



# VILLAGE CRIER



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## ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

**22nd EDITION**

**March 2014**

Closing date for next edition 30.4.14

Dear Readers,

I hope, by the time you are reading this 22nd edition at the beginning of March, the dark dreich days are well behind us. It is such a day as I start my contribution for the spring edition. However I guess we must be very thankful that we have not suffered the severe flooding and destruction that those in many other areas of the country have had to endure. So far it has been a very strange winter.

Now we have left 2013 behind and The Crier has entered its sixth year of publication. It doesn't seem so long since it started off, but in looking over back numbers there have been quite a few changes in and around Abernethy. People come and people go, buildings rise and fall and some things go on and on and on, the Round Tower being the outstanding example. Not too many villages can boast of such an important piece of history, something which should be promoted since so many people will be coming to Scotland this year both for the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup apart from the normal number of tourists. Abernethy has so many attractions over and above its history. It is situated in a beautiful part of the country, an excellent centre for walkers, cyclists, shooters, fishers and golfers and people interested in rural life in general.

So much for my promotion!

Before looking forward, a brief look at what has been happening since the beginning of December when you last received The Crier. I don't know since I no longer live in the village, except for what has been going on in the organisations with which I am still involved.

Which brings me to a point. There are often general notices among the church intimations which might interest people outwith the Church. Only people attending the Kirk on Sunday receive these notices so if you want to disseminate the word further afield use The Crier as well

Anyway our backward glance. In November the delivery Boys and Girls of The Crier enjoyed an evening in Cree's Inn. Thanks again to Brian for putting on a super buffet and my personal thanks to all those involved in getting The Crier to your doorsteps. We are still getting more volunteers willing to help which eases the task of those already doing deliveries. Also, so far so good we have had no problems with delivery this winter because of the weather.

Another social evening I attended was the annual 'Black Tie Dinner' held in Cree's Inn for those of us responsible for the fund-raising events for the Museum. Again, a splendid meal produced by Brian and his staff and good fun as well.

This month (January) I was invited along with Sally Rose and Jimmy Swan to Abernethy School to judge the Poetry Competition, sponsored by the Burns Club. Difficult decisions had to be made as the standard was very high. I will not write more on this as I expect there to be a detailed account within the pages of this edition. However there is one thing I would like to add. How impressed I was with all the children present, the support of their of their friends participating, the warm welcome we were given by them to the school and their thanks at the end of the event.

On Tuesday 21st January Mrs Moira Herkes was inducted as Minister to the Parish Churches of Abernethy and Dron and Armgask, an important event for both parishes. I am hoping there will be a full report in this issue.

The Burns Supper comes up on the 1st February and I am expecting (stretching our boundaries slightly) we might have some news about that.(Editor's privilege to fill up a column)

Looking ahead, I don't know yet except for the Writers' Competition and the Grand Raffle in aid of Museum funds, what will be happening in Abernethy over the spring and summer. Not until I read The Crier. Hence the importance of putting in dates of events, pleas for help, vacancies on committees etc etc

Until June, Hilda Clow.

## EDITORS VIEW



I always seem to be moaning about the lack of an efficient service from Perth and Kinross Council.

Well I am sorry but I must start the new year with another greet about the services we receive, or don't, for our Council tax.

During the festive break I was sweeping the pavement outside the house, mostly auld leaves and needles blown together by the wind. As I brushed, along came the PKC blue pickup with three cosy operatives within, they smiled at me as they passed, this made me fizz. They turned at the Primary school roundabout and headed back along the Backdykes, smiling again. They then returned to Perth.

Were the Bins checked.....no.

Litter and leaves picked up.....no.

Took a run up Main Street, Hall Park and Den Park to check for rubbish.....no

With all these storms and heavy rain we need to keep our streets clean so all the dirt doesn't end up down the drains, another service we don't get.

A Happy New Year **The Ed**



## LETTERS TO THE ED

**Dear Ed**

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Branston for their 'Christmas lights' event. Well done to all the staff for turning out in fancy dress and keeping us all well supplied with festive refreshments! Great to hear the school choir in fine voice and even Santa managed to take time out of his busy schedule to be there. It was a great afternoon and lovely to see it so well supported.

**Jill and John Young**

**Please note ALL articles must be accompanied with a name and address BEFORE they will be published in the Crier.**

**On request, the name and address may be withheld from publication.**

**Any submission without these details will NOT be included**

### THE BLAIRGOWRIE GOLF CLUB



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## ABERNETHY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Over the last few months the Community Council business has been dominated by several recurrent and ongoing topics that we thought should be brought to the attention of the community at large. Fuller details of each topic can be found on the village website or the notice board:

**Binn Farm:** the wind turbine proposal is once again to the fore, it is likely there will be a public exhibition in the village before the proposal is formally submitted to PKC

**Binn Landfill:** variation to maintenance obligations being sought by the operator once the landfill is capped

**Jamesfield wind turbine:** pending decision, for the record the Community Council responded questioning the size of the proposed turbine with respect to the low lying surrounding area.

**Aberargie Distillery:** original proposal withdrawn, no further information at present on a possible larger proposal

**Extension of Core Path linking Newburgh, Abernethy and Bridge of Earn:** ongoing dialogue with the respective land owners

**Rough Glen and Castlelaw:** further evidence and sightings of trials bikes damaging the paths

**Nurse Peattie's Garden:** proposal to fell the large conifer and replace with a smaller tree that might serve as the village Christmas tree

**Bus shelter on Back Dykes:** awaiting availability of a shelter

**Colin Morrison (Chair)**

## ABERNETHY LOCAL CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

Many thanks to everyone who used the local card delivery service and to those who helped deliver the cards. A total of £75 was raised for the Pavilion.

