



# VILLAGE CRIER



DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

11th EDITION

JUNE 2011

Easter weekend and what a display of colour we have around us; the spring flowers and blossom are magnificent making us forget about the rigours of winter. Maybe the snow created a warm blanket for the underground roots and bulbs. Today (Good Friday) I realise how fortunate we are here, there has been a thick, thick haar and pouring rain in the Edinburgh area!

Many changes have or are taking place in Abernethy since the last issue of The Crier. The major one which I think has affected the whole village, is the closure of The Corner Shop and the circumstances under which this happened. Did any of us ever imagine such a thing could occur here? Sandy and Betty Lamb served this community for well over 40 years and after Sandy's death Betty bravely continued with the business. It makes us fully realise how true the saying is "One only misses the water when the well runs dry" Personally, I would like to say "Thank you very much Betty, for all you and Sandy gave to the Village" I am sure everyone joins me in this expression of gratitude

This seems to be a year of change here-----no longer is there a Women's Guild----- Why? No Gala this year-----Why? Two separate and quite different gatherings of people but are the answers to the questions similar? Any event or organisation needs to have someone or a group of people to accept responsibility. Are we

- a) Too busy?
- b) Unwilling to take on responsibility?
- c) Not interested?
- d) Assuming that someone else will turn up to keep the show on the road?

Who has the answer? Write to The Crier to air your views

Now I have some GREAT NEWS .We have a JUNIOR REPORTER, his first article appearing in this issue. Cameron Rodger, age 9 has volunteered to join "The Staff" of The Crier. He is full of ideas, which is very exciting, so look out for things to come. Those of us already involved in the production of The Crier are hoping that this will develop into not just a column but a full page and maybe more devoted to the Young People in the Parish of Abernethy. On behalf of Anne, Maureen, Leslie, Jimmy and myself "Welcome aboard Cameron."

By the time you receive this the autumn/winter activities will have finished and the summer ones will be well on their way. Tennis has started, The Museum has re-opened, the School will be preparing for Sports Day and other outdoor activities and all the gardeners are busy, busy, busy.

Sadly one of our very keen gardeners passed away this spring. Gordon Aitken, Rose Cottage, Clunie Street was a prolific prize-winner at the local Flower Show-----such a modest man, whose garden was a sight to behold. Personally as a neighbour, I miss our chats over the fence and on behalf of The Crier readers extend our expressions of sympathy to Margaret and family.

Have a good summer everyone. Till the next time,

**Hilda Clow.**



## THE EDITORS VIEW

By now you will have heard there will be no Gala this year.

The Williamson Hall relies on fund raising, hall lets, grants and the Gala to enable the committee to keep the hall the comfortable venue it is.

Over the years the committee has invested a great deal time and money in the hall, upgrading the kitchen, heating and windows and they have further plans for 2011/2012

This, however, costs money and with no Gala to rely on the money has to come from somewhere. Other means of fund raising will be necessary, even asking the money strapped businesses for some cash sponsorship.

Did you know if every household in the village donated a £1, a £1, a little old £1. What can you buy for a £1? This would go a long way to paying the bills and further investment in the fabric of the building.

Would you be prepared to donate a £1 to the running cost of your village hall? Yes, *your* village hall!

There is a plan, still in the early stages, to have a fete in the summer. This will be on a smaller scale than the Gala but will go some way to raising funds for the running costs.

The Hall Committee and the Crier would like to hear from you with your comments on how the Hall could be funded without the Gala.



If you received the last Crier you would have read the letters about the parking problem in the Square and Main Street. I do recall the delight of all the residents when Tower Bakery left the village, "hurrah! lots of parking spaces now they have left." Has it changed? I don't think so.

How are things in the Square, has the parking improved? Are the residents getting together to organise the parking?

Send us a line and let us know how things are coming along.

The Ed



## LETTERS TO THE ED

Dear Ed,

After seeing two letters in the last Village Crier on the subject of parking in the village, I would like to add my concerns on a similar theme. My concern is the parking in Back Dykes. The increasing tendency for people to park on the footpaths on the busy main road is becoming a problem for pedestrians and motorists alike but there is little off-road parking available.

Mothers walking children to school, on the north side of the road, sometimes find it difficult to pass the cars on the footpath and occasionally have to walk on the road. Motorists trying to leave Clow Square and the Bowling Green car park sometimes find the visibility blocked by parking on the footpath on the south side despite the wide footpath.

In these times of budget cuts the Council is unlikely to take the initiative on local issues but is it within the remit of the Community Council to make representations to them on the various problem areas? This might be easier if they could put forward positive proposals to resolve the problems which the Council might eventually adopt into their plans. The Council resolved similar problems in Crieff Road, Perth, years ago with a well designed scheme.

As an architect with my office in the village, I would be happy to volunteer the facilities of my office to help the Community Council to prepare plans to put before the Council. I am aware of other residents in the village with relevant expertise who might be prepared to contribute a little time to a voluntary working party, under the auspices of the Community Council.

Perhaps we can turn our concerns into positive proposals to make Abernethy safer.

Geoff Taplin,  
Rowan Cottage,  
Back Dykes,  
Abernethy.

7<sup>th</sup> April 2011.



## Dear Ed

I was interested to read Bill Drever's article on Tom Cree of the Cree's Inn in the last issue of the Village Crier. I particularly noted the claim that, at the time of his death in 1911, Tom Cree held the record of being the longest licence holder of the same premises, having held the licence continuously for 53 years.

The Abernethy connection to what follows is tenuous as I have lived in Abernethy for only seven years. The next licence holder to exceed Tom Cree's record was my maternal grandfather, Matthew Dickie. When he died, 44 years later than Tom Cree, in July 1955 at the age of 84, He had been the licence holder of the Ayr Arms Hotel and public bar for 56 years.

Mr Dickie's record was beaten many years later. I recollect a press report in the mid 1990s that a lady had retired as licence holder of a hotel in Kingussie, having held the licence for 61 or 62 years.

