

42nd Edition      March 2019

Closing date for June edition 30th April

## THE NEW HATTON ROAD PROJECT

(SEE ABERNETHY IN BLOOM ARTICLE)



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### CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

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## ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

As we look back on a successful year for Abernethy we now look forward to seeing the spring and summer colours blooming again throughout the village in 2019.

Despite the wind and rain for the 2018 Christmas Tree Lights switch on, we were lucky to get a window when it was calmer which encouraged a large turnout for this year's event. The Cubs and Beavers were in full song accompanied by the Dundee Instrumentalists Silver Band. The Christmas event was again sponsored with help from Branston and donations of £191 were kindly collected from those who attended. The only casualty was the gazebo which was badly damaged in a large gust of wind. The Christmas decorations stood up very well to the wind and rain with only a few exceptions to the colourful display they provided for the festive period.

Generous donations have also been received from Branston and the Abernethy Walking Group which will be used to support the summer planting and the various maintenance tasks needed throughout the year.

Following a site meeting with the architect in December 2018, we have now received a draft design for the Hatton Road project. The plan reflects the results of the community survey carried out in August 2018, and where both residents and those who pass through can relax and learn about the rich historical past of Abernethy. The draft plan will be circulated throughout the community in February for discussion, comment and support. Take A Pride In Perthshire & Kinross are assisting us to obtain funding and this awaits final approval for the plan.

We have yet to decide on whether to enter this year's "Pride In Perthshire" and "Beautiful Scotland" competitions which we will advise on later.

To give encouragement, Adrian Miles from "Beautiful Scotland" came along to a well attended Horticultural Society evening on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. He gave a talk on what we can achieve as a community to brighten and improve our environment. It was well received by all who attended and showed us what can be achieved when working together.

Mrs Buchan at Drumhead has kindly offered a working space within her property to refurbish a hand cart and a number of other artefacts which she has donated to Abernethy In Bloom.

A final decision is being made on the feasibility of the boat project.

Jane Sanderson has very kindly given us access to the family polytunnel. This will allow us to purchase plug plants and therefore provide a greater number of summer plants at a reduced cost.

Once again, we would like to see more volunteers joining us to help keep Abernethy bright and cheerful. We would be pleased to welcome you, at any age, to join Abernethy In Bloom. No horticultural knowledge required and absolute beginners welcome. If you see us working at anytime at Nurse Peattie's garden or in the village and are keen to join us, let us know. Or just come along, you will always be welcome.

Key Dates for 2019:

AGM – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Garden Maintenance Start – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019

Open Gardens – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Container and Street Competition – TBD

Childrens Sun Flower competition - See below for details.

Xmas Tree Lights Event – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

**Ian Lamond**, Secretary Abernethy in Bloom (Tel: 850186)

## CHILDRENS SUNFLOWER COMPETITION

This is something for the kids of the village.

The competition is for the tallest sunflower. Children under the age of 16, residing in Abernethy or Aberargie, can take part in the competition and it is easy to enter.

Pick up your sunflower seed, for free, already planted in pot from Jimmy Swan. Ivy Cottage, Back Dykes. From thereon you can tend your seed in any way you like with the view to try and grow the tallest plant.

The day of judging will be sometime in August, date to be decided. You can feed it, sing to it, play music to it, do what you like.

The planted seeds will be available the first week of April.

Good luck

## ABERNETHY AND DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

### Heads Up!

We are holding a “60s Night” in **Williamson Hall** on **Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March 2019** with the **Carloways**.

Watch out for further details on village notice board, in the “Courier” and “Perthshire Advertiser”, and on Facebook!!

If you require more details, please contact the Secretary, Evelyn Scobie on 07719240294 or 850 496.

## ABERNETHY SWI



Meetings are held on the third Wed of the month from September to May and start at 7.15pm. We meet in the Session House at Abernethy Church (unless otherwise stated on the notices). New members and visitors are always welcome.

At our November meeting we enjoyed a baking demonstration by Christine Taylor from Strathallan. Competition Winners: Mincemeat Pies – 1<sup>st</sup> B Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> E Kettles. Flower of the Month – 1<sup>st</sup> B Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> E Kettles.

In December we enjoyed a lovely Christmas Meal at Bein Inn. Competition Winners: Pretty Parcel – 1<sup>st</sup> E Sutherland, 2<sup>nd</sup> B Baird, 3<sup>rd</sup> E Taylor.

At our January meeting we enjoyed a talk from Bill Nicoll, former BBC Correspondent. Competition Winners: Mushroom Soup – 1<sup>st</sup> S Scobie, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Scobie, 3<sup>rd</sup> B Baird. Flower of the Month – 1<sup>st</sup> B Baird, 2<sup>nd</sup> E Taylor, 3<sup>rd</sup> L Farmer.

Future Meetings –

20<sup>th</sup> February – “Hands On” Needle Felting with Jay Hutchison

20<sup>th</sup> March – “Tales from Russia” with Mr I Agnew

22<sup>nd</sup> March – Fundraiser – “QUIZ” (watch out for details)

17<sup>th</sup> April – OPEN NIGHT – “Wiltshire Farm Foods”

15<sup>th</sup> May – AGM – “Members Night”.

Please see village notice board each month, and Abernethy Facebook page for full details about meetings.

Should you have any queries about Abernethy SWI please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary Barbara Baird on 01337 840307 or President Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850477.

**Evelyn Scobie**



## **ABERNETHY KEEP ACTIVE CLUB**

Social Exercise Class.  
Exercise adapted to all abilities.  
Increase mobility and confidence.  
Increase health benefits.

Every Monday in the Pavilion 12 noon till 1pm  
Instructor James Knight

## **FROM OOR COONCILLOR**

I was first elected to represent Abernethy/Glenfarg in May 1999 until 2007. Hard to believe. Returned again at by-election April 2016. Lots of changes have taken place in Abernethy and the political world since then. One Councillor elected to represent a small community then, now huge area from Abernethy – St David's and everything in between (where is that I hear some of you say) Madderty. Now multi member wards, more than 7000 on electoral roll plus all of the children. Communities and residents within communities all with different priorities. By the time you read this Perth & Kinross council will have agreed their budget and set council tax.

Prior to setting the budget Council have to identify £28m savings for the coming year. Like all local authorities P & K is preparing for the very significant challenges which lie ahead. Demand for services provided by the Council increases and it is important that Councillors look at how services are delivered while managing reduced budgets. Largest part of Council budget is spent on Education and Childrens Services £168m. Council tax provides only 20% of Council income. In simple terms 1% increase in Council Band D is equivalent to around 3p per day 3% is around 10p. Looking for savings is challenging and I am certain that budget decisions will not be easy. At the moment it looks very likely that some services will not be delivered as opposed to reducing.

