



# VILLAGE CRIER

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## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

16th EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2012

CLOSING DATE FOR 17th EDITION 31st October 2012

Hello everyone,

Jimmy suggested I sent my piece from France, starting off "as I recline in a hammock, under the dappled sunlight with a glass of wine to hand.....", which I hope will be the case in about 10 days time, but I am not there yet and when I get to Condom----- (Yes that is correct, look on a map or Google it and you will find the place south of Bordeaux not so far from the Pyrenees) I intend to be so relaxed I will not be thinking about The Crier concentrating fully on nothing.

What an extraordinary summer we are having, grass and weeds growing furiously, other plants, flowers and vegetables having problems, certainly testing the skills of all our gardeners

A Fortnight Later.

I have mentioned before that I very rarely write my article at one sitting so here I am now, sitting under a clear blue sky, temperature around 30degrees.....just as Jimmy suggested, but not in a hammock as it is very difficult to write in a hammock.....but all the rest applies! The scene is quite bucolic, vineyards straight ahead, fields of sunflowers to the side and behind and over the hedge about 30 Blonde Aquitaine cows contentedly grazing. I hope I have given you the picture and that you are not too envious!

Of course by the time you read this my stay in France will just be a memory joining all our other memories of this particular summer and I am hoping we may have some stories and reports of the various events enjoyed by both the village and individuals.

Many of us could only take part in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations through TV but it was all quite spectacular, colourful and a very happy event. Such an occasion many of us are unlikely to witness again. Some of you possibly saw the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh when they visited Perth.

It was good to see Perth Road, Back Dykes and Newburgh Road lined with young and old to cheer the Olympic Flame on its journey on Tuesday 12th June. I guess we were all relieved and thankful that the sun shone that day. Many photographs were taken and I hope that copies have been sent to the Crier for publication. Again this was a once in a lifetime event and I just wonder if the 7 of us here are going to be the only people in the world not to see this spectacular show as there is no TV!!

I was delighted and honoured to be invited to open the Williamson Hall Fete. Again luck was on our side and after a damp start to the day the sun came out, rain stayed away and a great family day was enjoyed once again in Abernethy

Unfortunately, due to the weather the Walking Treasure Hunt and BBQ at the Museum had to be cancelled but hopefully the Treasure Hunt will take place on 12th August along with the Guided Walk and Strawberry Tea. Fingers crossed it will be "The Glorious Twelfth".

There should be a report on the meeting held by the Tay Landscape Partnership project. Personally I found this meeting very interesting and look forward to keeping up to date with the progress.

I hope many of our younger readers have taken part in the Young Journalist Competition. It was good to see we had more contributions in the junior section of the last issue. We are always delighted to hear from anyone.

On this note I draw to a close. It is too hot to think any more. (I am still in France)

Au revoir from your Foreign Correspondent  
**Hilda Clow.**

## EDITORS VIEW

A good few years ago the gates of the Kirk yard were being locked in the evenings to try to stop the kids using the grave yard as an adventure playground.



Grave stones were being damaged and a worn path was forming between the main gate and the Cree's Inn gate.

It's happening again, but so far the stones are untouched, but that path is appearing between the two gates.

There are 1064 lairs in the grave yard, so no matter where you walk you are walking over someone.

I believe parents and children are using this route to School in the morning, not much of an example being given by the parents, respect for the dead and all that. If the kids see the adults doing it they will assume it as being acceptable and it might start being used as that adventure playground again.

There is a whole lot of Abernethy history in that yard, it shouldn't be closed up, it should be open for all to use legitimately.

Come on parents show a bit of guidance and respect.

There are a few people in the village that go the extra mile when it comes to doing their bit, one of those is George Brown, Hatton Road.

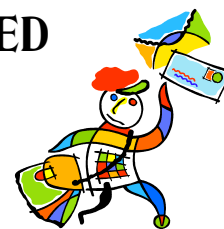
That area of grass at the end of Manse Road/Hatton road should be maintained by our local Council but it is cut by George.

Many thanks George for keeping this area of Abernethy very tidy.

Happy Autumn **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 Mr Editor,**

Once, not so long ago, a village with a busy Main Street full of shops and businesses, Abernethy is now left with only one shop selling food and everyday necessities. That this shop remains open is entirely due to the endeavours of the Greig family over the last fifty plus years. A shop indeed, is a major requirement in any village for the daily needs of the public as well as acting as a meeting place and a way of keeping in touch with what is going on in the village. How long this shop will continue, however, depends on us, the inhabitants of Abernethy, making use of it.

It is not easy to make use of something you don't know is there. It seems there are many newcomers to the village who have no idea such a shop exists or the variety of goods that are on sale there, at prices equal to or only a little above those in the supermarkets. Why not go in one day and have a look for yourself? By walking there, no cost of petrol would be involved and you would be so much healthier. Try it!

**Janet Paton**

**Dear Ed**

I am writing this article to bring it to the attention of the residents of Abernethy, to ask if anyone else has had similar damage to their vehicles.

Over a period of years damage to my vehicles include broken windscreens, wiper arms slackened off which almost resulted in an accident when driving in heavy rain, wheel nuts slackened, broken mirrors, but perhaps the most dangerous and frequently occurring event to happen recently is various types of nails/screws being deposited on my driveway and in particular being positioned directly under my, and family members vehicle tyres. As you can appreciate this is of great concern to everyone who uses my driveway, as someone's mindless, reckless and malicious behaviour is endangering all concerned. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Community Police Officer already, but I would appreciate if anyone has had a similar experience or can shed any light on this matter that they contact me on 01738 850742 or contact the Community Police Officer.