Burns enthusiasts will be able to pinpoint exactly where the Ayr Arms was situated, being in Ayr's High Street almost exactly opposite the Tam O'Shanter Inn. I doubt if Mr Dickie ever got anywhere near Perthshire as being a hotel-keeper was a 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year commitment.

His 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as licence holder was marked by a dinner and presentation ceremony in the hotel on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 1948. This was arranged by the Ayr Arms Burns Cronies club which was formed by Mr Dickie, a Burns enthusiast, in the depths of wartime around 1944. The members were regular customers in his bar. There were over 60 present at the function and I attended as his only grandchild being, by a substantial margin, the youngest person present. The function was reported at length in both of Ayr's weekly newspapers and in greater length in the National Guardian, a weekly licensed trade newspaper. This report took up most of the centre pages which included several paragraphs reporting the marriage, on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1948, of Christine Thomson and Ian Hume in Dron Church; Miss Thomson being a daughter of the then licensee of the Bein Inn, Glenfarg.

To us in Ayr, which to us was the centre of the known universe, Dron and Glenfarg were places far away and over the hills but, 60 years on, I realise what a small world it is. I wonder if any of the Thomson and/or Hume family members are still living in or around Abernethy?

**R D Jamie**  
25 Sutherland Crescent

## ABERNETHY FETE

The fun starts at 2pm on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June at Williamson Hall. The Fancy Dress competition for individuals, families and groups will be judged at 2.30pm.

We would welcome donations for the stalls of Home Baking, Bottles, Raffle Prizes and Books. Please bring any donations to the Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> June from 11am. All proceeds from the day are for the upkeep of the Williamson Hall.

Parking at the hall is VERY RESTRICTED, so from 1.30pm, we would appreciate if you could leave your car at home or use the Car Park in village or the School Car park which is available on Saturday. We look forward to enjoying the fun on the day and hopefully the sunshine too!!

More information from Kathleen 01337 840218 or Gail 01738 850999.



**HILL RACE** **SUNDAY**  
**2PM**  
**5th JUNE**

IN THE SQUARE  
Contact Colin Morrison 850277



**HALL FETE**  
**SAT. 4th JUNE**  
**WILLIAMSON HALL & GROUNDS**

**FANCY DRESS COMPETITION**  
**GROUPS - FAMILY - INDIVIDUAL**

**BOUNCY CASTLE**  
**FACE PAINTING**  
**RAFFLE**

**CRAFTS AND GAMES FOR KIDS**  
**BOTTLE STALL AND PLANT STALL**  
**CAKE AND CANDY**  
**TEAS AND ICE CREAM**  
**RAFFLE**

**AFTERNOON OF FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**  
**KATHLEEN 01337 840218 or GAIL 01738 850999**

## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

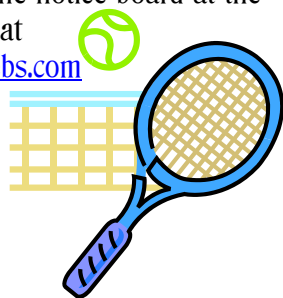
As I write this article, around the end of March, I was encouraged by comments made by "the ED", in the last Crier. Here, we were encouraged to support our local community facilities, including the Tennis Club. So, at time of writing, I would like to keep our community up to date with recent developments. We are very close to securing top-up funding to allow us to resurface the courts. This will allow for safer (and more "predictable"! ) playing conditions. We are also planning to mark out the courts, and hire them out for netball and basketball, so this should bring another useful local sporting facility for use by our community.... and save us using expensive fuel driving elsewhere?

Membership is open to everyone, and courts are also available to hire by the hour. We need to encourage better use of our tennis courts, and would invite everyone to consider popping down on a club night to see what we are about.... informal and most definitely not a threat to Andy Murray !!

We are considering junior nights, and junior coaching, so please keep an eye open.

All details can be found on the notice board at the courts, or on the website at <http://abernethytennisclub.webs.com>

LAWRENCE BEC



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.

The Village Crier is delivered free to 800 Households in Abernethy, Dron and Aberargie

## MANY THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

It was Saturday 15th January and the snow was rapidly melting helped along by the torrential rain.

I was helping Brian at the Cree's Inn diverting water from the burn at Kinclaven corner, trying to prevent it from entering his premises.

At this point I was totally unaware that the water was crossing the Back Dykes and entering my workshop via the fire door at the rear of the premises.

I received a call from Brian Greig to inform me that the workshop was flooded.

As I walked to the garage I met Barry Smith, we both proceeded to the workshop to find two inches of water inside the building.

Brian Greig had raised the vehicle lifts and placed all perishable items above the water level.

Within minutes the workshop was full of able bodies assisting my wife and me in the mopping up process.

My sincere thanks go to Brian Greig, Barry Smith, Jim and Heather Laing and Andy, Lorraine, Nicola and Ryan Dow

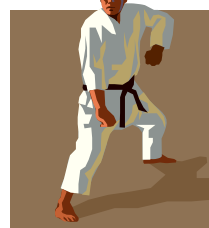
Alastair Scott

## THANK YOU

Irene Napier would like to thank friends and neighbours for the kind sympathy she received at the loss of her very good friend and neighbour, Ruby Ironside. Thanks also to the Rev Wark for his visits to her and for his kind words at the Church and Crematorium.

She would also like to thank Jimmy Swan for all his help and the lovely speech he gave at the Church and also everybody who paid their last respects to Ruby at the Church and the Crematorium.

## GOLD AND SILVER



At the British Karate Championships held in Blackpool in March Keelan Anderson won a Gold for team Kumite and Andrew Duncan and Josh Stocker won a Silver for team Kumite. The boys train with Tora Kai Perth .

Laura Anderson, 50 Main street



## BADMINTON CLUB



By the time The Crier is out the badminton season will be almost over. It has been a very busy year at the club and so we have decided to extend the season through to the end of May and then to start back earlier than normal in Mid September. For those who wish to try the club, these "summer months" are ideal as numbers tend to be lower, meaning you should get more games! The club meets in the school hall between 7pm and 9pm on Wednesday nights. Either come along or call Keir on 850676 to discuss the club.

