



# VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

Info@villagecrier.co.uk



## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

15th EDITION

JUNE 2012

CLOSING DATE FOR 16th EDITION 31st July 2012

Hello Readers,

Once again I start my contribution for The Crier from one of my favourite view-points. Regular readers will realise I am in Morar sitting at a table gazing over the sea to Eigg, Rum and Skye bathed in brilliant sunshine. I have been outside all day today and the sun hasn't stopped shining. Has summer arrived? I also heard the cuckoo this afternoon so it seems to be pretty promising.

This time last year I was in the throes of selling Struan House and planning my removal. How quickly a year passes and how many changes take place in 12 months. Change is good and necessary, stagnation is about the worst thing which can occur. Without change we would still be living in the Dark Ages, living in mud huts and all that went along with that. However we must move on, we have lots to think about present day.

Last Sunday (as I write) was April 22nd, an eventful day on the Abernethy Calendar and I hope there are articles within the following pages about two events on that day. Nick Hine is to be congratulated on competing in the London Marathon and I am sure we would all be interested in reading a first hand account of his experience. What is your next venture going to be Nick?

While on the subject of Marathons, Jill will have taken part in the Edinburgh half Marathon on the 27th May and I am sure will have had lots of support and sponsors in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief.

The other event on April 22nd, of course, was Muckmedden which I am sure would have been a great fun day; the muckier the better, I guess and at that time, with all the rain we had it should have come up to full expectations

Don't forget Tuesday 12th June when the Olympic Flame will pass through will pass through Abernethy, en route to Dundee via Newburgh and Leuchars. This could be a life-time experience, seeing the actual flame-----or rather one of them!

All the summer activities will be in full swing by the time you receive your copy of "The Crier". It is great to see the tennis courts looking so spick and span with the new surface and I am sure they will be well-used this summer. The gardeners had to make an early start this year. The false summer in March gave an early boost to growth so the lawn mowers had to be taken out of hibernation early. Not only were the mowers out early, so were the shorts and T-shirts but that certainly was a false hope; the jerseys and long trousers were soon out again!!

Once again Abernethy Dron and Arngask are looking for a new minister as Alex and Yvonne Wark have moved to Aberdeenshire. It seems no time since the Warks came to live in Abernethy, but there we are ---more change.

Good to hear from our young reporter again with an additional contribution from another young person. Look out for the competition young people PRIZES to be WON!!

Have a wonderful summer everyone and keep sending in your news and views.

Hilda Clow

## EDITORS VIEW

It is the season for fetes and galas.

The Williamson Hall committee is holding its fete again following the success of last year.



There will be many more stalls this year, book stall, jumble stall, plant stall and of course teas and coffees.

The surplus made from the fete goes to the upkeep of the village hall, your village hall.

So please come out on Saturday 9th June in your droves and support the Hall.

**Away back** in May 2011 during that unseasonable storm the fish and the Saltire on the Round Tower were damaged.

Later in that year Historic Scotland removed the flag and the fish and as yet it has not been replaced.

The Tower is an official flag flying station and the fish is of great historical significance to Abernethy. The fish is there as a reminder of salmon fishing industry, that's net salmon fishing. The industry employed many men in the village during the 18th, 19th and 20th century.

I hope we are getting our flag and fish back soon.

**Congratulations** to the organisers of the Muckmedden mountain bike event held in Pitmedden forest above Abernethy on the weekend of the 21st April. Let's hope this becomes an annual event.

I noticed today as I drove home through Aberargie and into Abernethy, the grass verges have been cut by the Council, or at least I think that is what they meant to do.

Why is it they can't use a mower the same width of the verge or run over it twice so it is cut properly, avoiding the fringe left along the side of the kerb. Perth has beautifully manicured grass, neat enough to play bowls on.

How come there are different standards?

Have a great summer

**The ED**

**"The views expressed in the letters are the views of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or The Crier"**

## LETTERS TO THE ED

**Dear Ed,**

They say the NHS is not working, I certainly do not agree.

Over the last few years my family have called on the services of our local Doctors, District nurses and front of office staff of the Newburgh /Abernethy practice.

We received excellent service every time.

I would like to thank all the staff for their help over the years. Keep up the great work.

**Name & address supplied**



**Dear Ed**

There have been lots of comments and letters in the Crier about parking over the years. For many, it is a real pain to have to lug shopping bags, tools and small children into the house after a hard day at work. And there are also issues of scratched cars and access for emergency vehicles. It's certainly a nuisance when you're late and you want to get somewhere in a hurry. However, this is unlikely to ever change due to Abernethy's medieval street layout.

But there is a very real silver lining to this cloud - B.O.Bs. There are many B.O.Bs (Boys on Bicycles) in the village who speed around the village without a care in the world. Certainly, they don't look out for cars and sometimes don't use helmets or bike lights at night and brakes can be entirely ineffective. There is also the occasional highly dangerous G.O.B (Grandparent on Bicycle???)

Now, tight parking keeps car speeds down and keeps B.O.Bs safer, but that doesn't mean that drivers don't have to keep a close look out for the children in the village. Particularly, during the school holidays, when the BOBs are out, en masse, having fun in the great outdoors.

It's also worthwhile taking care if you're driving up Kirk Wynd as cyclists have a nasty habit of flying down past the Williamson hall and onto the Wynd without stopping to look. I see this about once a week during the summer. There's been one very near-miss there that I know about, but no harm was done due to the driver's vigilance. Well done Chris!

So please be careful if you're driving round the village as a fatal accident could really spoil your day. And parents, please do what you can to get your kids to take care on their bikes.

**David Illingworth**

## Where has the wood gone?

Dear Ed.

I am writing this letter to correct the article you printed in the last edition of the Village Crier.

After the storm of 3.1.12 a number of trees were blown down in the Powrie park.

A contractor was cutting them up and we got talking, I asked him if I could have the wood. He said I could have all the wood that he was cutting up, and showed me the wood to remove.

I asked a local farmer to help me remove the wood, but his trailer developed a fault, I needed to arrange other help to remove all the wood, as I had promised the contractor I would remove it all.

I asked Fraser from the Cornkist if he could help, he was good enough to help me finish the job and we removed all the wood that I had been given permission to take. I did not remove any of the wood that had been set aside for the play area.

A local man did ask me if I had permission to take the wood and I told him that the contractor, employed by the council, had said I could have it. He phoned the Council to check that I was telling the truth, and came back to say that I could go ahead.