**Keith Elston**

## Dear Ed

In the June edition reference was made to grass verges not being cut properly. It's worth pointing out that the council have for some years been cutting the grass only as far as is necessary for visibility leaving the remainder of the verge to grow naturally. This provides and protects habitat for a variety of wildlife allowing wild flowers to grow and is the council's policy throughout Perth and Kinross. A wider strip was cut this year for access to view the Olympic Torch procession. Some may find this untidy. Others may enjoy the beauty of the wild flowers and the resulting increase in the bee and butterfly population.

**Hilary Sharman**

## VICTORIAN JUBILEES IN ABERNETHY

Earlier this year Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated, and it was obvious that she is still hugely admired, loved and respected by the vast majority of the UK population. Such was also the case in 1897 regarding her great-great grandmother, Queen Victoria, at the time of her Diamond Jubilee. However the manner in which these two events were celebrated locally stand in stark contrast. While many may have watched with pleasure, pride and interest the key events of our Queen's jubilee on TV, there was little by way of active local celebration. This contrasts with the 1897 celebration for Queen Victoria, as reported in the PA on 23/6/1897:-

"Abernethy loyally blossomed into a handsome display of bunting, many private houses decorating in a style quite surpassing any public rejoicing. The first event was a joint thanksgiving service at 11.30 in the Parish church, conducted by all three ministers, viz- Rev. Messrs Stevenson, Cairns and Butler. Following this service, at one o'clock a dinner was served for the aged and deserving in the Williamson Hall. Some 93 invitations were served, but only 28 had accepted the invitation to be present, the remainder of the vast majority stating that they were unable to attend; but the committee at their meeting on Monday evening decided that those who were unable to attend were to have their share sent to them after the celebrations were over. Following the dinner came the treat to the children at 3 o'clock. The children met at the Public School at 2.30, and, being all marshaled in order by their respective teachers, a march was made through the streets of the village,

headed by the Marr and McNaughton Instrumental Band and two Highland pipers, the children all joining in the Queen's Anthem, to the Williamson Hall, followed by a big crowd of the general public. Owing to the damp and wet, tea was served in the hall. A large staff of lady waiters attended to the wants of the young people. Both old and young had an ample supply. After the inner man was supplied a march was made to the park, where games were gone through."

Ten years earlier Victoria's Golden Jubilee had been celebrated in a very similar manner. A Perthshire Courier article (28/6/1887) gives details of this event. It mentions that "the new flag lately presented to the Town Council by Lord Home, The Superior, with the family crest, was hung from the window of the Council-room, while the Union Jack floated from the flag-staff on the old tower." Again the scholars marched round the town, headed this time by the Auchtermuchty Brass Band. The Town Council also joined the procession. Again games and sports were "got up for the young" in a park lent by Mr Davidson, Gattaway. Later there was dancing, which was "gone into with great zest." At 10 o'clock a magnificent display of fireworks took place.

In the afternoon a congratulatory telegram had been sent to Lord Home, to be presented to Her Majesty in the name of the Town Council and the general community. Can we assume that, in like manner, the Community Council of this ancient Pictish capital sent QE2 a loyal e mail, text, or even a tweet?

**Bill Drever**

## QUIZ NIGHT

The Museum of Abernethy is holding it's annual quiz night in The Cree's Inn on Wednesday 26th September at 7.30pm.



Fantastic prizes - don't miss out - enter a team.  
(maximum 4 persons per team)

## CRIER WRITING COMPETITION

UNDER 12

WINNER **IMOGEN GRAHAM**

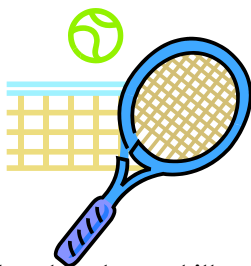
OVER 12

WINNER **MORVEN GRAHAM**  
SECOND **EILIDH SIMPSON**



## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

During what some have jokingly referred to as “the summer”, tennis coaching for children has been very well attended, and it has been very rewarding to see so many youngsters enjoying themselves and developing their hand and eye skills. It looks as if Andy's success has been a source of inspiration.



We are now exploring the possibility of teenage and adult coaching if the demand is there.

Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm to dusk are club nights open to all standards, and they are a great opportunity to improve your tennis and have fun while socialising in the fresh air.

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at 7.30 pm, we are arranging our Race Night in the Williamson Hall, so make a note in the diary and come along for a good evening.

Liz Yull (YullForest@aol.com)



## IT'S ALL WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE NOW!



## BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

Following on from last years successful Gaberlunzie concert, The Burns Club of Abernethy has arranged another event with well known entertainer Eddie Rose.

Eddie is coming along to the Williamson Hall on Saturday 13th October with some of his friends to entertain us.

For over 40 years Eddie has taken his distinctive style of Scots comedy and music to venues all over Scotland as well as tours of Canada and America.

Tickets priced £8 will first be offered to Club members and their guests, the surplus, if any, will be offered to non - members.

Last year the Williamson hall benefited from the proceeds of the concert, this year the Club will donate any profit to other local organisations.

If your club or organisation wishes to be considered for a donation please contact Ian Bett on 850380 or by e-mail at [bettlizbee@aol.com](mailto:bettlizbee@aol.com)

**Ian Bett**

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## Gap Year

"Gap year" When people hear these two words they can quite often imagine some lazy teenagers

going on holiday to "find themselves", but that is nothing like what I have decided to do in my year out. My gap year is something a bit different and pretty strange for a young teenager who is used to having a phone in her hand all the time. I have been selected by a charitable trust called Project Trust to go out to the Ugandan Children Sure House in Kiwalanga. There I will live with two girls, whom I will meet when I am at training, in a small simplistic house with a bedroom for us to share and a living area where we will cook and spend time relaxing (as if!). Something I am least looking forward to is having a bucket of water for my shower every day, although it may cool me down!

