

VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

Info@villagecrier.co.uk

www.villagecrier.co.uk

ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

30th EDITION

MARCH 2016

Closing date for next edition 30.4.16

Dear Readers,

Here we are into another year and The Village Crier is entering its 8th year of publication. Personally, I can hardly believe it. It seems no time since the subject of an Abernethy Newsletter was brought up at a Community Council Meeting in 2008 and our first edition was produced, one double-sided A4, on the 1st December that same year.

I think The Crier has survived longer than any of its predecessors, but I must check this. There are copies of previous Newsletters in the Museum for anyone to read. It makes interesting reading and in a way gives a potted history of Abernethy over certain periods of the late 1900s. We intend to include some extracts in future editions of The Crier.

When I was looking for something over the last day or two I came across copies of Information Sheets which were produced by the newly formed Community Council around the mid 1970s. This gave lists of organisations, meeting times, locations and phone numbers etc. So many no longer exist e.g.

RBS Bank Buildings. Mondays and Thursdays
10am-12noon

Library The Town House Mondays and Thursdays
7pm-8pm

Baby Clinic The Town House. 1st Wednesday each month

Chiropody The Town House By Appointment

Phone numbers for the local District Nurse, Bridge of Earn Hospital, Meals on Wheels.

Also a list of vans which came to the village, Baker, Fishmonger, Laundry and Lemonade. How many people remember the Lemonade Van? I can think of a few who will.

Named too, with contacts, were both the Regional and District councillors who regularly attended the C.C. meetings.

I guess this is the time of year for looking both back and forward. I am writing this in January and by the time you are reading this Crier it is March and you will definitely be looking forward. Some will have holidays booked, some will have future plans for the garden, some looking at the prospects within their chosen careers and at the opposite end of the spectrum those looking towards the end of work and retiring to do all the things they haven't had time to do before. Some young people will be entering a new phase in their lives, leaving school, starting further education, apprenticeships or work, entering the world of adulthood and all that entails.

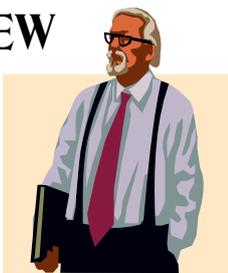
I am wondering what is going to be in The Crier this time and hoping we have plenty of contributions which are vital to keep it going. The same rules apply to me as to everyone else, "CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE IN TO THE EDITOR BY....." whatever the date is so I have no idea what has been sent in until I get the draft copy from Jimmy. On the odd occasion we have had to do a bit of spinning out as the number of pages has to be a multiple of four. It is better to have too much news than too little and keep everyone informed. We may be a relatively small parish but there is a lot going on and a lot to offer. Think of newcomers to the village. They will want to know what is of interest and become involved. This is what keeps the area alive. After all, I was an incomer myself, admittedly, a long time Ago.

Hilda Clow



EDITOR'S VIEW

Hope everyone had an enjoyable festive holiday and are looking forward to the spring and the lighter nights.



I believe there have been a few break-ins in the village over the last few months. This must be very distressing for those involved. I would ask everybody to keep an eye out for any unusual activity and don't be afraid to contact the Police. If you report something please remember to get an incident number.

A problem that rears its ugly head every now and then is kids with motor bikes fleeing up the Rough Glen and onto Castlelaw. I am sure most of us were involved in this activity when we were young, I know I was. The damage to the paths makes it difficult to walk on and prevents folks enjoying a stroll.

We used to run the cars and bikes behind the mounds up at the old quarry out of the way of the walkers so not causing damage to the path system.

Yes it was illegal then as it is now. Think about others.

Have a great Spring.

The ED

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 included. Thank You

TO THE DISTRIBUTORS

If you have any copies left over after your bundle is all delivered could you please hand them back to Jimmy Swan.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

ARTICLES

Would you please submit articles in the following format, JPEG, PDF or Word.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed

Back in February I attended the monthly meeting of the Auld Abernethy Association and had a very enjoyable evening. There were fifteen folk in the audience. What a pathetic turnout for a village of this size!

If we don't support organisations like the AAA they will fold due to lack of interest. Don't lock yourself away from October to April, support these clubs.

Name and address supplied



XMAS LIGHTS

Any of you who were able to attend the carol service at the beginning of December will, I am sure, testify to what an enjoyable night it was and will hopefully wish that we do it again but this time with mains operated lights.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see how much has been raised in aid of the Xmas tree lights. This has been very heartening and much appreciated but perhaps not everyone was able to get to the tearoom or Brian's shop or any of the drop off points .

With hindsight I feel we might have been better to give you the opportunity to donate in the modern way, i.e. using JustGiving as a place where you can make your donation. Accordingly a CrowdFundingJustGiving site has been set up and this will remain in place from 1st March to 29th April, as we need to get in touch with Perth and Kinross Council to start the work very soon if it is to be completed by the beginning of December.

As neither the Community Council nor the Abernethy in Bloom group have any funds for this work we need to have the money in hand before we can proceed so please be generous and give for this very worthwhile village project.

You can give at

<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/Abernethy-Xmas-Tree>

Links to this site will be found on the village Facebook page, on the village website www.abernethyvillage.co.uk and on the Crier website www.villagecrier.co.uk

ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS



Morning worship for 2016 takes place in Abernethy at 9.30 am and in Glenfarg at 11am. However, generally, on the last Sunday of each month we meet at 11am, together with the Glenfarg part of our congregation while alternating locations. On **29 May the united service in Abernethy will be at 11am. On April 24 and June 27 we will meet in Glenfarg for worship at 11am.** Anyone wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01337 840 218.

Children's Sunday Club meets in school term time during the morning service at each location. Please bring yourself and the children along for a time of fun, games, crafts, Bible stories and songs. Outwith term time there are always toys and books in the adjacent hall cupboard for younger children to play with. Drinks and refreshments will be served after the services. You will be very welcome to join us at either church.

Easter Sunday service at 11am on 27th March

Holy Communion is on the 17th of April at 9.30am in Abernethy and 11 am in Glenfarg

Cream Teas /coffees / Sale at 2pm on Sat 23rd April

in the Williamson Hall. Entry, including refreshments: •Adults £3 Children £1, with free indoor activities for children.

Stalls; Plants, Accessories new or used, Cake/candy/preserves, Crafts, Fairtrade/Traidcraft, Raffle, Games.

Open Doors

The Church is open on every second Tuesday afternoon while teas and coffees are served in the adjacent hall between 2.30 and 4pm. Please come and join us.

Village 'Welcome' packs

The packs contain useful village information, telephone numbers, activities in Abernethy plus the current bus timetable. The plastic folders may be picked up from the church vestibules. If you want to welcome someone new moving in to your street, why not collect a pack and add something to it – perhaps a packet of Abernethy biscuits or some flowers! The information sheets are also in the museum and Berryfields tea-room. The information will be updated regularly but if you are aware of any errors or omissions in the current version, please let Celia King know on Tel: 851010.

Church/adjacent Church hall bookings

The Church (with the Minister's permission) and the adjacent church hall are available for hire. To enquire about charges and book the facilities please contact Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850 477.

Locum minister Since our minister Rev Moira Herkes sadly died in November we have a series of locum ministers until we are able to call a new minister.

