



# VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

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## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

12th EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2011

CLOSING DATE FOR 13th EDITION 31st OCTOBER 2011

I can hardly believe that the end of July is only a few days away. For me the year so far has been so different, having had to go through the process of selling and buying property. I guess one is never too old to have a new experience!

Having left Abernethy for Bridge of Earn, have I now become the FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT for The Crier? I wonder also if I will have a different perspective on both Abernethy and Bridge of Earn. The future will tell. May I take this opportunity to give my sincere thanks to all who sent me cards and good wishes. I will never forget all the support and help I have had over the last seven months.

Struan House is now in the very good care of Alan and Doreen who are bringing the house and garden back to life, along with Jennifer, Rebecca, Jack and Sam, not forgetting Ozzie and Olly, the two black kittens. Doreen and Alan fell in love with Struan, as I did 43 years ago. Bobby, of course, was the greater part of my attraction and things were never the same after his death.

I think on one occasion I started my contribution to The Crier when I was in Morar, looking out over the estuary of the Morar River towards Eigg, Rhum and Muck. I have just returned from there after the most amazing week of blue skies and hot temperatures; day after day with hardly a cloud to be seen.

By the time you receive The Crier the summer holidays will be just a memory and the autumn and winter activities will once again be picking up the threads; very much a time of transition for many – a new phase in life beginning; starting nursery, starting school, moving to a new school, going on to further education, taking up new jobs, interests, hobbies. In a way there is more “Newness” about this time of year than there is at New Year.

One very exciting event over the summer was the safe arrival of Flora, Bella's daughter and what a delightful sight they made, the tiny foal and the caring mother. Kirsty, of course, was over the moon both with relief that all went well and pride and happiness at such a successful outcome of the long awaited event.

Incidentally, mentioning our four-footed friends, my cat Caesar, has settled into his new home extremely well; thank goodness, as I was a bit concerned as to how he would take the change.

I am hoping that in this edition of The Crier that there may be some response to the queries I put in the last copy. It is only by getting some feedback that solutions may be found.

**Hilda Clow**

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## EDITORS VIEW

As the Editor of the Village Crier I would like to thank everyone who has contributed articles to the newsletter since it's inception.



However, there is one organisation that does not regularly put a report in the Crier, the Community Council.

As we know the CC is the collective voice of the community but it is certainly not vocal when it comes to reporting on it's meetings.

As a past member of the council I think I am in a fairly good position to criticise the present workings of this organisation

I feel that they have lost touch with the people of Abernethy and Aberargie and the bread and butter issues that effect these villages, the things that effect the people. These are issues like state of the street drains, the erosion of the burnside path east of the Cree's Inn to Back Dykes, general grounds maintenance in both villages and verge cutting to name but a few.

The CC seem to be hell bent on giving the operations up at the Binn a hard time and their full attention, we know this is important but there are other very real every day problems that have a direct impact on the people.

The Crier looks forward to hearing from the Chairperson or Secretary of the Community Council with their views or even a meeting report.

I know there are changes afoot with all PKC Community Councils, so a report on these changes would be interesting.

Do we ever hear from our Perth and Kinross Councillors? No article from them either. Newsletters in other towns and villages all have a contribution from their local Councillors. Not us. Come on, lets hear from you.

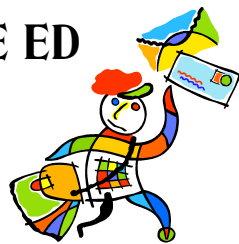
**The Ed.**

**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



### DEAR ED

In response to Ian Morgan's letter in your last issue, I should like to point out that a village newspaper delivery service is very different from an actual business being run in Abernethy which is what Abernethy really needs. Brian Greig did not intend or wish to continue selling Couriers but the strong feelings of many in Abernethy that they wanted to buy a paper in the village and support a village business made him change his mind.

Do we accept that Abernethy may disappear as a village with a life of its own and become a suburb of, for example, a rejuvenated Bridge of Earn or do we try to do something about it?

November 3rd is election day for our new Community Council, all members of the present council having to resign and stand for re-election. Here's your chance those of you who feel you would like to do something to retain our village as a living entity.

**Janet Paton.**

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY QUIZ NIGHT

The Museum of Abernethy is holding another of it's highly entertaining Quiz nights in the Cree's Inn in October (date to be confirmed)

Maximum of 4 persons per team @ £5 per team with mind boggling prizes for the winners and runners up. Register your team before the night so as not to be disappointed.

Contacts Hilda Clow  
Jimmy Swan  
Robin McDonald



## ABERNETHY SWRI

The first meeting of the new Session is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September when we have Sally Fenner with "Come Round the World with Me". Competitions are "A Holiday Photograph" and "Flower of the Month".

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. The subscription this year is £15. 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.

Future Meetings arranged so far are as follows:

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> October – "Planting Bulbs and Baskets"  
with Carolyn Smart.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> November – "Talk on Safety" by Police  
Constable Euan Mitchell.

Wed 14<sup>th</sup> December – "Christmas Meal" – Venue to  
be arranged.

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.

**EVELYN SCOBIE**

## WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

Winners were:

### **May**

No 43 – Jenny White £20

No 62 – Chris Meek £15

### **June**

No 23 – Angela Campbell £20

No 40 – Diana Robinson £15

### **July**

No 49 – Ian Bett £20

No 61 – Chris McInnes £15

The 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.

## JUNIOR COLUMN

Hello again, it's me, Cameron. In this article I will tell you a bit about my summer holidays.

In the first 2 weeks of the school holidays I went to a tiny caravan site in a farmer's field near Carlisle. For the first week, my Grandma and Grandad came with us too, in their caravan. My highlight of the holiday was going down a lead mine. We learnt all about it and we also collected lead ore and minerals such as fluorspar. We had good weather most of the time. We went for walks and played badminton in the field. James and I practised our pipes and drums and played for the farmer and our neighbours!

