



# VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 780 HOUSEHOLDS



## ABERNETHY AND ABERARGIE NEWS

5th EDITION

DECEMBER 2009



### IT'S OUR FIRST BIRTHDAY



Dear Readers,

How time passes! "Happy Birthday Village Crier" Yes, we are celebrating our first birthday and continue, like any healthy baby, to go from strength to strength.

By the time this edition comes out it will be the beginning of December-----well and truly into winter with thoughts turning to Christmas and New Year; however as I write this article it is still autumn. The trees are turning and the leaves are falling, but what beautiful colours there are around us, still lots of greens blending in with yellows, bronzes and browns.

If you have kept all your copies of The Crier it will give you a pretty good idea of what goes on in Abernethy and Aberargie throughout the year and I think you will agree it is a busy community with a variety of interests.

The Committee is grateful to all who have contributed over the last year and look forward to more articles in future editions. Variety is the spice of life, so the more variation in stories, letters comments and news etc the better.

Thanks to all who have put their loose change into the collecting tins in the Grocer's, the Corner Shop and the Tearoom. It is amazing how it all mounts up. Thanks also to those who have donated so generously over the last year. We must not forget the Distributors without whom you would not have your local paper delivered to your door. As The Crier gets bigger the task becomes heavier so if there any bud-

ding Paperboys and girls out there please get in touch

I would still like to see a more formal Personal Column ---- Births Marriages Deaths and Anniversaries. Unless these announcements are sent to the Editor or any member of the production team we have no way of knowing what to publish except by word of mouth which is not very satisfactory. Those I have heard of are A daughter Jemima to Lee and Kate Butler, a son, Luthais Andrew Edrick to David and Rachel Cheer and a grand-daughter, Amy, to Dave and Gillian Lyle. I am sure there are other intimations so please let us have them before the next deadline which is the 31st January.

I am going to end my article on a very personal note.

As you know my husband Bobby died last August and I want to express my sincere thanks to all who wrote to me, sent flowers and cards and gave me so much help and support over a difficult period. It was all quite overwhelming and I will never forget the kindness extended to me and the care given to Bobby by Doctors Rashkis, Devlin, Nurse Gray and all the Carers. £576 was collected for the Marie Curie nurses.

Now to the present; open up your Birthday Edition of The Village Crier and find out what Abernethy and Aberargie have been doing over the last 3 months and what will be happening over the next 3.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

**Hilda Clow**

**THE CRIER IS A FREE NEWSLETTER, MANAGED, WRITTEN AND DELIVERED BY VOLUNTEERS**

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



**Dear Editor,**

What can be done about our replacement Post Office bus service in the village which has been serving us for over a year now? The bus continues to break down or for some reason does not turn up. The computer too often does not work and no money is available.

Winter is approaching and so is Christmas with all the extra mail that involves. Waiting long periods either in a queue or for a bus that fails to arrive could have serious consequences for us pensioners who make up a large proportion of those who use the service.

Letters to the Post Office, MPs and MSPs appear to have had no effect. **What is the next step?**

**Janet Paton**

**Dear Editor,**

Once upon a time we had a great service, now we barely have a service at all.

Some days the van doesn't turn up, some days the equipment doesn't work and the days it does turn up it provides half a service.

The people who rely on the van most of all don't have any other means of getting to another PO, and those people are our senior citizens.

The Government are happy to spend money on pointless wars, but not on the most vulnerable in their own country.

**This service is /was the Post Office.**

**Bob C**

**Dear Editor**

Regarding the recent outbreak of snazzy green signs around the glen – have they got the witches road and the Rough Glen the wrong way round?

**Julie**

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HOUSEHOLDS IN ABERNETHY AND ABERARGIE

**Dear Editor**

First of all I would like to congratulate you on a very good newsletter. However, I am disappointed at the lack of input from some of the clubs in the village.

I know that we have Cub Scouts, Guides and Brownies as well as Tennis and Bowling Clubs to name but a few. There is also the Village School and I am sure other activities not widely publicised.

Can we have some information from them as to what is happening in the Village. I am sure they all have things going on and achievements which would be of interest to us all.

Abernethy has grown considerably in recent years and there are a lot of interested newcomers who, I am sure, would like to become more involved rather than let it become a dormitory town for other towns and cities.

**Interested Incomer, Abernethy**

**Dear Editor**

I have been taking guitar lessons for over a year now and am wondering if there are any like-minded people in the villages who would be interested in getting together to share experiences? I like Scottish, Irish and Country Western music but am open to other genres and would like to hear from anyone (of any age) who would be interested in forming a club. I can be contacted at 01738 850417.

**Ron Nisbet, 65 Brandywell Road,**



**Dear Editor**

Congratulations to the Crier team on their first year of producing a brilliant newsletter, I look forward to every edition.

Well done guys.