Contact details:

Minister@abernethydronarngaskchurch.org.uk
Telephone calls;via The Session Clerk; 01577 830 430
Website;abernethydronarngaskchurch.org.uk for more information

Village Crier

Poetry Competition

For everybody resident in the Crier Distribution Area

Get Thinking, Get Writing, Win a Prize
All you have to do is write a poem, short or long.

Entry requirements:
This year there are four categories

Primary 1 - 3	Up to 10 lines
Primary 4 - 7	Up to 30 lines
Secondary Pupils	Up to 50 lines
Adult	Up to 50 lines

Prizes

GOLD
£30

Silver
£20

Bronze
£10

How to Enter
Entries should be emailed to info@villagecrier.co.uk, sent to 63, Brandywell Road or handed to any committee member.

Remember the closing date is 31st July 2016

Winning entries will appear in future editions of The Crier.

Anyone in the distribution area can enter

The Great War

January 9, 1916

The Gallipoli campaign ends in an Allied defeat and an Ottoman victory.

ARRIVING AT PLATFORM 1

TRAIN STATIONS AT OUDENARDE & NEWBURGH

Proposals to reopen the train station in Newburgh have been on the table for some time now, driven largely by the efforts of the very enthusiastic Newburgh Train Station Group. Full details of the group's campaign and activities along with photographs depicting the station past and present can be found in their website

<http://newburghtrainstation.org.uk> .

Abernethy residents enthusiastic about this development are welcome to attend the group's meetings and help with the project.

The proposal to build a new station at Oudenarde is driven by Perth and Kinross Council as one of the many features associated with existing plans for significant new housing and small industrial developments in the Bridge of Earn locality.

Abernethy Community Councillors attended the group's December meeting where a long awaited report commissioned by SESTRAN, TACTRAN, Fife Council and Perth and Kinross Council was reviewed.

One of the key statistics in the report predicts that Oudenarde would see 286,000 station entries and exits annually by 2030, compared with 93,000 at Newburgh.

The extensive 32 page report containing full details of the business case for both stations can be found at http://newburghtrainstation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/20151118_Oudenarde_and_Newburgh_Study_Final_Report_Combined_v5.pdf

In the light of this report the Newburgh Train Station Group will urge the statutory authorities, Fife Council, SESTRAN and Transport Scotland to undertake a full STAG appraisal (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance) for Newburgh as soon as possible. If this report is favourable then passenger trains may once again stop at Newburgh in 2020 after a gap of over 60 years.

Progress at Oudenarde is however likely to be slower as most of the proposed developments there are significantly delayed due to the current financial climate.

Peter Glennie, Ballo House, Abernethy

The Great War January 27, 1916

Conscription introduced in the UK by the Military Service Act 1916.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

It seems that many of the residents in our area are unaware of what the Community Council does or what has transpired at the monthly meetings.

The Community Council is your representative voice for any matters concerning the village including policing, planning, road safety and anything else that affects the quality of life here. While you can raise many of these matters directly with the responsible authorities it is more effective if you also advise the Community Council who can then reinforce your concerns, possibly co-ordinating them with those made by other concerned residents, by adding its support by means of its complaint thereby adding weight to the comments.

The proceedings of the Community Council are posted on the village website www.abernethyvillage.co.uk and on the notice boards. The shortcoming of this method is that it requires you to remember to go and look and you must know when they are going to be available. Also it is difficult to let the community know when something exceptional is to be dealt with at the Community Council meeting and you lose the opportunity to express your support or concerns.

To address these problems it is proposed that a newsletter, delivered by email to all subscribers' inboxes, will be established in the village and will be sent out a week after the meeting with details of what has been discussed and what action has been taken or proposed. A week before the meeting a newsletter will be issued with an agenda for the meeting. The newsletter will also be used to advise subscribers of any exceptional matters which need to be brought to the attention of the residents as and when necessary. To be successful this newsletter requires to have a mailing list of all those residents wanting to receive a copy. This list will not be made available to anyone other than the newsletter issuer. If you wish to receive a copy please subscribe by sending an email to communitycouncil.newsletter@abernethyvillage.co.uk

Ping-Pong Anyone?



During term-time, a fine table tennis table is available in the school between 7pm and 9pm on Wednesdays. This is the same time as the badminton, although the table tennis is next door in the General Purposes Room. All welcome. Bats and balls supplied.

Angus Macintyre.

FROM OUR PKC COUNCILLOR

Well here we are into another year and hopefully you are all well.

2015 finished rather disappointingly as it looked as if a group that had served Abernethy for over 25 years was about to be unable to get enough members to keep going. I am talking about Abernethy Community Council.

Community Councils are an important part of the community. They are a conduit for people to express their concerns on a whole host of issues that happen in our areas. They promote a good spirit in the community and are proactive when major issues occur within the community. It is voluntary with only expenses available, which most don't even claim.

We had a very well attended meeting in November, and a lot of the frustration was expressed that night. I think that when one has been involved in a group for any length of time the passion for a group can at times be misinterpreted. I can assure readers that Abernethy Community Councillors are passionate about the area and do not do this for their own advantage.

However, we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel, we are to have a second election in March and we have a few new volunteers prepared to take on the duties of representing the community. We shall wait and hope that we have a team to move forward with.

We also have another contentious issue in Abernethy at present and that is the garage sites that are above the Williamson Hall. After a review of all garage sites and lock-ups throughout PKC, it was decided to consult with the users and find out if these site are sustainable, or can we find alternative uses for the sites? PKC have a policy to use as much brown site land for social housing as is possible, therefore this has to be a priority consideration. We can through consultation look at other alternatives.

Allotments? Parking for Williamson Hall? Sell to housing developer? I am sure I have not exhausted the suggestions. It is for consultation and I would urge the community to be active when the consultation comes Along. If you wish any help with any matter you have concerns with contact me on 07730132824 or email handerson@pkc.gov.uk or come along to the next Community Council meeting.

H Anderson

The Crier is delivered free to 800 households in Abernethy, Aberargie and Dron.

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

2016

2nd March **200 years of the Lodge of Lindores**
Alistair Wilkie & Jim Aitken

6th April **AGM and A Talk on Abernethy School**
Frank Zwolinski



The team at Alan's Chilli Products would like to thank all their customers for their support and business.

Finalist - Business Star Awards 2015 - Excellence in food & drink produce category.

It is with regret.....we hear of the death of Margaret Aitken, Ken Hepburn, Iris Watson and Edith Crawford.

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

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MAUREEN NISBET	850148

JIMMY SWAN (Editor) 850569
(info@villagecrier.co.uk)



ABERNETHY SWI

Meetings are held in the Session House at Abernethy Church (unless otherwise stated) on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. The subscription for this year is £20. Visitors £3 per meeting.

At our November meeting Andy Paterson gave a very enjoyable and entertaining presentation and quiz on "Stars of the Silver Screen". We were all surprised how many we could remember! Competition Winners: 4 Pieces Turkish Delight 1st E Taylor, 2nd E Scobie, 3rd P Miller. Flower of the Month – 1st K Jerrard, 2nd B Baird, 3rd P Miller.

In December we enjoyed our Christmas Meal at Ber-ryfields. We finished off the evening by singing a few carols and everyone received a parcel from Santa.

In January we enjoyed a very moving and inspiring Talk by Rachel Cheer on CHAS. (Children's Hospice Association Scotland) and the wonderful work that goes on at the two Hospices, Rachel House and Robin House. Competition Winners: Sewn or Knitted Toy 1st K Jerrard, 2nd P Miller, 3rd A Brews. Flower of the Month 1st B Baird, 2nd J Sanderson, 3rd P Miller.