Project Trust is a charity that has been sending school leavers out to countries in South America, Asia and Africa for the past 45 years. They offer many different adventures for the 17 – 19 year olds, such as an outwards bound experience where you take part in loads of different activities but also teach them to those in the country you are assigned. You can also be offered a place in a school teaching or in an orphanage, just being there to help others.

Once I was selected by Project Trust I was told I had to raise £5100 to pay for my voluntary year abroad. This would cover the costs of my insurance while over there as well as my flights and accommodation. I managed this by holding a small concert for family and close friends with a friend singing which raised £300 and a golf day at Blairgowrie Golf Club. My day at Blairgowrie managed to raise me a whopping £4000, which was a huge shock. However I still needed to raise more money, so to do this I wrote to many different trusts. Not every trust could donate anything to me, and many did not even get back to me at all, but those that did helped me raise another £1500 meaning I had managed to raise all of my money, plus more for any other volunteer that found their fundraising a little more difficult. What Project Trust didn't tell me, was that the £5100 I raised will not cover the cost of my injections which have come to a whopping total of £500, so now I am looking for a way to try and raise this money as I feel this year should not be funded by mum and dad as it is my challenge and I wish to achieve it by myself.

Loads of people have asked me if I am excited about my year in Uganda, and as much as I would love to say yes and sound like a big brave girl, I know in myself I am petrified. I am scared of the thought I am going to be away from all my friends and family for a year and even worse...my phone! It will be a huge shock for me to live in such a different culture where my phone isn't a necessity and my family aren't there to help me when I get scared. I am looking forward to the experiences I am going to face and all of the new people I am going to meet. I am looking forward to growing up and living independently, but mostly I am looking forward to helping those that have so much less than me and having the feeling in myself that I have made a little bit of difference.

**Jenny Cleeton**

## Williamson Hall Fete 2012



Well it's that time of year again (although the weather would maybe have us believing otherwise!) and the second Williamson Hall "Fete" has been and gone. I am delighted to report that it was a roaring success, despite the slightly temperamental weather. We had a great turnout and the masses were entertained by live music from Stuart McKandie, James Roger and "The Degenerates", Jenny Cleeton & Jennie Fogg. We had a lot of the usual stalls and attractions with some new ones thrown in to add to the excitement!!

Local celebrity, Hilda Clow, opened the festivities for us this year and judged the fancy dress, for which we had an Olympics theme. The kids had all put in a fantastic effort and the prize for the best group went to the Rainbows again who were dressed as a selection of athletes, while the prize for the best individual went to Theo Harvey who came dressed as a canoeist.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to extend a massive thank you to all those who helped to make it happen. In particular we would like to thank Branston for their continued extremely generous support along with the many other local businesses and organisations which were once again good enough to donate raffle prizes and offer their support in other ways. Also, we would like to thank those members of the wider community who offered their time and expertise to help make this event the success it was: those who helped put up the gazebos in the morning, who donated baking, raffle prizes or a bottle for the bottle stall, and those who ran the individual stalls. We really couldn't do it without you and, as a largely new committee, we greatly appreciate the level of community support.

We would also like to thank all the families who supported our family disco with our wonderful local DJ, Jim Cook, and those who attended the evening 'do' with the 625s. In particular we would like to thank Jim and the 625s for making these such fabulous events.

We would also like to thank all those who took part in the Hill Race and to the many stewards and those who helped to organise it.

I hope to see you all again next year for what already promises to be an even bigger and better event. If anyone would like to get involved in the organisation of the fete or any of the other related events, next year, please feel free to contact me on 850485.

**Anna MacNeill Chairperson**

## SENIOR CITIZEN'S OUTING

On Tuesday 12th June the bus left Abernethy at 11am. we had a lovely drive in a luxury coach ( I had a large window) to Kirriemuir via Blairgowrie and other villages. The day was just perfect to travel, not too hot, a bit overcast but did not spoil the views of the countryside. Even though we have not had much summer, the foliage on the trees and hedgerows is fantastic. We stopped at Kirriemuir for 45 mins where I got a super large ice-cream, which I thoroughly enjoyed. We wandered around the village but I did not manage to visit the birthplace of J.M. Barrie but that is for me to see another time. We got back on the bus and what a treat for the eyes as we went through Glen Clova and saw the treasures Scotland has to offer, with the meandering burns and wildlife ( different birds). The bus was expertly driven on the narrow road. As I said I had a large window and was treated to a wonderful view. We stopped at Forfar for over 1 hour where I found a good bakers and of course I had to buy a forfar bridie to bring home ( very good too). I was impressed with the shops in Forfar and as I had never been there before enjoyed exploring. Time came to board the bus again and off we headed for home, stopping at the Wheel Inn, Scone for a lovely high tea. What a lovely day I had and a big thank you to all the committee and all who do the organizing both for our outing and the Christmas Party.



**Lillias Johnston**

## MY FIFTEEN MINUTES

According to Andy Warhol we all have our fifteen minutes of fame. I reckon that mine must have been in May 1981.

The scene was the Famous Grouse Carriage Driving Championships held in the grounds of Scone Palace. Securing an ideal spot to park the car overlooking the main arena, I set out with my wife Isabel to walk the cross country obstacle course leaving our daughter Jane and her then boy friend John in charge of the car.

In our absence one of the competitors came along with his carriage and team of four and attempted to turn only to find that the car was in his way. He asked if they would mind moving it but the keys were in my pocket. He then asked if one of them could get behind the wheel and release the handbrake to enable him to push the car and John duly obliged. At this point the press photographers had arrived on the scene to capture this spectacle on film.

