



VILLAGE CRIER

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ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

24th EDITION

September 2014

Closing date for next edition 31.10.14

Hello again Readers,

How quickly the time passes. The end of July is fast approaching and the deadline for The Crier only a few days away. It seems no time since I was writing to catch the last deadline and here we are past the middle of the year and by the time you are reading the 24th edition of The Crier it will be autumn

I wonder as I sit in the garden with pencil in hand (I always do a rough copy first, in the old fashioned way) in the wonderful warm sunshine, if this will all be a happy memory or will we still be enjoying lovely weather in the autumn. It is a case of wait and see.

What an eventful summer we are having, starting with Wimbledon, although Andy didn't make the final this time, followed by The Open Golf Championship and then The Commonwealth Games and in amongst that was the Football World Cup but that was held far away in Brazil so did not really affect us. I am really impressed by the Buzz surrounding The Commonwealth Games, the friendly atmosphere and the good fun everyone seems to be having. I guess today as I write, being during the Games, so using the present tense, to quote from a well-known song "There's nothing the matter wi' Glasgow".

Using the future tense now The Ryder Cup will be taking place at Gleneagles and being relatively near neighbours I am sure we will all be affected one way or another even if it is just seeing and hearing the helicopters flying over with the VERY IMPORTANT PERSONS on board.

An exciting year. I wonder what 2015 will bring.

So to Abernethy in particular. Unfortunately I was unable to be at The Fete on the 21st June but I am hoping I will read about it in The Crier and also the results of the Hill Race. I well remember the first Hill Race, but that is another story for another time.

I hope also there will be a report in from the Tennis Club which I believe is thriving. I remember when I came to Abernethy in 1968 the Tennis club had fallen by the wayside; the courts, which had been blazed, were covered with dockens, nettles and every other weed one can think of. However a group of us got together and raised a sufficient sum of money, £600 to be exact, to have the courts resurfaced and we managed to restore the little clubhouse which had fallen into disrepair. So that was the rebirth of The Abernethy Tennis Club as it is today. Again, like the Hill Race, another story for another time

Many of you will remember the interesting autobiography which appeared in the 11th and 12th editions of the Crier "Life and Times of a Village Lad" written by James Dobbie; a fascinating story of progressing from Aberargie Perthshire through Glasgow University to becoming Mayor of Atherton U.S.A. 30 miles South of San Francisco. Sadly Jim died on the 24th July 2014. Our thoughts are with the family and especially with his "little" sister Wyn. A wonderful and fulfilled life which we all must admire.

Until you next hear from me at the beginning of December enjoy the autumn and enjoy and appreciate the privilege of living in Abernethy

Hilda Clow

Village Crier Annual General Meeting 12th November at 7.30 pm in Crees Inn

EDITORS VIEW

By the time you receive your copy of this newsletter there will be around ten days to go to the big day, the 18th September



I don't want to keep drumming on about it but I feel it is very important that we all cast our vote, whether that be a NO or a YES, get out there and do it.

Well done to Billy Beatson, Hall Park, he won the Annual Museum Raffle a 'Round of golf for four' at the Rosemount course at Blairgowrie.

All Billy's friends will be gathering round now, just play Yirsel Bill, four times, saves any fa'in oot over a game of golf.

Many thanks to Dougie Cleeton, Secretary of Rosemount for donating the prize.

I read from the Community Council minutes they are again dealing with the tricky problem of parking in the Square. When Tower Bakery moved to Perth, up went a cheer, 'More room to park'. It hasn't improved. Can it improve?

Let's hear from you the residents of Main St and the Square, help the Council try and sort this. As long as you supply your name and address they do not have to be printed.

A very interesting letter from Broomhill, the ongoing problem of disposal of dog c-p. We all appreciate that most dog walkers / owners are now lifting their mess and I am sure most dispose of it in the correct red bin or even carry it home and put it in their own bin. However, there are some that prefer to stick it in other people's bins. Why?

Let's go that extra mile and put it in the right place and make Abernethy a dog friendly place for dog owners as well as non dog owners.

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.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily the views of the Crier or the committee.



LETTERS TO THE ED

Dear Ed

Robert Burns wrote.. "WE ARE BOUGHT AND SOLD FOR ENGLISH GOLD. .SUCH A PARCEL OF ROGUES IN A NATION" in response to the signing of the Act of the Union of 1706. "Rabbie" was not exaggerating !! In the months leading up to the Act the English "Court Party" led by the 2nd Duke of Queensberry could only rely on 100 of a possible 227 votes, £400,000 was found and given (as a direct bribe) to a "group" calling themselves "Squadron Volante" ensuring the passing of the Act. Such was the fury of the Scots at the time that Martial Law was declared, and some 10 years later the deep discontent resulted in the Jacobite uprisings...the Act not only ensured the loss of our Nation but also our identity and dignity!!!! Fast forward 307 years, there is a very distinct possibility that history is about to repeat itself....Conservatives, Labour and Lib-Dems PROMISE us far more autonomy PROVIDED we remain in the Union (another bribe!!!)....can anyone (hand on heart) believe anything David Cameron and his Cabinet utters, considering either the Home Offices' cover-ups or the stance taken on the European Union. ENSURE HISTORY DOES NOT REPEAT ITSELF...a vote for INDEPENDENCE will surely correct a terrible wrong done to our Nation more than 300 years ago.

Yours, Brian Boyes.