We came home on Friday, and on Sunday, I left Broxden by bus to go to France with my dad and brother with the pipe band for a music festival. It was very hot in France. We were in a town called Le Puy en Velay. On 2 nights while we were there, we went to 2 different families for a meal. One of the families couldn't really speak any English and we couldn't really speak any French! The other family like to play golf. They said they will come and visit us when they come to play at St. Andrews. They have a son called Louis who is going to be my pen pal.

Next weekend I am going away in my caravan again to Glasgow. While I'm there I will be playing in the World Pipe Band Championships. I'll let you know in my next article how we got on!

**CAMERON RODGER**

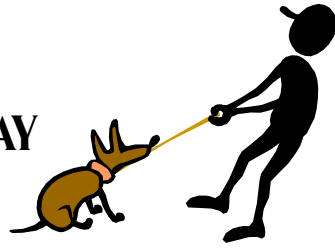
## CRIER AGM

The AGM of the Village Crier will be held on Wednesday the 9th of November 2011 at 7.30 in the Cree's Inn.

All welcome

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

## BONNIE'S DAY



Come on Mum and get up, I tried to shout as I jumped on to the bed and put my two white paws on her, the sun is shining and I want to see the geese are ok.

My mum pulled the sheets over her head and told me to get back to bed for an hour, which I did reluctantly. I could not bear it any longer seeing the sun streaming through the gap in the curtains.

Finally my Mum got the message and got up. After coming downstairs my mum feeds the cats and me too, and sorts the grain and bread for the geese and not forgetting bread for the birds. As soon as the door opens I am off like the wind which I just love chasing round the garden, my Dad says I have a racetrack made. My mum opens up the pen where Ozzie and Skye sleep at night and out they come, next she opens the hut door where Bud and May sleeps. this is where I am naughty and chase them, I enjoy being chased back. I am always getting a row but I do stop in a wee while. After my mum has breakfast we went for a walk, normal I thought. I was off my lead for a run when I saw this bird walking in front of me. I had never seen anything like that so near, but my mum told me to leave, (I was not going to touch it anyway), this turned out to be a young jackdaw which was just not able to fly. It went a walk with us for a good few yards then went into the long grass which I expect it's mum would find it. I was praised for not chasing it, and got a good cuddle. After my long walk, it was a normal day lazing around till after lunch we went our afternoon walk. It had started to rain by then and I had my coat on, this too turned out to be an adventure for me as I was passing the gate into the field I saw this strange animal which was blowing its breath at me. Whow, this was scary and I stepped back, there were smaller ones in the fields also. Calves and a big cow. were standing at the gate, so my mum said what they were. My mum has my lead hanging round her neck. I suddenly felt I had to get security so I pulled at the lead till she put it on me, we finished the walk. I was glad to get home and settle down on my comfortable bed.

It was a while till dinner and then I torment the cats, Smokey especially. I really love him but I just love having a carry on with him, sometimes he gives me a bite which is usually in fun. Gabby, the coloured cat just waits till I am passing and hits out at me with her paws. Then there is Ete who is a very timid black cat, I am very fond of them but they do not play with me the same as Smokey. When it starts to get dark I get agitated and just know that the time is near to put the geese in their pens incase Mr. Fox comes, (so my mum tells me) I get into my place while Ozzie and Skye go into their pens ok. but Bud and May do not go in themselves. That is where I come in. I lie down so they cannot get past me and my mum gets behind them and herds them into their shed. I was naughty for a while as I wanted to have the last word and used to try and nip Bud in the gap of the door but I suddenly got some sprayed water on me and told to stop that, so that put the end to that. Back into the house for the night. I usually get a wee treat while mum and dad watch this picture box called a television, sometimes I watch dogs and cats on it. This was a nice day for me and I feel quite contented, and I will be going off to bed wondering what will happen tomorrow.

**Bonnie**

## BADMINTON CLUB

ABC (of the Badminton variety)

I've noticed that the bike boys seem to have claimed ownership of the ABC title in the Crier lately, so felt it only right to try to reclaim the title for the ABC's that have been around longer. The badminton club is by no means the oldest ABC in the village, as I am sure the bowls folk will point out and even they are pre-dated by the Abernethy Bunjee Club (who of course built the tower for jumping off).

Anyway, back to more mundane matters. Badminton is back for the 2011/12 season and will restart in the School Hall on Wednesday nights (7-9pm) from the 5th of October. Our season, this year, will be curtailed by the renovation work in the School so it is likely we will look to organise games in other locations for the 2012 part of the year. All levels are welcome and we can provide equipment for those who've lost their rackets. Either come along on a Wednesday night or contact Keir for more information - 850676.

**Keir Allen**



## TOP GUIDE AWARD



Abernethy Guides Morven Graham and Eilidh Simpson have been awarded the highest award a Guide can achieve. In June there was a special Guide meeting when parents came and joined the Guides in forming a horseshoe and taking part in a Guide meeting.

Morven and Eilidh, now aged 13, both joined the Guide movement as Rainbows at 5 years old. They became Brownies age 7 and then Guides. They have been working for over a year towards the Baden-Powell Challenge Award which consists of ten challenges in five categories. They worked at Healthy Lifestyle, Global Awareness, Discovery, Interpersonal Skills and Celebrating Diversity. These all culminated in an adventure day when they scaled climbing walls and completed a high ropes walk.

Lorna Baird was the last Abernethy Guide to win this award and that was 22 years ago.

The award was presented by proud Guiders Jane Brown and Debbie Murchie who run the Abernethy Company between them. Jane is also Landward Divisional Commissioner with responsibility for Perthshire from the Carse of Gowrie to Balbeggie.

After the Award Ceremony a large and magnificent cake was cut by Morven and Eilidh and thoroughly enjoyed, with a cup of tea, by the assembled guests.



