



# VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

Info@villagecrier.co.uk



## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

14th EDITION

MARCH 2012

CLOSING DATE FOR 15th EDITION 30 APRIL 2012

I was having a look at the contributions to The Crier one year ago. Some things remain the same, others completely different and of course what is completely different is the winter weather. Here we are, all of us now equipped with snow shovels, salt, some with winter tyres, some with spikes for our shoes and so far as I write in mid-January the shovels are in pristine condition, the salt still in the bag, the winter tyres being classed as an un-necessary expense and the shoe-spikes still in their packages. All will keep and we are well prepared for next winter without too much additional cost!!

I can hardly believe that 12 years have passed since all the excitement of the bringing in of the new millennium; big parties, firework displays, a new beginning, looking ahead. Much water has flowed under the bridge since then both literally and metaphorically. The uncertainty of what lies ahead seems to me greater than that of many previous years, but I am sure we will weather whatever the storms may bring; to quote Willie McFlannel (for those of you old enough to remember The McFlannels on old-fashioned radio) "We never died a winter yet"

I don't think any local functions had to be cancelled this winter due to weather and no problems arose over the delivery of The Crier

Once again we had a most enjoyable evening in Cree's Inn with the Delivery Team, lots of good conversation and laughs. Thanks must go again to Brian for providing an excellent buffet and also a very big thank you to all who deliver The Crier, 800 copies going through 800 letter-boxes is quite a task. The area covered is quite extensive, from the Fife boundary through Abernethy and Aberargie to Dron, heading southwards by Glenfoot to Glentarkie.

So we spread our news fairly far and wide your news and everyone's news. Keep it coming in; YOU WRITE WE PUBLISH and DELIVER.

This 14th edition of The Crier will be out in time to wish Nick Hine every success in the London Marathon in April and hope he exceeds his target of £5000, also to wish for a great turnout for Muckmedden on 22nd April. This, I guess will be a good fun day both for participants and spectators-----thrills and spills for all!

The Parks Redevelopment Scheme is a big undertaking but with lots of enthusiasm and many hands I am sure amazing results will be achieved which should be a great asset to the village.

Sadly The Grim Reaper has taken away a number of Abernethy People since the December issue and our sympathy is extended to the surviving relatives.

We have a number of Overseas Readers now, thanks to modern technology. We would be delighted to print any articles they would care to send, maybe after a visit to Abernethy or the impressions ex-villagers have of present day Abernethy, anything at all would be welcome.

Finally, I am sending in a poem to Poets' Corner. I got it from a friend of a friend and it has had great appeal to all who have read it-----especially the ladies!! The title says it all, "Dust If You Must"

On that lightsome note, until June.

**Hilda Clow.**

## EDITORS VIEW



I have noticed a recurring theme in the Crier and that is the villages disgust with the pavements being fouled by dogs. It is obviously not the dogs' fault, it is natural for the animal to have these bodily functions

I think the poem sent for inclusion in this edition says it all.

As you can see the Williamson Hall Committee are having problems with people putting their full dog poo bags into their recycling bins, these bins are for paper and cardboard and not for excrement.

I know the majority of dog owners in the village are very responsible and do bag it and bin it. However, there is a hard core that don't care and have little or no respect for their village or their neighbours.

We wouldn't let our children poo in the street so why are we happy letting our dogs do it.

I wish one of the irresponsible owners would write in, name and address can be withheld, and give their side.

I know it is not as bad as it used to be but one pile is one pile too many.

**The Ed**

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

## Rates for Advertising

**Standard £20**

**Half Page £50**

**Full Page £100**

## LETTERS TO THE ED



**Dear Ed,**

In reply to the farmers letters and in support of the "Cos I'm a Farmer" poem.

I travel widely throughout the countryside of Scotland and see examples of farmers flouting the law.

While I pen this letter (January) the farmers are ploughing and the consequence of this is mud and gravel dragged out of fields on to the public highway. I follow tractors and trailers with no flashing light, no tail lights, no indicators and loads of bales and tattie boxes with no retaining straps.

And why don't they have to pay road fund licence? Of course, they are poor!

Yeah right.

**Robert Gow**

## OLYMPIC FLAME RELAY



The Olympic Flame will be travelling the length and breadth of Great Britain, carried by selected volunteers starting on 18th May 2012 and arriving at the opening ceremony of the games on 27th July 2012.

It will pass through Abernethy on Tuesday, 12th June. It will be leaving Aberdeen that morning and going through fourteen different villages and towns before it reaches us.

These include Montrose, Meigle, Scone and Perth. After Abernethy it goes via Newburgh and Leuchars to Dundee for that night's celebration.

So far further details and timings are unavailable but hopefully, nearer the time, arrangements will be made to cheer the flame on its way as it passes through Abernethy.

There is a facility on line to register as a "local leader" should anyone wish to explore this further.

**Maureen Nisbet.**

## ROCK NIGHT IN AID OF ABERNETHY SCOUTING & GUIDING

On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November, around 50 – 60 people attended a brilliant night of live music at the Pavilion in aid of Abernethy's Scouting and Guiding.

Our very own Tim Dewhirst, who is a Beavers and Cubs leader, is one of the guitarists in the band, the 625s, who have been making a name for themselves in and around Perth and Scone for some time now. Bass guitarist David Malcolm is also an Abernethy resident, with the other members hailing from Scone, Stirling and the Lothians.

The organising committee are delighted to announce that sales of entry and raffle tickets made a whopping £330 to be split between the Scouting and Guiding groups.

Many thanks indeed to all who attended and helped to set up; also to the understanding neighbours ! Special thanks to the following local companies who donated raffle prizes : Bloomfield Bikes, Branston, Clara Smith Jewellery, The Corn Kist, Forever Living Products, Senses Salon and Tesco.

The 625s played for almost 3 hours, no mean feat, and covered classic and modern rock. The place was literally jumping with just about everyone on their feet for the whole evening. A few sore heads and limbs were definitely in evidence around the village the next day.

Many thanks again to everyone who contributed to this very successful fundraiser.

The Committee : Alison Dewhirst Angela Malcolm  
Karen Lang



## BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The AGM of the Burns Club of Abernethy will be held in the Cree's Inn at 7.30pm on Thursday 12th April 2012.

All welcome

## BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

ANNUAL BURNS SUPPER 4th FEB 2012

A queue was forming long before the doors were opened at 6.30pm, Ian Bett having to fight his way through to open up.

The scent of haggis wafted through the open door tingling the taste buds of the waiting.

Bottles of wine and whisky were being cracked open with glasses being filled to the rim with just enough room for the thinners.

The piper James Rodger was getting warmed up in the ante-room standing between the ashette of neeps and the one of tatties, the steam warming up his cault knees.

The top table guests were being welcomed and introduced to the club committee, itching to get going.

The pipes began to skirl, the assembled crowd got to their feet to greet the haggis.

The puddin was addressed by Ian Bett with great gusto "fair fa' yir honest sonsi face great chieftain o the puddin-race"

A meal fit for a king was served starting with soup, the haggis and followed by trifle.

The Rev. Kenneth Shuttleworth from Tarbolton delivered the Immortal Memory with style and great humour to the enjoyment of the audience.

