



VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

Info@villagecrier.co.uk



ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

13th EDITION

DECEMBER 2011

CLOSING DATE FOR 14th EDITION 31st January 2012

Hi, Folks

I am looking back at last December's issue of The Crier and strangely enough the date of writing my draft copy is the same as for this year 28th October. Little did I think, a year ago, I would no longer be living in Struan House and would have taken up residence in Bridge of Earn. What a difference a year makes! Not one of us knew last October what the end of November had in store and also the succeeding weeks -----the Paper Boys and Girls ploughing their way through the snow to deliver The Crier, the wonderful efforts of Brian and Duncan to keep us supplied with groceries and vegetables and the good neighbourliness in the village, helping with shopping, snow-clearing and all-round support which after all is what village life is all about.

As The Crier reaches its 3rd Birthday it has grown in size as every healthy baby does and more people are sending in contributions as it should be. Like every other newspaper and journal The Crier is the voice of the people and everyone is entitled to his or her say be it controversial or otherwise. Letters to the Editor is your chance to put forward your thoughts, opinions, ideas etc and your letter will be printed provided you have supplied your name and address.. If you wish this to be with-held that is your privilege and will be respected at all times. If anyone has comments to make please write or get in touch on-line rather than phone. That way your thoughts can be made known; it is well-nigh impossible to translate a phone call into print. While on the subject of communication we would look forward to hearing from some more of our overseas readers

The winter activities are now in full swing and Christmas is looming. I don't know if I am thinking correctly----is Christmas starting earlier and earlier every year? I am so aware of areas in shops already devoted to Christmas, even before Hallowe'en, Guy Fawkes Night and Remembrance Sunday have passed.

What a mish-mash; Santas and Christmas trees, fancy dress, broomsticks and masks, Fireworks and tins and boxes of Poppies. Perhaps it is time we all stood back and looked at each festival in turn, what it is and what it stands for and forget about the commercial side of things.

It is now a year since I acquired The Cat. He survived the move to Bridge of Earn and is just as much at home here as he was in Abernethy. He certainly seems to be fully in charge in Balmanno Gardens.

Personally I feel sort of "in between". I have settled into Bridge of Earn but having lived in Abernethy for 43 years (more or less to the day!) I still feel very much involved and interested in the village. It is a strange situation, as I am no longer a resident of the Parish I do not have the same right to express an opinion or do I?

Things are changing, the Community Council of which I was so much a part in years gone by, the Church where I have been a member since coming to Abernethy in 1968, The Gala, the Hill-race, the first Flower Shows and of more recent times the Museum and The Crier. I was an in-comer but never made to feel one, probably because of Bobby, but I lived longer in Abernethy than anywhere else in my life and so I want to continue to make a contribution to the village.

On that philosophical note I will close wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2012.

Hilda Clow.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

EDITORS VIEW

Summer has gone and the nights are drawing in with winter on its way.

As we know there have been and there will be further cut backs in Council services. To you and me that means road salting, snow clearing, litter picking and other services may be affected, so it's up to us to fill the gap.

Why not clear your neighbours pavement of snow and ice, especially if they are elderly, and while you are there see if they are needing anything at the shops?

Instead of stepping over that bit of paper or coke can, pick it up and bin it.

Let's not just moan, let's do something about it.

I see from my window the Saltire, or something that resembled an old rag, has been removed from the Tower along with the fish, the fish was damaged by that gale back in May. The flag will no doubt be replaced, I hope that will be the same with the fish as it is part of Abernethys industrial history.

As you will see there are another three excellent poems in the corner, the Crier goes from strength to strength.

The winter activities will have started by now, The Auld Abernethy Society, the Badminton club to name two, lets make sure the clubs and associations are supported. Don't be frightened to go along and swell the numbers, they will be glad to see you.

I would like to wish all our contributors, advertisers, deliverers and especially our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you for supporting the Village Crier and I hope you continue to do so in the coming year.

The ED

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LETTERS TO THE ED

Dear Mr Editor,



I write to you in response to your entry in the poets corner titled "Cos I'm a farmer" Shocking as it may seem to you Mr Editor but FARMERS DO CARE! What we don't care for is small minded insults towards the local farming community printed in a small friendly community newspaper. I feel it was an unjust attack and an abuse of your editorial position to run this entry. Expressing a personal distaste to a part of the local community in such a way is reprehensible and calls your position into question. I wish the Village Crier Committee to address this issue and bring about measures to ensure no other articles of this distasteful nature are disseminated in print round the local community again.

In response to the ambivalent attitude written about subsidies given to farmers through the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), let me say this. The CAP is possibly the most successful policy to come out of Europe and has raised the standard of living to every single European citizen by reducing the cost of food. It has created a stable and secure supply of food within Europe even when farmers receive a price for their produce well below the cost of production.

Mr Michael Wilson
Cordon Farm
Abernethy



Dear Crier

I am writing with complete disgust and annoyance about this so called 'poem' that was in the recent edition.

Whomever 'JS' is, while they may think themselves some kind of poetry genius akin to likes of Wordsworth, they are most sadly mistaken. How dare they? Who on earth do they think they are to think that it is acceptable to write this rude, antagonistic and disrespectful piece of rubbish? This should never have been included in a newsletter where the predominant area is farming!

This individual is so incredibly mis-informed that it is almost laughable. Having lived in farming communities all my life, I have yet to see any farmer leave anything on the road, (if this does happen, it is cleaned up as soon as possible) burn any fields or pollute burns (all of which result in SEPA being at

the door in seconds)

While all agriculture vehicles have the perk of not paying road tax, they must be road worthy. Agricultural diesel is free is it? Wow, must find out where this person gets his fuel from. Evidently not where we just had to spend thousands filling up our tanks. Oh, which we cannot use in other vehicles or else HMRC come a knockin'!

Subsidies and money from the EEC? It would be nice if they were as big as this individual seems to believe that they are! Unless you are diverse to point of the ridiculous then these are seriously lacking in magnitude that is portrayed here. No other industry has the economic worth of their goods held in the hands of outside forces who can change this worth on a whim. Yet every single person on earth depends on farmers to survive. So forgive us if we get a little help to be able to supply your Sunday roasts. As for the new red shoes comment, well, if they can find a way of doing this, then let me know! Although I would prefer a silver pair personally.

So this future poet laureate is completely wrong and evidently ignorant.

I hope for the sake of the entire farming community that this individual writes a full apology in the next edition and refrains from any more mickey taking of any professions in the future.

Kindest regards Caroline Pye
Wester Greenside Farm Abernethy

Dear ED

Plans are afoot to change the internal appearance of Abernethy Church or the Kirk of the St. Bryde to give it its proper name.

