

### VILLAGE CRIER



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Info@villagecrier.co.uk

#### ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

#### 17th EDITION

#### **DECEMBER 2012**

#### CLOSING DATE FOR 18th EDITION 31st January 2013

Hello again Readers,

It is such a beautiful autumn afternoon, one forgets about all the rainy days we have had and revels in the beauty of the trees. However by the time you read this we will be into December and looking out on what? We just do not know and days like today will simply be a memory.

I don't know if you realise that The Crier has been running for 4 years, the first edition being delivered to your homes on the beginning of December 2008. We on the committee have learnt quite a bit in that time. We would dearly like more of YOU, the recipients, to contribute. The Crier is yours and so it is up to eveyone to help to keep it going by sending in your news and views. No matter how trivial it may seem to yourself it will be of interest to many others; so, don't be shy, share your thoughts and ideas with others. Remember, if you wish to have your name and address withheld you simply make this request when you send in your contribution.

Also it would be helpful to have news from more of the organisations with dates of meetings etc. We would like to produce a DIARY of EVENTS in The Crier. This would be helpful to all especially when it comes to arranging one off events and so avoid a clash. I know The Crier comes out quarterly but most organisations have fixed dates so to give these 3 months ahead should not create a problem. It would also provide information to new people coming to live in the area.

Another item I think we should have is a Personal Column, intimations of Births, Marriages, Deaths,

Anniversaries, Graduations etc. Not everyone buys The Courier nor the P.A.

I was disappointed there were only 3 entries in the Young Writers Competition but in retrospect it was maybe bad timing on our part, the closing date for entries being in the middle of school holidays. This will be changed for next year, the closing date to be 30th June 2013 so here's hoping for lots of competitors then. The winners of this years' competition will receive their prizes at the distributors get-together on Thursday 6th December..

The winter activities are now in full swing, the clocks have changed and the dark nights are here again, although in saying that, as I write there is the most beautiful full moon so this night is not particularly dark.

Since the last issue, at the beginning of September, various events have taken place——The Clothes Swap, Garden Day, the Quiz Night in Cree's Inn, the event arranged by the Burns Club featuring Eddie Rose and the Art Exhibition in the Museum, all raising funds for different organisations in Abernethy. Since I no longer live in the village, I may have missed mentioning other events. If I have I hope someone involved will have put a report into The Crier.

What I was in was the Art Exhibition, a new venture for all the members of the social committee of the Museum. We were starting from scratch, having to construct stands, provide hooks and other hanging materials etc. Very much a learning experience, but to cut a long story short——a great success and very much enjoyed by those involved. It is intended to hold a similar event next year

By the time you have received this issue the Red Wine Company will have made its annual appearance in Abernethy so in reading the last 2 paragraphs you will realise the variety of things going on , something for everyone.

I guess I will have filled my allotted space and it is time for me to sign off and let you enjoy the contents of the December issue

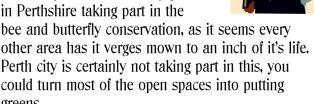
My greetings to you all for Christmas and for the forthcoming year

Best wishes, Hilda Clow.

#### **EDITORS VIEW**

I note with amusement Ms Sharman's letter about why PKC are leaving the grass verges uncut.

Abernethy must be the only place in Porthshire taking part in the



Did I see the The Royal Dunkeld bowling club playing a few ends on the verges of the A9? No! of course not, silly me.

Let's focus on the positives of 2012 rather than the negatives

The Museum had new exhibits on display, however, the number of folks through the door were down. But a late boost came with the new event in October, the art exhibition.

The exhibition was a great success and will hopefully be an annual event

The Olympic torch came through the villages and was welcomed by hundreds, probably never to happen again.

Another successful Williamson hall fete, raising needed money for the maintenance of our village hall.

A great fund raising ceildh was held in the Williamson Hall, raising £1000 for the Village Project.

**Newburgh** does it all the time, Bridge of Earn are getting it together regularly, so why can't Abernethy? I am talking about getting out and supporting our local events and organisations.

The Museum numbers for this year are down. Fewer people are going to Community Council Meets.

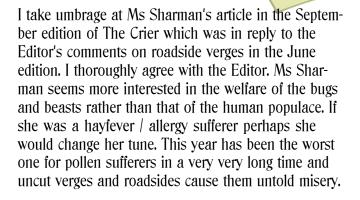
Some club AGMs and Coffee Mornings are poorly represented.

Why don't we turn out like these other villages.

Drop us a line and let us know your views.

#### LETTERS TO THE ED

Dear Editor,



If she has ever been up Glenfoot Road she would surely know what I am writing about. The grass and bushes are hanging over the road. Not only do they cause allergy problems, they are a menace to car drivers. Many cars are scratched by rose bushes etc when drivers have to go so close in to the side to avoid speedsters coming down the road.

The Rough Glen is another disgrace. Nettles and other weeds are head high hanging over ready to poke you in the eye. There are also brambles and wild rose bushes along with low hanging branches from the trees. Amongst all this is Giant Hogweed, a weed which I believe to be illegal to leave growing on account of its toxicity and the fact that the sap can cause burns if broken by an unsuspecting child. I know the verges are the responsibility of P & K Council but who is responsible for the Rough Glen?

Ms Sharman, get your priorities right. In one of the greenest countries in the world there is plenty of space for your precious bugs and beasties.

Name & address supplied

I A M Scunnered

#### Dear Ed.

I have been writing constantly to Historic Scotland regarding the replacement of the fish and the flag to the Round Tower.

Below is my recent letter to Historic Scotland.

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Still no flag or weather vane replaced on the tower which is now closed due to 4 screws missing on one of the hinges of the trap door leading to the top of the tower. This is unbelievable that nothing has been done to the tower in over a year.

Obviously even though you are the point of contact for the public you have no power to do anything at all to rectify this and with that being the case could you forward my emails to someone who actually does please, or send me the email address of the person that you answer to.

Regards,

George

People of Abernethy please help get the fish and the flag replaced by contacting Douglas Wilson at.....douglas.wilson.gsi.gov.uk

George

"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"



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

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#### **SWEET PONIES AT CRAIGLINN**

Two Welsh Ponies can be seen having fun at Craiglinn.

Anne Scott missed her little grey Welsh pony, Sparky and could not resist these two cute characters.

Toffee is a Chestnut with two white socks and Candy is a Palamino.