It was all over the tabloids the next day complete with pictures of Jane and John with the car including a mention of my name as the owner.

When we eventually returned we found Jane and John in a state of high excitement. No wonder the competitor in question was none other than H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh.

My claim to fame, Prince Philip pushed my car and I wasn't there!

Bob MacDonald.

## UNDER 13's PLEASE

Abernethy Youth Football Club are a newly formed team playing in the PKYFA under 13's 11-a-side league. We play our home games & train at Powrie Park in Abernethy. We are looking for players born in 2000. At present we have our quota of players signed and training with us at 2001. If anyone is interested please contact myself, Douglas Robertson on 07446 251598, via our facebook page ( Abernethy Youth Football Club ) or our website [www.abernethyyfc.co.uk](http://www.abernethyyfc.co.uk)



**Douglas Robertson**

## HORSE PLAY

### CHARLIE IS A JUBILEE STAR



Charlie was part of the Jubilee Fancy Dress Parade at the Jubilee Gymkhana held at Over Dalkeith Stables. Morven Graham drove and Imogen Graham and Freya Gillanders were red, white and blue passengers. Star, the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, tried to look like a corgi. Charlie behaved beautifully and stole the show.

### MAC IS AN ENDURANCE PONY



Mac started a new career as Imogen's endurance pony by gaining her a rosette for covering 20km at Dunkeld in April. In June they were both successful at Glenrothes and Blairadam. Bella has returned from maternity leave to accompany her and has been busy growing

### FLORA IS A YEAR OLD

She has been learning to walk nicely in-hand and will be going to Kinross show on August 11<sup>th</sup> when we will see if she has remembered what she has learned.



AH

## ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK PARISH CHURCH NEWS



We are progressing towards getting a new minister. All the required permissions from the various courts of the church have now been obtained and, on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June, a congregational meeting was held after morning worship at which a Nominating Committee of 13 persons was elected. This committee is tasked with finding someone for the position of minister of the parish. The work of this committee is necessarily highly confidential. Therefore little more information on their work will be known until they have a sole nominee. Once they have, and that will be several months away, the nominee will preach at a service in the parish and immediately after this service the congregation is required to vote on whether or not they wish to invite this person to be their minister. In the meantime, the committee will be working on the preparation of a Parish Profile and on the wording and placing of adverts.

Here are some dates for your diaries:-

Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Sunday Club begins
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion will be celebrated at 9.30am in Abernethy.
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Holy Communion will be celebrated at 11am in Arngask.
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Parish Harvest Supper in Glenfarg Village Hall. More details will be announced nearer the time.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held.

The Sunday Clubs at Abernethy Church resume on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> August. All children are welcome along to church including babies and toddlers. During the service parents can feel free to pop into the adjacent church hall at any time with their toddlers, where toys are available. Those aged three and upwards are invited to come into church for the early part of the service at 9.30 am (about 10minutes) then go to the adjoining Church Hall for Sunday Club with their leaders. Any parents seeking further information should get in touch with Joyce White Tel: 850754 or Duncan Stenhouse (Locum Minister) Tel: 01577 866992.

The Youth Clubs which met on Thursday and Friday evenings are presently under review

**Celia King**



## 2012 IN 2012

Major Gavin D Brown MBE RE BEng(H) MSc  
CEng MICE MInstRE

SO2 J4 Infrastructure HERRICK  
Permanent Joint Headquarters (United Kingdom)  
Northwood Headquarters  
NORTHWOOD  
Middlesex HA6 3HP



[gavin.brown450@mod.uk](mailto:gavin.brown450@mod.uk)

Dear All,

I will be up front and honest - this is a charity appeal. Over that last few years, but particularly during the operation in Afghanistan, I have been shocked by the devastating effect of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) (road side bombs) on the lives of many young soldiers. The damage IEDs cause to the body and minds of our young soldiers is indescribable. I am in awe of those who continue to operate in Afghanistan knowing that the threat from IEDs is high and the chance of losing life or limb at the hands of terrorist IEDs is ever present. I look to repay some of their bravery and selfless commitment by supporting BLESMA, the British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association. They provide support to those who are living through the nightmare of rebuilding their lives after the loss of limbs on the battlefield. The charity is with them for the rest of their lives. It starts with rehabilitation and is then about life long welfare support, campaigning for what they deserve and being there when old injuries resurface. The youngest member is 19 and the oldest is 99.

I have set myself the challenge of running **2012** miles in year **2012** to raise a minimum of (hopefully a lot more than) **£2012** for BLESMA. 2012 miles works out as an average of 5.5 miles a day, every day of the year, or 38.5 miles in every week, or 77 marathons during the year, or running from where I work in London to where I grew up in Abernethy, Perthshire and back 2.5 times. If you think it sounds easy then set yourself the challenge of running 168 miles in a calendar month or even just 38.5 miles in a week and see how you get on. If I was a professional endurance runner, 2012 miles would still be a stretch target for annual mileage, but I'm not. In fact, if honest, I'm slightly out of shape and haven't committed to running training properly for at least a decade. Doing the miles on any individual day is not the challenge, doing them every day and staying injury free is.

With nearly 6 months now complete I have run **950 miles**, logging **65,000 feet** in elevation gain and using up over **90,000 calories** in the process. I've lost about **6%** of my original body weight and my knees are getting sore, but I'm well on track to complete the challenge. Including off line donations, I have raised in excess of **£2500**, but given it is only June, I hope to raise a lot more in the remainder of the year.

