plays a major part in any thriving business and this applies to emporiums as much as anywhere else. The large workshop which is part of our operation is working 24/7 to keep up with the orders so our thousands of customers are not disappointed."

Oh sorry! I had nodded off there and had a dream about a large emporium with thousands of customers. The truth is we were not selling much over December and January, but we are back and hoping to increase our takings on last year. So come along and have a look at our stock and the new range of bird boxes.

I hope we can add to the current total raised so far of £550.

**Jimmy Swan, Emporium Sales Manager**

## REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID ILLINGWORTH.

### Well Done, Abernethy!

Councillors recently received a presentation about waste disposal. We get a lot of presentations and not all of them are as exciting as waste disposal. What was interesting, though, was the part on contamination of blue lid bin recycling. Contamination cost council tax payers (you!) money because it costs more to process contaminated waste and the Council can be fined for non-compliance. The focus of campaigns has been on areas where people have been putting the wrong stuff into blue lid bins. It was great to see that Abernethy is not on the contamination naughty step, because you have been doing a great job of putting the right stuff into the right bins. Well done Abernethy!





## What will Council Tax be?

At the time of writing, councillors are going through the annual budget review process. Behind the scenes, there will much deliberating about what services to stop or start providing, what new initiatives to support, or not support and ultimately how much council tax you will be paying from the 1st April. The budget meeting is scheduled for the 8th of March and all I can say at the moment is that I will never forget how hard people work to pay their council tax. If you have any thoughts or ideas on the budget, then get in touch using the details below.

## Clow Square Bins.

A very nice couple contacted me about the mess that is caused when the Clow Square bins become full to the brim. This mess makes the square look awful and could cause smells and attract rats.



What concerned me was when the couple called the Council they were told to call Hillcrest Housing Association and when they called Hillcrest they were told to call the council. So I emailed the high heid yins at PKC and Hillcrest to invite them to an on-site meeting to look for solutions, and they agreed. Because the meeting was outdoors and held in January, it was very purposeful and to the point. It seems that the mess could have been caused by people, obviously not from Abernethy, fly tipping into what looked like free skips. At the meeting, PKC agreed to provide bigger, more secure bins and Hillcrest agreed to provide security measures to deter fly tipping. In the longer term, Hillcrest will build a proper bin store, so that residents can have individual wheelie bins and can recycle more easily. Result!

## Don't Lose Your Vote.

On Thursday, 5th May, you'll be asked to cast your vote to elect 3 Councillors for the Almond and Earn ward in Perth and Kinross Council.

If you are not sure if you are already registered to vote then contact the local Electoral Registration Officer by emailing [perth@tayside-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:perth@tayside-vjb.gov.uk) or call 01738 630303.

- You can now register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). You can also register to vote by post by downloading and printing off a [voter registration form](#)
- Everyone is responsible for registering themselves.
- You will need to provide a few details to register - including your national insurance number and date of birth. This makes the electoral register more secure.
- Look out for a confirmation to say you're registered.

To find out more go to [www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters)

## Hope.

It's the start of March and everyone will be feeling that "The days are getting longer, it won't be long, Won't be long 'til summer comes." The last couple of years have been unusual to say the least, but hopefully all the restrictions will end soon and we can all get back to some sort of normal.

## And finally...

If you think I can be of any help then please let me know. People are fed up of me saying that I won't make promises I can't keep, but I'll do my best to help.

Email [dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:dillingworth@pkc.gov.uk) or call 07767006275



### Rachel Cheer Independent Celebrant

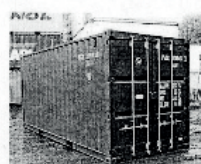
Weddings, funerals, baby namings and other ceremonies uniquely crafted for you with love.

Free initial consultation.

07974 712978

[rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk)

[www.hopeceremonies.com](http://www.hopeceremonies.com)



TAY VIEW STORAGE UNITS FOR HIRE  
TAY VIEW BUSINESS PARK  
NEWBURGH  
FIFE

TEL:-01337 842119



JET WASH FROM £1.00

SITUATED OLD STATION YARD NEWBURGH



Lots of new plants,  
pots and garden furniture now in stock

Located beside Jamesfield Restaurant  
and farm food shop on the  
outskirts of Abernethy  
Tel. 01738 851176

## 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





## The Little Hair Company & Soul Therapies Beauty Room



**Hair & Beauty Salon tailored for all.**  
**From a fringe trim or a full colour correction from our highly trained staff**

MILK\_SHAKE hair products, WELLA Master Colour Expert, Hair Dazzle Strands, k- respect hair smoothing treatment.

**To the ultimate relaxation of a Facial or massage in our luxurious beauty room.**

Massage - Aromatherapy, Deep Tissue, Hotstone, Thai Heated Compress  
Ear Piercing, PAYOT Facials, Spray Tan, Dermaplaning, Microneedling, Hopi Ear Candles, Waxing, Halo Gel Nails,  
Henna Brows, Lash Lift & Tints, Brow Lamination, Indian Head Massage, Thai Reflexology & Much more

[www.thelittlehaircompany.co.uk](http://www.thelittlehaircompany.co.uk) Old Mill Park. Bridge of Earn. PH2 9SX **01738 815888**

thelittlehaircoperth

thelittlehaircoperth

soultherapiesperth

soultherapiesperth



# ABERNETHY SCOUT GROUP

At the time of writing, end of January 2022, the Omicron strain seems to be retreating and it is looking as if the new normal will begin shortly, which I'm sure we all are awaiting eagerly. It has been refreshing to be outside all winter and great to enjoy the use of the tennis courts despite the weekly masses of leaves and twigs that end up on court blocking drains, causing a slip hazard and generally causing a nuisance. The nearby trees also block the daylight to the courts and pavilion causing algae to thrive on the court surface, which will undoubtedly affect the life span of the all-weather surface; it certainly doesn't help the pavilion roof which once again is in need of being treated for moss after all the efforts in recent years from volunteers and committee members in cleaning and repairing it.