Candy follows her about like a puppy.

The two year old ponies are getting used to saddles and bridles and may also be broken to drive.



#### Dear Ed

I would just like to say a big thank you to all at Renaissance Curtains and Accessories in Abernethy, to Linda and especially to Ann Grimmond for their wonderful advice, given over a period of time and for Anne's time, patience and creative suggestions in the final selection of the fabric for my curtains and blinds for my new sitting room after difficulty encountered in choice of fabric. I had intended making up the curtains myself and Ann even offered the use of her facilities. However due to increase in my work commitments, Ann made up all my blinds and curtains promptly and to such a high quality that I am certain I could never have achieved.

The curtains and blinds look beautiful and the personal yet professional service was second to none, I can only highly recommend Renaissance.

Thanks again Heather Martin

"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"

It is with regret we hear of the death of of Mrs Chris McInnes and Mrs Margaret Davidson.

Our thoughts go out to her family.

## MARKETPLACE / ARTICLES FOR SALE

Car bicycle rack £15 Bicycle saddle bag £5
Set of beginner's golf clubs with bag £15
Quality recliner chair, sage green with cherry wood
base and matching stool - seldom used, excellent
condition £180 (rrp £550)
Brita water filter jug (cartridges available at Tesco)
£5

Contact Hilary Sharman on 850016

#### MUSIC IN THE CREE'S INN

A music session has been recently established in the Crees inn, hosted by Roddy Johnston and Kate Badcock. The session runs on the



last Sunday of every month (except December, when it will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup>) from 8.30pm. All singers and instrumentalists are welcome to come along, just turn up with your instrument and you will be made to feel welcome. If you don't play anything but enjoy listening to music then this is an enjoyable night for you too. Kate and Roddy moved to the village from Leeds, Yorkshire in July 2011. They have since been establishing themselves here in Scotland as professional musicians, and their band is called Dancing Feet Ceilidh Band (<a href="https://www.dancingfeetfolkarts.com">www.dancingfeetfolkarts.com</a>). Kate plays flute and saxophone, and Roddy plays fiddle, bagpipes, guitar and sings in the band. A guitarist and bodhran player complete the line-up. Have a listen to the band on their website, or come down on a Sunday night.

The first session was on 30<sup>th</sup> September, and an impressive 18 musicians turned up. A wonderful evening of songs and tunes was had, and this was followed by another great night on 28<sup>th</sup> October. The



The Village Crier is delivered free to more than 800 households in Abernethy, Aberargie and Dron

#### **MAC'S MEDAL**

Mac covered himself in glory when he went with Imogen to the Scottish Endurance Championships at Kelso in August.

The going started as very muddy and difficult but Mac took care of his 9 year old rider and completed three rides on three days, totalling 70km which earned him a special medal.

This season he has carried Imogen over 160km (100 miles) of varied terrain so now he has his shoes off and is having a rest.



#### FLORA'S TROPHY

On Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> Flora had the big adventure of going to Kinross Show. She was shampooed, she had her mane plaited and white powder to enhance her white socks. Mac went with her in the trailer for company but Flora had to parade round the ring without him.

It was an amazing experience for a youngster with Pipe Bands, heavy traffic and lots of animals and people. The Fancy Dress was most exciting. Even the people were surprised by horses dressed as Liquorice Allsorts, one of whom was ridden by Bertie Basset so you can imagine how excited Flora was.

In spite of this, she won both her classes, gaining two rosettes and a trophy, and was very glad to get home to her Mum and her field.



AH

Second prize winner in senior category

#### ABERNETHY AND I

My name is Eilidh Simpson and I am 15 years of age. I live in the Steven Homes part of Abernethy with my Mum, Dad, younger brother Spencer and two sisters Emily and Katie. I have been living here for 7 years how. I first moved to Abernethy back in 2005 and started Abernethy Primary School when I was in P4. I moved from Kinoull Hill and was recently going to Cragie Primary School. When I first moved to Abernethy I was a little shy and unsure but soon settled in, I love living in Abernethy!

To me Abernethy is a great little village to bring up family and have a nice life. It is not far from the city of Perth and other villages such as Bridge of Earn and Newburgh. Abernethy is very special to have its own tower. The tower was believed to be built around AD 1100 judging by the decoration around the first floor doorway and the four belfry windows. It is approximately 22m high and 5m in diameter. The bell inside the tower dates to 1782 and the clock to 1868. The round tower here in Abernethy is one of only two such towers in Scotland, the other is in Brechin. An odd attachment to it is on the outside face of the tower is a pictish symbol stone, it was unearthed in School Wynd and mounted on the tower in the 20th century.

The village also has a local shop, School and Nursery, Culdees tearoom which makes the most amazing food, museum, Corn Kist, Tartan shop, Branston Potato Brand and Garage. These are all helpful and enjoyable resources. I personally think Abernethy could do with a bakery shop and fish and Chip shop.

Every summer, organisers help organise what used to be known as 'Gala Day' but now the Village Fete. I think this is a great event for which the whole community can join. It is good fun for everyone! My bersonal opinion would be to go back to having Gala Day down at Powrie Park as it is much larger and tun. It had more entertainment and it was nice to see the Gala Queen and assistants.

**Eilidh Simpson** 

## ABERNETHY HEATING OIL CLUB



Due to the escalating price of domestic heating oil, I have created a heating oil club for Abernethy to group purchase heating oil.

Please note that the club is an internet only club and can be found at <a href="www.oil-club.co.uk">www.oil-club.co.uk</a>

The Oil Club has over 800 village clubs as members and is UK wide. Most importantly the Abernethy Oil Club is free to join.

By grouping deliveries by village or postcode sector the club is able to negotiate with suppliers for the best bulk purchase price for heating oil and then pass this saving on to its members.

Typical savings will be between £30 -50 per 1,000 litres of heating oil dependant on time of the year. Once the village club reaches the minimum order quantity of 8,000 litres, as member you will be notified by email and / or SMS text to your mobile phone of a delivery date and cost for the amount you require (minimum of 500 litres per household).

You will then need to confirm order and pay online using the secure online payment system.

I hope that you join the Abernethy Heating Oil Club to benefit from reduced price heating oil. Best Regards,

Simon Downes 14 Brandywell Road Abernethy



#### **BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY**

The Williamson Hall has seen many world famous performers over the years, Peter and Gordon and, and, and, to name just one.