Jim Aitken from Newburgh entered the darkened hall with candle in hand dressed as Holy Willie.

A long and very enjoyable evening drew to an end with Auld Lang Syne ringing to the rafters

Next year is the 10th anniversary, watch this space.

R. B. URNS

## WITH REGRET

It is with regret we hear of the death of :

Bill Balfour      Nurse Maver  
Jim Bowie        Majory Miller  
Tony Gahan      Isabel Morris  
Kathleen McIntyre Alex Morrison  
Our thoughts go out to all their families.

## BILL BALFOUR

**The Crier notes with regret the passing of Bill Balfour on 20th November. Bill was a 'character' with a large circle of friends and was a 'well kent' face in Abernethy. He worked in the potato industry and was well known in the farming community.**

**He was an excellent piper, and member of The Burns Club of Abernethy where his piping skills were often enjoyed.**

**A keen curler, he was a member of local clubs Falkland and Abdie Curling Clubs and was a senior committee member of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club. He was Convenor of the RCCC Indoor Grand Match in 2010, an event enjoyed by hundreds of curlers across Scotland.**

**Bill leaves daughter Katherine plus partner Edna and our sympathy goes out to them.**

KR

## BADMINTON CLUB



The club has been its usual busy self over the last few months with the usual excellent mix of sport and sociability. We have however had to move our venue and are now meeting along in the Newburgh TIC. As many folk will know, the school is starting its refurbishment programme and we have been unable to let it since Christmas. We were thinking we were not going to find an alternative venue but at the last minute Judith and Susan managed to sort out our new home. Cars are leaving from outside the school at 7.15/20 or people can just meet us at the TIC from 7.30. If in doubt, contact Keir on 850676 or keir.allen@gmail.com

Keir Allen

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

The Museum of Abernethy has been awarded Accredited Status from the Museums, Libraries and Archives council (MLA). This award demonstrates that the museum has achieved clearly defined national standards.



Your Museum needs YOU

We are very proud of this achievement and acknowledge the hard work of all its volunteers to whom we include our thanks.

In order to maintain this high standard, we are looking to recruit more volunteers. If you think you can help in any way, please contact Rachel Cheer at tel: 850578 or e-mail [rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk). We are confident there's a wealth of untapped resources out there.

You will soon be receiving invitations to renew or become a new member of the museum. The membership form will give more details of the type of help we need. We would remind our existing members to renew their membership for 2012 and encourage newcomers (and not so newcomers!) to join.

Subscriptions help with the running costs of the museum and give you access to our social calendar.

Volunteers who wish to continue or be included in the Duty Rota will be asked to specify which days they are available/unavailable. This is important to ensure correct allocation of days allowing as little disruption as possible.

### WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Help us ensure this remarkable resource on your doorstep continues.

Museum opens Saturday 12th May at 1pm

Volunteer evenings will be at 7pm on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th May.

### The Museum of Abernethy Board



Your Museum needs YOU



## THE POET'S CORNER



### BAG IT & BIN IT PLEASE

The dog it's bowels they have to move  
Least once a day all hot and smooth,  
The law it states "you must uplift"  
Into a bag or bin to shift.

There are a few in this fair town  
Towards the law they cast a frown,  
They leave the poo for all to see  
Upon a verge and path or tree.

Into a plastic bag they put  
And lay all neat beside the route,  
The point of this is not too clear  
A disrespect for village, I fear.

Surely just like the drive and drink  
This nasty practice will stop, I think,  
I wish they would just see the light  
And pick up all their blooming !!!!!

Name & address supplied

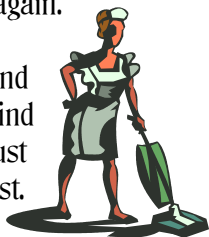
### DUST IF YOU MUST

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better  
To paint a picture or write a letter  
Bake a cake or plant a seed  
Ponder the difference between want and need.

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,  
With rivers to swim and mountains to climb,  
Music to listen to, books to read,  
Friends to cherish and a life to lead.

Dust if you must but the world's out there  
With the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair,  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind  
Old age will come and it's not kind  
And when you go, as go you must  
You yourself will make more dust.



Remember a house becomes a Home when you  
can write "I love you " on the furniture

Name & address supplied

## ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Short and to the point article this time folks, just two school related things to get across.

First - The date for the Abernethy Primary School Bingo Tea this year will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 18:30 – 20:30. Entry fees will be £2 per adult, £1 per child with a family ticket costing £5 for two adults and up to 3 children, tickets as last time include 5 bingo cards with extra cards available on the night for a small fee. We are also planning a bottle stall (all donations welcome) and of course refreshments. All are welcome so please come along and enjoy the fun, tickets will be available in advance from all members of the Parent Council and the school office. The last tea we had was full so if you don't buy tickets in advance you may not get in!.

If you need any further info the best way to contact me is via email, see address below along with the names of the other members of the Parent Council.

Me - Chris Meek (Chair) – [chris.meek1@tesco.net](mailto:chris.meek1@tesco.net)  
Parent Council Members 2011 / 2012 - Tim Dewhirst (Treasurer), Lynn Mitchell (Secretary), Kate Butler, Gordon Miller, Athole Skinner, Karen Jerrard-Dinn, Allan MacDonald, Fiona Duncan, Mo McCullie, Katie MacAleese, Claire Fairbairn and Scott Baird

Secondly, the crossing:

In my previous articles I have asked for information on near misses on the crossing but disappointingly I have only received a few replies. The school have now completed a survey which has indicated that the crossing is a concern for all within the village and something needs to be done before we actually see a death on it, so here is what WE are going to do.

If you see an incident on the crossing please phone the Tayside Police non emergency number 0300 1112222 and report it, all they need is the number plate of the vehicle concerned and a description of the incident, alternatively you can email me and I will pass it on. The more calls the Police get, the more sway they and we (Abernethy Parent and Community Councils) have with Perth and Kinross Council to get a new crossing at a better location or a replacement to the existing one which will make it safer. It will only take a few minutes of your time but who knows it may just save a life!

Chris Meek

## SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas Party took place on Sat 3rd December and there was a good turn out as the roads were clear. As I entered the Williamson Hall I was made welcome with a glass of sherry and shown to my table, during which there were so many friendly faces to smile to, all glad to be in this lovely decorated Christmas hall, which had an atmosphere in itself. The Glen Bakery from Fife laid on the most enjoyable homemade soup (piping hot), main course and the delicious warm apple and ice cream was just a delight. Coffee and cake finished off this memorable meal. Then what followed was just a treat. The local talent took over when James and Cameron Rodgers entertained us with the pipes and drums. They certainly have a future in the music world. Laura Kemp from Bridge of Earn sang and played the violin, just wonderful. Then the large raffle was drawn, what a lovely atmosphere and the compere Ian Bett kept things going with his jokes.