Despite our best efforts partnered with the Tennis Club we are unable to get a resolution with the owner, despite the Tennis Club and Scout Group offering to foot the entire bill with the offending trees to be removed entirely at considerable cost and replacement trees to compensate the trees' removal to be planted in other parts of the village. Despite this we were unable to get the required approval which is frustrating to say the least. It's clear that the Beech trees in the boundary hedge have been planted as part of the hedge and have been left to get out of control over the decades, resulting in the continuous nuisance that it brings to the Scout Group, Tennis Club and other park users.

We have also been in contact with Perth and Kinross Council on numerous occasions looking for advice and assistance over the last 24 months but let's just say they are as effective as the St Johnstone strikers are at the moment and they're the worst in Europe. Despite numerous reports and continuous follow ups we still await something to happen; again a bit like watching St Johnstone. This isn't a moan about leaves, it's a Health and Safety issue. Very recently we had a branch fall from considerable height and nearly strike a parent and despite frequently clearing the leaves up, we have the same problem the following week. Several people are killed every year in the UK from falling branches and I appreciate the odds of it happening are like winning the lottery, but the fact is people do win the lottery. So, if you have concerns then please get in touch with Perth & Kinross Council and express your concerns, as whether Perth & Kinross Council like it or not, it is their responsibility to keep Powrie Park a safe environment for everyone who uses it.

## Abernethy Scout Group

Abernethy Scouting group is operating very well with the Scout Troop and Cub Pack at capacity and the Beavers' numbers being very healthy indeed again nearing capacity. The numbers are clearly down to the section leaders who work tirelessly providing an exciting and challenging programme.

## Beavers

I was especially pleased when Santa Claus was able to visit Abernethy Beavers just before Christmas with some Beavers later telling their



bit of magic for the Beavers who may have missed out visiting Santa over

parents that it was indeed the real Santa that had attended. We forget that having had numerous Covid restrictions that kids have missed out, so it was great that we were able to provide that little

the last couple of years



## .Cubs

During the January to March term the Cubs will be learning about their local history with Abernethy's very own Jimmy Swan telling the kids about the history of the village along with the stories of all the auld things in the village.

The first Burns supper for three years, was held on 1st February where the Beavers and Cubs who had learned Scottish poems in preparation then recited them at their Burns supper as well as enjoying haggis, neeps and tatties, and toasting the Bard with the now traditional copious amounts of Im Bru, sugar-free of course. Thanks to Jamesfield Farm Organic centre for

supplying the food and thanks to Jamie Stewart for piping. Jamie has been playing the bagpipes for over 5 years and is now quite the accomplished piper and is clearly a very talented young man, which knowing his dad Brian well it's clear he must take his talent from his mum's side.





The Cubs are planning a camp at the end of March for the older Cubs, which is early in the year compared to when the Cubs traditionally went camping. However some Cubs are due to move up to Scouts after Easter but due to the Covid pandemic they have never had the opportunity to get away camping under canvas, so well done Jim Cook for braving the elements in order to afford them this opportunity.

## Scouts

The Scout troop would like to welcome Linda Stewart to the team. Linda is the manager at the free-range egg unit at Cordon Farm and is well used to early mornings, which will come in handy when we are camping, as it's the only time that teenagers are up at the crack of dawn. Welcome Linda, we're delighted to have you join the team.

Jude Tait has been busy with the Scouts assisting them with their spray art project and getting the Scouts to express their own artistic side. As well as



their individual projects the Scouts are planning to create a mural on the side of the storage container at the pavilion depicting Scouts through the years and life in the village.

As the Scout numbers have grown we're always looking at ways for them to expend their energy and recently we had a very competitive tug of war, which was fiercely, but friendly, fought out with the girls holding their own during the battle.



Again, I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to anyone in the village who 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.

**Gordon Miller**  
Abernethy Group Scout Leader

**Flowers by Canatara**  
Traditional Florists

**Baskets • Bouquets • Arrangements**  
**Water Vases • Funeral Tributes**  
**Hand Knitted Baby Knitwear**  
**Helium Balloons • Soft Toys • Gifts**  
**Personalised Sweetie Trees**  
**Pet Food & toys in stock**

24/7 online ordering  
[www.flowers-by-canatara.com](http://www.flowers-by-canatara.com)

64 High Street,  
Newburgh, Fife. KY14 6AQ  
**t 01337 842842**

Find us on Facebook

**CHEYNES QUALITY FOODS**  
46 High Street  
Newburgh  
KY14 6AQ  
01337 842942

## Local Family Butcher

A top class team with a top class range of products.