On the 24th of October another world famous artist took to the boards up in Hall Park, Eddie Rose. This master of quick fire jokery and good old song and dance, entertained a packed hall.

With glasses charged and pork scratchings in the china bowl, the crowd were poised for a great night of fun and laughter, they were not disappointed. The band struck up, the stage curtains flew open and the Scottish master of light entertainment strutted his stuff.

For two hours there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Anyone wishing to be put on the waiting list for a membership to the club should contact Ian Bett.

JS

## ABERNETHY SENIOR CITIZENS WELFARE COMMITTEE

The 2013 calendar full of amazing old and new photographs of Abernethy is now on sale. They are available in Brian's shop and at the Culdees Tearoom price £5.

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## LONDON MARATHON 2012. NEVER AGAIN?

Standing amongst some 37,500 other runners on a bright, sunny Sunday morning in late April, in Greenwich Park, I thought back to how I'd arrived on the verge of doing one of the most physically taxing things I had ever done in my life. I thought back to all the miles I had run in training during the winter months between Abernethy, Newburgh and Bridge of Earn; about how hard I had found it to complete the Inverness half marathon a few weeks earlier; how relieved I was to manage to run about 18 miles without any serious problems a couple of weeks later. I thought of the support from friends and family, of all the waves and toots from people passing in their cars, and from the cyclists and pedestrians.

So, here I was, with thousands of other folk, all with their own stories to tell and their own targets for the day ahead, every one of them with several exhausting hours of running between them and those targets. My personal target was not too complicated; it was to finish the 26 miles and 360 yards. I tried to imagine myself crossing the finishing line in the Mall....

It took all of twenty minutes after the starting gun went off at 9.45am for the people in front of us to even get to the start, then suddenly it was our turn and we were off too. My thoughts turned into concentration. Trying to find a rhythm, think about breathing and pace and finding some space among my fellow runners.

It wasn't long before I became aware of the huge crowds of people, lines of people at least two or three deep, over the whole 26 miles, who had turned out to watch, cheering all of us on. The atmosphere was incredible, the support and encouragement fantastic and really made the day. The TV coverage concentrates on the elite runners and then on some of the faster 'fun' runners but largely ignores the tens of thousands of supporters. For me, it was my fellow slower runners and the amazing crowds that made the whole day the most unforgettable experience.

At last, some five hours later, I found myself on The Embankment, approaching the Houses of Parliament and, turning into Birdcage Walk, I only had a mile or two to go. Buckingham Palace came into view and then, finally, I could see the finish line by the grandstand in The Mall, just as I'd imagined it all those miles ago.

Later that afternoon, I was able to have a long, hot bath to soak away the aches and pains and think about the experiences of the day. My thoughts turned to the people who had given so generously to my Just Giving page, all the donations going to the charity, 'Fight for Sight'. I'm delighted to announce that the total figure now stands at almost £2,500. Was it a wonderful, unforgettable day? It certainly was. Would I do it again...?

**Nick Hine** 

### NEWS direct

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## ABERNETHY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEEDS YOU

Our pupils will be undertaking a study of their village between October and December. Each class will take a slightly different focus to gain a better understanding of their own environment and community.

P1 & P2 are comparing their village with the community of Abernethy in the North of Scotland.

P3 have pen friends in America and will be making a DVD of their Abernethy community to share with them.

P4 is looking at Abernethy Primary School, past, present and future.

P5 is studying our local amenities and community life (people & place).

P6 is researching Abernethy as a commuter village and how transport has affected the community past and present.

P7 will look at how the war affected our community – (stories from locals during wartime)

If you can help with any of these topics in any way or have a story to tell and share with our children it would be most helpful. Our P7 pupils are keen to hear about how the war affected the community and I'm sure many of you will have stories from your own school days in Abernethy. We are keen to know our community better and become more involved in village life.

If you are keen to get involved in any way, whether it's local knowledge, memorabilia or a talent to share with our pupils please make contact with the school.

You can contact the school office directly on 472676 or email

headteacher@abernethy.pkc.sch.uk

We look forward to hearing from you! Kind regards

Paula Morrison Head Teacher

#### OLYMPIC TORCH PASSES THROUGH ABERNETHY













ANNE PETRIE

#### **OLYMPIC VOLUNTEER**



Whilst rushing around one day back in Spring 2010, I happened to hear on the BBC Breakfast News 'If you're free for 10 days in the summer of 2012 then why not apply to be a volunteer at the Olympic Games in London?' I thought, 'I am, so why not?!'

I applied online and in autumn 2010 I was invited down for a formal interview in Glasgow Science Centre. The interview lasted a full hour with a one to one chat about how I fit in as a team member.

It was not until April 2011 that I heard that I had been given the job! Out of 250,000 applicants 100,000 people were interviewed and only 70,000 got the job – I was one of those very lucky people.

I had volunteered to be a driver to the 'Olympic Family'. This meant driving the VIPs of the International Olympic Committee and various dignitaries from round the world around a city I had only visited as a tourist before and had never driven in; still, how hard could it be!

Nothing happened until the spring of 2012 when I was told I needed to travel to London to get some training, pick up a uniform and pass a driving test. This was all managed over 5 trips to London. I was a volunteer and therefore I had to pay for all travel and accommodation myself. The Olympic committee took no part in helping with this. I enjoyed my trips and much to my amazement passed my test.

My next challenge was to find accommodation in London for the 2 weeks of the games without having to sell the family silver. After looking endlessly on the internet at the ridiculous amount some people were charging for a room in their house and asking every friend and family member if they could help I finally got lucky. I managed to get a room in a colleague's flat in Tower Bridge. She did charge, but it was at least a 3 figure sum not the 4 or 5 figures others were asking!



So, on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2012 – two and a half years after applying I was on my way to London. By this time I had managed to work myself up into a frenzy of excitement and fear. I arrived in London to lovely warm, sunny weather but also I swear I could feel the warmth of the atmosphere even at Heathrow airport.

London was alive; and it had had a make over! The buildings were clean, the Olympic posters were all flapping their bright colours in the wind and the people were on their starting blocks for a fascinating show.

I started my first shift the next day at 6am. I was to work 10-hour shifts every day for 2 weeks with 1 day off in the middle. I put on my uniform and walked to the tube station. To my utter amazement people smiled at me and said good morning – was I still in Abernethy? I arrived on the tube and still I was amazed, other volunteer uniformed people spoke to me as if I was their long lost friend.