We have several new members this year, so why not come along and join them? If you are not sure if this is for you, please feel free to come along as a visitor first. Contact person Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496. Mobile: 07719240294.

Future Meetings for 2016:

Wed 17- February - Talk by Angus Whitson, "Courier" columnist – "Man with Two Dogs". Competitions: "3 Fruit Scones" & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 16- March - Demonstration – "Middle Eastern/Asian Cooking" with Rekha Cairns. Competitions: "3 Samosas" (recipe supplied) & "Flower of the Month".

Fri 18- March -

Wed 20- April -



Wed 18- May -

"Fundraising Quiz" in the Masonic Hall – **Please note change of date.** Teams of 4. £12 per team. Tea and biscuits will be served. BYOB if you wish. Raffle. **OPEN NIGHT – Masonic Hall** - Four Corners Demonstrations – Fabric Boxes, Upholstery, Cards, & Flower Arranging. Competitions: "Small Arrangement with 3 blooms" & "Flower of the Month". All welcome. **AGM** – Talk by Caroline Boyle on "Abernethy in Bloom". Competitions: "Fruit Drink (non-alcoholic)" & "Flower of the Month".

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.

Evelyn Scobie

MEAL MAKERS



Meal Makers is a local neighbourhood food-sharing project. We connect people who love cooking and want to be active in their community (Cooks), with older neighbours (Diners) who would appreciate home cooked food delivered to them every now and then. We aim to tackle social isolation and the growing problem of malnutrition by helping older adults who no longer find it easy to cook for themselves to enjoy freshly home cooked food. We also aim to strengthen connections within communities and provide a flexible way for people to volunteer their time and skills locally in a way which suits them. If you would like to do something great with an extra plate or would like to meet a friendly neighbour over a plate of their delicious home cooked food then Meal Makers would love to hear from you. Cooks can join Meal Makers by visiting www.mealmakers.org.uk or contacting Meal Makers on 01738 452236 / heather@mealmakers.org.uk

If you would like to sign up as a Diner or know someone who would really appreciate some home cooked food, then you please call Meal Makers on 01738 452236.

The Great War February 21, 1916

The Battle of Verdun begins

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

The Annual Coffee Morning is being held in the Masonic Hall on Sat 9th April 2016 from 10am – 12noon. See Notice Board nearer the time for fuller details. Donations for the various stalls will be very welcome, including bottles for bottle stall, baking etc for Cake & Candy Stall and Teas, and Raffle Prizes for the Raffle.

See notices in Noticeboard and shop nearer the time. Please try to come along and support this event, which helps towards the Annual Outing and Christmas Party.

The Trust would like to thank Morag Laing and Angela Campbell for their very generous gesture in donating the sum of £60 to the Trust, being the proceeds from the Christmas Card Delivery they organised in the village. This is very much appreciated.

E Scobie

Secretary

Tel: 01738 850496 or 07719240294

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

After a near-death experience Abernethy Community Council is back in business with a total of seven (out of nine available seats) volunteering to serve on the council. The enlarged committee should enable us to be more effective, the first proposal will be to allocate specific members specific responsibilities so for instance we will have someone reviewing the weekly planning application list, someone else covering police and neighbourhood matters, another looking at the amenity of the area (bins emptied, roads gritted, grass cut etc.); this approach will ensure that the bread and butter business of the community council will be given

the same priority as ongoing matters such as the Tay-Plan, Binn Eco Park development, local planning proposals and the many initiatives emanating from local and central government.

One topic that came up at the November meeting was communication so elsewhere in the Crier Les McIntosh sets out his thoughts on a more direct approach to informing the community of recent council business. We will trial this for a period then ask for feedback and if considered successful and worthwhile it will be adopted. Notwithstanding this, there is no substitute for in-person attendance at our monthly meetings so we hope that the recent and very welcome increase in villagers in attendance will be maintained.

For future Crier editions we will attempt to summarise more recent community council proceedings and anticipate topics or noteworthy events that are likely to occur before the Crier's next quarterly publication Cycle.

Main Issues Report: the final consultation shows that the PKC Reporter has recommended that the four areas in Abernethy and three in Aberargie are rejected. While developers can still challenge his recommendation the rationale behind the rejection is sufficiently robust that it is unlikely the recommendation would be overturned. The community council will be responding to the consultation by supporting the Reporter's recommendation in respect to the seven areas, it is very important that villagers respond too so that PKC can see the depth and breadth of community feeling.

Planning Applications: one particularly noteworthy planning application was lodged in January: an application to increase the current anaerobic digestion facility more than two fold. Lodged by an unfamiliar company as the previous operator had gone into receivership, a quick check with Companies House revealed that the management of this new venture is virtually that which was responsible for running the now defunct TEG. This raised the prospect of a return of the noxious odours we experienced from the former operation but potentially magnified more than two fold. Having raised our concerns with the new operator we will be accepting their invitation to present their proposals at a future community council meeting, we intend to hold them far more to account than might have been evident in the past.

Police Matters: while no substitute for actual police presence at our monthly meetings, Police Scotland publish a "Commander's Report" which we now post to the village Facebook page (Abernethy Perthshire), this provides a concise summary of crime patterns and incidents, both locally and also across the greater Perth and Kinross area; I urge you to read the updates as we have experienced some crime in the past few weeks so we need to be ever vigilant and aware of all that is going on around us.

Those readers of the Facebook postings will be aware of several reported crimes in and around our area: the thefts of heating oil, garden and power tools (both from vehicles and sheds), quad bikes and agricultural equipment and machinery, most regarded by the police as opportunistic thefts but they stress that we tend to make life easy for the criminals through lapses in basic security. The last word on this subject: there have been reports of suspicious workmen in the general area, apparently exploiting the recent stormy weather offering on-the-spot roof repairs, the police advice is to treat these enquiries with utmost caution and if in doubt politely but firmly decline their solicitation.

And finally, the community council was consulted on and responded to the national police plan. While the document contained some fine words and superficially impressive statistics we stressed the need for more back to basics community policing and greater visibility and awareness of road safety but we have also asked for an explanation for the poor clear up rates for house breaking which some still (unfathomably) consider a victimless crime.

Village Maintenance: January's cold spell and stormy weather exposed some of the village maintenance shortcomings that are now centrally controlled by PKC with several people reporting lack of gritting or blocked drain. Through Councillor Anderson these complaints have been raised with PKC and while we recognise the need for prioritisation (school bus and arterial routes) we will monitor actual activity against PKC's maintenance schedule.

Future Events: at time of writing this update (31st January) the sole noteworthy event in the diary is PKC's Main Issues Report community drop-in sessions, the dates of which are in February and early March so will be posted to the Facebook page.

Alistair Robinson

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Householders and businesses with properties affected by the recent flooding can get financial help under a new scheme. The Scottish Government has announced a one off aid package to Local Authorities to enable them to provide support and assistance to those who have been most affected by the recent severe flooding events.

Within Perth & Kinross, the funding is being distributed by the Council to provide each eligible flood affected household, business, community group (such as sports clubs, etc.) or charitable organisation affected by flooding on 17 July 2015, December 2015 and January 2016 with a flat rate grant of £1,500 for the following:

To reimburse them for the opportunity cost of not receiving the full benefit of services they pay for through Council Tax/Business Rates while absent from their homes and while businesses have had their trading disrupted due to internal property flooding.

