



VILLAGE CRIER

DELIVERED TO 780 HOUSEHOLDS



ABERNETHY AND ABERARGIE NEWS

6th EDITION

MARCH 2010

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Hello again, Readers,

Perhaps this column should be called "Fore and Aft" since I am continuously commenting on events, facts etc which have already taken place and those yet to be.

As I look out on this January day, I am hoping, what I see, black and white, will be in the past, the present now the beginning of March a touch of brown and green and the future glorious technicolour as trees, flowers and fields produce the beautiful bright colours of spring.

So what has been happening in Abernethy over the last 3 months? Christmas has come and gone, Christmas trees and decorations up and down, Old Year out and New Year in The "BIG FREEZE" snow falling, "snow on snow, snow-ow -ow on snow" (to quote from the carol) but as I write beginning to disappear and already bits of green and brown are beginning to re-appear. What's more the days are lengthening--- Is spring just round the corner?

I was pleased to see in our last edition more contributions and letters from readers. Keep them coming in. The Village Crier is yours. It does not belong to those of us on the committee. We are there to receive your news and views and put it into publication. No matter how trivial you think it might be it is sure to be of interest to lots of people. Also I am hoping that we may get an input from "ex-pats" as YES! we are in the 21st century, we have a website. You will find us on www.villagecrier.co.uk so it is more important than ever that we keep the world informed as to what is happening in Abernethy.

Looking back to December we held a very happy evening in Cree's Inn to thank the "Paper Boys and Girls" for delivering The Crier to every household in the Parish. It was all good fun; lots of chit-chat and laughter, a fantastic spread of sandwiches, sausage rolls etc provided by Brian. More volunteers are always welcome and think about the reward next December.

Now I am looking ahead. 2010 is a big year as far as Abernethy Gala is concerned. This will be the 50th Gala. The Gala Committee is hoping to contact all the previous Gala Queens. Are we looking for 50 people? A mystery question. The Gala was the inspiration of Mrs Christina Cameron F.E.I.S. a very talented retired headmistress who lived in The White House, the same Mrs Cameron who wrote "A Short History of Abernethy" which was reprinted as the Community Council's Millennium project and is still available for purchase.

Since the Gala is held at the beginning of June we are hoping to have the next edition of the Crier issued during the last week of May to include a full list of events for Gala Week.

Finally, we are delighted to have welcomed Dougie Cleeton, Cordon Cottage, on to the committee another set of brains to produce more ideas.

Now read on lots of interesting articles and information within the pages.

Till the next time, **Hilda Clow.**

**THE CRIER IS DELIVERED FREE TO 780
HOUSEHOLDS IN
ABERNETHY AND ABERARGIE**

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

LETTERS TO THE ED.



CHRISTMAS CARD COLLECTION

Did anyone else find it disappointing this year, that the date of the pick-up for the Christmas card delivery by the Voluntary Organisations was surprisingly early?

As I went to the Corner Shop on 11th December, clutching my armful, I was shocked to learn that the "bird had flown"! As a regular user of this service since its inception, I felt quite let down.

Perhaps next year, customers could be advised of the closing date through the excellent services of the Village Crier.

Wyn D.

LOCAL NHS

Over the last few months I have had four occasions to visit our local Doctors and Nurses in Newburgh. I managed to get appointments without any problems and received excellent medical attention every visit. In my opinion the NHS is certainly working in our area. Thanks guys.



Jimmy S.

DOG MESS

Dear Editor,

As a resident pram pusher, I would like to appeal to the dog owners/walkers in the village to please clean up after their pets. The problem seems to be getting worse and I've lost count of the number of times I've had to clean my buggy wheels after a walk round the village. My children are now at an age where they want to walk and I have to be very careful where I let them out in case they step in or, even worse, fall in dog mess. It seemed to be worse during the bad weather - maybe people thought the mess would melt away with the snow but it still hasn't. If you choose to keep a dog, please also choose to be considerate to others and clean up after it.

Lastly, I have to say I do appreciate that most dog owners are responsible and this is a problem caused by an ignorant minority.

Jill Young



Dear Editor

Thank you very much for printing "My Story" over the last 3 editions of the Newsletter, and thank you to all those who said they had enjoyed it! One or two have said they want to hear more, but I think it is time for me to shut up for a wee while now and give somebody else a chance!

I would also like to say well done to the Newsletter committee for doing a grand job.

Yours sincerely

Evelyn Scobie

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Dear Editor,

As one of Abernethy's senior citizens, I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to Mr & Mrs Elston for their thoughtfulness. They delivered bottled water to us oldies the day the village had no water supply during our period of extreme weather. Such a gesture restores one's faith in human nature and proves that kindness and community spirit are still alive.

Thank you Mr & Mrs Elston

Nett Roy
20 Hall Park

CRIER INTIMATIONS

Malcolm and Rachel Shepherd of Main St, Abernethy are delighted to announce the birth of Oliver on the 27th October, 2009. A little brother for Luke.

Ally and Paula Mallinson are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Amy on the 11th January 2010 at Ninewells. Mum and baby are doing well

Ann and John Robertson are happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter Emily Morgan Brown. The happy day was the 10th November 2009.

Donald and Clair Lendrum are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Rosie. Mum and baby are doing well.

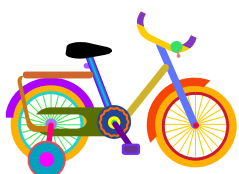
THE A B C

We live in a great area for cycling; lots of choices from gentle trips round the farm tracks on mountain bikes, to serious single track excitement in Pitmedden Forest, to all those quiet back roads offering fantastic road cycling.