Gold Award Winning Steak Pies

Our own dry cured bacon

Most products handmade on the premises  
here in Newburgh

Stockist of Stornoway Black Pudding

Fresh filled rolls & baguettes with a large  
range of fillings & complimentary salad

Find us on Facebook



## Cherry Blossom Therapies



Tailored Swedish Massage • Deep Tissue Massage  
 Hot Stone Therapy • Lava Shell Massage • Indian Head Massage  
 Mum to Be Massage • Kaori Massage (Aromatherapy)  
 Body Scrub • Thai Hand Massage • Hopi Ear Candling  
 Facials • Rose Quartz Facials  
 Treatment Plans • Pamper Packages • Promotional Offers  
 Ear Piercing • Gel Nails  
 Lash Lift & Tint • Lash & Brow Tinting • Facial Waxing • Body Waxing

First Floor, Jamesfield Restaurant & Farm Shop, Abernethy, KY14 6EW

Email: [lisa@cherryblossomtherapies.com](mailto:lisa@cherryblossomtherapies.com)

Text/Call: 07749 998950



Gift Vouchers available



*Silver Lining*

01738 851110

Ladies

Gents

[silverlininghairstudio@hotmail.com](mailto:silverlininghairstudio@hotmail.com)

*Hair Studio*

FB@silverlininghairstudio

Instagram@silverlininghairstudio

### Advertising Rates

Small 8.5cm x 5.5 cm.....	£22
Medium 11cm x 8.5 cm.....	£44
Half Page.....	£55
Full Page.....	£110

### 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.**



حلال



# Zaiika Bistro

Pakistani Cuisine | Café | Desserts

## SET MEALS

### Meal For One £11.95

2 Poppadoms & Onion Chutney  
Mixed Pakora  
Any Curry from Menu  
Pilau Rice & Plain Naan



### Meal For Two £16.95

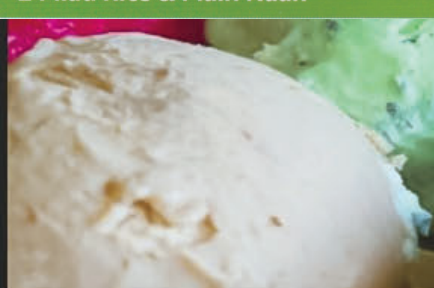
2 Poppadoms & Onion Chutney,  
Mixed Pakora  
Any 2 Curries from Menu  
2 Pilau Rice & Plain Naan

### Meal For Four £29.95

4 Poppadoms & 2 Onion Chutneys  
Mixed Pakora for 4  
Any 4 Curries  
2 Pilau Rice & 2 Plain Naans

### Tandoori For Two £24.95

2 Poppadoms & Onion Chutney,  
Mixed Pakora,  
"Any 2 Tandoori Dishes"  
Chicken Tikka, Chicken Tikka Garlic,  
Tandoori Chicken or Seekh Kebab  
2 Pilau Rice & Plain Naan



All Lamb dishes are subject to a £2 surcharge each - All King Prawn dishes are subject to £3.50 surcharge each  
Chicken Pakora instead of any other pakora £1 extra - Any Naan instead of plain naan £1 extra - All meals exclude Jaipuri dishes

## Open 7 Days

Sunday - Thursday 3pm - 10pm  
Friday & Saturday 3pm - 10.30pm

order online

[www.zaikabistro.co.uk](http://www.zaikabistro.co.uk)

download our app



discount not applicable to telephone orders

Delivery or Collection

01738 813 668

Main St, Bridge of Earn, Perth PH2 9HB

PLEASE INFORM STAFF ABOUT ANY ALLERGIES WHEN PLACING YOUR ORDER

## SHEDDING LIGHT ON ABERARGIE - WINTER INTO SPRING 2022

Aberargie seemed to be at the back of the queue as far as catching up with the rest of Perth & Kinross in "greening" its street lights from the old orange sodium lights to the energy efficient LED system. Then one day in July last year (2021) the Council cherry-picker arrived and the lamp heads were changed. Great - this meant that 50% less energy is now used to light our tiny patch of Perthshire. The magnificent sights of Orion and the Ursas, Major and Minor, could be seen more easily hanging in the night sky above the gentle pools of light.



One of those pools of light rather magically illuminates the new Aberargie Square seating area which proved most useful at the Christmas tree light switch-on evening which was a great success in December. There were plenty of volunteers to get the tree up - in the most horrendous stormy weather - and lots of new Aberargie residents out to share in the food and hot punch cup that was contributed on the night. Rugs on the seats allowed people to sit warm and cosy watching the fun. The star on the tree was made possible by very new residents Dave and Marion!

Some studies suggest that LED lights impact negatively on insect populations on roadsides, but I think we have to look no further than us and our cars as the greater culprit in that regard. Twenty years ago in some summers the slaughter across our windscreens sometimes almost impaired our visibility to drive. In recent years, worryingly, this is never the case and no longer a bother to those of us who still wash our own cars. I am sure our lockdown created the opportunity for insect populations to revive slightly but that respite was relatively short-lived.

But while its street lights are now less intrusive on the Council's energy bill and our eyes, Aberargie now returns a different contribution to lighting the night sky. Since the installation for whisky production rose out of the barley fields and the equestrian centre arose from the ashes of the burned storage sheds, Morrisons Distillery and Netherton Equestrian Centre vie to be seen from space! Their security lights shine across the countryside blinding walkers and low flying geese alike.

