



# VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

Info@villagecrier.co.uk

www.villagecrier.co.uk



## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

23rd EDITION

June 2014

Closing date for next edition 31.7.14

Welcome Readers to the June edition of The Crier.

It is Easter Monday as I begin my article and what a wonderful holiday weekend we have had; the shorts and T-shirts taken out from their winter quarters and gracing parks and beaches around the country and the gardeners busy sowing, planting and cutting.

From an interest point of view I looked up the origin of the actual word Easter and one of the findings is it is derived from the word EOSTRE, the name of a pagan goddess associated with spring but the Festival of Easter as we know it is the Resurrection, The most important date in the Christian Calendar. Just a little bit of information for you to digest.

Anyway as I write it is the last day of the school holidays and by the time you read your Crier thoughts will have turned to the summer holidays and we are all hoping for another summer like last year.

Different organisations will now be at the forefront— tennis will have taken over from badminton, the Bowling Green will have reopened, the WRI will be thinking about Kinross and Perth Shows, The Horticultural are now busy outside, tidying up and planting.

I am looking forward to seeing Nurse Peattie's garden and the Rough Glen. Incidentally from where did the name The Coach Road come? In all the years I lived in Abernethy I never heard that name applied to any road nor track nor did I ever hear my late husband, whose family belonged to Abernethy since time immemorial, speak of a Coach Road. I hope someone will enlighten me on this subject.

It is strange how one thought leads to another—I never discovered why two places in Abernethy are named after battles in the Crimean War, Alma and Inkerman; both fought against the Russians in 1854, by the British and their allies, the French and the Turks. Don't be deluded in think-

-ing I remembered these details from studying history at school, that was too long ago! However modern technology is amazing in reminding us of the past. The situation today in that part of the world is not so different!!

How one's mind wanders. I had better bring it back to present day Abernethy.

Congratulations to all involved in the Parks' Project; The Powrie Park is looking really good now, such a lot of hard work has had to be done, both physically and mentally, raising money, planning and getting down to basics with spades, forks, loppers etc. Well done to all involved

Looking further forward fingers will be crossed for a lovely sunny day on the 21st June for the fete. It seems no time since last year's fete. A full programme of events etc appears in this issue.

Don't forget entries for the Short Story Competition must be submitted by the 31st July. I am sure many of you have a story to write.

Also the tickets are now on sale to win a round of golf at Blairgowrie.

Finally I was sorry to hear of the death of Pamela Cain MBE, a most remarkable lady who contributed so much to Abernethy during the many years she lived here. Her interests were many and varied, as you will read in this edition. She will be sorely missed in the community

Till we meet again in September, have a good summer.

**Hilda Clow.**

## EDITORS VIEW

I spotted the unsung heroes of the village a few weeks ago, George Brown, Brigit McDonald and Sheena McNaughton. George cutting the grass of the common land at the top of Manse road and Sheena and Brigit doing the rounds picking up litter and keeping our streets clean. A big thanks to you guys from the village.

During the Easter break I took the grand kids to the Powrie Park, they love it now there are lots of new playthings to go on. I think a big thanks must also go to the Park Project Committee for their hard work to make our park a great facility.

The Homecoming, Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup are coming to Scotland this summer. Visitors from around the world will be passing through or staying in the village. Let's make sure we give them a warm welcome and work hard to keep the villages neat and tidy for these visitors.

You may have noticed that there has been a gradual decline in the number of articles being submitted to the Crier over the last year or so. We would love to hear again from organisations such as the School, Community Council, Perth Councillors and the Church.

The Crier is only as good as the people who contribute.

Have a great summer.

**The Ed**

**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**



## LETTERS TO THE ED

**Dear Ed**

An excuse to go to the pub

All around the country, for sale or to let signs are tell tale of the gloom and doom that is impacting on small businesses. Culture has changed as well where we all tend to shop in supermarkets and more often drink at home. Why? It costs less and often gives greater or preferred selection. Can't argue with that BUT take a trip to Guildtown. They have no pub or hotel now, no shops, grocery or coffee type but retain a garage.

We mostly drive and always need a garage to fix the bangs, bumps and legal requirements that vehicles need. Without the car we won't get to the supermarkets to buy cheaper or preferred groceries and cheap booze. So whilst we need no encouragement to use the local garages, we certainly do need reminding that if we don't use what we have locally, Abernethy could end up being a dormitory village that offers nothing more than that which Guildtown suffers.