So perhaps it's not surprising that Abernethy Bike Club, or the ABC to its friends, has formed over the past 5 years or so. The ABC is a very informal group of cyclists from the village, of both genders and a variety of ages which has grown from an original group of 4 to over 30 these days. We generally have a club ride at least once every weekend (although the winter snows had us cooped up for a while) with a midweek ride as well when daylight allows. The club divides itself between trips on the mountain bikes up to Pitmedden Forest (cycling up from the village of course – no cheating by driving to the car park!) and further afield into Fife, and road trips via Dunning, Kinross, St Andrews, Path of Condie etc. We always try to start in the village, the usual meeting place being opposite the top of Sutherland Crescent, outside the Old Hotel. For some unknown reason a lot of club rides seem to finish at the Cree's. We have a very keen ladies' section who also enjoy runs through the forest and have recently begun venturing out on the roads too.

Several club members have taken part in the 'Etape Caledonia' 81-mile road race in recent years, including the 2009 event which featured the infamous 'Tacks on the Road' sabotage saga you may have read about. increasingly, club members have started to commute to work in Perth – and even Dunfermline – by bike.

Weekends away are a highlight of the club calendar and the last few years have seen the club tackling some great routes in the Cairngorms and the Borders as well as visiting the purpose-built mountain bike trail centre at Glentress near Peebles. It's at Glentress where the younger members of the club really come into their own. They have styled themselves as the 'ABCD', the 'D' standing for 'Devils'! As none of them has suffered a proper bike crash yet, they have no fear and are often to be seen flying through the air over the bumps and jumps while their parents follow behind, barely able to look. It won't be long before some of the youngsters are entering competitive events.



If you fancy a cycle with us you'd be made most welcome. There's no set time for our trips so the best thing to do is contact a club member and they can add your name to the contact list and update you with dates and times of upcoming rides.

Contact either Allan or Karen Lang at glebelangs@yahoo.co.uk or Murdo or Susan McGhie at murdoandsusan@aol.com

DO WE HAVE A VILLAGE STAR IN THE MAKING?



From a young age Scott Sutherland has been a keen footballer, kicking a ball about at every opportunity.

Whilst playing for Abernethy under 11s, Scott was spotted by a Dunfermline Athletic Scout and in September 2008 he was asked to go along to trials. Scott attended these trials twice a week, at this time he was still playing for Abernethy.

In 2009 he signed at Pro-youth level for Dunfermline Football Club and travels three times per week for training.

The highlight of the week is the game on a Saturday, traveling the length and breadth of Scotland from Kilmarnock in the South, to Inverness in the North. Could we see him in a Scotland shirt in years to come? Lets hope so.

I believe his Great-Grandfather was a bit of a player.

Good luck Scott.

IF YOU ARE NOT GETTING A CRIER PLEASE LET US

KNOW

THE GRAND MATCH THAT NEVER WAS

1963 and 1979 are years that all older curlers remember well. They were the years of the 'Big Freeze' – not unlike the spell of weather we had at the end of 2009.

They were also the years when The Grand Match – the curlers' holy grail – the main curling outdoor bonspiel, were last held.



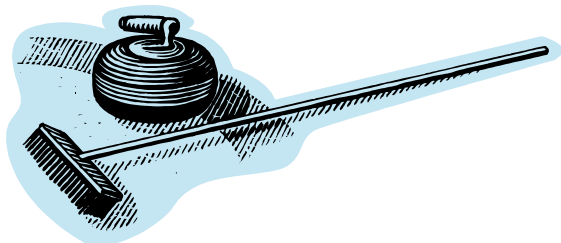
The Grand Match is a curling tournament held between curling clubs from the North and South of Scotland. It was first played in 1837, and has been played on 38 occasions, the most recently in 1979.

The match has been played lately at the Lake of Mentieth near Callander, although Loch Leven and Piper Dam, near Dundee, are now the favoured venues, due to accessibility and parking.

On this occasion they were both covered in a foot of snow – not good for curling as one needs to sweep the snow aside – whereas Mentieth was snow free, saving a lot of manual labour. Curlers were summoned from far and wide to initially mark out the 250 rinks so that 2,000 curlers could do battle.

The ice had reached seven or eight inches in depth which is sufficient to hold 2,000 curlers, 4,000 curling stones weighing 56lbs each, plus numerous bottles of whisky to fortify the protagonists. The President of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club – the governing body of curling – was even going to arrive and be put down on the ice by helicopter.

Abdie Curling Club and Abdie Ladies, both based at Lindores Loch, representing the North, were scheduled to meet opposition rinks from Ayrshire representing the South. The outdoor stones had been fetched from the curling hut at Lindores, and given a clean and some oil. The implements for marking the rings on the ice at the correct size were also prepared, as were the hacks, used for standing on when delivering the stone.



Hopes were dashed when the police and rescue services declared they could not guarantee the safety of the players and spectators in the short time scale. Health and Safety gone mad!

In the words of the Scottish rugby national anthem – The Curling Grand Match – when will we see your likes again?

*Anyone interested in taking up curling and playing for the local club, Abdie Curling Club, please contact **Keith Rose** on roses@onetel.com*

ABERNETHY BOWLING CLUB



A good New Year to everyone and if you have never tried Bowls, or have not played in a while why not make it your New Year resolution to come along and have a go in 2010.

The club is situated behind the old Abernethy Hotel (now the Corn Kist) on Back Dykes and the season runs from April through September.

Bowling is a great sport for everyone with membership open to anyone over 8 years old; no equipment is need to start with as the club has sets of bowls which can be used. The club has an active junior membership with supervised coaching on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings.

The licensed clubhouse was refurbished in 2009 and members and friends enjoy many social functions throughout the year.

Dates for your diary are:

March 20 – return of the popular 60's/70's disco with licensed bar in the Williamson Hall. Tickets are £6 which includes a light supper.