Dear Crier Team

I've been meaning to write to the Crier for a long time. I simply want to thank you, the contributors from the various clubs, the distributors and businesses who help sponsor the newsletter. My family moved here seven years ago, but as my children were older and I worked, I didn't get involved in the primary school or children's clubs, which I know is a focal point for news and gossip! If I didn't receive the Crier I wouldn't have a clue what is going on in our lovely village. I thoroughly enjoy reading all the articles and feel part of Abernethy because of it.

A letter to the Crier wouldn't be complete without bringing up the 'poo' topic so I sincerely want to thank the village ponies for their contribution to my flourishing garden. Everyone, keep up the great work.

Yours faithfully

Mai Ellis 2 Nethy Place

Dear Ed

I hope you will forgive me for bothering with this business of dog litter disposal.

For some years dog walkers have been putting their plastic bags in the Broomhill/Gattaway bins.

As both Gattaway and Broomhill bag all their rubbish, the bins are never tipped on collection day, so the dog mess remains.

We have gone to great lengths to have a red dog mess bin placed by the bins, but, apparently the dog owners find this too difficult and have started to use our bins again.

This is a plea to all dog walkers, please use the correct bin for dog mess, the red one.

Thank you
David Anstice

IT IS WITH REGRET

We hear of the death of Jean Masterton nee Miller. Jean died at home in Glenrothes on Sunday 3.8.14. Jean wife of the late Bobby Masterton grew up in Abernethy.

Jean and her husband were publicans in the Baigle Inn, The Royal, Strathmiglo and were proprietors of The Corner Shop.

We hear of the death of Miss Aileen Inga Mary Tullis

Local residents were saddened to hear of the passing of Aileen Tullis who died on 24th July in P.R.I. Daughter of the late Dr William and Mrs Inga Tullis she was a well-known figure in Abernethy along with her sister Diana, until they moved from the village to Pitcairngreen and then to Almondbank following the sale of the family home, Pitarrow.

After they moved they continued to attend functions in Abernethy until they gave up their car. Aileen was extremely talented artistically and also a keen photographer. In addition to Diana she is survived by brother David, nieces and nephews and a grand niece.

Many travelled from the area to the funeral service at St Serf's Church Almondbank.

The Great War

June 28, 1914

Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria by Bosnian Serb Gavrilo Princip



Do you want to create a better world for women and girls? Yes?

Soroptimist International is a worldwide service organisation for women working to improve the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities.

Our Perth Club provides opportunities to do this at a local, national and international level.

Locally we support the **Young Carers** –just this month you saw us bag packing in Morrisons to raise funds for them, **Disability Sport**, **Women's Aid**, and **The One-Stop Women's Learning Service Project**.

We also provide a **Window on the World** project helping residents of local Care Homes and Sheltered Housing to search the Internet for topics of interest and to use Facebook and Skype, and the **Books Aloud** project which focuses on reminiscences.

Nationally and internationally we are supporting the **Wake up to Modern Day Slavery Campaign** and the campaign against **FGM and cutting**.

This year is our 80th birthday and to celebrate this we are supporting a local project led by the Young Person's Health Team. What better way to celebrate our 80th than to ensure a better future for the youth of today?

Disturbed with the decisions many young people were taking because of peer pressure and media influences, the team hopes to draw upon resources and work with the young people to build an ACCEPT and RESPECT campaign all about respecting themselves as individuals. We are supporting this and helping to raise money to fund it.

Interested? Do you care about issues that affect women and girls? Would you enjoy making a difference, friendships and fun with women locally?' Then why not come and join one of our meetings. You will be most welcome. We meet once a month at The Royal George Hotel.

Please contact Jean for more details:

E: jdcampbell@hotmail.com T. 07947 604597 or visit www.sigbi.org/Perth

The Great War

July 28, 1914

**Austria-Hungary declares war on
Serbia**

WILLIAMSON HALL THE FETE

Question: should it be fete, to rhyme with 'wet' or fete to rhyme with 'great'? That wee, sharp shower just as we got started this year had me convinced it would be the former but, thankfully, it passed quickly and turned out to be a great fete, however you choose to pronounce it!!

Williamson Hall relies heavily on the fete to raise funds towards its upkeep and on-going maintenance. This year's grand total is £2382 – absolutely fantastic! Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event. We hope you had a great day. Well done to all the fancy dressers. The winners of the shield again this year were the Rainbows and Brownies with their circus. Jennifer Cook won the individual category and Phoebe Sandler had the best decorated hat.

As always we have many people to thank for making things happen again this year:-

The very hard working organising committee. It takes many weeks of effort and huge amounts of determination to pull together three hours of fete and it's made a whole lot easier thanks to the people involved.

The great squad of gazebo builders. This job seems to get harder every year as the numbers wear off the poles and the stitching wears out on the covers! Many people come back to help year after year though – that's how much they love it!! It was also great to have a few new faces along this year. Thank you all very much for your enthusiasm and for keeping your sense of humour!!

The army of 'volunteers' who came along in the afternoon to run stalls, paint faces and make tea. Again, it was great to see the 'weel kent faces' as well as some new recruits and all your hard work is hugely appreciated.

Evelyn Scobie for taking on the huge responsibility of judging the fancy dress!

Our sponsors, Branston Ltd, Breedon Aggregates and Kingdom Housing, and everyone who donated home baking, raffle prizes and bottles – thank you!

Stuart McKandie for the soundtrack to the afternoon! Great music that really added to the party atmosphere.