To enable them to protect their homes and businesses against future floods by installing new flood barriers, or by carrying out flood resilient repairs such as replacing doors and windows with water resistant alternatives, or moving electricity sockets up to a safer level, etc

Businesses can also claim an additional flat rate grant of £3,000 where there is evidence that their ability to trade has been severely impacted by flooding.

Full details of eligibility and how to apply can be found on the Council's web site at www.pkc.gov.uk/floodingsupportgrant . Any residents or businesses who have queries on the scheme should be directed to the Council's customer service centre on 01738 475000 or can e-mail FloodFundingGrant@pkc.gov.uk .

Regards,

Pamela Rogalski Elections and Community Councils Officer
Corporate and Democratic Services
Perth and Kinross Council
The Atrium
137 Glover Street
Perth PH2 0LQ



ABERNETHY COMMUNITY CINEMA



We are delighted to start 2016 full of enthusiasm and keenness with our first committee meeting of the year last January 18th where we planned films and fundraisers. One of the issues we discussed at our meeting was the issues that arose in printing of tickets; from this we will now offer seat reservation and tickets can be collected at the door. We will accept seat reservations for any of our films. Allan's Chilli Products continues to sponsor our web page, thanks Allan.

Special thanks to The Inn for sponsoring us over the festive season and to you all who bought film tickets as a gift. If you would like further information or would like to buy film tickets as a gift please contact us. Christmas attendance was a little disappointing for us... but despite the films having just been on TV they looked good on our big screen.

We start our Season Two on 12th February showing the 1998 comedy film *Out of Sight* (15) with George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez. This film affirmed George Clooney's road to success. As this film is shown close to Valentine's Day we offer you the opportunity to be fun and creative and have a few of your words, or pictures, shown on a short film before our film shows. Maybe you'd like to say '*I love you*' or something *a little more vivacious*. Usual BYOB applies. Please contact us to let us have your special message and/or pictures for this event.

March 11th we will show *The Hundred-Foot Journey* (PG) starring Helen Mirren and Manish Dayal (Raj Kher in 90210). Due to unforeseen circumstances, our curry is now an Afternoon tea. Afternoon tea will be sandwiches (maybe delicately cut into fingers), scones and cakes with unlimited tea/coffee/soft drink. Doors will open at 6.00pm with Afternoon Tea served from 6.15pm and the film will commence 7.30pm. Baking is homemade... remember the scrummy cakes as per last year at our Car Boot fundraiser? Booking/ticket reservation for this is a must (£7.00 per adult, £5.00 per child and Family tickets (2 adults + 2 children) are £22.00) however you can still reserve tickets for the film only and come along at about 7.15pm. Please contact us to reserve your seats.

April 15th sees the start of our aim to show more films for our younger population and we are trying

something new... a current film, due out on DVD in March. We hope it will be available on Licence for April 15th. The film is *Snoopy and Charlie Brown: The Peanuts Movie* and is a 'U' classification. Please note all children must be accompanied by an adult. Whilst we intend to show other films for our younger population, for now October and December are outlined for other 'U' classification films. Please note this film will start earlier than normal.

Our fundraisers will start soon...

March – see us trying again with a car boot sale; the date for which is totally subject to the weather so you still have a few weeks to donate anything you may want oot - we can collect. We are thankful for anything you may have that we can sell to raise funds. Please see below for contact details.

June is Quiz night – there will be the usual tricks to get you to part with your hard earned cash... charge for team entry/raffle tickets/donation jars – well actually anything we can think of to generate money to cover our costs. This year will be BYOB (*bring your own booze*).

We're going to give a film/disco a go... probably in August as school holidays and vacations will be upon us in a blink. You will be able to come to one or the other or both.

To keep up to date with information, what we are up to and/or what the Cinema is showing we will continue with Front Row and our Newsletters. We are grateful to you all who help us deliver our leaflet/newsletters however we are looking for assistance for our leaflet/newsletter delivery covering the Glenfoot Road, Abernethy and Dron.

For more up-to-date information please check out our website (abernethycommunitycinema.co.uk) or Facebook (Abernethy Community Cinema) or telephone Jan on 07949840749 and/or be added to our e-mail list (abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com). We continue to put up posters in the notice boards in The Square, by the bus stop down by Nurse Peattie's Garden and in the notice board in Aberargie. Posters will be about for most of the year as we offer our forthcoming film schedule. Keep your eyes open for our Front Row leaflet and Newsletter.

Thanks to you all for your support and on behalf of the Abernethy Community Cinema, I wish you a belated Happy New Year.
Jan - Chair

SCOTLAND & THE FLEMISH PEOPLE

An investigation into a significant medieval immigrant group

Background

The issue of migration to Scotland has been much in the news over the past decade, with a significant inflow of people coming from the eastern part of the European Union and, of course, most recently from Syria. But immigration is not a new phenomenon for Scotland. It is perhaps little known that immigrants from Flanders – Flemish people – were an important immigrant group in the medieval and early modern period (roughly 1100 – 1700). That this is not generally known reflects the fact that Flemish immigration took place gradually over a period of about 600 years. This slow absorption of the Flemish means that it has been difficult to discern their overall impact on Scotland. As a result there is a question as to whether the Flemish influence has been fully accounted for in conventional histories of Scotland.

A three-year project centered in the Institute of Scottish Historical Research at the University of St Andrews has been seeking to make a reassessment of the Flemish role in Scotland. The starting point has been an examination of the historical relationship between Flanders and Scotland, and one of the primary goals of the research has been to get a better understanding of the factors that have led to different phases of migration over the 600-year period.

The project has incorporated the research of leading scholars, local and family historians, as well as new doctoral research undertaken by students at St Andrews. It is an innovative project in that it has drawn on the knowledge of a wide range of experts – including many from outside the world of academia – and has actively used a project blog to disseminate their views. This in turn has generated interest from the public at large. The project has also benefited from cooperation with the University of Strathclyde, which has developed a DNA project aimed at investigating which Scottish families may have Flemish roots.

This article examines some of the issues that the project has sought to address and provides information about a major international conference in June 2016 that will draw out the main conclusions of the study and bring the project to a close.

Main Phases of Migration

An important question that the project has sought to address is why people left Flanders at various times over that 600 year period and what led some of them to come to Scotland. Three categories of migrant can be discerned: aristocratic migrants, economic migrants, and religiously persecuted migrants.

Aristocratic migrants: The earliest Flemish settlers in Britain came with William the Conqueror's invading force in 1066. The Flemings had the right wing of the battle formation. They were closely allied with the Normans, not least because William's wife was the daughter of a count of Flanders. William rewarded the Flemish for their help with land in England. So an initial Flemish foothold in England was established.

David, son of Malcolm Canmore (Máel Coluim III), ascended to the Scottish throne as David I in 1124 and his wife Maud, of Flemish heritage, came from England with him accompanied by a retinue of her Flemish kinsmen. Further aristocratic Flemings came to Scotland to help subdue the local population and to assist in 'modernising' the country. This inflow continued through the reign of Malcolm IV (1153-65).

The areas of Scotland most associated with the settlement of these aristocrats were Upper Clydesdale and Moray. In 1154 Henry II expelled many Flemish people from England on the grounds that they (as well as other foreigners living in the country at the time) were encroaching on English trade. This gave impetus to a further movement of Flemish people to Scotland.