I hope that you agree that this is a very worthy charity and deserving of support. I have set up a donation site at [www.bmycharity.com/gavindbrown2012](http://www.bmycharity.com/gavindbrown2012) and my progress can be tracked via GPS (no cheating!) at [www.connect.garmin.com/dashboard?cid=1697033](http://www.connect.garmin.com/dashboard?cid=1697033). You can find out more about the excellent work that BLESMA does at [www.blesma.org](http://www.blesma.org). BLESMA is a Registered Charity, number 1084189. Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Brown

## THE OLYMPIC TORCH



On the 12th June 2012 the Olympic torch came to Abernethy. I went to the bottom of Castlelaw Cres. where a party from Kilgraston School Bridge of Earn and lots of other people had all gathered to welcome the Olympic Flame.

When Carol Ann, the first torch bearer got off the bus, she asked me if I would like my photo taken with her and the Olympic Torch, this was very exciting for me and it is a moment I will always treasure.

It was a fun afternoon with, soft drinks and lots of people to make this a great day to remember.

Rachel Duncan  
Primary 4  
Abernethy School



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## FAMILY MEMORIES

Donald Gordon MacKenzie, born 1937 at Perth City Hospital. I spent the war years staying with my grand-parents, Moses Struthers Forsyth and Margaret Semple Forsyth at Glenbank, Glenfoot, Abernethy, along with my mother (Charlotte) and following on sisters, Kathleen(1939) Sheila (1941) and Elizabeth (1944) whilst my father Mark Gordon Mackenzie served in The Black Watch for the duration of the war.

I have very few memories of the war years at Glenfoot, I can remember being sent down the 'short cut' to meet this strange man, dressed in trows, who had just got off the bus - my father" !! I recall standing outside the headmaster,s study (Mr Ironside ) at Abernethy school waiting to get the tawse, I know not my crime. I was in a state of terror as his strap was rumoured to have metal studs in it ! Luckily for me his wife came by and sent me back to the classroom. Later in life I wondered if that was the plan all along.

I have a photograph, circa 1940 of papa, as I called my grand-dad, myself and Mrs. Strachan from across the road, she was dressed in military officers uniform.

My auntie Joey Forsyth, who was my mother's non-identical twin, was also in the army for some time during the war. Aunt Jean

Forsyth was a district nurse, both were based at Glenbank.

After the war the Mackenzie family moved to Ladybank and then Cupar but Glenbank remained a steady part of my life as we visited almost every second Sunday till the mid 50s. I can recall if the weather was fine then everyone would walk up to the witches cave till my grandparents were no longer able.

My grandfather must have been one of the first people to have electricity in Glenfoot as he had his own generator which was started up on regular basis to charge up the rows of glass battery cells that were lined up in the same shed as the generator. I can recall being fascinated by the whole process of creating and storing one's own power.



In the 1940's I have memories of papa delivering eggs and vegetables to PC Cant at the white house with the blue police lamp outside, it was always a good idea to keep on the right side of the law even in those days. Papa very occasionally went on a bender and these visits to the police house were no doubt to ensure an uninterrupted journey home, no breathalyzer in those days, not many cars either.

Papa had an Austin 16 which he managed to put on the lawn at the front of the house, he had been out shall we say !!! If you look at Glenbank you will understand it was a wonder the car did not roll over down to the roadside hedge !! The grass carried the scorching by spilt petrol for some time. After that he kept the car in the Strachans garage so cutting out any further risk.

Still on motoring, I can recall, with petrol rationing still in force, Papa switching off the engine and trying to free-wheel all the way down to the Auchtermuchty road, he never quite made it but it was good fun trying. I must also mention whilst writing about cars that in the early 50s I was in a Humber Hawk that my cousin was driving when I went over a 100 mph for the first time, it was down the Baigle straight, no 70 mph limit in those days !!

In the early 50s as I got older I used to get paid 10 shillings (50p) a lot of money in those days for cutting all the grass and later still when I stayed at Glenbank during holidays getting considerably more for cutting the hedges. Papa had one of the first electric hedge trimmers, his grandson (me) did in the initial usage, cut through the electric cable several times causing much sparking - and tellings off.

The mid/late 50s I was in the RAF so was seldom at Glenbank. My grandfather at some time during that period tried to buy the small-holding next door belonging to a Mr Neill, he was one-armed but worked the land very efficiently. This small holding was to be my start on the farming ladder (papa had farmed at Newton of Collesie until the mid 1930s) Mr. Neill however decided not to sell. I had my 21st birthday celebration with a meal at the Abernethy Hotel and a visit to my grandparents at Glenbank before proceeding to Perth theatre.

The deaths of my grand parents and selling of Glenbank in the early 1960s saw my connections with Abernethy limited to Pitversie House which was owned by my aunt Connie (Dow), it was run as orphanage/shelter for young girls. Aunt Connie adopted two of the girls and they were to become, at different stages in my life good friends. My sisters occasionally helped out at Pitversie House during holidays.

Also sticking in my mind as happening around that time was having a 'naked' picnic with a girl friend close to the witches cave and the mad panic that set in when we heard voices in the distance. That must have been when we had summers !!!

The 1970s saw me visit Glenbank just to show my own daughters where I had spent so many very happy times, taking photographs of them at the entrance. Since the late 1980s to the present day I have passed along the Aberargie to Abernethy road several times each year on the way to visiting friends Leslie and Sheila McIntosh at Marylea. I always check to see what colour the woodwork is at Glenbank.

I can remember painting the upper reaches with papa holding the bottom of the ladder, light and dark grey. Aunt Joey became a school cook, working at Abernethy and other schools.

She had a flat above the Bank on Newburgh road. Aunt Jean was a district nurse all her working life. Both have died in recent years.

My memories of Glenbank, Glenfoot and Abernethy are so positive and happy that, all being well, my ashes will be scattered close to the witches cave.