April 10 – Green opens for the season with the first bowl being delivered at 2pm – all are welcome to what is a fun day.

For further information please call **Frances** on 850788 or **Alan** on 850424.

FREE GOLF

The free golf offered in the December edition of the 'Crier' was won by Alex Stuart, 2 Main Street who correctly answered the questions below:



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

69 and 70

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

Spion Kop

However, it's fair to say that since that edition the only golf balls struck in anger over December and January will either be on a Nintendo Wii or at a driving Range!

Once again there are rounds for 4 on offer at both Turnhouse and Craigie Hill Golf Clubs. This time though, the questions to be answered are related to this edition of the Crier.

Q1. What date is the Bowling Club holding a 60's/70's disco at Williamson Hall?

Q2. In what season should you create a high fertility, no dig bed in your garden?

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 or posted at Cordon Cottage, Station Road, in either case by 31st March 2010.

DOUGIE CLEETON



VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREES

Thanks to all who helped put up and decorate the Villages Christmas trees. A special thanks to Scott Sutherland for his tractor and trailer and the kids that assisted, Andrew McGhie, Clair McGhie and Tommy Adams.



THE EDITOR'S MOAN

**IT'S ILLEGAL!
IT'S UNHYGIENIC!
IT'S UNSIGHTLY!
IT'S DOG FOULING!**

Dog fouling in the village has improved greatly over the years, with dog owners taking more responsibility for their dogs deposits.

Unfortunately, there is a hard core of doggy people who still refuse to bag and bin the poo, messing the public places in our village.

Walkers get it on their feet, the kids playing football in the park get on their clothes, Mothers get it on the wheels of their prams,

it's disgusting.

Some folks use the grit bin boxes to deposit their dog poo bags, I think it says **Grit** on the lid of the bin. Lately some dog owners have left their waste hiding under the deep snow, until it thaws of course, do they expect it to disappear on it's own? Some owners bag it and leave the bag and contents on the pavement, What is that all about, preserving the contents for years in the plastic bag, it's bizarre.

Do these people expect somebody else to pick up the poo, yeh right.

Come on folks if you have a dog think of others and clear up at your backside or should it be your dog's backside.

THE ED

EARN SINGERS CONCERT



FRIDAY 26TH MARCH

DUNBARNEY CHURCH 7.30pm

Admission £5 - children free

A varied selection of songs including a medley from "West Side Story"



THE WILLIAMSON HALL



Dear Interested Incomer and everyone else

I am pleased that you are showing an interest in Village life, you will be made very welcome at any of the organisations. In a previous Crier I mentioned the Williamson Hall. I do not know if you have been there but let me tell you something about it.

The trustees of the hall are the elders of Abernethy & Dron Parish Church. The day to day running of the hall is left to a Management Committee. The Management Committee is ideally 2 representatives from each of the hall regular users and any member of the public who is interested. At the most recent meeting Toddlers, Playgroup, Kids Club, Rainbows, Line Dancers and Tower Singers & the Church were represented .

The AGM was held in November and 2 members demitted office after several years on the committee. Thank you to them for all their years of service. We were without a secretary and vice chair, I am pleased that since AGM we have now found a minute secretary .

Ideally we would also like someone to join our committee who has some spare time and willing to be handy man , able to do small repairs and contact tradesmen when required. Perhaps you have time but do not want to be a member of the committee I am sure we could accommodate this. The committee would also welcome anyone who is interested and would like to be involved in the management of the hall.

The hall is used constantly throughout the week with childrens activities, keep fit and line dancing. Weekend bookings are on the increase and the Girls Brigade from Aberdeen have their annual holiday in August staying for 6 days.

The Hall is maintained by a Management committees throughout its life and the revenue to improve the facilities comes from bookings and the profit from the Gala.

The hall is available for all to use. The management committee would welcome some additional members with new ideas and lots of enthusiasm.

The hall committee would be delighted to see you at our next meeting , Monday 29th March at 7 30pm at the Hall.

Please contact Kathleen Baird Chair 01337840218 for more information.

WILLIAMSON HALL

The Williamson Hall is a great venue for booking any type of function, meeting, party, children or adult group event, whether on a regular basis or a one off occasion. Rates are very reasonable and start from £7 per hour . We have a fully equipped kitchen for all your catering needs and the main hall can hold up to 100 people. Why not consider the local hall for your next event.

The Hall is run by a management committee and meetings are held in the hall on the last Monday of every second month at 7.30pm. Details of meetings are to be found on the noticeboard and in shop windows. Representatives from groups who use the hall are asked to attend and any other interested parties from the area are welcome. The hall is available for hire and bookings can be made by contacting the booking secretary on 01738 850960 or email:

andrea.dewar@talktalk.net

50 THE GOLDEN GALA 50

1960 was the year that saw the first airing of the "Flintstones" and "Coronation Street", notable advances in technology with the invention of the Laser and Heart Pacemaker, introduction of the birth control pill, Elvis had a No 1 hit with "It's now or never", the first Doc Marten boots were produced and Abernethy had it's first ever Gala!

So this year sees Gala reach it's 50th birthday. A fantastic milestone and achievement to all who have been involved over the years. A 50th birthday should not go by without celebration and we would very much like to make this Gala extra special.

Gala day itself is on Saturday 5th June with the weeks events taking place as last year (Wed - Car Treasure hunt, Thurs – Bowling Night, Fri – Kids Discos and Sun – Church Service & Hill Race).