I wonder could I ask through this venerable magazine if these businesses could borrow a cherry picker and angle downward or shade their spotlights a little, down onto their respective working areas so that residents are not blinded in their houses or when out walking at dusk and beyond.

For the many dog owners of Aberargie the latest training exercise has been to ensure good control of their dogs around sheep, or more specifically around electric fencing. Morrisons distillery is using the more environmentally friendly way of improving soil condition by sewing a winter cover crop, turnip in this instance, in the autumn and then clearing that by running sheep across it. Their manure improves the soil. Approximately 100 sheep have been brought in for the job. To concentrate the manuring regime electric fencing now encircles the field and the sheep are gradually working their way across the acreage in sectioned areas, so if one's dog is not well trained or restrained, it will get the sharpest ticking off. As long as the dog associates the zap with sheep that may not be such a bad lesson, if it is just happily sniffing along a scent trail and then gets zapped it will probably just turn the dog off wire fencing for life. The sheep have to learn the hard way and it is only a very tough or silly sheep that will try to reach the stray turnip under the fencing.

I would be very interested to learn more about this system of soil improvement. The huge fields to the north of Aberargie have been hammered with artificial fertiliser, plant food and insect killer for decades now. I wonder how the soil condition is measured? If any farmer can expand on improving crop production through these pages that would be most interesting.

**Theresa Hughes**

## BURNS SUPPERS

With the cancellation of the Burns Club's Dinner due to Covid that means there is no report to give on this event. However I thought readers of the Crier might like to hear about two most unusual "Burns Suppers" that took place during the 2nd World War and in Lebanon in the nineteen eighties.

In 1941 Edinburgh art teacher Andrew Winton had bailed out of his stricken bomber over Frankfurt and was taken a prisoner of war. On the last of his repeated escape attempts, he and fellow escapees were overtaken by Red Army tanks as they swept across Poland towards Berlin. In his memoir "Open Road to Far Away" he recalls an extraordinary episode as they billeted with the Russians. 'We settled back in the straw, a bit drowsy, and then a voice, a girl's voice was heard. "Where is the Scotsman?" I felt the hair at my neck rising and wondered, "What next?". I struggled to my feet and there she stood, second in command of a Russian women's tank unit, a round muff hat on her head and looking very neat and official in a dark green uniform. She addressed me directly. "Do you know what day this is?" Just a little bewildered I shook my head. "This is the 25th January, Robert Burns' birthday and tonight you will recite his poetry and sing his songs. I will translate for all these people".

Winton starts to protest that he doesn't know much Burns but is silenced by an imperious wave of a hand. It turns out that the tank commander has relatives in Scotland and has been brought up on Burns. An impromptu recital ensues, with its backdrop of snow and tanks, and the two of them, dazed Scots POW and Soviet officer, end up hand in hand, singing "Ye Banks and Braes o' Bonnie Doon" to rapturous applause from the Russian Tank crews.

"I was uplifted and proud and then felt two hands on my shoulders and she turned me round and my hands were taken in hers and an emotional voice spoke. "Tonight I am your Jean, tonight you are my Robert".

Make what you will of that!!!!

The next day the order comes to cross the Oder, Winton meets her one more time and she walks back to her tank and they never see each other again.

Fast forward to 1985 when Tom Sutherland, a US domiciled Scottish agricultural geneticist and teacher, is captured by the Islamic Jihad in Beirut and kept captive for six and a half years. "I thought of Burns and how he would have handled the situation, with no whisky, no women no companions with whom to sit boosin' at the nappy. Then I would recite to myself all the poems I had memorised over the years, To a Louse, To a Mouse, Holy Willie's Prayer and as much as I could of Tam O' Shanter. It was a grand way of making the time pass and a wonderful inspiration."



Sutherland (pictured at left on his release) was granted a standing ovation at a Strathclyde conference where he spoke after his release in 1991. He recalled one particular "Burns Supper" he held for the edification of fellow captive Jean Paul Kauffman a French journalist.

'I was chained to the wall in South Lebanon along with Jean Paul. On the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1988, I asked him if he had heard of Burns. He confessed that he had indeed heard of him, but did not know much about him. I proceeded to give him a fair introduction - in French. Translation had to be a bit loose of course, since even the English can have difficulty with Burns but Jean Paul readily picked up the nuances. Later in 1993 he helped me to make a documentary film entitled "Burns in Beirut" '.

So there you have it from "Ye Banks and Braes" in the frozen plains of Poland in 1945 to "Weel done Cutty Sark" in a dark cellar in South Lebanon in 1998, it was the poetry of Robert Burns that inspired his two fellow countrymen to survive their hellish situations. Hopefully it will inspire all of us to make his great vision that "Man to Man the world o'er shall brothers be for a' that" a little nearer.

**Ian Bett**





## YOUR LOCAL TAXI SERVICE

Kintillo Cabs is a small Taxi business with the aim of serving Bridge of Earn and the surrounding area with a reliable and affordable taxi service.



### No Extra cost

We are based in Bridge of Earn. So we don't charge "from Perth".