To finish the evening we were entertained by the Civil Folk, a group which certainly had our feet tapping and hands clapping, and a good laugh at their humorous songs. A great evening in all and I would like to say a big thank you to the committee for their hard work which was certainly appreciated by each person in the hall. Thank you very much

Best Wishes for the New Year. **Lillias Johnston**

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



The horticultural society has enjoyed a busy Autumn and Winter and is looking forward to the Spring talks. The autumn would not be complete without our garden day and it proved to be a great hit with young and old. Entry levels were yet again up with an amazing range of "vegetable cakes" and the "homes for gnomes" were spectacular.

We still have a talk to come from Binny plants and a very useful one on ponds and pond life in March and April. We continue to work on the Museum garden and Nurse Peattie garden too and anyone wanting to help with either of these is more than welcome to join us. Information about meetings are posted on notice boards, the tearoom and at the shop or you can join our mailing list and receive email updates. Contact 850676 or [abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyhorticultural@gmail.com) for more information.

**Keir Allen**

## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

Last season, after a lot of effort from our committee and quite a few others (you know who you are!!) we managed to get our new courts completed.

I am delighted to say that we saw a big increase in membership. We welcomed a lot more juniors, and quite a few families also took up the offer of a cheap membership.

Over the summer, the courts were well used, and we even had to introduce a "booking system" for the busy summer holidays.

Still, the range of abilities was such that everyone managed to work off a lot of calories, and was happy to go to the courts of an evening and not be too embarrassed at his/her tennis skills or lack thereof! (Again, you know who you are!)

Can I please take this opportunity to thank the local businesses who supported our quiz night and disco last November. We received raffle prizes from The Crees, the Cornkist, Jamesfield Organic Centre, Jamesfield Garden Centre, The Culdees and Senses Health and Beauty in Aberargie. Also, a big thank you to all the others who donated prizes, to everyone involved in organising the hall, food, quiz, etc, and to all those who joined us. We managed to raise around £400. We had a great night, and hope we can repeat it again later in the year.

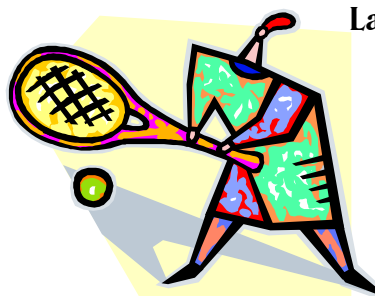
Now that Spring has sprung, I would encourage everyone to have a look at our website

([www.abernethytennisclub.webs.com](http://www.abernethytennisclub.webs.com)) or Facebook page to see what's going on. Last year, we held an open competition for ladies, men and mixed doubles. There was also some junior coaching, and with a new season about to start, we are planning more activities to help keep tennis active in our community. We are also keen to continue with social and fundraising activities so all ideas are welcome.

As always, we are keen to continue attracting new members, so please contact us via the wonders of the internet, or via contact details which are posted at the courts.

Thanks to all past and future members, and hope to see you on the courts at some point!

**Laurence M Bec**



## FLORA'S MIDNIGHT ADVENTURE

Flora is growing well and strong but the farrier thought her legs splayed out a bit at the back. He could build up acrylic shoes on her back feet which would encourage her legs to straighten out. These would work better if she spent time on a hard surface.



We took the boys, Charlie and Mac to the small field on Perth Road and the farrier came to Clunie St. Flora was very good about balancing on three legs while each shoe was built up and then she and her Mum, Bella stayed together. All went well for the first 24 hours.

We were all going to bed the next night when we were woken; Kirstie by a bang on the door and us by a phone call.

Bella and Flora were running along Perth Road! Coats and wellies were grabbed and we all shot out. Steven found the ponies first on the road and steered them up Midfield and went back for Kirstie and the headcollars. They found the ponies up the track. Bella and Flora were extremely glad to see Kirstie and be re-united with Mac and Charlie who had heard them and were very excited.

The police had been called but were re-assured that all was well.

We found where the ponies had escaped but a change of plan was needed. Mac stayed with Bella and Flora and Charlie went up the hill to Craiglinn to stay with his pals Claire and Smokey.

By the time you read this all should be back to normal and the horses all back together.

I just want to say a great big THANK YOU to everyone who called on that very frightening night when the ponies escaped. We still have palpitations when we think about it.

**AH**

The Crier is funded by donations and advertising. It is compiled and delivered by volunteers.

### Ceilidh

with

#### The Blackford Fiddle Group

8pm Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March

Williamson Hall, Abernethy.

Tickets £10 (BYOB and Nibbles)  
available from: Shelagh Worner

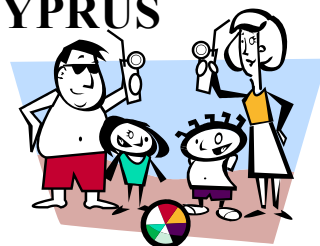
850704,

Katy Greig 850681

Culdees Tearoom or Crees Inn

Raising funds to support Katie Worner  
and her work in Romania

## HOLIDAY APARTMENT TO LET IN CYPRUS (PAPHOS)



Lovely 2 bedroom garden apartment, fairly close to Paphos Harbour, and only 900m from the sea.

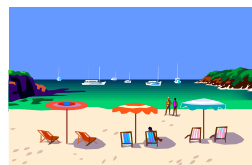
One bedroom with fabulous 4-poster bed.  
Second bedroom with 2 single beds.

Fully air-conditioned, and furnished to a high standard.

2 communal pools, plus a children's pool,  
Set in lovely gardens, and close to bus route and local tavernas

Only 20 minutes from Paphos Airport.  
Airport collection can be arranged.  
Available now, at realistic rates!

Contact **Lawrence on 07836 578563**



## YOU HAVE NOT WON THE LOTTERY

You probably get letters that vaguely puzzle you. You don't remember entering anything but you have won a prize, perhaps money, in the Spanish, Portuguese, Irish Lottery or a valuable prize or holiday.

You may have followed them up and found yourself calling a very expensive phone number to find nothing ever came. The holiday was timeshare accommodation only and would cost more in fares and food than one you could book through an agent. To get your lottery prize you would have to pay an admin fee and hand over your bank details.

If you have followed up even one letter your name will go on a mugs list and you will be inundated with scams.

You would wonder how any one could fall for such scams. But people do.

I met a retired couple who live in idyllic surroundings in rural Perthshire. Their son had become worried when his father borrowed £600 from him. It transpired that his father owed over £7000 on his credit card, most of it in small payments to pretend lotteries abroad. Now they had his details they were helping themselves regularly to money he did not have.

His only defence was that he had been promised very large wins. Although it was fraud the scammers were abroad and the small individual sums meant that the Credit Card had no liability. He agreed, with reluctance, that his wife would get the post and intercept the scam letters and that his card should be closed so no more money could be taken.

In another case an older man had his finances controlled by his son who noticed the payments going abroad. When he tried to stop his father doing this the old chap proclaimed his right to spend his money how he wished. He asked his visiting carers to post his cheques to the fraudsters. Obviously when the carers found out what was happening they stopped posting his letters.

I spoke to Trading Standards who are launching a scam awareness month in March. They feel that older people living alone are more likely to fall for this fraud. Perhaps they are a bit bored and like the excitement of getting a letter through the post. They really believe that because it is written in black and white they will eventually get some money.