## VILLAGE NEWSPAPER DELIVERY SERVICE



News Direct is a daily newspaper delivery service that I have been trying to get off the ground in the Abernethy area.

For the last ten or twelve years I have been trying to buy the paper shop from originally Sandy and Betty and latterly Betty, each kept saying that they would sell but the other one wasn't sure. After Sandy died Betty said that Sandy would have wanted her to continue so eventually I gave up asking, and as time went on it became clear that there wasn't really anything but bricks and mortar left to buy.

When I heard about her attack and that the shop was closed, I approached Betty and asked if she would mind if I tried to resurrect the delivery side. She was quite happy with that as she felt that her old customers would be getting looked after newspaper wise. She said she would be opening for a few hours to let people pay her the outstanding paper accounts, and that she would give out leaflets to all of her customers letting them know of our service. I approached Brian Grieg to ask what his intentions were regarding the sale of newspapers in Abernethy, as he had started selling The Courier and I didn't want to stand on his toes as it were. He told me that he had no interest in continuing selling papers and he was only selling The Courier as a good will gesture until someone else took over. He also agreed to give out leaflets on my behalf.

I was of the opinion that I was in with a fighting chance.

I canvassed every house in Abernethy and surrounding area both by delivering leaflets and by taking advantage of the publishers D.C.Thomson's kind offer of their door to door canvassers. The response has not been as good as I would have hoped for, I have even struggled to get children to take on the job of delivering the papers. The wages I am paying is more for six days than the Newburgh shop pays for seven.

All along the way when speaking to potential customers I have made it quite clear that I would give it my best shot but if we get to around August or September and things have not improved I would consider stopping the deliveries because if I can't make it pay in the summer months I have no chance during the winter.

I have been in this trade for over 30 years and I think that I can say that if anyone can make a go of this I can, but I really need the village to support the venture, not that I am of the opinion that the village. Owes me a living, if ,at the end of the day the message is they don't want a delivery service then that's fine, as long as I have done my best I will be happy.

My fear is that there are more people who will want to take advantage of the service as the year goes on but if they leave it too late the service won't be there for them or the people who are currently using it. At this present time I am about half way round the village doing a door to door canvas myself in an effort to drum up some extra business and to see what the problem is, if indeed there is one, and if I can resolve it I will try my best to do so. To cover two delivery rounds I have one six day paper boy who is excellent and so far no Sunday deliverer. As for the second round I am delivering it myself Monday to Sunday along with the Sunday deliveries of the first round. This is not something I had planned

What I have found so far is that some people who once having done without a paper for a few weeks have realised that they don't miss it, and that is fair enough, I agree in that case it's a waste of money. Some people have got into the habit of buying a paper at work and reading it at night.



The cost of delivery seems to be a factor to some people, at 30p per day it could be seen as expensive, but when you compare it to the cost of going to Newburgh or Bridge of Earn, easily £1 per return trip, it compares favourably. I think the fact that Betty and Sandy delivered papers for such a small fee makes 30p seem a lot, in reality we deliver to 800 houses in Perth all paying 30p per day and happy to do it. I am absorbing the cost of bringing the papers from Perth every day, seven days a week so I could not reduce the delivery charge by even a small amount.

The other main reason for people not having a delivery is that they want to look after the local shop, this threw me a bit because as far as I was concerned the local shop had closed and there was not much chance of it opening up again. In fact the shop they were referring to was Brian Grieg's, now it made sense. As I had already talked to Brian and I knew he was only keeping papers on a temporary basis I realised there had to have been a bit of a misunderstanding, this part had not filtered through to the general public. I went to see Brian to ask what his future plans regarding papers were, he said that he would now be keeping Couriers as some of his customers had asked him to keep selling them. This came as a bit of a blow but that's business, you win some you lose some. The bottom line is that if I had known that Brian had been continuing with papers I am not so sure I would have come into Abernethy as The Courier is the backbone of any local newspaper delivery. Still, we are where we are and I am going to give this my best shot. As I have gone around speaking to the older locals, they tell me Abernethy had up to nine shops at one time and all but one has been lost. It would be a pity if this venture were to suffer the same fate.

Thanks for your time

**Ian Morgan**

Tel:- 01337 840192 Mob:-07974 677813

## FOR SALE

Calor gas heater	Two burners	£20
Oil filled radiator with thermostat and timer		£25
Trouser press (Corby Electric)		£10
Architect drawing board		£10

Eleanor Blyth, Abernethy 850763

## ABDIE LADIES CURLING CLUB CELEBRATE 75 YEARS OF CURLING

Abdie Ladies Curling Club held a lunch to celebrate their 75th Anniversary at the Royal George Hotel, Tay Street Perth, PH1 5LD on Saturday 23rd April 2011.

We contacted 79 past and present members of whom 29 were able to attend on the day.

Everything went rather well, the sparkling wine and canapés while new met old and caught up with friends not seen for a long-time. We had an ongoing presentation of pictures old and new, memorabilia, shining trophies and each person was presented with a 75th Anniversary Mug.

Our President chaired the proceedings with aplomb engendering memories and laughter aplenty. Diz Ferguson did us proud with her stories of old and her jokes. Barbara Baird also gave a fine talk after which we surprised her by presenting her with Honorary Membership of Abdie Ladies Curling Club, which she so much deserved, in recognition of all her work over the years for the club. We could not have had better people than Hilda Clow to remind us of our dear friends that have all passed away since the last anniversary and Davina Lister for saying the Curlers' Grace.

The cake, made and decorated by Isla Kinnear was magnificent and tasted wonderful. The flowers were delicately arranged by the hands of Kate Drummond-Hay. The lunch provided by the Royal George was enjoyed by all.

The noise round the tables was incredible and constant, it was good to hear so many people laughing and having fun.

The afternoon was rounded off by Isla Kinnear who gave the vote of thanks.



The day was made possible by the fine teamwork of all the ladies mentioned above all of whom are Abdie Ladies Curling Club members.

If anyone is interested in taking up or coming back to curling in the new season starting in October 2011 please contact:

Anne on 01337 840355 or Lesley on 01738 850038 or email [abdieladies@to-enhance.com](mailto:abdieladies@to-enhance.com).