Everyone who hung around to take tents down, wash dishes, sweep floors and clear up.

Leslie Bisset for allowing us to use his pick-up again. It would have been a long walk from the guide hut carrying all that stuff!!

Anyone who helped in any way that I may have over-looked above! Sorry for the omission and a huge thank you!!

Saturday evening brought the 625s back to Abernethy and they did us proud as always!! It was hard to tell if the band or the crowd had the most fun but we are hugely grateful to the guys once again and to their support band, The Hain Bob-Bombs for a brilliant night.

For those with any energy left, Sunday brought us the hill race. Thanks to Colin Morrison for organising again this year and a huge thank you to everyone who helped with marshalling, registrations and time-keeping. There were sixty athletes taking part and it was great to see so many youngsters getting involved. Well done to Keir Allen for realising a long held ambition and winning the race and to Ella McElnea who set a new record for girls under 12 years. The full results were:-

Girls Under 12:-

1st Ella McElnea 22.13, 2nd Hannah Morrison 24.31, 3rd Rachel Stewart 28.28

Boys Under 12:-

1st Saul Robinson 21.43, 2nd Ruari Mair 22.11, 3rd Archie Butler 22.42

Girls Under 16:-

1st Katrina Fyfe 25.03

Boys Under 16:-

1st David McCrory 17.49, 2nd Finlay McElnea 21.55, 3rd Fingal Oswald 26.59

Ladies:-

1st Fiona Manson 23.04, 2nd Carol Cadger 24.46, 3rd Fiona Stewart 28.36

Men:-

1st Keir Allen 17.28, 2nd Brian Cooper 18.00, 3rd George Illingworth 19.34

Another brilliant fete weekend and another great example of what Abernethy is capable of!! As I mentioned above, organising the fete takes a lot of work but it's also great fun. If you would like to be involved in next year's event or any other aspect of running the hall, please get in touch (phone 850087). We'd love to hear from you!!

**Jill Young,
Williamson Hall Committee**

WILLIAMSON HALL

Polite notice!

This is just a wee reminder to anyone booking the Williamson Hall for an event that one of the booking conditions is that the hall should be left as you find it. The hall committee try very hard to keep rental charges as low as possible. Our regular users are very supportive of this, as are most people who hire the hall for parties, etc. Unfortunately, there have been a few occasions in the past few months when people have not tidied up properly after their events. The hall can't afford to pay repeatedly for additional cleaning so we may have to look at charging deposits or increasing our hourly rate. It would be a pity if a small minority spoiled things for others so, as a reminder to anyone hiring the hall, please can you ensure the following before you lock up:-

Dishes should be washed, dried and put away.

Lights and hot water should be switched off.

The heating control panel should be left at 'off' or 'auto' (as you found it).

Tables should be wiped and stored under the stage.

The hall floor should be swept.

All empty bottles should be taken away as the hall has no glass recycling facilities.

Thank you – your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Williamson Hall Management Committee

Renovation Works

The Williamson Hall is having a facelift! At the time of writing this renovation work is well underway, and by the time you read this it should hopefully be all completed. Thanks to the generosity of a number of organisations we have been able to:

- Install new wooden hardwood double glazed windows.
- Remodel the ladies toilets to include an accessible (disabled) toilet and a proper baby change unit.
- Install internal solid wall insulation to the main hall and cavity wall insulation to the kitchen and toilets / storerooms.
- Redecorate the main hall.

We know the hall was tired looking and in the winter months it could be cold for users despite the heating running at full. Last year we spent over £3000 on oil and electricity – that's over 25% of our annual running costs! The renovation works will address this and make the hall warmer and much more pleasant and accessible for the community.

The hall should re-open towards the end of August and we hope to have an official re-opening event towards the end of September. Keep an eye out for details and come along and celebrate our improvements with us!

To book the hall for an event please contact Andrea Dewar on 850960 or via email

andrea.dewar@talktalk.net

For more details have a look at

www.williamsonhall.org.uk or find us on Facebook.

The Williamson Hall Management Committee would like to thank the following for their generous donations to the renovation works:

- SITA Trust Enhancing Communities Programme
- The Gannochy Trust
- Awards for All Scotland (Lottery Funded)
- The Jimmie Cairncross Charitable Trust
- The Robertson Trust
- The Thomson Charitable Trust

Sue Smith

BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

presents

ALISTAIR MacDONALD IN CONCERT

Saturday 11th October, 7.30pm in the
Williamson Hall

Tickets £8 (Alistair is to donate 10%
of his Fee to the local food bank)

Tickets available from Ian Bett

Bring your own bottle

Museum of Abernethy

Quiz Night

Crees Inn

24th September 7.30 pm

THE GREAT WAR

August 1, 1914

Germany declares war on Russia

AUTUMN

As we move again into autumn I thought that readers might enjoy these verses which I penned after toiling to sweep up the fallen leaves last year.