If you have a business you would like to promote or items to sell why not book a stall and let the people of Abernethy know about your venture. In the main arena we all want to see an attraction that grabs our attention, something different and exciting, maybe you've seen something at a similar event or just have some great suggestions, if so let us know all about it. The traditional Pet Show will sadly no longer be run by Ian Gerrard, if you have an interest or work with animals and would like to run this event then again

animals and would like to run this event then again let us know - thank you Ian for your many years commitment and support. The burger stall was absent at last year's event as we had no one to arrange and manage the stall, so if you have that summer desire to put on your apron and get your tongs out then again we would appreciate your help.

In order for us to make this year "extra special" we need extra hands. The current committee of 2 people cannot possibly do all the arrangements themselves therefore we are putting out this plea to anyone who would like to join us and help out – it is so rewarding seeing all the hard work come together and the people of the village coming together to raise money for the upkeep of the ever popular Williamson Hall. Also the current 2 members will be standing down after this year's event so new members coming on board will ensure the Gala continues for many years to come (the next 50 years maybe but probably not with the same committee!)

Finally, many hands make light work when it comes to setting up the park on the Saturday, so why not drop by and help put up a gazebo or two, we meet at the park at 9.30am.

For your suggestions, offers of help, to book a stall or just simply for further information please contact Andrea Dewar 01738 850960 or andrea.dewar@talktalk.net or you can come along to the next meeting on Monday 29th March, 7.30pm at the Williamson Hall.

100 CLUB



The Williamson Hall runs a 100 Club which requires new members. The draw takes place at the hall meetings and the annual subscription is £12. Prizes are currently 1st £20, 2nd £15. For an application form please ring 01738 850496

DID YOU KNOW.....

THE WILLIAMSON HALL WAS BUILT IN 1880.

IT COST;	STONE MASON	£157
	JOINER	£52-5s
	PLUMBER	£10-10s
	PLASTERER	£13
	GLAZIER	£21-10s

ABERNETHY SWRI

(SCOTTISH WOMENS RURAL INSTITUTE)

Meetings are held in the Session House, Abernethy Church on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15, from September to May each year, and we desperately need some new members - we only have 16 this year. All ages are welcome, from teenage upwards! We try to have a varied programme of talks and demonstrations on a variety of subjects. Watch out for details on the noticeboard. If you are not sure if this is for you, you are welcome to come along to a meeting as a visitor first. Contact person: **Evelyn Scobie** Tel: 01738 850496.

Next meeting will be **Wednesday 17. March** when we have a talk from Tayside Fire Service on "Safety in the Home".

ABERNETHY SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

The Senior Citizens Trust is run by a hardworking committee who arrange a Summer Bus Trip in June and a Christmas Party in December for the Senior Citizens of Abernethy and District. The trip this year is on Tuesday 1st June and is to Kelso. A Coffee Morning is held each year in April to help with the expenses. If you are a "Senior Citizen" and would like to be included in these events, or if you have recently moved to the area and would like your name added to the list, please contact the Secretary on 01738 850246.

ABERNETHY CHURCH GUILD

The Guild meets on the first Thursday of the month from October to April at 7.30pm in the Session House, Abernethy Church.

Next meeting is on Thursday 4th March and is an "Open Night" - a musical programme with David Watt and Friends. For further information please contact the Secretary on 01738 850496.

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE
ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT
EDITION OF THE CRIER
IS
30.4.10**

MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

MEMBERSHIP

This season the Museum will open from 15 May until 3 October from Thursday to Sunday 1-5pm. The new exhibition will detail 100 years of the Girl Guiding movement. The Museum of Abernethy on School Wynd is always eager to welcome new members. As a member of the Museum, as well as enjoying the excellent exhibits at the Museum, the garden and the childrens activities, you will receive a syllabus detailing a diary of exclusive social events throughout the year. Membership is currently £12 for a family, £7.50 for individuals and £5 for senior citizens. Application forms and more details can be obtained from Rachel Cheer (850578), Wyn Dobbie (850237), Hilda Clow (850641), Bill Drever (850587), Angus Macintyre (850191) and Lesley Robinson (850038).

The Museum is always looking for volunteers to help out with a variety of jobs both during the summer season when it is open and behind the scenes during the winter months when the work still goes on! If you are interested in volunteering, Hilda would be delighted to hear from you and can be contacted on the above number.

Rachel C

FIFTY ABERNETHY GALA DAYS

The 2010 Gala will be the fiftieth Gala to be staged in Powrie Park. To mark this demi-centenary the Museum of Abernethy team have it in mind to stage a display of photos, leaflets and any other type of memorabilia relating to galas of yesteryear. Weather permitting, this display will be staged either in a tent in the park, or partly in the park and partly in the museum itself. We would particularly like to obtain photos of each Gala Queen. Photos can be handed in to the museum any Tuesday from now on. They will be scanned on to the computer and promptly returned. Eventually we hope to mount the items in a Gala Album in the museum. Contact the museum on 01738 850 587 or **Irene McLaren** (01738 850 414) who is coordinating this project.

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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 Abernethy nursery.

Playgroup have been very busy over the winter months, please read on to find out what the children have been involved in.

Fantastic Fundraising - Chris Meek, daredevil dad to Darcey and Jocelyn, bravely took to the skies over Strathallan in November and carried out a static line parachute jump in aid of Abernethy Playgroup. He raised a whopping £1029.40 and the Playgroup would like to express a huge thank you to Chris for his extreme fundraising mission and wish him well on his next adventure. The children held their own jump for joy day during playgroup where they had great fun playing parachute and jumping games.

Childrens Christmas Party (Friday 18 Dec) – Everyone had a great time at the Christmas party. Santa Claus managed to spare some time to visit Playgroup to give all the children a present - thank you to Santa for taking time out of his very busy schedule.

“Burns” Morning – Monday 25 Jan – The children celebrated **Robert Burns Day** playgroup-style, with a tartan theme and had the opportunity to bring along a tartan teddy or dress up in a kilt.