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Lesley Robinson**



## BEAUTY BEGINS AT HOME

Katie Russell is a *Mobile Complimentary & Beauty Therapist*, offering luxury treatments in the comfort of the clients own home.

Katie was born and has lived most of her life in ABERNETHY. She completed her HND in Beauty Therapy in 2007, studying at Perth College on a part-time basis, whilst being a full time mum to her 4 children. She established her business towards the end of 2007 after gaining experience at Balance Pilates Studio's and Treatment Rooms.

The aim of Katie's business is to offer highly Professional and Individual treatments to her clients in the comfort of their own homes. She brings all the equipment necessary, including portable couch, to the client's home and creates a relaxing atmosphere with soothing music and using scented oils.



The treatments Katie offers range from specifically designed relaxation and de-stressing treatments including Reflexology, Swedish Massage where she uses Tui Massage wax containing essential oils to aid relaxation, Facials using organic products which are also approved for vegetarians and vegans, and most recently *Lava Shell Massage*, to the more practical treatments including, waxing to beauty treatments such as manicures and pedicures. One of Katie's specialties is her 'Pamper Parties', for 4 – 8 guests, which offer 20 minute treatments to all guests at a reduced price. A fun 'girlie night in' to be had by all!

### What are Lava Shells?

Lava shells are Tiger clam shells, harvested as a source of food, from the Philippines, which are highly polished so they are smooth and fit perfectly into the hands.

For your massage the shells are heated using a sachet and saline solution creating an exothermic reaction which keeps the shells hot for up to 1.5 hours. All Lava gel ingredients and packaging are non-toxic and bio-degradable. Katie has a fact sheet for anyone wishing to read more about these shells.

### My Lava Shell Massage Experience

Katie used her Lava Shells to give me a back and tummy massage recently. She created a very calming atmosphere in the room with her relaxing music and the added scent of her oils. The whole experience was very warming and soothing. The deep heat from the shells is comforting and they are very smooth on the skin. Overall I felt more relaxed with Katie using the shells rather than her hands. I was unsure how it would feel on my tummy as this is a sensitive area, however, Katie reassured me, and with the added benefit of natural colonic irrigation, it was a positive as well as relaxing experience.

**SHELAGH PILGRIM**

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

A Quiz Night and Stovies, with very special prizes, is to be held on Wednesday 7th September in the Cree,s Inn.

Teams wanting to take part should be registered with the Organising Committee by the 31st August.



# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A VILLAGE LAD

(MR JAMES DOBBIE)

I was born in 1930 in Aberargie. Our family consisted of my mother, father and my two sisters. Our house was small with no electricity. My father was very proud to have bought this house, for which I think he paid £100. Dad worked as a linesman for the LNER (London and North Eastern Railways) on the line from Glenfarg to Bridge of Earn and needless to say earned a very poor salary. As a result, from the time we were quite small, augmenting the family income was a high priority. My mother worked from time to time at seasonal occupations such as the "tatties" and the "berries" where we were also employed. Her main talent, however, was as an accomplished tailor-ess and seamstress. Consequently, we, as a family, were always smartly turned out.

From the time I was about 6 years old, I was assigned tasks to keep the home fires burning. Our only light was an Aladdin lamp that hung in the living room and my job every day was to ensure that it was filled with kerosene and that the wick was trimmed. My Dad had to cycle every day to Glenfarg and he needed a light on his bike and the cheapest light was an acetylene one which used carbide and when water dripped on it, gas was generated, which, when burned, provided light for him to see. It required daily maintenance which was my job.

We also had no piped water, so all our water had to be carried from the village well in pails. On washing day my mother and I would rise very early in the morning and I would light a fire under the cast iron tub in our shed. I then would carry the water from the well and fill the tub.

When the water heated with some soap and lots of stirring all of the clothes would be cleaned and then ready for the mangle which together we would turn to remove the excess water. After washing, the clothes would have to be hung on the line, weather permitting. In those days each woman wanted to be the one whose clothes were the whitest of the village and it was a matter of pride for my mother to be that one. The social discussions for gatherings could result in some women being discussed as "she does not have the whitest clothes"

My sisters and I walked to school every day despite the weather and some days I can remember arriving there, wet and cold and painfully unfreezing my chil-blains. The school was fairly primitive and the heating quite unreliable. However I had wonderful teachers. I remember Miss Duff and Mrs Smith and of course Mr Ironside, who we called "Tinribs," - but not to his face!!

The school was fairly primitive and the heating quite unreliable. However I had wonderful teachers. I remember Miss Duff and Mrs Smith and of course Mr Ironside, who we called "Tinribs," - but not to his face!!

I have fond memories of the excitement of the annual bonfire, for which we all collected material for weeks in advance. Those for VE day and Guy Fawkes were especially memorable. We loved the impromptu football matches and roaming the hills until dusk in the summer! Happy days without the necessary restrictions imposed on the young of today.

It also had a bank, a cheese factory (the Creamery) three pubs, and at least one garage for the few cars that needed repair.

As kids we also climbed the Round Tower and explored the secret passage from the Tower to Inner-nethy Castle without any thought that the roof might cave in.

I hated school holidays because they were arranged by the farmers to make available child labour, but the pay for our efforts helped buy our school shoes and other clothes. At potato picking time we started at 6:30am sitting on the back of a trailer pulled by a tractor with straw supposed to keep us warm and similarly in the evening for the return journey. While it was bad enough for us children, my mother had been up much earlier preparing my dad's lunch, our lunches and flasks of tea.

When war was declared in 1939 things became even worse for food availability, so I helped out by collecting potatoes and turnips from the fields, not always with the farmer's permission!! I also had a water hen and seagull route in the spring to collect eggs. There was a shortage of nearly everything, so I made wire flowers, crude cigarette lighters and printed photographs from negatives. This also honed my skill as a salesman!!



We had lots of service men stationed near us at that time. First, the Polish soldiers, then the Italian prisoners and the German prisoners. The local girls loved the Italian prisoners, but not so the farmers. The German prisoners were loved by the farmers, because they were hard workers and followed orders.