Adapting the interior to accommodate wheelchairs is fine, but why the need for major upheaval such as ripping out pews and moving the font?

Name and address supplied

WITH REGRET

It is with regret we hear of the death of Mrs Dolina Wilkie (Nina), Kirklands, Perth Road, Abernethy. She lived to the grand old age of 92. Our thoughts go out to her family.

ABERNETHY ONLINE

While we hope you all agree that the Crier is a wonderful read, as a quarterly publication, we understand that with life moving so fast nowadays, we can't always catch everything that's happening in time.

If you are digitally inclined and you take the newfangled social networking in your stride, then help is at hand. The Abernethy Facebook Group has been running for around 2 years and currently has over 220 members.

It's a great place to advertise local events, ask questions, have a rant, sorry, politely voice your concerns, and generally connect with villagers, past and present. If you need to assemble a group of volunteers quickly, this might just be the way to go.

Credit to Donna Lyell for setting up the group, which is becoming more popular all the time. The more people that use it, the more useful it will be.

To become a member, just sign up / log in to Facebook, search for 'Abernethy, Perthshire', and apply to join the group.

Let's not forget about the Crier website though, where all back issues are available for download and the printed articles are organised into categories too. Just visit www.villagecrier.co.uk

Gareth Christie

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

In the Museum

2012 Programme

1st February A History of Perth and Kinross Police
Willie MacFarlane

7th March An Illustrated History of the Black Watch
Jill Van Milligan

4th April AGM followed by
The Historical Art of Kilt Making
Pat the Kilt

THE POET'S CORNER

WINTER



No more flowers to be seen
Until spring time when they're keen
Winter winter everything's white
Look at this; it's a beautiful sight



Snow is falling on the ground
Everywhere and all around
It is tingling in the light
Also there throughout the night

Many animals go to sleep
Until spring their sleep will keep
Playing in the snow, it's there for everyone
Big and small, they all have fun.

Jonathan aged 12

JUNGLE JINKS

It was the match of the year in the jungle
When they contest the Lion King cup
An hour to go before kick-off
And the stadium was nearly full up

The animals were playing the insects
And were strongly fancied to win
Even the insects supporters
Admitted their chances were thin

The first half ran true to form
The animals went for the kill
A first minute score and another two more
Half time saw them leading three-nil

The insects coach he was worried
You could see him scratching his head
So he took off one of his strikers
And put on another instead

He couldn't match the animals for power
But he thought he could beat them by speed
So the sub that he picked wasn't strong but was
Slick
It was Charlie "Legs" centipede

The noise in the ground as the game turned
around
Was just like the old Hampden Roar
The animals were sick, Charlie scored a hat-trick
Then brought up his tally to four

Alas and alack there was no way back
For the disjointed animals side
To the insects great glee it ended four -three
Hero Charlie had turned the tide

A Tynecastle scout who was watching the rout
Was keen to sign Charlie for Hearts
He said to the coach, I don't want to encroach
Why wasn't he on from the start?

Said the coach, he's a star- my best player by far
He tackles and dribbles and shouts
But perfect he ain't and my main complaint
He takes ages to lace up his boots!

Bob MacDonald

CHRISTMAS BABY

A peaceful, swaddled, sleepy form.
A downy head, a dimpled, starfish hand;
So helpless, pierces me with sudden love.
Grips my unready heart with iron band.

Behind that wide, unfocused gaze,
There lies, so infinite and deep
A mystery that quickens in my soul
As heavy eyes close in embracing sleep.

You stir, and give a fretful cry.
Some love and milk and stillness comes again.
If I could only keep you safe,
And guard you from your road of pain.

So helpless, I can only give you love
But you will turn, and leave me with my loss.
Love is so strong, it endures what must come.
The world awaits as you take up your cross.

And life will never be the same again.
This tiny form so fragile and so small
Contains a power that will change the world
And brings new life and meaning to us all.

AH

BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

GABERLUNZIE CONCERT

The Williamson Hall has seen world famous artists before, Peter and Gordon to name but one, so Friday the 2nd of September in the hall was nothing new.

The hall was packed, standing room only with an atmosphere you could cut with a knife, the aroma of McEwans export wafted across the room with a hint of smokey bacon crisps.

As the clock ticked nearer and nearer to 8pm the sweat trickled down my neck in anticipation of this world renowned Scottish folk group performing here.

The door burst open, the crowd went mad, Ga-bur-lun-zie, Ga-bur-lun-zie and onto the stage strolled the two gods of folk.

The hall was thumping with "The road and the miles to Dundee", women were throwing their underwear at the stage, the bouncers were finding it difficult to keep the crowd under control and to stop them reaching the stage.

OK,OK, a slight exaggeration of how it went, but nonetheless it was a great night.
All profit made was donated to the Williamson Hall.

The next great night will be the annual Burns supper on Saturday 3rd February again in our village hall, See you there.

J Swan

BITS AND BOBS

WANTED

A greenhouse, size 8' x 6' or larger. Will dismantle and remove, will also clear up the site and remove rubble etc. Phone 07715 475831

FOR SALE

Small Armchair £10. Contact H. Clow Tel 813886

FOR SALE

"Century" side by side double buggy, reclining with 2 cosy-toes and parasols. Very good condition. £45 ono

Mothercare travel cot, seldom used. £20 ono.

Can be viewed anytime. Tel. 01738 850569

WILLIAMSON HALL

Are you a club or an organisation which needs a venue in the afternoons?

The Williamson Hall, Abernethy is available to hire any weekday afternoon at competitive rates.

...please contact

Andrea Dewar on 01738 850960 or
andrea.dewar@talktalk.net

Gail Meek on 01738 850999 or
gail.meek@tesco.net

for further details.

So whether it's crafting, floral art....

...photography, knitting, sewing...

...sports or a book group...

...if your club needs a home...

ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Along with all Community Councillors in Scotland, all of Abernethy's Community Councillors have had to stand down, and if they wish stand for re election with effect from 3rd November.

Three of our existing councillors have put themselves forward again, and five new nominees have come forward. As we have nine places available, it means that we do not need to have an election, and your new Community Councillors are:-

Kate Butler	Simon Downes	Donna Gillespie
Bill Hughes	Angus MacIntyre	Colin Morrison
Alistair Robinson		Ann Sangster

The minutes for our meetings are posted on the village notice board outside the Surgery in Main Street – should you wish to contact us, the email is abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

The first meeting of the Community Council will take place in the Primary School at 7:30 pm on November 17th, where we will elect individuals to the posts of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and set dates for future meetings – all of which will be published in the next edition of the Crier.

Our meetings are public meetings and we look forward to seeing you there.