The article you printed in the last edition of the Crier regarding the C. A. I. community removing the wood was completely false. I think that the Editor should have checked out the facts before printing a letter that at best was just a mistake or at worst religious discrimination.

Perhaps the person who wrote that letter should apologize to the C. A. I. community as the only wood they picked up was a donation from me, for their help.

Any of the wood that was set aside for the play area from the earlier storms was not removed by me.

**Name and address supplied;**

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Diamond

Jubilee

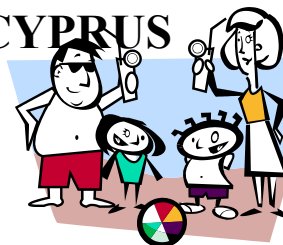
Primary 5 are organising a Street Party for the children and the staff of Abernethy Primary School on the 4<sup>th</sup> June in the school playground.

Street Party

If you could help with donations of food, drink or decorations we would be very grateful.



## 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**

## WHAT A BRAW VILLAGE

In August of 2011, after a seven-year absence, I travelled from Toronto, Canada to Scotland once again to visit with my sister, Enid, who has lived in Abernethy since 2002.

Each visit with Enid seems to provide a theme of sorts, and last year was no exception as we made our plans to take in the Edinburgh Festival, the Perth Open Studios, the Braemar Gathering, a play at the Pitlochry Theatre and Gaberlunzie at the Village Hall. Our theme became "The Arts" and we certainly immersed ourselves.

My experience at the Burns Club's presentation in the Williamson Hall on September 2 differs somewhat from the account which I read in a back issue of this publication. Clearly, we were seated at the wrong table! Nevertheless, it was so very entertaining, and so very different from anything that I might experience back in Canada, the evening became a highlight of my visit. My belated thanks to the organisers of that fun and memorable event.

Because I am from a big city, staying in Abernethy is a great privilege, not just for the decided pleasure of being with my sister once again, but also for the quiet, serene environment, so close to 'nature'. Seven years ago, in Abernethy with my husband, I managed a climb up the Law as well as up the tower. We had a good hour or more at the museum learning some of the local history, and took several walks through the glen. This time, being on my own, it became my habit to go for a stroll almost every evening. Even after a full day 'out & about', off I would go after a light meal, camera in hand, and savour the fresh air and peacefulness. I passed dog walkers, youths & sometimes families on bikes, a few curious horses in a field, and a few other solitary walkers like myself, but mostly I was alone with the interesting houses, the moss-covered walls, the pretty gardens or the walk to the glen with the ancient tower always my point of reference.

Your village is a real treasure.

Thank you for preserving it, keeping it clean & keeping it a vital & interesting place in which to work & live.

I hope not to let another seven years pass before I am once again in the Williamson Hall tapping my feet, dropping into the museum, wandering through the kirk yard or climbing up the Law.

**Phyllis Day**

## FLORA MISSES HER MUMMY

There comes a time in every foal's life when they have to learn to manage without their mothers. Flora was born in June, 2011 and has spent the winter living with her dam, Bella, and her other pony friends; Imogen's pony, Mac and Charlie the little cheeky Shetland. Flora was getting chubbier and chubbier with feeding from her mother and poor Bella was getting skinnier and skinnier. The only way to stop Flora feeding from her mother was to wean her. She would have to be separated from her mother for eight weeks to give the milk time to dry up and break Flora of the habit of feeding. It would be hard for Flora and we wanted to make it as easy as possible. This is the plan we came up with.

We borrowed a lovely grey mare from Over Dalkeith Stables. Hollie is a Connemara in her twenties and last May she broke her leg. Usually a broken leg is a death sentence for a horse but Hollie is so loved that Katie, her owner, and the vet fought to save her. It was touch and go as she spent months standing in a loose box with a big plaster cast on her leg but she has come through well and will soon be ridden again. She came to Abernethy to be a foster mother for Flora.



FLORA IS HAPPY

We took Bella and Mac out of the field and put Hollie in. At first Flora tried to get a drink from her but there was no milk. Then she shouted for her Mum but quickly settled down with her new Mum. She still had her pal, Charlie and we were very relieved that she settled so quickly.





HOLLIE

We now worried about Bella missing her baby but she seemed glad of a break from the responsibility. We took her to Tentsmuir Beach along with Mac and they had an exciting ride along the sands. Splashing in the sea helped distract her and cooled her underneath where she would be tender until the milk dried up. All has gone really well and by the time you read this the ponies should all be together again and Hollie will have been welcomed back to her home Over Dalkeith.

AH

## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB



In the year following the refurbishment of the double courts at Powrie Park after a successful fund raising effort, there has been considerable success in building the membership. As well as adults, focus has been on encouraging young members of the Abernethy community to take up the game, and it is very rewarding to see youngsters developing their skills and enjoying healthy outdoor exercise.

A new committee is continuing the good work, including improving local conditions by tree surgery on the overhanging beech trees (with the kind cooperation of a neighbour), and most recently, a well supported open day. Families and individuals had the chance to "have a go" at tennis, with the help of some gentle coaching, and as well as other games, a hearty barbecue, manned by volunteers, proved very popular.

The courts are of course available to members and non members alike, the latter paying an hourly charge, but booking is advisable in order to avoid sessions restricted to the primary school, members nights and coaching sessions. To book, phone 01738 851199 for the Membership Secretary, pay a £5 returnable deposit for a key, and £2.50 per player.

Annual membership is £30 for a single adult, £15 for a junior (under 18) and £65 for a family of two adults and up to four children.

A programme of coaching began in mid April on Thursdays between 4.45pm and 7.00pm, over 10 weeks, for three age groups, for £33, and all that was necessary was to turn up at the courts and fill in a form from the coach and away they went. Unfortunately the Parent and Child coaching sessions have had to be cancelled, as Douglas, the coach in question, damaged his hip and is temporarily out of action. You can keep up to date by looking at our web site on [abernethytennisclub.webs.com](http://abernethytennisclub.webs.com).

Come and play tennis. Get fitter, socialise, and enjoy the fresh air.  
Liz Yull ([YullForest@aol.com](mailto:YullForest@aol.com))

## KINROSS SPORTIVE SUPPORT

The Abernethy Bicycle Club would like to thank all the folk who came out to cheer them as they passed through Abernethy while doing the Kinross Sportive. Not only did they give fantastic support to our teams doing the blue, red and black runs but they also cheered on all the other riders that day.

By far the best reception in any village along the route making us all feel like we were in the Tour de France.