I did quite well academically at school and when I was eleven, I was given a bursary to Perth Academy, which in those days was a fee paying school. The bursary paid my bus fare and all the fees. Generally the students at the Academy were from the higher earners in society, so the bursary kids were identified regularly by the other students.

I did well enough at the Academy to pass my leaving certificate with enough "highers" to be accepted in engineering by Glasgow University in 1948. The County gave me a grant, which covered my fees and residency in a hostel. Breakfast and dinner were included. I skipped lunch most days because I had no money.

I loved Glasgow University. It was a four year sandwich course, so in the summer I went to work for different companies to learn practical skills. These included Bruce Peebles in Edinburgh, making large transformers and switch gear, EMI in London, mostly in defence electronics and GEC in Coventry in the consumer field. None of these jobs paid much, so I augmented my income with other activities such as a barman during my stay in Coventry. Being a barman quickly teaches you much about human philosophy and it was a worthwhile experience for later in life.

After leaving University I was hired on a 2 year college apprentice course by Metropolitan Vickers in Trafford Park, Manchester where I learned the practical aspects of engineering, which in many cases were quite different from the theoretical. We were assigned to different departments every three months. One of my very interesting assignments was in the export sales division handling Middle East sales. It turned out really to be the entertainment division for the sheiks and other important potential customers. The entertainment was lavish with everything thrown in and I really enjoyed that. The office was in St Paul's Courtyard in very pleasant surroundings.

**TO BE CONTINUED**



## 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](mailto:sallyandchrismcg4@btinternet.com)* We also operate a lunch club service to Abernethy nursery.

### Playgroup News

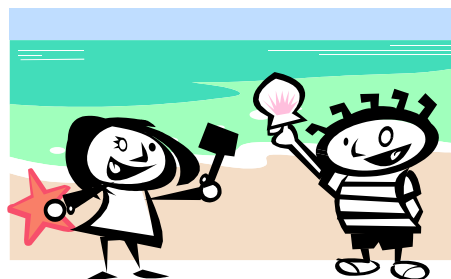
**Registration is currently open and Playgroup have places available for the new school year commencing in August 2011. Please contact Sally (details above).**

### **100 Club winners:-**

March	Sally McGroarty no 67
April	Claire Barrett no 28

### **Active Tots -**

Come along to our New Active Tots sessions held each month (Tuesdays but date advertised in advance) from 9.30 to 11.00 am in the Williamson Hall. The emphasis is on active games and sporty activities and it is suitable for 2 - 5 year olds without having to be registered as a Playgroup member. Costs £3.50 per child (including healthy snack) contact Sally on 01738 850069 or [sallyandchrismcg4@btinternet.com](mailto:sallyandchrismcg4@btinternet.com) to register.



## 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 super fast 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 whose 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.

The 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

The Tower singers, have organised the Walking Treasure Hunt and Car Treasure Hunt, The Bowling Club the 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 Gala Day in 2011.

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

**Kathleen Baird**



## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Horticultural Society year is drawing to a close, in some respects, but this year the society is going to be working on projects through the summer. We've had a great season of talks over the winter and these ended last month with a fascinating talk on alpines. The Society had continued its involvement with the school. Liz and Rachel have been in helping there, planting vegetables and salad crops and also doing some tubs for some colour. All of this helps the school maintain its Green Flag Status.

In mid May the Society is taking its first bus trip and we are off to Pitmuies Gardens near Forfar for a day trip. Places are already fully booked but anyone wishing to make their own way, is more than welcome to join us.

Over the summer, we're going to try to work on the Nurse Peattie Memorial garden to try to tidy it up and add some colour to it. The first planned meet is on the 18th of May and non-members are welcome to join us. Please bring your own gloves and small tools (and a Pimms if you wish (other drinks are acceptable)).

We will restart in the autumn with our annual garden day event at the Williamson Hall. This will be a great family day. Last year we were very surprised by the number of entries into the jams, jellies, drinks and pickles competition given the short notice we gave people. So now is the time to get planning your entries as prizes are given for originality of ingredients as well as for flavour!

Following on from this we will have talks and trips over the winter period starting in the 2nd week of October. Already lined up is a talk on wild mushrooms and other exciting talks too.

**KEIR**

## JUNIOR COLUMN

Hi, my name is Cameron Rodger and I'm the new junior editor of the Village Crier. I was nine in May and I live in Glenfoot. My family members are my Mum, my Dad, my Brother James and my Sister Heather. I am in P4 at Abernethy Primary School and my hobbies are cycling, playing the drums, model railways, drawing and writing stories. I hope to encourage more articles from the kids in the Rainbows, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Youth Club, Brownies, Guides, etc. Let me know at school if there is anything else you would like to see in the children's section.

Cameron Rodger

## MATRIMONIAL DELIRIUM IN ABERNETHY

Matrimonial delirium seems an apt phrase to describe the hype associated with royal weddings this year. We have been enthralled by Prince William's wedding, and that of the Queen's granddaughter Zara may soon cause a bit of a stir in Edinburgh. According to an article in the Perthshire Advertiser, a long time ago in 1840, Abernethy had its own local version of matrimonial delirium. Today the Abernethy section of the PA's District News seems to be used almost entirely for announcements of forthcoming events rather than of actual news. It is a pity that we no longer see curious, humorous articles such as the one that follows. One wonders who the local correspondent was. He certainly had a good turn of phrase.

"The lieges of this, the ancient capital of Pictdom, so widely and well-known for the general calm current of their temper and blood, have shown of late that it is quite possible for them as well as others to forget the even tenor of their way and expose themselves to the contagion of that afflicting malady - the matrimonial delirium. Within these few days, about ten or a dozen have caught the distemper, and although immediate death is not expected to be the result of any of the cases, yet to every appearance the effects of the disease will be visible upon all those affected through life.