## SENIOR CITIZENS OUTING

We set out from Abernethy at 11am in a lovely comfortable bus and nice music to listen to, passing through all the lovely rural routes. The sun was shining and as we passed by Alva Glen and the sun shone on the hills which were aglow. Stopping at Dobbies garden World for a comfort stop for a wee while, I enjoyed just browsing and seeing the beautiful water features and the plants and also small animals were even for sale. Not usually having the time to browse I thoroughly enjoyed myself. Then it was on the bus and off to Troon. The weather was not very kind to us but I did manage to walk along the promenade and saw some ducks and ducklings, and a few people walking their dogs. I had a scarf on and an umbrella so the weather did not bother me. I even had my ice cream. Just a leisurely stroll was really relaxing and enjoyable. Getting on the bus at 4p.m. and going to The Fenwick Hotel for high tea, this was absolutely wonderful. The minute I entered there was a lovely atmosphere. The dining room was well set out with large round tables which had lots of room for each person. The service was very good, and tea and coffee were quickly refilled when requested. The meal was excellent and the large scones which were just out of the oven were delicious, and even cakes to follow. The hotel staff were so friendly and all in all a place to recommend to anyone. The trip home was very pleasant and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. I shall remember this day and would like to thank everyone who organized and the care we all had, also the sweets and the jokes on the bus. Thank you again for a wonder time

**Lillias Johnston    Wellfield**

THE VILLAGE CRIER NEEDS YOUR STORIES,  
CLUB REPORTS AND ADS TO SURVIVE.

IT IS ONLY AS GOOD AS IT'S CONTRIBUTIONS.

IT IS ALL COMPILED, PROOF READ AND  
DELIVERED BY VOLUNTEERS.

IT COMES THROUGH YOUR DOOR FOR FREE.

THE BIGGEST COST IS THE PRINTING.

SUPPORT THE VILLAGE CRIER

## ANYONE FOR TENNIS

At last, we now have our new courts they are looking great, and being well used.

With the help of various grants and funding, and lots of hard work from some dedicated committee members, we managed to achieve the amount needed to get the courts finished, and by May we had 2 spanking new courts.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the successful open day we held on 25th June. We had a qualified coach present on the day, and she helped by offering hints and tips to all budding players, especially the many children who attended. Teas, and refreshments were served and lots of games helped fill the couple of hours on a pleasant Saturday afternoon. In addition we raised a very small amount of money for the club

As a result of this open day, we have now managed to increase membership, and we are pleased to say we now have a lot more juniors who are making good use of the courts. Adult and family membership was also boosted. Having said that, we are still very happy to see new faces on Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm. Please come along, regardless of ability. If you want to try it out, you can have a free first visit on any Wednesday evening, weather permitting.

However, I am also sad to report that, in a small village like Abernethy, we have had a couple of potentially dangerous incidents recently. We have already seen some people climbing the fence to get in, and I can't understand why anyone would be so desperate to play tennis, as they only have to access the website to get details on how to play. Falling from the fence would have been painful ! There are telephone numbers at the court for someone to come and open the courts, and both facebook /website have all necessary contact information. The courts are available to non-members, at only £2.50 per person per hour, so not a lot of money.

Also, there has been another incident, which has been reported to the police, where some juniors on the court decided to vandalise a storage box we use to keep balls etc. Also, a number of tennis balls were taken, or possibly whacked into Powrie Park. Club members will be making random visits to the courts, at various points in the day, but can I ask that everyone help to keep the courts safe by looking out for any suspicious activity.

Local police will also make random visits. The courts and facilities are there for us all, and it will be a real shame if a minority of people abuse them. The land is owned by the Council, but it falls to the tennis club to insure and maintain the courts. Club members are responsible for the future of the courts, and we will take the necessary action to make sure the club stays safe and available for all to use. I would also stress at this point that there is a £2.50 per person charge for non-members, and the courts will be visited regularly to ensure this is managed. New courts cost money !!

On a positive note, over the summer we will have various adult, family, and junior events, with a race night being planned for November. Coaching is being arranged for juniors in the October holidays. Thanks again to all new members, to everyone who helped at the open day, and to everyone involved in taking the club forward. As always, please visit our website on [www.abernethytennisclub.webs.com](http://www.abernethytennisclub.webs.com)



**Lawrence M Bec**

## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

(PROGRAMME FOR 2011/2012)

Wednesday 5th Oct. The History of the Comrie  
Earthquake House

Chris Palmer

Wednesday 2nd Nov. The History of the Paisley  
Shawl

Prof. Smout

Wednesday 7th Dec. Traditions of Perthshire

Margaret Bennett

Wednesday 1st Feb. A History of Perth and Kinross  
Police

Willie MacFarlane

Wednesday 7th Mar. An Illustrated History of the  
Blackwatch

Jill-Van-Milligen

Wednesday 4th April. AGM & The Historical Art of  
Kilt Making

Pat the Kilt

Meetings are held at 7.30 in the Museum of Abernethy

All Welcome



## ABERNETHY PLAYGROUP

**Sessions:** Mon, Wed and Fri, 9.30  
a.m. to 12 noon.

**Venue:** The Williamson Hall, Kirk  
Wynd

**Cost:** £6.00 per session

**Age:** 2 to 5 years

**Lunch club/drop off to Abernethy  
School Nursery also available  
(limited places)**

**Taster Session held on first Friday  
of every new term from 10.00 am  
to 11.00 am for new families**

Registration Forms available by  
contacting Hayley Barnes, Play-  
group Secretary on 01738 851056

OR

Email -

[hayley.barnes83@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hayley.barnes83@yahoo.co.uk)



**IMMEDIATE VACANCIES AVAILABLE**

As outgoing Chairperson of Abernethy Playgroup, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their support over the past year. The committee, for working so tirelessly to ensure the Playgroup can continue to run, the parents for their continued support and of course to our wonderful staff, Ang, Babs and Mo for their continued dedication and the great care they take of our children.