I've always loved the silver birch, that graceful native tree
With shiny bark and tiny leaves a joy for all to see.
So when we built our house and home all those years ago
we planted some to grace the scene and watched them slowly grow.
We dug them out, mere saplings from the nearby dis-used quarry.
When planting them I wish I'd heard a voice say "You'll be sorry."
In spring the buds produce those tiny leaves of tender green
A sight for our sore eyes as we gaze upon the scene.
On summer days the sun casts dappled shadows on the drive
And as we take it in it feels good to be alive.
Autumn follows summer with it's hues of red and gold
and we are lost in wonder as we watch the scene unfold.
In exchange for all this pleasure we have to pay a price
when gusty winds begin to blow things aren't quite so nice
That's when the multitude of leaves decide to flutter down,
transforming my usual sunny smile to a disagreeable frown.
That's also when the garden vac and rake come into play
and sweeping up the leaves tends to occupy my day.
If you are within earshot you may also hear me muttering
the occasional mild expletive as I clean them from the guttering.
The graceful silver birch is much acclaimed in verse and song
but when I said it was my favourite perhaps I got it wrong.
The silver birch is a dainty lady is how one poem goes
but listening to it now it just gets up my nose.
So now my original opinion I now am forced to ditch
she may be a dainty lady but she is still an untidy bitch!

Bob Macdonald.

THE GREAT WAR

August 3, 1914

Germany declares war on France

ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS



Morning worship takes place at the Kirk of St Bride, Abernethy every Sunday at 9.30 am except for the last Sunday of the month. During school term time Children's Sunday club continues. Please bring yourself and the children along!

New Joint service information

As a trial, **on the last Sunday of each month** and until the end of this year, we have been having a joint service at **10.30 am**, alternating the location between the church in Abernethy and Glenfarg. Children's Sunday club will continue during each service within school term time. Drinks and refreshments will be served after each service. You will be very welcome to join us at either church.

Anyone wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01337840218

September 28th Glenfarg 10.30am; **Harvest Thanksgiving** followed by lunch; **no service Abernethy**

October 26th Abernethy 10.30am; **no service Glenfarg**

November 30th Glenfarg 10.30am **no service Abernethy**

December 28th Abernethy 10.30am; **no service Glenfarg**

Holy Communion in Abernethy; 7th September at 9.30 am and 2nd November at 9.30am

These services are open to members of any Christian Church

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!

Guild

The first meeting of the Lower Earn Churches Together (LECT) Guild was held in Dunning Church in June and over the last few months. It is hoped it will continue from April to September next year and is open to men and women.

Roof repairs

Church roof repairs will start around 11th of August and may last around 4 weeks depending on the weather.

Fair City Singers

On Friday 19th Sept at 7.30pm in the church at Glenfarg this local young people's choir will be singing for us. Tickets will be £5 and refreshments will be served afterwards. See village notices nearer the time.

Shoobox appeal

Once again Abernethy, Dron and Arngask Church is supporting the Shoe box appeal. Please bring items for the Shooboxes or filled boxes to church by 2nd November ;

Toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, shampoo, hair brush, sewing kit, candles are some of the items required. Scarves, hats, gloves, pencils, pens, paper all appreciated. Collect leaflet at Church for more information or contact Kathleen 01337840218.

The Perth Blythswood Support Group 2014 shoobox Appeal Coffee Morning is on Saturday 4th October in the North Church Hall Perth 10 to 11 45am.

Volunteers also required to help at Custom Checking day at North Church Hall Perth Saturday 8th November.

Celia King



ABDIE CURLING HOUSE

Abdie Curling Club will be involved in Fife Doors Open Day on Sunday 7th September. This is when Fife opens its doors to buildings, walks and exhibitions all over Fife for members of the public to come and have a look at things and places of interest that are not normally accessible.

The Abdie Curling House will be open from 11am – 5.00pm. Artefacts from the Club's long history - it was founded in 1831 – will be on display.

Park beside Dunbog & Abdie Church on the road between Lindores and Grange of Lindores, and follow the markers. Access from car park beside church. Approx. 400m, over a stile and round a farm field therefore stout shoes/boots are essential. No wheelchair access regrettably.

THE ANNUAL TRIP



A very pleasant day was had by all when we left Abernethy at 10.30am on 3rd June for the annual Senior Citizen trip. The day started cloudy but the atmosphere in the bus soon put a stop to the damp outside. A carefully driven bus journey to House of Bruar for an hour stop. I treated myself to an ice-cream as usual, the biggest one I have ever had. Very good indeed. What an interesting place, especially for the tourist, with shops beautifully displaying tweeds, woollens and other Scottish items. The views all around just added to the place. Back on the bus, and a trip to Pitlochry where we had time to browse the shops and find interesting things to see. I myself found a gallery of David Bellamy's paintings (prints). After a pleasant time we boarded the bus, not knowing what was in store. The driver took us on the most beautiful journey through the Sma' Glen seeing treasures only Scotland provides. The sun was shining and the colours of the hills and glens were superb, the wee burns at the side of the road just set it off. To finish a great day we arrived at the Mustard Seed in Perth for an excellent meal. Never having visited the place before, I was very pleasantly surprised. We were welcomed and shown into a beautifully set out spacious dining room with round tables. As we had all ordered previously we did not have any time to wait. The meal was delicious and the staff very pleasant. What a delightful time and all the pleasant company at the table just finished off the day.

Thank you very much to all the committee who organized such a memorable day.

Lillias Johnston

THE GREAT WAR

August 4, 1914

United Kingdom declares war on Germany



Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia



There are currently around 3000 people living with a diagnosis of dementia in Perth and Kinross, many of whom still live in our local communities.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT DEMENTIA?

If you would, why not come along to a free, informal dementia awareness session for people living in Abernethy and surrounding area?