We are sorry to have to state that both young and old are seized indiscriminately. The other day a veteran of fully seventy-three summers took badly, and, strange to say, a buxom quean of mellow twenty-five was seized at the same instant. As we have no resident surgeon, the clergymen of the place, with praise-worthy kindness, have done what they could to mend matters, and it is generally believed that the pious exhortations and blessings are, in the present disorder, more efficacious than pills and plasters. Various conjectures are afloat as to the probable cause of the disease. Some insist that it has originated in feasting too freely on fresh fish; others that it is entirely owing to the high temperature of the weather; while a third party content themselves with attributing the whole to Providence. At any rate our old town was never known to be in such a condition before." (PA 13/8/1840)

Presumably there was an abnormally large number of weddings in 1840. Perhaps we should check official record to see if this was actually the case. The descendants of those involved may well still be living in our midst.

Bill Drever

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY SYLLABUS 2011

**SATURDAY 14th MAY** - MUSEUM OPENING 1PM

**SUNDAY 12th JUNE** - GUIDED HISTORIC WALK  
THROUGH ABERNETHY & BBQ IN MUSEUM GARDEN

**SUNDAY 14th AUGUST** - GUIDED HISTORIC WALK  
THROUGH ABERNETHY & STRAWBERRY TEAS IN  
THE MUSEUM GARDEN

**WEDNESDAY 7th SEPTEMBER** - QUIZ NIGHT AND  
STOVIES IN THE CREES INN AT 7.30 WITH SPECIAL  
PRIZES

**SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER** - MUSEUM CLOSING

**NOVEMBER** - DATE TO BE ARRANGED - RED WINE  
COMPANY

## WOULD YOU CREDIT IT?

You may have applied for a new credit or store card or a loan and been turned down. This can happen even to people who owe no money at all. The reason is that when you try to borrow money the lenders give you a credit score. They do this by applying to one of three credit agencies; either Experian, Equifax or Call Credit. These give you a credit score based on several factors. The reason is that when you try to borrow money the lenders give you a credit score. They do this by applying to one of three credit agencies; either Experian, Equifax or Call Credit. These give you a credit score based on several factors. They will check if you are on the Electoral Roll. If you are not this raises doubts.

What they are looking for is a record of you responsibly paying off loans and this is what can catch out the person who has never borrowed money before. There is no record of them making regular payments. Sometimes people have forgotten about disputes over mobile phone contracts at the end of a rental agreement. This may appear as a non payment. Details of people linked to you financially through joint accounts or joint loan applications will appear as well as previous addresses. Details of people linked to you financially through joint accounts or joint loan applications will appear as well as previous addresses. There is also a record of how many searches there have been on your file. If there are a lot it suggests that lenders are refusing you credit. Lastly there may be a warning on your file if someone has tried to use your details fraudulently. All this information is used to give you a credit score.

A poor score means that you will not get the loan or card that you wanted or it will be at a much higher rate of interest so you will pay a lot more for the money you borrow.

You may be asked to provide a guarantor who will pay up if you default. This person has to put in writing that they are willing to be guarantor. Be wary about becoming a guarantor yourself as you could become liable for the entire loan.

YOU can do things about a poor score. You may see adverts from companies who claim they can restore your credit rating (for a fee)! There is nothing that they do that you cannot do yourself.

First you need a copy of your credit report. You can get this by writing to any of the three agencies and enclosing a fee of £2. If you apply on line they will offer you a **free** credit report but to get this you have to submit your bank account details. If you do not cancel as soon as you receive your free credit report you will find yourself paying every month for a credit report at considerably more than £2.

If there is any inaccurate information you can apply to have it changed. If there is a small debt you had forgotten about you can pay it off and put a notice of correction on your account and explain any special circumstances. This is all a credit repair agency can do.

If you want more information call in 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 in the afternoon. Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau. Website [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) gives accurate information. You need to click the Scotland tab in case it is an issue affected by Scot's Law. Benefit's and employment are the same in both countries but Debt is different.

AH

## SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness we here the news of the death of Jean Henderson, Den Park, Abernethy.

Jean was in her 91st year.

## CONTACTS FOR THE VILLAGE CRIER

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



# ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PARENT COUNCIL

I am sitting at my computer with the kids watching the Royal Wedding, the builders drilling holes in the wall, the cat taking cover in the bedroom and a hot mug of tea in my hand (bliss!) so here goes with article number 5.

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 huge thank you:

The Parent Council held a bingo tea on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> March which was a roaring success, the turn out was absolutely amazing and the hall was filled with kids and adults all having a great time. We got through 5 games of bingo and gave away some booze and chocolate eggs as prizes, we had the worlds' largest raffle, huge thanks to all who donated prizes and the helpers on the night who helped to get the prizes to the masses and all who have let me know that they had a brilliant time and are asking when the next one will be.

I don't know when the next Bingo Tea will be (some of us are still recovering) but I can confirm that we raised £521.00 for the school, which we are planning to spend on a range of new reading books which have been recommended to us and requested by Mrs Morrison.

Secondly this month, an update with some good news:

As mentioned previously, I on behalf of the Parent Council am involved in the plans for extending the school. By the time you read this article there will already have been a drop in session to allow parents and neighbours of the school to review the plans which I am hoping you will all agree will make a huge difference to the education of our children both now and in the future. The new school will be over twice the size of the current one with single stream classrooms and five extra rooms for use when the school needs them.

The proposal for the construction period, which is currently being estimated as a year, is to accommodate the whole school in a temporary modular school which will be constructed on the grassed area to the East.

Thirdly:

The Parent Council AGM was held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2011 to appoint the class representatives and Council members for the up coming year. We had a good turn out this year and although not all who were there have signed up to the Council I was very happy to see the increase in support for what we are trying to do.

The Parent Council is the parents' voice within the school and has direct links into all levels of the education sector within PKC as well as the obvious links into the school. Mrs Morrison and her staff are very keen to involve the Parent Council in the running of the school and our views are sought regularly on all kinds of issues and topics.

I would state again that if you are at all interested in being involved in the running of the school, the extension plans, fundraising, interaction with the new team and generally getting involved at any level please come along to Parent Council meetings, the more the merrier and you don't have to be a member or even join the Council to attend the meetings.

The dates for future meetings will be posted in the usual places as part of the minutes from the AGM, I look forward to seeing as many people as possible at them.