### Cash or Card Payment

We accept contactless, applepay, googlepay and all major credit/debit cards



### Price Guarantee

We can provide you with a fixed price for your journey when you book in advance

## OUR SERVICES

- ✓ 24/7 Local Taxi
- ✓ Airport Transfers
- ✓ Wait & Return
- ✓ Long distance
- ✓ Courier / Delivery
- ✓ Corporate Accounts



01738 30 60 60  
WWW.KINTILLOCABS.COM

## KT'S COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES

@  
KT'S Relaxation Room  
6 Nethy Place  
ABERNETHY  
PH2 9GZ  
07745375210  
01738 850859



Visit KT'S for a relaxing calming experience  
and take some time out for self-care.  
Choose from a range of holistic treatments including -  
Massage, Facials, Reflexology and Reiki.

Also available Beauty Essentials such as waxing and tinting.

Seasonal and Monthly offers available  
[www.ktscomplementarytherapies.co.uk](http://www.ktscomplementarytherapies.co.uk)

## NEWSdirect

PERTH LIMITED

DELIVERING NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES DAILY

tel 01738 441919 email [info@newsdirectperthltd.com](mailto:info@newsdirectperthltd.com)

text 07974 677813

[www.newsdirectperthltd.com](http://www.newsdirectperthltd.com)

*Now delivering in your area*

### Opening Hours

Mon - Fri 04.00 - 13.00 Sat & Sun 04.30 - 11.00

- We provide a seven day delivery to over 1200 customers every day.
- We deliver to the majority of nursing / care homes in the Perth area.
- We deliver to all types of local hotels and businesses.
- We accept all national newspaper subscription vouchers.
- We can provide various payment and billing methods.
- We aim to deliver at the same time everyday even during the school holidays.

For more information  
please contact us.

*"your local supplier of  
newspapers  
& magazines"*



2 West Bridge Street | Bridgend  
Perth | PH2 7HA

follow us



Why not buy some Abernethy specific  
gifts for those who you know love  
Abernethy?

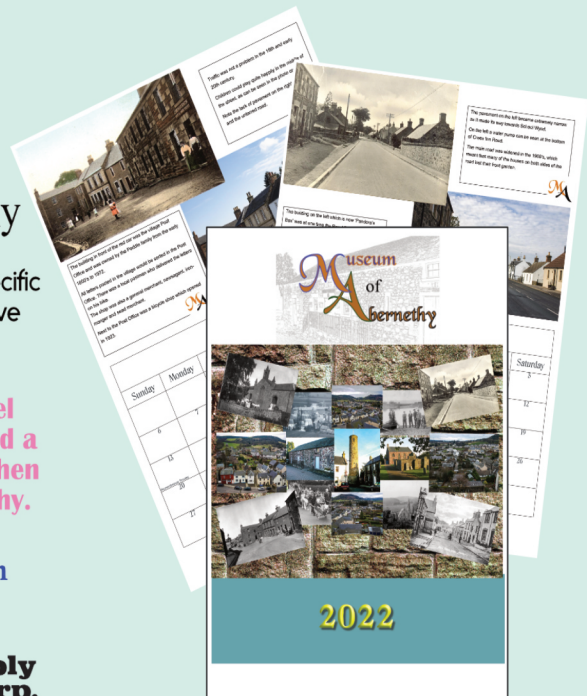
**The Museum has a tea towel  
featuring Abernethy icons and a  
calendar for 2022 showing then  
and now pictures of Abernethy.**

**Both items are on sale from  
Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

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



£6



£8





Bloomfield Bikes  
Perth Road  
Abernethy  
[www.bloomfieldbikes.co.uk](http://www.bloomfieldbikes.co.uk)  
**Please call before visiting**  
**07813941287**

[kylestrachan@yahoo.com](mailto:kylestrachan@yahoo.com)

#### ALL BIKE SHOP SERVICES

- New and used bike sales, all types, children and adults
- Electric bike sales, servicing and repairs
- Hire/Demo fleet, all sizes
- Servicing/repairs/upgrades, all bikes. Scotland repair scheme for those who need it.
- Collection/delivery/on-line payment
- **WE HAVE STOCK!!!!** Bikes are likely to be hard to find in 2022, but we have stock.

#### PRE SCHOOL RIDER SUPPORT

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

#### SCOTLAND CYCLE REPAIR SCHEME

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



**FRALEIGH**

**07813941287**

## LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Dear Reader,

Like many people, bored and a bit 'cheesed-off' by lockdown and the prolonged effects of a pandemic, I have discovered a new hobby. Santa was good enough to furnish me with a book about stargazing which was really a beginners guide to astronomy. I also received a planisphere, which is a circular, moveable image of the night sky – one which cleverly tells you what stars you can expect to see on any given evening. Not only that, I was lucky enough to find an astronomical expert right on my doorstep in the parish, who introduced me to the world of computer apps, telescopes of both eye-watering dimensions and monetary costs and fascinating facts. David Millar, just like his namesake David Bowie, is undoubtedly a first class 'Starman' – one who enjoys sharing his love of all things astronomical with a wide audience. I now know that the bright object in the night sky which I see to the right of Castle Law as I lie in bed, is in fact the star Sirius. Also known as the Dog Star, it is the brightest star in Earth's night sky. The name means "glowing" in Greek – a fitting description, as only a few planets, the full moon and the International Space Station outshine this dazzler.