**Jane Sanderson**

## ABERNETHY & ABERARGIE HEATING OIL CLUB



As the founder of this local purchasing group I write to inform you of the club's progress.

The club was founded in September 2012 and now consists of 65 households who have come together to benefit from a bulk purchase of domestic heating oil and a discounted price.

Current market prices are detailed below and the current (2nd February) discounted club rate :-

500 litres	£0.5925p
1,000 litres	£0.5865p
1,500 litres	£0.5845p
2,000 litres	£0.5829p
Club Rate *	£0.5520p

The club is part of a national network of over 2,800 clubs see and is free to join.

Payments are made by a secure website with debit cards offering a free payment method and credit cards incurring a 1.5% administration charge.

**Simon Downes, 14 Brandywell Road  
Abernethy**

## DAFFODIL TEA & EASTER EGG HUNT

Sat 29th March  
10.30-12.30  
Powrie Pavilion & Park

£3 adult  
£1.50 child  
£8 family (2 adults & 2 children)

Entrance Fee includes tea or coffee and cakes  
Stalls to be confirmed but will include kids Easter egg tombolla and daffodils



**Katie McAleese**

## IT IS WITH REGRET

We hear of the death of Mrs Daisy Winton, Hall Park, Abernethy. She died in PRI on 10th February.

We hear of the death of Mrs Kirsty Blake, late of Gattaway Farm, Abernethy. She died in Albany, West Australia in November, Aged 87years

## ABERNETHY SWRI

Meetings are held in the Session House at Abernethy Church, on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.15pm from September to May each year. New members welcome.



In December we had a lovely Christmas Meal at Berryfields. Everyone received a gift from Santa and we finished off the evening with a few carols.

At our meeting in January, Simon Poots gave a very interesting Presentation on "Squirrels" and gave us an insight into the work of Perth & Kinross Red Squirrel Group.

Competitions: Animal Photograph – 1<sup>st</sup> Ann Christie, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jane Sanderson, 3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Brews. Flower of the Month – 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Taylor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Isobel Buchan, 3<sup>rd</sup> Chris Stewart.

Future Meetings are as follows:

- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> February - "Hands On Flower Arranging" with Frances Drysdale.  
Competitions: "3 Half Dipped Chocolate Peppermint Creams" & "Flower of the Month".
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March - Talk by "Champion Porridge Maker" Neal Robertson.  
Competitions: "3 Oatcakes" & "Flower of the Month".
- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> April - "Trip Through India" by Shona Simpson  
Competitions: "Pretty Cup and Saucer" & "Flower of the Month"
- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> May - AGM – Demonstration of Napkin Art  
Competitions: "3 Chocolate Brownies" & "Flower of the Month"

Please see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details.

## MUSEUM NEWS

Just a brief update from the Museum as I know Bill Drever has also submitted an excellent article on behalf of the Museum. Thank you to all our volunteers who attended our Christmas event at the Museum. The quiz, wine and nibbles contributed to a most entertaining evening with much friendly dispute over some of the quiz answers!

We look forward to 2014 with enthusiasm. We will be holding the second Annual Members' Meeting as a SCIO this March (replacing the old AGM). We will also open at the start of May for the season. We encourage anyone who would like to become a volunteer to get in touch. We are always looking for people to join the rota to man the museum whilst it is open. This is just a three hour shift as often as suits you and you are always on duty in pairs. This is a fantastic way to make new friends and help out in the community.

We are also hoping to get to grips with our part in the Tayside Landscape Project this year and are delighted that Sally Rose has volunteered to lend her expertise to this project and lead us through it.

As ever, if you have any suggestion, compliments or complaints, please do get in touch. We look forward to seeing you in the Museum this year.

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

## WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

### December

number 79 £20 Bruce and Sheena Mcnaughton  
number 1 £15 Anne Gordon

### January

number 26 £20 Pamela Cain  
number 81 £15 Malcolm Bell



Angela Campbell

## Thank you! from the Parks Project!

Our funding appeal last year received fantastic support from families and individuals within our community but there are also some local organisations we would like to thank.

Both Abernethy Tennis Club and Abernethy Burns Club have made generous donations to the parks project for which we are very grateful.

The organisers of the former Abernethy Youth Club were looking for a worthy home for the funds remaining in a dormant bank account and have kindly donated them to the parks – a big thank you to them!

Finally, in addition to their donation of £5000 towards play equipment in Powrie Park, Branston have given us a further £5000! This is fantastic news and means the much requested zip-slide can now be added to the park! This was the most requested piece of play equipment among primary school children but we were struggling to cover all the costs of purchase, installation and future maintenance. We are hugely grateful for Branston's generous support which will help to make it possible.

By the time you read this, much of the phase 2 work in Powrie Park should be complete. Isn't it great to see real results coming from such a huge community effort?

**Jill and John Young**

## Abernethy Horticultural Society Events 2013-2014

Despite the dark and dreary weather outside we have been busy indoors with an excellent and varied series of Winter talks this season. We have learned about the local Fife Diet project – using and growing local food, heard of continuing developments on the Cambo Estate – particularly their annual snowdrop Festival, and focused on the different types of bees in the garden, their particular habitats and behaviour.

New members of the Society are always welcome. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at the Masonic Hall at 7.30. Our talks continue throughout the Spring (see diary below) and events include several trips: to see the Cambo snowdrops by starlight in February and a tour of the Dundee Botanical Gardens in May guided by former curator and Abernethy resident Les Bisset.

Our AGM happens on 12 March when all members will be invited to vote on our new Constitution and choose the new Committee. We will also have presentations on our two main projects for the year ahead: the Abernethy Fruit Tree Trail and proposed improvements to the Nurse Peattie Memorial Garden at the entrance to the village.