There is no one waiting to give you money for nothing but there are criminals looking for ways to get your hard-earned money. Sending money for special prayers and lucky charms won't help either but will get you on another mugs list. I have had fragments of shell or charms brought into the CAB by people genuinely frightened that if they do not send more money to the senders they will have bad luck or be cursed. I am happy to dispose of these and tell the victims they are safe from harm.

Bad things happen. Charms don't stop them.

If in doubt about a particularly convincing offer telephone the Citizen's Advice Bureau and ask an adviser. It will cost you a standard rate phone call to be informed about what is a scam and then you can bin the letter.

If you are bored write to the Crier! There is normally something that has annoyed you or interesting memories you can share. Or tell us about any scams you have come across.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment in the afternoon. 01738 450580 is the Advice Line. Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau.

AH

**DID YOU KNOW.....**In 1872 education in Scotland became the responsibility of the state, and Local Schools boards were established. Before the Education (Scotland) Act 1872 schools were run primarily by the churches and at that time in Abernethy there were two schools, one Parochial and one Secession and a school in Aberargie run by private patronage but still examined by the local Presbytery.

Abernethy Parochial School or Dominie Williamson's School, as it was known, was erected in 1743 and demolished in 1866. On average around 50 pupils attended this school. It was located in the Kirk Wynd beside the old UF Church.





# ABERNETHY PARKS PROJECT UPDATE



Over the last 2 months, members of Abernethy Environmental Association have been busy surveying residents to find out what improvements they would like to see in their parks in 2012. This builds on the work that the Council did last summer, but extends participation to all park users, (not just play park fans.) We exhibited council sketch proposals at the Abernethy Primary School Xmas Fayre and have set up a facebook group called 'Abernethy Parks Project' so everyone in the community can stay in touch with plans and developments. Please join! A big thank you to everyone who completed the park survey, either on-line or at Brian's shop. The results will be published in a short report and will influence architect plans and funding applications.

Huge thanks also to everyone who turned out on a crisp day in November to help tidy up the wood at Powrie Park. Approx 45 folk of all ages helped to clear paths and chop back overhanging vegetation in preparation for the building of an all abilities bike-skills loop. A great day was had, but sadly the late November winds overturned much of the effort, uprooting a couple of large trees including one right next to our 1<sup>st</sup> and only 'balance beam'. As soon as woodland access is safe and clear again we'll be organising another community 'bike loop building day'. So please watch local noticeboards for more. We hope Abernethy's enthusiastic junior mountain bikers can help out again!

Some of the larger trees in Powrie Park were felled in November to make way for a new car park behind the Pavilion. The felled timber was neatly stacked by the council behind the building and earmarked for use as furniture in the park and in the woodland itself. It has been deeply disappointing therefore, to discover not some, but all, of the timber has been removed without council permission and presumably for private use. Even more disturbing are reports of verbal abuse towards members of the public openly questioning timber removal. Are we not a small community trying to support each other? Imagine how many children (not to mention teachers and Scout leaders) will be disappointed if we cannot build a seating area for outdoor learning in the wood?

The decent thing would be for the guilty party/ies to make a financial contribution to cover the cost of purchasing replacement timber.

Next steps for the Parks Project – finalising plans and applying for funding. If you'd like to lend support or get involved that'd be great. Email [abernethyparkproject@me.com](mailto:abernethyparkproject@me.com) or find Abernethy Parks Project on facebook.

*Cheers*

Robin, Ogilvy, Kate, Joyce, Catherine, Jill D, Kyle, Zoe & Jill B



**Graham and Jill**



## WILLIAMSON HALL

The Williamson Hall committee is looking for someone to fill the post of Chairperson. The task involves chairing the bi-monthly meetings and with the help of the other hall committee members organise the summer fair.

The committee would like to thank Kathleen Baird and Elizabeth Taylor, Chair and Secretary for their time and hard work in the running of the hall over the years.

It is the committee's intention to hold a summer fair in aid of hall funds. The event will be held on Saturday 2nd June 2012. Anyone willing to help should contact a committee member.

The committee is disgusted by the behaviour of some dog walkers in the village. Yes they are picking up their dog poo, unfortunately, they are putting it and the bag in the hall wheelie bins.

The bins are there for recycling paper, card etc and not for excrement. The hall pays hard raised cash to the council for these bins.

100 club winners were:

### November

No 11 – Audrey Walker £20

No 19 – Ian Cartwright £15

### December

No 52 – Nurse Ann Gray £20

No 32 – Margaret Miles £15

### January

No 78 – Elizabeth Taylor £20

No 3 – Jane Brown £15

### February

No 39 – Diana Lawson £20

No 49 – Ian Bett £15

The 100 Club needs new members. The subscription is still £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.

The next hall meeting will be held on Monday 26th March 2012 at 8pm in the ante-room

## WHERE HAS THE WOOD GONE?

Recently the council have cut down some trees in the park to make room for the extension to the car park planned as part of the park improvements. The council kindly cut the trees to reasonable length, stacked them neatly in the park and told the Abernethy Environmental Association that they could use the wood to provide seats, huts for the children and develop the play area in the new development. Then came the gale and a number of trees were blown down in the park. At that point it seems that some residents of Abernethy decided to help themselves to the wood as firewood. I understand they believe that they were told by the Council or their contractors that they could do this but the Council deny that this is the case. Some locals did advise the people cutting the firewood that the wood had been left for the park improvements but it seems that this was ignored. The people involved, apparently, are part of the CAI community in Abernethy. Their website proudly proclaims "We believe and know that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life." so despite their alleged response to those people who asked them to desist I am sure that this was nothing other than a genuine misunderstanding and that we can expect the CAI to donate a sizeable sum to the Abernethy Environmental Association to allow them to provide the support for the children which had been planned. After all we would not wish to see children deprived as a result of a selfish act even if it was in a mistaken belief that they are justified. Name and address supplied



## **Pitmedden and Weddesbie Drop In Day**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
**2pm until 8.30pm**  
Newburgh Institute

The ten year forest design plan for Pitmedden and Weddesbie forests is due to expire. This is an opportunity to see and comment on Forestry Commission's draft proposals for the next ten years.

Forestry Commission staff will be there all day to explain current thoughts, to answer questions and to listen to your comments and suggestions.

Please feel free to drop in at any time during the day, light refreshments will be provided.

For more information contact us on:  
[tayfd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:tayfd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)  
01350 727284



## **Better Place to Live Fair**

**Community Learning and Development,  
Perth and Kinross Council  
Williamson Hall. Kirk Wind, Abernethy. Perthshire**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012**  
**11am – 3pm**

*The Community Capacity Building Worker alongside local volunteers are organising the first Better Place to Live Fair for Abernethy. Local community groups and voluntary organisations are invited to come along and showcase their activities and achievements at the event. The purpose of the fair is to provide an opportunity for the community to see what Abernethy has to offer.*

This is a fabulous opportunity for you to support your local community by coming along to this exciting event.

There is something for everybody of all ages from hands-on taster sessions and demonstrations, with a chance to try local activities.

