

VILLAGE CRIER



DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

10th EDITION

MARCH 2011

A Happy New Year to all our readers. By the time you receive your copy of The Crier we will be well into 2011 but as I write the 1st of January is less than a fortnight ago and outside very little has changed since you got the December issue.

As you may have gathered I never write my article in one I do a little bit and let time pass before doing the next bit so in between times things change.

Two weeks have elapsed and we have had further adventures. After the snow and frost came the rain and the floods and now today there is a feeling of spring in the air.

I am sure you would all have received the December copy of "the Crier". I know there were difficulties in getting to some of the outlying areas but the distributors all got there in the end.

We once again had a very sociable evening in Cree's Inn to thank those who do the delivering of "The Crier". Brian supplied a sumptuous buffet, the conversation was good so we all had a great night.

Christmas seems a long time ago now but despite the snow the Carol Singers managed to do the rounds and I hope you saw Abernethy's favourite Shetland pony, Charlie delivering Christmas gifts with Morven and Imogen in the trap. If you missed seeing him in action there is a photograph within these pages.

Various events did take place over the festive season and unfortunately others had to be cancelled but better to be safe than sorry. For the first time for many years we did not have a Christmas tree because of the weather. However that is all history now and as the days lengthen we see signs of spring,

think about the seeds we are going to sow, plan holidays etc.

Abernethy welcomes a new headmistress to the school. Mrs Morrison took up the post in January and by now many of you will have already met her.

I still have the cat and through my mentioning it I had a lovely long chat on the 'phone with Mrs Molly Foote whom I haven't met yet. Being a cat lady she thought she might be able to throw a light on my stranger (no longer a stranger now I can tell you) but the cat she thought it may have been was not the same. However that is beside the point-----I have made a new friend through The Crier and that is what The Crier is about

On a personal note Struan House is to be put on the market. This house, to my knowledge has never been sold and has belonged to the family since it was a weaver's cottage in the eighteen hundreds. However times change and ideas change and one must move on and not cling to the past. It is ridiculous for one person to be living in a large house when a family would make better use of it than I can now. I hope I will be able to find somewhere more suitable in Abernethy to my present needs.

Enjoy the 10th edition of "The Crier"

HILDA CLOW

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL FROM THE CRIER COMMITTEE

THE EDITORS VIEW

I very seldom have to drive through the centre of the Village, down the Main Street, but when I do it fills me

with fear for the householders. I sincerely hope there is not a fire and the engine has to negotiate the parked cars, or the badly parked cars, making the through road virtually impossible.

There is barely enough room for a small car far less a Fire Engine or an Ambulance.

The next time you park your vehicle, especially in and around the Surgery corner, check out how much space there is between you and the motor opposite and can an Emergency vehicle get through? It could be your house that's burning or your family member needing medical attention.

Think before you park.

Lets makes 2011 the year we all support our local organisations more than we have in the past, the Museum, the Bowling Club, the Gala, the Auld Abernethy Association, the Tennis Club to name but a few.

All these organisations need your support to survive, as well as financial help they also need volunteers. Let's make 2011 the year of the Abernethy volunteer.

The ED

If you have something you would like to get off your chest, it may be a village or national issue, let's hear from you, send a letter to 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

LETTERS TO THE ED



PARKING IN THE SQUARE AND THE MAIN STREET

Abernethy has a growing population with the cars to match with most households having two or more vehicles. Parking has been an issue for many years in the village with the Square and the Main Street bearing the brunt of the problem.

Over the last few weeks it has become worse because of the wintry conditions with fewer spaces due to the heaps of snow lying about, with the added problem of cars from other parts of the village also being left in the street.

Due to inconsiderate parking by some car owners, the oil tankers, bin lorries and delivery vans were having problems negotiating the Main Street with some cars being blocked in by other vehicles and their owners missing for hours. Thanks goodness an emergency vehicle wasn't needing through.

If only the drivers would take a minute to think before they park:

- 1. Are you on a corner and may be obstructing larger vehicles?
- 2. Are you parked over someone's doorstep?
- 3. Are you blocking the School Wynd?
- 4. Are you blocking access around the War Memorial?
- 5. Are you covering pavements, meaning pedestrians are having to walk on the road?

Unknown to some people there is a car park situated at the rear of The Inn and maybe visitors should be encouraged to park there.

Name and Address supplied

MANY THANKS

Molly Foote wishes to express her thanks to Steve for clearing the snow from The Bauk and for keeping the road open during the long weeks of wintry weather.

PARKING IN HALL PARK

I am writing about the parking situation in Hall Park, in the few years I have lived here I have watched it go from bad to worse. Unfortunately there now appear to be only four spaces at the top of Hall Park for about twelve cars. We have a turning point and beyond this is a large grass area. The Council came and removed all the bushes that used to surround the area.

Why can't this be turned into parking?

A few weeks ago a parked car was damaged due to an inconsiderate van driver trying to turn, he did not have the decency to stop. Many residents have put driveways into their own property to get their vehicles off the street, unfortunately the residents beyond the turning point do not have this choice. Some people park on the pavements and at the corners, it is really becoming a joke.

One of my concerns is if Hall Park needs the Fire Brigade the engine would not get through due to inconsiderate parking.

I know that there are people against this idea but they are the ones who do not have cars.

This really is a problem which has to be looked at.



Name and Address supplied

WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

Winners drawn at Williamson Hall AGM on Monday

31st January 2011

November 2010

No 77	Christian MacDonald	£20	
No 39	Diana Lawson	£15	
December 2010			
No 46	Andy Mair	£20	
No 27	Col D Anstice	£15	
January 2011			
No 54	Christine Melville	£20	
No 36	Aileen Tullis	£15	
<u>Februa</u>	<u>ary 2011</u>		
No 43	Jenny White	£20	
No 6	Sheena Shenherd	£15	

The Williamson Hall 100 Club still needs new members. The subscription is £12 a year and the draws are made at Williamson Hall meetings. The monthly prizes are £20 and £15. If you would like to join, please phone $01738\ 850496$ for an application form.