Economic migrants: There were forces at work during the late medieval period – so called push factors and pull factors – that led to a movement of economic migrants from Flanders to Scotland.

The economic push factors that encouraged people to leave Flanders had their root in the rise and subsequent decline of the textile industry. The rapid growth of this industry during the 13th and early 14th centuries led to an increasing call on land for sheep grazing in Flanders and a heavy concentration of weaving, and hence people, in urban areas. Between 1050 and 1350 the population of Flanders tripled to some 800,000 people. This overpopulation led to some people leaving Flanders for economic reasons.

Subsequently, with increasing competition from other producers in Europe, the Flemish textile industry went into decline from about the middle of the 14th century, causing economic dislocation and unrest among the working people. One example of the worker unrest was a revolt of Ghent weavers over the period 1338-1346. Other revolts took place in the 15th century. All of these economic push factors again encouraged people to leave Flanders.

During the medieval period, the trade in wool was another push factor which encouraged Flemish merchants to settle temporarily in the eastern burghs of Scotland. Burghs, such as Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, Edinburgh, and Berwick (when under Scottish control), were the centres of Scotland's trade with Flanders. The presence of Flemish merchants in Scottish burghs was inexorably linked to the trade relationship between the two regions. The limited documentary evidence that exists suggests that Flemish merchants settled permanently in the east coast burghs of Scotland during the later medieval period. Furthermore, the settlement of Scottish merchants in Flanders, specifically at the staple of Bruges, was also common during the 14th and 15th centuries.

In the late 16th century, the Scottish government recognised the benefit of encouraging Flemish weavers to settle in Scotland. Acts of Parliament were passed in 1581 and 1587 which provided economic incentives to Flemish weavers to settle in Scotland and train local Scots in the art of weaving.

The implementation of legislation meant to encourage Flemish migration to Scotland could be considered a pull factor. The type of apprenticeship scheme proposed in the 1581 and 1587 legislation was intended to encourage Flemish weavers to educate the Scottish population with their knowledge of weaving and associated skills.

Religiously persecuted migrants: In the 16th and 17th centuries another phase of Flemish migration to Scotland took place, although the numbers of people involved may have been relatively small. The root cause of this was religious persecution. Reformation ideals found great support in the cities of Flanders, where there had been a long-held tradition of free-thinking, autonomy, and openness. The issue of religion, centered on Protestant renewal, caused a great divide between the Low Countries and the Madrid-based Spanish government that sought to maintain Catholic worship in its territories. In 1522 Charles V instituted the Inquisition in the Low Countries and condemned all heretics to death. From 1566, the

Dutch Revolt and the subsequent partitioning of the Low Countries into Protestant and Catholic camps, resulted in several further waves of migration from Flanders. This was followed, towards the end of the 17th century, by an outflow of Protestants fleeing persecution by King Louis XIV of France, as a result of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This Edict had provided various protections to Protestants when it was signed in 1598. A proportion of the migrants from Flanders went initially to England and then some went on to Scotland.

The Relationship between Scotland and Flanders

The Flemish presence in Scotland would have led to, and been supplemented by, a healthy interchange between the two that yielded economic, diplomatic and cultural benefits, especially for Scotland. The economic relationship: During the medieval period, Flanders was an economic powerhouse driven by a textile industry that supplied luxury woollen cloth to much of Europe. The relationship with Scotland was one of mutually beneficial exchange. Scotland's thriving burghs provided raw wool for the Flemish weaving industry, and these exports, along with less numerous but still economically significant exports of woolfells, hides, and fish, became an engine for the growth of the Scottish economy in the medieval period. In return, Flanders exported to Scotland – as to much of Europe – high-end items such as tapestries, munitions, bells, and finished woollen goods. Flemish craftsmen were often brought to Scotland, sometimes temporarily, to fulfil a demand for desirable Flemish items.

The diplomatic and cultural relationship: The interchange was not confined to trade and commerce. There were diplomatic and cultural dimensions to the relationship. Scotland was pulled more and more into mainstream Europe through cultural links with Flanders (and, more broadly, Burgundy).

The marriage in 1449 of James II to Mary of

The Great War **March 1, 1916**

Germany resumes unrestricted submarine warfare.

Guelders, the niece of Philip the Good of Burgundy, formalised diplomatic links and promoted cultural exchange between Scotland and Flanders. James III famously commissioned the Flemish artist Hugo van der Goes to paint the Trinity Altarpiece, while Alexander Bening, thought to be a Scot, was actively pursuing his art as a painter and miniaturist in Bruges.

There is also evidence of interchange between the two countries in the recreational field. The marriage of James II and Mary of Guelders, for example, was celebrated by a jousting competition between Scottish and Burgundian knights (the Burgundians won), while there is a long-running debate surrounding a possible Flemish influence on golf and curling, pursuits that have long been considered to have their home in Scotland. Early Flemish paintings appear to portray games that have a resemblance to golf and curling before the time when these pursuits took hold in Scotland.

Scottish Families with a Claim to Flemish Roots

The Scotland and the Flemish People project is also examining the possible Flemish origins of some major Scottish families. While the surname Fleming does signify a Flemish origin for a family carrying this name, this is by no means the only Scottish family that can make such a claim. The Sutherland, Murray, Innes and Lindsay families have been associated with the move into Scotland of aristocratic Flemings during the reign of David I in the 12th century.

These families settled in the region around the Moray Firth, while the Fleming family is associated with Upper Clydesdale and Cumbernauld.

During the course of the project other families have been identified that may have come to Scotland later from Flanders. Examples of these are the Frame family of weavers that came to Scotland in the 14th century and the Dowie family of merchants that could have been in Scotland as early as the late 13th century.

To help families that believe they may have a Flemish root get affirmation of this the project has, as noted above, developed a DNA component. This work is centered at Strathclyde University. The hope is that representatives of Scottish families that have taken a DNA test can have their results compared with a control sample of Flemish DNA. The first results of the DNA analysis will be available in the late spring of 2016 and discussed at the June conference referenced below.

The Flemish Imprint on Scotland

The cumulative effect of the Flemish migration is such that by one estimate about 30% of today's Scottish population could have Flemish ancestors. While this figure is probably at the upper end of the feasible range it is clear that Flemish DNA is, through intermarriage, now well embedded in the Scottish population at large. It is quite probable therefore that families of Flemish origin will have had, over the course of time, a significant influence on Scottish economic, political and social life.

A review of Scottish history in the medieval and early modern periods would reveal numerous references to Flemish origin families participating in important political and economic events of the day. But what has been the lasting imprint of the Flemish in Scotland? Such an imprint can be discerned in various ways. One of the more subtle of these has come through the absorption of some Flemish words into the Scottish vocabulary. The Flemish influence on the Scots language is felt particularly in fields where there were significant areas of contact, for instance trade and cloth. But there are other commonly used Scots words that originated in Flanders. The Scots word "scone", for instance, was derived from the Flemish "schoon". The clearest physical imprint is seen in existing structures of various types. The Flemish were renowned for being builders of defensive fortifications in the medieval period and evidence of this can still be seen today in mottes – that is, earthen mounds that supported wooden bailey stockades – in various parts of Scotland as well as the remains of castles.