The event is being held in the Kirk of St Bride Session House (Church Hall, Abernethy)

on

Friday 26th September 2014, 10am-12 noon

For further information or to book a place, please contact Fiona Matthews, Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Advisor on 01738 562358 or fmatthews@alzscot.org

or

Evelyn Scobie: 01738 850496 or mobile 07719240294

Patricia Miller: 01738 850879 or mobile 07849152693



The Great War

August 7, 1914

British Expeditionary Force arrives in France

MY DAY AT THE COMMONWEALTH

(TUESDAY 29TH JULY) **GAMES**



On Tuesday my dad and I travelled by train to Glasgow to see the artistic gymnastics at the Hydro. When we arrived we took in the fun atmosphere in George Square then walked to the "BBC Live at the quay" beside the river Clyde where we saw Danny MacCaskill and the Drop & Roll stunt cyclists performing. After that we went to the Hilton hotel next to the Hydro for something to eat where met Aled Davies the discus silver medallist from Wales. I had my photo taken with him and he let me have a shot of his silver medal which felt quite heavy. After collecting our tickets we were taken into the Hydro where dad and I had a brilliant afternoon watching the artistic gymnasts and the medals being presented but all too soon it was time to go home. It was a wonderful experience being at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games that I won't forget in a hurry.

Rachel Duncan
P7 Abernethy Primary



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 BIG DIG! SUMMER 2015

Abernethy is of huge historic importance and the Tay Landscape Partnership team would love you to help uncover its past. The story begins with early prehistoric activity, then Iron Age and Roman, including the suggestion of a bridge of Roman boats across the Tay at the nearby fortress of Carpow. The area's key sites connect the warlords of the Iron Age, through Pictish kingship, to early Christianity and the origins of medieval society in the area: the hill-fort at Abernethy law, the Pictish stone and early medieval round tower, the early monastery and later priory. The Pictish Chronicle records that King Nechtan reigned from here in the 5th century, and links him to the foundation of a church at Abernethy, testified by an early dedication to St. Bridgid, and the subsequent Culdee monastery and Augustinian priory of 1272 AD.

We are looking for budding volunteers to help carry out a Big Dig in and around Abernethy. Have you got a garden that you would be happy to excavate a 1m x 1m trench, with the help of professional archaeologists? This project will allow a peek at what lies beneath your feet and secrets of history that are yet to be discovered! Training in archaeological techniques and recording will be given. We would love you, from kids to adults, to get involved!

If you would like to note your interest in taking part or find out more please contact Sophie Nicol, Historic Environment Officer on



01738 477027 or email Sophie.Nicol@pkht.org.uk

For information on more of our projects please see our website www.taylp.org or follow us on twitter @TayLandscape and facebook!

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ABERNETHY KEEP ACTIVE CLUB



Every Monday 12.30 to 1.30

In Abernethy Church Hall

Exercise class suitable for all ages and abilities, seated or standing

Only £3 per session

A warm welcome to everyone!

Supported by Perth & Kinross Healthy Communities Collaborative

Just come along

For more information phone

Evelyn Scobie: 01738 850496

Mob. 07719 240294

Patricia Miller: 01738 850879

Mob. 07849 152693

Lead by professional exercise instructor,
James Knight

Tailored to improve strength,
balance mobility.

Supported by Perth &
Kinross Healthy
Communities Collaborative



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Macmillan Coffee Morning. Saturday 27th September 10am - 11 30am Session House Abernethy Church. Come along and enjoy Coffee and Cake. and more Coffee and cake makes us stronger in so many ways, it gets us together with friends who see us through life's ups and downs. It helps grow the support Macmillan can offer people facing cancer. Be part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

Every Pound we raise helps provide a constant source of support to people facing cancer. All welcome More info if required from Kathleen 01337840218

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. The subscription for the coming year is £20. Visitors £3 per meeting. We still need new members so please come along and give it a try. If you are not sure if this is for you, please feel free to come along as a visitor first. Contact person Evelyn Scobie
Tel: 01738 850496. Mobile: 07719240294.

The first meeting of the new Session is on **Wednesday 17th September** when Linda Retson, our Federation Chairman, will be giving a demonstration on "Flower Arranging". Competitions are "Arrangement in a Wine Glass" and "Flower of the Month". After tea there will be the usual Sales Table and Raffle. New members will be made very welcome.

Future Meetings as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Wed 15 th October – | "Open Night " in Masonic Hall when we have Beaton Lindsay, Butcher from Perth who will explain the various cuts of meat and will demonstrate "Simple Supper Dishes". Everyone is welcome.
Competitions for Members – "Small Dish Pate" and "Flower of the Month". |
| Wed 19 th November – | Dr Gavin Ramsay will give a Talk on "Bees". Competitions: "3 Blueberry Muffins" & "Flower of the Month". |
| Wed 17 th December – | "Christmas Meal" – at Berryfields. |
| Wed 21 st January – | Demonstration - "How to look after your skin" by Sally from Retreat Beauty Salon, Bridge of Earn.
Competitions: "Knitted Vest" (pattern supplied – to be donated for Fish & Chip Babies) & "Flower of the Month". |

Wed 18th February -

Demonstration on "Card Making" by member Anne Robertson.

Competitions: "Favourite Pair Earrings" & "Flower of the Month".

Wed 18th March -

Talk on "Scottish Air Ambulance".

Competitions: "3 Empire Biscuits" & "Flower of the Month".

Fri 27th March -

"Fundraising Quiz" in the Masonic Hall – details later.

Wed 15th April -

"Hands On – Napkin Art" with Dorothy Morris.