This is unheard of in London town normally – people acknowledging other people! This was a great start.

I was based in Park Lane. This is where the main IOC were staying. I was to wait outside the hotels until someone needed a lift to one of the Olympic venues – basically just like a taxi rank. The drivers all had been given BMW 3 series to drive – sadly not to keep, just a loan! We had a fab sat nav to help us negotiate the London streets. A few streets had designated 'Olympic Lanes' for us to get our VIP passengers to their destination on time.

I had the time of my life. I love driving and much to my amazement I found the London drivers very courteous. Once I had managed to negotiate the London streets with my first passenger my nerves were calmed a wee bit.



Mostly I was picking up Ministers for Sport from all countries round the world or IOC members. Occasionally I had the odd athlete. Whilst coming out of Earls Court one day my car was engulfed by fans and I had to stop the car to allow them to get their autograph books signed by the Japanese Badminton players in the back. All very surreal.

London put on an amazing show and I'm sure anyone who managed to go down for the event will agree with me that there was a wonderful atmosphere throughout the games. Whilst walking to work one day beside Tower Bridge I could hear over the usual hum from the traffic a loud speaker from the open top sightseeing bus going past – 'And if you look to your left you will see one of our wonderful volunteers, let's give her a wave!' I suddenly realised it was me they were waving at. I had to stand and wave back!

Volunteering at the Olympics was a fantastic experience. I was very lucky to have the opportunity to be involved in such an incredible event and I will remember it for the rest of my life; although despite not being a sports fan I'm a wee bit sad I didn't actually get to see any of the sport!

Susan McGhie

#### ABERNETHY COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Perth and Kinross Quality of Life Trust annually celebrate the achievements of Children, Young People, Communities and Voluntary Organisations across the area and this year is no exception. Perthshire Positive Action Awards 2012 was held on Thursday 1 November at the AK Bell Library in Perth and, this year, Abernethy was honoured.

Our community was chosen to receive a Perthshire Positive Action Award in the "Community Spirit" category. The award recognises the overall effort of a geographical community to enhance their quality of life over a number of years. Perth and Kinross Quality of Life Trust chose to recognise the collective work carried out by the Community of Abernethy, to include the Williamson Hall Committee, The Parks Committee and, in particular, the litter picking efforts of Sheena McNaughton and Bridget MacDonald. anyone who isn't aware, Bridget and Sheena have been pounding the streets every Wednesday for the last 8 years picking up the litter and keeping our streets clean and tidy, and ensuring Abernethy remains an attractive place to live. Attending the Awards were Anna MacNeill, Jill Young and Gail Meek, Williamson Hall Committee, Evelyn Scobie, Parks Committee and Sheena McNaughton and Bridget MacDonald. Well done Abernethy, and here's hoping that together we can keep up the good work!



#### A SUMMER WEDDING



The summer wedding of Keir Allan and Rachel Battilana

In this pic, from left to right, Adam Battilana, Kirsten Allen, Kirsty Allen, Rachel Battilana, Keir Allen, Helen Battilana, Janet Paton and Tony Battilana.

The bride wore the same dress as the groom's Grandmother wore more than 80 years ago





## Abernethy Horticultural Society (AHS)

Our Garden day on the 29<sup>th</sup> September was the start of another year for the Abernethy Horticultural Society.

The Garden Day was once again a great success with a significant number of entries; particularly for the Kids competitions where some inspired Sporty Spuds Scarecrows could be seen. So our congratulations to all our prize-winner's and a big thank you to all those who supported the event, which we hope will continue over the years to come.

Your support enables a varied and interesting range of speakers who join us for our meetings on the second Wednesday in the Masonic Hall, beginning in October and ending with a Garden Road Trip in May. Our first talk, about Roses, was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October with Don Shaw. Don is a Royal National Rose Society Judge and he shared his enthusiasm for this beautiful flower with us. During his slide show he gave many tips for successful hybrid tea roses- Don's particular area of interest.

The next talk is on the 14<sup>th</sup> November from Gerben de Vries, on Apple Propagation and History, which will also include other Home Grown fruits. There will also be the opportunity to sign up for a Grafting

The recent wet weather has hampered our upkeep of Nurse Peattie's Garden, but we are planning one last session so that the beds are tidied up for the winter. We are also hoping to upgrade some of the pathways.

All our programmed events will be published on the village notice boards, tearoom and shop. Details of these monthly events will also be given on our Facebook page and in an e-mail to all our members. If not a member but would like to attend any of our published talks, you will be very welcome to come along and join us for a chat and a cuppa afterwards. You can also join our mailing list and receive email updates. For more information, contact lan on 850186 or Susan on 851136 and/or abernethyhorticulture@gmail.com.



#### 2012/2013 Event Dates for your Diary:

14 November: Apple Propagation & History – Gerben de Vries (Core Network)

12 December: Veg on the Edge – Caroline Beaton (Co-Author of 'Fruit & Vegetables for Scotland) joins us for a short talk & workshop.

09 January: The Australasian Area Project – Alastair Hood (Curator, Dundee Botanical Gardens)

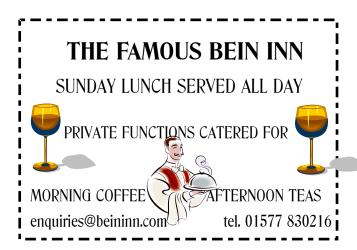
13 February: Branklyn Gardens – Steve McNamara (Head Gardener)

13 March: Looking after your Lawn – Geoff Brereton (Award winning top Groundsman)

10 April: Trees and Things – Les Bissett (Abernethy's Own)

11 May: The Annual AHS Road Trip – Venue to be confirmed

IAN LAMOND CHAIRMAN AHS





#### WILLIAMSON HALL

The AGM of the Williamson Hall will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 at 8pm in the Ante Room. Despite a great deal of advertising in the local area in recent weeks to recruit new committee members, there has been no response. As both the Chairman and the Treasurer will be standing down at the AGM, if nobody else comes forward, the Williamson Hall will be threatened with closure. Anyone who is interested in going on the committee should consult the current Chairman. MacNeill 850485 Anna on or email macneills@btinternet.com.

#### ABERNETHY S W R I

**Future Meetings:** 

Wed 19th December -"Christmas Meal" - at the

Village Inn.