Abernethy Community Council.

BAIGLIE STRAIGHT CYCLE/ FOOTPATH



Further to my article in the Crier earlier this year, I have been in contact with Ms Robinson, Principal Engineer (Traffic and Road Safety) as well as Mrs Elizabeth Smith, MSP who is in support of the notion of such a path along the Baiglie straight.

Two responses from Ms Robinson were of particular interest. The first dated 2nd September reads as follows

1. It is noted that you consider that a path would be beneficial for pedestrians and cyclists. I agree but only made reference to cyclists as a cycle path was mentioned in the original enquiry from Elizabeth Smith MSP.

2. The footpath you refer to on Edinburgh Road from Craiglowan School to Gleneagles is a cycle path and is a continuation of the path from Bridge of Earn. This project was also combined with an accident remedial scheme. As such it was partly funded from our Road Safety Budget. The footpath you refer to on Gleneagles Road again is a cycle path and was funded by Sustrans, the Council and the Scottish Government. This project forms part of the "Around Perth Cycle Route".

3. As advised the route in question was due to be assessed as part of our new rural footway programme but unfortunately this budget is not longer available. You are correct in that all requests had to be assessed against certain criteria. This included assessment based on accidents, usage, links to Council policy, access to community facilities and Safer Routes to School. I'm afraid I cannot comment on the information you received previously.

In terms funding, as you appreciate resources are limited (particularly this year and for the coming years), and it is therefore very important that we carefully consider our priorities. In terms of Traffic & Road Safety my resources are focussed on accident reduction and prevention, the provision of essential traffic signing and road markings (e.g. warning signs, regulatory signs), Safer Routes to Schools, and the implementation of measures to introduce necessary restrictions. Any other schemes, such as new cycle paths, tend to be funded from external sources such as the Scottish Government and Sustrans (who also have access to Government funding).

With regard to Maintenance, decisions are based on need. Each area supervisor is asked to put forward locations that they deem require a maintenance treatment (on the basis of their inspection regime) be it patching, resurfacing, surface dressing etc. For carriageways we compare against SRMCS (Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey) information to establish it is consistent with the overall criteria set down country wide for maintenance interventions but we have no such comparator for footways and so it is assessed on the basis of overall need. This then compares footways across the entire area against each other. We also have a duty to maintain what is there, so even if there is a good footway on one side and deteriorated one on the other, we have a duty under Road (Scotland) Act 1984 to repair it. No such duty exists to provide new. The funding mechanism is also different in that maintenance are not creating another asset but having to maintain the existing ones with a reduced budget.

I advise that the works being carried out on Edinburgh Road are footway works. At that location the footway was in poor condition – it had potholes below our intervention levels.

I hope you find the forgoing helpful.

Regards Jillian Robinson
Principal Engineer (Traffic & Road Safety)

Following further enquiry, I received this communication from Ms Robinson on 21st September

Dear Mr Brownsmith,

Sustrans receive funding from the Scottish Government which they make available to local Councils. Attached are details of the funding made available this year through their community links programme. Please note however that match funding must be provided. We made 8 applications this year but have only been able to progress 3. All of them are small schemes because of the match funding element. I think Sustrans also provide funding to community groups who make applications but I'm not sure if this would including funding for physical measures such as paths.

With regard to the Government Grant Funding for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets as far as I am aware we have no commitment from the Government that this funding will be extended beyond March 2012.

in one of my previous emails I indicated what kind of schemes we must consider as a priority.

As advised the Baiglie Straight is around 3km long so it would be quite costly to put a cycle path along the length of it. Costs are estimated at around £300,000, excluding traffic management and welfare. For a scheme of this size we would need to provide match funding of half. In the current financial climate we would be unable to do so.

Regards
Jillian Robinson
Principal Engineer (Traffic & Road Safety)

Eric Brownsmith
39 Sutherland Crescent Abernethy

CAROL SINGING

"Oh Come All Ye Faithful
Joyful And Triumphant
Come Ye Oh Come Ye
And Join In The Song"

Yes it's nearly that time again! Carol singing for charity.

We will set off from the Square on Sunday 18th Dec at 6pm.

Join us , appropriately dressed for the weather, especially the cold.

Armed with torches, adorned with tinsel (fancy dress if you like) and be prepared to sing your hearts out for this years charitable cause the Cornhill MacMillan Centre in Perth (Charity No SC039907).

For your efforts you will be rewarded with warm mulled wine and mince meat pies, these will be served up in the warmth of the Church hall.

The event may be cancelled if the weather is bad.

For further information contact Pat Miller 850879

SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Evelyn and Steve Scobie, 25 Den Park, Abernethy, celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday 8th November 2011.



WIPE OUT YOUR DEBTS!

NO WIN NO FEE!

A gentleman came into the CAB with a pile of paperwork and a sorry story.

He was up to date with all his bills and rent but he did have two credit cards. One had £1500 on it, the other £2500 and he had been gradually whittling this balance down.

He received a phone call saying that he may be able to wipe out these debts completely due to a technicality in the terms and conditions. He thought it seemed a bit unlikely but when the caller said we will act for you on a 'No win, no fee' basis he thought, 'What have I got to lose?' and gave details of both his cards.

Instantly £790 was debited from one of them. When he queried this he was told he would get the money back when his case was successful.

This happened a year ago. His phone calls to the company were met with the assurance that the case would be going to court soon.

Then the company went into liquidation.

All seemed lost when he had a phone call from another company saying that they had got his details and they would pursue the case for him. However they needed £149 from him for administration otherwise the case would not go to court.

He wanted to know if he should send this money. When I said, 'No.' he was quite upset because he thought it was his only chance of getting something for his £790.

I was sorry to have to tell him that this money was well and truly gone. If he paid the latest demand he would be asked for more later on. He was better putting the money towards paying off his card the normal way.

Telephone callers can be very persuasive but if it sounds too good to be true it usually is.

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.

There is also a Tayside Advice Project.

Phone 0845 296 1010. If there is no reply you can leave a message or e-mail

advice.tayside@casonline.org.uk

AH

A RECIPE FOR THE SEASON

Twice Baked Cheese Soufflés with a Creamy Leek Sauce

300ml of milk (which has previously been heated and then infused with a bay leaf, onion and peppercorns, optional)

50g of butter

50g of flour

Pinch of dried mustard powder or 1 tsp of Dijon

150g of good strong cheddar, grated

4 egg and 1 extra white

Salt and pepper



For the sauce

2-4 leeks, depends on the size!