**Thank You. The ABC**

# Williamson Hall Fete

Kirk Wynd, Abernethy

9th June 2012

1-4pm

## Hall Fete

1pm - 4pm

Live music  
Teas & Coffees  
Ice Cream  
Bouncy Castle  
Beat the Goalie  
Badge Making  
Raffle  
Tuck shop  
Bottle Stall  
Cake and Candy  
Table Football  
Face Painting  
Jumble Sale  
Book Stall  
Plant Sale  
*and more....!*

## Family Disco with Jim Cook

6pm - 8pm

£5 per family.  
Ticket only.  
Tuck shop. No alcohol.

## 625's Local Band

9pm - Midnight

£5 per person.  
Ticket only.  
Licensed Bar.

For all tickets, please contact

Mo: 07803 827769 or  
Ang: 07540 485420

**Sports Theme  
Fancy Dress  
Competition.**  
*Individual and  
group prizes!*

**Hill Race - Sunday 10th**



## Donations Needed!

Bottles, home baking, raffle prizes, books and jumble.

Please leave your donations at the hall during playgroup on Wednesday or Friday morning before the Fete.

For further event info, please contact Anna on 850485 or 07765 116219

## BITS AND BOBS FOR SALE

M&P Cotbed bedding, musical cot mobile & wall plaques - all matching set in blue & white gingham - immac cond - £50 (rrp £140)

M&P Cotbed Sleepsafe mattress - immac cond - £30

Maternity Clothes - various trousers and tops - size 12 - all in great condition - £30

Helmet - Power Rangers 50 - 56cm - never used - £7 (rrp £17)

ELC Rockstar Red Guitar (+ glasses & microphone) - like new hardly used - £10 (rrp £20)

ELC wooden jungle playset - Suitable +3yrs - like new hardly used - £20

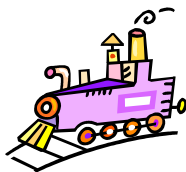
ELC Easel (blackboard and magnetic whiteboard) - great condition - £15 (rrp £45)

Interested in any item please call Andrea Dewar 850960. Smoke and pet free home.

Tropical Fish Tank (12 gallon) for sale £15 ono needs new light. In good condition lots of extras thrown in too.

Phone Adams on 850928.

## NEWBURGH TRAIN STATION CAMPAIGN



The campaign to reopen the station at Newburgh is moving along well. A thousand pounds were raised at a coffee morning in the Tayside Institute and a grant from Fife Council's areas budget has also swelled the campaign fund. Links with the Campaign to Reopen Blackford Railway Station Again (COBRA) were strengthened by attendance at their recent AGM. The Scottish Government has also recently announced that a dedicated fund will be available for local communities to access to re-open or open anew railway stations. This in terms of the political atmosphere is a step in the right direction and it's now very much up to Newburgh and area to make a case strong enough to become eligible for this financial support and take advantage of it accordingly.

Whilst this goes to press the door to door Household Survey of Newburgh and its rural hinterland has begun to establish how many folks want the station to reopen, how they might use it as well as providing their support by signing the survey questionnaire form,

all actions that would provide the campaign with useful data and supporting material for anything from the inevitable and necessary local transport appraisals to a public petition.

The door step approach of this survey is also a great opportunity to raise public awareness and engagement directly on a face to face level with the community. The Newburgh Train Station Campaign would also like to extend this exercise to Abernethy and calls on any Abernethy residents interested in this to make contact.

Meanwhile candidates up for the May elections as councillors to the Tay Coast and Howe of Fife ward of Fife Council where there are three seats, were invited to the Tayside Institute by Newburgh Community Council to take questions from the floor.

The Newburgh Train Station Campaign asked all prospective candidates on the platform "If you support the reopening of the station at Newburgh, what would you do if elected as a councillor to actively promote and further this within the council given that there is a significant amount of involvement that Fife Council would be called on to contribute in partnership with the Scottish Government and all the various rail authorities during the feasibility, design and implementation stages?" Or words to that effect. This elicited the universal response on a cross party basis that gave a promise of support and willingness to be engaged in the nitty gritty efforts required to realise the project. These encouraging words said in public before local towns folk will in the future if necessary be quoted back to whoever is elected to remind them where they stood and what they said at the hustings.

As the man in the Network Rail office in Glasgow responsible for planning more or less said to the campaign recently "We would have no problems seeing Newburgh station reopen. The problems might arise in convincing the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland, essentially a political issue." So Newburgh Train Station Campaign will continue to press on and press hard.

If you are interested in supporting the campaign by helping with a door-to-door survey of Abernethy 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)

## FROM OUR JUNIOR REPORTERS

I apologise for not having an article in the last Crier as I was ill, however I am here writing this article now. I hope you enjoyed the Easter holidays because I certainly did!

At school, P5 are organising a diamond jubilee street party on the 4<sup>th</sup> of June, we are hoping to invite everyone to this event. I am on the entertainment committee so if you have a talent you could use to entertain us all, please get in touch!

In the Perth Diamond Jubilee celebrations I am going to be playing in the samba band and hopefully the 1000 pipers parade. This will be on the North Inch the same day as the kilt run. I hope the sun comes out!

**CAMERON**

Hello, I'm Heather Rodger. I joined Abernethy Brownies in August 2011 and since then I've had lots of fun. I've earned five badges so far and a few weeks ago I made my promise. I was given my promise badge, my pack badge – 1<sup>st</sup> Abernethy Brownies and my six badge – foxes. I was also given a badge book. Just now I am working on my writer's badge which is why I'm writing this article! If any other girls out there aged 7-9 are thinking about joining Brownies, please come along – it's great fun!

**HEATHER**

## ABERNETHY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

If you are keen to volunteer, perhaps as part of your Duke of Edinburgh's Award then the AEA would like to hear from you. For further information please contact Joyce Adams 850928/ Kate Butler 850291. Or let us know via the Abernethy Parks Project facebook page

**COLIN ADAMS**

**THE VILLAGE CRIER IS FREE TO  
OVER 800 HOUSEHOLDS IN  
ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE & DRON**

## CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

At Abernethy primary school, every Thursday, Mrs. Reid hosts the creative writing group. At creative writing, we write poems, stories, riddles and lots, lots more. So far we have been looking at different types of poetry including Haiku and Acrostic poems, poems about dragons, spring-time poems and short stories.