EVELYN SCOBIE

ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

It's hard to believe that we are already half way through our series of talks for 2010/11. Our first talk was to be given by the RSPB but, owing to illness, our speaker was unavailable so Keir kindly stepped in to use the notes provided by the RSPB. An informative talk, combined with an impromptu home-made sloe gin tasting, got the winter talk season off to a flying start. Our second talk was given by John Marshall of WCF Potatoes. John told us everything we needed to know about potatoes while showing us his fascinating collection of slides and potato memorabilia. During December, some of the hardier members of the Society braved the elements for a festive drink in the Cree's. Our last talk was given by our own Les McIntosh who told us the do's and don'ts of pruning. I think we're all more confident about when to prune and when it's best to leave well alone!

We still have these further talks to look forward to: 09/02/11 Garden Design by Adrian Miles 09/03/11 Herbs by Margaret Lear 13/04/11 Alpines at Rumbling Bridge Nursery by Graeme Butler

New members are always welcome or non-members can come along for each individual talk at a cost of £2.50. Talks start at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall and are usually followed by a trip to the Cree's.

This year we are also planning a day bus trip to visit a garden on Saturday 14/05/11. We are looking for any suggestions of gardens to visit. Please email abernethyhorticultural@googlemail.com or phone Keir (850676) with suggestions or any other queries.

ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

Coffee Morning Saturday 9th April 2011 Masonic Hall - 10-12

Usual Stalls – watch out for details on Village Notice Board and in Shops nearer the time.

Please come and support this event – proceeds go towards Summer Outing and Christmas Party.

EVELYN SCOBIE

Charlie the Shetland Pony wears his Reindeer disguise to deliver cards and presents round Abernethy. His elves are Morven and Kirstie Graham helped by mum, Kirstie and granny, Anne.



MARRIED OR 'BIDIE IN'?

Not long ago it was quite unusual to live together without benefit of clergy and would certainly cause raised eyebrows and whispering behind hands. It is quite different nowadays when a first sign of commitment for many couples is moving in together. They may feel completely settled but may be surprised to find that the law sometimes treats legally married husbands and wives very differently to those who may have an emotional commitment but never got round to legalising it.

If children are born the father always has financial responsibility whether married or not .lf not married he has no rights where his children are concerned unless he went with the mother to jointly register the birth or has a parental rights agreement. The mother can give the child whatever first or surname she wants, decide where they will live and go to school and if the natural father can have any contact. However the child still has inheritance rights even if the parents were not married.

Spouses have a right to live in the couple's home even if the other spouse is the sole owner or has their name in the rent book. Not so for the 'bidie in'. I had a call from a lady who had allowed her gentleman friend to move in. She eventually grew tired of the fact he seemed to prefer the company of friends in the pub to her conversation. This went too far on Christmas day when he didn't come home for his dinner until well into the evening. The dinner was in the bin and the man out the door. She owned the flat and had that right. If he had married her before getting 'fou and unco' happy' he still would have had the right to live there.

Couples are jointly assessed for benefits whether married or not and they are taxed separately but if assets are transferred the unmarried may have to pay Capital Gains Tax. Gifts between married people are exempt.

We are talking about living together but can't avoid discussing death. A will is always advisable but if unmarried it is essential. A surviving spouse will at least get the home, contents and part of the estate. A surviving co-habitee gets nothing. If it was a rented house and the tenancy was not in their name they will have to leave their home. The same applies if the house was owned by the deceased.

I have skimmed over this fascinating subject. There is lots more.

If you want more information write into the Crier or call at the Citizen's Advice Bureau at 7 Atholl Crescent . Drop in is 10am-12 noon Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment between 1-3pm.

For advice on the telephone call 01738 450580. website www.adviceguide.org.uk gives accurate information. You need to click the Scotland tab in case it is a query affected by Scot's Law. Benefits and employment are the same in both counties but Debt is different.

A.H.

EARN SINGERS CHARITY CONCERT



FRIDAY 25TH MARCH
DUNBARNEY CHURCH 7.30 pm
Admission £5 – Children Free
The Earn singers are holding their Annual Charity
Concert in Dunbarney Church, Bridge of Earn under
their conductor, Alec Cant.

This year they are supporting BLESMA the British Limbless Ex Servicemen's Association.

Music includes selections from shows such as Les Miserables and Phantom of the Opera as well as Scots songs and also the Spirituals they sang at the 'Big Sing' in Perth Concert Hall to great applause.

AH

HAYLEY WINS AWARD FOR ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL



As part of the Perth Heraldry 800 celebrations, primary pupils in Perthshire were invited to enter a competition to design a coat of arms, demonstrating what is important about their community, its history, and culture. Hayley entered as a pupil from Abernethy Primary School.

11 year old Hayley Cole, who lives at 1 Den Park Abernethy and is a primary 7 pupil, won her category. Her design, which depicted the round tower with the St Andrews cross along with a berry, a fish, and an acorn, had a mosaic backing and was finished with a dark green background.

Hayley was invited to attend a presentation, with other category prize winners at the A.K.Bell library in Perth, on Fri 27th November 2010. Provost John Hulbert presented her with an enlarged copy of her design for Abernethy primary school and a framed copy for herself.

Kevin Cole



As I write it has been six weeks of snow. While it was pleasant and fun at first it soon becomes a nuisance; not to mention the hassle of clearing drives each time it snows. But as it becomes more of a nuisance to me so it becomes more of a problem for the wildlife in my garden. Now that the birds are getting more desperate we are seeing more unusual visitors and more frequent visits by less common visitors. Over the last week we have had a jay visiting and helping himself to peanuts which have fallen on the ground, and this right in front of the window. The male pheasant, which visits us regularly if not frequently, has taken to calling up to four times a day. When the snow was at its worst he arrived with his tail feathers covered in snow and began to dig hollows in the deep snow in an attempt to find some seeds and peanuts discarded by the birds feeding on the feeder. These hollows were deep enough that he vanished from sight.