Peter and Margaret

**Dear Editor**

Happy birthday to the Crier, the newsletter is great. However, I am surprised there is no regular article from the Community Council, School and the other well established organisations in the village.

Name and address supplied

# Growing up in Post-war Abernethy

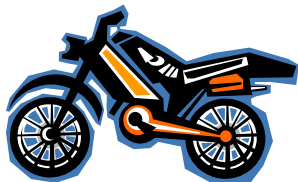
(Part Three)

## Evelyn Scobie

I once had to be rescued from the pond beside J E England's Potato Store. My friends and I used to play there in the mud and catch tadpoles, and my wellies got stuck in the mud and I screamed blue murder and had to be rescued, again! I also remember when an Alexander's bus skidded on the ice and fell into the pond! I think it was November 1948, and I would be nearly 4! The pond is no longer there, having been filled in a few years later. We also used to play in the Den, and catch minnows in the burn, and of course there was no Glenlaw Place or Glencairn Place then, just a field! The houses at Den Park hadn't been built yet, only Hall Park. Among my little friends then were, Lyn Adamson, Sandy and Margaret-Ann Gardiner, Carol Neill and Margaret Smith.

I started school at Easter 1950, and that summer we had our class photograph taken in the playground. It was quite unusual as we are standing in a circle with two children in the centre, "The Farmer's in His Den" style, and the photo appears in Frank Zwolinski and Jimmy Swan's book about Abernethy, and also appears in the School display in the Abernethy Museum - my only claim to fame!

My Uncle Dave and Auntie Lizzie sometimes used to visit. Uncle Dave had a motorbike and sidecar, and he parked it in the wee lane at the Cree's Inn. It had a big rubber horn that you squeezed and I used to like to "honk" it! Auntie Lizzie sat in the sidecar, she didn't like on the back of the bike. I remember being a wee bit frightened of all the "biking gear" that Uncle Dave had on! He had a funny "chain mail" type helmet, then he put the goggles on. He also wore a long black shiny coat and trousers and huge gauntlet type gloves! I remember all the kids standing looking at the "yoke". They had probably seen a motorbike before but not a motorbike and sidecar! Uncle Dave used to tell a story about my mum, when he once gave her a lift on the back of the motorbike when it was raining, and she kept her umbrella up all the way!



In March 1951, when I had just turned six, my father decided to change jobs, so, we moved to an estate four miles from Blairgowrie called Tower of Lethendy. I had just completed my first year at school in Abernethy where my teacher was Margaret Martin. I didn't enjoy that first year very much, I seemed to cry a lot! Mrs Martin always had her favourites in class, and I wasn't one of them! I distinctly remember I always got the hard bit of plasticine!

One day, we all trooped down to the Station, crossing the main road, hand in hand, with Mrs Martin leading, supposedly to wave to the Queen (the present Queen's mother) who was to be passing in the Royal Train. However, it was all in vain, because the blinds on the train were all down - she must have been having a "kip", but we waved anyway! I also remember going to the Christmas Party at School, and we got green jelly, and I remember there was a Santa, and being told he had arrived in an aeroplane! I also remember having a Birthday Party, "ben the hoose", with the coal fire on, and my cake was on the cake stand that my Mum always used, green with pink roses. Apparently one wee girl, Nora, gate-crashed my party, but my Mum let her stay, as she had forgotten to invite her anyway!

I also remember, on my last day at Abernethy School, Mrs Martin wishing me well in my new school etc, and she let me take my bowl of bulbs with me! We had all taken bulbs to school to watch them grow and she said I could take mine! I do remember the Powrie Park as it was then, there was no pavilion of course, but there was a tennis court, and the swings and two wooden see-saws were down where the turning point is now, behind the pavilion!

I think I can remember being taken to the Williamson Hall to see a film, maybe someone could confirm this? I can't remember what it was now, possibly "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs"?

I remember very well the day we "flitted" from Abernethy to Lethendy. My granny was going with us, as was my brother Sandy, who was going to work on the farm with my dad. I can remember all the stuff being loaded into the furniture van, which was Loves of Perth, and then we went down to the Abernethy Hotel for our lunch. I think Mrs Jamieson had it then. After lunch we all piled into the van! My mum, granny, and me in the front beside the driver, and my Dad and Sandy and the dog Mark in the back.

I seem to remember there was a compartment above the main body of the van. There were two bikes in there as well! Henry the cat also went with us, so she (yes she!) must have been in there somewhere too, in a basket covered with sacking! I remember the driver stopping on the way to check they were all ok! Mark, the dog, who had been my Dad's faithful work companion, came with us, as the farmer, Mr George (Geordie) Miller, said he would probably pine for my Dad if he was left behind. So, Mark lived out a happy retirement at Tower of Lethendy, until he had to be put to sleep at the age of sixteen because he had become deaf and blind. My mum wrote a poem dedicated to him, as follows:

### Mark

(On the death of a favourite old collie)

Dear auld Mark, ye're day is done,  
Ye're weary een are closed at last,  
In your lang sleep ye quietly lie,  
Oor freend an' pal for years gaen past.