It is not all doom and gloom, funding from various sources is available for the community through Grant Funding. Community groups have taken on projects over the years with help from Council and funders from up grading parks, Circular Walk, Pavilion, Williamson Hall etc. Volunteers in the community are our best asset. We could not do without them. Latest asset is the long awaited Abernethy Community Transport which began in December with some funding from Community Transport Fund and the

appointment of an invaluable co-ordinator and Volunteer Drivers. Clients who have used the service are pleased with the service.

Parking in Abernethy has been on the agenda for more years than I care to remember, I asked many years ago as did residents and Community Council if grass area at Hall Park (which was once bed of shrubs) could be made into parking area, I am pleased that this will be made into car park for residents by end of April. Additional parking in Hall Park should help alleviate parking at the Williamson Hall. The garage site beyond the Williamson Hall has been tidied up, after consultation with tenants and residents in 2016. This was funded by Housing Revenue account and there are strict rules what this account can fund. The garage site is much tidier; tenants and residents had the opportunity to rent their own space. Concern was expressed by the Williamson Hall Management Committee, CC. and Councillors that parking at the Williamson Hall would be more difficult. Discussion has taken place with Council officials, and concerns have been listened to, hopefully hall users and residents will park sensibly.

New speed restriction signs were recently installed on A913 between Abernethy and Newburgh. Unfortunately there has been an accident on this stretch since signs were installed. Council officials and Councillors receive numerous requests for traffic calming measures, new speed restrictions, new signage etc. at the same time council budgets are under pressure. Road safety is a council priority and we can all help by watching our speed and driving according to road conditions.

Other ways we can help to make Abernethy a better place to live, work and play is not to drop litter or take part in Keep Scotland Beautiful Campaign #2 MinuteCleanup. Take a bag on your walk. Take 2 minutes to pick up litter, bin it or recycle. A clothes peg is ideal to use to pick up small bits of litter.

Almond & Earn Action Partnership would very much like to have someone from Abernethy/Aberargie to represent the Community. Partnership meets approx. 6 times a year usually Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm. More information about action Partnership can be found on Council website. Happy to have informal discussion with anyone who would like to know more about the aims of the Action Partnership.

**Councillor Kathleen Baird**

Contact details . [kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk).  
01738475086 mob 07584206839



## FRAE OOR HEID BUMMER

Here we go as The Crier enters its next decade. In these tumultuous times I wonder what the next 10 years will bring and what changes will have taken place in Abernethy

In the last edition I mentioned several events which had disappeared from the Abernethy calendar since 2008, but in reading the draft of this copy I am reminded of two things which have stood the test of time. One is the Horticulture Society which evolved from a Flower Show held on the 26th August 1978 and the other is the Tennis Club which was reborn around 1969-1970. Abernethy had a very active and competitive club many, many years ago and I am not sure when it fell apart and the courts and clubhouse sadly neglected. Its resuscitation is quite a long story and I will maybe tell you about that on another occasion.

Now to the present and what you will find when you turn the pages of this edition.

First and foremost you will notice we are making a few changes, more colour and different features on the front page.

This particular front page is quite different showing plans for a new garden in the village. I can only express my praise and admiration for the work done by Abernethy in Bloom and to those involved. Every good wish for the future projects. While on horticultural matters remember boys and girls to get going with your sunflowers!

How many are looking forward to the 60's night? Quite a few I would imagine. Remember Saturday nights in the Abernethy Hotel with The Blend and The Magic ?

Kyle's articles should encourage us all to get out and about and we look forward to hearing more from him. The walks he mentions are all ones I have done and would do again. We are very fortunate in having so many walks, climbs and cycle tracks so close to home

What do you think of Mike Thomson's contributions? Memories, memories! Those of us whose early life was brought back so accurately, I think will realise we had a pretty good time, I did anyway!

Welcome to our new minister, The Reverend Stanley Kennon or as he likes to be called "Stan the Man". From his short autobiography I think the Horticulture Society will have welcomed a new member and

maybe the Walking Group too. Remember to toot when you see that "tall not so skinny bloke passing wearing a dog collar" Don't bother looking for the bag of tropical fish! We are very happy to have you in Abernethy and I hope you and Aileen will be equally happy being with us.

I am delighted to read that the community cinema is getting underway again and what better way to restart than with Mama Mia 2? Wonderful escapism!

The usual reports are included, the draft minutes from the Community Council, from the Councillors, the Church, the SWI and the Museum.

No letters to the editor. We want to hear from you

Till June.

**Hilda Clow**

## GEORDIE'S JOTTINGS

### A walk in February

Oh my Goodness!! It must be a cold day, Mum is getting my coat out. Not that I mind wearing my coat, it is green with yellow trimming. Quite cool really!

First the coat and then the harness and finally my "top of the range" bright red lead. Ready at last. Off we go. Smart, eh!

Down the steps, and I stop and have a look around to see who is coming down the street, all clear so I have a sniff about and decide it's safe to go on. Across to Hatton Road, more sniffing and I get let off the lead..

Mum walks on briskly, I let her go, I am on my own now, doing my own thing. Soon I hear her whistle and I look up ..... she is almost out of sight .... I panic and race down the road, she waits and gives me a treat for coming so quickly. Whew!

Who is that coming towards us? Should I run up and say hello? Ah, its Jasper, my old friend. He walks sedately up and our Mums have a chat. I don't bounce at him or bother him, Jasper is not one for wild games. Now, if it were Jet or Tig we would be charging over the fields, seeing who could run fastest...its usually me .... I am the oldest .... and the best!

Now we pass Hatton Farm, watching out for the big red lorries. They are very noisy and quite scary.

Chester is coming down the road, seems to be by himself, walking slowly and steadily, but breaks into a jog when he sees us. He rushes up to my Mum and sits in front of her. She always gives him a biscuit and Chester likes his food! Happy, he gives me a nuzzle and trots off again. I see his Mum catching up so I go and say hello to her ..... sometimes she gives me a carrot. I don't have to watch my figure but Chester is dieting.

On we go towards Cordon Mains, past my wee pals, Slinky and Woody, who like to shout at me as we pass and run up and down behind the fence. It's always nice to see them. My Mum stops and has a chat to Jessie and Charlie in the paddock. I can't be bothered with them and keep my distance. I still remember the time when a horse kicked me when I was little.

Wonder who is in the park today. Can't wait to get there. I can hear barking, maybe it's Jack running after his ball. I know he will not be pleased if I interfere with his game so I will stay well back. Yes, it's Jack, but Marley is there too. The beautiful Marley, who everyone loves. She is always up for a run around while our Mums catch up on the gossip.