It hasn't been an easy year, as numbers have been down and, certainly as the new committee took over last May our financial situation was extremely worrying to say the least. However, after a number of very successful fundraising events which included our Ready Steady Cook Evening, Family Hallowe'en Disco, Ladies Pamper Night and Sponsored Ben Nevis Climb (photo below), we have raised nearly £2,000. I would just like to say a massive thank you to all the parents and members of the public who supported each of these events and ensured that we have been able to hand over a far more promising financial outlook to the new committee. I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Abernethy Community Council, whose generous contribution to our fund, has ensured that the children were able to have a Summer Trip this year. We took them to the new and improved Noah's in Perth where they had a morning of play, followed by lunch, before being brought back to the village in time for the children to make it to afternoon nursery.

The committee details for the year 2011/2012 are as follows:

### Office Bearers

Chairperson	Rachel Shepherd
850909	
Treasurer	Clara Smith
850912	
Secretary	Hayley Barnes 851056

### Ordinary Members

Anna MacNeill  
Sally McGroarty  
Joanna Allan  
Beth McIntyre (Fundraising)  
Leanne Gourlay (100 Club)

Once again, a big THANK YOU to all of those who have supported us over the past year, and I hope we can continue to rely on your support and keep this valuable service in the village for years to come.

**Anna MacNeill**

# ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS



**Work with children and young people:** we have seen encouraging signs of progress in Abernethy. We have tried things, made mistakes, and learned lessons. Overall, this is a challenging and exciting part of our Church life. The need now is for more adults to give time to help with Sunday Club, Youth Clubs, and Holiday Clubs.

We have the children but it is difficult to plan ahead with few helpers. Unfortunately the summer holiday clubs had to be postponed because some of the few committed volunteers had unexpected family health problems which they had to give time to.

**Holiday club:** we hope to have a holiday club in the October break for **P2's- P7's Thursday 20th - Saturday 22nd- in the Williamson Hall** (except Saturday, venue to be arranged) , ending with a celebration in Church on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Stewardship Campaign:** This is not just about money. The Minister's other word for stewardship is commitment. This year in September we will be looking at how we can use our skills, talents, and time as Christians to benefit the local community, or parish, not just the church (see above, and below about a community meeting). 'Many hands make light work', according to the Bible (joke). We have to keep a realistic eye on money too, so this year we will think about **giving more effectively**. So how committed are we to our church and parish? Can we be more effective?

## **Fischy Music**

In June **Local Earn Valley Churches Together** sponsored a visit from **Fischy Music** at Dunbarney Church on a Sunday afternoon. Fischy Music work with children, churches and communities to promote emotional, social, spiritual health and wellbeing in children through songs. (you may remember we sponsored a visit by them to Abernethy and Arngask Primary in January.) It was, for those who attended, a happy, exciting, all age, informal act of worship. The Fischy Music leaders were delighted by the congregation's response and found it very encouraging. We shall consider having them back next Pentecost.

**2011 is a special year for the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible- 400 years since publication**

People around the globe are celebrating the most famous and widely used version of the Bible in all of history. Some of the local churches in this area are joining together to celebrate this and other versions of the Bible by sponsoring a visit from the Bible-world mobile.

**The Bibleworld Mobile :** will be coming to Dunbarney Church car park, Bridge of Earn **from 19th -23rd September 2011**. We are working with the local schools' staff to transport the children there. There will also be an open evening for adults and other children on Thursday evening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**It is an interactive trailer that travels around Scotland. Linked strongly to the Curriculum for Excellence framework, the Bibleworld programme is for school and community groups alike. It has excited both children and teachers!**

**Why Dunbarney car park? After a scout round by folk from Bibleworld it was decided this was**



The Mobile is a 45ft, 14-ton expanding classroom divided into six activity zones – aeroplane, spaceship, music, museum, library and quiz zone, each one helping to bring the Bible and its message to life in an exciting way. It offers P5-S1 pupils a lively and stimulating introduction to the Bible and aspects of the story of Christianity and can take up to 13 classes each week, with a maximum of 36 pupils in any one classroom session. Throughout the 70 minutes they are on the trailer, pupils will engage in lively, engaging, educational activities ranging from computer-driven quizzes to cuneiform writing in "The Museum."



**Back to Church Sunday** is on September 25<sup>th</sup> for this year. If you were thinking of coming to see what Church today is like and what you might contribute, or if you have not been to church for some time, that might be a good day to start. Look out for notices **After School Club** With the closure of the After School Club in the Williamson Hall, we are considering having a club in the Church Session House. This would necessarily be smaller scale, at least in the beginning. What we need now is an indication of demand to see if it would be feasible. Please contact Enid Gebbett (850977) if you are interested.

### Open community meeting

The Minister is considering having an open community meeting to discuss matters relating to the village, for example coping with extreme winter weather, looking after the elderly. A similar meeting was held last October in Glenfarg which led to a number of simple and practical things being done by the church for the community. Keep an eye open for news or notices.

### Regular Activities

**Sunday worship** services at Abernethy, 11am. Tea/coffee and chat after most services

**Children's Sunday club** in the church hall during Sunday worship, except during school holidays

**Open Doors;** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the Month from 10 -11.30 am. Get together for tea, coffee and a chat in the Church hall – at the east side of the Church.

**Teen Café (S2-S6)** we intend to start in the new term on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September, Church hall, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m., cost £2.

**Youth Club** (P7-S1) now meets on **Monday nights** from 7.30-9.00 p.m. at the **Williamson Hall**, cost £2.

**Contacts:** Minister Rev Alec Wark: 01738 850 607  
Session Clerk, Alex Johnson: 01577

830 776



## THE POET'S CORNER



The Village Crier is hoping to begin a Poet's Corner, inviting all readers to submit poems written by yourselves.

Poems from Young and Old, written about a special occasion, a birthday, a wedding, or some other day to remember for example.

Our greatest Bard Robert Burns put pencil to paper and wrote on many subjects and observations. I am sure there are many budding poets out there just waiting for a chance to publicise their writings.

At the end of every year the Crier committee will look at the years submissions and award a prize for the best.

To start the ball rolling I am going to stick in my effort but I am sure you can do better.