As the sun sets we have been having a flock of long tailed tits descend on the feeder. The flock numbers up to twelve. The long tailed tits do nest in the garden and this is probably last year's brood still travelling as a family until they start nesting this year.

The bird feeder is very popular with all the usual winter birds, either feeding on the seed, peanut and suet ball holders or scavenging in groups on the ground (snow) under the feeder. These include chaffinches, tree sparrows, house sparrows, hedge sparrows (dunnocks), great tits, coal tits, blue tits, siskins, goldfinches, black birds, one solitary song thrush, wood pigeons, collar doves, robins and yellow hammers. All these birds on and around the bird feeder form a feeder for our visiting male sparrow hawk. So irresistible is this potential that he often visits several times in one day, but I have to say with very limited success.

Sadly our greenfinch population has been declining in recent years until we now have no greenfinches. I believe this is caused by a bacterial infection which is spread by their use of feeders.

In past years we have had visits from goldcrests and redpolls at the feeder, but not this year I'm afraid. Our other transient visitors are from Scandinavia; redwings and fieldfares, but they also seem to have been affected by the snow and cold. Far fewer apples were eaten from the ground and we had no flocks of fieldfares and redwings taking up the remainder of the apple crop which had been left on the trees for them. In past years these birds have taken up residence in the orchard for up to two weeks while they cleared up the fruit crop. However when the snow was at its worst it seems that the redwings decided that my cotoneaster berries were at their most tasty and they spent a day and a half very noisily clearing the area of these berries, the fieldfares didn't appear at all at this feast. A strange year indeed for these northern visitors. The snow has also made some of our visitors more noticeable than they usually are. Most conspicuous has been the fox which wanders through the garden each day and, because I keep no poultry but involuntarily maintain a thriving "herd" of rabbits, is most welcome. Since his arrival alst year our rabbit population has reduced almost to extinction. The other visitors which we now see because of the snow are the deer. Cute though my grandchildren think they are, they do unfortunately do a lot of damage to the trees, particularly the young fruit trees. So while I curse the snow for the inconvenience and hard work it causes, and also this year the damage which it seems to have done to many conifers, I can still take pleasure in the photo opportunities it presents by making many creatures less shy.

Bayleaf

ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

With the snow finally gone, the great flood of 2011 over (for now anyway) and the frost still here, I have finally managed to sit down and write article number 4. As usual it is my aim to provide the Crier reading public with an update of Parent Council activities, what and how the school is doing, details of any changes and information on how the community can get involved with the school so here goes:

First, a bit of an appeal: The Parent Council AGM will be held on 27th April 2011 to appoint the class representatives and Council members for the up coming year. Last year, as mentioned in a bit of a rant in my last article, the turn out at the AGM was a little disappointing and I am hoping we can get some new blood on the Council this year. If you are at all interested in being involved in the running of the school, the extension plans (more on that later), fundraising (more on that later) and generally getting involved at any level please come along, the more the merrier (there may even be cakes!).

Some sad news: After twenty years as Head Teacher at Abernethy Mrs Jack decided, for personal reasons to retire at Christmas. On behalf of the Parent Council, the parent body and the children I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for the unwavering service, support and enthusiasm she gave to the school throughout her time here and wish her all the best for whatever she decides to do in the future, she will be missed by all of us.

New Head Teacher: On 17th January our new Head Teacher started in her new role, her name is Paula Morrison, she was previously the Principal Teacher at Burrelton Primary and also completed three long stints as Head Teacher. I personally am very pleased to welcome Paula to Abernethy Primary School, I hope she will be very happy here and that we can work together to make Abernethy Primary School a great place to be and continue in its role as a hub in the Abernethy community.

In a previous article I mentioned that the school is trying to gain Green Flag Status. We have now succeeded and been presented with our "green flag". Congratulations to the children, staff and parents who have worked very hard to get us there, I am told that of particular interest to the assessor was the attitude of the children throughout the school from nursery to P7, the Eco Day which was a joint initiative between the children and the Parent Council and the way that

the environmental ethos was evident throughout the school and the wider community, again congratulations to all involved, now we just need a pole for our huge flag!

As mentioned previously, the Parent Council is involved in the plans for extending the school. The current situation is that the working group which consists of members of the Council and the wider Abernethy Community, including little old me, has met on three occasions to discuss / review / comment on the Council's architects' plans and although there are still a number of hoops to jump through before they will be agreed and therefore made publicly available, things appear to be going well and if they go ahead the current proposals will provide Abernethy with a great school which will serve the community well for years to come. The next meeting of the group will be on 26th January and by the time this edition of The Crier is published we may know a lot more. Again, I will try to keep the community up to speed via this column on how things are progressing but feel free to get in touch and I will tell you what I can.

Christmas Fayre: As you will no doubt be aware the Parent Council were planning the school Christmas Fayre at the beginning of December, as you may remember it snowed a little at the beginning of December thus the Christmas Fayre did not take place. With this in mind we are proposing to have another crack at it and are currently looking at summer dates, we will let vou know once another date has been decided. In the meantime, as we are gluttons for punishment, we are proposing to host a bingo tea at the school, at 18:30 on Friday the 25th March. All are welcome to attend and tickets will be on sale from the school by the time you read this article, we are proposing to have Bingo, tea, cakes and a raffle and hope that you will be able to support us and bring your dobber to what will no doubt be a wild evening!

If you have read one of my articles before, you know that I feel it is imperative that the parents and community have a voice and are aware of events and issues at the local school. With this in mind we are now posting the minutes of Parent Council meetings on the school notice board so please feel free to get in touch if you have any issues, questions or comments.

The best way to contact me is via email and I have provided my address below along with the names of the other members of the Parent Council.