Playgroup Focus for the Spring Term

January – keeping fit and healthy, gymnastics, team games, and ball games.

February - Chinese New Year (year of the tiger), making dragons and lanterns, Valentines Day and Pancake day.

March - farm theme – making pictures using seeds etc, looking at farm animals, making a mural, Mothers Day, and bulb planting.

ABERNETHY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

So, Christmas is passed, the snow has gone, the children are back at school and this is article number 2 of my regular column for The Village Crier.



My remit has changed slightly and is now to keep everyone up to date with what the Parent Council is doing, what the school are doing and how the community can get involved with the school as well as providing you with some school related dates for your diary.

The school wide project this term is India and the children are using various resources to look at the culture, religion, life style, environment, food and fashion of this fascinating, diverse and complex country. The school is always looking for support in these projects so, if any of the community feel that they can help in any way (talking to the children, examples of Indian culture, experiences of India etc), please get in touch, either with me or the school direct, any help is much appreciated.

As mentioned previously, the parent council is currently involved in the plans for extending the school. We understand that the current situation with regards to the extension is that a report with recommendations for the extension and changes has been prepared by P&KC and will be presented to a School Estate Sub Committee for approval (probably in February). If the proposal is agreed by the committee then Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approval will also be required, thereafter the whole governance framework springs into action with representatives from the parent and community council being asked to be part of the working group to fully develop the scheme. I will try to keep the community up to speed via this regular column on how things are progressing.

Our Eco Committee is continuing 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 wide commitment to recycling, waste reduction, green travel and other environmental hot topics.

One area of this which requires further development is community inclusion and joint projects so, to this end, the Committee have organised for 'Rag Bag' to put a container into the village (at the school) for any unwanted clothing, please feel free to contribute

if you have anything you no longer want. The committee are also looking to gain an involvement with the Horticultural Society and a 'pruning group' has been discussed, details to be ironed out and revealed as soon as I have them. Again, should you have any ideas or want to get involved please let me know or contact the school direct.

As mentioned previously, I feel it is imperative that the parents and community have a voice and are aware of events and issues at the local school so please feel free to get in touch if you have any issues, questions or comments.

The best way to contact me is via email and I have provided my address below along with the names of the other members of the parent council.

Parent Council Member Class Represented

Chris Meek (chris.meek1@tesco.net) Nursery
Gordon Miller P1 Fiona Stewart P2 Kate Butler P2
Gaynor Ptak P3 Athole Skinner P3 Ally Kirk P4
Lorraine Kinnear P5 Karen Jerrard-Dinn P5
Mo Mcullie P6 Fiona Duncan P6 Kirstie Graham P7

Some school dates for your diary 2010

February 3rd - Parent Council meeting, in school at 7.30p.m.

February 9th - 'Hip Hop' club (P6 & P7 pupils) taking part in 'Creative Day of Dance' in Perth

February 11th - P7s taking part in Fun in Athletics event in Dundee, representing Perth

February 18th - P1 - P3 Gymnastic Festival

P6 & P7s Cross Country event at Perth Race Course

February 19th - Hopscotch Theatre Company presenting 'Brand New Andrew & Fair Trade Ted'

February 23rd - Hinduism event linked to term time topic of India (school has an international link with a school in Kolkata)

February 25th - all parents of feeder primaries to Perth High are to be invited to an event at Inchview Primary, Gleneam Road with regard to Curriculum for Excellence information

March 9th - Parent Contact Meetings

March 18th - Parent Contact Meetings

March 18th - Margaret Ewen will be retiring

March 18th - P6s & P7s (possibly P5s too) Orienteering event at Strathallan

March 30th - School Show - Early Years (including Nursery)

March 31st - School Show - Upper Primary

April 2nd - School closes at 3.15pm and reopens on Tuesday 20th April

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

ABERNETHY CHURCH



At this time of the year it is usual to look back and to look forward. As we look back on 2009 in the Church, there have been some positives. We have increased the number of new elders bringing new energy, different experiences, and fresh perspectives to our leadership. We started a couple of new committees - not exciting in itself - but with the aim of dividing the workload, increasing involvement, and widening our range of interests.

We had a Stewardship Campaign which, apart from any financial benefits, gave the new Minister a measure of the levels of commitment in the congregation. The links between the church and Abernethy Primary School get stronger. Our youth work is developing. There were holiday clubs at the Williamson Hall, and a pilot scheme for a youth club. Perhaps the highlight of our youth work was the 'teen-nativity' on Christmas Eve, written and directed by Rory Learmonth. The Sunday School, now Sunday Club to emphasise friendship and fun, thrives with a good programme linking it to the church service.

It has not been all plain sailing in this year of hard thinking and hard work. Mistakes were made and some things could have been done better. There is however a well known proverb about the man who never made a mistake! This year I intend that we consolidate on our progress and learn from our lessons. There are no prizes in the church for finding fault or pointing out mistakes - that is too easy. The prizes go to those who figure out solutions, get things done, and move things forward.

We do have plans. We will soon establish a regularly meeting youth club for Secondary School ages. There will be holiday clubs in the Williamson Hall for Primaries (w/b 26/7/10) and Secondaries (the date is being negotiated). We will again have Back to Church Sunday, to invite folk to church (simples) In the meantime our committees are making constructive plans - church committees no longer have the luxury of just being talking shops. The elders have a continuing discussion about the church and the village. My simple aim is to bring the two closer together, and this involves listening to the people of the village. This is an important

discussion because a 'parish church' is an old term, originally about the 12th century and reformed in the 16th century for a community church, or here a church for the village, not just situated in the village. This continuing discussion is itself more important than any specific plans or projects set. Despite my mainly affable manner, I am fully committed to helping the church in Abernethy and Dron and Arngask to be a forward thinking, community-engaged, rural church for the 21st century. I only ask others to help.