The twa lang miles frae hoose tae ferm,  
Ahint the bike each day ye'd run,  
Tae herd the sheep wi' ye're master there,

In winter's snaw and summer's sun,  
Ye'd tent the sheep wi' canny care,  
An' whiles ye'd gie a wee bit bark,  
The yowes and lammies gently guide,  
As, eidently ye did ye're wark.

In winter nichts afore the fire,  
Ye'd dream the evenin' oors awa',  
In summer on the doorstep lie,  
An' wag ye're tail tae ane an' a'.



Ye were a bonny weel-faured dog,  
When first ye cam' amang us there,  
Ye're plummy tail wi' tip o' white,  
Ye're saft broon een, an' coal-black hair.

But saxteen years is a guid lang age,  
An' lately ye've been failin' sair,  
Ane o' ye're bonny een was blin',  
An' ye were sae deaf, ye couldna hear.

We miss ye sair oor guid auld dog,  
But weel ye're worthy o' ye're rest,  
An' maybe in some doggy heaven,  
Ye're young again, amang the blest.  
Ann K Smart

**Evelyn Scobie (nee Smart)**

## DAISY DAYS

Hello everyone, you may have seen me around the village in the last few weeks. My name is Daisy and I am only nineteen weeks old, although I am very big for my age.



I love children, the younger the better, but I am a bit rough with them and have to be held back in case I frighten them or scratch them with my big paws. I have worked out that little boys who give me cuddles arrive on bikes, so I am always looking out for cyclists on my walks !

I have only been in Abernethy for eleven weeks but I think it is the best place on earth. I was born in Ayrshire, I had six brothers but no sisters: I was the only girl in the family. My daddy was an Old English Sheepdog and my mummy was a golden Labrador they are both very big dogs so I expect I will be really big when I grow up.

My favourite place in Abernethy is the park where I can run about and snuffle amongst the leaves. The only thing is I sometimes enjoy it so much that I don't come back when I am called and this makes my mistress cross and she keeps me on the lead for a while.

I am going to training classes to make me a good dog. I love it because I see lots of friends there and get lots of treats, I don't know if I am learning much!

Well, thats my "hello" to all the nice people in my new village, see you about sometime.

Woof!



**DID YOU KNOW.....**The population of Abernethy is just now getting back to the same level as it was in the 1800s.

1792 = 1415

1897 = 1585

1970 = 783

**IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING A CRIER  
LET US KNOW**



## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF BREEDING HORSES



My brother Allan and I have bred Irish Draught horses for the past seven years and have travelled to country shows in Scotland and England. We show in the "In Hand" class and have had varying degrees of success. We know full well everyone thinks their horse is the best, although it's down to the judges on the day.

This past season we've had exceptional success with our horses, winning championships and reserve championships at numerous shows. A real show stopper was our home bred yearling colt "Ethan", in his first season of showing he won all the Irish draught classes.

It was especially gratifying for us at Perth show, when he won the DRB Championship and was reserve overall Irish Draught Champion.

The busy show season culminated in September winning the Yearling class at the Irish Draught Breed near Worcester.

A stable mate "Murphy" was reserve Irish Draught Young Stock Champion at the same show.

However, very sadly "Ethan" was found dead in his paddock at the beginning of September. We were completely devastated, as we felt he was the best horse we had bred to date. We had such high hopes for him as a stallion.

We now have to look ahead to the spring and the arrival of our new foals. Fingers crossed for another "Ethan"

**Ogilvy Webster**

## VILLAGE HORSES

Behind the Williamson Hall are the fields belonging to Craiglinn and there live three horses belonging to Anne Scott.

Claire de Lune (Claire to her friends), is a beautiful, palamino, 17 year old, half Arab mare. Anne has owned her for ten years and got her because her previous owners found her too difficult to handle. Anne has a very firm but sympathetic way with horses to which Claire responded and in 2003 they started competing in Endurance Riding and Claire is aiming for her Silver Thistle Award for 50 miles in a day. Her starring moment in 2009 came when she

won an engraved glass for 'Horse in Best Condition' at the Scottish Endurance Championships at Perth Racecourse.