### Cos I'm a Farmer

They can't get to me, I do what I like,  
I spread mud on the road  
And sometimes it is .....dung,  
I do what like, I don't really care.  
Why, cos I'm a farmer.

I burn the stubble and smeeek people oot,  
I pollute the burns and kill all the troot,  
I don't give a dam and do *you* ken why,  
Cos I'm a farmer

I have no number plates nor rear breaking lights,  
No bolisha beacon to keep the folks right,  
My tyres are bald but I care not a jot,  
Cos I'm a farmer.

The road tax on tractors is about 50p,  
Agricultural diesel, we get it all free,  
We get loads of money from the EEC,  
I don't give a hoot,  
Cos I'm a farmer.

We get subsidized for oor sheep and oor coos,  
I can even claim back my wife's new red shoes,  
We're really poor as all you can see,  
Why, cos I'm a farmer.

JS

# THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A VILLAGE LAD

(MR JAMES DOBBIE)

## PART TWO

In my last year at University I had joined the University Air Squadron and they flew from Scone, so that was handy for me, as someone paid my transport home.

I loved flying especially in the gliders, which were pulled into the air with a winch. We also flew Tiger Moths and Chipmunks.

When I left Glasgow I managed to be accepted by the Manchester University Air Squadron, which flew from an airport called Woodvale on the coast between Southport and Liverpool. I finally managed to change to the RAFVR because my ties to Manchester University Air Squadron were becoming tenuous.

When my apprenticeship was completed I joined Metropolitan Vickers as an electrical engineer working in the Special Applications division. It was very interesting work, mostly military control systems; especially naval, so I spent lots of time on warships. Some of my projects included the first British Beam Rider missile control system on the HMS Girdle Ness, the first British guided missile destroyer. I also worked on a system to control the deceleration of the arrestor cables on carriers. It was a terrible problem for the Fleet Air Arm because the cables would pull the hooks from the planes as they landed, with the result of many lost planes and lives.

At that time in Britain, conscription was still in place but because I was working on vital military projects, I was exempt. I had the best of both worlds; flying on weekends, usually long weekends, three two week training camps per year usually in airports near very beautiful English villages. We were often invited to a welcome dinner by the local dignitaries at which time my Wing Commander would have to reply to the local toasts. Of course he knew little about the village so he would send me a day or two early to prepare his speech with local content, really impressing the locals. This served me well, because when the budget forced cuts in the number of officers, I was never let go because he liked my speech writing.

This served me well, because when the budget forced cuts in the number of officers, I was never let go because he liked my speech writing.

I was the highest paid engineer for my age at Metropolitan Vickers and was making £3000 per year and paying lots of tax, so in 1957 I decided to look at other opportunities.

One day, coming back from Plymouth through London I had quite a wait between trains and I noticed in the newspaper that Canadian Westinghouse were looking for engineers, so I went to the hotel and they offered me a job. However, if I did not stay for two years, I would have to pay back my passage. I turned it down and when I did, the interviewer said American Westinghouse was at another hotel, so I went there. Their offer was as different as night and day. The gentleman who was in charge of the very large facility in Buffalo, NY said: "We will bring you over first class on the ship. Stay for 30 days and if you don't like it we will send you back. Further if you are married before you come we will bring your wife also.

So in July 20, 1957, I was married in Manchester to Patricia, my wife of over 53 years and on August 2, 1957 we sailed to New York, a wonderful honeymoon paid for by someone else.

Westinghouse looked after us like children, arranging weekends and ensuring the best doctors, when Pat became ill after our first child. What an introduction to America!!

I worked there for four and a half years and I repaid them quite well with many patents. I built the controls for the first digitally controlled paper mill in the United States and many other things with steel mills and antenna systems. During this time my second daughter was born and my mother made her first air trip to attend the christening. I remember her telling me that on her arrival, after the long flight, on attempting to rise from her seat, she thought a certain paralysis had set in, only to find that she was still attached to her seat belt!!

In 1961 I decided to move into computers and was hired by General Electric in Phoenix, Arizona. in Phoenix, Arizona. This was where my third daughter was born. As a principal engineer I was asked to help design a new computer system to challenge

This was where my third daughter was born. As a principal engineer I was asked to help design a new computer system to challenge IBM. I knew nothing about computer systems, which was something of an embarrassment because my position was quite senior. I decided that before everyone found out that I did not know anything, I would better learn, so I took a Masters Degree in computer science and graduated in 1967. By that time I had been promoted several times and was now running a very large system design team

Some of my very interesting experiences were representing GE in the East Block as their technical liaison. Unless you have worked under communism, it is difficult to describe it. I have many stories about my experiences, but they would take too long. I had my personal FBI agent interview me before and after every trip.

A project I proposed was to build a new system, which was unusual but I needed to convince Toshiba in Japan to pay for it. They agreed, provided that I would come and lead the team of US and Japanese engineers, so I spent many very interesting months in Japan

In 1961 Raytheon asked me to come and design a new computer system under very favourable personal circumstances. I did this and a few other very successful systems. The facility was located in Santa Ana in Southern California and the family moved to Newport Beach, which we loved.

However, Raytheon finally decided to move the operation to Boston, which was not acceptable to the family. I had another offer from Varian Data Machines to head their engineering operations in Southern California, but because Varian and Raytheon were business partners, Raytheon asked me to stay for six months to assist in the transfer of the operation to Boston. I transferred it all in two months and then I had four months on full pay before my next assignment.

My wife and our three children enjoyed this very much. We took the train to Mexico and explored part of that country.

After my six months, I joined Varian Data Machines also in Southern California and designed a radically new computer system, which was very successful.

After my six months, I joined Varian Data Machines also in Southern California and designed a radically new computer system, which was very successful. Varian asked me to go to Czechoslovakia to rescue a project that they had bid on and which was in real trouble. It was to be the first satellite banking system in the Eastern Block and was in a mess. Again, dealing with the communists was a challenge. However after many interesting experiences I successfully completed the project.