Wed 16th January -"Talk on Massage" with

Caroline Pye.

Competitions: "Photograph of Winter Scene" & Flower

of the Month".

**WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB** 

Winners for Sept: No 15 - L Bec £20 No 53 - E Campbell £15

Winners for Oct: No 59 - J McLean £20 No 78 - E Taylor £15



Wed 20th March -

Wed 20th February -

land's Agricultural Benevolent Fund) Competitions: "3 Decorated Cup Cakes & "Flower of the Month".

"Talk on RSABI (Scot-

"Beatrix Potter" with San-

dra Batty.

Competitions: "Animal Ornament" & "Flower of

the Month".

The 100 Club still needs new members. The subscription is £12 a year and the draws are made at Williamson Hall meetings. The monthly prizes are £20 and £15. If you would like to join, please phone 01738 850496 for an application form. Next Draw will be on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

Wed 17th April -

"Open Night" - in Masonic Hall at 7.30 - "Talk on History of Beads and Demonstration of Jewellery Making" by Pat Dick. Also Sale of items including hand made bags. Competitions: "Favourite Necklace & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 15th May -AGM - and "Floral Ar-

ranging" with Margaret

Skinner.

Competitions: "Arrangement in unusual container & "Flower of the Month".

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.

#### WILLIAMSON HALL FETE DIARY PRIZE DRAW

The winners in the Williamson Hall Fete Diary Prize Draw are as follows:

First Prize – Lunch for four at the Jade Garden, Perth Jill Donnachie

Second Prize - £10 Marks and Spencer Dine in

Voucher Jill Young

Bon Apetit!



## My first experience of feeding Mum's Hens and other animals.



It was the end of August and Mum was away for a long weekend, so I had agreed to feed the hens, rabbit and guinea pig.

Thus it was I took my self off with Fenn my 15 month old son walking with me and pushing his toy along the path from my home at the other end of the village in the sunshine.

As I opened the gate from the garden into the hen compound, they all crowded around me waiting for their food and Fenn who was so excited, managed to chase out all 8 hens into Mum's garden. To get them back into their area I put their food of mashed pellets. oats and scraps into their trays, then into the shed to grab a jar of corn to shake and encourage them back in. As I did so I noticed Fenn busily eating the hen food. I removed Fenn from said food and filled up the water drinker. As I collected the eggs from the nesting box. I found that Fenn had tipped over the drinker which I then refilled and continued to collect the eggs, at which time Fenn chose to tip up the drinker again, create a huge and very muddy puddle into which he promptly fell, splat! Once I cleaned him up, I re-filled the hen drinker for the third time, moving both of us into the coop where the hutch is situated for the rabbit and Frankie the Guinea Pig. As I placed vegetable scraps and carrot into the hutch for the furry animals I gave Fenn a piece of raw carrot and went to check their water bottle. As I turned back I caught Fenn, who had crawled right into the hutch busily eating bits of carrots and throwing out all the rest of the vegetables that I had carefully placed for Frankie who incidentally was covering in the corner unable to comprehend what this huge bulk was in his house removing all the food he had just been given. Clearly Fenn thought carrot was too good for the likes of a rabbit and guinea pig.

Having finally managed to extricate Fenn from the hutch, grabbed the eggs ensuring they were safely out of Fenn's reach, we began to make our way back up Mum's garden when I heard a hissing noise further down the garden which I thought I should investigate. I noticed the connector on the hose to water the plants had come apart, so immediately set about reconnecting the

the hose. As I attempted this task the water pressure created a jet which drenched both Fenn and myself, each time I attempted to join the hose together the pressure of the water forced the connecters apart and created this jet of freezing cold water that drenched us every time. Fenn found this hilarious and kept getting in between me and the hose for further drenchings. So it was several attempts and wettings later that I finally managed to secure the hose back together and wearily 'dripped' our way back up the garden onto the path to make our way back home. However by this time Fenn was tired, and wished to be carried. As we made our way back up the village with me carrying both Fenn and his walker toy, the sun had disappeared and the heavens just opened, yes we had a further even heavier drenching requiring us both to be dried and changed upon arrival at the cottage.

What should have taken me approximately 10 minutes in the sunshine, actually took around 1 hour and several drenchings later, the upside to this story is that Fenn no longer cries when he has a shower!!

Even so I am not sure I will be so ready to volunteer my services in the future!

Kirstin

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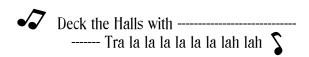
#### **CLAY BUILDINGS IN ABERNETHY**

In connection with my local history work at the Museum of Abernethy, I received an email from the architect, Tom Morton, concerning clay buildings in the lower Tay valley. He is currently doing a survey of such buildings for the Tay Landscape Partnership. The National Trust for Scotland has preserved The Old Schoolhouse, Cottown, an interesting example of a clay building on the north side of the Tay. It is usually open to the public on "Doors Open Days" in September. Clay buildings have also been found in the Newburgh area. Since the walls of such buildings are usually lime-plastered with harl it is often very difficult to tell purely from observation if the basic structure of the wall is of clay, stones and clay, or stones and lime mortar. The relevant parts of his letter are as follows:-

"This in an overview to try and get a picture of the extent of surviving and historic structures using unfired clay as a building material, to inform projects over the coming years. This includes clay mortared stonework, as well as solid clay walls..... I am particularly looking for examples south and west of the Tay, between Newburgh and Forteviot. I have been surprised not to find any records of some to date. If you have any suggestions of possible candidates, I would be very interested to hear."

If you know of any clay buildings in the village or in other parts of Abernethy parish could you please pass on this information to the museum and I will let Tom Morton know. The museum phone number is 850 889.

**Bill Drever** 



Yes it's nearly carol singing time again! Do come and join in a happy group of singers on Sunday 16th December, we will be meeting in the Square at 6pm.

Please dress warmly, bring torches and tinsel if you Like.

Later in the church hall we will have mulled wine And mince meat pies - yum! (provided by the Tower singers)



Pat Miller

#### **POLICE BOX**



#### Tayside Police Tees Up for The Ryder Cup

With this year's Ryder Cup over, interest now turns to the competition's visit to Scotland in two years time.

This will see some of the world's greatest golfers at Gleneagles for the three-day event which runs from 26 to 28 September, 2014.