The Trail is designed as an edible walking trail through and around the village for everyone to enjoy. The first sections of hedgerow: hazel, blackthorn, elder, dog rose and crab apple saplings, were planted in mid-November in the Den with the enthusiastic participation of children from Abernethy Primary. Phase two has identified several further locations including the Rough Glen/Coach Road where fruit trees will be planted in early Spring. The co-operation and support of various organisations and landowners, a wide range of age groups and interests throughout the village is making the Trail a real Community project.

News of all our activities can be found on our new website

<https://sites.google.com/site/abernethyhorticultural/home>

The days are definitely getting longer – Spring cannot be far behind and a whole new gardening year to enjoy!

**Caroline Boyle Secretary**

### Diary of forthcoming AHS events

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March | AGM & presentation of projects for coming year  |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> April  | Beautiful Perth – A talk by the deputy chair of the Beautiful Perth scheme and founder member of Perth In Bloom, Euna Scott MBE |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> May   | A guided tour of Dundee Botanic Gardens with ex-curator Les Bisset. Time to be confirmed  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June  | The Monastic Garden in Scotland, by Marilyn Brown, author of 2012 publication "Scotland's Lost Gardens"                         |
| June                   | The Annual AHS Road Trip - venue and time to be confirmed   |

## NEWBURGH SHIPS AND SHIPWRECKS



The year was 1841 and the shipyard was Alexander Stephen and Son, Arbroath and the barque "The Peruvian" had just been launched. The owner of this Vessel was Alexander Pitcaithly of Newburgh.

Even today there is very little manufacturing industry in Australia and 150 years ago there was even less. Boat owners like the Pitcaithly's, Williamson's, Laing's and the Wilson's from Newburgh took advantage of this lucrative trade in the hope of making their fortune. The risks were immense as these were vast sea journeys.

The maiden voyage was from Dundee to New York thereafter she sailed out of Liverpool and London to visit ports in India, South America and Australia.

On February 27, 1846, the vessel sailed out of Sydney heading for China under the command of Captain George Pitkethly, Alexander's son. He was accompanied by his wife Elizabeth Ruxton. Able seaman James Murrells was also on board, along with the captain's brother Alex and his friend James Wilson.

Interestingly, the voyage started on a Friday, a day that sailors have always considered unlucky for setting sail.

As soon as the seafarers cleared the Sydney Heads the winds began to blow hard and did so for a week, with the Peruvian making a swift journey time as a result.

A fortnight after leaving Sydney Heads no sail was left on the masts as it was forced to be shortened more and more with the wind blowing a gale around the clock. Then following a day of calm, everyone was relieved.

But then disaster struck.

There was said to be great anxiety on both sides of the river Tay when the ship was reported overdue. The Peruvian collided with the Horseshoe Reef on the outer Great Barrier reef in the dead of night. The second mate was thrown overboard and the captain's brother Alex was swept out to sea, never to be seen again.

Desperate times call for desperate measures and the crew of 21 sailors cleverly managed to construct, using the masts and spars of the Peruvian, a raft equipped with a small sail.

All the while they had to deal with an extreme culture shock adjusting to an archaic Stone Age existence, no mean feat after having spent their lives in civilised Victorian society.

This was exacerbated by physically harsh endurance and food rationed to only four tablespoons of preserved meat a day.

After being at sea for 42 days they landed at the southern point of Cape Cleveland. Only seven of the crew remained and they were in a very weak condition, the others perished at sea. Among the survivors were the Captain, Elizabeth, Wilson and Murrells. Once on shore, the castaways encountered Aborigines who helped them recover their strength and they went on to take part in tribal food gatherings. The Captain, Wilson and Elizabeth died, Murrells, however, continued in this way of life for a remarkable 14 years before returning to civilisation.

Meanwhile back in the UK, and never hearing from the doomed expedition, the trustees of the Williamson's estate, Williamson's being shareholders in the Peruvian, decided that they were all dead and they would build a Memorial hall with the family money. David Williamson and other family members decided to contest this decision but they failed to convince others of the rights of their claim and so the Williamson Hall was built in Abernethy.

Morrell later became an advisor to the Australian Government, doing his best to protect Aboriginal rights.

Name & Address supplied.

## YOUR BOWLING CLUB NEEDS YOU

Please come along to the opening of the green on Saturday 12th April at 2pm and enjoy a game of bowls and some local hospitality.



## ABERNETHY KEEP ACTIVE CLUB



Abernethy Keep Active Club sessions are now held on a weekly basis on **Mondays** from **12.30 - 1.30 pm**

There is a small cost weekly to meet the instructor and hall fees.

**Cost per session: £3.00**

The exercises run from 12.30 to 1.30 pm; doors will be open from 12 noon. Refreshments will be available for people who wish them, with a separate donation requested to cover costs.

The club is organised by community residents Evelyn Scobie and Pat Miller and led by fully qualified activity instructor James Knight. It has been very well attended and we would like to offer our thanks to the local community as it is your support that has made this a success!

Participants should wear suitable clothing and footwear. We are keen that people from Abernethy & District who are interested in taking part, have an opportunity to do so. If someone has difficulty with transport we would ask they contact us, as we may be able to help.

**The club welcomes new people so please come along and join in the fun!**

For more information on the Abernethy Keep Active Club please contact:

Evelyn Scobie: 01738 850496 or mobile 07719240294

Patricia Miller: 01738 850879 or mobile 07849 152693

Lynne Crow at Healthy Communities Collaborative: 01738 473718

Abernethy Keep Active Club is supported by Perth & Kinross Healthy Communities Collaborative joint partners with NHS Tayside and Perth & Kinross Council.