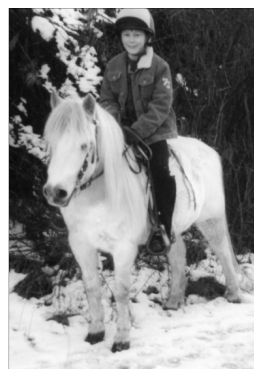
While Claire was having a rest from competing Anne bought a 4 year old Pure Bred Grey Arab gelding. His name was Dream Magic but Anne calls him Smokey as she had to stop smoking in order to be able to afford him; which proves that horse riding is a very healthy sport in more ways than one. She backed and broke him herself. He is now seven and has already started his Endurance career. He is a star of the future but with one problem. Endurance horses have their heart rates taken before and after a ride to check that are fit enough. Smokey is extremely fit as he trains on the hills round Abernethy and his heart rate at home is 34 beats a minute. As soon as he gets to a ride and sees the other horses he gets wildly excited and his heart rate shoots right up. A heart rate of over 64 leads to elimination so this is always a worry with him.

Hopefully he will get more and more used to going to rides and will calm down.

The smallest member of the herd is Sparky, a 26 year old Welsh Section A grey pony. He has been at Craiglinn for 10 years. His previous owners were going to destroy him as they had no further use for him but he was rescued and Anne's boys rode him till they out grew him. If you do not see him in the field it is because he has to watch his figure. Too much grass could make him ill so sometimes he has to be kept in a stable for his own good.

If you think I write too much about Endurance Riding when there are other Horse Sports out there you can telephone and tell me about your horse/pony and activities. I would be very pleased to talk to you and our readers would like to hear your story.

**Anne Hollingsworth 850384**



## IS IT A GOOD WALK WASTED?



### ABERNETHY GOLF COURSE



As a relatively new resident in Abernethy, and a keen golfer, I was keen to join a club closeby and also one that would present a challenge. A little more on that later!

I was also keen to learn as much as possible about the village, which included wandering around the village with my dog, sampling the wonders of Grouse with Jimmy Swan and latterly visiting the museum. I must profess to not being much of a historian, but I am a lover of golf and all things related to it. It came as a surprise to me to find out that Abernethy once had its own golf course, but a stones throw from my house, which I believe was transformed into tattie fields to feed the troops and locals during the War. At that time it was the right thing to do, but how I wish that golf course was still here now. Like many golfers there is always a desire to imagine how you would layout a golf course if you had resources to do so. I've often walked around looking at the farmland where I mentally pictured 'Abernethy Golf Course'; nothing grand, simply a pleasant golf course on my doorstep. The surprise of finding out that this really did exist at one point was quite something? However I don't have the resources, nor the knowledge to build a course, but I can still dream on.

Anyhow, I joined Craigie Hill GC in Perth, which is the closest course to me and this does present a challenge to my course management, short game and patience.

You might wonder why I am wittering on about all of this – well the reason is simple. Those who golf, tend to live and breathe the game, talking incessantly about the 'what ifs', the long drives and the great rounds – I have never heard anyone talk about how bad they are! I am no different and continually wait for the perfect round.

I know there are many golfers in Abernethy, who play all over the area – I also play at Turnhouse in Edinburgh where I am the current Company Secretary.



I recently met with the respective secretaries at Craigie Hill GC, Helensburgh GC and Stranraer GC, where we agreed that being a member of any one of those courses entitles you to FREE golf at the others within this partnership. Had Abernethy still had its golf course then I'm certain it would have been included in this partnership!

This partnership has been a pretty well kept secret – advertising is rife about this partnership within the respective clubs, but there is little advertising elsewhere to encourage non-members to join their local club where effectively you get rewarded with, amongst other things, free golf at three other golf courses, albeit most would fall into the category of a day out!

You may have played Craigie Hill GC and the others within the partnership; as Secretary of Turnhouse GC I am keen to entice new members to my club, but realistically would expect Abernethy residents interested in this partnership to go to Craigie Hill.

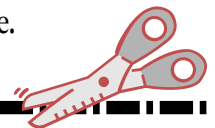
This does not prevent me from trying to encourage you to play at Turnhouse as a visiting group from Abernethy, from your place of work or just ad hoc. However, this is not a bid for new members, its just a tale about what is available locally and the rewards it can offer.

If you have got this far in this article then for your patience there is an opportunity for you to win a round for 4 at Turnhouse GC or at Craigie Hill GC, both valid for one year. To be entered into the draw and to win this round please answer the following questions and send your reply to

[dougie.cleeton@btinternet.com](mailto:dougie.cleeton@btinternet.com)

or detach the slip at the bottom of the page with your answer and hand into me at Cordon Cottage, Station Road, in either case by 18th December 2009. The winners will be notified by telephone.

**Dougie Cleeton**



**Q1 . What is the Gents Par and SSS at Turnhouse Golf Club?**

Clue: [www.turnhousegc.com](http://www.turnhousegc.com) (see Golf Course/Introduction to the course)

Par ..... SSS.....

**Q2. What is the name of the 5- hole at Craigie Hill?**

(Clue - named after a famous battle in the Boer War)

5<sup>th</sup> hole is called.....