I might be wrong. Perhaps I'm old fashioned and enjoy using local shops and going to my local pub a couple of times a week, whereas most don't. I hope I'm wrong, but I do suspect if we don't make the most of what we have we could end up with nothing. So I'll continue to buy from the shop and go to the pub for a couple of beers. Use it or lose it!

That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it. I hope this may inspire many to join me in my quest to save what we have and probably take for granted. Only when it's gone might you think, if only.....

**Dougie Cleeton**

**Dear Ed**

I would like to thank neighbours and friends for their kindness and support after my recent fall which left me with a broken hip. I have received many lovely gifts and cards, please accept my gratitude for same.

**Jessie Stein**

**Dear Ed.**

I had to have some work done on my car a month ago so I decided to go local and try Tower Garage. Well I will certainly be going there again. Job well done, fair price and very polite staff. Give it a try.

Name and address supplied.

**Dear Ed.**

My wife and I went out for a drink in the village a few Saturdays back. We thought we would go to the Inn in the Main street as we heard it had been done up. Wow! What a difference, very comfy and welcoming. We are certainly going back soon, well worth supporting.

**Bob and Margaret Dunn.**

## **SORRY!**

**Those of us responsible for the publication of The Crier apologise most sincerely to Berryfields Tearoom for the serious error we made in publishing the wrong advertisement in the March edition. We hope you will accept this apology and continue to give us your valued support.**

## **FATHER'S DAY FLICK ABOUT**



The first ever Subbuteo International Open to be held in Perthshire is taking place just outside Abernethy. Soak up the World Cup fever! See how the table football pros play and have a go yourself on tables to suit any age. Free Badge for kids who score a penalty against a Dad!

Details:

First Floor, Jamesfield Farm Shop (KY14 6EW)  
14th / 15th June (Individuals event / Teams)  
10-5pm.

Hosted by:

Scottish Table Football Association / Tayside Kickers  
91 TFC / FlickForKicks  
Contact [gareth@flickforkicks.com](mailto:gareth@flickforkicks.com) or 07891 676663

## **“MY FRIEND LESLIE”**

I have friend named Leslie  
A very sociable chap  
He's well known in the area  
For stopping to have a chat.

He's a font of information  
On all things Horticultural  
Trees and plants with problems  
And sometimes species tropical.

As neighbours go he's quite unique  
Nothing is ever a bother  
A helping hand and much more  
In one way or another.

A modest man, a humble man  
A man of great intelligence  
But left to him you'd never know  
Humility is his credence.

But we who know and respect the man  
And have benefited from his knowledge  
Will be forever in his debt  
Something he'd never acknowledge.

So here's to you Les, keep on going  
A welcome sight about the place  
With your wavey hat so eccentric  
A valuable member of the human race.

**May Riach  
23 Sutherland Cres.  
Abernethy**

## **WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB**

Feb winners

Dougie Buchan number 69 £25

Ally Mallinson number 25 £15

March winners

Aileen Tullis number 36 £25

Dinah Morren number 55 £15

We still have some numbers left if you would like to play. It is £12 for the year with profits going to the running costs of the Williamson Hall. If you would like a number please contact Angela on 01738 850576.

Thanks to all who continue to support the hall through the 100 club.

## FROM HERE TO THE GOLD MINES IN AUSTRALIA



Thomas Drummond Wanliss (1830 -1923) former proprietor of the Ballarat Star, died in Edinburgh on the 20.4.1923.

Thomas Drummond Wanliss migrated to the Ballarat gold mines from Abernethy in 1850 and later became a community and business leader, author, member of the legislative council and founder of the Ballarat Star newspaper.



**Looking for a speaker for your Group?**

**Would you like to find out more about the work of Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS)**

CHAS runs Rachel House in Kinross, Robin House in Balloch near Loch Lomond, and the CHAS at Home service which provides an at home service for our families across Scotland.

Each year we rely on the continued generosity of the people of Scotland to help us raise the running costs of over £25,000 every day to allow us to provide our vital services.

We are keen to raise awareness of CHAS across Scotland and would love to come along and speak to groups in your local community to tell you more about the fantastic work that CHAS does.

To book a talk, or for more information on the work of CHAS please contact Rachel Cheer on 01577 865222 or [rachelcheer@chas.org.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@chas.org.uk)

## THE PERILS OF BEING A POSTMAN

Much as I enjoy doing my bit for the community by delivering the Crier I am glad that I never had ambitions to follow in Postman Pat's footsteps.

Firstly, there are the letter boxes which threaten to sever the ends of your fingers if you are slow to withdraw your hand. Then there are the ones at ground level. As I stoop down to insert the Crier my eternal worry is that at my age I may not be able to get up again and am left, stranded on someone's doorstep until help arrives.