Parent Council Member Class Represented

Kate Butler	Nursery
Ranald Henderson	P1
Chris Meek (chris.meek1@tesco.net)	P2
Gordon Miller	P2
Tim Dewhirst	Р3
Athole Skinner	P4
Lynn Mitchell	P4
Karen Jerrard-Dinn	P6
Allan MacDonald	P6
Fiona Duncan	P7

A personal note: Recently my wife and daughter had a <u>very</u> near miss on the pedestrian crossing on the main road through the village, they were both almost knocked down by a car that pulled out and overtook a stationary gritter lorry as they crossed in front of it. My wife reported the incident to the police who are looking into it as she noted the registration of the car and hopefully they will be able to track the driver down. I have spoken with the Community Council members about the crossing and they are looking for support to get the Council to change the crossing from a pelican crossing to one with traffic lights.

With this in mind, can you please email me on chris.meek1@tesco.net if you have had a near miss or any incident on the crossing and let me have a few details which I will pass to the Community Council? If we can provide PKC and the police with evidence that one day there will be more than a near miss at this crossing then maybe we can get them to make it safe before it happens.

CHRIS MEEK

THE CRIER IS FUNDED SOLELY FROM ADVERTISING AND DONATIONS



THANK YOU BRIAN AND DUNCAN

The people of Abernethy owe a great debt of gratitude to Brian Greig and Duncan Scott. Thanks to them we all had access to provisions during those weeks when Abernethy was more or less snowbound and very few people were able to venture anywhere by car.

However Duncan with his 4x4 and Brian with his list of requirements bravely faced the elements and brought in the supplies.

I am sure we all realise and appreciate how important it is to have such a well stocked local shop. What would we have done without Brian, Duncan and the ladies behind the counter?

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR LOOKING AFTER US ALL IN ABERNETHY.

HILDA CLOW

FAMILY HOGMANAY PARTY

The Family Hogmanay Party in the Williamson Hall was a great success once again. Approximately 100 people attended with ages ranging from 3-80. The sum of £260 was raised which goes to the Williamson Hall Fund. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the evening.

Vanessa Mounsey 3 Ballo Braes Abernethy.

MANY MANY THANKS

On behalf of the Residents of Castlelaw Crescent, we would like to thank Double M Dairy for making deliveries of milk to us EVERY DAY during the bad weather, also the local Friendly Farmer who cleared our road with the snow plough.

The Residents appreciated this very much.

Ann and Bill Christie.

DROWNING IN DEBT

There may come a time when you find you are hiding unopened letters because you cannot face the fact they are all demanding money that you owe them. The debts are getting bigger and the letters are getting nastier and you realise you will have to do something.

Where to start?

Do not be tempted by the adverts you see on daytime TV promising to end your debt worries. They will be nice and reassuring to you but they will begin by taking even more money from you. You will give them money to divide among your creditors and they will keep a hefty slice themselves.

Also, crucially, your most important creditors will not deal with them. This is money owed on rent or mortgage or Council Tax.

Council Tax arrears will not generate lots of angry letters. You will get one reminder and then a Summary Warrant will be issued at Court and the Sheriff's Officers are involved. If you telephone the Council to try and negotiate payment of arrears before they go to Court they are helpful about organising payments but the Sheriff's Officers are much tougher and will be looking at things like Wages Arrestments or freezing your bank account.

Put payments for housing, either rent or mortgage and Council Tax at the top of your priorities with fuel bills next.

Then look at your consumer debts and overdrafts.

Some of these letters can get really nasty but these people cannot enter your home and cannot take your possessions. You are also only liable for debts that are actually in your name, unless you personally signed as guarantor.

Might you be able to pay them off eventually if payments were reduced or token payments were accepted for a while? This will work if the interest payments and charges are frozen. The CAB can help you with this using a system called CashFlow which has been accepted by most major lenders.

You may feel that things have gone beyond this stage and you need more help. The CAB has a qualified Money Advice team who will help. You will begin by writing down all your debts and creditors. This is hard to do but they have seen it all and are quite unshockable.

This is a brief look at a huge subject. I will write next time about how the Courts deal with debt and Sequestration and Trust Deeds For now the main points are;

Don't use a debt company that charges you. There is free help available

Put rent/ mortgage and Council Tax first.

If you want more information write into the Crier or call at the Citizen's Advice Bureau at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment between 1-3pm.

For advice on the telephone call 01738 450580. website www.adviceguide.org.uk gives accurate information. You need to click the Scotland tab in case it is a query affected by Scot's Law. Benefits and employment are the same in both countries but Debt is different.

AH

BUSINESS IS BLOOMING

The Silver lining to Heather Frearson's period of illness eleven years ago was the opportunity to change careers.



She was born and brought up in Tayport and after raising her family she had always worked in her husband's embroidery business but found she could no longer work the machinery.

This gave her the chance to study Floristry at Dundee. Husband, John, already had business premises and the double fronted, two storey shop on the High Street in Newburgh gave room for Heather's Florists and Gift shop.

The shop is crammed with unusual gifts and flowers and orders come from all over the world through her web site as well as from local people and range from small posies and buttonholes through bouquets and baskets to funeral tributes.

The gift shop is an integral part of the business as when a recent delivery of a gift of flowers to welcome a new baby included a pink teddy.

Heather loves her job and takes a personal interest in every order and making sure it is exactly suited to the customer's requirements.

A H

PIES MEAN PRIZES



Since Graham Cheyne and his family opened their Butcher's Shop and Delicatessen in Newburgh in May 2009 they have already won National and International prizes.

Their Steak Pie won a Silver Award in the Scottish Championships and they gained a Bronze Award for their Haggis and Pepper Pies in the World Scotch Pie Championships.

These awards reflect the Cheyne's commitment to local, freshly prepared food. Most things sold in the shop is sourced locally and prepared in their adjoining food preparation premises and the meat's certificate of origin is displayed in the shop.

Graham learned his trade as an apprentice in Rosyth and met his wife, Tracy there as her mother was a customer.