My Czech counterpart was the President of the State Bank. One day he said to me; "Mr Dobbie, it is very important to me that this project is successful". I gave him the usual assurances and he said: "You don't understand. My friend applied for \$2M of hard currency and his project was not successful and they took him and executed him". I now understood.

After Varian, where I had many other very interesting projects including some in Britain, I was recruited to a company in Northern California; Memorex; which was a company in the high tech business, in serious financial trouble.

I and two others took it over and in less than five years made it successful.

After being the CEO for several high tech companies in Silicon Valley, I retired in 1996.

Pat and I had a very beautiful Spanish type house in Palo Alto, but it had very little land. Pat decided that in my retirement I would be bored stiff if I had no land and projects to keep me busy, therefore to the consternation of our children, we sold our house in Palo Alto and bought a property on an acre in Atherton. The house needed to be remodelled, which took us about a year and we have been here since 1994. Our children, although all "flown the nest" now love where we live.

In Atherton I took an interest in civic affairs, was elected to the planning commission, the general plan committee and finally to the Council in 2008. In 2010 I was the vice mayor and now I am the Mayor.

Atherton is a beautiful town of about 7000 residents, 30 miles south of San Francisco and is heavily wooded with lots of oak trees.

My three daughters and seven grandchildren are all now growing up which is a little sad especially in the summer, where our pool no longer resounds with the children's laughter it once had,

My oldest granddaughter is finishing her PhD in bio-

My three daughters and seven grandchildren are all now growing up which is a little sad especially in the summer, where our pool no longer resounds with the children's laughter it once had, My oldest granddaughter is finishing her PhD in biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego and one of my other granddaughters is a junior in environmental science at Harvard.

My children are children no longer and are all happily settled with their own families.

I often think of the beginnings of it all in that small hamlet of Aberargie.

## **GARDEN DAY**

**Saturday 24th September 2-4pm**

**Williamson Hall**

Abernethy Horticultural Society invite you to our third Garden Day. As in previous years, we will be running competitions for all ages and offering plenty of family fun.

We would like the kids (2-12 years) to design a 'Home for a Gnome' to give Gnomeo, our garden gnome, the home of his dreams. You can do whatever fires your imagination and anything goes. We are running a photographic competition, with two age categories (10-16 year olds, and adults). You can enter any picture of horticultural interest.

There will also be a repeat of last year's highly successful (and tasty) categories: home-made jams, jellies, pickles and beverages, which will be judged on flavour and interest. We thought our judge would appreciate the chance to taste some baking too, so we've added an extra category: baking with fruit or vegetables as the main ingredient.

To keep them busy on the day, the kids can take part in art and craft activities, tissue paper flowers, colouring and more. And of course, they can see all their fantastic 'Home for a Gnome' entries displayed.

We will have a packed plant stall, plus a chance to swap seeds, exchange your spare seeds for something different.

Anybody feeling lucky can buy tickets for our raffle. The apple press will be available, so you can turn any windfalls to juice or cider.

We thought we needed something to keep the adults out of mischief and kids can have a go too, so there will be cherry stone spitting outside the hall with a 'Top Gear' style results board in the hall. Who will be crowned cherry stone champion 2011?

There will be a chance to get a break from the excitement with teas, coffees and cakes. Perhaps we can also tempt you to visit our cake stall so that you can enjoy some more baking at home later. All this and lots more.....

Adult entry £1, children free.

(Membership of the Society is £10 & includes entry to Garden Day & all this seasons talks.)

All entries should be delivered to the Williamson Hall between 10-11.30am.

Entry forms will be available on the day.

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## POLICE BOX

### STREET SPORTS 4 ALL



During July and August your local Community Officer, Euan Mitchell planned, set up and ran various 'Street Sports 4 All' events in Abernethy and in other towns and villages in the Bridge of Earn and Kinross-shire area.

For those of you that don't know about this scheme, it is run by St. Johnstone FC in conjunction with the Perth and Kinross Community Safety Partnership. It is funded by the Council and, under the banner of 'Street Sports For All', St. Johnstone coaches take a mobile sports pitch (slightly smaller than a tennis court) to various locations throughout Perth & Kinross. The court itself has netting round it in order to keep everything contained within the court.

The facility is often targeted towards areas where there are concerns about young people becoming involved in offending or antisocial behaviour and is a very good tool in getting to know the young people in a very informal surrounding. It has been used successfully in a number of communities across Perthshire in the past. As well as bringing entertainment and health benefits for young people, it has been found to play a significant 'diversionary' role in reducing youth offending or reducing alcohol consumption by young people.

Street Sports has its own set of rules which centre on minimal contact, respect and fair play. During breaks in play our local Community Police officers, Special Constables as well as youth workers, sports professionals from St Johnstone FC and helpers from other partner agencies will use the opportunity to introduce themselves and get to know the young people and continue to build strong community relationships amongst each other.

These sessions are free and open to all school age children in the area. Places do not need to be booked and all are welcome on the evening. Further dates are in the process of being arranged so look out for posters advertising these events in local shop windows and notice boards in the coming weeks.

### BOGUS PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

Householders are once again urged to be on their guard against cold callers who phone or email unprompted and offer loans, rebates or rewards.

In recent weeks Tayside Police has received a number of complaints, or intelligence reports in relation to people – some times elderly and vulnerable residents – being called or emailed by people claiming to be from banks, financial institutions, government bodies and even lottery operators with promises of ready cash. However, an upfront fee is invariably requested to allow the main transaction to take place.

In many instances the householder has been advised to make a payment using Ukash or at other money transfer outlets. Action Fraud provides a great deal of advice in relation to all types of fraud and advice about how to avoid becoming a victim of the fraudster. For further information see – [www.actionfraud.org.uk](http://www.actionfraud.org.uk)

### ASK THE POLICE

The Ask the Police website - [www.askthe.scottish.police.uk](http://www.askthe.scottish.police.uk) - is an official police website that contains comprehensive answers to over 700 of the most commonly asked police related questions.