Scotland is proud to host this tournament and it will be a fantastic opportunity to showcase Scotland, the local area and what it has to offer. Along with the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, 2014 this will see 'Scotland Welcome the World' in terms of prestigious sporting events.

Tayside Police have been planning for this event for some time now.

Inspector lain Ward, the local Community Inspector for South Perthshire said,

"South Perthshire is a beautiful area and has a lot to offer visitors. We are committed to making this event a fantastic experience, whilst being safe and secure for all.

"With the support of Ryder Cup Europe, early and sustained engagement with the community will be a key aspect of its success.

"That is why we have identified a dedicated Community Engagement Officer, Constable Euan Mitchell. Euan will take up post immediately to begin this process.

"Based at Auchterarder police station, he will have the role of liaising with communities. His aim will be to provide a link between the community and the event planning process in order to feedback any issues that are raised and to find resolutions.

"I am delighted to have been able to secure Euan for this role, he brings a wealth of experience in Community Policing and was recently awarded the accolade of, Tayside Police Officer of the year, he is absolutely up for the challenge".

Constable Mitchell said:

"I'm proud to be given this new post of Community Engagement Officer for the Ryder Cup and I look forward to the challenges it will bring. I aim to do everything possible to ensure the event goes smoothly whilst ensuring the impact of it for the people living

near the course is a little as possible."

"My first aim is to gain the trust of local residents and the best way for me to do this is being out and about in the local area being a visible presence in the community. I want people to feel they can approach or contact me at any time to discuss whatever issues and concerns they may have about the event."

"It is with a great deal of regret that I am leaving my community officer post for the Abernethy, Bridge of Earn and Glenfarg beats. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working in these areas but unfortunately the challenge of this new role was too good to turn down."

PC Mitchell has been a key contributor to Tayside Police's forward thinking social media usage over the last couple of years. He has regularly been 'tweeting' about his daily duties as well as updating locals in his current beat about the goings on in their area. He added.

"As more and more people find alternative ways of communicating it is important that we continue to keep up with times, whilst continuing to understand the importance of public meetings and personal contact. Social media sites such as Twitter have been a hugely productive way of interacting, both for me and for my virtual community, and I hope I can bring this expertise over with me to my new role".

PC Euan Mitchell can be contacted at Auchterarder Police Station, by telephone on 0300 111 2222 or by email at euan.mitchell@tayside.pnn.police.uk.

#### **New Area Community Officer**

As a result of taking up the community based Ryder Cup post PC Euan Mitchell is no longer the Community Officer for the Abernethy, Bridge of Earn and Glenfarg areas.

The new Community Officer covering these areas is PC Jim Pentley. Jim joined Tayside Police in 2003 and has previously worked at the Bridge of Earn, Perth and Pitlochry stations and has been based in Kinross since November 2011. Jim has a wealth of experience on all aspects of Policing and looks forward to engaging with the community on all issues causing concern locally.

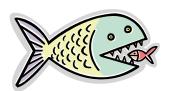
Jim can be contacted at either the Bridge of Earn or Kinross Police stations, by telephone on 0300 111 2222, or by email at <a href="mailto:immy.pentley@tayside.pnn.police.uk">immy.pentley@tayside.pnn.police.uk</a>

First prize winner in senior category

#### **CULDEES, PLEASE**

In the summer holidays of 2012, my family and I went for a holiday to in Southern Ireland, in the small and rural village of Donard, south of Dublin. We were there because of a large endurance event taking place in which every British nation plus Ire-I land took part in. Whist none of us were competing, instead helping put another rider, we were hoping to get a taste of Irish culture and cuisine. We were sorely disappointed. The first meal out we had was in a nearby town called Blessington. We searched for ■ ages for a good place to eat, even though there were many restaurants and cafes. Every one of them was either closed, too expensive or unsuitable for our vegetarian diets. After looking at many cafes, we eventually came across a pretty little pink cafe called "'Sweet Blessington'. Whilst a touch on the expensive side, it was open and served a few vegetarian dishes, although it was very few. There were nine of us Ithere, and out of the nine of us, six ordered a baked potato, due to it being the one of the only meat-free • meals on the menu. We waited. The three paninis we ordered arrived along with a solitary potato.

We waited fifteen minutes more. Another potato arrived. Another fifteen minutes, another potato. This was getting ridiculous, so we asked the waiter what was taking it so long. Turns out then could only cook one potato at a time, just one. And having ordered six, it would have taken an hour and a half ■ to get them all had a couple of people not changed their orders after hearing this. The potatoes we did get were also cold in the middle, so all in all, it was not a great meal. The next couple of meals we had were in local pubs, and whilst the service was great ■ and the food delicious, our vegetarianism got in the way again and the only possible thing to order from both pubs was margarita pizza and chips. Although tasty, one can get a bit sick of pizza and chips after some time. Even when travelling home and stopping • off at service stations for a bite to eat, every single sandwich on sale contained meat. Even for me, a pescatarian, there were no tuna or salmon sandwiches either, being too inland. Thankfully, the ferry did overly priced veggie burgers and fish for us to eat onboard.



Upon getting home, we decided to have a light lunch the next day, feeling full and bloated on pub grub. Unfortunately, my dad fell ill and was unable to do our weekly food shop, as we had initially planned. Due to there being no food in the house, there was only one option and that was to head up to the Culdees for lunch. First of all, it was open as ■ always (Tuesday- Saturday, 10am-5pm), which is a good sign. Although I was planning on eating a light • lunch, I couldn't resist the lure of the nachos with • cheese. The food came very quickly, in less than 10 minutes despite there only being one chef to cook it ■ all. Even though the Cudlees is very small, the menu ■ is huge, with a large variety of things to choose from, including plenty of vegetarian meals. Upon finishing, • we found ourselves extremely full and satisfied, too full in fact to order any of the delicious assortments • of home-made cakes on sale, as fantastic as they sounded. The food is also extremely reasonably priced for the quality and quantity that you get.

It's amazing to think that such a small tearoom in a quiet village could be quite so brilliant, with a full menu and great quality all at a good price. It definitely outshone Sweet Blessington, despite that café being situated in a far larger village and being far larger itself. So if you are hoping for a meal out, look no further than your own wee village, after all, there truly is no place like home.