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, 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.

Me - Chris Meek (Chair) – [chris.meek1@tesco.net](mailto:chris.meek1@tesco.net)

Parent Council Members 2011 / 2012 - Tim Dewhirst (Treasurer), Lynn Mitchell (Secretary), Kate Butler, Gordon Miller, Athole Skinner, Karen Jerrard-Dinn, Allan MacDonald, Fiona Duncan, Mo McCullie, Katie MacAleese, Claire Fairbairn and Scott Baird

Key dates for the school for June - Summer:

- P7s Transition day to Secondary schools, 16th & 17th June,
- P1 Induction Day, 17th June,
- Sports Day Tuesday 21st June,
- End of term / leavers service, Friday 1st July 10am.



Lastly, a personal appeal:

As mentioned in my last article my wife and eldest daughter had a very near miss on the pedestrian crossing on the main road through the village. They were almost knocked down by a car that pulled out and overtook a stationary gritter lorry as they crossed in front of it. The driver has now been spoken to by the police.

I have continued my conversations with the Community Council members about the crossing and they are looking for support to get the Council to change the crossing to one with traffic lights.

In my last article I asked for information on near misses on the crossing but disappointingly I have only received a few replies. The school have agreed get involved and will be completing a project on speeds and traffic within the village to build an argument for a change to the crossing but all help is appreciated and vital to the cause.

I know that more people have had near misses or incidents at the crossing and guarantee that this will continue until an actual accident occurs and somebody gets hurt if we don't get this changed now. If you are aware of any incident PLEASE email me [chris.meek1@tesco.net](mailto:chris.meek1@tesco.net) or call me on 01738 850999 and I will do my very best to make a difference in this case.

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 happen

**CHRIS MEEK**

## **WILLIAMSON 100 CLUB**

Winners drawn at Hall Meeting on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March were:

### March

No 76 - E Scobie £20

No 59 - J McLean £15

### April

No 1 - A Gordon £20

No 47 - D Smart £15

The 100 Club 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 SWRI**

In February we had a demonstration on "Soft Furnishings" when Isobel Robertson showed us the finer points of making curtains and cushions.

In March, Frances Drysdale demonstrated "Flower Arranging" and gave us lots of hints and tips. Members then had an opportunity to do their own arrangements using three blooms.

In April we had a very good turn out to our "Open Night" in the Masonic Hall, when we had a short talk on Health and Beauty by Ashley Henderson from "Senses", followed by a demonstration by the "Brig Belly Dancers", then everyone was invited to "have a go" - and quite a few did! A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

The last meeting of the session is on Wed 18<sup>th</sup> May when we have our AGM. There will be demonstrations by members, which will include bead making, felting, and making boxes from old Christmas cards.

Meetings are held in the Session House at Abernethy Church, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm, from September to May each year. We desperately need new members so please come along and give it a try. £15 to join. If you are not sure if this is for you, please feel free to come along as a visitor first. Entry £2 per meeting. For further information, please contact Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496.

The new programme will be compiled during the Summer and details will be in the next edition of the Newsletter. From September, details of monthly meetings will appear in the Village Notice Board and shop.

**EVELYN SCOBIE**

## **BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY**

The Club have booked the folk group Gaberlunzie to perform on Friday 2nd September in the Williamson hall. Priority will be given to Burns Club members with any remaining tickets being made available to the General Public. Tickets are priced at £8.

## POLICE BOX

Thefts usually fall into three categories, Targeted Thefts, Opportunist Thefts, and Distraction Thefts



### Targeted Thefts

These are thieves who travel about the area looking for homes or vehicles that provide opportunities for them to commit theft at another time. For example, houses with no intruder alarm fitted, or which are to be vacant whilst the owner is away on holiday, or vehicles with high value items left on display.

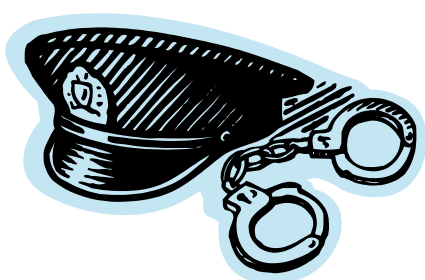
### Opportunist Thefts

These are opportunist thieves who are looking for doors and windows lying ajar to quickly gain access to your home or vehicle and steal anything of value they can pick up such as wallets, handbags, jewellery and cash. These thieves will take every opportunity you give them to take advantage of your security weaknesses whether it is day or night.

### Distraction Thefts

Distraction thefts often involve thieves posing as genuine tradesmen calling at houses during the day looking for business. These bogus workers often claim to represent utility companies or be even from the local council. Their primary aim is to gain access to your home and distract you while they take the opportunity to steal when you are not looking.

Furthermore at this time of year many people take advantage of the better weather and longer days and turn their attention to gardening and routine maintenance of their homes. Bogus workers may approach your home and offer to do work in the garden such as cutting down bushes and lopping trees. Quite often they may claim a part of your house requires immediate repair for example, loose tiles, broken guttering, rotten fascia boards and may intimidate the owner into parting with cash to have the work carried out. Sadly the householder is left out of pocket for a job which is often sub standard and more likely not even completed at all.



### So please remember the following:

Keep vulnerable doors and windows locked even when you are in the house. If others, such as relatives need access make sure they have their own keys. For ventilation, ensure that windows have restrictors fitted to prevent them being opened from the outside. Keep your garage doors and garden sheds closed and locked when not in use. If someone unexpected comes to your door, think **STOP, CHAIN, CHECK.**

**STOP** Are you expecting anybody, do they have an appointment?

**CHAIN** Use a door chain before opening the door.

**CHECK** Ask for identification and double check it. Most utility companies will have a telephone number in the phone book for you to check on their employees who call.

Use your common sense. If you really need a plumber, roofer or gardener would you normally wait about the house for one to call you? **NO.** If you are not sure which tradesman to use, Tayside Police in partnership with Trading Standards operate a BETTER BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP which contain a list of approved tradesmen. If you would like to use an approved tradesperson simply contact them on 01738 476476.