Various towns and villages in Scotland also bear witness to Flemish settlement, as evidenced by some place names. There are several places called Flemington, for instance, as well as a number of others with names such as Flemingtoun and Fleminghill. These are all examples of ethnonymic place names. There has also been a discernible Flemish influence on Scottish architecture. This can be most readily seen in the pan tiles and crow steps that are features of a number of villages around the Forth estuary. Some Scottish churches have also benefited from a Flemish influence, notably the ceiling of King's College Chapel in Aberdeen and the west front of the collegiate church of St Mary, Haddington. There is evidence of both Flemish people living in Scotland and Flemish craftspeople being brought to the country as being the source of architectural and engineering skills. Maynard the Fleming, who lived in Scotland in the early Middle Ages, is an example of the former, hav-

having been credited with the architectural layout of St. Andrews. Scottish tradesmen may also have copied Flemish architectural design in some instances.

The Concluding Conference

A major inter-disciplinary conference to be held in St. Andrews in June 2016 will explore in more depth the relationship between Scotland and Flanders in the medieval and early modern periods, as well as the influence of the Flemish people and culture on Scotland through the centuries.

Drawing on research by leading scholars in history, art history, archaeology, material culture and genetic genealogy, the conference will examine the migration and settlement of the Flemish people, the commercial and diplomatic relations between Flanders and Scotland, and the Flemish origins and historical significance of a number of Scottish families. The conference will lead to a major publication. See the box below for more information on the conference and how to register:

Conference Title: Scotland and the Flemish People

Dates: 16 - 17 June 2016

Location: The Gateway Centre, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

Registration details: www.eventsforce.net/scotflem

Conference secretary: Dr. Claire Hawes at scotflem2016@st-andrews.ac.uk
Professor Roger Mason and Dr. Alex Fleming

A BIG THANK YOU

A big thank you to Brian Greig and Hazel at Berryfields tearoom for allowing us to have boxes in their shops for the Abernethy Christmas cards. Also thank you to everyone that used it and their kind donations.

We raised a fantastic £60.20 for the senior citizens of Abernethy.

Thank you



Abernethy Horticultural Society

Evening Talks and Meetings 2015-2016

The evening talks will be held in the Masons' Hall, Abernethy, at 7:30pm unless stated otherwise.

16th March 2016

AGM. With updates on "Abernethy In Bloom" and maybe even a mystery speaker.

13th April 2016

Pollination and Beasties, Angela Lloyd. Angela is a lecturer and researcher on organic growing and the role of insects in horticulture.

June 2016, date and time TBC

The Annual AHS Road Trip – location and date to be confirmed.

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

I am going to Tanzania in August 2016 with a charity called the Vine Trust where their aim is to connect people to change lives. My trip will be a home building expedition where I will be helping to build community homes and children's centres for vulnerable and orphaned children.

I will be taking part in labouring duties such as collecting water, sieving sand, mixing cement, painting and much more.

I am holding a fundraising event in Perth in May to raise funds for the charity and the trip and would like to ask if you could donate a raffle prize/vouchers for my event.

Also doing a sponsored walk in March and looking to have a swop shop in Abernethy at the Williamson hall in April if anyone would like to come along for support. For further details please contact me call or email 07821 441252 or ambergeddes@yahoo.co.uk

Amber Geddes

The Great War

March 1-15, 1916

Fifth battle of Isonzo

The Great War March 9, 1916

Germany declares war on Portugal.
Portugal officially enters the war

THE VILLAGE CRIER PARTY

THE SAME, BUT DIFFERENT

On the 10th of December the Crier Team held our Annual Party to say thank you to our loyal team of distributors.

We had had five very happy years at the Crees when Brian looked after us so well. It was very sad to walk past the shuttered Crees Inn and think of 'absent friends'

But there was a very warm welcome from Grant and his team at the Inn with a welcoming drink, including specially mulled wine, before going upstairs to a bright festive room. There were less distributors than usual as it was a dreadful night and there was an important meeting at the Kirk but it was a pleasure to greet many of the Writing Competition prize winners, especially the young ones with their families.

Hilda Clow, President, welcomed us and presented the prizes before we all relaxed with a drink and a chat.

The Crier is only possible because so many people give time and effort to producing and distributing it. No one claims expenses and all involved work very happily together. The happy evening reflected this spirit.

Thank you again to the Inn for looking after us so well. A good time was had by all!

AH



The committee

(Jimmy Swan is obviously having a great time)



The distributors



The prize winners

BUS SERVICES

A new service has been introduced that might be of interest to Abernethy residents. Service X55 operates hourly on Mondays to Saturdays connecting Bridge of Earn with Dunfermline and Edinburgh. The timetable can be accessed at: <https://tiscon-maps-stagecoachbus.s3.amazonaws.com/Timetables/East%20Scotland/Fife/231115%20changes/X55%20X56%2055a%20web%2023.11.15.pdf> or go to <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables> and type in X55.

Anybody with a National Entitlement Card will of course be able to travel free of charge.

The bus company has extended its Megarider ticket to Abernethy and Aberargie. The Perth 7 day zone 3 megarider allows seven days unlimited travel for £14 (£9.40 for children under 16), a significant saving on single fares or paying to park everyday in central Perth. The ticket can be bought online or on the bus. It allows travel on services 36 and 56 and on any buses in Perth or as far away as Dunkeld, Methven, Dunning and Errol.

ABERNETHY IN BLOOM



Abernethy in Bloom has just celebrated its first birthday and experienced a full year of what the weather can throw at us! The bulbs we planted in Nurse Peattie's Garden last Autumn are beginning to make an appearance and offer hope that Spring is coming and this Winter's driving wind and rain will not last forever. I am writing this at the end of January when we are all suffering a bit from cabin fever and wishing we had invested in sun lamps. However, we have also taken advantage of the dark days to plan for summer colour and look forward to getting outside again.

Dates for your diary

Saturday May 7 from 2-4 To mark the completion of phase one of our redevelopment of Nurse Peattie's Garden, we shall be holding an event for all the family in the Garden. Please watch the village notice boards for more information. We would particularly like to invite and welcome anyone who was a patient of Nurse Peattie or knew her personally. We hope the event will have a few "medical" overtones.

Saturday July 30 Judging the second annual Abernethy Container competition and our new Best Street competition. After the success of last year's Bloomin' Marvellous event we are hoping for even more entries this year. We have also had a request for an award for the Best Bloomin' Street. Further details and entry forms will appear in the next issue of the Crier.

Village planters

We are aiming to have more of the green and cream planters this year – including at the two ends of the village. Following various comments and requests we are going to fill them with bolder and brighter colour. If any of the village businesses or associations would like to sponsor a planter, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

Christmas tree and Christmas lights fund

Some of you may have witnessed our valiant attempts at putting up and decorating our very large and beautiful Christmas tree which stood near the roundabout by the fence in Nurse Peattie's Garden over the Festive season. We put it up not once but twice! The terrific gales in early December felled the tree when the base gave way. Thanks to Perth and Kinross Council's rapid response team who arrived

with 28 bags of concrete the base was restored. Joint efforts by the Community Council and Abernethy in Bloom with help from some hefty farm machinery from the Baird family and stout wire from Jimmy Swan saw the tree heaved back into place only hours before the Carol Service in the garden on 11 December. The storms abated just long enough for a good crowd to come along and for singing to take place. We were delighted to raise £130 – half for the Church and half for the Christmas lights fund. Together with a range of other donations which came in following Les McIntosh's article and appeal in the last Crier, the fund has now reached £525. This is a great start towards the £1800 we need and sincere thanks are due to everyone who has contributed to date. We will continue to raise funds and welcome further donations until early May. If you have not already contributed and would like to, Les McIntosh has set up a JustGiving website (he gives full details about this elsewhere in this issue of the Crier). We will also keep our collection tin in the shop. You can see progress towards our target on the thermometer in Nurse Peattie's Garden and on the village notice boards. Here you can also find details of all our activities.