300ml of double cream 25g of butter

100g of freshly grated parmesan cheese Nutmeg

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas mark 4

Melt the butter and add the flour. Cook until sandy in colour, about 2-3 mins. Slowly add milk a little at a time to form a smooth white sauce. Stirring constantly and bring to the boil. Add the cheese (off the heat) and melt into the sauce. Add the mustard powder or mustard and season if needed.

Separate the eggs. Add the egg yolks to the sauce. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites until stiff, but not too dry. Fold very carefully into the cheese mixture. Spoon into ramekins.

Stand in a bain-marie and bake for 15mins. Bring out of the oven and leave to cool in the ramekins.

Wash and chop the leeks and soften over a low heat in the butter. This may take about 5-10 mins. Do not allow to burn, but you want soft leeks, nothing worse than squeaky leeks! Pour in the cream, grated nutmeg and season. Bring to the boil and take off the heat. Don't allow to reduce too much. If you make this in advance and it has gone too thick, add a splash of warm water from the kettle to thin it down a bit.

Preheat the oven to 180°C/Gas mark 4

Meanwhile, run a knife around the soufflés and turn out on to an ovenproof dish. Pour over the soufflés and sprinkle with parmesan. Bake for 10 -15mins, until browning on the top and hot in the middle. Serve immediately.

Serves 6-8

Sarah



MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

Can you believe it? The Museum of Abernethy will shortly be entering its 12th year of opening to the public. It's been a fascinating journey for those of us who have been involved in the development since its inception.

From small beginnings, the Museum has built up an enviable reputation in the wider community.

Our first achievement was to receive a 4-star rating from the Scottish Tourist Board and later to be recognised as a "registered" Museum. Following on from the latter, in the past year, after a great deal of industry, we were given "Accreditation" from the Museums/Archives & Libraries Council

All of this, of course, would not have been possible but for the hard work put in by a dedicated band of volunteers who give an immense amount of time to the project.

Time marches on, however, and many of our helpers would welcome "new blood" to join the team. There are many areas where particular skills could be utilised and which, I am sure, are in abundance in the community of Abernethy. Some which come to mind are:

Marketing experience for our small shop.

Fund raising ability to assist that which is presently being undertaken by the Social Committee.

Care of and research into the artefacts of the Museum.

Board members to oversee the general running of the Museum

If you think you can be of assistance in any of these areas you will be given a warm welcome and plenty of help. Museum personnel are usually in the Museum on a Tuesday between 10 to 12 (mornings) or between 2 and 4 in the afternoon, should you wish further information. Alternatively, you could make contact by ringing any of the following numbers.

Wyn 850237

Rachel 850578

Lesley 850038

Wyn Dobbie

Chairperson

Museum of Abernethy

**LET'S
ALL
GET
MUCKY!**



Some of you may never have considered it before, but we live in one of the best places in the world for Mountain Biking, thanks to some enlightened Scottish Access Laws and the endless network of trails that criss-cross our beautiful country.

Mountain biking is both exciting to watch and take part in. It appeals to all ages and promotes physical activity and general well being, getting people out into the fresh air and away from TVs and games consoles. This surely has to be encouraged in a country where obesity is a huge problem to both children and adults alike. And if it's raining (it does occasionally in Scotland) who cares? Mud just adds to the fun!

Pitmedden Forest on the outskirts of Abernethy is not only the perfect place to take the dog and the kids for a walk, but it's also a gem when it comes to Mountain Biking. This fantastic place is at our disposal whenever we feel the need to burn off some steam/calories and get a quick shot of adrenaline at the same time. I love Mountain Biking in Pitmedden Forest for lots of different reasons. I love the smell of the Pine trees as I jink through them, hopping over their roots looking as far ahead as possible for the best line down the trail. I love the way two rides are never the same no matter how many times I have ridden there, the way the forest changes through the seasons, and the sound of the trees creaking on a windy day when I stop for a breather. Most of all though, I love the fact I can get on my bike in the village and within minutes I'm riding through the forest with the good friends that I have met whilst riding there.

Although this is such a beautiful part of the country surrounded by fantastic riding, most bikers who visit Scotland to go Mountain Biking will head for The Cairngorms, Laggan-Wolfrax, Nevis Range or The

7stanes Trail Centres in The Borders. This is with good reason, all of these places are fantastic, but why not host a mountain bike event on our local trails within travelling distance of all of them and let them see what they're missing out on?

Pitmedden Forest has no waymarking, so it is easy to get lost there, and this can be off putting for some riders who don't want to waste their riding time lost, looking for a decent trail to ride. This is the reason a lot of riders either stick to the places they know or hit the trail centres. They know they can just follow a well marked course and concentrate solely on enjoying the ride. I think an event incorporating a huge lap of Pitmedden Forest is a great way to give riders an unguided tour of the trails we locals love to ride.

My name is Aaron Gray, I am a local tradesman, mountain biker and proud father of two. I have competed in a few MTB races just for fun, and got a lot of enjoyment out of the whole experience, so I decided to look into how I could (with the help of many others) organise a race on my local trails. I thought it would be fantastic if there was a race in Pitmedden Forest to create a buzz around the place and help stimulate the local economy.

With some unique ideas, including a Tag-Team category and rider training on a mobile skills loop from qualified cycle coaches, Muckmedden will be great fun, and just a wee bit different when compared with other MTB events. The main race will be both physically tough and technically demanding, and will suit riders with a decent level of fitness who ride trails regularly. However, if you'd rather ride on less technical trails over a shorter distance, "The Muckmedden Mini" will suit you down to the ground. This will take place before the Main Event on the day which is 22 April 2012.

Some people will be at Muckmedden to race hard and others will be less competitive, but the whole vibe of the day will be relaxed, with the focus on just having fun on the trails. After all, isn't that why we all ride bikes in the first place? There will be good music and top notch local caterers on site, so if you don't fancy taking part in the race, why not bring a fold out chair and a brolly (to keep the sun off you of course) and watch the riders sweating it out.

I hope that Muckmedden can become an annual event that people will look forward to attending either as competitors, as spectators or even helping out on the day. If you are a local business, individual or organisation who'd like to get involved please visit www.muckmedden.co.uk

Keep it mucky!

Aaron

FUNDRAISING CEILDH



Myself and Shelagh have recently returned from separate trips to a town called Marghita in Romania to visit Shelagh's daughter Katie who is one of my best friends. Katie has lived in Abernethy for most of her life but has spent the last five years volunteering over in Romania. The work Katie does over there is invaluable and makes a real difference to a wide range of projects she works on including caring and providing support for abandoned babies, orphans, adults and poor families who have been brought up in circumstances less fortunate than ourselves.