## TAY LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP

(<http://taylp.org>)

### UPDATE

As a result of staff issues last year in the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, former lead partner in the scheme, it was decided that the P&K Heritage Trust should take over the lead for the delivery phase.

Due to the legal and contractual repercussions of such a change, there has been a delay in preparing for the delivery phase of the scheme, meaning that March/April is now the likely start date.

There will be two projects with special reference to Abernethy, viz. 'Ancient Abernethy' and 'The Story of Abernethy'. For ongoing developments and general information see the TayLP website above, as well as the village website (<http://www.abernethyvillage.co.uk>). Things should start to happen in the spring, and further contact details will become available.

At the time of writing—the end of January—the scheme manager for the delivery phase (about 4 years) has already been appointed, and the rest of the team should be in place quite soon.

**Angus Macintyre.**

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TO ADVERTISE  
WITH  
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## JUNIOR RYDER CUP

As if you didn't already know, for one week in September 2014, the best golfers in Europe and the USA will tee off in Perthshire doing battle for the most coveted team trophy in golf. Worldwide coverage from the media will be non-stop as they cover every shot in every match and most shots in every practice match; as they catch the who's who of anything when these household names march alongside the general public to watch the captivating matches.

Of course I refer to the Ryder Cup BUT did you know that very same week on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> the Junior Ryder Cup is played in Perthshire as well? The event is being staged over the Rosemount course of The Blairgowrie Golf Club and showcases golfing superstars of the future.

Exaggeration? Past players include Rory McIlroy, Hunter Mahan, Sergio Garcia and Suzann Pettersson. Players from the 2012 match at Olympia Fields have already played in European Tour or USPGA events – granted not household names, but 'google' them i.e. Harang Lee and Beau Hossler (USA), Dominic Foos, Matthias Schwab, Emily Pederson (Europe). In fact 'google' for the 2012 teams and from both sides there are guaranteed players who will become household names.

It is not uncommon at the Junior event to see the stars of the Ryder Cup watching, assisting and chatting as they too take in the spectacle of the Junior Ryder Cup. Certainly there is not the hype or razzmatazz that goes alongside "Samuel Ryder's" trophy, but there is no less determination, skill or camaraderie from the Junior teams who are determined to win the trophy for their respective continents.



**BLAIRGOWRIE**  
SCOTLAND 2014

The Junior teams are made up of the best under 18 amateur golfers on each continent. Each team includes 6 boys and 6 girls with a format of Fourball better ball and Foursomes on day 1 and Singles on day 2; slightly different from the Ryder Cup but again no less competitive.

Come and watch! Entry to this event is free. Several thousand spectators are expected and are being planned for. There will be golf games for spectators; for kids Clubgolf, a Scottish Government initiative to introduce golf to all kids in primary school from 9 years of age that has been very successful and popular since its introduction, are running events from Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. This also takes in the practice days for the Junior teams where spectators can get that little bit closer to watching how these talented golfers practice and ply their trade. Get Into Golf is the 'adult' version of Clubgolf. If you always wanted to 'get into golf' but have been apprehensive, here is your chance, again, free of charge. The Blairgowrie Golf Club also celebrates its 125<sup>th</sup> year in 2014, so the event coincides beautifully. Walking around the wonderful Blairgowrie courses (there are 3 – Rosemount, Lansdowne and the Wee Course) amongst the heathland setting, watching golf, will inspire you to play, or at least give it a shot. The opportunities are there at The Blairgowrie Golf Club to do this.

Perthshire will never (okay, probably never) get this opportunity again to showcase some of the world's best golfers and most of the future stars of golf in one week. The Ryder Cup is the spectacle with tickets like hens' teeth. The Junior Ryder Cup is bubbling under and will become a spectacle, and its happening on your doorstep, is free to enter and promises to be as competitive as it will be at Gleneagles.

So don't forget, Rosemount, The Blairgowrie Golf Club between Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September will host The Junior Ryder Cup and showcase stars of the future. You could be there!

### **Itinerary**

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Practice Day

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> – Practice Day and Opening ceremony

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - (am) Fourball Better Ball (pm) Foursomes

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Singles followed by closing ceremony

**Doug Cleeton**

## BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The Burns Club Of Abernethy held its annual Burns Supper on Saturday 1st February in the Williamson Hall.

A full house was in attendance with artists from a' the airts.

Jimmy Swan, President, opened the evening welcoming all present.

The Haggis was piped in by James Rodger and was addressed by Jim Aitken with his usual gusto.

Peter Scott from Greenloaning was the proposer of the Toast to the Immortal memory of Robert Burns.

Eva Sparreboom, from Holland, entertained the audience with some fine fiddling.

Sandy MacKinnon toasted the Lassies and his wife Angela replied.

One of the most entertaining moments is Tam O Shanter, this was performed by Jim Aitken

Kenneth MacIver entertained with some Burns songs ably accompanied by Edna Auld.

This year a donation will be given to the new Cub/Scout group.