Then it's the slow trudge home and to bed for a sleep ..... perchance to dream. It's a dog's life!!

**Maureen Nisbet**



## CONSUMER PROBLEMS

If you have a consumer problem I would suggest that you do not phone or call at the Citizen's Advice Bureau. You will get good advice but a better idea is to phone the dedicated

**CONSUMER HELP LINE 03454 04 05 06**

The adviser you speak to is a specialist who only deals with consumer problems. More importantly, they can also report a problem to Trading Standards if the trader is doing something illegal. Trading Standards can also build up a case if they get a pattern of complaints about the same trader.

The Consumer Rights Act 2015 states that goods should be;

Of satisfactory quality

Fit for purpose

Match their description

These rights can apply for up to five years in Scotland. I had a caller recently who had a problem with a kitchen unit in her static caravan. She claimed under her two year warranty as the fault was due to poor workmanship. The manufacturer claimed that the warranty started when the unit left the factory, not when she bought it and would not replace or repair the unit. This is obviously incorrect but she did not need to argue with the manufacturer about warranties. She could claim under the Consumer Rights Act.

Another way to complain is to use one of our template letters. There are 24 consumer templates at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) in the consumer section. You complete an on-line form with all the details and the computer magically transforms them into a letter that you can download, print, sign and post.

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](tel:01738450580) 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. [Citizensadvice.org.uk](http://Citizensadvice.org.uk) covers many topics and is easy to use.

**A.H.**



# ACTIVE ABERNETHY

## (AN INTRODUCTION)

We love Abernethy, it really is the most fantastic place to live, work and watch our children thrive. Our village is a perfect base for adventures, surrounded by endless opportunities to get out and play, whatever age you are.

By the time you read this, winter has likely gone and the daylight has stretched, opening up some more opportunities to do “stuff” outside, be it in your garden, in our local area or further afield.

I've lived in Abernethy for nearly a decade. I've had what could be described as an “adventurous” life and career so far, travelling all over the world having some pretty wild times in some truly amazing places. I'm a lucky guy and I know it. I'm a bit more settled and no less happy now, life is good.

I'm out and about a lot in the local area. I like a chat and I've noticed that people often say that they wish they could get out and do more “stuff” I sometimes suggest a wee trip or outing, which is often well received. I don't claim to be a fountain of knowledge but we do seem to have a lot of fun as a family, so I thought it may be helpful to pass on some of our mini adventures in the Crier.

I can't go any further without mentioning cycling in its many forms. We really are in heaven here. The tracks, trails, tar, events, parks, clubs and climbs are simply amazing, there really is something for everyone.

I may write a regular wee article, if you'll let me, if it's helpful. Please do feedback kindly! I'd like to let people see what's possible, often very close to home.

Cycling will feature a lot, for me it can't not. If you watch Lee Craigie's short (5 mins) film “Escape” she mentions “a world that some didn't even know to dream of” and “I knew something they didn't”. She's talking about cycling, riding a bike, going places, doing stuff, being connected to our beautiful world and all that is around us. If you can remember, as a child, donning your first pair of swimming goggles and getting into the sea, discovering a whole other place full of light, sensations, plants and animals you'd not encountered before with the full emotional journey erupting inside you, so excited you could burst! Once away from the main roads, the world that can be accessed on a bike can be very similar.

So, you want to ride a bike, but don't have the kit or skills, there's an advert elsewhere in this Crier to help with that. If you have the kit but need some skills confidence or company, the same advert may help. If you're not feeling fit why not try an electric bike? If you're ready to go, perhaps you just need a wee bit of inspiration, I'll have a crack at helping you with that.

Thanks **KYLE**

## ABERNETHY ACTIVE SPRING 2019

All these mini adventures are ones we've done, with our kids (4 and 6) all very do-able from Abernethy in a day trip. Google will help you find them.

Head to the **Bunnet Stane**, by car or bike, park up then a short fairly flat walk of around 1km to the actual stane. Keep a very close eye on your kids/dogs when up high, or just admire from the ground. I've seen similar sights in Namibia, Utah or at the coast. This is very much inland Fife!

Head to **Norman's Law**, by car or bike, park up then a short but definitely uphill walk of around 1.5km. The highest point in Fife. Close to Fife Coastal Path. Fantastic views all round. Fort evidence due to Norman actually being a dragon!

Head to **Pitmedden Forest**, on foot (fair hike for a 4 yr old) or by car or bike. We turn left off the Glentarkie road and drive all the way up into the heart of the forest, slowly, in our normal family car. Park up sensibly, likely near the big stones by the silver gate. Within a 100m walk your kids are in den building, wolf hunting, mud pie-ing heaven. Rumour has it the Grufallo has a holiday house there. If you really want to blow young minds go there as late and dark as is possible, lie down and be quiet. The stars, owls, bats and deer will do the rest.

Head to **Moncreiffe Hill**, out the back of Bridge of Earn or Rhynd. Car parks on both sides.

Find the upturned tree, right next to the path, which has survived and thrived and has the most amazing root structure exposed to the air. Not easy to find, but worth the hunt. Our kids would play there all day. Sculpture trails. Information boards. Possibly a bit more research required before you go, you'll be further from the car on this one. More forts up high!

Obviously we always tell someone where we're going and our time of return, we plan ahead for the weather, daylight and conditions underfoot. We take fully



charged mobile phones, some money, snacks, extra clothes and around 47 tonnes of lego!!!! We often plan to be out all day so take a picnic or a stove to make a really basic hot meal such as baked beans on oatcakes or pasta and sauce, eaten out of the pot to reduce washing up! A new approach to eating out, one we like!

**KYLE**

## LETTER FROM THE NEW MINISTER

**THE REV. STAN KENNON**

On 28<sup>th</sup> November last year, I was inducted into the parish of Abernethy and Dron and Arngask as your new part-time Parish Minister, so I thought you might like to know something about the Reverend Stan?

I was brought up in Garelochhead, on the West coast and attended secondary school in Helensburgh. Having worked for eight years with Boots the Chemists in Dumbarton, I went to Edinburgh University to study divinity. My first joint parish, in which I served for eight years, was in Stow and Heriot, in Selkirkshire. I joined the Royal Navy as a Church of Scotland Chaplain in 2000 and served in the Chaplaincy Service for sixteen years. During this time, when I wasn't at sea, I lived with my family in either Devon or Cornwall. Having retired from the Senior Service in September 2016, I then worked for two years as a locum minister in the linked parishes of Muirkirk and Old Cumnock Trinity in Ayrshire. These parishes provided me with a welcome, fulfilling and happy return to the fold of parish ministry, North of the Border.