Rev. Alec Wark

AN EVENING OF DRAMA AT THE MUSEUM



Last November, Abernethy was delighted to welcome back to the Museum "The Red Wine Company" with its production "Alan Bennet and a Lady of Letters" A very topical subject as Alan Bennet celebrated his 75th birthday in 2009. He received many tributes and gave many interviews both on radio and TV during the year.

The Company played to two "Full Houses" and both audiences were most appreciative of the time and work put in by all involved. It is amazing what can be done with one actor, one actress, two assistants and a few props. Alan Tricker sounded so like Alan Bennet and Brenda played the Lady to a T.

Just over £378 was raised towards Museum funds.

Hilda C.

**Have you got something to sell?
Have you got a story to tell?
Have you got a moan?
Have you got a groan?
Get it in the Crier.**

THIS MONTH THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL DISCUSSED!

THE MOBILE POST BUS

THE PROPOSED INCINERATOR

REVIEW OF VILLAGE GRIT BINS

POWRIE PARK PAVILION

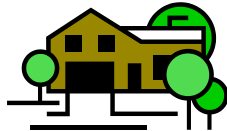
LATEST FROM THE BINN LANDFILL

THE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

ANY POLICE MATTERS

**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEET
ON THE SECOND LAST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH IN THE
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

THE VILLAGE PROJECT



To date the Community Council have not received any ideas or comments for the Proposed Village Project .

Before proceeding with the proposal suggested for the Powrie Park area it was decided to ask once more for community input on this matter.

If Abernethy does not make use of the funds available they will surely be used elsewhere.

In a matter of this importance the CC is obliged to request suggestions and proposals be in writing and forwarded to the Secretary of the CC, Mrs A Sangster Muckley Cottages Perth Road Abernethy.

R Macdonald
Treasurer Abernethy
Community Council

BEING A FRIEND OF BOBBY

Anyone who knew Bobby Clow would be impressed by his great knowledge and a visit to Struan House was a pleasurable and an informative experience. During the time there many topics would be covered accompanied with a dram and a cup of coffee. Many visitors would receive an acrostic connected to the visit usually outlining your skills as a tradesman or your personality as a friend, my regret is I never received one.

Bobby was one of life's characters, in fact I think I could go as far as say he was ever so slightly eccentric, but what a boring world this would be if there were no Bobby Clows. We probably all have our own memories of Bobby and if you feel like putting pen to paper The Crier would love to here them.

I have many memories of him but two stand out above the rest.

Cycling around the village to an old age, from time to time Bobby liked to impress the ladies with his push bikes acrobatics.

Freewheeling along past Janet Paton and her sister one day, getting off and on his bike while moving, unfortunately not seeing the pot hole, well, skint knees and elbows were the result.

Bobby loved to dance and was a lover of all kinds of music. However, indoors was not the only place he enjoyed a waltz.

My wife Susan was wandering down the High Street doing a bit of shopping and met Bobby coming in the opposite direction, before she knew it both were spinning their way down the centre of the Fair City.

The next time you meet a friend in the street have a dance in memory of Bobby.

The housing immediately before the Old Abernethy Hotel, on the east side called Clow Square, was once the site of the Clow family business. (pictures of the building can be seen in the Museum of Abernethy). The company manufactured high quality nightwear for retailers such as Harrods and Jenners.

"He had a guid innings" is a common saying when somebody lives to a ripe old age, in Bobby's case it was "a full gid innings".

He will be sadly missed by many. **Jimmy S**

ABERNETHY STAR PARTY

OCT 31'09

The week before the Star Party began with numerous phone calls from various interested parties asking how much it would cost, when would it start, where will I park and will I be able to look through a telescope. I became more edgy as the day drew nearer, what have I taken on here?

Saturday came and various friends arrived to help set up the hall, hang road directional signs, make sure all was ready for the rapidly approaching deadline – ***“Yes I was definitely becoming frayed around the edges”***.

The weather forecast was looking dubious and ‘Plan B’ would probably be the order of the day i.e., long talks and videos in the hall.

The weather in the afternoon was quite good but big clouds were coming in from the west, telescopes would probably stay in the hall on display only. About 5.30 the heavens opened and a raging monsoon ensued, so waterproofs on, we headed for the pavilion, soup and chilli in hand.

The evening would still be good fun, but the whole idea of a star party is to get people and scopes outside. The first people arrived around 7ish and by 7.40 the hall was full, all seats (*provided by Al and Jan*) were taken, “phew this event may be a success after all”. Tom Clackson did an introductory talk followed by a video showing everyone the whole idea of The International Year of Astronomy. The cloud watchers were on hand, and a nod came from the fire exit. **THE SKY HAD CLEARED** and the rain had stopped, the cloud gods had shone upon us, so hurriedly the members quickly grabbed their telescopes and Tom announced ‘*we would be Stargazing*’. Everyone headed for a sodden park but no one seemed to mind. The experts started aiming their instruments skyward and many ‘targets’ were aligned in the eyepieces to the delight of the public, many oohs and ahhs were heard and the Moon was a favourite with most, Jupiter, also popular, was low in the southern sky and was seen as a small fuzzy disc with 4 of its moons faintly visible. After around 45 minutes of observing, the tea bell rang and everyone headed back for some soup, a bowl of chilli and teas etc.

There was a handout quiz followed by more informative talks and videos. Then the raffle and prize giving and delighted winners received some great prizes.