**Jimmy Swan**

## DEMENTIA AWARENESS

Are you interested in learning more about dementia in your community? Fiona Matthews, Dementia Advisor, is carrying out short information sessions to raise awareness about dementia. If you are interested in a session being held in Abernethy, please contact one of the names below:

Evelyn Scobie: 01738 850496 or mobile 07719240294  
Patricia Miller: 01738 850879 or mobile 07849 152693  
Lynne Crow at Healthy Communities Collaborative: 01738 473718

**CLOSING DATE FOR ARTICLES  
FOR THE NEXT EDITION IS  
31.5.2014**

## YOU ARE IMPORTANT



You will have seen in the last edition that we have reached our five year milestone. In that time we have published a great deal of information about what has been happening in the village and also many recollections of what has happened in the village in earlier years. Several residents have told of their experiences growing up in the region and others have told of their experiences in life, coloured of course by their formative years in this community. All of this information is available on our website, [www.villagecrier.co.uk](http://www.villagecrier.co.uk), where any of the issues of The Crier can be downloaded in its entirety. In addition the website has brought together the contents of each issue under topic headings. For instance all the recollections can be found in one section, all the information about the children's organisations can be found in one section. In this way we hope to build a resource which will be of value in years to come for those people looking back on Abernethy to see what it was like in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The museum currently has to search all sorts of sources to find the information it needs to mount its annual display, how handy in future to be able to find a central source giving useful leads to start those searches.

This article is not about blowing our own trumpet, however, but is about getting your support for The Crier by submitting regular updates about what has been happening in the various social, sporting, educational, recreational groups in the village. It has been the case that the content of The Crier has decreased over the last year as fewer organisations are giving regular updates and the updates we do receive are getting smaller. The issues have dropped from 24 pages to 20 pages and we need more input from you our readers, without it we cannot continue. If you know anyone who has an interesting story to tell us try and get them to write it down for us, and if you are a member of any group in the district then please try to ensure that someone is providing us with updates.

Thank you

## FROM OUR PERTH & KINROSS COUNCILLOR

May I start this, my first article for Abernethy Town Crier, by introducing myself.

I am Henry Anderson and I am one of the three Councillors who represent you in what is called Almond and Earn Ward 9. I am so grateful to have this opportunity by the good folk of The Crier to highlight some issues that the Community have currently. As most of my business interests have always involved a large element of driving and transport, I have decided my first article will focus on transport issues in Abernethy

The most controversial issue at the moment is parking at the memorial in the square. I realise that parking on-street in front of someone's house by another driver, is very annoying, but is not an offence, as long as it is not blocking access out of the property, i.e. driveway and garage.

Unfortunately homeowners/tenants have no rights regarding on street parking if there is no space beside their own property, then they will have to find an alternative safe parking location. Parking on a pavement or on a junction restricting the view of drivers entering or egressing the junction is an offence. Parking on a blind corner is also prohibited; parking causing an obstruction where emergency vehicles cannot get access is also an offence.

The only way a car can perhaps get parked near to the person's home is with a disabled sticker. They can park in a space specified disabled. If a person was living in a house and they were registered as disabled they could ask the council if they could have a disabled bay near to their house. If the council deemed the area suitable for a disabled bay then this may get the registered disabled person parking beside their property.

I have discussed the merits of parking restrictions in the area, but to be honest, I cannot see any merits in having no parking in the centre of Abernethy.

Lastly trailers can be parked for loading and unloading; after the operation is completed it would be courteous for them to be removed from the street. Long term on street parking of trailers is not permitted.

Another issue brought to my attention was the use of the core paths for trials motorbikes; this is not permitted for two reasons. Most obvious are the safety issues: pedestrians, dogs, and cyclists, mixed with powerful motorbikes is not a good idea and cannot be allowed to happen. Core paths are for the public, dog walkers, joggers, and pedal cycling in a safe environment. Motorbikes are most definitely excluded.

The other reason is these machines cause a great deal of erosion to the footpaths and spoil it for others. I am sure these bikers can find an alternative to the footpaths.

If one can cast one's mind back to Christmas 2013 the Abernethy to Newburgh road was blocked because of flooding caused by the heavy rain that occurred in the days prior. I can happily report that due to some excellent cooperation between the landowners, Perth & Kinross Council roads dept., and Fife Council roads dept. the culvert has been repaired and hopefully we will not have any more flooding at the County Boundary.

I notice that we still have a large amount of surface water at Backdykes opposite the garage when we have heavy rain. I shall talk to the roads dept on this subject ASAP and try to get some resolve for that area. If you wish to discuss these, or you have any other issues concerning PKC services please do contact me [handerson@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:handerson@pkc.gov.uk) or 01738475039

## ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB



The Tennis Club has had another good season with play possible on most Club nights through the year. We have had a good turnout for the coaching sessions held in the holidays – after all the youngsters are the life blood of the club! We are hoping to run Junior and Senior Competitions this year.

The Club had a very successful fund raising night in the form of a Race Night. The Committee would like to thank all Sponsors and the people who came along on the night for making it so good. A date for your diaries – Race Night Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014 in Williamson Hall -see you there!

The AGM is being held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in the Crees Inn at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to come along. The Committee will require some new members this year as some of our number are standing down. If you are interested in helping out please get in touch with me on [enid8018@aol.co.uk](mailto:enid8018@aol.co.uk) before the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

We look forward to welcoming new members and seeing all our current members in the coming season, which begins on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

**Enid Campbell Secretary Abernethy Tennis Club 5  
Ross Street Kinross KY13 8EF**

# ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH NEWS



We have been sad to say farewell to Rev Duncan Stenhouse, locum minister, who has served the Parish so well. Thank you to everyone who made a donation to his leaving presentation. The amount given from folks at Abernethy and Glenfarg was over £700.

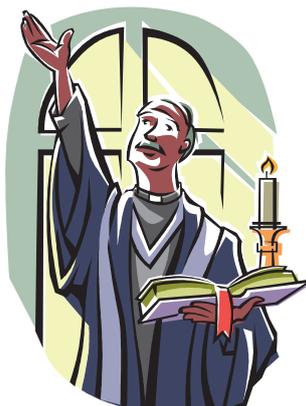
We are delighted at the arrival of our new minister, Rev. Moira Herkes who was formally welcomed at a packed united service at Glenfarg on 21<sup>st</sup> January. Thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of the evening at either the church or village hall.