Name

Address

## VILLAGE PROJECT



One of the firms participating in the operations at Binn Farm have indicated that they would like to fund a Village Project in Abernethy. An approach has been made to the Community council regarding such a project however the Community Council does not feel that they have the remit to decide the form the project or projects take.

Ideas and proposals are being requested by the CC in order that the whole community is consulted and everyone has the opportunity to have their say.

One project suggested was the upgrading of the tennis courts to an all weather surface and marked out for additional games like 5 aside football, net-ball basketball etc and the lighting and parking improved.

There is a precedent in the village for such financial support with the Abernethy Museum receiving support during its construction stage from the Sita Trust

It would be ideal if a Community Group could be formed to take this matter forward.

We hope that the village responds and that we can take whatever the project decided on to fruition for the benefit off all the residents of Abernethy

Initially suggestions and proposals must be in writing and forward to the Community Council.

**R Macdonald**  
Treasurer Abernethy Community Council

## MUSTARD SEED PRAYER GROUP

This group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at Pitculdee Cottage. It is 90 minutes spent in quiet meditation and prayer. A stressfree time in comfortable surroundings, an opportunity to share concerns for loved ones, the community, the world, and to feel the healing power of silence amongst friends. Everyone most welcome. Just turn up or contact **Maureen Nisbet** 850417.

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

One morning I received a telephone call from a rather aggrieved gentleman.

His daughter had taken up horse riding and he had gone to a tack shop and bought her boots, jodhpurs and a hat; the whole outfit, beautifully colour coordinated. When he got home he found that she had already been handed down the same things from a friend and did not need his expensive purchases.

He went straight back to the shop and was very upset when they refused to take back the articles and give him his money back, although they did offer him a credit note. Surely they had to return his cash?

No, they did not. So long as the riding kit was fit for purpose and not faulty the shop does not have to refund the money. Many large stores do so but as a goodwill gesture, not a right.

If the goods are faulty it is a different story. Then you have a right to your money back and from the shopkeeper. There is no need to wait until the goods go back to the manufacturer or to accept a repair.

The Citizen's Advice bureau deals with consumer problems but I would recommend telephoning Consumer Direct on 0845 4040506. They are very helpful and well informed. You can drop in at the CAB any weekday morning between 10 am -12noon or call 01738564304 for an afternoon appointment. Or call 01738 624301 for advice on the phone and there is also the very informative web site. [www.adviceguide.org.uk](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk) - remember to click the Scotland tab

AH

**DID YOU KNOW.....**In 1786, in spite of local Jacobite sympathies, Prince Edward stayed overnight at Carpow.

The Town Council took Oath of Allegiance to King George Third and an Oath of Objuration against the Stewarts

## THE CRIER WEBSITE COMING SOON



WATCH THIS SPACE



## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

### ABERNETHY'S HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For the first Wednesday in October it wasn't a bad night for the new season of the Auld Abernethy Association. The crowds were queuing at the Museum door in anticipation of a great nights Entertainment. When they all managed to get in the Building, with a limited number of seats available, A scuffle kicked off, Mary and Jean the stewards were called out of the kitchen to break up the altercation.

No sooner had calm returned to the venue when Auld Kate went all limp, the Museum medic was called in to administer a gin and tonic her favorite tonic.

It was 7.30, it was the first Wednesday in October, It was the Auld Abernethy Association.

The story of the Tay Bridge Disaster

Do not miss the next meeting

## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION 2010 PROGRAMME

3rd February	Buildings at Risk in Perthshire
3rd March	The Tay
7th April	House and Street Names of Abernethy

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD IN THE MUSEUM  
STARTING AT 7.30 pm  
EVERYBODY WELCOME



THE CRIER IS DELIVERED FREE  
TO OVER 700 HOMES IN  
ABERNETHY AND ABERARGIE

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

The Museum of Abernethy are currently seeking a "Membership Secretary" Most of the work required would be done in the early part of the year when subscriptions become due. Some computer skills would be helpful.

If there is someone in the Community who is interested in the ongoing programme of the Museum and would be willing to give a limited amount of time to this project, please contact Rachel Cheer, our present secretary at 850578

**Wyn Dobbie**

Chairperson, Museum of Abernethy

## BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

Preparations are already underway for the 2010 Burns supper to be held on Saturday 6th february in the Williamson hall. A star studded lineup of entertainers have already been booked to make it another night to remember. **Rabbie**

## ABERNETHY BADMINTON CLUB

The Club started on the 21st of October and then will be on most Wednesdays during term time. This will continue until April 2010 subject to Hall availability at Abernethy Primary School. Contact **Jill** 850684 or **Keir** 850676  
New adult members welcome

## ABERNETHY PLAYGROUP

Our playgroup runs 3 times a week : Mon, Wed & Fri (school terms only) from 9.30am - 12pm in the Williamson Hall. It is suitable for 2 to 5 year olds and costs £5.00 per session. If your child enjoys the company or other children and lots of interactive play why not take advantage of our FREE TASTER SESSION held on the first Friday of every new term from 10a.m. – 11a.m. A chance to meet the staff, ask questions, see the toys, games and activities and collect a registration form.