Finally there are the domestic pets. As you approach the door you are greeted by a vicious snarling sound which suggests that were the occupant to suddenly open the door you would be in danger of being torn limb from limb. In most of these cases however, the householder has had the presence of mind to install a protective box to avoid the danger of the mail being shredded. I take off my hat to our postman. Four times per year is enough for me. Doing this on a daily basis in all weathers is deserving of a medal.



**Name and address supplied.**

## ABERNETHY BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Abernethy Baby and Toddler Group meet on Thursdays from 9.30am – 11.30am in the Williamson Hall. We are a group of babies, preschool children and the grown-ups who look after us.

There is a small charge of £2.50 per family per week (regardless of how many children you bring) this includes a healthy snack for the children, tea/coffee and a biscuit for the adults, cost of the hall rental and contribution towards upkeep of toys. We offer a taster session which is **FREE**.

Activities are informal and fun, appropriate to the ages of the little ones present on the day and may include; trikes and cars, trampoline and slide, ball pool, dressing up, musical and sensory play. We have bouncer seats and baby gyms for very little ones. If you require further information please contact [abernethytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:abernethytoddlers@hotmail.co.uk) or just come along on the day!





## POLICE REPORT



### **Bogus callers/workmen**

***These are people who use distraction techniques to preoccupy a victim and steal from their home. This could be someone asking to use the bathroom or telephone or for a drink of water. Whilst the occupier's back is turned, the thief will steal whatever they can find. Bogus callers may also pretend to be a utility worker or tradesman to gain access to a property.***

Bogus Workmen are different from bogus callers as they will carry out general maintenance work which is often shoddy or not completed. They will then charge an excessive amount for the work carried out. They may also ask for the money up front under the pretence of purchasing building materials. After the money is received they will not return to the premises and the work is left undone.

Bogus callers are very sophisticated and are very skilled at deception. They will use a number of ways to try and gain entry to your home to steal and trick you out of money.

As well as workmen or sales people, bogus callers can also pretend to be someone in need of help. If somebody calls at your door looking for help, be careful as they may not be genuine. If you're not sure who they are or you live alone don't let them into your home.

- Use the door viewer when answering the door.
- Check identification badges of anyone calling at your door.
- If you have a password with a company make sure the caller uses it.
- Never let people try to persuade you to let them into your home. If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and arrange for a friend or family member to be with you.
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door.
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home.
- If the person refuses to leave your door, dial 999 and ask for the police.

Keep the caller out of your house or ask them to leave and call the police immediately. You might also want to try to alert a family member or attract a neighbour's attention but you should always contact the police first by dialling 999.

The police would much rather attend a false alarm than have someone fall victim to a bogus caller.

### **Recent crimes/issues in the area:**

#### **Crimes/Incidents of note**

One report of possible poaching in Pitmedden Forest at the end of March – if anyone has any information about the individuals carrying this out or vehicles they are using, please contact the police

#### **For information**

Few recent incidents of heavy plant machinery being stolen from farms across Perthshire such as tractors, forklift trucks and trailers – it is highly likely that large transporters are being used to move the vehicles so if you see such vehicles parked in suspicious circumstances, please contact the police immediately

There have been a few incidents of heating oil being stolen again from domestic and commercial premises – it is good practice to secure your tank, ideally with a closed shackle good quality padlock which makes it very difficult to cut.

Also there have been charity collectors going round looking for people to sign up for charity contributions - the majority of those individuals will be genuine, however just think very carefully before handing out bank or personal details and ensure you know exactly what you are signing for.

## ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS



Morning worship is at 9.30 am with Children's Sunday club taking place during the service in school term time. Drinks and refreshments are served afterwards. Please join us.

Open Doors - on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 10-11.30. Come in for a hot cuppa, scone and a blether.

Holy Communion - 8th June at 9.30 am. This service is open to members of any Christian Church

**Celia King**

## SOME ABERARGIE HORSES



We enjoy reading about the horses and ponies in Abernethy so we thought you might like to hear about the horses at Brackenbrae Croft, Aberargie. You may have noticed the big brown horses with black legs in the fields to the right of the A912 road to Perth after the Aberargie roundabout. They are Cleveland Bays, one of the oldest and rarest of the British native breeds, which is listed as critical on the Rare Breed Survival Trust watchlist. Our last foal, Marshall, born in 2012, was one of only twenty-six registered in the world that year.