For eighteen years he ran his own business in Ladybank where daughter Donna followed in his footsteps by becoming an apprentice butcher and meeting her future husband/ as he was the son of a customer. The shop in Newburgh appealed as it was an empty shell changing it which the family could adapt to their own needs into the bright ,welcoming, spotless space which now greets customers.

Graham, Tracy and daughters Donna and Nicola and colleague Julie give a warm welcome and are happy to serve and advise you on their wide variety of fresh food. Beside butcher meat, sausages, burgers and steaks all great for the BBQ there are cooked meats, baguettes and filled rolls,home-made macaroni, quiche, salads, local jams, chutneys and sauces as well as hot soup or stovies.

Some of the vegetables are from Donna's husband's farm, all adding to the family and local element which make the shop a pleasure to visit.

A FINE PAIR

In 1981, the Auld Abernethy Association was formed, one of its aims being to encourage interest in the history of Abernethy and the local area. This, in its turn, led to the set up of a museum in the village, achieved eventually in 2000. Two of the most enthusiastic supporters of both these projects were Tib Smith and Ruby Ironside. Gifted with excellent memories, their contribution to the A.A.A. and the museum were invaluable.

Tib was on the committee of the A.A.A. until her resignation in 2006 at the age of 92!

"I'm too old to be any more use" was her reasoning. We didn't agree, and although her name was removed from the syllabus we continued to consult her.

"We'll ask Tib" was a regular response to a difficult question or if we failed to identify someone in a photograph. After a peaceful lunch with her cronies in the Culdees Tea Room on Tuesdays, she regularly moved over to the museum group for a period of investigation! Lunch times are just not the same now.

Ruby was not only a great source of information but also provided 'bits and pieces' for displays in the museum. On hearing what our new display was to be, she would have a search through her store (nothing ever seemed to be thrown out) and telephone for her contribution to be uplifted. Her 'bits and pieces' were always useful and seldom did she want them returned. Everything was to remain in Abernethy and, according to her, the museum made that possible.

Ruby and Tib loved their afternoons in the museum as volunteers when it was open to the public. They were up and about chatting to visitors, answering questions and providing information as long as they were able. Ruby, indeed, even managed several afternoons this past year.

We in the Auld Abernethy Association and the museum are going to miss them both so much. We'll miss their stories, their enthusiasm, their support and their encouragement. They were always sure that we would succeed in our endeavours and told us so. We are so grateful for all they have done for us, but we would selfishly have loved to have had them with us for a little bit longer.

Museum and A.A.A.

AH

NEW HEADTEACHER FOR ABERNETHY

The start of the new year brought a new Head teacher to Abernethy Primary School.

Paula Morrison was born and

brought up in Scone where she still lives with her husband Graeme and two children, Finn, aged 11 and Phoebe, aged 3.

Paula always wanted to teach and studied at Moray House College in Edinburgh where she gained her degree and teaching qualification. She then taught at Goodlyburn Primary, Perth for ten and a half years before going to Burrelton as Principal Teacher. She had periods as Acting Headteacher there as well as at Grandfully Primary.

Paula has always had a keen interest in Music, Drama and the Performing Arts. She studied Ballet and other forms of dance and leaned to play the violin before going to college. She is very happy about her new role at Abernethy Primary and looks forward to the challenge of taking the school forward

AH

CREE'S INN 100 YEARS AGO

In 1911 Cree's Inn featured prominently in the Abernethy news, as recorded in the Perthshire Advertiser. Newcomers to the village may not know that this inn takes its name not from a native American tribe, but from the first owner, Thomas Cree. His death in the spring of 1911 prompted this article (PA 22/4/11) DEATH OF "OLD TOM" "Mr Thomas Cree, wellknown not only locally but throughout central Scotland has passed to his rest. At the time of his death Mr Cree had the record of being the oldest licenceholder in Perthshire, if not in Scotland, and for the long period of 53 years he held the licence at Abernethy without a break. "Old Tom" had a big warm heart, and many a poor family in Abernethy will miss the kindly and generous bounty which he was always ready to put to the service of the needy. In the village life of Abernethy he was prominently identified, and at one time was elected a Bailie. A staunch Unionist in politics and a pillar of the "Auld Kirk", the late Mr Cree was a local historian, and in his pawky way he could narrate many interesting stories concerning the district. A widow survives but no family." Towards the end of 1911 James Nugent applied for a transfer of the Cree's Inn license, so that he could

take over the business. This caused a division in Abernethy. One petition was raised in favour of granting the license, and another petition for its refusal. The petition against, signed by 41 persons, stated that the parish population had decreased by 25% in the last 40 years, but that the number of licenses had remained the same, and should be reduced. The following extracts from PA 1/11/1911 state the case for and against, and give us some interesting snippets of local history. "Amongst the signatures were the names of the Chairman of the Parish Council, senior and junior Bailie, members of the Town Council and School Board, the Established and United Free ministers, and other representative citizens. The petitioners were actuated by a desire to do what they could for what they considered to be the welfare and interest of the inhabitants. The population of Abernethy was 539, and there were five licenses, showing an average of 120 persons for each. The average in Perthshire for one license was 351, so that the needs of the locality were well supplied without granting the present application."

"Mr Hunter submitted that the petitioners against the license created an erroneous impression by going back for a period of forty years. Had they gone back for a period of ten years they would have seen that the population was not falling off, although he admitted that it was not on the upgrade. Abernethy, he said, was improving as a summer resort. A golf course had recently been formed and the inhabitants were laying themselves out to entertain visitors and he was informed that numbers during the past year had been obliged to leave the district, because of the fact that licenses could not be secured. Mr Hunter at this point presented a petition in favour of the continuance of the license. It bore the names of 196 people and the first signature was the Provost of the Burgh, a Bailie, chief heritors of the parish, justices of the peace and representative citizens. He submitted that his petition showed that the feeling in the parish was for the continuance of the license." Mr Nugent was granted his license. "The Bench were of the opinion that they would not reduce drunkenness by reducing one public house."