For more information contact: Tracey Ramsay  
(Senior Community Capacity Worker) Loch Leven  
Community Campus, The Muirs, Kinross,  
KY13 8FQ

Tel. 01577 867124 or email:  
[tramsay@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:tramsay@pkc.gov.uk)



## FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

### Draft Local Plan

From the 30th January every one has 10 weeks to make representations on the Draft Local Plan. The Plan will be available in libraries and on the Council's website. Planning decisions will be made in line with this document so it is pretty important that it. There are no huge surprises in Abernethy and district but it is probably a good idea to take a look at the policies section and the maps of our own local area. As well as areas marked for housing or employment the settlement boundaries are important as they mark the effective limits for development. In particular, in Aberargie room has been left within the boundary for housing on the south side of the A913. This would increase the size of the village, local traffic and probably mean a 30 mph limit. What do you think? It is useful if people comment on anything they like in the plan so a representation could be both positive and negative.

At its meeting on 10th January the Council discussed a draft Proposed Local Development Plan and agreed that after amendments moved by Councillors the proposed plan would be sent out for representations from interested parties.

The Proposed Local Development Plan in its amended form has now gone out for representation and community engagement events have been organised details of which are on the Council's website at [www.pkc.gov.uk/ProposedPlan](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/ProposedPlan). The Draft Plan will also be available for viewing on the website and representations can be made there too. A paper form can also be sent to: Development Plan Team, Perth & Kinross Council, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth PH1 5GD. Representations should be made before 10 April 2012 as late ones cannot be considered.

**Budget day** for Perth & Kinross is on 9th February but it is common knowledge that Council Tax will not be increased. The Council has managed to cope well financially in very difficult circumstances. The budget will highlight several areas of concern that will be able to be addressed over the next year.

(There are, of course a heap of other issues but these are the immediate big picture ones.)

**George Hayton and Wilma Lumsden**

## ABERNETHY 100 YEARS AGO

In April last year we had the duty as citizens to complete a multi-paged census. These detailed, fact-finding surveys have been carried out by the UK government for over 200 years and have increased greatly in detail as the 20<sup>th</sup> century progressed. Over 10 years ago, using a microfilm of the 1901 census in the AK Bell Library I used the census as a primary source of Abernethy history. The census survey gives a detailed snapshot of the people of the parish e.g. names, age, gender, address, where born, occupation. By doing some tedious counting it was possible to work out how many people there were of each surname; how many farm workers, weavers, salmon fishers etc; and how many were born within the parish. Those born elsewhere could be plotted on a map of Scotland and so on. These statistics were shown as lists or in graph form, and were used to build up a picture of Abernethy at the start of the Edwardian era. The resulting display has been of interest to visitors to our museum over the past 10 years.

Since the census contains personal information, a century has to elapse before its full details are made public. The census of 1911 therefore has only recently come into the public domain. Sadly this census is not available for scrutiny in the AK Bell Library on microfilm, unlike every other ten-yearly census from 1841 onwards. The census is of course a valuable source for those seeking out details of their ancestors. Since the 1911 census is on the internet, kinship searches can be carried out on the computer and such searches have become hugely popular. It was only negotiating with National Register House, Edinburgh, and later visiting that fine building, I was able to download the entire 1911 Abernethy census, at some cost. We now have a full copy of it in the museum. A full analysis of it will form a large part of the main new display in the museum this year.

The aim of this display is to build up a detailed picture of life in Abernethy in the years leading up to the First World War. In the museum we have quite a few photographs showing people and aspects of local life here 100 years ago, but we need more. We ask for your help to obtain more photos and any other items which would help us present a picture of life in Abernethy at this time, when it could boast a new bowling club, a new golf course, not to mention its curling pond. Some regard this period as a "Golden Age" before life was convulsed by two disastrous world wars. The display seeks to show the extent to which

this was true for Abernethy in the era of ITV's "Downton Abbey".

Looking a bit further forward, in 2013 the museum hopes to follow on with a major exhibition on World War 1. This will include details of the local men who fought and of life on the home front. Any information, photos, or artefacts to help make this a special event would help greatly. No doubt WW1 will be very topical generally as the centenary of its outbreak in 1914 arrives. On our screens we may see more TV adaptations like "Birdsong" shown in January. We want to do our best in honouring the memory of well over 100 local men who enlisted and especially of the 30 who perished. The 1911 census will also be useful in tracing these servicemen pre-enlistment.

In the meantime I can divulge a few discoveries I have made from the 1911 census :-

Abernethy still had a couple of handloom weavers.

There were 45 Isabellas, but three other female names were more common in the parish.

There were four Ebenezers, but how Scrooge-like they were we will never know.

Haggart was the top surname in terms of numbers. How many today?

Females outnumbered males (except in the under 10s) by a substantial amount.

Only 19 residents had been born outside Scotland, and one of these was "born at sea"!

Visit the museum when it opens in mid-May to see our attempt to evoke Abernethy 100 years ago. Come earlier on any Tuesday if you have any item to contribute to either of these exhibitions mentioned above.

**Bill Drever**

## PRAYER GROUP

Do you believe in the power of prayer and in its ability to soothe and heal both people and situations? Then you may wish to join us on the second and fourth Thursday of each month in Sutherland Crescent at 7.30 pm, when a small dedicated group meet to share concerns for loved ones, the community and the world. The atmosphere is friendly, stress-free and healing.

everyone most welcome,  
Contact **Maureen Nisbet** 850417

## EDINBURGH HALF MARATHON

Please sponsor me!

I've had a rush of blood to the head and signed up for Edinburgh Half Marathon on 27th May 2012. I realise this is not the greatest sporting challenge in the world but I've never run more than 10k so it's a huge personal challenge. To make it even more worthwhile, I'm running in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief and I'd be extremely grateful to anyone who would like to sponsor me by visiting [www.justgiving.com/jillsweehalf](http://www.justgiving.com/jillsweehalf). Thank you for any support you are able to give.

Training's going well so, if you see me out running, please give me a toot or a wave - I'll be the sweaty one with the red face!



**Jill Young**

## ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS

### Regular Activities

**Sunday worship service in Abernethy**, is at **9.30am** for 2012 with tea, coffee, cold drinks and chat after most services.

**Children's Sunday club and crèche** take place in the church hall at the east side of the church during the Sunday morning service. This year so far we have had children aged 5 and below coming so we have adapted our programme to suit younger children. We would however be absolutely delighted to have older children too. So please join us and bring your children along.

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

**Teen Café (S2-S6)** currently has about 10 young people who mainly come to 'chill' on **Thursdays** in the **Church hall**, 7.30 to 9.00 p.m., cost £1. Please feel free to come along.

**Youth Club (P7-S1)** meets now on **Friday nights** from 7.30-9.00 p.m. in the **Church Hall**.



## Future Activities

A children's afternoon **holiday club** is planned for **Mon July 30. – to Frid 3. August:** for those going in to Primary 2 up to young people going in to Primary 7. Registration forms and more details

will be available next issue.

**Challenge to members of the Church:** Later 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 this year we will also be thinking about giving more effectively. How committed are we to our church and parish? Your personal challenge in 2012 could be to return to church or find out for the first time what your local church is like.