If you have the time please take a look at the blog Katie continues to update about her work and experiences in Romania, she is in constant need of additional monetary and fundraising support and relies on donations from her friends and family to enable her to stay over there as the work she does is completely voluntary: <http://katiworner.blogspot.com/>

If you have any fundraising thoughts or ideas we could get involved in please let me know, I know that they would be greatly appreciated and Shelagh and myself have seen, through the trips we have made to Romania, where the money raised goes.

With this in mind we are organising a number of fundraising events, one of which is a Ceilidh which will be held in the Williamson Hall on Saturday 10th March from 8pm onwards. The Blackford Fiddlers are sure to put on a great evening of entertainment, please BYOB and nibbles for the evening. Tickets cost £10 and are available from Shelagh (phone 850704) from the Culdees tearoom or Crees Inn.

If you would like to find out more information please contact myself or Shelagh at the following email addresses:

KitKat_561@hotmail.com s.worner@tesco.net

Thank you.

KATY GREIG

DID YOU KNOW!

In 1666 the Round Tower was in a ruinous state. The interior was open to the sky, a hollow shell with remnants of iron hanging from the walls. The Town Council installed a new stair and a bell in 1695 with seven landings. ☆

The next stair was installed in 1868 along with a clock, the clock you see today.

The stair used to climb the Tower today was put in place in 1983 and re-opened by Magnus Magnusson. ☆ (extract from Norman Peddie's diary)

ABERNETHY PARKS REDEVELOPMENT

Abernethy Environmental Association (AEA) was set up at the end of 1999 to take advantage of the availability of funds from the Landfill Communities Fund. Thanks to this and other funding the AEA were able to bring about the upgrade of the Abernethy Glen Walk which, it must be agreed, is something to be proud of.

The AEA is active again and this time the intention is to upgrade first the Powrie Park and then the Williamson Hall Park in several phases over a period of time. There is already a proposed plan for the Powrie Park which includes repositioning the play area, to avoid the flooding problem currently experienced, and purchasing better play equipment. Future plans include a bike skills loop and possibly a skate park.

YOUR AEA NEEDS YOU – as part of the constitution the association is open to all persons residing in Abernethy and District so please think how you can help. For example does your employer have a scheme where, by giving some of your time or other help, you may have access to funds to help projects in your locality? You may have attended the initial consultation held by Perth and Kinross Council and it is intended to have another open meeting and other promotions regarding this project so watch this space!

Contacts:- caty@catymacd.plus.com

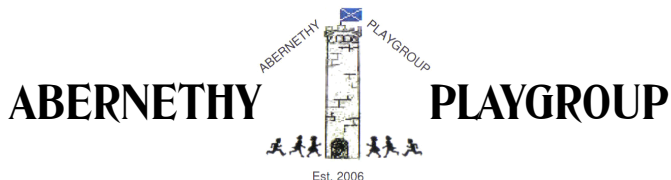
PRAYER GROUP

This small but dedicated group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in Sutherland Crescent at 7.30pm.

It is 90 minutes spent in quiet meditation and prayer. A stress free time spent in comfortable surroundings, an opportunity to share concerns for loved ones, the community, the world, and to experience the healing power of silence among friends.

Everyone most welcome.

Contact **Maureen Nisbet 850417**



Abernethy Playgroup is a self-funded playgroup and we desperately need to recruit more children to avoid closure. Due to a number of children graduating to nursery and primary school our numbers have dropped and we now find ourselves in a position where we are in danger of closing and have found ourselves looking to recruit from outwith the village. If you know of any child nearby, for example, Newburgh, Bridge of Earn or Glenfarg, who may benefit from this group, please urge their parents to get in touch. If we can't get the numbers up now, then this valuable service will no longer be available to the future little ones of Abernethy.

We operate from 9.30 am 'til noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday (although children can attend either one, two or three days, depending on what suits) during term time and group activities are run by our Play Leader and two Play Workers. The cost is £6 per session and we are open to any child between the ages of 2 and 5 years. Parents can also pay an additional £3 for their child(ren) to attend the Playgroup lunch club from noon 'til 12.45 pm, after which the children who attend the local nursery at Abernethy Primary will be escorted there. This service isn't exclusive to Abernethy kids although any children who don't attend Abernethy Nursery would need to be picked up at 12.30pm.

Our Playgroup exposes the children to early socialisation and helps shy children to come out of their shells. If you would like any further information or would like to discuss the possibility of your child starting with us, please contact our Chairman Rachel Shepherd on 01738 850909 or via email at raquelrussell@btinternet.com. Similarly, if you know of anyone who may be interested, please pass this information on to them. There are so many small village playgroups which have had to close down. Please help us to keep ours running!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FIGHT FOR SIGHT

During my 35 years as an optician, I have seen many fascinating and delightful people. Luckily, most of them have had perfectly healthy eyes, but, unfortunately, there have



been many people over the years who have suffered from various diseases of the eyes, some of them even going blind with conditions that still cannot be cured.

Research into these diseases is, of course, on-going, but funding for research is a major issue. A superb organisation has been working very hard to raise funds from charitable donations and sponsorship. This group is called Fight for Sight. This the UK's leading charity dedicated to funding world-class research into the prevention and treatment of blindness and eye disease.

It is nearly 20 years since I did any significant running, so it could be said that I have finally taken leave of my senses because I have entered for the London Marathon. This is just after Easter in April, 2012. It will be a huge challenge, as I am as yet nowhere near fit enough. The idea is that, by running 26 and a bit miles, I aim to raise a significant sum of money (I am hoping for £5,000) for Fight for Sight to help find cures for these distressing blinding diseases.

I would be delighted if you would consider helping me in my endeavour by checking down the sides of your sofa, your rain coat pockets and under the car seats and collect all those copper coins that you didn't know you had and wouldn't miss and that £5 note that was washed in your jeans.... Any money put through my letter-box would be very welcome, as would any brought into the shop in George Street. Please give generously.

I have also set up a web page:
<http://www.justgiving.com/NickHineOptician>

So if you see me puffing along the pavement, out of breath and with a red face, spare a thought and maybe a pound or two...

Thanks

Nick Hine
3 Brandywell Road

ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

I am sitting here in a quiet house totally exhausted after the Halloween disco (the kids had a blast, thanks to all who organised it), grown men and women doing “the time warp” and “nelly the elephant” un-cool, at least my children are also exhausted!

I can't quite believe it's nearly November, the nights are drawing in and the clocks are about to change and its eight weeks to Christmas, anyway here goes with article number 6.

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, general Parent Council and school news:

The school fun run was on 5th October. The run was completed in style by all who took part and lots of money was raised, thanks to all who took part and all who donated their hard earned cash, all monies raised will be used to provide more topic-related trips for classes and to have relevant specialists visit the school.