A quote from one of the stargazers made all our efforts worthwhile. ***“Abernethy was truly the centre of the Universe tonight”*** she enthused. A great night was had by all and many positive comments from the public prompted us to possibly make this an annual event, *watch this “SPACE”!*

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped make this event a success (*you know who you are*) and to everyone who attended.

Thanks on behalf of The Central Scotland Observers Group and Dundee Astronomical Society



David Millar

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

As you know we celebrated our Ruby wedding recently with a party in the Williamson Hall, So a big THANK YOU to Maureen, Alan, Brenda, Graeme and Leanne and the eight grandkids for organising the catering and the decorating of the hall.

We would like to say a “BIG THANK YOU” to everyone who came along and for all the lovely gifts and flowers.

A special thanks to Sandy and Angela McKinnon of Tower Bakery for the gift of a lovely anniversary Cake.

Instead of gifts we asked the guests to give to charity, on the night we collected £900.

Alan and I chose to give £450 to the new “Cornhill Palliative Care Unit” at PRI and £450 to CHAS Rachel House Childrens Hospice at Kinross.

Thanks to everyone.

Sandra & Alan Gourlay,
Abernethy.



INTELLIGENT GARDENING

(FOR THOSE WHO HATE WEEDING)

If, like me, gardening or specifically growing vegetables is a talent you haven't grasped, then the following snippet of advice might be the kick start you need. My outlook on growing has always been: dig holes, plant things, watch them grow then pick and eat them – usually too soon. The process for me lasts a number of weeks then its over for another year, until I try again.

As well as being deficient at the growing process I have never really understood the benefit of using manure – the only time I did use it, my dog dug it up and ate it – clearly I am no gardener, nor was my dog! Then behold, in an article within the National Geographic 'GREEN' magazine I found how to grow things using a 'No-Dig' bed (interesting and a lot less work) and how to use manure to get the perfect 'bed' for growing the perfect vegetables (I was hooked).



The article tells me that *'building fertility from compost and manure on top is a copy of natural processes and works well for vegetable growing. Worms and soil fauna are encouraged, and as they increase in number the soil becomes better aerated, rain soaks in more easily and weeds grow less'*.

The article goes on to describe the benefits to the soil, including the correct fungi and bacteria which often help plant roots to feed whilst offering nutrients for plants and other organisms that don't otherwise release in cultivated soil.

Weeds Grow Less – that'll do for me, and perhaps for you, hence the reason I thought I must share this revelation!

For those who have the talent, or have tried and tested methods of growing successfully, please excuse my foray into an area where I am completely devoid of skill, and accept below the bulleted advice on how to set out on creating your own 'high fertility no-dig bed' courtesy of National Geographic GREEN.

How to create a high fertility, no-dig bed

- Start any time in winter. Aim to be finished by March.
- Use planks of untreated timber, say 15cm wide, screwed or nailed at the corners.
- Place on any surface from grass (preferable) to gravel, in as full light as possible.
- Fill bed to top with any combination of rotted animal manure and compost/leafmould/any well rotted organic matter you can scavenge or buy.
- Tread down firmly. Then use the finest compost for a surface layer to sow and plant into, straight away or during the season for each vegetable.
- Apart from tending your crops, the maintenance required is light but consistent weeding and then spreading, each winter, about 5cm of well rotted compost or manure on top.

D. CLEETON

ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL

It is late January as I write this and by the time you read this, spring will have sprung, the grass will have ris' (and will need to be mowed). It is amazing to think it is one year since we placed an advert in the Crier with regards restarting the Abernethy Horticultural - and what a difference a year makes. The Horticultural Society is back. In the Autumn of 2009 we held our Garden Day and it was a stunning success. With a giant plant stall, over a hundred entries in the potato decorating competition, a stunning array of cakes for sale, seed planting, a massive raffle and a number of stalls giving advice on subjects from bees to composting, it truly was a fun day out for all the family. And then through the winter and into the spring we held a series of talks. I'm not sure exactly when the Crier will be out in March (so I may be advertising a talk that has happened) but on the 10th of March will be a talk on Garden Tools and Machinery. This is to be done by Marshalls Garden Machinery and will be an excellent way to find out what is new and also how to maintain what you have. This will be held on the Wednesday, 10th of March at 7.30pm in the Masonic Hall.

A month after that on Wednesday, 14th of April we will be taking a trip to Gail Hunter of Logie Farm Plant Nursery for lessons in hanging baskets and window boxes. We will look to co-ordinate transport and will discuss this in more detail in the March meeting or alternatively you can keep an eye on noticeboards. For all our talks, non-members are welcome (£2.50 per evening) however for some talks places are limited and will of course go to members first.

Thanks to all who have helped in so many different ways in getting the society back on its feet. We are always looking for new members, looking for ideas for talks and ideas for the garden day in Autumn 2010 and so please do get in touch. abernethyhorticultural@googlemail.com or call Keir on 850676

100 YEARS AGO

ABERNETHY'S TEXTILE INDUSTRY

The death of Bobby Clow last August and an article in the PA of 12/02/1910 are two prompts for a look back at how important the textile industry once was in Abernethy. The Clow family and the Wishart family were central to this, each having a factory in the village.

The PA article reads as follows:-

"An incident of an interesting and pleasant nature took place on Thursday at the factory of Messrs Ireland and Wishart, Abernethy, where Mr James Wishart, senior partner of the firm, announced to the workers assembled at midday that in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the opening of the firm's factory in Kirkcaldy, he presented to each of the workers there a sum of money equal to one week's wages, and that he had decided to confer the same boon on the Abernethy employees. Mr Wishart expressed the warm regard he had for Abernethy, his birthplace, and referred to the pleasant relationship, which has always existed between the firm and the employees. This generous act of Mr Wishart's was heartily appreciated by the works, and Mr Thomas Haggart, manager, conveyed their thanks to Mr Wishart, and expressed the hope that he might be long spared to be amongst them."