Here is an Acrostic dragon poem that we wrote:

Devilish  
Rage  
Angry  
Green  
On they go  
Nastily

Here is a list poem called 'The Zoo':

Because we were bored and had nothing to do  
My mum took my brother and I to the zoo  
And although we weren't keen and we moaned  
and we whined  
The trip was fantastic, we had a great time.  
We saw six sequinned ostriches dancing on ice  
And skateboarding elephants juggling with mice  
And meerkats jumping on sea-lions heads  
And monkeys on marvellous multi-coloured beds  
And king penguins combing their long golden hair  
And lions in pink frilly underwear  
And chimpanzees sliding fast down giraffe's necks  
And bears holding sacks full of bats on their backs  
And vampire bats boxing with baby baboons  
And snakes making animal shapes with balloons.  
At the end of the day we all had to agree  
That the weird-wildlife zoo was a great place to be.

By **Amanda, Cameron, Kassidy, Kimberley, Kyomi, Sean and Sophia**





## **ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (AHS)**

The AGM in March saw a change in the committee and Keir, Rachel & Liz stood down for a well-earned rest after three years. They not only kept a link with Horticulture in the village, but also made it a very successful and rewarding time for the members. They will be a hard act to follow and on behalf of all members we thank them for all their hard work. Ian, Susan, Margaret, Claire and Caroline will now be working hard to keep up the high standards that they achieved.

The last Spring talk was held in April by Billy Carruthers of the Binny Plant Nursery. He presented some wonderful photographs of the range of Paeonia (The Imperial Flower) that are now available and provided a very comprehensive and interesting description of how to get the best from them for display in the Garden. He also brought along a range of Peonies for purchases which were taken up by all.

The last event for this year before a new programme begins in October is a trip out on the 12<sup>th</sup> May to Cluny Gardens at Aberfeldy. Last year's trip to Pitmuies Gardens was a great success and so this year's trip is looked forward to with anticipation for a great day out.

The new committee is getting ready to set out a programme of events which will run from October this year until May 2013. To set the programme off and raise funds for the events, this year's Garden Day is being organised for the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2012. As in the past, a number of events to include children and adults is being prepared. Details of will be published soon when it is hoped they will be well supported by all. The Garden Day will also give the opportunity to take up membership with the Society so that in the nights ahead there will be something interesting and worthwhile to attend which will enhance everyone's knowledge and gardening skills. Details of the talks will be available at the Garden Day.

The Abernethy Horticultural Society has also taken on the care of Nurse Peattie's Memorial Garden. This year, work is in hand to enhance the plant stock to add to the current displays. Over the summer months, members meet on a regular basis to help with the maintenance & improvement and anyone wishing to help with this would be more than welcome. So come along to help with your ideas to keep this garden a landmark within this beautiful village.

The continuing success of the Society is of course dependent on its membership and participation in the planned events. This will enable us to continue to provide an interesting exchange of Garden knowledge from the talks given by our visiting experts. Your support will help this to continue for the benefit of all in our village.

Information about meetings and AHS events will be published on the village notice boards, the tearoom and shop. You can also join our mailing list and receive email updates. Contact Susan on 851136 or [abernethyhorticulture@gmail.com](mailto:abernethyhorticulture@gmail.com) for more information.

New Committee: Ian Lamond, Susan Pettigrew, Margaret Donald, Claire Jones, Caroline Boyle

## **ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS**

The next event on the calendar is the Summer Outing. This is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June, leaving Abernethy at 11am and travelling to Kirriemuir, Forfar and the Angus Glens, and returning to the Wheel Inn, Scone for High Tea at 5pm. The Christmas Party has still to be arranged but hopefully will be on 1st December this year in the Williamson Hall at 4pm. More details in the next issue of the Crier. If you are a "Senior Citizen" and are not already on the list, and would like to be included, please contact the Secretary on 01738 850496.

## **ABERNETHY SWRI**

The next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the last meeting for the Session. This will take the form of a "Members Night" when it is hope some members will demonstrate their skills, or tell of exciting experiences. Regular Meetings start again in September and details will appear in the next issue of the Crier.

In March we had a very interesting meeting when Stuart Skinner told us about his involvement with setting up "T in the Park".

In April we had a very successful "Open Night" when we had a very good attendance of visitors and friends. May Webster showed how to make sugar paste flowers and Jenny Wightman displayed her beautiful paintings and told us a little bit about each one. Tea and tasty bites were served by the Committee and a large raffle was drawn.

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. New members and visitors very welcome. For more information please contact Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496.

## NEWS FROM THE NEW CHAIR OF THE MUSEUM



My name is Rachel Cheer and I am delighted to have recently taken over from Wyn Dobbie as the chair of the Museum of Abernethy. I have been involved with the Museum since I moved to the village in 2006. The hope that my skills and experience as both a professional museum curator and as a professional fundraiser will help me to continue the excellent work done by Wyn and the team. I am ably assisted by Angus Macintyre (vice-chair), Irene McLaren (secretary), Lesley Robinson (treasurer), Sonja Mainprize (membership secretary), Bill Hughes and Caroline Haddow. I would like to thank both the Board and the plethora of volunteers who have been working tirelessly to get the Museum ready to open for the season on 12 May. The theme this year is Edwardian Abernethy from 1900 to 1914. I hope you will take a few minutes to pop in and say hello. We have a large array of displays about Abernethy as well as things to keep the children entertained. We are open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1pm to 5pm until 30 September. If you wish to become a member of the Museum, your support would be greatly appreciated. As well as the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a fantastic local resource, you will also be invited to a number of events throughout the year. For more information please call the Museum on 850 889 or email me at [rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk).

I look forward to welcoming you to the Museum in the near future.

Rachel Cheer

## WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

Winners for March:

No 10 Ann Millar £20      No 46 Andy Mair £15

Winners for April:

No 21 Lenny McCullie £20      No 46 Andy Mair £15

The 100 Club needs new members. The subscription is still £12 per 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 COMMUNITY COUNCIL

As we approach the Summer and hopefully a spell of good weather, your Community Council are feeling a bit lonely.

Our meetings are public meetings, but are sadly lacking in the public being there, so we would like to take this opportunity to ask you to please come along and give your input on local issues and concerns.

We are your voice on key issues that affect the local community, and a link with Perth & Kinross Council. Our meetings are attended by our local Perth & Kinross Councillors, so again a great opportunity for you to speak to them on a one to one basis, and put the issues that you feel are important on the table.

Members of the Community Council also attend the Community Engagement Forum where we meet once a quarter with representatives from the operators at Binn Farm, SEPA, Perth & Kinross Council, and other Community Councils who have an interest in what goes on at Binn Farm. This and other actions have been effective in reducing the odour problems that have affected the village in the past.