The breed originated, as the name suggests, in the north of England in the Middle Ages as pack horses and general farm workers and over the years developed as carriage horses, making good cavalry and artillery horses, which proved their downfall with large numbers lost in WW1. Nowadays they are deeply unfashionable in the equestrian world, their place as hunters and eventers having been taken by Continental breeds.

We have two family groups: Diamond (17) – “The Boss” and her offspring Jack (7) and Crystal (5), and Lizzie (14) and her offspring Sky (8) and Lockie (6). Warlord the stallion is a lovely natured handsome gentleman of twenty years who came up from Northumberland a few years ago to enjoy his retirement with us after a very successful and prolific career down south.

Residents of Aberargie will have seen the youngsters out for a walk in-hand around the village on occasion, and Jack and Lockie are now under saddle so hopefully as the weather improves they will get a little further. Lizzie is also going to be a riding horse as she cannot have any more foals.

We are hoping for three foals this year. Diamond and Sky are in foal to Warlord and Crystal is expecting her first foal to the well known Fife Thoroughbred Bollin Terry. If all goes well with her it will be particularly special as she survived the usually fatal disease Equine Grass Sickness as a two year old, while losing her yearling brother Chieftain to the disease.

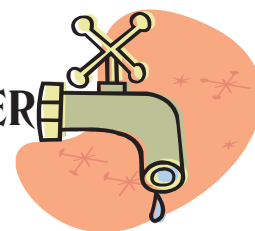


We also have some Zwartbles sheep (Dutch) which are black with white markings on their faces and socks and very friendly and easy to handle for novices like us, and a one-eyed pygmy goat called Cameron who thinks he is one of the horses.

We have a website at [www.brackenbrae.co.uk](http://www.brackenbrae.co.uk) if you would like to know more about our animals and we plan to be at the RBST stand on the Friday of the Perth Show with one of the youngsters or hopefully a mother and foal if anyone would like to come and say hello.

**John and Eva Bennett  
Brackenbrae  
Aberargie**

## HOW NOT TO BECOME A PLUMBER



I recently had two clients with similar problems. Both were faced with redundancy and wanted to get qualifications to help them find a job.

They googled ‘Plumbing’ and sent e-mails to companies that advertised training courses. They both separately received visits from a salesman who said how they could become qualified plumbers.

The training company did not take just anyone but each of the clients had been assessed as exceptional candidates and there was just one place left on the course. If they did not sign up today they would miss this valuable chance. Help was offered in arranging a loan to finance the studies.

Both signed up.

Client A became suspicious after a few weeks because he was not getting good quality teaching. He wanted to end the course and get a refund. He was struggling to repay the bank loan.

Client B persevered with the studies for three years and paid £3700 although she was suspicious of the standard of the coursework and marking. She found her certificate was not an industry recognised qualification and was no good to her. She had managed to pay her bank loan but wanted a refund.

The Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbing Federation state the minimum qualification for a plumber in Scotland is an SVQ3 which is done in the workplace and takes at least 4 years. City and Guilds Technical Certificates do not allow a person to register as a plumber. Work place training is required.

We offered advice about getting a refund but felt it would be difficult. I believe there is a move to involve Trading Standards because of the irresponsible marketing of the courses.

The clue is in the high pressure salesmanship. If you want to improve your skills we have an excellent local resource at Perth College. They will help you with finding a suitable course, be clear about the cost and not put you under any pressure.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment in the afternoon.

01738 450580 is the Advice Line. Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau.

There is also a web-site run by the CAB.

Adviceguide.org.uk covers many topics and is easy to use.

AH

## G.A. MEMORIES



The name General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation Ltd to give it its full title is now a distant memory following mergers with firstly Commercial Union and then Norwich Union. They now trade under the AVIVA banner. Founded by a group of local farmers and businessmen in Perth in 1885 the company progressed to be one of the largest employers in the area and there were few towns and villages within reach of Perth who did not have several residents working in the GA. Abernethy was no exception.

Well known locals such as the late Willie Sutherland and I believe Norman Peddie worked there in their younger days.

When I started with the General Life Company in 1942 my weekly wage was fifteen shillings. In today's money that would be a copy of the "Courier" with 5p change! At that time Willie Kemp who lived at Eastbank was Manager of the Workmans Compensation Dept. His daughter Isobel, later to become my sister in law, worked in the Investment dept. Brothers Andrew and Jack Morrison served for many years in the Motor and Guarantee depts. respectively. Andrew jnr is still with AVIVA. Jack met his wife Helen through working there. David Blaikie who rose through the ranks to become Chief General Manager spent his summer holidays as a boy in Abernethy, staying with his Aunt, Miss Barrie, in Blinkbonny. He would occasionally ask me about people he knew in the village. My first experience at dictating letters was with Chris Monteith who

lived in Kirk Wynd. Some years my senior I felt rather nervous as she sat very smart in her two piece suit, shorthand notebook at the ready, every inch the perfect secretary. She soon put me at ease and after that it was plain sailing.