No need to book; just drop-in or contact 07804927893 for more info (session time only). We also operate a lunch club service to the Abernethy nursery.

**Sally McGroarty**



## SHOWSTOPPERS

In the afternoons of the October school holiday, the Minister, some Abernethy Church members and a Scripture Union team got ready to lift the curtain on the greatest show on earth! Everyone from the youngest Primary 2 child to the oldest helper enjoyed Showstoppers! Using performing arts to explore the stories of creation, David and Goliath, Daniel in the lion's den, Jesus' birth, His crucifixion and resurrection, we sang, danced, played games, did puzzles and made things together.

An average of 25 children came each day and we had a great time getting to know your delightful children. A very special time was when some of you parents, grandparents and friends joined in our activities and shared the fun. Thank you for all the cards of appreciation we received at the end of the week! Here's to next year when we hope to do another holiday club (with a different theme, of course.)

Keep singing those songs children! Here's what two of them thought about the club:

From **Rachel Stewart**, Age 6

I thought the songs were the best but other things I liked were the games; especially the parachute, making collages and 'Together Time.' The holiday club was brilliant!

From **Britney McMillan**, Age 10

I think Showstoppers is really good because if you are bored in the holidays then go to Showstoppers. There are two teams. If you bring a friend you get 20 points for your team. I brought 6 friends. You get a key ring each day with a verse and I can only remember one just now. You also dress up and do singing and dancing and watch a video each day. After the video you get biscuits and a drink. You can go there Monday to Friday if you are in P2-P7. I had a lot of fun and so did other people.

**Celia King**

Advertise with the Crier  
It makes sense

## FOND MEMORIES OF BOBBY

(Bobby Clow)

My first memory of Bobby was, this young man, a stranger to me, who came home to Struan after being held a prisoner of war; yes I remember that far back. My last memory was him waving Marion & I goodbye from the front gate of Struan when we were returning here to Australia.

In between these times are many wonderful thoughts of Bobby I see in my minds eye.

For instance, Bobby chatting to Eric walking along the Main road or down Station road on their daily walks.

Our yearly cultivation and sowing of the vegetable plot where the peas, beans, onions, lettuce etc were rotated religiously.

Our many weekend conversations over endless cups of coffee brewed in the saucepan and kept hot on the wood fired stove in the kitchen, where the radio was always on and on cold days it was lovely and warm. The times we spent in the garage, washing and polishing his pride and joy the Alvis.

The family get togethers, when he would get out some of his many old 78 records and play them on the Blackbox record player, laughing, dancing and singing along with the artists. He was a convivial host and an endless fount of fascinating and humorous stories.

He was deeply interested in the world around him, especially the welfare of Scotland, and our sojourns around the country rallying the cause of the SNP were profoundly memorable.

His love of conversation and debate broadened the horizons of many.

I will dearly miss him.

Marion and Jason fondly remember Bobby gaily dancing around in the sitting room to any music that was being played with a glass in one hand and a cigarette in the other, demonstrating how this step or the other be done. Jason shares Bobby's love of music. Tristan has little memory of him as he was too young when he left Scotland though he was greatly saddened when we broke the news.

Always in our hearts

**Tony Lee** (Bobby's nephew in Australia)

## SPORT IN ABERNETHY 100 YEARS AGO



A scan through the Perthshire Advertiser for 1909 shows that various sports took place which have long since vanished from the local scene. It seems that there was much more locally based sport compared with nowadays. I will deal with three aspects – curling, golf and the Abernethy Highland Games.

Curling took place only in winter time when temperatures were low enough to freeze the local ponds. The parish had two ponds, one half a mile south east of the village near the Nethy Burn and another near Ayton House, close by the River Farg. The local club was called The Abernethy and Ayton Curling Club. In 1909 we read of the club competing against Methven and also Cairney & Dupplin. Does anyone have any anecdotes of curling on the local ponds.

Abernethy's golf course opened in May 1909 on the land now occupied by the Sutherland Crescent etc. houses. A photo of the occasion can be seen in our local museum. "The course was laid out by Willie Auchterlonie, St. Andrews. It is conveniently situated for the village on suitable ground, and for an inland course presents some long and sporting holes. The membership is already over 80." The club was opened by the Club President, Mr N J Nasmyth of Glenfarg, who "had great pleasure in presenting a silver cup to the club for competition. The Captain, Mr D Wishart, received the cup on behalf of the Club." Does anyone know whatever happened to this cup The club did not have a long history. During the First World War the course was ploughed up for food production and was never revived.