Tam Cree lies in Abernethy Churchyard in an unmarked grave, a stone's throw from the inn which he established in early Victorian times. In the museum you can see one or two images of the portly publican. Also when the museum opens in mid May you can read many other Abernethy press extracts from 1911, a century ago.

BILL DREVER

ABERNETHY CHURCH NEWS

The Church was very pleased to bring **Fischy Music** to Abernethy Primary School on a

morning in January. Fischy Music is a charity which promotes emotional, social, spiritual health and wellbeing in children through songs.

Some of the children had a workshop in the first part of the morning and then all of the school including nursery children joined in for a concert. It was a very enjoyable and different Monday morning for all!

Regular Activities

- Sunday worship services at Abernethy, 11.00 a.m. Children's Sunday Club, from age 3, meets at the same time (except during school holidays). There is tea, coffee and a chat most Sundays, after the service.
- **Teen Café**, for years S2 S6, meets in the Church hall from 7.30 9.30pm on Thursdays. Teas, coffees, DVD's, CD's, Xbox, chat with your friends. This is a chill zone.
- Youth Club meets on a Friday night from 7.30 -9.30pm initially at the Church hall.
 Primary 7 young people and upwards are welcome.
- Open Doors meets in the Church hall for tea, coffee and a chat: time 10 – 11.30am. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month,

Dates for your diary

24th April Easter Sunday Service, 11am 7th May Abernethy Church Coffee Morning and Sale 10am –12 noon

Contacts:- Rev. Alec Wark 01738 850607 Session Clerk, Alex Johnston 01577 830776

HELP

Abernethy Rainbows and Brownies are in need of an extra guider. Guiding is a fun and rewarding pastime. If you have and hour or so to spare on a Monday night and would like more information, please phone Mo McCullie 850882.

Church Family Service. Easter Sunday 24th April. All welcome.

Modrieanne McCullie



ABERNETHY PLAYGROUP

Our playgroup runs 3 times a week: Mon, Wed & Fri (term time only), from 9.30am - 12pm in the Williamson Hall. It is suitable for 2 to 5 year olds and costs £6.00 per session. If your child enjoys the company of other children and lots of interactive play why not take advantage of our FREE TASTER SESSION held on the first Friday of every new term from 10a.m. – 11a.m. A chance to meet the staff, ask questions, and see the toys, games and activities on offer. No need to book; just drop-in or contact 07804927893 for more info (session time only). Registration Forms are also available by contacting Sally McGroarty, Playgroup Secretary on 01738 850069 or email = sallyandchrismcg4@btinternet.com We also operate a lunch club service to Abernethy nursery.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Bonus Ball Winners:

December Chris Meek (60) January Maureen Taylor (30) February Catherine Smith (44)

There are still numbers available and it's not too late to join for the remainder of the year for your chance to win a prize each month. – Enquiries to Leanne Gourlay (850463)

Ladies Pamper Night – plans are developing fast for this ever popular event, pencil 6 May into your diaries for this well established fun night out. Further information will be circulated very soon. If anyone has an interest in taking a stall please contact Harriet Stocker (850968)

The Committee Abernethy playgroup

MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

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CAROL SINGING

Due to the atrociously bad weather, we, the "Tower Singers" thought it best to cancel the Carol Singing around the village.



Anne Hollingsworth, however, rang my doorbell exactly at 6pm - the time pre-arranged to meet in the square.

I previously had the carol song sheets and charity bucket at the ready, so no problem there except that that made only two in number. We were quickly joined by Anne's daughter, Kirsty and her granddaughter, Imogen. Now we were four. A few mobile calls and knocking on neighbours' doors brought us another four.

We set off at 6.30pm, eastwards down Main Street, and at the first appointed stop we gained one other. Along that stretch of Main Street not a house was missed by Imogen and her 'bucket'.

Householders were most generous, we even had our photo taken maybe this was for evidence when we were reported for disturbing the peace. Seriously, people seemed pleased that we had called.

Down near Backdykes a family of three came out to hear us in their 'jammies'. Expecting the singing to have been cancelled and surprised but pleased to see us, they hurriedly donned clothes and outerwear, and promptly joined us on our round.

We ended down Clunie Street and Station Road. This brought us to 7.30pm and we were fairly frozen and all sung out.

Parting company, we set off for home in high spirits, the bucket jingling to the echoes of "We wish you a Merry Christmas"

Next day I received a note through my letter box to let me know that £64.03p had been passed on to the elected charity, C.A.T.H. Day Centre (Churches Action for the Homeless).

Thanks to those who braved the cold weather and to all who donated on the night.

Pat Miller 36, Main Street, Abernethy.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CRIER IS 30th APRIL 2011

A NICHT O SCOTTISH FAIRY TALES



The P2, P3 and P4 children of Abernethy Primary School finally got to present their long awaited 'Nicht O' Scottish Fairy Tales' after it was postponed due to bad weather in December. A large audience of relatives and friends came to the school on the afternoon and evening of 27th January and thoroughly enjoyed the witty version of well known fairy tales in the Guid Scots Tongue.

Primary 2 began with 'Billy Goats Gruff'. The three Billy Goats successfully evaded the green faced Trolls in their 'See-you Jimmy' hats to get through meadows filled with ducks, musicians, trees and a butterfly to get to the other side of the bridge.

P3 performed 'Snaw White and the seven wee men' The hilarious mirror tells the old Queen she is no mair the fairest of them all. So Snaw White is taken to the forest by the guards in spite of wolves and bears. She is rescued by the seven wee men; Luggie, Minger, Big Heid, Glaikit, Crabbit, Nebbie and Greetie, eventually to be saved by the Handsome Prince and his can of Irn Bru.