## A message from Rev Moira Herkes

New faces, new places, new ideas, new home and new relationships. You would think after thirty years as a Church of Scotland minister in different parishes, it would be just a doddle, but if it were so easy, then there would be no challenge, no sense of excitement. Every community has different needs and opportunities. I very much hope to be able to become part of this community in the widest sense, because of course I promised at the recent induction service to be the PARISH minister, not just minister to the congregation.

The congregation however has to play a large part in helping me come to know and understand the wider community. The church has been present in this area for many centuries. There are people who would say that makes the church an historical anomaly but I believe the church should be a living presence, aware of the needs and changes of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, recognising that society evolves but the basic emotional and spiritual needs of people remain the same. As Minister I will try to meet these needs to the best of my ability. Kind regards to you all.

**Moira Herkes**



## For 2014

- Sunday worship is at 9.30 am with Sunday club for children during the service
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of the month from 10.30am – 12.00; “Open doors” come and join in for a cuppa and a blether. All will be welcomed
- March, 9<sup>th</sup> at 9.30 am ; Communion service at Abernethy
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> **no church service at Abernethy.** Instead, Annual stated meeting at Arngask Church, Glenfarg, 10.30 am
- May 10<sup>th</sup>. 10am - 12 noon, Church coffee morning and sale, Williamson Hall
- Perth and Kinross foodbank; donations of UHT / powdered milk, sugar, cartons of juice, tinned food, coffee, tea etc are required for the food bank in St Catherines Rd, Perth. Please no perishables. Opening hours are Mon-Fri 2-4pm. A box for donations is in the church vestibule. More information, if required, from Kathleen Baird, 01337 840 218.
- There's also more information about your local church on the website at <http://www.abernethydronarngaskchurch.org.uk>

**Celia King**

## SENIOR CITIZENS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th April in Masonic Hall 10am - 12noon. Usual stalls. See posters on notice board and in shop for fuller details.





## ABERNETHY PLAYGROUP

Please bring your child along for some fun

We are under NEW Management and a NEW Committee

Sessions run: Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings 9.30am - 12noon in the Williamson Hall, Kirk Wynd, Abernethy

Cost: £6.00 per session which includes a healthy snack

Age group: Pre-school - 2yrs to 5 yrs

**FIRST session FREE**

Registration forms available by contacting

Marie Donnachie, Chairperson on

Tel: - 01738 850699 or Mob: - 07707652326

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

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## ABERNETHY CUBS & BEAVERS



As some of you may already know, I am pleased to inform the readers that the Cubs and Beavers are again running in Abernethy. The Beavers and Cubs are held on Tuesday evenings during School term time at the Pavilion in Powrie Park and are open to both boys and girls. The Beavers being for ages six to eight and Cubs from ages eight to ten and a half years respectively, hopefully in the future we may even grow an Abernethy Scout Pack.

The Cubs and Beavers are doing the Scottish challenge badge this term and I write this after our successful Burns supper which saw some great recitals from the Cubs after they enjoyed their haggis neeps and tatties washed down with our other national drink of Irn Bru (sugar free I hasten to add), I would also like to thank Ian Bett and Jimmy Swan for attending on behalf of the Abernethy Burns Club.

Part of the Scottish challenge is to learn about our local community and as well as our planned walk around the village in conjunction with Abernethy Museum, I have challenged the Cubs to find the oldest Scout and the oldest surviving Scout in Abernethy. From the records available we have been able to ascertain that the Scouts were first registered in Abernethy on 29th September 1923 being held at the then Abernethy School, although it has been suggested that they may have been running for a couple of years before they officially registered. so if you have any memories that you would like to share about your Cub / Scout experience or any photos or mementos than please get in contact.

I would also like to thank Mr Alan MacGregor of Binn Skips who has kindly offered to give the group a donation which will allow us to operate without too much concern regarding the Scout group Funds, this in turn allows us to fully concentrate on the Cub and Beaver evenings and the training required as leaders.

Lastly I would like to thank James Cook, Stephen Trotter and Lorraine Kinnear (who likes to be addressed as Baloo if you see her in the street) and for the Committee for their time and effort for starting the group up again.

**Gordon Miller**

## ABERNETHY IN THE GREAT WAR

We are approaching the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Already there are war documentaries on TV, and events and exhibitions are being planned to mark the four years of industrial-scale carnage, as the great European-based empires locked horns. It resulted in a death toll of millions, the likes of which had never previously been known. While it is rightly labelled a world war, it is perhaps at the local scale that we can best connect with the impact the war had on the lives of ordinary people. With this in mind the Museum of Abernethy put on an exhibition last May showing the impact of the war on our parish. Many communities up and down the land will be unearthing WW1 memorabilia for similar projects. I write this by way of a progress report on the museum's WW1 project. I must stress that we do not consider the display as shown last year to be the final and definitive word on Abernethy 1914-18. In some shape or form it will stay on view for the next four years. Additions and adaptations will be made if more artefacts and information come to light. So I make a plea for help in the following areas:-

**Photographs.** We want to build up as complete a set of pictures as possible of the young men of the parish who fought in the war. This will form an album. Photos will be scanned and the originals returned. Also we have in the museum a batch of WW1 photos of people whose names we do not know. Help us to identify them if you can.

**The War Dead.** Thirty men of the parish died serving their country. Their names are on the war memorial. We have information relating to most of them, though not all. Some of them may have had only a brief connection with the parish as farm servants. However we have an album entitled *Abernethy's War Dead* and it would only be fitting to make this as comprehensive a record as we can manage, one century on.