Morven Graham i

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#### **CHURCH NEWS**

Dear Friends,



The build-up to Christmas has come upon us again, that time when we get caught up in a frenzy of preparation for the "big day". What presents will I buy for the children who have "Christmas" every week? What food will I buy (frozen or fresh turkey this year)? Will I be able to avoid the last-minute rush (remember last year)? Have we enough booze in? Will we invite Auntie Gertie this year? (last year she ate hardly anything, drank the gin and slept all afternoon on the chair) And on and on it goes. Sorry, I forgot, and if we can get everything sorted in time, we'll get to one of the Christmas Eve Services.

Yes, I live in the real world, and I know that this is what it can be like. Christmas is a time when we can get lost in the sort of preparations urged on us by society and by the world of commerce. We feel pressured to behave like everyone else, just as we feel pressured by the retail industry to spend at Christmas to help them compensate for all the profit they have not made during the year.

However, in the midst of all that goes on at Christmas, let us try to find some time to remember why we celebrate Christmas. The four-week period leading up to Christmas is known as Advent, the time when we prepare ourselves to welcome once more the Christ-child into our lives. It is a time to reflect upon God's goodness to us, and to reflect especially upon the fact that God so loves us that he humbled himself to come into our world and live amongst us. This is what the "real Christmas" is about. This is what gives us cause to celebrate.

For some of us, Christmas this year may not be a time to let rip with our money because of more difficult financial times. Some of our children may not receive the presents they have become accustomed to. But we can all, no matter our circumstances, offer to one another, and especially to our children, the greatest gift of all.....LOVE. The very love of God, revealed through each one of us as we care for one another. The love revealed in a vulnerable child, born in humble circumstances 2,000 years ago.

If you do get sorted out in time, come along to one of our Christmas services. You will receive a warm welcome.

May I wish you all a peaceful Christmas, and may we look forward in hope for a brighter year to follow.

Rev Duncan Stenhouse, Locum Minister

First prize winner junior category

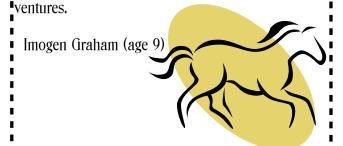
#### FLORA'S BIRTH

If you are reading this you probably know about Flora. If you don't then keep on reading closely...

The story starts on the  $27^{th}$  of June 2011 when a pony called Bella was giving birth. When my dad told me I didn't believe him but when he told me he was serious I got excited. Is it going to be a boy or a •girl? White, black or brown? What is its name going ■ to be? Will it be healthy? I wanted to go down to see it because my mum was already down there. But she called my Dad and said it would be better if we stayed at home just for now but we come later. Unfortunately the wait was torture! I didn't have break- ■ fast because I was too nervous to eat so I just had warm milk.

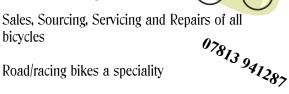
Eventually my Dad said 'Mum called me and you can come down now'. Before he finished speaking I'd already rushed out the door with my dressing gown and slippers on. 'Aren't you going to get dressed?' my Dad shouted. But it was too late I was already there. And there was Bella, licking the blood from a beautiful brown, girl foal.

I wanted to run into the field with my Mum but I knew not to. I watched for about half an hour while •the foal was trying to get up and start walking. But I had to go to school. Luckily my Mum picked me up after school and said she'd called the foal 'Flora' but •her long name is 'Silver Bluebelle'. Now I'm getting to the end of my story but if you keep reading the Village Crier, you'll hear about more of Floras ad-



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#### **NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM**

The Museum is now closed for the winter season, but as ever much work goes on behind the scenes looking after the collection and doing research. I am delighted to report that we have held a very successful first Art Exhibition in the Museum at the end of October. After a few weeks of hard work and anxiety (mostly on my part!) we held a fantastic preview evening for Museum members and exhibitors. We were then open to the public for three days. We made a healthy profit in the region of £400 and welcomed over 300 visitors. I would like to extend my grateful thanks to everyone who contributed and supported us in this new endeavour.

Moving our thoughts to next season, we are planning an exhibition about World War I. If you have any pictures, artefacts or anecdotes we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact the Museum on 850889 (and leave a message) or email secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk. Alternatively. volunteers are usually in the Museum every Tuesday from 9.30 am to 12.30pm and from 2pm to 3pm.

Finally, can anyone help us to identify this fascinating mystery photo? Any thoughts gratefully received!



Rachel Cheer Chair of the Museum of Abernethy rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk 850578



#### MORE MEMORIES OF ABERNETHY

In a recent article for the Village Crier I wrote about family memories of Glenbank which has given rise to these further recollections.

When I mentioned free-wheeling from Glentarkie trying to get all the way to the Auchtermuchty road we would have been on our way to visit Papa's brother who farmed near Windygates; on one of these visits would have been the first time I was on board a horse. I say on board because being up on a top of a Clydesdale seemed to me at the time to be much more than riding, due to the horse's very broad back and my short legs. I confess that I did not have control as the horse was being led by an aunt.

On a Friday we would sometimes go into the Perth cattle market which was then in the city itself. Papa liked to keep in touch with what was current although retired from farming. After the mart it was down to Jennie's café near the Salutation hotel for mince pie and beans lunch. The next stop would be the tobacconist's shop just up the street. I seem to remember there was a wooden statue outside of a kilted Scotsman or was it a Red Indian (native American)? Whatever, there Papa would purchase his specially mixed pipe tobacco and Granny's Craven A cigarettes. An aside on the Craven A, I can remember "stealing" one from the kitchen drawer, retreating to the far reaches of the Glenbank garden and trying my first and almost last smoke. I did not like it and that was me cured of any future nicotine habit.

Another enjoyable outing was to the ice-cream shop in Newburgh, was it Janetta's? I recall that they had shops at both ends of the main street but we usually went to the one nearest Abernethy. The hotel next door was where Papa used to visit when he was having a drink or two!!! I have to stress that he never went in when he had any of the grandchildren with him.

A one off trip that has stuck in my mind was to Muirton Park to see St Johnstone play Morton, Papa was not interested in football but obviously had done it to please me. I wanted to see Jimmie Cowan, the Scottish International goalkeeper who was playing for Morton at the time. He must have made a lasting impression because although the initial start to my football career was at outside left for the school team, the remainder was spent as a goalkeeper playing for various amateur and semi-professional clubs in Scotland, England and India.