Jack Kemp was another who worked in the Guarantee Dept. Both Ian Bett and Jimmy Swan joined the company. Ian eventually left to join the family business and Jimmy to pursue the outdoor life with the Forestry Commission. They did not leave empty handed having met their respective wives in the GA.

Sisters Jean and Annabelle Hutchison were others along with Sandra Hutchison and Flora Grehan. When Jean married Andy Kaye they settled in the village and Andy joined the Kirk Session. With him as Clerk to the Board, Andrew Morrison as Treasurer and myself as Session Clerk the well-being of the Church was assured (pardon the pun). Robin MacDonald left Dewars to become my right hand man in the Shares Dept. before moving to the IT dept. when the share registration work was outsourced to Lloyds Bank.

There are so many others - Les McIntosh, Kenny and Heather McVean plus several who escape my memory. And it all started with those far-sighted men who formed the General Accident and Employers Liability Assurance Association all those years ago.

**Bob MacDonald**



## IT IS WITH PLEASURE

David and Kathleen Baird are delighted to announce the arrival of their fifth grandchild.

Sophie Lynne was born on the 1st April to Lorna and George Gourley.

## TO THE DISTRIBUTORS

If you have any copies left over after your bundle is all delivered could you please hand them back to Jimmy Swan.

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

## ARTICLES

Would you please submit articles in the following format, JPEG, PDF or Word.

Thank You

## ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

We held our AGM in March and after lively debate we approved our new Constitution and discussed the proposed renovation of Nurse Peattie's Garden (see below for more details). A New Committee was elected for 2014/15: Caroline Boyle (chair), Rachel Battilana (Secretary) Margaret Donaldson (Treasurer), Bill Christie, Maureen Corbishley, Chris Farmer, and Jane Sanderson (members). We also voted for the venue for our annual trip which this year will be to Teasses Garden in Fife on Saturday 14 June.

We have one regular meeting left in our current session. This is a talk on Scotland's medieval and monastic gardens by Marilyn Brown, author of the recent book "Scotland's Lost Gardens", in the evening of Wednesday June 11. It will be followed by drinks in the garden of the Abernethy museum. Cost of all our speaker meetings is £2.50 to non-members, free to members.

News related to things horticultural in Abernethy including developments with the Fruit Tree Trail and Nurse Peattie's Garden as well as details of our regular meetings and how to join the Society can be found on our website: [www.abernethyhorticultural.co.uk](http://www.abernethyhorticultural.co.uk) and on posters on the village notice board.

Finally, a date for your diary: Garden Day 2014 will take place in the afternoon of Saturday September 20 at the Williamson Hall. Hope to see you there.



### CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

HILDA CLOW	813886
ANN HOLLINGSWORTH	850384
LES McINTOSH	850356
IRENE McLAREN	850414
JIMMY SWAN (Editor)	850569
(info@villagecrier.co.uk)	

## NURSE PEATTIE MEMORIAL GARDEN (50TH ANNIVERSARY REFURB.)

In recent years the Horticultural Society has taken over from Perth and Kinross Council the care and maintenance of Nurse Peattie's Garden. This involves us in regular tidy-ups from March to October. As you may know, the garden occupies a visually prominent site at the entrance to the village by the Ballo Burn. It includes some lovely trees and shrubs and it is a pleasure to sit and relax with the sound of water in the background and glimpses through the trees of village houses and the hills. The site of the garden is a part of the village's former bowling green. The green was lost when the main road was re-aligned in the 1960s. The gate into the garden is the original bowling green gate.

The garden is dedicated to the memory of Elizabeth Peattie who was the District nurse for this area for almost 30 years from 1936 to 1963. She was by all accounts a well-known and well-loved figure. At first she travelled to her work by bicycle (later motorised) and then by car: a vehicle purchased for her by the community after determined fund-raising efforts.

The garden was inaugurated on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1966 which means that in 2016 we shall be celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary. To co-incide with this significant milestone the Society is hoping to refurbish the garden with new planting. We are currently consulting on proposals to remove certain shrubs and trees and prune others in order to allow more light in and improve growing conditions. In the next few months we will present design plans to the village and will begin raising funds for the project.