If you would like to get involved with the work of Abernethy in Bloom and help make our village an even more beautiful place to live, work and visit, please get in touch.

Caroline Boyle on behalf of Abernethy in Bloom
carolinepboyle@hotmail.com

HOLIDAY COTTAGE

Ivy Cottage, Back Dykes, Abernethy

Ivy Cottage offers lovely surroundings to base your holiday. Inside is well equipped with 2 Bedrooms, 1 double and 1 twin. Small garden with BBQ. Dogs and children welcome.

To find out more contact
Cottages4you 0345 268 0760

The Great War March 18, 1916

Battle of Kahe

A HAPPY HORSEY STORY FROM

Diamond was born in 1997 and had already had several foals when she came to us in 2007 with Jack as a foal at foot. With Warlord she has produced for us Crystal, Chieftain and Field Marshall.

She is a wonderful mother, and undoubtedly Boss and Queen of the Herd, always keeping an eye on any foals in the field.

In 2014 her pregnancy had progressed normally but unfortunately the foal didn't survive the birth. We thought that perhaps her mothering skills might benefit some other poor foal so at 5 o'clock in the morning we contacted the Foaling Bank (a charity to match up bereaved mares and orphaned foals all over the country) not fully appreciating what we were letting ourselves in for. After an hour of instruction we felt we were ready to take on a four day old Irish sports horse who had lost his mother a few hours after birth and had already travelled around the country in two abortive attempts to find a foster mother who would accept him. His owner brought him to us at noon, and he tottered off the lorry dazed and right down on his hocks from all the travelling, having done several hundred miles in his first few days of life.

Meanwhile the vet had been to check Diamond and had had to skin the dead foal for John who had a broken hand at the time. We then proceeded by the book, putting Diamond and the foal Lucas into adjacent stalls and only letting them together every two hours for a feed, with the dead foal's skin covering Lucas so that he smelled like her own foal. Diamond couldn't understand why we weren't letting her look after the foal completely from the start, but being new to the situation and Lucas' owner being understandably cautious about her foal in view of the two previous failed attempts, we thought that we should follow the instructions to the letter. Lucas was more resistant, having got used to being bottle fed by humans, but after the first twenty four hours he got the hang of real mare's milk and began responding to her. By forty eight hours we had abandoned the foal skin and left the two happily together.

The next day they went out to the field together and the rest is history. Lucas grew quickly and strongly and settled right in with our two foals. He stayed with us until weaned and we will remember his cheeky expression with fondness and not a little relief that he will be someone else's problem by the time he is fully grown. Definitely a different temperament to our quieter Cleveland Bays!

In 2015 things seemed to be alright with Diamond's pregnancy until about a month before her due date when her foal was born prematurely and with lungs not fully developed died shortly after. Diamond was extremely distraught and we again phoned the Foaling Bank. We were put in touch with Blackstone Clydesdales in Ayrshire, the owners of a four week old Clydesdale filly, Duchess, whose mother had rejected her at birth. They had found a mare with milk but she didn't want Duchess either, and while providing some milk it was barely keeping the poor soul alive. Duchess was too weak to travel to us so Diamond went down to Ayrshire with the dead foal, which she refused to leave, in the lorry with her. As soon as she came off the lorry and saw Duchess the dead foal was forgotten and Diamond took over complete charge of the wee one. She wasn't having any messing about this time with separate stalls and coats and set feeding times! Duchess started to pick up and then to thrive and is now a happy and confident big girl. After a couple of months they came back to Perthshire so that Diamond could run with Warlord again, and Duchess really took to Warlord, following him around and trying to get him to play! After his understandable nervousness about Diamond's reaction they all settled down happily and he tolerated with his usual good nature all her attempts to get his attention, pulling his mane and tail, biting and jumping up at him. Diamond and Duchess are now back in Ayrshire again where Duchess can be integrated into her own herd and so hopefully it won't be such a wrench when she is weaned and Diamond leaves her to come back home to Perthshire. Duchess' owners are convinced that they would have lost her without Diamond - she really is a special mum!

Meet all our horses at www.brackenbrae.co.uk

It is with great sadness that myself and wife have to inform all friends and customers of the passing of Mark Dunsmore Snr who died on January 6th 2016, aged 52 years.

Not just an employee but an amazing talent and above all a true friend.

Our thoughts are with Mark's family at this time.

Andy and Lucy Colclough

MEMORIES OF SCREEN & STAGE

Back in the days before television took over our lives the cinema was the main source of entertainment. In my younger days Perth had four cinemas the Alhambra (later the Odeon), Cinerama, Kings and the Playhouse. My favourite was the Playhouse with its Art Deco frontage and the popular tearoom upstairs. A regular routine was to meet the current girlfriend after work, have tea in the café and then take in a film, preferably from the back row! The commissionaire was wee Willie McGillivray resplendent in his green uniform with yellow piping topped by his peaked hat. Ironically he was a keen Rangers fan and was reputed to have shares in the club, which could have been true because if any of the lads had been to a match at Ibrox he always asked if there had been a good attendance. He also had a job backstage at Perth Theatre and was a familiar sight with his little pug dog on a lead. Queuing up to gain admission was common, particularly on a Saturday evening and it was not unusual to get in halfway through the feature film and have to sit through the entire programme of trailers for forthcoming attractions, newsreels and perhaps the occasional Donald Duck cartoon until "this is where we came in" was the signal to rise and make room for others waiting to get in. Waiting on the pavement to get in to the Alhambra one could hear the soundtrack from the projection room which was fine if it was a musical. Commissionaire at the Alhambra was Ronnie Moyes. His outfit was blue and he was keen St Johnstone fan and also followed the fortunes of Perth Panthers Ice Hockey team. Although cinemas were closed on Sunday the Alhambra was the original venue for the Perth Film Society which met monthly on a Sunday evening enabling us to see foreign films not on general release such as "Monsieur Hulot's Holiday" starring Jacques Tati. During the war years the Alhambra also had occasional Sunday evening shows billed as "Garrison Theatre" where I saw my first big band in action namely Lew Stone and his Orchestra. The Cinerama in South William Street was commonly known as the "BBs" (Bright and Beautiful). A less complimentary name was the "Bughouse". It specialised in horror films starring the likes of Bela Lugosi. I can recall as a youngster hurrying up the street in the blackout half expecting a monster to emerge from a dark close to attack me. Popular films often returned to the Kings for a second showing and I recall that my hopes of seeing "The Glenn Miller Story" for the fourth time were dashed when my date

developed a severe attack of toothache and we had to leave the cinema.