Competitions: "Healthy Lunch Box" & Flower of the Month".

Wed 20th May -

AGM – Speaker to be arranged.

Competitions: "3 Pieces of Tablet" & "Flower of the Month".

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details

Evelyn Scobie

MUSEUM NEWS

Just a brief note from me as there are articles from Sally and Bill in this edition too! The Museum of Abernethy closes for the season on Sunday 28 September. Thank you to those of you who have visited the Museum over the summer months. I quite often encounter people who say 'Oh yes, I keep meaning to have a look round the Museum!'. Are you one of those people? If so the next opportunity will be the Art Exhibition which will be held in the Museum over two weekends 17-19 October and 24-26 October 2014. Some of you may have noticed a few upgrades to the inside of the Museum. We have a new secure donation box with a twisty track for coins to travel down, a new carpet in the entrance hall and also some pictures up in the toilet. These all help to keep the Museum looking fresh and attractive and doing justice to our beautiful village.

As ever, if you have any questions, concerns or compliments, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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

THE ISLANDS AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD

If you were to create a bucket list of places to visit then St Kilda should be on that list.

Sometimes described as 'the islands at the edge of the world', the archipelago of St Kilda is located 50 miles west of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. Formed from the rim of an ancient volcano, it is the remotest part of the British Isles.

Our day on St Kilda was amazing. We set off from Leverburgh on Harris for a two and a half hours high-speed boat ride along with 10 other eager visitors plus two crew. For at least half the time there was no land in view in any direction. Then in the distance we could see a series of indistinct smudges on the horizon and finally we arrived at Hirta the main island.

Comprising four islands – Hirta, Soay, Boreray and Dun – as well as several sea stacks, St Kilda is truly spectacular. It is one of only 29 global locations to be awarded 'mixed' World Heritage Status in recognition of both its natural and cultural significance.

St Kilda was home to a community who survived the inhospitable conditions here for thousands of years before the final 36 people were evacuated in 1930. They had survived near famine as well as disease that was brought to the island by passing ships. It is said they had perfect teeth as there was no sugar in their diet.

We walked through the main street of the deserted township with its small crofts all looking out over the bay. Dotted all around the island are hundreds of cleits

The people of St Kilda were not really fishermen, as one might expect, as the seas were too treacherous. Instead they survived on seabirds – mainly gannets and fulmars which they caught and used for food. Nothing went to waste. The meat was dried, stored, and finally in the cold winter months it was eaten. The seabird oil provided fuel for lamps, and their feathers were used for bedding.

We had a few hours to explore and walk in the sunshine till a sea haar came down, and then we set off back via the other islands including Boreray and Stack Lee which were 200 foot cliffs coming sheer out of the water with thousands of puffin, gannet, kittewake, arctic tern and others covering every ledge and wheeling around in the sky. There are even 300 wild

sheep on the vertical cliffs of Boreray but no one has farmed the island for 90 years.

Today, St Kilda is the most important seabird breeding centre in north-west Europe and also is home to an early warning military radar station. We were lucky to go on a calm day as often the cruise cannot take place because of the wild Atlantic weather. Try and go one day – you won't be disappointed. **Keith Rose**

ABERNETHY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

There is a well known irreverent law that says that that within a day or two of submitting a Crier article something of significant interest comes to light but it misses the cut-off for publication. It was just so earlier in the year when the Community Council update suggested no further developments in relation to the Aberargie Distillery only to find two days later that a new application had been submitted for a larger complex. Some will have seen the application progress quickly and successfully through the planning process, as yet there is no indication of when the works are likely to commence.

Contradicting that law on this occasion comes the very significant news that the Binn Farm landfill is set to close at the end of September this year although the disposal of certain types of waste will continue until March of next year. Following closure, there will be an extended period for site restoration which involves containing and capping all exposed landfill materials, then finally landscaping of the site. The operator then has a duty to continue to monitor and maintain the site for a period of five years after completion of the restoration programme. For the many who have been blighted by the landfill smells this must be very welcome news, the Community Council is an active participant in the Binn Farm Community Forum so we will closely monitor how the closure and restoration programme progresses.

Parking in Abernethy, in particular around the Square, is a regular discussion topic at the Community Council meetings and something that elicits strong feelings. Getting the balance right between the needs and expectations of residents, visitors and service vehicles is extremely difficult and one that inevitably involves compromise or accommodation. PKC Councillors and Road Safety Officer have conjointly visited the Square and while they have their own views the Community Council would be very keen to hear from villagers about how we can make a difficult situation more workable. It is important that the village maintains a degree of control over any decision on parking otherwise there is a risk we finish up with tightly controlled parking bays and our roads swathed in yellow lines.

Colin Morrison

ABERNETHY IN WORLD WAR I 1914

On the home front, soon after Britain went to war, we read in the People's Journal 22/8/14 of the formation of a local branch of the Red Cross Society, for the purpose of making warm garments for soldiers. Leading ladies of Abernethy comprised the committee, with the Rev George Macdougall being treasurer and Mrs G K Smith the convener. The first fund raising event we hear of was a Christmas concert.

Another charity, the Young Women's Christian Association, doing similar work is reported in a PJ article of 9/1/15. "Mrs Moore secretary of the YWCA Abernethy, has received from Lady French (through her secretary) a grateful acknowledgement of work done by members of the association for soldiers at the front. The work consisted of socks, hosetops, belts, vests, helmets, mufflers, mitts, gloves etc.