The aim of the site is to help you find the answers to your questions quickly and directly, without having to call Tayside Police to ask for the information. The site contains answers to a wide selection of nationally-asked questions. Information that is specific to Tayside is being added to some answers, where appropriate.

If you cannot find the answer to your question and still need help, please call our non-emergency number 0300 111 2222, or in an emergency, call 999.

### NEW COMMUNITY OFFICER'S

Constable Victoria Riches is the new Community Officer with responsibility for rural Kinross-shire; whilst Constable Sadie Allan will be the new Community Officer with responsibility for the towns of Kinross and Milnathort. They will work alongside Euan in an effort to deal with community issues causing concern locally in their areas and also helping out each other when the opportunity arises. Both will be based at Kinross Police Station.

## MOBILE COMMUNITY OFFICE

The Mobile Community Office will be available in Abernethy.

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. Alternatively you can anonymously contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to provide information relating to criminal activity of any sort.

**PC MITCHELL**

## ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES IN THE HORSE WORLD

Walkers past the pony field on Station Road have wondered why Bella was by herself on one side of the field. The two boys, Charlie and Mac were together on their side of the tape but Bella had no one nibble her neck and back.

Then on 27<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30am she was no longer alone as a tiny chestnut foal had appeared. Bella's owner, Kirstie Graham, had been waiting for this happy event with increasing impatience and worry since early June and was with Bella at the moment of birth. The little hoofs are first to appear followed by the rest of the foal contained in a bag. Kirstie broke this bag and saw Flora take her first breath then start struggling to stand on her long wobbly legs. This is instinctive so that new foals can take the first vital feed.

Flora is registered with the Arab Horse Society as Silver Bluebelle. Her sire is a beautiful chestnut Arab stallion, Lebard Silver Blue Sovereign. Flora is quite unconscious of her distinguished bloodlines as she frolics with her Mum. You can go and see her over the wall and Mum, Bella, is happy to accept an apple or a carrot but do not go in the field.

If you would like some of Flora on your garden there is manure in bags at the field gate that you can collect, free of charge, but return the bags.



Higher up the village, at Craiglinn there was a sadder event two days later.

Anne Scott has owned Sparky, a Welsh section A pony, for twelve years and her boys learned to ride on him. He was 29, which is a good age for a pony, and had the chest disease COPD which was making breathing more and more difficult for him. When he lost interest in eating Anne decided it was time to say 'Goodbye' and had a heartbreaking farewell in his own field on 29<sup>th</sup> June. She is left with happy memories of Sparky's cute behaviour and her two Arab horses, palomino Claire and grey Smokey.

**AH**

## WALKING TREASURE HUNT

As a fundraiser the Williamson Hall is holding a Walking Treasure Hunt around the village.

This is to be held on Sunday 11th September at 2pm starting at the Hall.

The teams can be Families, Clubs, anything you want.

The cost per Team/Family is £5.

Finishing at the Hall with Pizza and Refreshments. Come along and support **your** village hall.

**JS**



## **‘THE WORST CASE SCENARIO’**

When someone is in debt the thought of bankruptcy may loom as the worst horror or a possible desperate end to their worries so it may help to learn a little more about it.

You may hear the word ‘sequestration’ used as this is the Scottish legal term for bankruptcy.

Assets are transferred to a trustee who takes over the client’s financial affairs and deals with creditors so the debtor does not have to deal with them. Normally after a year the bankruptcy is discharged and the client can start afresh, free from some, but not all debt, although if he is working he may have to make payments to creditors for a further two years. The sequestration is not advertised in the press and employers or friends do not need to know.

So, what’s the problem?

The trustee sells the clients assets to raise money to pay the creditors, so the client may lose their home. If the house is jointly owned and the joint owner cannot buy the debtor’s share then the house may still be sold although the joint owner will receive money for their share. It’s no good giving everything away before declaring bankruptcy as gifts made and possessions sold in the five years before sequestration are scrutinised.

The client’s contract of employment may state that the employer should be told about sequestration and if the client is in the armed forces the commanding officer must be told. There is a list of jobs that a sequestered person cannot do such as being an MP, a councillor, an accountant or solicitor, an estate agent or running a charity or acting as attorney over someone else’s financial affairs.

Debts that still remain to be paid are student loans, court fines and debts obtained through fraud such as overpayment of benefits.

The existing bank account may well be frozen and it could be difficult to open a new one. Although the sequestration may be discharged the details will remain on the client’s credit record for six years. So, how does it happen?

The existing bank account may well be frozen and it could be difficult to open a new one. Although the sequestration may be discharged the details will remain on the client’s credit record for six years.

So, how does it happen?

The client’s creditors may make him bankrupt. If he owes more than £3000 he can be sequestered by statutory demand from his creditor or creditors. The court costs will be added to the debt and the court will appoint a trustee. This is more likely to happen if the creditors suspect a client has got assets such as a house that can be sold.

The client can apply for his own sequestration if he has debts of more than £1500 and meets other conditions including being apparently insolvent. This is proved by creditors taking him to court and sheriff’s officers making a charge for payment or if a statutory demand has been filed. He may also apply if he is on a low income or receives certain benefits.

He could complete a Debtor’s Application Pack and submit it to the Accountant in Bankruptcy with a fee of £100 or consult an insolvency practitioner, who will charge a fee. If the client has enough assets this could be paid after the sequestration.

This is a brief glance at a huge subject. I am not suggesting men are more likely to get into debt by referring to the debtor as ‘he’. All information applies to women as well. Less drastic actions such as a Debt Arrangement Scheme or a Trust Deed may be more suitable. More about these another time. 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 on debt but little on sequestration.

**A.H.**

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## IT'S ALL KICKING-OFF

Tick. Tick.

Into the last minute. 1-0 down. Emotions running high. Atmosphere electric. Spectators transfixed. Fever pitch.

It's a corner.

Tick. Tick.

The attackers jostle for position. Defenders close in. This is it. Last chance. All or nothing. Deep breath. Concentrate.