**Don Mackenzie**



## 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 01738 851056 or email [hayley.barnes83@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hayley.barnes83@yahoo.co.uk)* We also operate a lunch club service to Abernethy nursery.

### **Playgroup News**

**Registration is currently open and Playgroup have places available for the new school year commencing in August 2012. Please contact Hayley (details above).**

## ABERNETHY SWRI

The first meeting of the new Session is on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September when Margaret Gordon will be giving us "Hints and Tips on Baking". Competitions are "3 Gipsy Creams" and "Flower of the Month".

Meetings are held in the Session House at Abernethy Church, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. The subscription this year is £16. Visitors £2. We still need new members so please come along and give it a try. If you are not sure if this is for you, please feel free to come along as a visitor first. Contact person Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496.

Future Meetings arranged so far are as follows:

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> October – "Foot Care" with Lyn and Shona from Mostyn McKenzie.  
Competitions: "Pretty Plate" & "Flower of the Month"

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> November – "Forever Living Products" with Jane Sanderson.  
Competitions: "Lentil Soup" & "Flower of the Month"

Wed 19<sup>th</sup> December – "Christmas Meal" – Venue to be arranged.

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> January – "Talk on Massage" with Caroline Pye.  
Competitions: "Photograph of Winter Scene" & Flower of the Month"

Please see Village Notice Board each month for full details





## GARDEN DAY



Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 1.30-4pm  
Williamson Hall

The Abernethy Horticultural Society would like to invite you to our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Day. There will be competitions for all ages, activities for the kids, stalls, coffee & cake...a great afternoon's entertainment for all.

Kids have 2 competitions to enter this year: 'Sporty Spud', instruction kits will be delivered to the school in plenty of time to create your own Olympic Champion tatties. And, a 'Scarecrow' competition- anything you like- big or little, scary or friendly- points given for creativity, so go wild! The only rule is that they must be self supporting, make sure you put them onto something that can be pushed into the ground to make them stand up. Competition entries will be displayed on the day for all your friends & family to come and see. Age groups for both competitions 2-5, 6-9 & 10+.

This year's tasty competitions will be home-made jams, jellies, pickles & beverages, as well as last year's favourite- the baking category: where fruit or vegetables are the key ingredient. All will be judged on flavour & interesting combinations rather than technical ability.



There will also be a prize for cut garden arrangements...could be flowers, could be cauliflowers...

Competition entries should be delivered to the Williamson hall between 10-11.30am. Entry forms will be available on the day.

Lots will be going on to keep the kids busy, there will be an activity table for the little ones, as well as games for the older kids (and adults too!), including Gnome Bowls & the popular Veg Throw- but you have to be in it to win it!

As always there will be a packed plant stall, and a return of the Seed Swap- start saving seeds from your own garden and bring them along to trade with. The apple press will be primed & ready, so bring your apples and enjoy fresh apple juice. For those feeling lucky the raffle will be back too.

And after all that, you may need to relax for a while over a cuppa & cake. Home baking will also be available to buy at the cake stall to take home and enjoy later.

Adult entry £1, children free.

Membership of the Society is £10 & includes entry to Garden Day & all of the talks. Plans are well under way for this season's talks, and we are excited to announce speakers including Gerben de Vries of the Core Network, Alasdair Hood of Dundee Botanical Gardens, Steve McNamara from Branklyn Gardens, Caroline Beaton co-author of 'Fruit & Vegetables for Scotland' & Abernethy's own, Leslie Bisset who will share his reflections & experience from a long career with Edinburgh's Botanical Gardens. Come along to Garden Day for further information, to join up, or just to enjoy the day!

Hope to see you there.

Susan Pettigrew



## Auld Abernethy Association

Session 2012 - 2013

Meetings held in the Museum of Abernethy 7.30pm

**3rd October** - Mysterious Perthshire  
Geoff Palmer

**7th November** - Changes in Perthshire after the 2nd World War. The rise of the supermarket  
Rhoda Fothergil

**5th December** - Forteviot Project  
Tessa Poller

**6th February** - World War Defences  
Gordon Bartlay

**6th March** - History of Newburgh  
Gordon Pitkeithly

**3rd April** - AGM & Local history night

All welcome

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## PROMOTING AND CELEBRATING THE WORK OF COMMUNITIES

Do you work for a voluntary group or community organisation in the Perth and Kinross Council area? If so, the Council can help you promote and celebrate your activities and achievements.

Perth & Kinross Council is always keen to support people working to improve their communities and can offer advice on funding, training and where to find the facilities you need.

To have your event included on the Council's website and events Twitter feed, contact Stuart at [soliver@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:soliver@pkc.gov.uk) or on 01738 477959.

For help in accessing funding, training or facilities, contact Marek at [employability@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:employability@pkc.gov.uk) or on 01738 477944. Or, if you have under-used resources or facilities, such as halls, rooms and desk spaces, or even tools and equipment, why not advertise them for free on Spacebank ([www.spacebank.org.uk](http://www.spacebank.org.uk)) to raise funds from hiring them out?

Liz Grant, Provost of Perth and Kinross says, "I always welcome the opportunity to see at first hand the results of the work of our residents and businesses across our communities of Perthshire and Kinrossshire and celebrate their achievements. It is undoubtedly one of the most satisfying aspects of my job. It is an honour to be asked as Provost to present awards or launch new community projects, and I know that the additional publicity generated for any event is always welcomed by the well-deserving groups and businesses involved.

I am particularly interested in supporting groups which are local and whose work has a direct impact in the area; events which showcase Perth and Kinross to an influential wider audience; and community projects which complement the Council's own services.