Of all the press reports I have unearthed relating to wartime Abernethy, the following is the most detailed account of the experiences of an Abernethy soldier. It relates to the early stages of the war before the ghastly scale of the conflict became generally apparent. Up until this point there was hope that "it will all be over by Christmas": -

Abernethy Soldier's Exciting Experiences Germans' Brutal Conduct

Private Alexander Christie, of the 6th Dragoon Guards who belongs to Abernethy, has been invalided home from the front, having at Warnington received a shrapnel wound below the left shoulder blade, the bullet lying within four inches of the heart. Private Christie took part in the retreat from Mons and the subsequent advance of the Allies. In the course of an interview, he told of some exciting experiences.

"One day three of us were left behind by our squadron, who took our horses with them. The squadron was behind a small wood, when the German guns got the range and the shell fire was so heavy that we three who were scouting in the wood could not be recalled in time to accompany them. We remained some time in the wood, sheltering ourselves behind trees, until the firing ceased, the enemy having meanwhile been attracted by our trenches. We got to the edge of the wood, and found the Germans only about 300 yards away.

A mangold field lay between us and the rest of the hill over which our squadron had disappeared. We ran into this field 100 yards and flopped down to recover our breath, the enemy's bullets whizzing past us to the right and left. Again we got to our feet and ran, and again ended in the drills, not one of us being

touched by the bullets, though there was nothing between us and the enemy. In this way we got through the field and over the hill to safety, and on to the village where our squadron was stationed."

After telling of the Aisne, he said: - "we pushed on to Warnington, where we had another hard fight, and found houses with bodies of old men, women and children in them. Ten old men were suspected by the Germans of being spies. The Germans made them dig their own graves and kneel down beside them and then the brutal soldiers shot them. On the way north we found that the Germans in their retreat had wrought as much destruction as they possibly could. Practically every house of any consequence had been entered and ransacked, and the pictures, ornaments, furniture &c smashed. While in the trenches at Warnington we were under very heavy shell fire. I got my wound at Warnington on 21st October. At the time I got my wound my third horse since the beginning of the war was also wounded, being shot through the neck."

People's Journal 5/12/14 page 11

It would be interesting to hear from our readers if anyone knows what happened to Private Christie in later life. Indeed anecdotes relating to the later life of Abernethy servicemen who survived the War would make a useful addition to the information files on the War which we are compiling in the Museum of Abernethy. (tel 01738 850 889).

Bill Drever

AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION SEASON 2014 - 2015

PROGRAMME

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in the Museum of Abernethy unless otherwise stated

2014

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 15 th October | The Murder of James 1st
Dr Michael Penman |
| 5 th November | Life of Mary Queen of Scots
Margaret Lumsdaine |
| 3 rd December | The Dandy & The Beano
Morris Heggie |

2015

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 4 th February | New Life for an Old Place
Falkland Palace & Estate
Ninian Crichton Stuart |
| 4 th March | The Development of Live Public
Entertainment in Dundee
Stephen Fraser |
| 1 st April | AGM |

Local Issues

ALL WELCOME

Membership £5 OAP £4

TAY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

On Thursday 26 June Janet Paton, Alistair Robinson and I represented the Museum of Abernethy at the official launch of the Tayside Landscape Partnership (Tay LP) hosted by Castle Huntly.

During the evening we had an opportunity to meet the Tay LP staff, and were provided with an update on the 28 projects that the Tay LP will deliver over the next 4 years. The reception brought together 50 people from communities between Longforgan and Abernethy under one roof to celebrate the unique heritage which unites the Tay and Earn Estuaries. Shirley Paterson, the Tay LP's Manager, explained: "We are often not aware of the history and wildlife that connects and gives character to our towns and villages around the Tay. By inviting all those involved in the Partnership and allowing them to meet each other we hope to share The Tay Estuary story, demonstrating its uniqueness, deepening our understanding of past land use and enhancing our future experiences".

Following Shirley's presentation we were treated to a buffet prepared by the Castle Huntly team. The event was being hosted by Castle Huntly, as it is a recipient of the Tay LP's workshops and training. Sharanne Findlay, Governor at Castle Huntly explained: "This is a great opportunity for those in Castle Huntly to work hand in hand with the local community, giving something back. It also helps develop further skills that increase an individual's chance of employment on release from custody. There are obvious benefits for everyone involved and I am delighted that HMP Castle Huntly is involved in this inspiring partnership".

Over the past couple of years there have been articles in the Crier about Abernethy's involvement in the Tay LP, however now that the project is officially launched it may be useful to refresh memories about what is involved. The Tay LP is led by Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust and Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust, within a wider partnership including the Gannochy Trust and Perth & Kinross Council. In July 2013 the Heritage Lottery Fund announced an award of £1.43 million towards the Tay LP which will help to deliver a suite of 28 projects with a total value of around £2.6 million. A Scheme Manager, three Project Officers and a Volunteer Co-ordinator have been appointed to deliver the Tay LP which will run for four years from March 2014-February 2018. Angus Macintyre and I represent the Museum of

Abernethy on the Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from all the communities involved in the Tay LP.

Two of the 28 projects are specific to Abernethy: **Ancient Abernethy:** The aim is to enhance and promote the unique historic character of the village through focussing on key historic features in the village and its environs: the Roman remains at Carpow; the facades of the buildings within the Conservation Area; and the historic churchyard. There will be training for volunteers in geophysical survey and excavation techniques, and sites in and around the village will be investigated to find out more about the development of the settlement and Roman activity in the area, including the story of the "bridge of boats" across the Tay. The plan is to carry out a "Big Dig" at Carpow (dependent on landowner permission) in the summer months over the next three years.