If you cannot make it to our meetings, which currently are held in The Pavilion at Powrie Park, please contact us on [abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk), or contact one of your Community Councillors.

Which brings us to another point, at the moment we display the CC minutes on the village notice boards outside the surgery in Abernethy, and on the village green in Aberargie – is this enough? – How would you like us to communicate with you?

Please use the above e mail address to let us know what you think – even if you think we shouldn't bother to communicate.

There are a number of events in the offing that will affect the village:-

- The Olympic Torch will be coming through the village on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at about 3:45 in the afternoon – one of the bearers is a teacher at our local Primary School. A number of local organisations are making plans to support this once in a lifetime event – what are you doing? – let us know.
- The Local Area Development Plan calls for the possibility of over 100 new houses being built in Abernethy over the next 7 years in four locations, off Perth Road, Station Road, and Newburgh Road – our March meeting was turned over to a public meeting showing de-

details of this plan.

- Tayside Landscape Project is an action plan to develop the whole of the Region in terms of its countryside amenity, and one of our Community Councillors is the local representative for Abernethy. Those responsible for the project had a stand at the "Live Better Fair" held in the Williamson Hall during March, and received some good input from those attending. Our meeting of June 21<sup>st</sup> will be devoted to this topic, with displays and a presentation from the development team. We are looking for a large public participation at this meeting, and to that end we will be holding it in the Mason's Hall at 7:00pm – please come along and show your support and interest.

- Village Parks Development has seen many local families engaged in rejuvenating the woods in Powrie Park, with the laying down of a BMX trail for the younger members of the community (although we don't think there is an age limit!), with more development to come both in Powrie Park and at the Williamson Hall play area. Incidentally there was a plan to store 2000 cubic metres of topsoil in Powrie Park, but input from the Community Council stopped this retrograde step from happening.

And Finally:-

Abernethy is a village of amazing contrasts:-

- A village that can trace its roots back to Pictish times and before, but with new and developing housing.
- Two ladies who selflessly pick up litter throughout the village, and people who eject half eaten meals from their car windows – (Maroon Peugeot – didn't get the number)
- Wardens who look after the paths in the village and up the Glen, and those who leave broken beer bottles by the bench up Castle Law.
- Responsible dog owners and the others who don't/won't clear up behind their pets.
- The Horticultural Society who look after Nurse Peattie's Garden, and the mindless vandals who destroyed one of the benches and broke the sundial.

I guess by now you get the message, we live in a beautiful part of God's Country; let's not allow the mindless minority to spoil it for us.

We look forward to seeing you at our next meetings.

- 21<sup>st</sup> June, 7:00pm – Mason's Hall – Tayside Landscape Project presentation.
- 24<sup>th</sup> August, 7:30pm – Powrie Park Pavilion – general meeting

Please note there is no meeting in July.

## ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### POET'S CORNER



### OUR NEW SCHOOL, AGAIN

A see the schools' been built again  
The second time since I don't know when  
The first time should have been enough  
If the folk wi' the money had come up wi  
the stuff

A see the schools' been built again  
Wi diggers and... wi yellie men  
Puttin up fence and barrier tape  
Ta keep us oot for oor ain sake

A see the schools' been built again  
We bricks and blocks and large steel frame  
Hope it looks like a school this time  
And no a cremi. Or a 'nickel and dime'

A see the schools' been built again  
Bairns being decanted to another hame'  
The teachers stress going aff the scale  
I hope this time they dinna fail

JS

**Please note ALL articles must be accompanied with a name and address BEFORE they will be published in the Crier.**

**On request, the name and address may be withheld from publication.**

**Any submission without these details will NOT be included**

## POLICE BOX



### **FORTEVIOT MURDER AND KINROSS FIRE SERIES**

You will no doubt be well aware of both events which have occurred over the past few months. These have caused a great deal of concern in the local community and attracted a high level of attention in both the local and national media which supported our investigations by highlighting the issues and assisted with our enquiries. The response from the wider community was outstanding.

During March a 58 year old male was charged in relation to the Kinross Fires, whilst a 46 year old male was charged in relation to the murder.

Inspector Ward, the officer in charge of South Perthshire, would like to thank all of those people who came forward with information and for their continued support. He would like to acknowledge the hard work of both enquiry teams for their professionalism and tenacity in helping protect our local community.

### **OPERATION DORADO**

The Perth and Kinross Local Policing Area, in conjunction with its partner agencies and organisations will be running **Operation Dorado 2012** during the period Monday 23 April 2012 to Sunday 2 September, 2012.

Operation Dorado is a National Anti Violence Campaign to target private and public space violence, particularly weapons related and alcohol fuelled violence whilst supporting and building upon the ongoing work of the Scottish Government, Scottish Police and the National Violence Reduction Unit (VRU).

The Operation concentrates on dealing with increased potential for violent crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and disruption to the public, and encourages confidence and well-being to the residents and visitors to the local area. Hot spot times between 2200 – 0200 hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights tend to be when most of the problems arise and most crimes which take place are alcohol related.

The objectives of this operation are:

- To increase community confidence by providing a reassuring high visibility police presence to the communities of Perth and Kinross.
- To reduce violent crime and disorder
- To reduce antisocial behaviour
- To reduce alcohol related crime and disorder
- To reduce weapon carrying and knife crime
- To reduce Hate Crime



### **BOGUS CALLERS**

Over recent weeks there has been an increase in the number of bogus caller incidents in the Perth and Kinross area. The advice to residents is be alert to this type of crime and take simple precautions and safety measures to avoid becoming a victim of crime. Neighbours of elderly and more vulnerable householders are also asked to keep an eye out for any suspicious callers.

Bogus caller crime has a very serious impact on the community, particularly the elderly and most vulnerable. As well as the impact of the crime itself, victims of bogus caller crime can be left feeling frightened, isolated and even, quite wrongly, foolish. Sometimes incidents go unreported.

Tayside Police would ask all residents to be suspicious of anyone arriving unannounced at their door, or even unfamiliar faces appearing in their neighbourhood. Householders should ensure that doors are secure, even when at home and use a door chain. They should not let anyone in until they are certain of who they are, or who they claim to represent.

With regard to anyone claiming to represent a business, authority or agency, householders should demand to see their identification. Bona fide tradespeople, or company representatives will not be offended and will be happy to provide genuine identification.

Even then if suspicions remain, residents should close the door and check with the company the caller claims to represent. Don't take the number from the person on the doorstep, but instead check the phone directory or Yellow Pages.