P4's version of 'Three Wee Piggies' is introduced by singing, skipping piglets before going to the news room where the Newsreader and his Assistants narrate the story happening before our eyes of the wee Piggies, the Scary Wolf and the Wifies and Mannies with their straw, wood and bricks.

Every child had a colourful costume, acted with confidence and enthusiasm and seemed to enjoy the fun as much as the audience.

The teachers involved are to be warmly congratulated for their hard work which included and enthused all the children and made this such an enjoyable occasion.

AH

THE CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF THE CRIER IS 30th APRIL 2011

POLICE BOX



CRIME UPDATE

Between the 24th and 30th of December there was a break in to business premises near to Abernethy where a large quantity of copper cabling was stolen.

Between the 29th and 30th of December there was a break in to business premises in the village where a quantity of money was stolen.

Both of these crimes are still under investigation but should anyone have any information that might assist with enquiries, please contact your local Community Officer, Euan Mitchell.

Euan can be contacted by telephone on 0300 111 2222, by email on

euan.mitchell@tayside.pnn.police.uk or by Twitter at BridgeofearnPC. Alternatively you can anonymously contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to provide

TAYSIDE POLICE OFFICERS TWEET ON THE BEAT

Community police officers in the South Perthshire area will be tweeting on the beat from January as Tayside Police trials a number of social media options aimed at enhancing local policing and community engagement. The South Perthshire Section is made up of the areas covered by the Auchterarder, Bridge of Earn, Crieff and Kinross Police stations.

Your Community Officer, Euan Mitchell, will be regularly 'tweeting' on the beat providing the local communities with up-dates on police surgeries, crime prevention advice, road and traffic information, campaigns, and other community policing issues.

Tayside Police has frequently been at the forefront of new policing methods and has already experimented with Social Media to good effect on a number of occasions. Effective engagement is at the heart of policing and the revolution in digital technology means that people are engaging with services at their own convenience and in the manner, medium and at a time which suits them.

Many Forces are now realising that traditional methods of getting messages out, which we have relied on in the past, are having less impact and are reaching fewer people.

Simply 'broadcasting' messages by whichever channel, is no longer enough. What really makes a difference is giving people the opportunity to engage in a two way conversation with the police about things that matter to them.

Social networking has exploded globally with sites such as Facebook and Twitter having over 150 million users Worldwide, half of whom use the service on a daily basis. Twitter is particularly important in sharing breaking news and frequently posts stories before they are reported in the more traditional media forms. This could prove to be extremely useful in local communities where early warning of road closures or incidents could help to avoid delays and speculation. It also allows us to have meaningful two way conversations which gives the public an instant voice on how policing is being delivered in their area.

We need to embrace this form of communication because if we don't engage with people via social media they will move on without us and we will miss the opportunity to influence them, making it much more difficult to re-engage with them later. We also need to communicate more effectively with members of the public to let them know what we're doing. After all, nobody is going to be confident in an organisation which they don't hear from and which they can't engage with.

As part of Tayside Police's social media experiment, the Force is also trialing MyPolice, an online feed-back tool designed to enable the public to have an on-line conversation with the police. The MyPolice service offers those, who do not wish to contact the Force directly, an additional way to give feedback and opinion on policing in their area. Whilst information provided to the service by the public is moderated by non-police personnel, it will be passed on to Tayside Police. Tayside Police are the first Police service in the UK to trial an independent on-line feedback tool that allows the public to raise issues and to be given an answer.

We hope this improved access to community officers and the ability to leave comments, both negative and positive, will help us improve our local policing by being responsive to local concerns and by providing speedy feedback to the public.

Euan is on the look out for more 'followers' on Twitter at www.twitter.com/BridgeofearnPC or you can visit the MyPolice website at www.tayside.mypolice.org.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes have been running successfully for many years throughout Tayside and other areas of Scotland. Within the Abernethy and Bridge of Earn area there are a number of schemes operating but as with everything else the scheme is only as good as the people supporting it.

To help improve this there is now an organised body responsible for all the schemes – the Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watch (AOSNW). In an effort to keep the schemes up to date and their participants well informed, it is important to ensure that any changes in co-ordinators or members be provided as soon as possible to this body. The association can be contacted on 01786 450145 or by visiting their website at www.aosnw.co.uk.

If you have been unaware of this new body and have not already contacted them please update them that your scheme is in existence and who your members are. Should you be interested in starting up a scheme or finding out more about those in your area then contact them on the above methods. Please continue to support neighbourhood watch – it can and does prevent crime.

CHRISTIANS ASSEMBLIES EUROPE

Hello, my name is Fraser, and as well as being manager of the Corn Kist restaurant in Abernethy, I am a pastor in the local branch of Christian Assemblies Europe, a Pentecostal Church now established in 17 countries around the world. (We are also a registered charity, number SC007185). The publishers of the Village Crier have kindly asked me to write a few words for this month's issue. I thought I would take the chance to introduce myself, the church and the former Abernethy Hotel (now 'Douglas House'), and invite you, the reader, round for a cup of coffee, some fine food and a chat!

The arrival in the village of the church, some 20 years ago now, was greeted – perfectly understandably! – with some consternation by locals. The property Pitversie House, which had fallen into partial disrepair, was the focus of a great deal of voluntary work by our members and is now beautifully renovated and frequently used to host meetings and other events.

Some of you may remember residents Stewart and Margie Benzie; since joining the church in 1993 they have now moved to Dollar but spent several years as stewards at Pitversie, Margie also having lived there as a child. You can read their story on our website: http://www.cai.org/testimonies/saved-healed-poweriesus-name.

More recently, around 2003, we were able to acquire and start renovation work on the Abernethy Hotel, which had ceased trading and was becoming more and more run down. It reopened in 2006 and now serves hearty, home-made meals, delicious cakes and superb coffees, milkshakes and smoothies. Please drop in and see us; we are open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. (Mention this article for a free hot drink with your meal!) We are pleased to have been able to make a contribution to preserving Abernethy's historic heritage and hope that this can continue in the future.