If you would like to share news about a significant community achievement, please email the Civic Office at [civicservices@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:civicservices@pkc.gov.uk).

## ATTENTION!

The annual canvass form for registering as an elector at an address will be sent out to all households in Perth & Kinross at the end of August 2012.

## SCOTLAND AT THE SUBBUTEO WORLD CUP



"They think it's all over". It was. All too soon for the outclassed Scotland squad.

The flicking spectacular at the Sports Table Football World Cup at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, has come and gone in a flurry of press and media coverage with the re-launched Subbuteo sponsoring the event. It's back, in a big way, it seems.

While we didn't expect to win, most disappointing for me was that we didn't take along any U12, U15 or U19 players, or in fact, ladies to enjoy the experience! This is something I aim to change with FlickForKicks, the only youth development of its kind in Scotland.

The second Subbuteo season is about to begin in Abernethy. All abilities are welcome. Age 8+ Please get in touch for full details on 07891 676663 or 01738 850830.

**Gareth Christie**  
[www.flickforkicks.com](http://www.flickforkicks.com)

## WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

Winners for May:

No 40 – D Robinson £20

No 53 – E Campbell £15

Winners for June:

No 6 – S Shepherd £20

No 11 – A Walker £15

Winners for July:

No 64 J Ramsay £20

No 68 I Buchan £15

Winners for August:

No 24 J Cook £20

No 65 S Gourlay £15

The 100 Club needs new members. The subscription is £12 a year and the draws are made at Williamson Hall meetings. The monthly prizes are £20 and £15. If you would like to join, please phone 01738 850496 for an application form.

## TAY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP EVENING



As advertised in the last Crier, the Community Council gave over the whole of its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> June in the Masonic Hall to a presentation by Johanna Babbs and Catriona Davies, development officers for the Tay Landscape Partnership.

This was the last of the first round of community involvement meetings, and despite the hellish weather it was by far the best attended. Many thanks to all who came. The development team have also intimated that they wish to thank those who completed the online survey. All grist to the mill, and so forth.

The purpose of this first round of meetings was for the project team to describe the scope of the whole scheme, and to discover what local communities up and down the Tay estuary felt was important for their area, what improvements they would like to see, etc.. Johanna and Catriona began by outlining the different stages of the scheme, whose big event in 2013 will be a major Heritage Lottery Fund bid with the aim of putting into effect several 'projects, activities and events to inspire residents and visitors alike'.

Several development themes were given—among them conserving/restoring the built and natural heritage; improving access to and knowledge of the rivers Tay and Earn; encouraging more active involvement with the landscape, and so on. At this point a long-standing resident of the village asked how likely it was that Perth and Kinross Council Planning would approve any scheme we came up with, given how often local representations had been ignored in the past—not an unreasonable point. Well, it is worth mentioning here that P&K have councillors on the Tay Landscape Partnership Steering Committee, and are supporting the scheme—the P&K logo appears on the literature and the website: [www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org), so there is perhaps reason to be cautiously optimistic.

The second part of the evening was spent in group discussions, which were lively and (we hope therefore) will prove to have been productive. This was after all the local community's chance to have its say. It seemed to me that the idea of developing path networks for walkers and cyclists along the shores of the Tay was a particularly popular topic on the night, while archaeology, local signage, community orchards and several others also had a good airing.

And initial feedback from all of the community consultations reveals (surprise!) that the vast majority of people want to know more about the area—and feel there is a lack of information on where to go and what to see. Most people would also like to see boat trips on the Tay (the so-called 'river-taxis').

So what now? The Tay LP has 4 working groups. By the time you read this, the group whose focus is 'Reconnecting with the Landscape' will have visited Abernethy to tour the village and surrounds to see the context for potential development. Such activities are ongoing up and down the estuary.

Next the development team intends to return to communities some time in the autumn to discuss feedback from the local consultations and also what looks to be feasible in terms of the lottery bid. Overall development plans should be more concrete by then, and once again we'll be able to give our tuppenceworth accordingly. Watch out for more publicity in advance of this second round of community meetings. Check also [www.taylp.org](http://www.taylp.org)

Finally, may I repeat that it was gratifying to see such a good turnout for what was officially a Community Council meeting; it would be great to see such numbers at the more normal meetings. (The next one, by the way, will be on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> in the Pavilion at Powrie Park, 7.30 pm.)

**Angus MacIntyre**



## ABERNETHY 2012

The Museum of Abernethy is now showing the Olympic Torch and photographs on it's journey through the village on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Come and see our display – a once in a lifetime opportunity





## HUGE THANKS

to the muscle of Abernethy who 'mucked in' (literally) to help build a bike skills loop and woodland seating area at Powrie Park in June

More than 60 villagers and local tradesmen braved the wet and muddy conditions to create what is hoped will be a wonderful new outdoor resource for the community.

The new woodland bike skills area has a 'table top', two 'skinnies' and several beams, and is the brainchild of locals Aaron Gray (organiser of Perthshire mountain biking event "Muckmedden" and Kyle Strachan (cycling instructor).

Thanks to their expertise, lots of local muscle and generous donations of rock from SSE and Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions, the loop is almost complete and already being enjoyed by kids (and parents) of all ages.

What was once a rubbish dump in the wood has also been transformed into an outdoor seating area that will be used by the school, scout and guide groups.

AEA Chair, Kate Butler said, "It's great to see a committed group of locals keen to improve the facilities available to our young people. Local businesses, parents, teens and primary school aged kids all lent a hand and a great deal was achieved over the weekend".