Looking back they were definitely the Good Old Days. **Donald Gordon Mackenzie** 

#### POPPY DAY COLLECTION

lan Cartwright would like to thank all the poppy day collectors and all who gave generously. The collection this year amounted to

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## ABERNETHY ENVIROMENTAL ASSOCIATION



#### CEILDIH DANCE

The ceildih was organised as a fundraiser for the Parks Project. It seemed a good idea for everybody to have some fun and enjoyment whilst raising money for the parks.

The hall was decorated in a tartan theme, the lighting reduced to give a softer ambience and the bar set up in a corner; all we needed were the dancers.

Well they came, looked, were happy and the evening took off to be one of the best evenings of entertainment; dancing, laughter and all round fun.

The Blackford Fiddlers provided the music and their enjoyment of the night was obvious as they played to full floors for every dance. Just what a band loves to see.

Courtesy of the Bein Inn, stovies were served in the break and more money was removed from the revellers pockets by the old favourite of pound coin closest to the bottle of whisky wins the prize.

Fed and rested it was back to the dancing for time seemed to flying past and midnight was approaching.

The evening was rounded off by the raffle and the committee would like to thank all those who donated prizes especially the local businesses who supported us.

A special thanks must be made to John MacGregor who generously paid for the band who had reduced their fee in support of the project.

The final figure for the funds raised is not available as yet but it looks like it will be in excess of £1000.

To all involved in whatever capacity Many Thanks for you participation and support.

R Macdonald





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#### THE CLOTHES SWAP

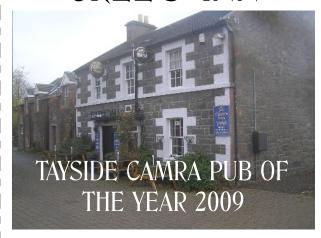


By 10 am there were about 60 bin bags full of clothes, shoes and so on covering most of the pavilion floor. Thank goodness we'd managed to borrow plenty of clothes rails. Especially thanks to Kirsty who brought loads (it helps to know someone in the rag trade). It took about 5 people the rest of the day to hang up and sort the clothes out (thanks to Julie H-L, Audrey, Margaret and Angie), with a few 'ohh's' and 'ahh's' and 'that's nice!'

I'm not sure exactly how many people came that evening probably 60 or 70, but the feedback was very positive, most people left with bags full of new clothes and there were lots of surprisingly good brands, Phase Eight, White Stuff, Fat Face, Boden, Per Una, Next, Noa Noa, Monsoon, Laura Ashley etc. It was a bargain with entry at £5 including tea and coffee and crisps and cakes. The kids had fun too Thankfully many people donated extra money for the great things they took away and we made £150 with three car loads to the Cash for Clothes recycling so the final total was £774. **Thank you** to everyone who took part, and there is a demand for this event on a yearly basis so look out.

Zoe Robertson, Joyce Adams, Lorraine Kinnear

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6TH February 2013 WORLD WAR 2 DEFENCES

6TH March 2013 A HISTORY OF NEWBURGH

4TH April 2013 AGM followed by LOCAL HISTORY NIGHT

ALL WELCOME



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## JOHN MARSHALL RAMSEY 24.7.33 9.9.2012

Many of you will remember the Ramsey family who lived In Strathview on Station Road.

Sadly, Marshall the younger son of Thomson Ramsay, Died last Septmeber at home in Gloustershire.

Marshall's father had the Butchers business in the village And was the Provost of Abernethy from

Tom, Marshall's older brother, who survives him and Marshall were very much Abernethy boys and helped Their father as "message boys" on Saturdays. It was lovely to listen to them relate tales of the Adventures they had while making the deliveries.

Many happy times we had when the "Ramsey boys" and Their families visited Bobby and myself at Struan House.

Our thoughts go to Sandra, Marshall's wife and boys James and Robbie.

Hilda Clow.





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FULL VALETING FACILITIES AND SCRATCH REMOVAL



## NEWBURGH TRAIN STATION CAMPAIGN INVITES ABERNETHY RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A HOUSEHOLD SURVEY TO DETERMINE WHO AND HOW MANY IN THE AREA WANT AND WOULD USE A RAILWAY STATION IF ONE REOPENED IN NEWBURGH.

PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM, CUT IT OUT AND RETURN IT TO THE ABERNETHY STORES WHO WILL PLACE IT IN A BOX. ADDITIONAL FORMS WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE IN THE SHOP SHOULD YOU KNOW SOMEONE OR OTHERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO FILL ONE OUT. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO PERSUADE OTHERS TO FILL THEM OUT IF YOU STRONGLY SUPPORT THE REOPENING OF NEWBURGH STATION. THANK YOU.

Indications so far from a door to door census style survey that is attempting to cover all households in Newburgh show over 90% are in support and would use the station if it reopened.

The campaign is currently lobbying hard to get the Transport Appraisal, promised by the recently published TAY PLAN, delivered by the statutory authorities responsible (Fife Council, Transport Scotland and South East Scotland Transport Partnership). This is the next step in the process to reopen the station and the survey will be a great help in this. Newburgh Train Station Campaign c/oNigel Mullan, 151a High Street, Newburgh - 01337 840 415

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## Newburgh Train Station Campaign Household survey of Newburgh and catchment areas Spring 2012 & Abernethy Winter 2012/2013



- 1) Would you or any members of your household use a train service if Newburgh Train Station reopened?
- 2) Would you or any members of your household use a train

to get to work

to school, college or university or other training to

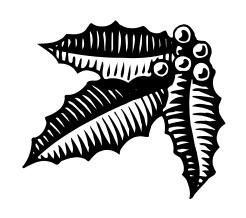
a hospital or other health care facility

or any other reason?

- 3) Would you or any members of your household use a train to go to Perth and also onward journeys to Glasgow Queen Street, Inverness (e.g. via Perth), Dundee or even Aberdeen (e.g. via Ladybank)?
- 4) Would you or any members of your household use a train to get to Ladybank, Markinch, Kirkcaldy, Inverkeithing, Edinburgh Airport, the Gyle shopping centre, central Edinburgh?
- 5) How many times a week would you or any members of your household use the train if the station reopened?
- 6) Would you or any members of your household support efforts to reopen the station by giving your contact details below and signing your names for the purposes of petitioning?

7) Would you or any members of your household like to be kept informed about efforts to reopen the station and be happy to receive emails from time to time?





# **MERRY** CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE CRIER TEAM