Tick. Tick.

The ball is fired across. Striker slides in. Keeper stranded.

Goal!

The wee man has done it! The home fans go wild. Extra time!

19 years on and the memories of that 13 year old boy are still strong. For that was a match I went on to win, claiming my first national Subbuteo title. Scottish Junior Champion. The prize? Representing Scotland at the European Championships in Hamburg in 1992. I've been playing ever since.

Roll back to 1989. Just another day at Primary School in Broughty Ferry, Dundee. I hear a local boy (Greg) wants to introduce us to a game he plays. A football game apparently. Played on a table. It was called Subbuteo. I'd never heard of it but I was no stranger to a game of "Headers and Volleys" in the park or "Worldy Cup" so we went along to find out more.

Little did I know that that evening would shape my life. As soon as we saw the little plastic men, painted in all different kits, sliding around on their bases, the way they moved when you flicked them across the table, and the things you could do with a little practice, we were all hooked.

The organised game, played in sports halls with referees is a far cry from playing on the carpet on Christmas Day, which I believe was a common occurrence in the 60's and 70's (slightly before my time!). While for some it was a chance to live out their football dreams and score goals with their heroes, for me it was more about playing the game itself. (Having said that, Dundee Utd and Scotland always seemed to win during practice matches in my loft).

It's a skillful game for sure with millimeter precision required, deft touches and forward thinking. This all happens at speed. Think Snooker: Angles. Weight. Position for the Next Shot. Think Chess: Strategy. Outwitting your opponent. Face to face. Think Football: Tactics. Practice. Match day nerves. Think Winning. Losing. Shaking hands.

Nowadays, staring at a screen is much more popular. Always online. Always connected. I'm a digital artist ([www.garethc.tel](http://www.garethc.tel)), video gamer and smart-phone tinkerer. If you're like me, you might struggle to switch off. Becoming a dad, a step-dad and now a fiancé, has shown me what really matters.

So, I have this notion. A movement if you like.

It's about promoting traditional gaming values. It's about interacting with your friends and family, face to face, an alternative to video games and online leisure pursuits. It's about feelings that last. Creating memories.

I know that sounds touchy-feely and I'm not saying that table football is the answer but I want to give you and your families the option. Phase 1 of the plan has begun. For those of you that came along to the Subbuteo Open Night in Williamson Hall in July, Thank you. (Special thanks to the volunteers for their invaluable help). I was delighted with the response and feedback. You had a small taster of what will become 'FlickForKicks'.

If you want to help shape the way forward, you can have your say by filling in a short survey at [www.flickforkicks.com/villagecrier](http://www.flickforkicks.com/villagecrier)

If you want to help shape the way forward, you can have your say by filling in a short survey at [www.flickforkicks.com/villagecrier](http://www.flickforkicks.com/villagecrier)

To share your Subbuteo experiences, ideas or find out what's happening next, please get in touch through [www.flickforkicks.com](http://www.flickforkicks.com) I'd love to hear from you.

Gareth Christie  
Abernethy

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## JAMESFIELD FARM

ABERNETHY



FARM SHOP & RESTAURANT

Open 7 days

Breakfast, Lunch and Afternoon Teas

Stockists of fresh meat and organic veg.

**01738 850498**

[jamesfieldfarm@btconnect.com](mailto:jamesfieldfarm@btconnect.com)



## HINE OPTICIANS

40 GEORGE STREET  
PERTH PH1 5JL

**PERTH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE  
CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD**

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 2007 - 2008



**01738 441394**



HOME VISITS FOR THE HOUSEBOUND AVAILABLE

## STEVEN SWAN

Joiner  
Carpenter  
Locksmith

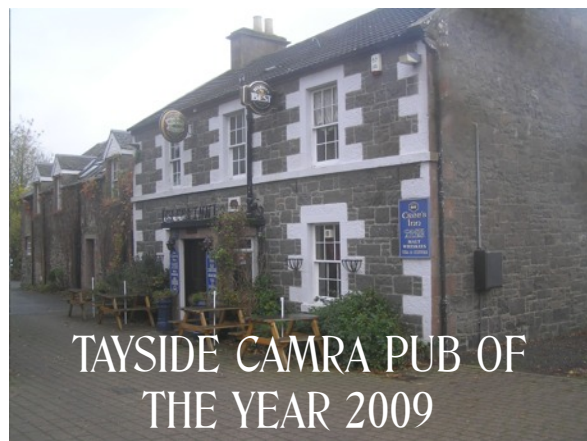


*INTERESTED IN FUEL SAVINGS  
REDUCING CARBON FOOT PRINTS  
THEN IT MAKES GOOD SENSE  
TO USE THE LOCAL GUY*

*Mob. 07808 793512*

*Free Estimates*

## CREE'S INN



Serving 6 hand pulled real ales

Bar lunches 12 - 2pm

Evening meals 6 - 8.30pm

Booking for meals advisable at weekends



**01738 850714**



TOTAL WASTE  
MANAGEMENT  
7 DAY SERVICE

2 - 40 CUBIC YARD SKIPS

RECYCLED TYPE 1 AND TOP SOIL FOR SALE

PHONE MEL

**01577 830833**

FAST AND FRIENDLY

LOCAL SERVICE



## CHEYNES QUALITY FOODS

HIGH STREET, NEWBURGH KY14 6AQ

**FILLED ROLLS, BAGUETTES, VEGETABLES  
SOUPS, STEAK PIES, FRESH MEATS, DELI,  
AND COOKED MEATS AND SALADS**



AWARD WINNING STEAK PIES

TUES - FRI 8am - 4.45pm

SAT - 8am - 1pm

Closed Mondays



**01337 842942**



## THE FAMOUS BEIN INN

SUNDAY LUNCH SERVED ALL DAY



PRIVATE FUNCTIONS CATERED FOR



MORNING COFFEE



AFTERNOON TEAS

enquiries@beininn.com

tel. 01577 830216