The heavens are telling the glory of God; they are a marvellous display of his craftsmanship. Day and night they keep on telling about God. Without a sound or word, silent in the skies, their message reaches out to all the world. (Book of Psalms)

In the Hebrew scriptures, the Psalms written around 1000BC are perhaps one of the more popular books, not least because they combine beautiful poetry with profound theology. Traditionally, if we subscribe to the idea that they were written by (another) David then we might even harbour the attractive notion that (as a shepherd), he would be inspired to write this poetry whilst out tending to his sheep at night and looking up to the heavens. No problem with light pollution then. When I visited my parish Starman, he quoted something from the American astronomer Carl Sagan who once stated that "there are more stars in our universe than there are grains of sand on all the beaches on Earth". A mind-blowing fact, which is probably a conservative estimate. The sizes of the stars, the distances of planets and the prevalence of galaxies are too large for our small human minds to comprehend, and some modern theories of black holes suggest that the 'rules' by which we think time, space and light operate, will need to be eventually re-written.

Spring is a good time to do some star-spotting according to my expert, so why not take a look up there sometime soon on a clear night? If you do, you might want to consider that all that unmeasurable expanse of wonder is an indication of God's glory and I defy even the most hardened of heart or cynical of mind not to be moved in the deepest part of their being. Those heavens at night, do indeed, keep saying something incredible about our God - and us.

With all good wishes.

**Rev Stan (January 2022)**



## KIRK NEWS

As I write this in late January there is a definite feeling that many of the restrictions imposed by the long pandemic will be lifted. I hope, that by the time you read this, we will be much less bound by rules not only in our communal life but also within the life of the church.

Just as numbers attending services in the Kirk of St. Bride in Abernethy and Arngask Church in Glenfarg were (at long last) beginning to pick up, we were hit with renewed restrictions due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant of Covid. This meant that the numbers attending the fewer special services around Advent and Christmas were much reduced.

I am pleased to say that currently, we are holding services alternately between the two villages on a Sunday morning at 10.00am. including

Sunday Club for the children. Tea and coffee are now being served again after the services and all are invited. Masks are still having to be worn, Trace and Protect details are still being collected at the door and we are aiming to keep a distance between household groups of one metre. In addition, both churches are able to hold funeral services again up to the maximum number of people allowed in the building at any one time.

On a more hopeful note, talented villagers at the Abernethy end of the parish have been busy working on a triptych wall hanging which centres around the life of Saint Bride. When completed, it will be a sumptuous and impressive work of skill and artistry and we look forward to the day when it can be dedicated and made available for all to see. In Glenfarg, we have been holding an experimental 'Café Church' service in the village hall. The feeling of this service has been more informal and relaxed with tea and coffee being served, although soon we hope to 'extend' the 'menu'.

Current worship information can be accessed through the Church ADA (Abernethy & Dron & Arngask) Facebook page and you can keep up with the regulations as they affect the kirk. Remember, you are always invited to attend services and would be made most welcome.

**Joyce White (Session Clerk) Jan 2022**



## YET ANOTHER BURNS SUPPER

Some members of the Burns Club of Abernethy are also members of the Kinross Jolly Beggars Burns club, and although their Burns Supper was cancelled they held a Zoom Burns Supper last week. Abernethy Beggars were prominent with Jim Calderwood proposing the immortal Memory and Jim Aitken reciting Tam O' Shanter. The Kinross Jolly Beggars club was formed in 1888 when Robert Burns Begg, a Kinross solicitor and a great nephew of the Bard, invited twelve of his friends to a dinner in the Green Hotel, Kinross to celebrate the life of his great uncle. The invites were sent out in rhyme and he asked his friends to reply in similar vein. This custom has continued until the present day and at the annual dinner the best ones are read out and then the Chieftain of the Year picks out the best one and presents the winner with the John Kidd Rosebowl. This year Abernethy members' poems were prominent with Jim Calderwood, Jimmy Swan and Ian Bett all having their poems read and the Chieftain chose the poem below written by Ian Bett. Both Jimmys claim to have been second but who remembers who was second !!

### Beggars Reply - 2022

The Beggars have been meeting and toasting the Bard, since Echteen Echtey Echte  
Apart frae when needed by their country, a war tae gang and fecht  
They cam back victorious, well maist o' them did, but many fell and lie far awa'.  
Widows were left, lovers bereft and some bairns their fathers never saw.

It's a Covid war we are fighting now, so auld rules dinnae apply,  
Nae big guns firing frae miles far awa', nae bombs drappin oot o' the sky.  
Nae trachlin through mud tae yer knees in a trench, or scorched in the deserts burning sand.  
The enemy is close, it could be your best freend, the fighting is more hand to hand.

When I was a lad it was polio and TB, aye and chickenpox, measles and mumps,  
But we a' got oor jabs and if we do now, science will again come up trumps.  
Things will be better next year I am sure, and once again Brother Beggars will meet,  
Again we will pen our rhyming replies and haggis, tatties and neeps we will eat.

A silent toast will be drunk, tae them that's awa', then his pipes Bob Hamilton will blaw,  
A lament for those whose presence we miss, the sound slowly driftin' awa'.  
We're lucky tae have him a piper so good, nae better frae Wick tae the border,



He kens a' the tunes, plays a' the richt notes, but no necessarily aye in the richt order.  
 We will sing Auld Lang Syne as we have aye done before, as a circle is made round the floor,  
 But mind Hamish MacLarens warning I say, it's the third verse before your hands should reach o'er.  
 The Chieftain will Tryst us to meet once again next year, his duties for the night now complete,  
 The Beggars are back, the wind's in oor sails and the Bastard Covid we've beat!