We would like to include information on Nurse Peattie and the development of the garden within the garden itself. We only have sketchy details at the moment so if you, or anyone you know; has any old photos of the garden or knew Nurse Peattie herself, please get in touch as your stories and memories will be of great value and interest. If you would like to get involved with the regeneration of the garden or support the project in any way, please contact either myself or Ian Lamond (850186) or speak to any of the Committee. Many thanks

Caroline Boyle, Chair AHS tel: 851190

Email: [carolinepboyle@hotmail.com](mailto:carolinepboyle@hotmail.com)



## **ABERNETHY KEEP ACTIVE CLUB**



**Every Monday 12.30 to 1.30 in Abernethy Church Hall.**

**Exercise Class Suitable for All Ages & Abilities**

**Seated or Standing**

**For only £3 per session**

**A Warm Welcome to Everyone!**

Supported by Perth and Kinross Healthy Communities Collaborative

**Just come along or for more information phone**

Evelyn Scobie: 01738 850496 or mobile 07719240294

Patricia Miller: 01738 850879 or mobile 07849152693

**Lead by professional exercise instructor,**

**James Knight**

**Tailored to improve strength, balance and mobility**

## **ABERNETHY SWRI**

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. New members welcome. Please feel free to come along as a visitor first if you are not sure if this is for you - cost £2 per meeting. Annual Subscription for next session, starting in September, will be £19. If you require further information please contact Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496. Mobile: 07719240294.

In March we had Neal Robertson from Tannochbrae Tearoom, Auchtermuchty, who told us how he became a "Champion Porridge Maker". Neal prepared some of his "Speciality" porridge for members to taste and the verdict was "delicious". He also brought along a supply of his invention, a rounded wooden porridge spoon or "Spon" which were quickly snapped up by members. Neal judged the competitions which were: 3 Oatcakes - 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Patricia Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wilma Whyte. Flower of the Month - 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ann Christie, 3<sup>rd</sup> Betty Morrison.

In April we had Shona Simpson who gave a very interesting presentation on her trip to India and she showed us pictures on her laptop of the orphanages

around Chennai, formerly Madras. Shona judged the competitions which were: Pretty Cup & Saucer - 1<sup>st</sup> Evelyn Sutherland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Sanderson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Margaret Haxton. Flower of the Month - 1<sup>st</sup> Isabel McDonald, 2<sup>nd</sup> Anne Brews, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann Christie.

Next meeting is our AGM on Wed 21<sup>st</sup> May, when we have a Presentation by member, Jane Sanderson on "Chakra", and we will find out who has won the Points Trophies for this year. Competitions: "3 Chocolate Brownies" & "Flower of the Month".

Meetings will start up again on Wed 17<sup>th</sup> September. Details in September issue of the "Crier". Please also see Village Notice Board for fuller details nearer the time.

**Evelyn Scobie**

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

The Museum of Abernethy is now open for the summer season. We open from Wednesday through to Sunday from 2 to 5pm. In addition to our First World War display, we are very fortunate to have our salmon coble 'Emma' refurbished and back on display. To compliment our fishy theme we have an array of fun children's activities suitable for all ages so please bring the family along for a visit. You can also still learn lots about the history of the Parish of Abernethy, the Romans and the Round Tower from our general local history displays. Remember it is free entry! We would also encourage people to write a comment on our Trip Advisor page to help promote the Museum.

We are also very pleased to have received a generous donation from HE Mahfouz Marei Mubarak bin Mahfouz, Lord and Baron of Abernethy, GCMLJ, FRSA. We understand that His Excellency will be making a visit to the Museum at some point so we will be able to thank him in person.

The collections management team are always in the Museum on a Tuesday, so if you have local history queries or are interested in volunteering, this is a good day to get in touch. Please call the Museum on 01738 850889.

Lastly, a date for your diary. The Art Exhibition this year will be held in the Museum over two weekends 17-19 October and 24-26 October 2014. Wishing you a happy, sunny summer!