I am married to Aileen, an Occupational Therapist, who still currently works in Tavistock in Devon, but who will soon retire in April and subsequently join me here in the manse in Abernethy. We have two grown up children: Naomi and Reuben. My interests include growing vegetables and plants and I'm on the lookout for another tallish greenhouse in which to grow tomatoes again. My other hobbies include keeping tropical fish and walking and occasional activities encompass cooking, entertaining, music and playing Mah Jong.

For my part, I am very excited to be here, starting a new ministry and serving and leading the people of

the church and parish in this special and rather beautiful part of the country. Invariably, in the Navy and also in Ayrshire, I was called "*Stan, the Man*" so I would be very happy for you to call me that too, bearing in mind that there are far worse things a minister *could* be called. Having read Dr. David Booth's farewell letter which read: "*Remember to toot your horn if you see a tall skinny bloke passing with two great big hairy dogs!*" I am tempted to say: "*Remember to toot your horn if you see a tall not-so-skinny bloke passing wearing a dog collar and carrying a bag of tropical fish!*" Hopefully we will all encounter each other in the fullness of time, but in the meantime, can I send you my very best wishes for a happy and peaceful year ahead?

**Rev Stan Kennon**



## KIRK NEWS

Hoping you have had the opportunity of meeting our new Minister, Rev Stan Kennon, in church or around the village. Look around the 'Crier' for a brief introduction to Stan and his family!

It was great to see so many gathered in the Williamson hall and at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the First World War Armistice. The Christmas eve service was just as lovely in a different way.

We are very much enjoying being back in the newly plastered and painted church with improved lighting and floor coverings. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to do all the organising, moving and cleaning during the whole process. Thanks also for the use of the Williamson hall and the helpfulness of its committee in making us as comfortable as possible.

**We warmly invite you** to come to any of the services or activities listed below.

### Morning worship

**For 2019 the service in Abernethy will generally be at 11am** and in Glenfarg at 9.30 am **except** for the last Sunday of alternate months when there is a united service in Glenfarg at 11am. There will be **no service** in Abernethy when the United Service is in Glenfarg.

**United services:** are at **11 am** in Abernethy on April 28<sup>th</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> and **at 11am in Glenfarg** on March 24<sup>th</sup> and May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Drinks and refreshments are served afterwards. Any one wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01738 475 086

**Children's Sunday Club** meets in school term time during the morning services at each location. The young people can enjoy a time of Bible stories, fun, games, crafts and songs. Out of term times, there are toys and books in the adjacent hall cupboard which parents and carers can access as well as 'fun bags' in church for young children.

**Holy Communion:** is to be on Sunday **28 April** in Abernethy

**Church 'Open Doors':** meets fortnightly on Tuesdays from 12<sup>th</sup> March onwards at 2.30 - 4pm – a time for refreshments and chat for all in the adjacent church hall. If you want to spend some quiet time or have a 'look around' the church as well, you are invited!

### Village 'Welcome' packs

These packs contain useful telephone numbers and information, about activities in Abernethy. 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! Leaflets are also in the museum and Berryfields tearoom. The information will be updated regularly but if you are aware of any errors in the current version, please let Celia King know on Tel: 851 010.

### 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 upgraded facilities please contact Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850 477.

**Church Website;** [www.ada-church.org.uk](http://www.ada-church.org.uk) for further information.

### Contact Details;

[Minister@ada-church.org.uk](mailto:Minister@ada-church.org.uk)

Rev Stan Kennon, 01738 850 194

[Session.Clerk@ada-church.org.uk](mailto:Session.Clerk@ada-church.org.uk)

Bill Macpherson; Tel: 01577 830 430

**CELIA KING**

**Abernethy**  
Community Cinema

ABERNETHY  
COMMUNITY CINEMA

## New Season Movie



**Saturday**  
**23rd MARCH**  
**The Williamson Hall**

In 1979 young Donna, Tanya and Rosie graduate from Oxford University – leaving Donna free to embark on a series of adventures throughout Europe. On her journeys, she makes the acquaintances of Harry, Bill and Sam – the latter whom she falls in love with, but he's also the man who breaks her heart. In the present day, Donna's pregnant daughter, Sophie, dreams of renovating a taverna while reuniting with her mother's old friends and boyfriends on the Greek island of Kalokairi.

Starring Amanda Seyfried, Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård, and Christine Baranski.  
Directed by Ol Parker.

**7.00 for 7.30pm**  
**Adults £5.00 Children £3.00**  
**Family £15.00**  
(family ticket is 2 adults and 2 children)  
**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

For more information on any of the above, please contact us:  
Facebook: Abernethy Community Cinema - Website: [www.abernethycommunitycinema.co.uk](http://www.abernethycommunitycinema.co.uk)  
Twitter: AbernethyCinema - Email: [abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com)  
Tel: Sue Parsons 07980 023404



**YES YES** The cinema is re-opening but not on 16<sup>th</sup> February as you may have heard but on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

The opening film will be Mamma Mia - Here We Go Again.

Come along, bring your nibbles and bottle if desired but come along. Notices will be displayed in the village confirming the date closer to opening night.

We need your support to keep the cinema going and we welcome any suggestions which you may have for future showings, just tell us at the cinema night or send an email to us at [abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycinema@gmail.com) letting us know your thoughts.

**It is with regret that we hear of the death of Mrs Jessie Stein, Main Street.**



## ABERNETHY 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 all year round.



Membership is incredible value for money, even more so because, back by popular demand for another year: **50% OFF** membership prices!

It is now only £25 for an annual adult membership and even cheaper for juniors and family memberships. Please see form on reverse side for details and how to join. Membership will run from April 2019 to March 2020.

We are a sociable and friendly club and hold a weekly club night for members on Wednesday evenings from April to September (i.e. when daylight allows). New and prospective members are very welcome to come along and join in.

**We also aim to run sessions with qualified and experienced Coaches for all abilities and all ages – look out for further details of this year's coaching coming soon.**

Please take a look at our website - [www.abernethytennisclub.co.uk](http://www.abernethytennisclub.co.uk) or find us on facebook.

Our email address is - [info@abernethytennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@abernethytennisclub.co.uk)

**CHRIS FARMER**

### ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM April 2019 – March 2020

| TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP                   | £      | No. |
|--------------------------------------|--------|-----|
| FAMILY (2 Adults + up to 4 Children) | £47.50 |     |
| SINGLE ADULT                         | £25.00 |     |
| JUNIOR (Under 18's)                  | £12.50 |     |
| TOTAL AMOUNTS                        | £      |     |

1<sup>ST</sup> APPLICANT (ADULT).....