Live entertainment was provided by Perth Theatre and the Pavilion. My first visit to the Pavilion which was located on the corner that is now the South Inch Car Park was when I was about eleven or twelve and my sister Betty took me to see Sir Harry Lauder. I recall being fascinated by the high-kicking chorus girls in their fishnet tights. The Pavilion always hosted a summer show. It served as a transport café for some years prior to demolition. First visit to Perth Theatre was with the school to see Henry V. Despite the presence on the stage of theatrical luminaries such as Sir Lewis Casson and Dame Sybil Thorndike we were more interested in the girls from another school sitting in the row in front of us. My appetite for the Theatre dates back to a Saturday evening as a teenager when, at a loose end, I paid a modest sum for a seat in the gods (upstairs balcony for the uninitiated) to see a summer show starring the well-known Aberdonian comedian Harry Gordon known as the Laird of Inversnecky. Subsequent Summer Shows starred most of the big names in Scottish variety such as Dave Willis, Alec Findlay, Johnny Victory, Johnny Beattie, Clark and Murray and The Alexander Brothers. During the Winter months the Perth Rep put on some wonderful productions featuring young hopefuls such as Edward Woodward and Russell Hunter later to become big names on TV. The voice of Jane Cain was the one you heard when you dialled to get the latest time on the 'phone. Gordon Jackson spent a season gaining stage experience and I will never forget his portrayal of Lachie in "The Hasty Heart". Others were Duncan Macrae, best remembered for the "Wee Cock Sparra", and Andy Stewart in his early days as a budding actor. I did tread the boards on one occasion at Perth Theatre, Not, I hasten to add, in an acting capacity. One Saturday night I attended a party on the stage at the conclusion of the Summer Show. Refreshment was supplied by a large bowl containing a potent mixture of who knows what. That was when I discovered the alternative meaning of "punch drunk". I emerged into the cool night air and have vague memories of splashing out on a taxi to take me home. Fortunately I got there before splashing out in the taxi.

Bob Macdonald



RESOLUTIONS

Some people who use the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Perth have terrible things to deal with that they could not have avoided but there are quite a few clients who find themselves with very annoying consequences of quite minor mistakes.

You will probably have broken all your New Year Resolutions by now so here are three more.

1st. Check your bank statements.

O.K. They may not be a pretty sight but it is worth the trouble.

You may find you are paying out money for nothing. Years ago you could have authorised a debit. A client found an annual payment leaving her account for insurance she no longer needed or wanted.

You may have been offered something for free or a free trial and given your bank details to secure this. What you did not realise was that the trial was 'free' for one month. Unless you deliberately cancelled the company would start taking monthly payments.

I was visited by a young worker in a food company who earned about £220 per week. Each month three separate payments were being taken from her bank account which together came to over £100 per month. These were going to a company she had never heard of. She had paid this company over £1000. When I checked them out they were a phone help line for consumer enquiries (who did not answer the phone) but it was hard to tell what they actually did. The payments could be stopped right away but the company was registered in California so there was little hope of getting her money even with help from Trading Standards. If she had checked her bank account she would have noticed earlier!

2nd. If you are telephoned don't give your bank details.

If you want to order something from an advert and prefer to talk to someone from the company then it is fine to telephone them yourself and give them your bank details in order to make a payment.

If someone calls you that you do not know, even with a 'free' offer, do NOT give them your details. Even if they say they are your Bank, or the Police or B.T. Even if they say you can hang up and call us back. Because when you call back they have kept the line open and it is still the same people. I know they are very persuasive. Just hang up the phone. If you are worried then call the bank from the number on your account or the Police on 0845 60 5705.

3rd. Tell the DWP if you move or change your Bank.
A client changed his bank account. The new bank said they would take care of everything. They changed his outgoings but did not inform the DWP so his disability benefits had no where to go and he had no money.

A client was on sickness benefits and went to stay with her sister but did not inform the DWP. So she did not get the letter asking her to go for a medical. When she missed the medical all her benefits stopped. The DWP said it was up to her to let them know she had changed her address. So let them know and keep a note of when you contacted them.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is completely confidential. The articles I write for the Crier are always based on true stories but I disguise the client so they could never be identified.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment in the afternoon. If the line is busy you can leave a message and you will get a call-back. The number will come up as Withheld to protect your privacy.

01738 450580 is the Advice Line. This line is often busy but if you leave a message your call will be returned.

Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau.

There is also a web-site run by the CAB. Adviceguide.org.uk covers many topics and is easy to use.

.H.

ABERNETHY KEEP FIT CLASS
WILLIAMSON HALL

TUESDAY EVENINGS
7.15pm-8.15pm Aerobics & Circuits
8.15pm-9.15pm Balance your Body

Block Booking £40 for 10 classes
OR
£5 per class
(trial class FOC)

All fitness levels welcome!
Please wear comfortable clothing and footwear
and bring a mat or towel

For further details contact
Andrea Dewar on 01738 850960
or 07968978432

(Feb 16)



Burns Club of Abernethy Annual Dinner Sat 6th Feb.

President Margaret Folan welcomed a capacity attendance to the 13th Annual Dinner of the club in the Williamson Hall. The Principal speaker was well known broadcaster and journalist Lesley Riddoch who paid a fitting tribute to the Bard in a thoughtful and amusing Immortal Memory. The Haggis carried by Susan Swan and piped in by James Rodger was then addressed by Jim Aitken who also gave further recitations during the evening. A most amusing toast to the Lassies was given by Jimmy Calderwood and equally well responded to by his daughter Gaye Taylor. The music and songs of the Bard were well catered for by fiddlers Eva Sparraboome and Sheona Greville-Sutherland and the fine voice of Jill Sutherland. Jimmy Swan gave an interesting insight into the family connection with the late Bobby Clow and Jenny Clow the maid of Agnes McIlhose aka Clarinda during Rabbie's Edinburgh sojourn. Jenny was born in Newburgh before moving to Edinburgh and she had a love child to Burns. Family research has revealed that Bobby was the G.G.G.nephew of Burns. However the highlight of the evening for this writer was the recitation of Tam O' Shanter by Irene McFarlane from Kinross regarded as the best to have been heard at the club and Irene received a standing ovation for her rendition.

School Scottish verse competition

The club was pleased to be associated with this event when members Sally Rose and Wyn Dobbie adjudicated the various classes which were of a very high standard. By a very small margin the winner in the P6/7 class and the winner of the Burns Club of Abernethy Shield was Heather Rodger closely followed by Darcey Meek and Hector Buchanan. In P4/5 Daisy Smith came out on top followed closely by Alex Cook and Taylor McKay. Later in the day the pupils held their own Burns Supper entirely organised by themselves and President Margaret Folan and other club members were pleased to attend and were served a fine meal by the pupils followed by some excellent entertainment. Well done to everyone concerned.

Heather Rodger followed up her success at Abernethy school by going on to further success at the Perth Burns Club Schools Festival open to all schools in Perth and Kinross where she won trophies for her solo singing and solo verse, well done Heather. The club is hopeful that this interest and enthusiasm in the songs and poetry of not only Robert Burns but other Scottish poets will continue as they grow older and that they in turn will become Burns Club members of the future and if they do the future of the club will be in safe hands.

Burns Club of Abernethy

AGM 14th April at 7.30 pm in the Mason's Hall



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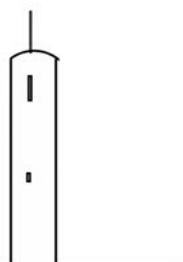
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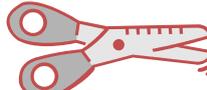
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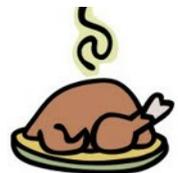
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