**Contacts:** Minister Rev Alec Wark : 01738 850 607  
: Session Clerk, Alex Johnson: 01577 830 776  
: [sandragourlay1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandragourlay1@hotmail.co.uk)  
for an email copy of the weekly Church newssheet



## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**13 - 19th May**

A few areas around Abernethy and Dron may be missed this year due to a lack of volunteers. Please if you can spare a few hours to collect I would be delighted to hear from you. Pat Miller, 36 Main Street, Abernethy. Tel. 850879

## CAROL SINGING

A week before Christmas the annual carol singing charity fundraiser took place. An expected cold and frosty evening saw a happy band of around 18 set off from the square to collect for the palliative services at Cornhill Macmillan Centre P.R.I. It was enjoyed by all and well received well by those who answered their doorbells! Sometimes we were even applauded for our efforts!!! After around 1 1/2 hours we adjourned to the church hall for welcome refreshments of warm mincemeat pies and mulled wine. A big thank you to all who joined in and supported the event and thank you for the donation of drinks and eats from the Tower Singers. The £150 raised was sent off to the aforementioned charity.

Pat Miller.



## ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As we write this Community Council update in the depths of January we find that there is not too much to report on our activities, mainly because there was no meeting in December, and we are just getting started for 2012.

However, we can report that there are two major activities now active through Perth & Kinross Council that have an effect on Abernethy.

The first is the review of the Abernethy Conservation Area, which was on display at the Williamson Hall from January 23 – 25<sup>th</sup>, where we hope that many of you had the opportunity to review it.

Also coming to fruition soon, will be the Perth & Kinross Local Area Plan, detailing proposed development throughout the region. Again there will be local opportunities to review and comment on this, so watch out for announcements in local press and on village notice boards.

As work is about to start on the Primary School extension, we have had to vacate the school hall and move our meetings to the Pavilion by the tennis courts in Powrie Park. Dates as shown at the end of this article, it is a public meeting, so please come and join us and contribute.

One final item of note, which some of you may already be aware of, is that the Olympic Torch will be passing through Abernethy on its way to the 2012 event in London. We are trying to find out exact timings and route, as well as who will be carrying it, but we believe it will be passing through on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be an opportunity to show off the village, so all (sensible) suggestions welcome on this one!

Dates for future meetings – all start at 7:30pm

March 22<sup>nd</sup> April 19<sup>th</sup>  
May 24<sup>th</sup> June 21<sup>st</sup>  
No meeting in July  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> September 20<sup>th</sup>  
October 18<sup>th</sup> November 22<sup>nd</sup>  
No meeting in December

Alistair Robinson (Chair)



## ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS

### Party

A very successful party was held in the Williamson Hall on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December when a lovely meal was served by Glen Bakers, with wonderful entertainment by Laura Kemp, James and Cameron Rodger, and Civil Folk.

### Coffee Morning

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April in the Masonic Hall from 10am – 12 noon. Usual Stalls. Please come along and support this event, which helps to pay for the Summer Outing and Christmas Party.

### Summer Outing

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June – destination to be arranged. Watch out for details in the press and village notice board.

**Evelyn Scobie**

## ABERNETHY SWRI

Meetings are held in the Session House, Abernethy Church, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. Subscription for the year is £15. Visitors £2 per meeting.

In December members enjoyed a lovely Christmas Meal at "Tiffin", Newburgh when Santa paid us a visit and everyone received a parcel. To round off the evening we sang some Christmas Carols.

Unfortunately the January meeting was cancelled due to the unavailability of the speaker and the illness of several members.

Contact person **Evelyn Scobie** Tel: 01738 850496.

Future Meetings are as follows:

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> March "T in the Park" – Stuart Skinner.

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April – Open Night – "Cake Decorations – Paste Flowers" – May Webster and "Paintings" – Jenny Wightman.

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April – Open Night – "

Cake Decorations – Paste Flowers" – May Webster

"Paintings" Jenny Wightman.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> May – AGM – "Members Night".

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.

**Evelyn Scobie**

## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

The Association has had another successful year so far with excellent speakers, covering a wide range of topics.

The organisation is going from strength to strength and the committee would like to thank the members for their continuing support.

The next meeting:

Wednesday 7th March.....History of the Black Watch  
Speaker Jill Van-Milligan

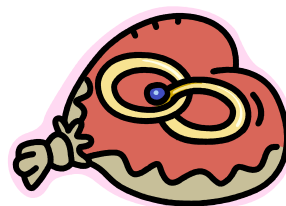
Wednesday 4th April.....The historical art of kilt making  
Speaker Pat the Kilt

Watch this space for the 2012/2013 syllabus

JS

We are delighted to hear of the engagement of Keir Allen and Rachel Battilana.

The wedding is planned for 2012.





## ABERNETHY PLAYGROUP

Our playgroup runs 3 times a week: Mon, Wed & Fri (term time only), from 9.30am - 12pm in the Williamson Hall. It is suitable for 2 to 5 year olds and costs £6.00 per session. If your child enjoys the company of other children and lots of interactive play why not take advantage of our FREE TASTER SESSION held on the first Friday of every new term from 10a.m. – 11a.m. A chance to meet the staff, ask questions, and see the toys, games and activities on offer. No need to book; just drop-in or contact 07804927893 for more info (session time only). *Registration Forms are also available by contacting Hayley Barnes, Playgroup Secretary on 07730590592 or email – [hayley.barnes83@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hayley.barnes83@yahoo.co.uk)* We also operate a lunch club service to Abernethy nursery from 12pm till drop off at nursery at 12.45pm the cost is £3 per session.

### Playgroup News

**Playgroup is proving very popular at the moment but we do have a few spaces remaining, if you are interested please contact Hayley (details above).**

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

January Paddy McGroarty no 29  
February Joyce Cross no 34



## 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)

Cost £3.00 per session

**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, Secretary on 01738 851069

OR

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

## POLICE BOX

### Neighbour Disputes



These are somethings that the Police are regularly contacted about; however there are often a number of other avenues which should be first. Disputes could involve arguments over things like noise, planning permission, boundaries, fences and walls or high hedges. They are very emotive as our homes are the one place we feel territorial and protective about.

If you're involved in any sort of dispute with a neighbour, the first thing to try is talking to them and discussing the problem. This should be done before you make a formal complaint or get others involved. If you aren't comfortable about approaching your neighbour, you could write them a polite letter. Stick to the facts and explain the problem clearly.

You could involve other neighbours if the problem affects them as well. It may be easier to put forward a complaint if it comes from a number of people in the area as no one is singled out.

If you are unable to solve the problem by speaking to your neighbour, you could contact their landlord, if they have one. If your neighbour is a council tenant you can contact the local Council Housing Officer who may be able to contact them on your behalf.

Perth and Kinross Council offers a mediation service to everyone living in the area. Mediation is usually free and is a good way to solve a dispute without making a formal complaint or taking legal action.

You can also contact the council if you have a problem with noisy neighbours or are suffering as a result of low level anti-social behaviour. Perth and Kinross Council has a Safer Communities Team who can deal with complaints such as these. If a neighbour is involved in serious anti-social behaviour or if a crime is being committed then you should contact the police.

If you are bothered by a neighbour's noisy dog or have other concerns such as dog fouling, you can contact the Council Dog Wardens for advice and assistance.