2<sup>ND</sup> APPLICANT (ADULT).....

3<sup>RD</sup> APPLICANT (CHILD).....Age .....

4<sup>TH</sup> APPLICANT (CHILD)..... Age .....

5<sup>TH</sup> APPLICANT (CHILD)..... Age.....

6<sup>TH</sup> APPLICANT (CHILD)..... Age .....

ADDRESS .....

.....POSTCODE.....

TEL: .....

EMAIL: .....

Please tick the following to indicate that you consent to being contacted by Abernethy Tennis Club by:

email phone post

Completed forms to be returned with payment\* to the Membership Secretary:

Graham Donnachie, 6 The Glebe, Abernethy, PH2 9GF

\*cheques should be made payable to Abernethy Tennis Club.

Office Use Only

|                    |                  |                    |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| CHEQUE<br>RECEIVED | CASH<br>RECEIVED | KEY CODE<br>ISSUED | SHOE TAG<br>ISSUED | ENTERED ON<br>DATABASE |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------|

## 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

### 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.



## J TJ

Sustainable Carpentry & Joinery

ALL JOINERY WORK UNDERTAKEN: RENOVATIONS, EXTENSIONS, KITCHENS, BATHROOMS, FLOORING, DECKING, BLINDS ETC.

CALL OR EMAIL:

07900 373110 [JTJFERJOINERY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JTJFERJOINERY@GMAIL.COM)

FACEBOOK @JTJ

INSTAGRAM @JTJFERJOINERY  
BASED IN ABERARGIE, PERTSHIRE





## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

**Looking for a Great Afternoon out  
Come to The Museum of Abernethy**

The Museum opens again on the **4<sup>th</sup> May** and we look forward to welcoming lots of you from the local area and further afield to come and enjoy a great afternoon out.

We are planning an exciting event to open with on the **4<sup>th</sup> May** – more on Facebook [www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy](http://www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy) nearer the time.

### Thank you

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who are working tirelessly to get the Museum ready to open for the season and all the volunteers that help the Museum to open and function throughout the year – without you we could not operate.

### Annual Members Meeting (AMM)

Our AMM is on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2019 where we review the last year and appoint new members to the board. We would be delighted to receive volunteers to join the board as we have a few vacancies and we need new people and ideas.

**We have 5 Board Meetings plus the Annual Members Meeting once per year (6 meetings in all).**

### Member, Volunteer, Board Member

If you wish to become a **member of the Museum and/or become a volunteer/and or become a board member**, your support would be greatly appreciated. As well as the satisfaction being involved in a fantastic local resource, you will be invited to a number of events throughout the year. For more information please call the Museum on 850889 or look at the website [www.museumofabernethy.co.uk](http://www.museumofabernethy.co.uk) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy](http://www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy) or email me at [secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk) to discuss further

### .New exhibits coming this year

This year we will have a new fishing display and much more – full information about that in the next Crier and on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy](http://www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy)

We also have a large number of displays about Abernethy life from prehistoric through Pictish times to the present as well as a children's corner with new activities and games for the children to enjoy.

**Bring your friends and family and spread the word about your lovely local museum** - enjoy all our displays, the new children's activities and find out more about the life and times of our charming ancient burgh and parish.

We are open afternoons **Wednesday – Sunday** from **1pm to 4pm** until **29<sup>th</sup> September 2019**.

**Entrance is FREE but donations are gratefully accepted.**

**Lesley Robinson**  
Chair

Museum of Abernethy  
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Charity Number: SC023100

## ABDIE LADIES CURLING CLUB

Abdie Ladies Club is very short of members and would welcome anyone interested. Why not give it a try? Even if you have never thrown or swept a stone before help is always at hand.

Anyone interested and wanting to know more should contact the President Kate Drummond Hay  
Telephone 01738860257  
Email [kated.hay@gmail.com](mailto:kated.hay@gmail.com)

## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION 2019

6<sup>th</sup> March A Petrol Scented Spring  
(suffragettes with bombs)  
Ajay Close

3<sup>rd</sup> April AGM and My Faither built the Sidney Brig  
Bill Glennie

The meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Museum of Abernethy unless otherwise stated.

There has been a noticeable drop in the numbers attending the monthly meetings.

Over the last 30 plus years we have had some very entertaining speakers, on a wide range of subjects. You do not have to become a member, but at £5 per year it is great value and great entertainment. What can you get for a fiver, not even a packet of fags.

You can just attend the subject or speaker that interest you and maybe come a couple of times a year and not to all our meetings.

The meetings are always advertised in the Crier and also in the local press, prior to the meetings.

See meeting dates above.

Come along and give it a go, everybody welcome.

**Jimmy Swan**

# ABERNETHY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Draft Minutes of the Abernethy & District  
Community Council Meeting of the 31st of  
January 2019 at 7:00pm in the Mason Hall.**

**Members Present:** Mr J Swan (JS) (Chaired), Ms L Buchan (LB), Mrs D Gillespie (DG), Mr P Glennie (PG), Miss H McAllister (HM), Mr A McIntyre (AM), Mr B McNaughton (BM)

**Attending Councillors:** Mrs K Baird (KB), Mr D Illingworth (DI)

**Apologies:** Mr H Anderson

11 members of the public in attendance

**Speakers:** Graham Donnachie, Green Cat Renewables & Audrey Duckworth, Binn Group

**Adoption of Previous Minutes:** Proposed DG, seconded HM

## **Matters Arising:**

Police Update:- No police matters arising and no police presence.

## **Planning:- Binn Wind Farm**

A further planning application (18/00865/FLL) to increase the proposed wind turbine tip heights by 9 meters has been submitted to PKC. The closing date for comment to this application is the 8<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. Graham Donnachie, the new Project Manager from Green Cat Renewables and Audrey Duckworth from Binn Group were invited to give an update on the planning application and to answer questions from the floor. Graham explained that the application to increase the turbine towers by 9 meters has been submitted to help maximize energy yield from the proposed project. Additional reports and drawings can be viewed on the PKC planning portal and residents are invited to comment on the application. Graham highlighted that previously submitted objections to the original planning application of June 2018 will be considered along with any new objections submitted against this application. DI reminded everyone that objections should be valid, that any objections in different names from the same address count as one objection and that 6 objections

are required for the application to go before PKC Planning Committee. Graham then answered questions from the floor. Graham and Audrey were thanked for their attendance and valuable input. It was agreed that the CC will submit a further objection reiterating the original objection points submitted in June 2018 – **Action Point LB**

## **Binn Plastic Plant**

LB advised the meeting that SEPA received an incinerator licence application on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 2018 from Recycling Technologies for the proposed plastic recycling facility at Binn Eco Park. SEPA staff deemed the application not 'valid' and it was returned to the applicant on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2019. The application was resubmitted to SEPA on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2019 and is now being carefully considered under the 'Commercial Confidentiality' regulations at the special request of the applicant. The CC and external consultees will be advised if and when the application is accepted and of any public consultation period. The public consultation period is 28 days and will be advertised in the local press. SEPA representatives have agreed to attend any public meeting arranged within the public consultation period. Representatives from Recycling Technologies and Binn Group will also be invited to attend a meeting. It was agreed that if the public consultation period falls out with CC meeting dates, that an additional public meeting will be called and advertised locally/on social media. It was noted that there will be 2 public consultation opportunities – the first consultation period begins when the application is accepted and the second consultation period follows the licence application decision. The CC and the community will be kept fully updated.