Keep an eye out for elderly or vulnerable neighbours and take the opportunity of introducing yourself so they know who you are. This will help them especially if a criminal pretends to be their neighbour to try to gain access to their home. Sometimes it is difficult for someone who has memory problems but ask them if they have had any new callers at the door. If you are a relative ensure that there is no property missing when you visit, if you suspect bogus callers have been visiting inform the Police immediately. If you see strangers visiting a neighbour make a point of finding out who they are. It's not about being nosy; it is about caring for others. The 'Nominated Neighbour' scheme is a great way of protecting the elderly and vulnerable from criminals – for more information contact your local Community Officer, Euan Mitchell.

### FLY-TIPPING

Another problem we have experienced in recent years, particularly in the more rural areas, is caused by people fly-tipping large quantities of garden refuse and other rubbish at the roadside. We would ask you to report any such behaviour and where possible obtain the makes and registration numbers of the vehicles involved.

## MOBILE COMMUNITY OFFICE

The Mobile Community Office will be available in Abernethy on the following dates:

Thursday 16th June 0900-1200  
Sunday 17th July 1000-1500  
Tuesday 16th August 0900-1200

As previously mentioned this is part of a trial period to determine demand for the service. This has been extended to cover the rest of this year (partly due to my oversight in not including the March to May dates in the previous issue!!!). Feel free to pop in to discuss any issues you may have and thanks to those that have already used the service. If anyone has any thoughts on which days or times would be best to maximise the use of the service please feel free to contact Euan.

Euan can be contacted at Bridge of Earn Police Office, by telephone on 0300 111 2222 or by email on [euan.mitchell@tayside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:euan.mitchell@tayside.pnn.police.uk). Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 to provide information relating to criminal activity of any sort.

**PC. EUAN MITCHELL**

## ABC FLY THROUGH HOME TOWN!!!!!!!!!!



I first hooked up with Abernethy Bike Club (ABC) just under a year ago after reading a Village Crier article about one of the members doing a charity cycle ride. His address was at the bottom of the article so I popped round to introduce myself and find out more about the club.

Within a week I was out on my first Saturday morning ride with them, and was made very welcome, the banter was good as was the route not to mention stunning views. I was a happy man to see more of my new local area.

Within a year I was pulling on an ABC team jersey and over the start line of the 2011 Kinross Sportive on 23rd April. There were 4 of us, working together as a team. Its not a race as such, but it felt like one, it felt good! We worked well together and cut through the riders pack (of approx 600 riders!!) until we were clear of the busy groups and out the front.

We started out fast, too fast we all thought, but it was too exciting to slow down. The ride had its highs and lows as well as its ups and downs. The highest high was most definitely the welcome we received when we rode through Abernethy, our home town, greeted by friends and families with flags and banners and a wee juice bottle top up as well!!!

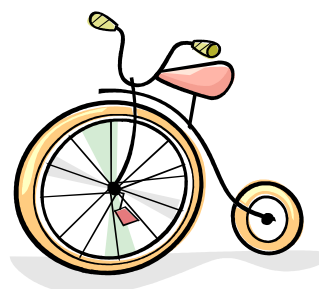
It stayed dry till we were in the Auchterader area, then it started to rain, things got a bit tougher, but we stuck with it, still together as a team. The banter was still there, even during the hard climbs. Its possible we had started too fast, now we paid the price, the hard times had arrived but we stuck with it. The pace was fast, the rain was cold, the last "4 miles" that a marshall shouted to us lasted for what felt like 14!!!! Then into Kinross, past the town sign which was the last "tick box" in my head, but Kinross seemed to go on forever and ever, then at last the right turn into the school and over the line, to finish 80 hilly miles in around four and a half hours, not at all bad.

Everyone finished safe and happy, more Abernethy support met us at the finish line, majik!! as did some hot soup and a bacon roll, more majik!!

A great day out!! I'd like to say thanks to everyone in Abernethy who gave us a shout and a wave (it really means a lot!!) and to Kinross cycling club for organising a great event.

I'd also like to say thank you to the ABC guys for a warm welcome to Abernethy. We (Claire and I) are really happy to be here and call Abernethy home.

**KYLE STRACHAN**





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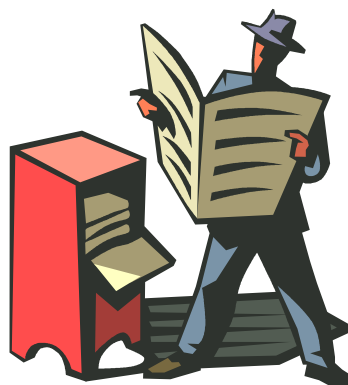


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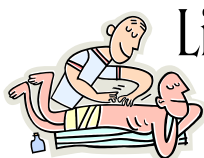
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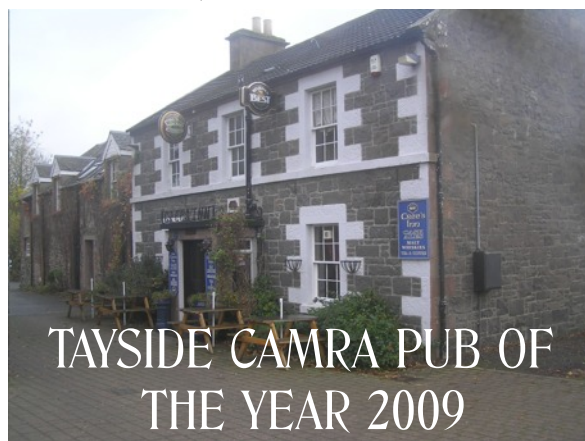
Monday - Friday 12 - 2.30 for lunch

Evening meals served from 5.30pm

Saturday & Sunday meals served throughout the day  
with a Sunday roast available

Closed Monday evening and all day Tuesday  
except for bookings over 10 people

## CREE'S INN



Serving 6 hand pulled real ales



Bar lunches 12 - 2pm

Evening meals 6 - 8.30pm



Booking for meals advisable at weekends

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Wednesday

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Thursday

6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

For more information contact

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Mob 07889 857101

cherylwraight01@aol.com