All of the above Council departments can be contacted by telephone on 01738 475000 or you can visit their website at [www.pkc.gov.uk](http://www.pkc.gov.uk) for more information.

If all else fails, you could think about legal action. You can get free legal advice from a law centre, advice centre or a Citizens Advice Bureau. Obviously this should be a last resort, as it can be very expensive and could make it impossible to patch up your relationship with your neighbour and let's face it you can't get away from them without moving.

Remember that unless you are prepared to move you will have to continue to live alongside your neighbours, and so it's in everyone's interests to come to an understanding and to get along if possible.

### **Alarms**

Our Community Safety Department based in Perth have alarms which are for sale to the public and are generally cheaper than if buying them off the internet or in shops. Please consider purchasing these and hopefully we can disrupt and deter criminal activity such as thefts of power tools and garden equipment from sheds.

#### **Slimline Personal Alarms - £2**

#### **Alert Multi Function Alarm - £6**

Excellent for motorbikes, scooters, caravans, sheds, computers and other valuable property.

#### **Motion Detector Alarm with Telephone Function - £12**

Alarm can be used for home, office, garage and sheds

Please contact PC Lesley McDonald on 01738 892642 for more details.

### **Internet Safety**

An internet awareness day has been organised in an attempt to raise the awareness of parents, carers and guardians of young people who regularly use the internet and in particular social-networking sites/online games. It will give parents an understanding of the security settings and how to keep your child safe whilst they are online.

1st March 2012 – Perth Cinema



There will be 4 presentations between 0800-1900 hours. Contact Catriona Laing on 01738 477861 or [claing@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:claing@pkc.gov.uk) for more details and to book a place.

### **Bogus Callers/Scambusters Seminar**

28th March 2012 – 0930-1330 hours at AK Bell Library

Please contact PC Lesley McDonald on 01738 892642 for more details or to book a place.

### **Contact**

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](mailto: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.

## **FLICKFORKICKS SUBBUTEO IN ABERNETHY**

Great news for table footy fans. Subbuteo is officially back!

Not just in the Williamson Hall, but from March the game will be available in stores across the UK and worldwide. The company behind the new version (which remarkably includes unbreakable figures) has the license to produce the game for 10 years. Here to stay it seems!

Never a better time to learn how to flick-to-kick. Abernethy Table Football Club runs every Monday from 4-5pm (Ages 6-8) and 5-6pm (Age 9+). Aside from £5 annual membership fee (includes membership card and pack), the cost is £3 per week. First visit is free.

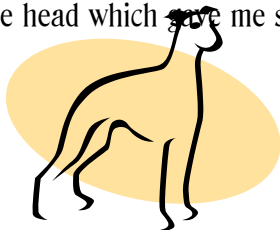
The league starts mid-February and the season concludes with a bumper Euro 2012 tournament with each player representing a country. Coaching has also begun in Arbroath, so inter-league challenges will be possible. Also, another "Subboozoo" night for adults is on the cards too if there is enough interest.

For all enquiries, please contact Gareth Christie in Abernethy on 07891 676663 or email [gareth@flickforkicks.com](mailto:gareth@flickforkicks.com)



## BONNIES WINDY DAY

"Wake up mum! What is all that noise outside, things are flying about?" I asked jumping on her with my paws. "It's alright Bonnie" I am told, "it is a terrible wind but we are o.k." "Will the geese be alright mum?" I tried to say to her. Hurriedly, after feeding the cats, my mum got the feed ready for the geese and wee birds and out we went to face this terrible noise - the wind. It was very funny to see the geese opening their wings and flying with the wind in their feathers, which they seemed to enjoy. Soon it was time for my walk. Each day where we go there is a field of sheep. My mum just tells me what they are and to walk on, so I accept it as part of my walk. We had just started our walk and as we walked along the roadside there was a terrible crack, I turned round just in time to see a great big branch of the tree falling near where we had been walking. No wonder I was frightened. All the cars seemed to make a different noise with this howling wind.. "It is alright Bonnie just walk on as usual" my mum said ( I am always on the lead) going along the road. This did not stop me thinking it was dangerous this morning. We crossed the road and went on our usual walk , I got off my lead and had a good sniff around. Rabbits, mice and other wee things I could smell. Mum says I am like a pointer sometimes, the way I stand. We got up to the field near the sheep and I turned round when I heard a thump and saw my mum lying on the ground. She had slipped on some mud. I immediately ran back and stood over her, not even noticing the sheep running up the field frightened by my mum falling. All I could think was, "Is my mum o.k.?" "I am alright Bonnie, I'll manage to get up, what a clever wee girl you are" I was told. Soon we were back on track, I must say we were not walking so fast for a few days after that though. My mum praised me for looking after her on the ground. Going back home after each walk I get a ball game. This day was different as the ball just kept blowing away; I must say it was fun chasing it. Leaves , sticks and lots of other items were flying about and I enjoyed chasing them. I curled up in bed that night and even though the wind was still blowing I knew we were all safe, and wondered what would happen tomorrow. "Goodnight Bonnie, sleep tight" and I got a wee pat on the head which gave me security.



## MEMORIES OF A SEPTUAGENARIAN



I read two very welcome editions of The Village Crier and was amused at the tongue in cheek wee piece about "mud on the road" etc. Clearly that's "The Council's Job" to clear that up. There was what I assume was an equally tongue in cheek response. The "If we did not raise cattle, you would not get any steak" raises the answer "If we didn't buy steak then who would pay the Marts, Feed Merchants, Agricultural Hauliers etc. etc. Still.

That led to my most recent experience when a local farmer observed me looking at his beasts and told me "You won't realise it but you are looking at your future Macdonalds" Read on.

I was born in 1941 in the bedroom of a farm cottage which shared a common wall with the byre of an average sized dairy farm. Although it's not relevant I weighed fourteen pounds exactly. Just prior to my birth my mother was watching an aerial dogfight which resulted in a German plane being shot down.

My first conscious memory of our next home was of a wonderful memory of a German POW called Hans who was allocated to work on the farm He also kept ( I am told) telling my Mum that "I was not a nuisance" when I followed him about and jumped on his wheelbarrow as "he had children at home"

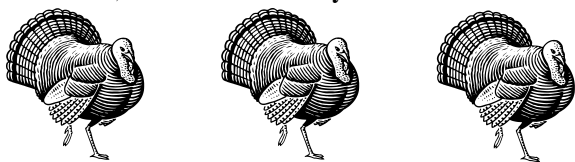
The farmer had a well known Point to Point champion stallion called Tartan Tippin who stood over seventeen hands tall. He was my first "pet" and although he was regarded as difficult I really loved him.

Sadly my Father contracted tuberculosis and slowed down a lot. The farmer wanted our tied cottage and we became homeless just before the end of the war. This was just before Christmas and my thoughts went back to that Christmas period.

My grandparents had a small acreage which they worked with horses and again I was able to fall in love with their animals. Peggy, who pulled the trap that took us to Edinburgh (along the route of the tram dream), Billy, a stallion who at times was called in to be part of the team who pulled the Queen's carriage on State visits, Star, a real character who could take a daft turn at the drop of a hat. Star actually ended up with Roberts' Brothers Circus where we checked up on him for years and he was really happy.