To find out more about our church, visit our website www.cai.org where you will find extensive information about us and our beliefs. Briefly, we are a Pentecostal church established in 1980 and now active in Europe, Australia, South Africa and North America. Our members come from all walks of life and you will find that every person has an amazing story to tell about his or her personal experiences with God. We don't force our views on anyone, but are happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more. Once a month, a Christian meeting is held in the Corn Kist hall at 1.30pm on a Sunday; look out for the sign outside and feel welcome to join, especially if you have never experienced a Pentecostal service before. Outside of these times, we come together regularly for fellowship in the houses of our members. The Corn Kist has a selection of Christian books that are available for borrowing; or click on the 'testimonies' section of our website to learn more about God's power today and what it could mean for you.

I hope to meet many of you in the coming months. As usual, we will be helping out at the Abernethy Gala on the 4th June, so come along and make our acquaintance.

Sincerely,

Fraser Chudziak

ABERNETHY SWRI

Meetings are held in the Abernethy Church Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. The subscription is £13 for the year. Visitors £2. We desperately need new members so please come along and give it a try. 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.

The new session began in September when we had a talk on various crafts, including Hardanger and Beadwork by Freda Andrew and Linda Retson. In October we had a talk on Herbal Medicine by Morag Lindsay. In November we had Jennifer Gosling on the work of the Salvation Army. Unfortunately, in December our Christmas Meal at "Hatters" had to be cancelled due to adverse weather. In January we had Allison Messenger who demonstrated recipes from the store cupboard.

Future Meetings are as follows:

Wed 16th February – Talk on Soft Furnishings

by Isobel Robertson.

Wed 16th March – "Hands On" Flower Ar-

ranging by Frances Drys-

dale.

Wed 20th April – "Open Night" – All Wel-

come - Masonic Hall - Programme to be ar-

ranged.

Wed 18th May – AGM – "Four Corners"

demonstrations by mem-

bers.

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller **EVELYN SCOBIE**

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Kinross-shire Community Learning and Development Group Better Place To Live Fair

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WILLIAMSON HALL

The AGM of the Williamson Hall Management Committee was held recently. The Chairman reported on the progress of the refurbishment, double glazed windows, in kitchen and anteroom, ,more efficient radiators, new inner door and painting of the outside of the hall...

Latest purchase for the kitchen is crockery and cutlery for 100 and a superfast dishwasher. This will be of great benefit to those holding functions where food is served. Bookings continue to increase particularly for social events. Thanks were expressed to all those who gave of their time freely to help with the management of the hall. Thanks in particular to Jill Young who has completed her term of office and is not seeking re election and to Andrea Dewar booking Secretary.

Office Bearers elected Chair, Kathleen Baird, Secretary Elizabeth Taylor, Treasurer Gail Meek, Booking Secretary Andrea Dewar.

The Management Committee would like to co-opt someone whose role would be to look after the bricks and mortar of the hall. Ideally someone who has time during the day to liaise with tradesmen when necessary. If interested please call Kathleen 01337840218 or email cluniefarm @aol.com for more info.

THE FATE OF GALA 2011

Following the AGM a healthy discussion took place regarding GALA 2011. This led to discussion regarding fundraising in the village. It was evident that most organisations are seeking funding and it is becoming ever more difficult particularly for those who have buildings to maintain ie. The Hall and the Pavilion. Everyone agreed that Gala week was good for the village, the community came together and had a good time and raised money for the hall. The organising of this event is immense and trying to muster help on the day is difficult. The committee was very grateful to those who have supplied tractors trailers etc over many years and the willing hands who do help on the day.

Gala Committee is a sub committee of Williamson Hall Management Committee .

It was suggested that other organisations should get a share of Gala profits, those organisations who provide stalls keep their profit, various suggestions on this theme were aired. The Tower singers, have organised the Walking Treasure Hunt and car Treasure Hunt, Bowling club Bowling event and playgroup the Disco. And they are happy to continue.

Gala day is a different matter. After a lengthy discussion, no one present was willing to organise and take responsibility for GALA day .It was decided that there would not be a GALA Day in 2011.

Fundraising will be discussed at the next Williamson Hall Meeting on Monday 28th March at 7 30pm at the Williamson Hall.

Kathleen Baird

WHAT NO CHRISTMAS TREE!

I am sure you all noticed there were no Christmas trees either in front of the school at Abernethy or on the green at Aberargie. The bad weather was the blame for this as we were unable to get anywhere near trees due to the snow.

Lets hope for fair weather this Christmas.

Jimmy Swan

A SAD TIME

It is with great sadness we hear of the deaths of Mrs Clifford on the 3rd of February and on the 5th of February, Mr Cooper.

Our thoughts are with both families at this time.

THE MILK ALWAYS GETS THROUGH

During the severe weather which lasted from late November to mid January,

Our postal deliveries were disrupted, and we had to wait 8 weeks for an oil delivery,

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Bob Macdonald





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CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

HILDA CLOW	850641	
MAUREEN NISBET	850417	
ANN HOLINGSWORTH	850384	
LES McINTOSH	850356	
JIMMY SWAN	850569	
(jimmyswan36@googlemail.com)		

ABERNETHY BOWLING CLUB

At the time of writing our village is again under a blanket of snow and winter shows no sign of abating just yet-but don't despair as the committee of the Abernethy Bowling club has the perfect tonic to shake off these winter blues.

A disco is being held in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 12th March. A light supper will be served and tickets at only £5 are available from any committee member.

The green opens for play on Saturday 9th April at 2pm and we look forward to seeing both existing and new members.

The club has active Gents and Junior (from 8 years old) playing sections and this year we are hoping that more ladies will also come along and play. The club has equipment which can be borrowed so no need to worry about having your own bowls. If anyone would like more information about the club please contact either Alan(850424) or Frances (850788).

Alan Learmonth

Secretary

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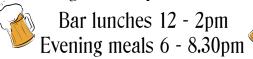
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