Beyond that, if a householder remains suspicious they should not let the person in and should contact the police.

Tayside Police would also ask neighbours to look out for one another – particularly if they have elderly or vulnerable neighbours - and report any suspicious activity to the police. Anyone with information that could assist police enquiries should call 0300 111 2222, or speak to any officer.

### **CONTACT**

Local Community Officer Euan Mitchell can be contacted at Bridge of Earn Police Office, by telephone on 0300 111 2222, by email on [ewan.mitchell@tayside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ewan.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.

## **ABERNETHY PARKS PROJECT UPDATE**



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parks consultation exercise at the start of the year. 143 people responded to our survey, more than 20 others participated in our focus groups and approx 50 people spoke to AEA volunteers at community events. Results revealed:

Almost 1/3rd of people under 17 and over 60 years visit Abernethy parks once a year or never

Over half of the people visiting Powrie Park consider it 'very disappointing or disappointing' and claim it is 'not welcoming and safe' (this was slightly lower for Williamson Park)

98% of Powrie Park users and 95% of Williamson Park users said they would enjoy visits more if improvements were made

At Powrie Park the most popular developments requested were: woodland seating, benches, improved lighting, a new play surface and an all abilities swing. Under 17's also requested a zip slide and older people (60+ years) requested new paths or a better path surface

At Williamson Park the most popular developments were: improved toddler play equipment and improved drainage

The research is comprehensive and conclusive. There is much potential to increase park usage and associated health and well-being benefits. Existing facilities are not meeting expectations and in some cases play equipment is not 'fit for purpose'. The community has given us a clear indication of what improvements it would like to see made. Now all we need to do is raise the 60K shortfall in funding needed to make it happen!

If you, your business or community group would like to support Park fundraising efforts, please do get in touch. Any contributions (however small) will help us develop Abernethy Parks so that more people in the community can enjoy and benefit from them, both today and in years to come.

Contact [abernethyparkproject@me.com](mailto:abernethyparkproject@me.com) for more information

**COLIN ADAMS**

The Abernethy Environmental Association would like to sincerely thank Ian Cartwright and Les McIntosh who on behalf of the (old) Horticultural Society of Abernethy gifted £1573 to the Parks Project. The donated money will help fund the upgrade of Powrie and Williamson Hall parks and will be specifically used for the purchase of plants, shrubs and trees.

## **ABERNETHY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION**

If you are keen to volunteer, perhaps as part of your Duke of Edinburgh's Award then the AEA would like to hear from you. For further information please contact Joyce Adams 850928/ Kate Butler 850291. Or let us know via the Abernethy Parks Project facebook page

**COLIN ADAMS**

## **I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE.....**

I here Margaret Mair has retired after 40 years in nursing. I would never have thought she was that age already. She wears well!



## BONNIES FRIEND

Each day when I go walks I usually meet some of my friends, I can see them from a distance and recognise them. I enjoy having a play with them, each one behaves differently. There is Aero, a brown spaniel, who just loves running around in wide circles, and of course me following on, good fun, always wagging his tail as he is happy to see me. Then there is Soulven who is a large white fluffy dog, although he is on a lead we do get a wee bit fun, at first I thought he was rough but he really is a big softy, a big wooly ball my mum says. A newcomer came as a wee pup last year called Jammie and now we meet quite a lot, Jammie is a wee cairn and greets me and my mum at the fence of his garden, Gypsie his friend is a small black dog who, I am sure is the culprit that digs lots of holes in their garden. They are pleased to see us and jump up to get a pat from my mum, then I run down the side of the hedge and both of them run along the other side of the hedge. This is good fun as we bark to each other as we run up and down the path. I meet Jeffrey, a poodle, usually at his garden gate, or sometimes my mum lifts me up to see him sitting at the window, I know he likes me very much, and when I reach near his gate I get a row from my mum for pulling on the lead. "I just want to see if Jeffrey is here today mum" I try to say to her "and that is the reason for me pulling". Some mornings I meet Corrie with his dad, he is a small brown Jack Russell, and his tail wags quicker than any other of my friends. I think he prefers my mum more to me, but nice to see them. Sometimes I meet strangers on my walk and greet them with a wag of the tail and of course a sniff, just to say hello, need I say I am a friendly dog and love meeting new friends and of course people who make a fuss of me. My mum tells them how I enjoy looking after the geese in the garden and help to put them to bed each night in case Mr. Fox pays a visit.



One day there was a terrific hail storm while my mum and dad and myself of course were in the conservatory and the noise was deafening, we were watching the geese running for the shelter of the house and suddenly they stopped and stood straight upwards with their beaks facing the sky. We were all mystified at this. It seemed the hailstones were separating on their beaks and saving their bodies from being pressured by the hail. I watched curiously and listened to my mum and dad discussing this. There is a lamb at the fence of the field each day whom I speak to, I think it looks forward to seeing me and comes quite close. Lots of other lambs are there and run up and down the field but I know I have only to watch them. My favourite friends are the cats, Smokey in particular. We formed a relationship when I was a pup and he looked after me and now we are the best of friends, although you would not think it as I chase him in fun, he rolls on his back and likes me to nudge him with my nose and he hits me with his paws. Also Gabby who is a beautiful coloured cat but she is so cheeky and if I am passing her she will just hit me for no reason, she does that with my mum too. To finish off my day I enjoy playing with my hoop and tunnel and fetching balls, also I get some commands, sit, stay, down and fetch. I look forward to this each night and I can settle down till it gets nearly dark and I get so agitated, back and forth to the door till my mum says "Come on Bonnie and put the geese in". This finishes off my day and I am quite happy to settle down after that. When I go to bed and curl up I wonder what the next day will bring. Night, night Bonnie.

## STOP PRESS

<http://abernethyparksproject.webs.com/> Check out the new Abernethy Parks Project new website for all the latest news/ information/ fundraising. You can still follow us on our facebook page.

## MUCKMEDDEN IN PITMEDDEN



Many folk will be puzzling about the title. About half way round it, I was certainly puzzling why I had entered it. Just up the hill from Abernethy in Pitmedden forest a mountain bike event had been organised by Aaron (a village local) and very appropriately he had titled it "Muckmedden".

I am probably being biased but in my opinion the forest is one of the best unmarked biking areas anywhere.

Therefore having a race on my doorstep and getting to run my favourite trails was certainly an event not to be missed and so I signed up and bought the T-shirt.

We all know what the weather was like through most of April, (wet) and therefore by the time of the race it was a fairly muddy cycle. I'd signed up to be a "mental" mucker which involved doing 2 complete circuits of the course ("mad" muckers only had to do it once).