**Defibrillators:-**PG advised that the installation of the required electric supply to the decommissioned phone box in Aberargie in order to house a defib is scheduled for next Tuesday. The defib, which has already been purchased, will be connected at the earliest opportunity- **Action Point PG & JS**

**Post & Chain Parking:-**The CC and the Williamson Hall Committee have received a response from PKC to our written complaints about the Post & Chain Parking behind the hall. The Post & Chain parking is going ahead - some residents have taken up the invite and applied for rented parking space. The grassy area at the top of Hall Park is being converted into a free

public parking area and the anticipated date for completion is April 2019. KB has asked PKC if lighting can be installed at the Post & Chain parking site.

**Green Waste Bin Charge Increase:-**The 20% increase in green waste permit fees was discussed. KB pointed out that the fee is reasonable and reflects a charge of only around £1.15 per fortnightly collection. It was highlighted that there is no charge to collect food waste. KB also pointed out that the waste permit take up was far better than expected in PKC.

**Abernethy in Bloom:-**Ian Lamont from the Abernethy in Bloom Committee advised the meeting of the proposals to transform the spare land at the top of Hatton Road into a community garden space. A drawing of the proposed plan was presented to the meeting and Ian encouraged residents to contact anyone from the committee with comments on the proposal. The project is being funded by Take a Pride in Perthshire.

A copy of the drawing will be advertised in the Crier and on social media inviting comments from the community.

**Tower Lights:-** PG had a meeting with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to progress the installation and fitting of new tower lights. Progress is slow due to bureaucratic procedures in place. JS reported that Jim Roy's niece from America has been in contact and that her family would like to pay for or contribute towards replacing the tower lights- **Action Point PG & JS**

**Treasurer Report:-** DG reported that there is £4000 in the CC account and further funds are ring fenced for defib installations. DG suggested that residents along with the CC should consider local worthy causes/projects which the CC could help fund. KB suggested that perhaps the CC could help fund lighting at the car-park behind the Williamson Hall if PKC cannot provide any lighting.

**Gullies/Drains:-**DG pointed out that not all drains in the village have been cleared during the recent drainage work undertaken by PKC. It was also highlighted that as the drains are only being cleared, not rodded, it is not alleviating the problem in the long term.

**Volunteer Driver Group:-** The volunteer driver service is now operational and has already carried out a couple of runs. Residents are encouraged to

this valuable service. AM pointed out that securing appropriate driver insurance cover can be challenging.

#### **AOCB:-**

The invoice for the decommissioned phone boxes annual insurance cover has been received and passed to DG for payment.

The Harmony Energy Community fund annual payment in respect of Jamesfield wind turbine for 2019 has been received and banked.

DI thanked Graeme Smart and Gill Provan for helping to pick up dog waste from the play park behind Hall Park. **Residents are asked to ensure that any dog waste is picked up and properly disposed of it. If you are aware of incidents/offenders please report it to the local warden at PKC.**

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2019 at 7:00pm in the Mason Hall.

**LINDA BUCHAN**

## **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 have experienced production problems this edition and to obviate further problems 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.

In keeping with the village Facebook page we are looking to you, our readers, to send us your best Abernethy photos for publication in the Crier. Each quarter the committee will select their champion for publication on the front page.



## FROM OOR COONCILLOR

Firstly I would like to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Winter is now well and truly with us and thankfully so far has been a relatively mild one. However we still have a way to go and the Met Office are still forecasting severe weather to come our way. With this in mind I would ask you all, if we do get severe winter weather, to always check on the elderly and vulnerable near you and ensure they are coping with the conditions.

PKC has a new Chief Executive Officer Karen Reid. Ms. Reid has invited the Ward Councillors to go with her around the ward, and discuss any issues with her that we have. Perhaps a fresh look at these issues, from a fresh pair of eyes will be good for our community. With the lack of finances I would not expect lots of investment in Abernethy nor the remainder of Almond and Earn but sometimes little changes can improve things greatly.

Last summer I have been part of the Almond and Earn Action Partnership that has supported organisations throughout the ward with funding through the Participatory Budget of which 50% was through the last SNP administration and the remaining 50% was from the SNP Scottish Government. This funding was to ensure that we address inequality in our area. We all have small pockets of deprivation and I will do the most I can to ensure that these areas receive the support and funding to assist. However I am also aware of rural isolation, which is more prevalent in Almond and Earn, and I will support all initiatives that are applied to address this.

Another fund that has been set up by the Council administration in the budget of Feb 2018 was the Community Investment Fund also known as CIF. Although it was mooted back then it is only recently that we have had clarity on exactly how CIF would operate.

Unlike the Participatory Budget this fund would not be the remit of the Action Partnership solely. They would be included but they also require community council, organisations, and members of the general public to be included on the panel of decision makers. Not content with that once the funding decisions are made the decisions are to be ratified by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The main criterion for this CIF funding is to tackle inequalities. If anyone would wish to apply for funding the link is <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/20535/Community-Investment-Fund>

The most contentious issue in Abernethy at the moment is the garage sites at the Williamson Hall. The original plan from the Housing Revenue Account was to maximise the revenue from the areas that did not have Local Authority housing built on them and were not generating revenue as garage sites. When a review of garage sites was undertaken at Williamson Park they were deemed to be unprofitable and some timber garages were in a poor and dangerous condition. First option was to build a block of flats. As the elected member for the area I was strongly opposed to flats as the access would have been challenging in an emergency, also the moving of electricity poles was seen as a further problem. The next option was to offer a better service for garage users to encourage a greater take up. With that in mind the access area was made good and a tidying up of site. The next challenge that came along was that current legislation would mean that any new build timber garages required to have a certain distance between each other. This legislation like loads of others could not be retrospective and that is why it would not impact on those that historically had timber garages close to one another. Unfortunately for Williamson Hall this meant that HRA took their full entitlement of their land in the area, which is impacting on the parking offering at Williamson Hall. Officers are now aware of this and we shall work together as best as we can to find a solution that will come some way to suit all parties.