**Rachel Cheer** Chair of the Museum of Abernethy  
[rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rachelcheer@hotmail.co.uk) 850578

# Williamson Hall Fete

Kirk Wynd, Abernethy

Sat 21st June 2014

1-4pm

## Hall Fete

1pm - 4pm

### *Attractions*

Live music  
Teas & Coffees  
Ice Cream  
Bouncy Castle  
Badge Making  
Raffle

### *Stalls*

Sweet  
Alan's Chilli Jams  
Forever Living  
Bottle Stall  
Cake and Candy  
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## PAMELA CAIN 1916 - 2014

Pamela Cain, Miss Cain, or Pam, as she was always known to us, was a well kent figure in Abernethy, as she was involved with so many local activities and served on many committees: treasurer and chairman of the Horticultural Society, Community Council treasurer, WRI, country dancing. She would often be seen driving round the Abernethy area, delivering meals on wheels or helping with hospital transport. Later on in her life she would be seen pushing her walking frame along the footpath en route to or from paying a friendly visit to a house bound neighbour. She knew nearly everybody in Abernethy and was a good friend to many, with her practical good sense and unfailing sense of humour. Hers was a life of service, service with enjoyment.

Pam was born on July 19<sup>th</sup> 1916 in the Isle of Man, the daughter of Margery Frizell and James Cain, vicar of Lezayre. She was educated by her father then went to a Dame school in Ramsey, followed by boarding schools in Tunbridge Wells and North Wales. After a brief spell as an au pair in France, Pam chose to do domestic science as she 'thought it would be useful.' In the early years of the war she set up a Red Cross post on the Isle of Man before undertaking a Red Cross course in London and a posting abroad. She set sail from Liverpool and arrived in Algiers on 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1943 when North Africa was still occupied, but the campaign was over, and so she was transferred to Italy. On the way the small hospital ship was hit by a very fierce storm, in which one of the 4 landing craft was washed away and the other 3 were holed. She was the only one in the Red Cross group

After a few days a posting took Pam to a partially tented, 2000 bed hospital in Afragoli, near Naples. During this time Vesuvius erupted, smothering hospitals to the south in ash but not Pam's. Later she moved on successively to Rome, a convalescent home on the Adriatic, an ex TB hospital in Forli, Udine near the Austrian border, and Vienna. At Forli Pam learned to drive, having been allocated a 15cwt truck with no driver. The end of the war brought no change to the routine of dealing with patients or to life in general. Now in Vienna, in the summer of 1946, Pam got leave and returned to the UK and on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 1946 received the British Red Cross Society's Distinguished War Service Certificate at Buckingham Palace, an award of which she was very proud. Pam finally came home from Austria in early 1947 to set about finding employment.

She chose to train for occupational therapy at a time when this was in the process of a change from keeping patients amused to more positive treatment. On the course she met Anne Coventry, who became a life long friend. Neither of them had been to Scotland, and so, their course completed, they both applied for jobs at Bridge of Earn hospital in order to visit Scotland with fares paid. Bridge of Earn Hospital were so short staffed that they were both accepted, unseen! They found a flat at Ayton House to live in. Pam remained at Bridge of Earn Hospital until her retirement in 1976, when she moved into her cottage, The Knowes, in Kirk Wynd, which she had bought in the early '60s. It had to be partially gutted and the roof of half of it taken off. One half had been a weaver's cottage, the other half a weaving room, attached at a later date. It was renovated and let until her retirement. About a year before Pam retired Jeff took up a post in the pharmacy at Bridge of Earn Hospital, and he and I settled in Abernethy and got to know Pam both professionally and socially. She became a good friend of the family and was our children's favourite baby sitter, whose good humour they enjoyed and whose kind authority they accepted without question. Pam also shared our love of the outdoors and adventure. Anne Coventry was mad about sailing, and so Pam sailed with her in Perth Sailing Club. She was introduced to mountaineering by Nan Rae, who is a member of Perth JMCS and the Ladies Scottish Climbing Club (LSCC). The LSCC has been a very important aspect of Pam's life. After serving as hut custodian of Black Rock, the club hut in Glencoe, she became club president in the 1970s. She enjoyed travelling and camping and continued to take part in Alpine meets until well into her 80s. The highlight of her climbing career was undoubtedly the expedition to East Greenland in 1970. The 12 members who went endured hardships such as being tent bound in a snow storm for 3 days, or overpowered by the heat of the 24 hour sunshine, but the expedition was crowned with success by the ascent of several peaks, one of which was a first ascent. A few years later Pam returned to work for a few months to finance a trip to the Annapurna area of Nepal.