According to local newspaper reports, Abernethy Highland Games started in 1884. The Games ceased during World War 1 and I have not been able to source any reports for the post-war period, though there are some indications that they may have resumed. Detailed information and photographs of the Games may be seen in the Museum of Abernethy.

The Games of 1909 included the following events:- Flat races at 120 yards, 300 yards, 440 yards and 880 yards; The Running High Leap; Throwing the

Hammer; Putting the Stone; Wrestling; Tug of War; Cycling Racing (3 miles and 2 miles); Pole Vaulting and The Pillow Fight. There were six different dancing events. One race was restricted to local fishermen and another to farm servants only.

Competitors came from far and wide. In 1909 prize winners of the open events were from Cardenden, Dundee, Edinburgh, Falkirk, Leven, Newburgh, New Gilston, Partick, Penicuik and Perth.

The PA of 28/08/09 in its report of The Games gives a long list (35 names) of Perthshire notables who were in attendance. The report begins:- "Although the weather was showery there was a large attendance at the Abernethy Games on Wednesday afternoon. The popularity of the gathering seems to be increasing with the passing of the years ..... The Balgonie Colliery Silver Band discoursed a number of pleasing selections during the afternoon, while Messrs. Hamil and Williams, trick cyclists and variety entertainers, kept the company amused. The arrangements were admirably carried out by Mr J Haggart and a committee."



Incredibly the same issue of the PA has a second article on the Abernethy Games (by "Onlooker"). He states "The dancing pleased the large concourse of spectators immensely, the cake walk being perhaps the star turn." The Games day usually ended with a local dance held in the old school playground, now James Roy Court. However in 1909 this was not the case: -

"...the evening though dull, was fine, and there was a large turnout at the dancing in the Games Park. It is rather curious that the dancing after having been held from almost time immemorial in the playground of the school should have to take place in the Games Park. Grass is not suitable for dancing, and it would be interesting to know on what grounds the School Board refused the use of the playground this season. Surely when it is a local demand, and not an absurd demand, there should be no retarding the success of the Abernethy Games which is coming to be one of the leading gatherings in Scotland. The meeting means much to Abernethy generally speaking, and the gentlemen who, year in year out, do their best to raise the standard of them are deserving

of the greatest praise. The Abernethy Games of 1909 will long be remembered."

The Museum of Abernethy is keen to acquire any artefacts, leaflets, photos or information concerning sport, but especially relating to leisure-based clubs and societies, which have existed in the parish, e.g. youth organisations, drama. There will be a special centenary display on the Girl Guides when the museum opens in the middle of May.

**Bill Drever**

## FROM OUR COUNCILLORS

In November of 2008 complaints were made both directly to the Council and also to the Local Councillors regarding a lack of maintenance of the large green space east of the Baulk and south of the play area in the Muir Homes estate at Moncrieff Gardens and also the play area in Brandywell Road. The litter bin at the latter location was never emptied and was overflowing.

Early in December 2008 correspondence began with Greenbelt, the Company responsible for the two areas. To date that Company has not addressed the issue of the large green space but in subsequent letters had suggested that they might take up Perth & Kinross Council's offer to take over the play area.

Unfortunately when the terms of the possible takeover were given to the Greenbelt Company they declined the offer and maintenance of the playpark therefore remains their responsibility. As a result the Council's hands are tied and they are not at liberty to even empty the litter bin.



**CLLRS LUMSDEN, HAYTON AND JACK**

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE  
NEXT EDITION OF THE CRIER**

**IS**

**31. 1. 2010**

## CRAFT FAIR

Another successful Craft Fair was held on Saturday 24th October, raising a sum of nearly £1000 for the Museum. The stalls were interesting, demonstrating a wide variety of talent in different fields. An ideal way to start one's Christmas Shopping.

Morning coffees, lunches (with the ever-interesting varieties of home-made soups) and afternoon teas were in demand as usual

Many thanks to everyone involved, The stallholders, the backroom crew, the food-providers and of course those who came along on the day.

By the time this edition of the Village Crier is out many of you will have enjoyed once again an evening with the Red Wine Company----- always great entertainment. A full report on this will appear in March.

Finally The Volunteers' Evening will take place on Friday 11th December; Please note the date. A good fun night for all who help to keep the show on the road.

Hilda Clow

## STAR PARTY

"The Stars at Night Were Big and Bright Deep in the Heart of Abernethy".

I have just returned from the Abernethy Star Party in Powrie Park and felt I must try to get something into the Newsletter before the deadline. I have 2 hours left so I should make it.

It was a fantastic evening and fortune shone upon the organisers as the sky was clear so there were no problems about viewing.

The night was varied----- presentations, videos, demonstrations, a quiz, a raffle, face-painting for the children, a splendid supper after viewing the Moon and Stars through the powerful telescopes brought along by the experts

A fuller report will appear in the next Crier which does not come out until March but I felt I had write an appreciation while it was still so fresh in my mind.