The start was a little crazy with everyone heading off at the same time down the forest track but within the first couple of kilometres it was clear who were the serious riders and who drank too often in the Crees. To add to my slow start I had a "technical" and jammed my chain through over eagerness to be in the right gear for the first serious climb. So I had the pleasure of stopping and watching the few folk I had beaten to the climb pedal by while I fixed things.



This did have the advantage that I could now play catch up with folk and gradually I did. A lot of the non-locals on the hill that day had never been biking on surfaces that are not all maintained perfectly, meaning they were struggling on the climbs. That being said, due to the wetness, climbs I had happily got up a few weeks before I was struggling on and as a consequence I walked quite a few sections.

The route through the forest was brilliant and took in a large part of the area of Pitmedden taking us round all the different areas. Aaron and his team had put in a few entertaining drops and these were a great test of ability and a few times mine was clearly lacking.

Three hours and a few minutes after I had set off I completed my second lap and I was well and truly exhausted but had a grin underneath a thick coat of mud. In the end I was almost an hour off the winning time but that didn't matter.

Also going on in the forest that day were a series of other events including a kids' race. Brilliant to watch local kids showing their impressive skills and doing stuff the adults chickened out of. It was the local kids who deserve the mention for taking on such a tough event, so well done to Callum and Euan Reid, Claire and Andrew McGhie, Alexander Kinnear, Tommy Adams, Craig Simmers and James Mair (if I missed anyone - sorry.)

Most of all, a big thanks to Aaron and his team who put together such a brilliant, fun and professionally run event.

**KEIR ALLEN**

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY SYLLABUS 2012

June Sunday 17th Treasure Hunt. Barbeque in Courtyard Garden

August Sunday 12th Guided Historic Walk through Abernethy. Strawberry Tea in the Courtyard Garden

September Date TBC Quiz Night at 7.30pm in Cree's Inn  
Sunday 30th Museum closing 5pm

October Friday 19th-----Sunday 21st Art Exhibition

November Date TBC Red Wine Theatre Company

February 2013 Wednesday 13th Alternative Valentine Dinner

## POET'S CORNER



I have a little Satnav  
It sits there in my car  
A Satnav is a driver's friend  
It tells you where you are

I have a little Satnav  
I've had it all my life  
It does more than the normal one  
My Satnav is my wife

It gives me full instructions  
On exactly how to drive  
"It's thirty miles an hour" it says  
"And you're doing thirty five"

It tells me when to stop and start  
And when to use the brake  
And tells me that it's never ever  
Safe to overtake

It tells me when a light is red  
And when it goes to green  
It seems to know instinctively  
Just when to intervene

It lists the vehicles just in front  
It lists those to the rear  
And taking this into account  
It specifies my gear

I'm sure no other driver  
Has so helpful a device  
For when we leave and lock the car  
It still gives its advice

It fills me up with counselling  
Each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it  
And get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house  
Makes sure I'm properly fed  
It washes all my shirts and things  
And - keeps me warm in bed

H. E. N. RYFORD

## THE TAY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT

Those who attended the 'Better Place to Live' fair in the Williamson Hall on March 24 will probably have noticed a display advertising the Tay Landscape Partnership (TLP).

The TLP is basically a partnership between the P&K Countryside Trust and the P&K Heritage Trust, with built-in representation for Tay Salmon Fisheries as well as for the local communities in both the Carse of Gowrie and **Abernethy**. 2012 is the (funded) development year for the TLP project, and the intention is to submit a major bid for Heritage Lottery Funding early in 2013.

It has long been recognised that the Tay estuary is an underused resource, and this project offers us the chance to do something about that. Conserving or restoring buildings and natural heritage, as well as improving access (e.g.) to the river itself, are important aims. Developing the profile of the area will encourage more active involvement by locals and tourists alike in the landscape.

In this regard, both Abernethy Community Council and the Museum of Abernethy are keen to raise the awareness of the enormous historical importance of our village, and would therefore like to see more interpretation boards, not to mention generally improved highway signage to indicate the existence of the village to non-locals. The Community Council has already submitted a summary proposal along those lines. However, the TLP is looking for suggestions not just from official bodies but from anyone with an idea (or two). Other projects already being considered include:

- u Walking and cycling pathways close to the river (already endorsed by P&K Council), e.g. linking Abernethy with Bridge of Earn and Newburgh
- u Excavation and interpretation of the Castle Law Hill Fort
- u Increasing boating access to the rivers Tay and Earn
- u Restoring historic orchards, and creating new community orchards





The above are large-scale, but of course local input is essential in order to provide appropriate detail—that is, what is practical—and in any case smaller projects will also be included.

**Projects particular to Abernethy are being sought, but in order to take advantage of the eventual bid we as a community need to tell the TLP team what we would like to see included.**

Since it is vital to the success of the project that local communities are consulted and participate as much as possible, the next stage will involve community meetings. For us in Abernethy this will be on **June 21, between 7 and 9 p.m.**, when the scheduled Community Council meeting will be given over to a full presentation of the TLP plans as they stand, with the chance for everyone to discuss possibilities, propose projects large or small and ask questions—or just to listen. This meeting will be in the **Masonic Hall**. It provides a rare opportunity to have our say on improving the 'knowledge, access and enjoyment' of the Tay estuary in general and of the Abernethy area in particular, not to mention boosting the local economy! A large turnout is hoped for.

If you are unable to make this meeting but would like to contribute, there will be an online survey available through a link on [www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org)

For further information visit the website: [www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org) or contact Johanna Babbs, Development Officer, tel: 01738 475379.

Project ideas can be submitted directly to The TLP as above, or via [abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk)

#### Miss Finella M. Maver

Sadly Finella Maver or Nurse Maver died in February after a long illness.

Finella served Abernethy well for 23 years until her retiral in 1990.

During that time, Finella delivered many Abernethy babies and amongst more onerous professional duties, a highlight for her was the annual 'Senior Citizens' bus trip where she handed out barley sugar sweets on the bus.

A well known figure when out walking with her wired haired fox terrier, she will be sadly missed.

## VILLAGE CRIER

Young Journalist Competition  
Junior and Senior Categories

GOLD £30      SILVER £20      BRONZE £10

Any child between 7 and 18 years old living in the CRIER distribution area may enter.

The piece that you write must have some connection with Abernethy and district, either the place or a resident.