In retirement Pam and Anne both became involved with Perth Handicapped Club, set up as a social outlet for disabled people who were otherwise house bound. They did escort duty, both local and longer distance and were instrumental in setting up Mill Street library for the disabled, which, most poignantly, was closed down on the day Pam died, 4<sup>th</sup> of April. In 1981 Pam became chairperson of the Handicapped Club; this involved organising fortnightly meetings for



home visits to people who could not attend the meetings and an annual rally in the Lesser City Hall, open to all disabled people in the county. On the strength of her services to the community of Perth Pam was awarded an MBE and made her second visit to Buckingham Palace, this time in the company of her nieces, Muriel and Helen, and her nephew, Michael. She was a member of Perth Society of Natural Sciences and the Perth section of the Royal Scottish Geographic Society.

**Julia Banks**

## **ABERNETHY AND THE GREAT WAR**

### **THE CALL TO ARMS**

About a month after Britain entered the war the article below appeared in the PA. I think it is worth reprinting in full as it gives a chilling insight into the patriotism, xenophobia and clear sense of purpose which was current in 1914.

Three local men, all pillars of the community, are mentioned in the article. Provost William Garrick lived at Drumlea, Perth Road. Later during the war he was succeeded as Provost by William Peddie. Garrick's neighbour, David Wishart of Pittarrow was owner of the Strathearn Power Loom Works which then occupied the Branston site on Back Dykes. He was the largest employer in the parish. Major Williamson lived at Easter Clunie. We later hear of him chairing the tribunal and hearing the appeals of those men who were reluctant conscripts. However at the start of the war there was no conscription, and the armed services depended on young patriotic men volunteering en masse.

## **ABERNETHY AND THE CALL**

### **MUST FIGHT THE MILITARY MONSTER**

*"Last night a large and enthusiastic meeting was held in the Public Hall, Abernethy, with view to stimulating recruiting in the neighbourhood. Provost Garrick, who presided, mentioned that a good number of men had already heard the bugle call of the Motherland, and had taken their stand round the colours in the defence of right and justice. He thought they could do still better, however, and he was willing to enrol all young men who felt it their duty to assist Lord Kitchener in building up the great army to decide the fortunes of this deplorable war.*

*Mr D B Nicolson, Perth, who appeared as a special delegate under the Perth City and County Recruiting Association, made a rousing appeal to the patriotism of the young men of the district. He said that we were engaged in open hostilities with a first class Power, who were bent on prosecuting the war with a savage brutality which would put to the blush the cruellest days of vandalism of the Dark Ages. They must fight, and fight to a victorious finish this military monster, who has been sharpening his teeth and grinding his sword on our very hearths the while he was enjoying the unsuspecting hospitality of our country. The soap has been taken out of our eyes, and Heaven save us if we ever again allowed this serpent to nestle in our bosom and batten on our life's blood. He urged the young and strong men to come forward in great numbers in this time of grave national danger, and to bear in mind that their county regiment, the Black Watch, was still urgently requiring men, both for their Territorial service and regular battalions.*

*Major Williamson explained the conditions of enlistment in the National Reserve, and expressed the hope that the older men of the community would join in good numbers.*

*Mr Wishart exhorted the men who had no military training to swell the numbers of this civic guard, as he hoped soon to overcome the difficulty of rifles and ammunition.*

*Mr John Little, of the Recruiting Association explained the terms of enlistment in the various arms of the service, and invited inquiries and enrolments at the recruiting office at 42 St. John's Street, Perth. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded a very successful evening.*

*Perthshire Advertiser 12/9/1914"*

The War Time Abernethy exhibition in the museum has some new material to show this year. The museum welcomes artefacts, photos and information to add to this topical display which will be retained for the time being.

(Tel. 01738 850 889).

**Bill Drever**

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Tickets will be available from *Robin Macdonald, Keith Rose, Jimmy Swan, Alastair Robinson and Hilda Clow* from June 7<sup>th</sup>. The draw will be made on the evening of Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

### **June 7<sup>th</sup>: Date for your Diary**

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**Remember the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

Winning entries will appear in future editions of The Crier.

***Anyone in the distribution area can enter***



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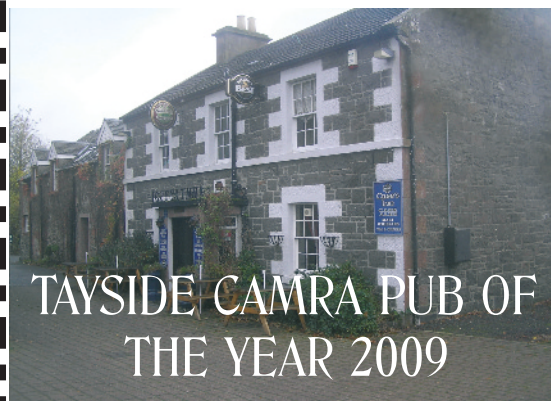


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