The Parent Council and the school will be having a Christmas Fayre this year (I am not sure whether the Crier will be out before this or not but here is the info anyway), we are hoping for better weather than last year as it had to be cancelled due to the great snows.

The date for the Christmas Fayre this year will be is Saturday 26th November, 10am - 12pm. The fundraising aim for the fayre would be to extend the range of Oxford Reading Tree materials the school has, to increase those available for P7 and add depth to what is on offer in other classes. If you wish to help with the Fayre or take a stall at the Fayre please get in contact with me (details at the bottom of the article).

Secondly, an update with some good news:

Plans for the new school are progressing well, the current plan is that classes would remain in the current school until the end of term in Summer 2012 with the new temporary school being constructed on the playing fields during this term as well. Completion of the temporary accommodation and moving over of the school equipment etc. will take place over the summer holidays and classes will start back in August 2012 in the temporary buildings.



It is currently expected that the changes to the school will take the majority of the school year 2012 – 2013 with the new, improved super duper school ready for use from the start of the school year 2013 - 2014.

Thirdly:

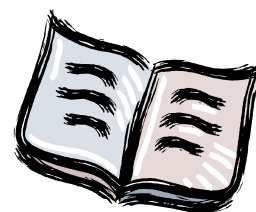
The Parent Council is the parents' voice within the school and has direct links into all levels of the education sector within PKC as well as the obvious links into the school (I have just volunteered to become a member of the parent forum for PKC to represent rural primary schools). Mrs Morrison and 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.

Finally, 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 are as follows:

- Wednesday 9 November - 7pm
- Wednesday 1 February - 7pm
- Wednesday 25 April - 7pm
- Wednesday 13 June - 7pm

Minutes of these meetings will be posted in the usual places, 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

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

Lastly, a personal appeal:

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 has agreed to 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 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 happens.

Chris Meek

MEDAL FOR CATHERINE

The Shine Marathon walk for Cancer Research took place on the 10th September at the SECC in Glasgow.



Catherine MacDonald of Brandywell Road is no stranger to long charity walks. She has previously completed three Moonwalks and a Race for Life10k at Holyrood Park. When she saw the Shine walk advertised she bravely decided to go by herself. She has previously raised money for Breast cancer charities but this time she decided to nominate research into testicular cancer as her charity.

The walk began at 9.30pm and Catherine soon found friends among the 3000 participants to walk with. It was a long, hard walk, particularly in the wee sma' hours, but she kept going and was proud to be presented with her medal at her successful finish. She was a bit stiff but felt great satisfaction at doing her best time ever for the 26.2 miles and she raised £325 for a good cause.

ABERNETHY BOWLING CLUB

Another season has ended and the committee would like to thank all members, friends visiting bowlers and sponsors for their support during the past year.

The season started very promisingly in April with a spell of warm weather and whilst we hoped for a long dry summer as recompense for the harsh winter I'm afraid all that we got was a typical wet Scottish summer.

Nevertheless there were more good days than bad and again it has been a successful season.

It was good to see new faces in the membership this year to add some extra competition to the many tournaments that are run throughout the season.

The winners have a chance to celebrate their good fortune at The annual Awards night which this year it is being held in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 19th November from 7pm. A buffet and Disco will follow the prize giving.

For further details and tickets which are only £5 for adults and free for juniors please contact Frances (850788) or Alan (850424). It promises to be a great night and certainly one not to be missed.

Another date for the diary is the clubs Annual General Meeting will be held in the clubhouse on Wednesday 30th November at 7pm and all members are requested to attend.

This is the members opportunity to have their say in the selection of the committee members and how their bowling club is being managed so please come along.



**Yours in Bowling
The Committee.**

POLICE BOX

Farm Security

Over the past few weeks there have been a number of thefts from rural farm properties in the Bridge of Earn and Kinross-shire areas.



Farm and plant machinery is very attractive to thieves due to its high value and is routinely reported stolen from farms, building sites and other rural locations. Where possible such machinery should be kept out of view and locked away when not in use. Consideration should also be given to property marking and ensure that all keys are kept in a separate location.

Vehicles such as quad bikes, motor bikes and other 4x4 vehicles are also often subject to thefts. It is advisable to keep such vehicles locked away when not in use. These vehicles should be kept close to occupied farm buildings where practical.

The majority of tools used on farms can easily be lifted and placed within a vehicle, and may not be missed for some time after a crime has taken place. All tools should be property marked, not left lying about and it is also advisable to keep an inventory of tools which can be used for insurance purposes.

Fuel tanks are another regular target for thieves and must be kept locked, especially where located in remote position.

Annual After Dark Campaign

During mid-October there were a series of break-ins in the Bridge of Earn and Newburgh areas. With this in mind we are once again appealing to members of the public to heed the home security and crime prevention advice given as part of our annual After Dark Campaign.

As winter sets in residents are being warned that criminals start to capitalise on the shorter days. With the prolonged hours of darkness, comes the increased activity of opportunist thieves. After Dark is aimed at promoting home security and allowing people to feel safe in their own homes during the long winter nights.

Traditionally, the number of break-ins goes up during the darker nights and we are hoping homeowners will take every step possible to reduce their chances of becoming victims of crime, by following the crime prevention steps promoted through Operation After Dark.

Over the last few weeks officers will have been carrying out high profile foot and mobile patrols in all parts of Tayside, aimed at preventing the number of house break-ins, and After Dark information cards will be available with advice on simple safety measures to try and combat the criminals.

Top After Dark crime prevention tips include:

- Lock ALL doors, windows, gates, sheds, garages and other outbuildings.
- Put away garden tools and ladders.
- Install an intruder alarm AND REMEMBER TO USE IT.
- Set blinds and curtains to deter "window shopping" – this includes sheds as well.
- Mark valuables with your postcode and house number.
- Get timers for internal lights if you are out in the evenings.
- Fit or check external security lights.
- Finally, be a good neighbour. If you see something suspicious, contact the police immediately!

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch (NW) is a community led initiative to bring groups of local people together to address local crime and other community issues. Successful Neighbourhood Watch requires a close liaison between households in a neighbourhood, the local police and the local authority.

Neighbourhood Watches can be large, covering most of the households on an estate, or they might involve just a few houses. They may meet frequently, or only keep in touch via e-mail. There really is no 'One size fits all' approach to Neighbourhood Watch.



What are the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch?