It could be your personal feelings about the village, how it could be improved, what you like or what you don't like. If you moved in recently how does Abernethy compare with where you lived before?

It could be about the history of the village or a particular building or family.

It could be about the career of someone from these parts or about you; you are a resident!

It could be about the surrounding country or wildlife.

What would Abernethy's Facebook page look like?

What might it tweet?

The junior category is for 12 years old and under on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012 and should be between 200 – 500 words. Seniors are 18 years and under and should contain 300 – 1000 words. Longer is not better. Use just enough words to tell your story. You can insert photos or drawings.  
(this article is 275 words)

Entries should be e-mailed to [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk), sent to 63 Brandywell Road or handed to a committee member. The closing date is July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Winners will be announced in the September issue of the village Crier and the winning articles will be printed in the December issue. Runners up will be printed in the March and June 2013 issues. All entries may be published in the Crier. Prizes will be presented at the distributors get together in December 2012.

## WITH REGRET

It is with regret we hear of the death of Bob Messenger and Annie Doig.  
Our thoughts are with the families at this time

# ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS

## Ongoing Church 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.

## Changes/ Future Activities

**Youth Club** (P7-S1) Unfortunately the Friday group has had to be discontinued recently due to a reduction in the availability of leaders. We will however review this.

Our plans for the **Holiday club** in July / August sadly have also had to be change since Alec was the only helper available every day. Other volunteers' circumstances have also changed and are unable to commit to helping. Sincere apologies for any inconvenience or disappointment caused.

**Challenge to people 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 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**: Session Clerk, Alex Johnson: 01577 830 776

: [sandragourlay1@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sandragourlay1@hotmail.co.uk) for an email copy of the weekly Church newsheet

## FROM THE MODERATOR

There's a story told about a wee boy who goes round one evening to have a chat with the minister. The Rev welcomes him to the manse and asks the boy why he was desperate to chat. The lad replies, " Well, I just wanted to say, when I grow up, get a job and make lots of money I'm going to give you some ." This puzzled the cleric who asked, "Why?" "The wee boy replied, "well I heard my dad tell my mum that you were the poorest minister they had ever had, so I would like to help you out."

Let me introduce myself, my name is Marc Bircham, I am the minister of St Madoes and Kinfauns Parish Church, and I have been appointed by Perth Presbytery, following the transfer of the Rev Alec Wark to Deeside, to serve as the Interim Moderator of Abernethy, Dron and Arngask, and to help you find not the poorest but the best minister for this parish. Most of my role will be carried out behind the scenes: chairing meetings, helping the nomination committee as it seeks to find a new minister, dealing with the paperwork etc. However, I also see my task as being one, not only of 'moderating' but also one of 'motivating.' It is my intention to assist the Kirk session and the Nomination Committee, when it is formed, in their task to serve the community and to find a minister. I see this time of vacancy as a positive time – in my mind it's a time of opportunity, a time to reflect on all the good things of the past but also to look forward to the exciting things that God has for us in the coming years. For this is a time of new beginnings, a time to look at the possibilities as we seek to call the 'right' individual to lead the congregation forward – an individual who will bring the love of God to all the folk of the Parish.

I am delighted to say that the Kirk Session have appointed Rev Duncan Stenhouse as locum. In Duncan you have a minister who will not only inspire you in your walk with God as he leads worship each Sunday but will also give wonderful pastoral care and support. I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve and I pray that God continue to bless you all.

If you have any questions about the vacancy process please feel free to contact me at [mark.bircham@btinternet.com](mailto:mark.bircham@btinternet.com)



Marc F Bircham  
Interim Moderator

## FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER



Dear Friends

As this is my first letter to the 'Village Crier' I should write a few words about myself.

I was appointed as "Locum minister" at Abernethy, Dron and Arngask Church by the Kirk Session on 17 April 2012 to serve the parishes two days a week plus Sunday services until a minister is found to replace Rev Alec Wark.

I retired from the parishes of Dunbarney and Forgan-denny over six years ago and have lived in Kinross since then. We have one son Angus who is married to Rosie and they have two teenage daughters, Katie and Hannah.

My interests are quite simple: walking, the occasional cycle run round Loch Leven, curling (that is **trying** to curl), reading and last but certainly not least, family. With regards to ministry I have an open approach to people whether they are "church people" or not. The fact that some people do not share my Christian faith is up to them. We all share the same humanity and we all have our views on the best way to live.

I also believe strongly that the Church lives within the community to serve the community. However "serving" is a two way process. The community needs to keep supporting the local church if there is to be a church to serve the people.

Over the next few months I expect to get to know the congregation and wider community through the various activities and events which occur in what I know to be a lively community. There will also be different individual pastoral occasions when I hope I may be of some help.

If you see a bespectacled 70+ man looking lost in Abernethy either on foot or in a grey Skoda Octavia estate car, that man will be me. I hope you won't mind being asked to point me in the right direction. I look forward to meeting you as the months unfold. God Bless

**Rev Duncan Stenhouse**

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO HAS NOT RECEIVED A COPY OF THE CRIER, PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THE COMMITTEE

**DID YOU KNOW.....**James Roy Court used to be the village's primary school, the building opened on 2nd December, 1874.

In December 1909, work began on the re-construction of two new classrooms and a new double window was inserted into the wall of the block on the right hand side of the building.

This work was completed by 10th January, 1910, allowing the children a few days extension to their New Year holiday.

On 15th May, 1911, the Infant Division of the School was transferred temporarily to the Williamson Hall to allow construction of an upper storey above the infant room. The Infant Division room re-opened on 11th September 1911 and by December of that year the upper storey extension for Manual work was opened

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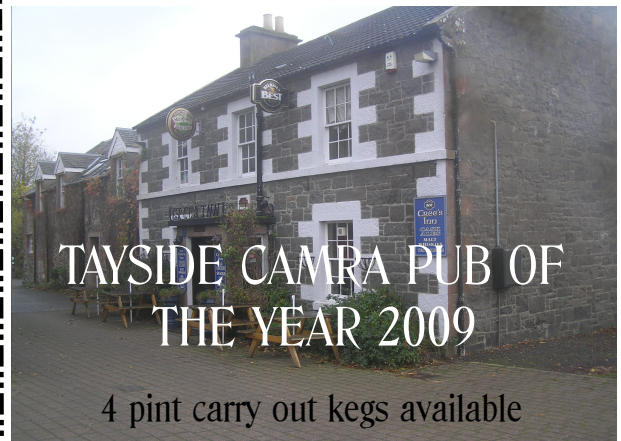


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