### Surgeries

I hold my ward surgeries on the same nights as the Community Councils' meetings at Methven, Abernethy, and Bridge of Earn, prior to the CC meetings and these are locally advertised. I can also arrange to meet and discuss any issues you may have.

Contact details – 01738 475039 - mob 07899062122

Email- [handerson@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:handerson@pkc.gov.uk).

**HENRY ANDERSON**

### 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.

## HOW TRUE!

My mum used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting e.Coli Almost all of us would have rather gone swimming in the lake or at the beach instead of a pristine pool (talk about boring), no beach closures then.

We all took PE .... and risked permanent injury with a pair of Dunlop plimsols instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors that cost as much as a small car. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We got the cane for doing something wrong at school, they used to call it discipline yet we all grew up to accept the rules and to honour and respect those older than us. We had 50 kids in our class and we all learned to read and write, do maths and spell almost all the words needed to write a grammatically correct letter ..... FUNNY THAT!!

We all said prayers in school irrespective of our religion, sang the national anthem and no one got upset.

Staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention we wish we hadn't got.

I thought that I was supposed to accomplish something before I was allowed to be proud of myself. I just can't recall how bored we were without computers, Play Station, Nintendo, X-box or 270 digital TV cable stations. We weren't!!

Oh yeah.... And where were the antibiotics and sterilisation kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played "King of the Hill" on piles of gravel left on vacant building sites and when we got hurt, mum pulled out the 2/6d (12.5p) bottle of iodine and then we got our backside spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10 day dose of antibiotics and then mum calls the lawyer to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

We never needed to get into group therapy and/or anger management classes. We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac! How did we ever survive?

***And don 't even start me on counselling!!***

LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA.

AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T, SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED.

WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANYTHING!

***AAAAh, those WERE the days!!***

**MIKE THOMPSON ABERNETHY**

## EATING IN THE 50'S AND 60'S.

Curry was a surname.

A takeaway was a mathematical problem.

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.

All potato crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.

Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.

Calamari was called squid and we used it as fish bait.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Fish didn't have fingers in those days.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.

None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were only found in India.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

"Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!!

BUT the one thing that we never ever had on our table in the sixties ....

**Elbows or Phones**

**MIKE THOMPSON, ABERNETHY**

## BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The club held its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Burns Supper on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February when members and guests again enjoyed a full night of traditional Burns fare.

An amusing and informative Immortal Memory was delivered by the Reverend Alex. Shuttleworth and well received by an appreciative audience.

Local young talent was to the fore with excellent performances from Lucy Jamieson on the pipes, Heather Rodger on the fiddle and Alex Cook with his recitations. Members Bill and Sarah Millar gave an amusing and well researched Toast to the Lassies and Reply while singers Janet and Bob Crowe were in good voice with some of our favourite songs of the bard. Donald Paton, President of the Burns Club of Vancouver, delivered a stirring recitation of "Tam O' Shanter".

A not quite 30 young Susan Swan was again our "Poosie Nancy" carrying in the haggis with grace and elegance. Members' poems were read from Jimmy Swan, Bob Macdonald and Jimmy Calderwood to rapturous applause — well nearly.

The evening concluded with the company singing the "Star O' Rabbie Burns" before joining hands to sing "Auld Lang Syne" and trying to meet again on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

**Ian Bett**

**To complete this edition of the Crier we are printing some poems from local poets but we would rather have fresh poems and invite you and any of the children in the village to submit poems for future publication.**

### FIRST FLOWER SHOW

I thought that I would enter  
Abernethy's first flower show.  
I wondered what I'd enter  
There's so little I could grow  
I wandered round the garden  
There was nothing I could see  
Except a dumpy yellow marrow  
And I'm sure it winked at me!

With pride I gently carried it  
To Abernethy's first flower show  
And gently did I lay it  
On a space marked "Forty Twa"  
And when the show was opened  
The hall was packed you see!

Everyone was happy  
But nae marrow could I see

There were flowers of all descriptions,  
At Abernethy's first flower show!  
Pot plants of all descriptions -  
A' things that I canna' grow  
I thought I'd better wander  
'Round the vegetables and see  
If my marrow was a winner  
And was winking there at me!

There were cabbages and carrots  
Broad beans a' in a row  
Cauliflowers and onions,  
Mrs Cameron's rhubarb - the best I ever saw  
- and neeps - a treat to see  
But nae sign o' my wee marrow  
A-winking there at me!

I dried my tears - and on my way  
Admired the ladies' section.  
The strawberry jams - the rolled spiced hams,  
Rock buns - a huge collection  
But there - amongst the dumplings  
As plain as plain could be -  
Was my pride and joy - my marrow  
A-winking there at me!

I laughed and laughed  
As the crowd - they went daft -  
Said the big dumpling - wi' tears in its eee  
"There wasna room on the table  
For the first prize winning label  
And it's landed on him - aff o' me!"

And now my friends take my advice  
Enter Abernethy's next flower show!  
It's one big treat - and friends you'll meet.  
Start now! - Get things to grow!  
But if you grow a marrow  
Make it clear for all to see -  
It wins a prize for being a vegetable -  
No a dumpling - winking at me!

### THE ROUND TOWER

It stands, that ancient Pictish Tower,  
Beside the churchyard gate,  
And there the old clock strikes the hour  
For those who watch and wait -  
For those who watch and wait, and dream,  
A-listening to its chime,  
The light of other days will gleam  
Along the mists of time!



It stands nearby the village cross,  
Upon the public way,  
Girt round with cobbled streets and wynds,  
And houses old and grey;  
And there, where round the parish Kirk  
The moss-grown graves are spread,  
It stands, a silent sentinel  
'Tween the living and the dead.

Oh, quietly in that sacred ground  
The blessed dead are sleeping,  
And all the country-folk around  
Their peaceful ways are keeping;  
But still, in centre of the scene,  
There stands, in sun and shower -  
Alone, majestic and serene -  
That ancient Pictish Tower!

Oh rugged tower of old grey-stone,  
Marked well from far and near,  
Up-standing still erect, alone,  
For full a thousand year,  
How old and scarred, and weather-beat,  
Through all the ages past,  
You've borne the sultry summer heat,  
And braved the winter's blast!

No wonder legends, strange and old  
Have gathered round your name,  
Scholars your history un-rolled,  
And poets sung your fame!  
Ten centuries have come and gone,  
Yet solid still you stand -  
The oldest monument in stone  
Of Scotia's ancient land.