Owners of properties in the Abernethy Conservation Area will be offered grants for environmental improvements to enhance the historic character of the village, and work will be carried out to enhance the condition and appearance of the churchyard.

The Story of Abernethy: The overall objective of this project is to improve the "visitor offer" at Abernethy by enhancing the Museum displays and linking these with other heritage sites through well-planned interpretation. The upgrading of existing displays will include the provision of a professionally designed introductory panel and lighting for the Pictish stones. Our salmon coble "Emma" has already been repaired and restored with funding from the Tay LP, and further enhancement of the garden gallery is planned. An oral history hub is being established in the Museum, along with a broader range of resources and activities to appeal to a wide range of people; school groups, families, young people, lifelong learners and tourists.

As both these Abernethy projects develop there will be community events to showcase developments and encourage more people to discover the historical importance of the village and its place in the Tay LP landscape. Further information on these events, and on opportunities to get involved in the projects, will be highlighted in future editions of the Crier. Full details of all the projects in the Tay LP, forthcoming events and information about how you can get involved are available on the website: <http://taylp.org/index.php> Sally Rose Museum of Abernethy TayLP project co-ordinator srsallyrose@gmail.com Tel: 01738850538

ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

GARDEN DAY

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2 -4

We hope you will come along to the Abernethy Horticultural Society's Sixth Annual Garden Day on Saturday 20 September for a great afternoon out. This year we will have an even bigger emphasis on local produce to buy and eat but all the old favourites will be there too: plants galore, apple pressing, seed swapping, cooking and baking competitions, raffle and bottle stalls, afternoon teas and a host of other treats including lots for the kids to do inside and out. New for 2014 is the Anagram trail – a hunt for horticultural clues hidden around the village with a prize for the speediest puzzle-solver.

We hope lots of you will enter our Best In Village competitions this year. Why not have a go at baking, or jam-making or use your preserving arts and other creative skills to good use.

The categories are:

For 12 and under:

A photograph capturing "September in Abernethy". A tree, plant or landscape which best illustrates the month in your village.

Or

A miniature garden made in a seed tray or container maximum size 30cm x 20cm

For an adult and child working together:

Master baker: a traybake using ingredients including fruit, vegetables or herbs

& for adults

using ingredients of fruit, veg or herbs::

- most flavoursome and beautiful cake
- tastiest jam
- most interesting and delicious preserve or pickle
- most imaginative drink/cordial - alcoholic or non-alcoholic
- best late summer fruit, flower and vegetable table arrangement

Competition entry forms and full details are downloadable from our website

www.abernethyhorticultural.co.uk or available from Caroline Boyle (tel:851190e:carolinepboyle@hotmail.com)

All money raised on the day will be put towards our fund for renovating Nurse Peattie's Garden. If you want to get involved in Garden Day 2014 or help in any way or have donations for the plant and produce stalls, please let me know.

More details of Garden Day 2014 will be posted on the village notice board and our website.

Looking forward to seeing you on the day!

Caroline Boyle

The Village Crier brings you news from around the community, giving an insight to the many groups and organisations

**KIRK
NEWS**



that exist in the villages at present.

But it is also fascinating to hear about the history of this place, going way back to the days when the Romans had their fort nearby and then by the 5th century, when there appears to have been quite a thriving community based around the original Celtic church on the same site as the present building in Abernethy. Recently there has been some interest in the archaeology of the land around the St Bride's Church, and there is every possibility of some investigation taking place. Maybe we will even get on TIME TEAM!

Apart from that it is hoped that the wider community including the school, will be able to get involved. In order to maintain the presence of the church in Abernethy, the present building is about to undergo major repairs to the roof. This will involve scaffolding around most of the church and may mean that services have to be suspended for a few weeks, so contingency plans are in place and if need be, joint services will be held in the other part of the Parish at Glenfarg in Arngask Church. The Lunch club has also found an alternative venue in the meantime. Hopefully the work will go as planned and by September things should be back to normal, but much will depend upon weather and just how much work has to be done, both outside and inside the church.

The Fair City Singers are giving a concert in Arngask Church on September 19th so give them your support and enjoy the music.

Rev Moira Herkes

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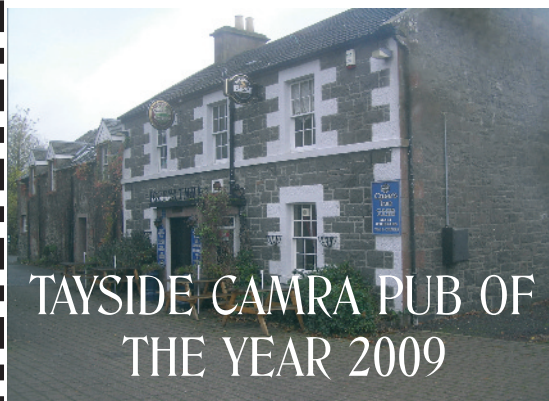


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SHORT STORY COMPETITION

Thank you to everyone who submitted stories for the competition. The stories are being judged anonymously by an independent judge and the results will be published in the December issue of the Crier. The prizes will be presented at the December Distributors' Party. Well done to all who entered .