- Areas of local concern can be addressed
- Your problem becomes a shared problem
- People work together to make communities safer
- You can work together with other NW Schemes, the police and other partners
- opportunity to know your neighbours, local police officers and other service providers.
- Being a member of NW may secure a discount on your home insurance

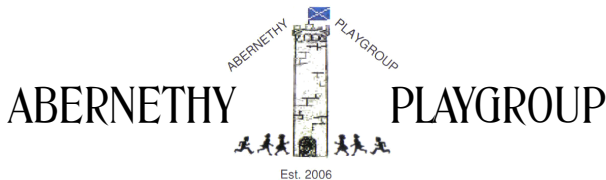
Mobile Community Office

Weather permitting the Mobile Community Office service will be available in Abernethy on the following dates:

Tuesday 22nd November 0900-1200
Wednesday 14th December 1300-1600

Local Community Officer Euan Mitchell can be contacted at Bridge of Earn Police Office, by telephone on 0300 111 2222, by email on euan.mitchell@tayside.pnn.police.uk or by Twitter on @BridgeOfEarnPC. Alternatively you can anonymously contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 to provide information relating to criminal activity of any sort.

PC EUAN MITCHELL



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Playgroup chairperson and to thank Anna MacNeil for her previous contribution to the role. I would also like to thank everyone who came along or helped out at our children's craft/coffee afternoon during the October holidays. Our playgroup is struggling financially and that event helped raise a little of much needed funds. Hopefully more events of this type in the future.

By the time you read this we will have had our Flashdance/80s party and paint pot session. Our Christmas event will also have been planned and advertised. Please come along to any future events and help save our playgroup.

Finally, thank you for the hard work and dedication of our staff Ang, Babs and Mo. Also to our children and parents without whom the playgroup could not function.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Abernethy Playgroup. Rachel Shepherd 850909

Playgroup runs sessions Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 9.30 and 12.00 at the cost of £6 per session. We also run a lunch club at the additional cost of £3, this is useful for people who are out at work. We accept childcare vouchers.

For more info. Contact our Secretary Hayley Barnes 07730 590592

Williamson Hall 100 Club

Winners were:

August

No 13 – Roger Horner £20

No 49 – Ian Bett £15

September

No 55 – Dinah Morren £20

No 5 – Mr & Mrs Goodall £15

October

No 10 - Ann Millar £20

No 80 - Trish Mair £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.

Abernethy & District Senior Citizens Trust

Party

The next event is the Christmas Party. This is being held on Saturday 3rd December in the Williamson Hall at 4pm.

Calendar

With the help of Les McIntosh, the Senior Citizens Trust Committee have again published an Abernethy Calendar as their Christmas Gift for each senior citizen household who are on their list. Copies of the calendar are now available for general sale, price £5, at Brian Greig's Shop, Culdees Tearoom, and Caledonian Highland Dress Shop.

Future Events

Coffee Morning – proposed date - Saturday 14th April 2012 – to be confirmed.

Summer Outing – proposed date - Tuesday 5th June 2012 – to be confirmed.

EVELYN SCOBIE

ADVENTURES OF FLORA



Flora the foal was born at the end of June and she was a tiny fragile looking little creature. Now she is four months old and is a lot bigger and sturdier. She is full of fun and energy which gets her into trouble.

Her first big outing from her field happened in September when she was taken a walk round the stubble fields. Imogen rode Mac at the front to be a steady influence. Kirstie rode Bella for the first time since Bella became a mum and Flora was led at her side. When we reached the wide expanse of stubble Flora was unclipped and she had a great time running and leaping and kicking her long legs in the air. Watching Flora's antics made Bella excited too so we turned for home along the track back up to Station Road. Flora came fleeing over the field, bounced onto the track, bounced over the other side and DISAPPEARED!

We stood transfixed by horror as we realised there was a water filled ditch hidden in the undergrowth at the side of the track. Allistair ran and grabbed Flora's head as her little muddy figure struggled out onto dry land and stood drooping and bewildered next to her mum.

She had come to no harm but is now very careful of any ditch or step deeper than 6 inches and cautious of vegetation at the side of fields.

The next adventure was when Kirstie had a phone call at 8am to say that Flora was out of her field and on Station Road.

She had caught herself up in the plastic poles and tape that divide the field in half. She must have thought a monster was pursuing her and her terror had enabled her to jump the wall out of the field. The fence had become caught up on a bush and Flora was now trying to work herself up to jump back into the field.

All Kirstie's good training came into use as frightened little Flora allowed herself to be caught and led back into the field and a reunion with her distraught mum. She was none the worse but for a few scratches but our nerves are in shreds.

ABERNETHY FOR SALE

ATTENTION ABERNETHY PEOPLE

I have created a Facebook group for the people of Abernethy to sell their unwanted items.

If you have anything you no longer want/need/use which is in good condition it couldn't be easier!

Simply:

- 1 Join Group "Abernethy For Sale"
- 2 Upload a picture of the item you want to sell with a brief description and the amount you want to sell it for
- 3 Wait for any response from potential buyers

A great excuse to clear those cupboards, kids rooms, garages and sheds and make some money at the same time.

Furthermore, it's ABSOLUTELY FREE to do!

Obviously the more members the more successful this will be so PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!!

Any questions, comments or suggestions please get in touch

HAPPY DE-CLUTTERING

Andrea Smith (07527350630)

THANKS TO PAT THE KILT

The staff and pupils of Abernethy wish to thank Mr Pat McGroarty of Caledonia Kilts for the wonderful tartan sashes donated to the school for their Scottish events.

THE CAMPAIGN TO REOPEN NEWBURGH TRAIN STATION



Newburgh Train Station Campaign launched itself during the summer of 2011 with a base of strong local support and a case well researched.

Newburgh with 2000 residents is the largest town in Fife next to a railway line with no station of its own and is entirely dependent on road transport. With rising oil prices and carbon emissions a rail station makes sense. Strong local support is emerging from the town and the surrounding area.

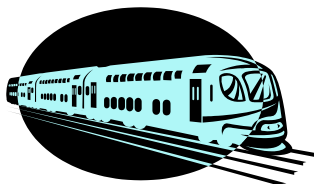
In the last ten years the Edinburgh-Perth train service has more than doubled. Local population increases in nearby Abernethy and new housing planned for Newburgh means even more people are likely to want to catch the train to Edinburgh and Perth.

Recent Scottish station re-openings in Laurencekirk and Beaulieu have been very successful with passenger numbers far exceeding expectations.

Given that a train service is already up and running, a Newburgh station could be viably operated and maintained, almost certainly improving railway finances rather than requiring an extra subsidy.

TransportScotland the Scottish Government agency responsible for transport policy presumes against new intermediate stations unless these are strategic in nature because of a claimed impact on journey times between major urban areas. This is a hurdle but not insurmountable as the case of Laurencekirk especially shows.