Ian Bett

**VILLAGE SPICE GARDEN**  
 INDIAN RESTAURANT AND TAKEAWAY  
[www.villagespicegarden.co.uk](http://www.villagespicegarden.co.uk)  
**01738 813633**




**OPENING TIMES**  
 Sun - Mon - Wed - Thurs - 4.30pm - 11.30pm  
 Fri. and Sat. 4.30pm - 11.30pm. Closed Tues.  
 Main St. Bridge of Earn (Above Village Inn)  
 Home delivery service available

## Newburgh Graphics

**Sign Makers & Engravers**  
**tel 01337 842842**  
**For all your signage requirements**

- Shop Signage
- Vehicle Graphics
- Window Signage
- Banners - all sizes
- Pop-up Banners
- Bespoke Signs
- Roadside Signage
- 4 x 4 Wheelcovers
- Printed T-Shirts
- Engraving Services
- Trophies & Awards
- Flyers
- Leaflets
- Business Cards

[www.newburghgraphics.co.uk](http://www.newburghgraphics.co.uk)

**Embroidered Workwear**  
 Polo Shirts, Hoodies, T-Shirts, Sweatshirts  
 Hen / Stag Night T Shirts printed  
 with any picture or wording

**64 High St, Newburgh, Fife. KY14 6AQ**



**A&B MOTORS**

**MOT TEST CENTER  
 CLASS 4 & 7**

**SERVICING  
 EXHAUSTS  
 TYRES  
 BRAKES  
 AIR CONDITIONING  
 WELDING  
 REPAIRS**

**Tel: 01738851083  
[aandbmotorsabernethy.co.uk](http://aandbmotorsabernethy.co.uk)  
[aandbmotors@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:aandbmotors@hotmail.co.uk)**



**Online booking available via our website**



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

I would encourage you to sign up for notifications.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://twitter.com/policescotland>

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

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

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

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

#### **South**

[TaysideKinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TaysideKinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

[TaysideStrathallanCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TaysideStrathallanCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

[TaysideAlmondEarnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TaysideAlmondEarnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

[TaysideStrathearnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TaysideStrathearnCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

## **LIGHTS AT CHRISTMAS**

I need to say a big thank you to more people who donated after the cut-off date of the previous 'Crier'.

A huge thanks to Branston Ltd

Also big thanks to A.S.A.P. Contracts

Howdens

Abernethy Masonic Lodge

Thank you also to members of the Community who very kindly donated via the GoFundMe page and the bank account.

We will be continuing to fund-raise for the foreseeable future as, although the lights are purchased, they still have to be maintained, put up and taken down each year.

It would be nice to add to them occasionally too, but again this takes money.

With that in mind there will be collection boxes which Brian at the shop and Grant at the Crees have kindly agreed to hold for us.

The GoFundMe page will also remain open and the bank details for donations are also unchanged. See below;

Abernethy Community Council

Account No 00186388

Sort Code 83-25-25.

Once more many thanks to all.

**Kathleen Pye**

## **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.

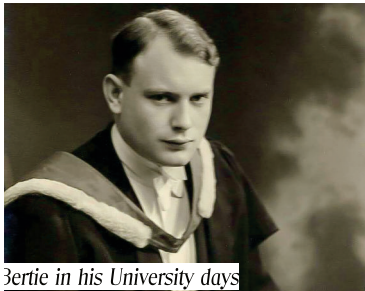
**Thank You**



## PROFESSOR ROBERT “BERTIE” ANDERSON WOOD



It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Professor Robert Anderson Wood, one of Scotland's most respected physicians, who died aged 82 on January 3, 2022.



*Bertie in his University days*

Professor Wood was born in Edinburgh and attended Edinburgh Academy before studying at Edinburgh University, where he graduated BSc (First Class Hons) Pharmacology (1961) and MBC.B (1963). He was awarded the Murdoch Brown Medal in clinical medicine.

In 1963 he began his career as a house officer at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and in 1972 was appointed consultant physician at Perth Royal Infirmary, specialising in diabetes and medical oncology. In 1992 he was appointed Postgraduate Medical Dean at Aberdeen University. Bertie held several appointments at national level including councillor and Dean of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and on committees of the then Scottish Office. His increasing involvement in administration and postgraduate medical education opened the way to his final career post as Postgraduate Medical Dean at Aberdeen University, with a professorship in medicine. Of note was his role as lead Dean for Psychiatry for the UK. He was recognised with Fellowships of The Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh.

In 2019 the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh presented him with the first medal for Fellowship with distinction.

Bertie never fully retired. In later life, he served as Her Majesty's Inspector of Anatomy for Scotland and on the committees of organisations such as the Law Society of Scotland, the Criminal Injuries Appeals Panel and the Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland.

Outside medicine, he was an accomplished golfer. He combined his passion for the sport with a forensic knowledge of music, both classical and jazz, and in his younger years played trombone in a jazz band.

He was a member of Elie Golf Club for more than 60 years and of the R&A for 56 years. He also enjoyed membership of Craigie Hill Golf Club in Perth which he captained from 1999 to 2001. A matter of lifelong pride was his membership of the late Dr. Cowan's Edinburgh University Golf team during the 1962-3 season in which the team won both the Scottish and British Universities team championships, following which he represented the successful Scottish Universities international team.