**Roll of Honour.** Some years ago David Monteith gave us an artistically penned roll of honour listing all the Abernethy men in uniform. I later came upon a news item from the *People's Journal* about a fund-raising sale of work. The report, headed *Comforts for Abernethy Soldiers* stated that "One of the attractions of the sale was a beautifully executed roll of honour for the parish, designed and presented by Mr Arbuckle, Bridge of Earn. Copies of the roll were on sale and realised over £7." The total raised was £92. There are 125 men named on the roll. I assume that this is the same roll of honour that we now have. Since the report was written on 30/9/1916, there was obviously

time for quite a few more conscripts to be absorbed into the war machine before hostilities ended in Nov. 1918. So if you examine this listing in the museum and know of anyone who should be added to this list do let us know names and details. Again we want to compile as complete a database as we can, ideally including everyone who took part. While we mourn and respect those who died we should also try our best to follow up the life stories of those who survived. How did the war affect them and their families? I am sure there are many anecdotes that relatives of survivors could still tell. Incidentally there is one solitary woman listed on the roll of honour, Nurse Dixon. It would be good to have her story.

**Artefacts.** Of course we are still interested in any artefacts which relate to the war, though with limited space we would not necessarily show duplicates of any items already on display.

The present display covers the following themes:-

Enlistment: Some Abernethy Servicemen: Belgians and Serbs in Abernethy: Life on the Home Front: Awards for Gallantry: The Lieut G.R. Clow Collection: The War Memorial.

There are also nine loose leaf albums or files which contain images and text. More work will be done on these. The titles are:-

Abernethy's War Dead

Abernethy Service men: a database

Abernethy Servicemen: a Photographic Record

Abernethy School in the Great War

The Town Council of Abernethy (1914-1919)

Local Press Articles on Abernethy (1914-1919)

The War Memorial of Abernethy

A Great War Scrapbook

Lieut G.R. Clow, an Abernethy Officer

Call along to the museum on a Tuesday if you have items to show us, or call the museum on 01738 850 889, or email [secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk](mailto:secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk). Over the next few issues, if the editor agrees, we may include some more snippets from the local press coverage of the war years; tales of gallantry, of local black marketeering, of foreigners in our midst, and more. The museum opens for the new season in early May.

**Bill Drever**

# "Golfers, Keep Your Eye on the Ball"

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It is here that the Junior Ryder Cup is being played.

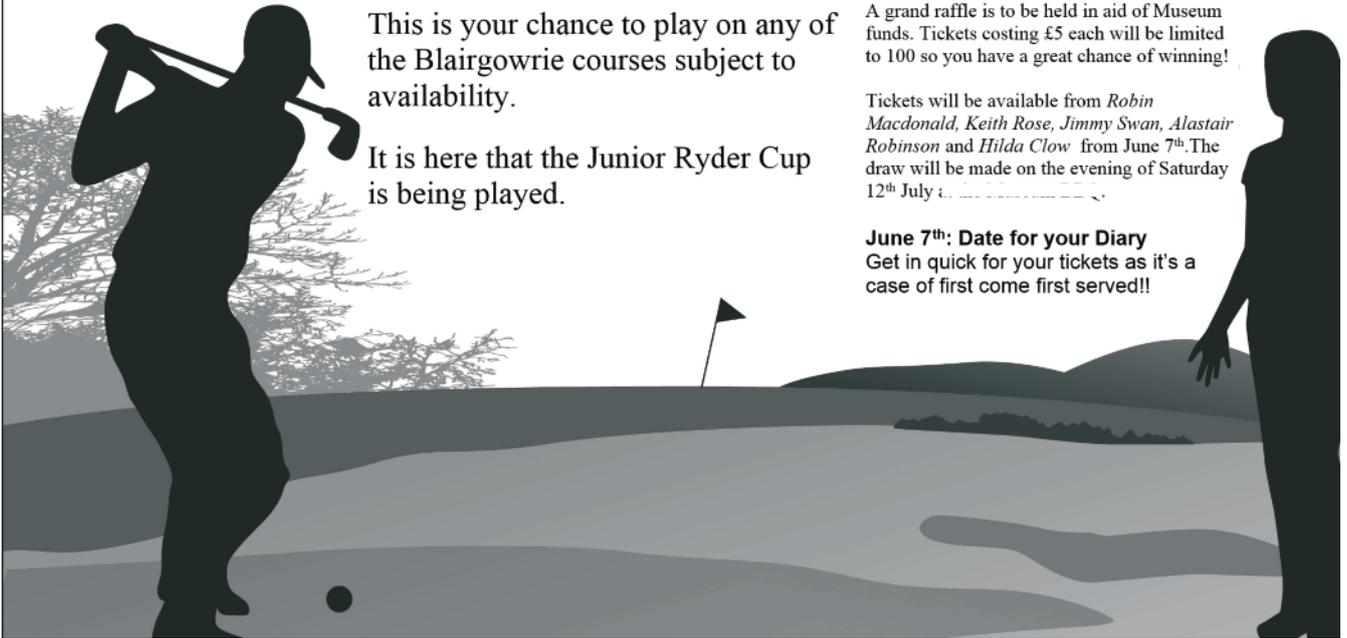
### How to enter

A grand raffle is to be held in aid of Museum funds. Tickets costing £5 each will be limited to 100 so you have a great chance of winning!

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

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

Get in quick for your tickets as it's a case of first come first served!!



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(Draw takes place on Monday 1st September 2014. Only named players who have paid in full will be entered for the chance to win tickets)

## BAL D'HIVER

A large and enthusiastic crowd enjoyed French country dancing and delicious food at the Bal d'Hiver in the Williamson Hall on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Kate and Roddy of 'Dancing Feet' Ceilidh Band tour France every year and teach Scottish Ceilidh and country dances to the French. Now it was the turn of local people to learn some of the simpler French dances.