I was given a small area where I could keep some pigs. I went around local farms and bought "The Crits" cheaply and fed them up for the butchers. In the 70's I moved to Berwickshire and on to a two hundred and sixty acre farm. We had a large silo for grain, dressed seed for a well known grain merchant ( who employed Finlay Calder) and leased sixty acres a year to JusRol for growing potatoes. On the farm we had around sixty "beasts" where the Charolais bulls Jesper and Jensen looked after their Simmental responsibilities. I never thought about the calves I pulled out then wiped them before giving them back to their mothers as "Steak or Macdonalds" or the favours I was creating for consumers. It was always a wrench when they went to market. You see I really did know what live cattle looked like. I won't bore anyone with the names of my Suffolks, Saddlebacks, Muscovies, Banties over the years.



I was also an agricultural haulier and looked forward to the grain harvest but watched on with dismay as tractors got bigger and more and more local farmers delivered their own grain to the local granaries. My beloved Zeta was a poor relation to the new monsters. Still, I had loads of Record to deliver to Golden Wonder at Broxburn and loads of barley down to London which were destined for breweries in Nigeria. When I watch the current crop of "tractors" on the road I really wonder if any real research has been undertaken on basics such as braking distance, weight limits, lights, etc. Now that I am a septuagenarian it would be just my luck to get knocked down by one of these modern monsters. I have been unable to ascertain the braking distance for the big beasts. Bring back the man with the red flag in front and reduce unemployment.

**TOM COOK**

**The Crier is compiled, edited  
and delivered by volunteers.**



## **POPPY SCOTLAND APPEAL**

The collection for the Poppy Scotland Appeal this year raised the magnificent sum of £1295 from the Abernethy and Aberargie area.

Twenty volunteers were involved in the house to house collection with boxes were places in the shops and businesses around the village.

The Primary school collection was £96 and the retiral collection in the Church on Remembrance Sunday was £69.

On behalf of the Earl Haig fund I would like to thank and congratulate all those involved in the collection. I would also like to thank the residents of Abernethy and Aberargie for their generous support.

**Ian Cartwright**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**in 1905 the Free Church in Abernethy amalgamated with the United Presbyterian Church to become the United Free Church.

The first Minister of the of the united charge was Rev. William Cairns, MA, followed by Rev. John Thomson MA in 1909, by Rev. Archibald Taylor MA in 1919 and finally by Rev James Haggart Clark MA in 1925. Rev. Clark retired in 1950.

In 1929 the UF and the Church of Scotland united nationally and in Abernethy the two churches existed separately until their union in 1951.

It was decided to hold church services in the North, or Parish Church and the former UF Church was then leased to a business firm which used it as a furniture store.



# Newburgh Train Station Campaign



*Newburgh Train Station Campaign logo from the winning entry in a competition at Newburgh Primary School to develop a logo for the campaign.*

After the Newburgh Community Trust commissioned Sustainable Newburgh to survey households in the town in 2010-2011 around 70-80% of those surveyed said "they would like see the station at Newburgh reopen"

So far cross-party support for this has been given by local MSPs and councillors.

Local MSPs have signed a motion in the Scottish Parliament calling for the station to reopen and all sent representations to the 2011 Tay Plan alongside campaign supporters in Newburgh and elsewhere.

The Tay Plan proposals were submitted to Scottish ministers on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and can be viewed online at council offices and public libraries in the area (<http://www.tayplan-sdpa.gov.uk/>).

The Tay Plan now recognises that a full transport appraisal for Newburgh is due and since a large body of the public and their political representatives are calling for the station to be reopened, which the Scottish Government opposes through its rail authority, Transport Scotland, the Tay Plan has registered this as an unresolved issue.

Unresolved issues are considered by Reporters appointed by Scottish Ministers to conduct an Examination. The campaign may or may not be called to submit further information depending on what the Reporters decide in the course of their Examination. This runs to June 2012.

The decision on whether to reopen the station or keep it closed is basically a political decision. Public pressure and argument coming from Newburgh and its catchment area is therefore vital.

In the last ten years the Edinburgh-Perth train service has more than doubled. Local population increases in Abernethy and Newburgh continue, making even more people in the area likely to want to catch the train. Newburgh alone with well over 2000 folk is the largest town in Fife on a railway line with no station and entirely dependent on road transport! With rising oil prices and carbon emissions a station makes sense.



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 extra subsidy.

However, Transport Scotland, the Scottish Government agency responsible for transport, presumes against new intermediate stations unless they are strategic in nature because of a claimed impact on journey times between major urban areas!

Ask this question: why in the name of a few supposed minutes, should the prosperity, industriousness and well-being of smaller towns and country areas across the nation, including Newburgh and Abernethy, be sidelined and further neglected when sustainable economic regeneration should be the order of the day? Support the Newburgh Train Station Campaign and ask this question in letters to councillors, MSPs, MPs, as well as to as many newspaper editors as you can. 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](mailto:nigel.mullan@btinternet.com), or email:  
[ntsc@btinternet.com](mailto:ntsc@btinternet.com)

During the spring and summer this year the campaign will attempt to deepen the household survey conducted by Sustainable Newburgh in 2010-2011 and reach every household, census style to ask about what kind of use they would make of the station as well as obtaining signatures with the view of amassing a petition, which if necessary will be forwarded to the Scottish Parliament's Public Petitions Committee as a formal public petition. The campaign would also like to extend this to Abernethy and seeks help and advice from members of the community in ways to achieve this.

**NIGEL MULLAN**

**DID YOU KNOW.....**The railway network reached Abernethy in 1848 during the transport revolution and the Lindores to Abernethy branch of the line on 17th May 1848. At that time it was possible to travel to Edinburgh, through Glenfarg, by train and ferry.

The railway through Glenfarg was lifted in 1970. In 1955, Abernethy station closed to passengers. 1956 the station closed to all goods, but retained the coal sidings.



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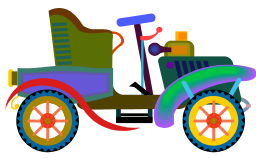
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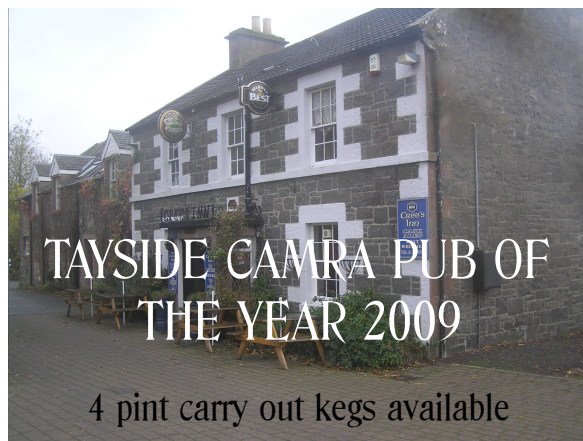
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MAUREEN NISBET	850417
ANN HOLLINGSWORTH	850384
LES McINTOSH	850356
GARETH CHRISTIE	850830
JIMMY SWAN (Editor)	850569
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