Representations to the TayPlan have been made with all local MSPs adding their support on a cross-party basis to urge that a high strategic priority is given on the plan to reopening the train station at Newburgh.



Also a motion (S4M-00538) has been lodged in the Scottish Parliament calling for the re-establishment of a rail halt at Newburgh (see <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/>). 22 MSPs have signed up to this motion so far but the campaign would like to see all the local MSPs who wrote to the TayPlan adding their support to this motion as well.

The Newburgh Train Station Campaign sent three of its campaign group members to attend a meeting of Abernethy Community Council in July to inform them of the fact that there was now a campaign underway to reopen the station at Newburgh. The news of this was received well by the community council who recognised that a station at Newburgh would be beneficial for people in Abernethy, especially on journeys to Edinburgh.

With this in mind, the Newburgh Train Station Campaign would like to invite anyone who resides in Abernethy and would like to see the station at Newburgh reopen to get involved in any way they can.

The campaign needs people as individuals to write to or email as many local councillors, MSPs and MPs, asking them to support and publicly endorse the reopening of the train station at Newburgh and to persuade the Scottish Government and TransportScotland of the merits and deep rooted public interest in this. Help in fund raising is also needed.

If you are interested in supporting the campaign in some way then please feel free to contact the Newburgh Train Station Campaign at the following:

Newburgh Train Station Campaign
c/o Nigel Mullan, 151A High Street, Newburgh, KY14 6DY - 01337 840415/email:
nigel.mullan@btinternet.com, or email:
ntsc@btinternet.com

The re-opening of Newburgh station is entirely achievable. For more information visit the Newburgh Community Trust website to download a specially commissioned report, *Review of potential for a Newburgh rail station*.
<http://www.newburghct.org.uk/webs/144/documents/DeltixFinalRailReportforSustainableNewburgh.pdf>

ABERNETHY, DRON AND ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS

The Bibleworld Mobile came to Dunbarney Church car park in September, sponsored by the local churches. It excited both children and teachers! Those of us who were there to help set it up at 8am in the morning were both fascinated and technically challenged by its ingenious design. It was impressive that a young lady, Hannah was solely responsible for getting the 'show on the road' – apart from the driving.



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. One boy said at the end of the 70 minutes, "Some of my mates said we would just be sitting listening but this is awesome. I can't believe what it's like; all the things there are to do!" 89 Pupils from Abernethy Primary School attended.

Here's what others wrote in letters afterwards,...

Dear Rev Wark,

Thank you for letting us come to Bibleworld. We enjoyed it so much we would love to go again.

It was a very good idea having a trallier of fun. We loved the museum especially the first letters of our names. It was a fabtastic time we all had thank you again for everything.

Yours sincerely

Primary 7 and Primary 6 girls.

Mrs Hodgkinson, Deputy Head, sent this email to Bibleworld:-

We have just returned from a visit to mobile Bibleworld at Dunbarney Parish Church and I would like to congratulate you on an excellent resource. Hannah was a superb coordinator and explained everything very well. The children learnt so much through interactive activities and the use of technology. I was also very impressed with the way the activities could cater for a wide range of academic abilities. Thank you so much.

The Minister adds:-

The Bibleworld experience gave pupils the opportunity to research, discover, work as a team, and problem solve. Working in 'The Library' I was able to introduce children to problems of translation.

Holiday club: Apologies to any who were looking to this event. We unfortunately did not manage to clear enough people through the new safeguarding process in time. We shall not let this happen again.

Stewardship Campaign: This is not just about money. The Minister's other word for stewardship is commitment. In 2012 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. We have to keep a realistic eye on money too, so next year we will be thinking about giving more effectively. How committed are we to our church and parish?

Back to Church Sunday: Thanks to all those who came and celebrated Harvest thanksgiving and have returned since. We hope you feel welcome in the church and could also contribute something too.

Regular Activities

Sunday worship services at Abernethy, 11am. (9.30am in 2012) Tea/ coffee and chat after most services

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

Open Doors; 1st and 3rd 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) has started and had about 12 young people who mainly want to 'chill'on Thursdays in the Church hall, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m., cost £1. They always seem to make something to eat, however.

Youth Club (P7-S1) has reverted to meeting on **Friday nights** from 7.30-9.00 p.m. at the **Williamson Hall**, cost £2

Christmas Services

Christmas Day 11.00 a.m.* (Sunday)

Christmas Eve 7.00 p.m. *

*** to be confirmed.**

Carol singing round the village (see other article)

If anyone would like a copy of the weekly church notices by email please request from

sandra.gourlay158@btinternet.com

Church contacts: Minister Rev Alec Wark: 01738 850 607

Session Clerk, Alex Johnson: 01577 830 776

FROM OUR JUNIOR REPORTER

Hello everyone (again!)

Bonfire night was a blast! Hope yours was good as well. Anyway, I'd better get down to business. Christmas will be here soon (in...how many weeks?) I really shouldn't be talking about it just now. So there are some things in past articles that I said I'd tell you about. First of all I'd like to tell you about how I got on at the world pipe band championships. The drummers came 9th out of 21. Second, I'd like to tell you about how I got on at Pitlochry highland games. The drummers came 1st out of 20 and the pipers came 2nd out of 20.

This October we went to Spain for our holidays – it was really sunny. Where did you all go for your holidays? Maybe you could send in a story about your holidays for the next edition. We had the Scottish Opera coming into school last week to sing with us – Forgendenny school also came too.

Remembrance Sunday is coming up this Sunday and I've also got the Perth Burns poetry competition which last year I came 1st in but I don't think I'll come first this year.

What sort of things are all you Abernethy kids up to? What groups or sports do you do? Please write in and tell us – it doesn't have to be pages long.

See you again
Cameron

HORTI DATES TO REMEMBER



11th January 7.30pm Wed - Vegetables - AHS Members. A guide to growing

8th February 7.30pm Wed - Quercus Nursery- Colin McBeath. Setting up of a Nursery

14th March 7.30pm Wed - Ponds - TBC. Setting up and care

11th April 7.30pm Wed - Binny Plant Nursery - Billy Carruthers. TBC (we have a choice!)

12th May Whole Day - Bus Trip - Location to be decided - Suggestions welcome!



Bridge of Earn Institute

Monday

7.00 pm - 8.00 pm

Wednesday

8.00 pm - 9.00 pm

Williamson Hall, Abernethy

Thursday

6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

For more information contact

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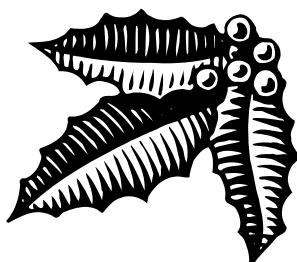
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