Special mention has to go to the following people, without whom the weekend would have been impossible:

Aaron Gray (Aaron Flooring)  
Kyle Strachan (Bloomfield Bikes)  
Andrew Williamson (Volvo Digger Hire, Newburgh)  
Andrew Sinclair (Sinclair Landscaping)  
Simon Boyd (Simon Boyd Building Services)  
Andy Smith (Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions and RJT Excavations)  
Chris Meek (SSE and Hewlett Civil Engineering)  
Scott Baird  
Mitchell Ellis  
Murdo, Andrew & Claire McGhie  
Keir Allan

Cheers folks - the community really appreciates your efforts.

There is however more work to do to improve our parks. Ambitious plans include upgrading the facilities at Powrie Park to include a zip slide, an all abilities swing and a larger car park. But there's a huge funding gap to close first.

Perth and Kinross Council who own both parks are supporting the project with some funding. But AEA estimates a further £80,000 is needed to meet the diverse needs of the community.

Kate continued, "Existing facilities are not meeting expectations. Most of the play equipment in Powrie and Williamson parks is 25 years old and no longer fit for purpose. The local population has grown dramatically over the past 10 years and this is placing increased pressure on our amenities. We need to do more than the basics to provide a stimulating outdoor play and recreation experience for everyone in our community".

Our next quest is for 400 tonnes of type 1 (aggregate) to build a car park behind the Pavilion. Yip, we're aiming for a mud free parking experience for the many users of the Pavilion.

If you can help us source this and other building materials, it'll make a big difference and mean we can get started sooner. Please contact us for more.

**Colin Adams**

## ART EXHIBITION



The Museum of Abernethy is holding an art exhibition in the Museum on the 19th - 21st October. The organisers are looking for painters, potters, sculptors etc who might wish to exhibit

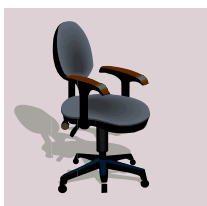


## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE MUSEUM

Since my last article, I can report that we have had a busy few months in the Museum. Membership numbers have increased significantly which is fantastic and has kept Sonja (our membership secretary) busy. We have also been working with the Tayside Landscape Project and a Museum Consultant to see how we can get more people into the Museum. This is absolutely critical to the future of the Museum. Visitor numbers have been down this season (not helped by all the rain) and we are determined to reverse this. To assist in this goal we have also been working on our 'forward plan' for the next 12 months in order to ensure that we maintain our high standards within the Museum and that we are properly looking after our volunteers, members and visitors alike. The social committee have also been busy working on our fund-raising events. Did you know that our electric bill alone during the winter quarter was £600? From 19 to 21 October we will be holding our first Art Exhibition in the Museum. I hope that lots of you will come along and support us in this new venture.

The Museum exists for the benefit of the community. If you have any suggestions or comments I am very keen to hear from you on 850578 or [rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk).

And remember what we do today is future material for the Museum and will eventually become Abernethy's past!



**Rachel Cheer**

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JIMMY SWAN (Editor)	850569
(info@villagecrier.co.uk)	



## CLOTHES SWAP

**EVENT: Abernethy Clothes Swap** - in aid of the Abernethy Parks Project.

**WHEN: Friday 21- September doors open 7.30-**

**WHERE: The Pavilion at Powrie Park**

**HOW DOES IT WORK:** For £5 entry fee (includes nibbles and wine) you can choose from a selection of top quality women's/ children's/ men's clothes and accessories. There will be a 'designer rail' for extra special items and customers are asked to give a little extra. Clothes leftover will be donated to clothes recycling and all profits go to the park project.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please contact: joyce 850928 / lorraine 850089. For more information on the Parks project check out the website: <http://abernethyparksproject.webs.com>

**PLEASE DONATE YOUR QUALITY UNWANTED CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FOR THE ABERNETHY CLOTHES SWAP. CONTACT JOYCE 850928/ LORRAINE 850089 FOR DETAILS**

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**EVENT: VILLAGE CEILIDH WITH MUSIC BY THE EXCELLENT BLACKFORD FIDDLERS**

**WHEN: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November**

**WHERE: Williamson Hall, Abernethy**

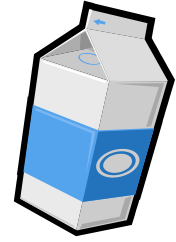


**FURTHER DETAILS TO FOLLOW – LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS NEARER THE TIME. Please check** <http://abernethyparksproject.webs.com>

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<b>Old Hotel</b>	<b>2.25 - 3.00</b>
<b>War Mem.</b>	<b>3.05 - 3.50</b>
<b>Den Park</b>	<b>3.55 - 4.10</b>

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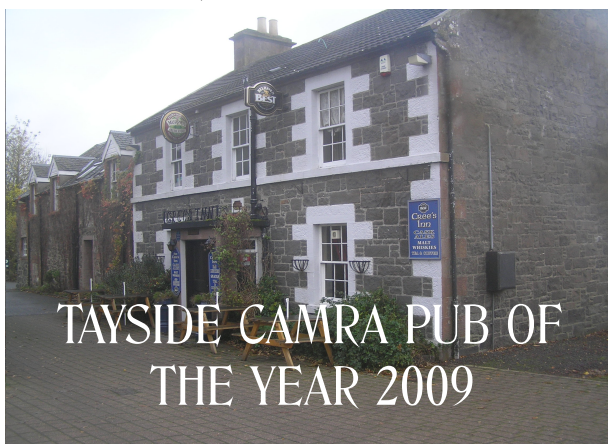
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Sun room  
Garden room  
Conservatory  
Garage conversion  
Windows or Doors  
Roofline

If so, start planning now by contacting your local  
CR SMITH consultant:

**RON McCaffrey 07808 787939**

For a free quotation, design and 3D drawing.