Bertie married Sheila Pirie in September 1965: the couple had four children, Nicola, Andrew, Joanna and Phillipa, and 10 grandchildren.



*Professor Wood and family.*

Many will remember Bertie for his extraordinary intelligence, his dry wit and his renowned after-dinner speeches but most of all as a husband, father and grandfather to his family, who will all miss him greatly.

**Jimmy Swan**

PAINT  
**Cm**  
WORKS

**Vehicle Repair and Refinish**

**Contact Chris on 07812119551**  
**[cmpaintworks@btinternet.com](mailto:cmpaintworks@btinternet.com)**

LOCATED AT A&B MOTORS  
BACK DYKES ABERNETHY

## ABERNETHY CLUB & ORGANISATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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  
Email: [abernethyct@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyct@gmail.com)

Abernethy & District Community Council  
Contact: Ro Bell  
Tel: 07976157022  
Email: [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com)

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

Abernethy & Dron Parish Church  
Contact: Joyce White  
Tel: 01738 850754  
Email: [whitejoyce34@aol.com](mailto:whitejoyce34@aol.com)

Abernethy Horticultural Society  
Contact: Jane Sanderson  
Tel: 01738 850610  
Email: [abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com)

Abernethy in Bloom  
Contact: Ian Lamond  
Tel Home: 01738 850186 Mobile: 07703318488  
Email: [lamond0583@hotmail.com](mailto:lamond0583@hotmail.com)

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

Abernethy Primary School  
Contact: Suz Mckenzie  
Tel: 01738 472676  
Email: [abernethy@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:abernethy@pkc.gov.uk)

Abernethy Tennis Club  
Contact: Chris Farmer  
Email: [abernethytennis@gmail.com](mailto:abernethytennis@gmail.com)

Abernethy Walking Group  
Contact: Anne Macdonald  
Tel: 01738 850403

Auld Abernethy Association  
Contact: Jimmy Swan  
Tel Home: 01738 850569 Mobile: 07808900084  
Email: [jimmyswan36@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyswan36@gmail.com)

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

Badminton  
Contact: Keir Allan  
Email: [keir.allen@gmail.com](mailto:keir.allen@gmail.com)

Beavers/Cubs/Scouts  
Contact: Gordon Miller  
Tel: 07763098141  
Email: [gordonmiller146@aol.com](mailto:gordonmiller146@aol.com)

Keep Fit  
Contact: Andrea Dewar  
Email: [dewarandrea1971@gmail.com](mailto:dewarandrea1971@gmail.com)

Line Dancing  
Contact: Elaine Marr  
Tel: 01738 850466

Rainbows & Brownies (& Guides from August 2020)  
Contact: Helen Jackson District Commissioner  
Email: [hujackson10@gmail.com](mailto:hujackson10@gmail.com)

SWI  
Contact: Elizabeth Taylor  
Tel Home: 01738 850477  
Email: [elizabethtaylor43@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elizabethtaylor43@hotmail.co.uk)

The Burns Club  
Contact: Jimmy Swan  
Tel Home: 01738 850569 Mobile: 07808900084  
Email: [jimmyswan36@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyswan36@gmail.com)

The Masons  
Contact: Roy Sutherland  
Tel: 01738 850785  
Email: [roy.caroline@btinternet.com](mailto:roy.caroline@btinternet.com)

The Museum  
Contact: Jimmy Swan  
Tel: 01738 850569  
Email: [secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk)

The Village Crier  
Contact: Les McIntosh  
Email: [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk)

The Williamson Hall  
Contact: Andrea Dewar  
Email: [dewarandrea1971@gmail.com](mailto:dewarandrea1971@gmail.com)

To keep the contact list information up to date please email club contact info changes to either  
Linda Buchan at [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com) or  
Les McIntosh at [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk)

Thank you



## ABERNETHY TRANSPORT OF YESTERDAY



Rab Masterton and his Clippie



Ed Wetherspoon



Will Monteith and Kiss Monteith. Kiss's mother and Will's mother are standing at the door.



General Motor Company bus at Tay Street Perth. This bus served Abernethy

### ABERNETHY SWI

Abernethy SWI will meet again on Wednesday 16th February, from 1pm to 3pm in the Masons' Hall, Abernethy. This will be the first meeting of 2022, when we look forward to welcoming Diane Holme, who will give a Talk and Presentation entitled "How many Polar Bears?".

The March meeting will take the form of a "Hands On" Craft Demonstration, on Wednesday 16th March from 1pm to 3pm in the Masons' Hall.

April and May meetings are still to be arranged.

Details about each meeting will be placed on the Village Notice Board and on Abernethy SWI Facebook page.

New members and friends are always welcome at our meetings.

**Elizabeth Taylor**  
President

### ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

A wee update from Abernethy & District Senior Citizens Committee. We hope all our Senior Citizens are keeping well and staying safe, and that you enjoyed the shortbread at Christmas!

As we said in our last update, it is hoped to hold an event in the Summer of 2022. Look out for further details in next Village Crier and on Noticeboard, and Abernethy Facebook page!

We still require new members for the Committee so if you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Reminder - any Senior Citizen in Abernethy or Aberargie districts who is 60 or over, and would like to join our list to be invited to future events, please get in touch.

**Evelyn Scobie**  
Secretary



ABERNETHY RESIDENTS