Thanks must be extended to David Millar, Station Road for organising the whole event; a daunting task!

£180 was raised for McMillan Cancer Support. Well done everyone. Starstruck A roving reporter

# ABERNETHY PRIMARY PARENTS COUNCIL

My name is Chris Meek, the Chair of the Abernethy Primary School Parent Council and I have been asked to write a regular column for The Village Crier to keep everyone up to date with what the Parent Council is doing and provide some school related dates for your diary.

I am a relative newcomer to the village having lived here only three years or so, but wanted to get involved with the community in some capacity and since I have two daughters now attending the school, I volunteered to be the Chair of the Parent Council just over a year ago. I realised quite early on, the vital role that the Parent Council plays as the link between many different parties i.e. the parents, the school, the head teacher Mrs Jack, the community, Perth and Kinross Council, and other local parent councils.

The council is currently involved in a number of on-going projects in conjunction with the school and P&K Council, these include the internal changes to the school building over the summer of 2009 to allow for an extra classroom to be built in the old library, as well as the plans for extending the school to make it bigger overall.

We are involved with the school Eco Committee in its quest to achieve Green Flag status which indicates a high standard of environmental awareness by the school staff and pupils as well as highlighting our school commitment to recycling, waste reduction, green travel and other environmental hot topics.

Our Eco Day in June of this year was very well supported (despite the weather) and was a resounding success, raising well over £1000.00. On the day we had a number of unusual and interesting presentations and activities including a recycling initiative by the school Eco Committee, Zoo Lab and their informative talk about the animals they brought along, Chainsaw Pete who carved a beautiful Osprey from a one tonne tree trunk, and many arts, crafts and other activities.

We support the school by purchasing various items as and when required through consultation on requirements with Mrs Jack, the other members of staff and the schools pupil council. These purchases and

other regular expenditures (school buses etc) are funded by our yearly grant from Perth and Kinross Council which is supplemented by our regular fund-raising activities.

The Parent Council has an excellent relationship with the school staff and head which I hope we can maintain and improve continually, as I feel it is imperative that the parents have a voice. As such if anyone has any issues, questions or comments please feel free to contact me or any parent council member from the list provided below. The best way to contact me is via email and I have provided my address below.

Member            Class Represented P1 - P7  
Chris Meek    (chris.meek1@tesco.net)  
Nursery

Gordon Miller P1	Lorraine Kinnear	P5
Fiona Stewart P2	Karen Jerrard-Dinn	P5
Kate Butler P2	Mo Mcullie	P6
Gaynor Ptak P3	Fiona Duncan	P6
Athole Skinner P3	Kirstie Graham	P7
Ally Kirk P4		

Some dates for your diary  
2009

4th December - P7s - Citizenship Day at Perth High School  
Christmas Parties  
17th December @ 13:45 - Church Service (Primary Only)

2010  
w/c 25th January - Burns Poetry Competition  
February - Cross Country - senior pupils  
February - Hopscotch Theatre Company Production, Brand New Andrew + Fair Trade Ted (P1 P7)  
March - Parent Contact Meetings  
March - School Shows - Early Years (30th) & Upper Primary (31st)

Finally I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported the events held by the parent council in the past and I look forward to seeing you at future ones.

If you would like anything relating to the parent council included in this column in the future please contact me on the above email address.

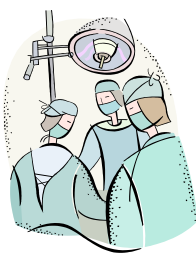
**Chris Meek**



# TIMES TO REMEMBER

## DOCTORS SURGERY (ABERNETHY)

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9 - 11am



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War Memorial	3.05 - 3.50
Den Park	3.55 - 4.10

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Tuesday	2.30 - 4.00
Wednesday	9 - 11
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0800 300999

Scottish Water 0845 6008 855

## THE VILLAGE CRIER CONTACT NUMBERS

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Maureen Nisbet	850417
Hilda Clow	850641
Jimmy Swan	850569

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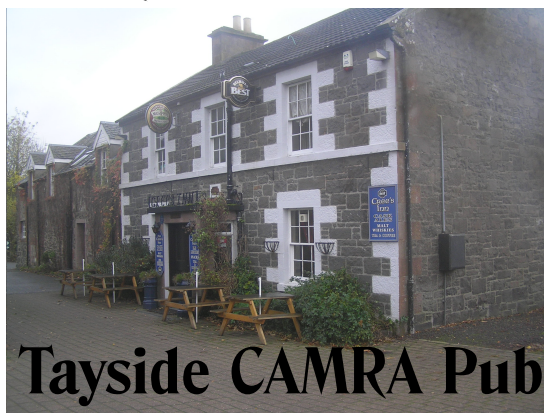
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