'Tis said that in a single night  
This tower was built and manned,  
With stones brought o'er the Ochils' height,  
And passed from hand to hand;  
Thro' the pale moonlight's murky gleam  
They laboured fast and well,  
Till an old witch's terrored scream  
At daylight broke the spell!

'Tis said that good St Andrew's bones  
Here for a time reposed,  
And 'neath those round and solid stones  
In safety were enclosed -  
The relics of our patron saint,  
In sanctuary set down,  
Before they came to Kilrymont,  
By old St. Andrews town.

But why were you built, O mystic tower,  
So solid, round and strong?

Why should you claim your ancient fame  
And still inspire our song?  
Why should it seem, as still we dream  
Upon your face sublime,  
The light of other days will gleam  
Along the mists of Time?

Oh Abernethy, quiet, austere,  
Your present lot is cast,  
But the answer it is plain and clear  
To all who read your past;  
For this un-heralded retreat,  
This little country town,  
Was once a famous royal seat,  
And place of old renown.

Here first across the Ochils' height  
The Romans made their way,  
And first beheld that noble sight -  
The valley of the Tay;  
And better still, at Heaven's call,  
There came o'er moor and moss,  
To this old Pictish Capital  
The soldiers of the Cross!

From far Iona's sacred isle,  
Across the western sea  
Columba came, with holy zeal,  
Our ancient land to free  
From paganism, dark and dread,  
From superstition's blight,  
And through our Scottish realm to spread  
The rays of Christian light.

So here, where once the Roman hordes  
In triumph built their forts,  
Here, where the early Pictish lords  
In splendour held their courts,  
Here, where the streams of Earn and Tay  
Roll onward still in pride,  
A monastery and Church were reared  
To God, and good St. Bride!

But later, when the fearsome hosts  
Of pagan Northmen came,  
To ravage all our fertile coasts  
With massacre and flame,  
The hardy Picts, by saints divine  
Converted to the Faith,  
Combined to guard their sacred shrine  
Undaunted, to the death.

So, full a thousand years ago,  
Was built the Pictish Tower -  
A strong and solid bastion  
Against the pagan power;  
It's noble column raised on high

By men who didn't shirk  
For Christian truth too fight and die  
To guard their ancient Kirk.

Oh, Abernethy, old haunted town  
Where mystic altars burn,  
Where the green Ochil hills slope down  
To beautiful Strathearn -  
The lovely meadows fair and wide,  
Down to the gorgeous Firth of Tay  
To meet the ocean tide.

How oft I've climbed the Ochils' height,  
How often I have stood  
To gaze with rapturous delight  
On river, field and wood!  
All nature's beauty gathered there -  
And 'neath the northern skies,  
The Grampian summits gleaming fair,  
Like gates of Paradise!

Great landmarks, too, of former time  
Possess me as I stand  
To brood in ecstasy sublime  
On Perthshire's fairy-land;  
Historic scenes of chivalry,  
Castles of old renown,  
Romantic straths of Earn and Tay  
Around fair Bertha's town.

And here on my native ground,  
I linger to recall  
Old Abernethy, far-renowned,  
A Pictish Capital;  
And here my heart must throb with pride,  
As borne on Fancy's wings,  
I dream of ancient Gruinside  
Once palace of the Kings.

Yet, ever still my thoughts return  
By a strange compulsive power,  
To the Christian Kirk among the graves,  
And that old mystic tower;  
Its bell still peals o'er hill and glen,  
And, every Sabbath day,  
It calls the faithful sons of men  
To worship and to pray.

For still the tide of faith moves on,  
And still the church must stand  
The centre of the highest hope  
For ours and every land;  
For man unhappy will remain,  
Sin-cursed, and trouble-tossed,  
Until by faith he wins again  
The Eden he has lost!

Long, long ago in Galilee  
Man's sin was met and priced,  
And ransom paid on Calvary  
By him we call the Christ;  
So we, for Him whose name we bear,  
To whom our souls belong,  
Still in our hearts and lives must rear  
A tower, true and strong.

The Church of God must still be built  
Around the Saviour's crown,  
Though worldly powers of sin and guilt  
Still try to break it down;  
And when the scrolls of fate unfold  
The end of history's page,  
The Christian citadel must hold  
The centre of the stage.

One day the Church of God shall see  
Her flag of truth unfurled,  
And hear her bells of victory  
Resound throughout the world;  
One day the faithful and the strong  
Shall meet to hold their tryst,  
And sing the great triumphal song,  
With him we call the Christ!

Fear-haunted peoples of the earth  
His kingdom yet must enter,  
Divergent forces only meet  
As they march towards the centre,  
All worldly creeds, all evil deeds,  
Before his feet shall fall,  
And the great Son of God shall hold  
The highest place of all!

So, in this tower, built long ago  
To guard the Christian shrine,  
Can we not, therefore, see and know  
A tale of truth divine?  
For still it stands, that ancient Tower,  
Beside the Church-yard gate,  
And still the old clock strikes the hour  
For those who watch and wait!

Oh! quietly, in that sacred ground,  
The blessed dead are sleeping,  
And all the country-folk around  
Their peaceful ways are keeping -  
But still in centre of the scene,  
There stands, in sun and shower,  
Alone, majestic, and serene,  
That ancient Pictish Tower!

April 1959     J T Monteith



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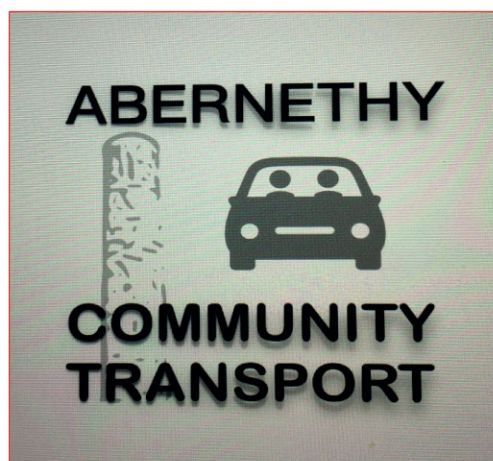
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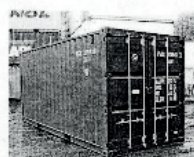
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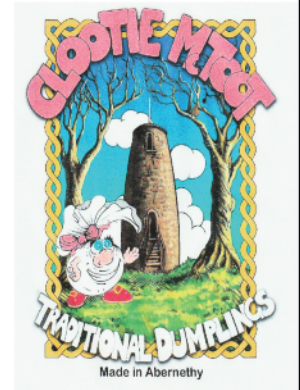
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