The Abernethy factory referred to was known as the Strathearn Works. It occupied part of the site where the Branston potato-sorting premises now operates. The factory was single-storeyed and was powered by a steam engine. It had a tall factory chimney, which was demolished in the 1960s. On its power looms the factory produced linen, cotton and wool fabrics (mainly bed linen, table cloths and other domestic wares). The factory started operations in 1873 and ceased production in 1930. In its heyday it employed around 100 workers, mostly female. The Wisharts built two fine adjacent houses on Perth Road, Pittarrow and Pennyhill. The last factory owner, David Wishart, who lived at Pittarrow, was much involved in village affairs. He died in 1958. Even before the power loom works the weaving industry was a major local employer. Weaving was of course done on hand looms, mainly as a cottage industry. Census information reveals just how many were involved. In 1851 there were about 380; in 1881 there were 110. By 1901 there were less than 10 handloom weavers. Next year, when it becomes available for scrutiny, the 1911 census will reveal if

there were still any working 100 years ago. Many of these weavers were also employed for part of the year as salmon fishers or as farm labourers at busy times.

The Clow family's involvement with the textile industry evolved from the hand loom weaving. In the 1850's Archibald Clow was a merchant in a house just down the slope from the "Tootie House". He acted as a middle man in procuring yarn and the selling of locally produced woven cloth. His grandson, John (Bobby's father) greatly expanded the business and started garment manufacture. He bought the Free Church building when its congregation merged with the UP Church in Kirk Wynd. This factory, called The Tower Works, was later greatly enlarged. In the 1930s the factory employed about 50 workers, mainly female, mostly from Abernethy, but later also from Newburgh. The main items made were ladies' lingerie and nightdresses, marketed abroad as well as in some top city department stores.

John Clow was a respected figure in Abernethy and served as Abernethy's provost during the Second World War. His son Bobby continued the business, after his release from a German POW, until the late 1980s. The site of The Tower Works is now occupied by the housing development known as Clow Square.

More information and photos relating to local weaving and garment manufacture, as well as samples produced, can be viewed in The Museum of Abernethy. The museum opens for the 2010 season on May 15th.

Bill Drever

A MERCHANT'S STORE DESTROYED BY FIRE

(Extract from the PA 8th April 1874)

Between three and four o'clock on Monday morning the store which forms part of the premises occupied by Mr Robert Clow, merchant, was discovered to be on fire. In a short time after it had been observed the building was completely enveloped in flames and the roof soon fell in. The goods with which the building was filled were almost totally destroyed.

The weather was calm during the time of the fire, so that the flames did not spread to adjacent buildings. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is supposed to be purely accidental. Mr Clow was working from home on Monday morning.



SHOULD MY CHILD HAVE AN EYE TEST

Many children do not know that they have a vision problem. Changes in a child's vision happen very slowly. A child may think that everyone else sees the same way, especially if a child develops short sightedness (myopia) and faraway objects appear blurry.

Some problems can end in permanent vision damage if not corrected early. These include:

- **Squint** (strabismus) where the eye muscles point one eye in the wrong direction.
- **Lazy eye** (amblyopia) where the vision in one eye is weaker than the other. The child's brain ignores the weak eye and uses the strong eye to see. If untreated, the child's brain develops a clear picture in the good eye and a blurry picture in the weak eye. This can result in permanent problems that cannot be treated. Having their eyes checked regularly should set your mind at rest and having an eye exam before they start school is particularly recommended.

Children with uncorrected vision conditions or eye health problems can face many barriers in life ... academically ... socially ... and athletically.

In Scotland eye exams are provided free by the NHS and any lenses can be supplied to children in full time education using an NHS voucher so it is possible to correct the vision without charge – a not inconsiderable factor in these tough financial times.

Vision doesn't just happen. A child's brain has to learn how to use the eyes to see, just like it learns how to use legs to walk or a mouth to form words. The longer a vision problem goes undiagnosed and untreated, the more a child's brain learns to accommodate the vision problem.

That's why a comprehensive eye examination is so important for children. Early detection and treatment provide the very best opportunity to correct vision problems, so your child can learn to see clearly.

Eighty percent of all learning is performed through vision. Make sure your child has the best possible tools to learn successfully.

Periodic eye and vision examinations are an important part of preventive health care. Many eye and vision problems have no obvious signs or symptoms. **As a result, individuals are often unaware that prob-**

problems exist. Early diagnosis and treatment of eye and vision problems are important for maintaining good vision and eye health, and when possible, preventing vision loss.

**Nick Hine – Optometrist
Brandywell Road**

SNOW VANDALS IN 1920'S ABERNETHY

Early on New Year's Day, having brought in the New Year in style, an Abernethy lad persuaded his future Brother-in-law that it would be a good idea to use the Old bowling green roller to wish the people of Abernethy the compliments of the season by rolling the Words Happy New Year in the snow of the bowling green. This they accomplished, though somewhat unsuccessfully. The greenkeeper's reaction and his carefully chosen words have not been recorded.

On another occasion, a group of Abernethy lads got together in the square and started rolling two snowballs down past Kinclaven and on towards the Newburgh road. The snowballs, by this time, were Extremely large. Outside the front door of Strathairlie (on the left at the corner of the main road) stood two trees in pots, one at each side of the door. The temptation was too great. The trees were removed and placed with the two snowballs successfully blocking the Newburgh road. The lads then disappeared.

Janet Paton

(What no names)

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Hilda Clow	850641
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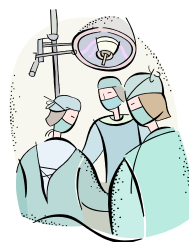
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