After an afternoon workshop to introduce the dances we enjoyed a delicious meal of Cassoulet, French bread, Brie, Camembert and Tarte au Pommes, all provided by Hatter's catering who only took a donation towards the cost of the food.

During the sound check there were impromptu demos of Circle Dancing and Belly Dancing before we all took to the floor to try and remember the dances we had learned at the workshop.

The dancing would not earn many points on 'Strictly' but it was hilarious friendly fun.

Thanks to Kate and Roddy for organising such a great evening.

We had a ball. (or Bal!)  
A.H.



## NOTABLE PEOPLE WITH THE SURNAME ABERNETHY

Alan Abernethy (born 1957), Irish bishop

Alexander de Abernethy (died ca. 1315), Scottish magnate

Arthur Talmage Abernethy (1872–1956), journalist, theologian, poet; first North Carolina Poet Laureate

Bob Abernethy (born 1927), American television journalist

Bruce Abernethy (born 1962), Australian rules football player

Charles Laban Abernethy (1872–1955), American politician

James Abernethy (1814–1896), British civil engineer

Jim Abernethy (born 1902), Australian rules footballer

Liam Abernethy (born 1929), Irish hurler

Lord Abernethy, hereditary title in the Peerage of Scotland

John Cameron, Lord Abernethy (born 1938), a Senator of the College of Justice of Scotland

Milton A. Abernethy (died 1991), American journalist, magazine editor, business owner, and stockbroker

Moirra Abernethy (born 1939), South African swimmer

Robert Abernethy (born 1971), Australian swimmer

## ABERNETHY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Dates of Meetings** –Wednesday Evenings, 7.30pm.  
Venue: Primary School Abernethy

### 2014

January 22<sup>nd</sup>

February 26<sup>th</sup>

March 19<sup>th</sup>

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

May 21<sup>st</sup> – This will be the AGM

June 18<sup>th</sup>

July – No meeting

**DID YOU KNOW.....**in 1907 Richard Burdon Haldane, 1st Viscount Haldane, Secretary of State for War addressed the people of Abernethy. He informed them, at a public meeting, the Government was to purchase it's horseshoes from America, as they were 15% - 20% cheaper than buying from Britain.



## STARS IN THE MUD

Three village riders and four village ponies were rewarded for all their hard work with their ponies in 2013. They left the mud for the AGM of the Tayside Branch of the Scottish Endurance Riding Club on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> February.

The youngest competitor, Imogen Graham (11) won the Novice Horse Trophy for her first season with Fenella. She won the Native Pony Trophy as Fenella is a pure -bred Connemara and also a rosette for completing 500km in Endurance rides. There are junior classes but Imogen was competing against adults for these trophies.

Imogen's Mum, Kirstie Graham won the Veteran Horse Trophy and the Highest Mileage (in one season) and her 3,500km rosette with her Arab/Welsh pony Arabelle. Kirstie said, "I am really thrilled because Arabelle won the Highest Mileage trophy in 2006 and now she has had a break to have a foal and come back to win it again."

Anne McDonald Scott has her mantelpiece piled high with trophies from her two competition horses. Her pure bred Arab, Smokey, was placed in the Highest Mileage category and Claire de Lune (age 21) won the Super Veteran Trophy as well as two others and gained her 1500km rosette.

These mileages are mostly achieved at a trot or a canter because there is no time to hang around. There are regular vet inspections to take care of the horses' welfare. In competitions no whips are carried so if the horse has had enough it will refuse to leave the venue. These winning ponies love the excitement and eagerly leave the venue with their ears pricked forward enjoying the adventure. **AH**



## WHAT'S ON IN ABERNETHY



<http://www.williamsonhall.org.uk/whats-on-in-abernethy/>

We also have a Links page which lists pretty much every website or Facebook group I know of that is Abernethy related. I'm also planning to expand the regular events page to include anything which happens in the village - so Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Tennis Club, Badminton, Netball etc etc. Not sure when though as have a pile of funding applications for the hall to write too!

Like I explained, while the site belongs to Williamson Hall it features anything at all for the village on the What's On page. If nothing else it encourages people to look at the hall site and creates a good perception but we like to think it's a useful resource for folk. Site has been up and running for 10 months now and we average about 10 hits a day which is not bad going. We also link it to our Facebook page and the Abernethy Facebook group.

If you ever have anything which you think would benefit from being on here then just let me know.

**Sue Smith**

## SCOTT SUTHERLAND (The latest)

Scott is still training and playing for Dunfermline under 15s, he is also on Day Release from School to train with the Dunfermline First team.

Everton Football Club has invited him to take part in a trial later on in the year.

Scott also managed to fit in some training with the Scotland under 15 squad, this led to him being selected for the team to play against Switzerland in Switzerland.

His Dad and Grandad travelled with him, enjoying a great game where Scott scored two goals, one in the 6th minute and a further goal in 42nd minute.

Since then he has been training with the Scotland U15s team and has been selected to attend a training camp in Turkey.

**Evelyn Sutherland**

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### Entry requirements:

This year there are three categories

Primary 1 - 3	Up to 100 words
Primary 4 - 7	Up to 500 words
Secondary Pupils and Adults	Up to 1000 words

### How to Enter

Entries should be emailed to [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk), sent to 63, Brandywell Road or handed to any committee member.

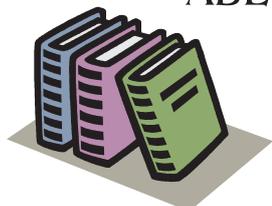
**Remember the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014**

Winning entries will appear in future editions of The Crier.

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

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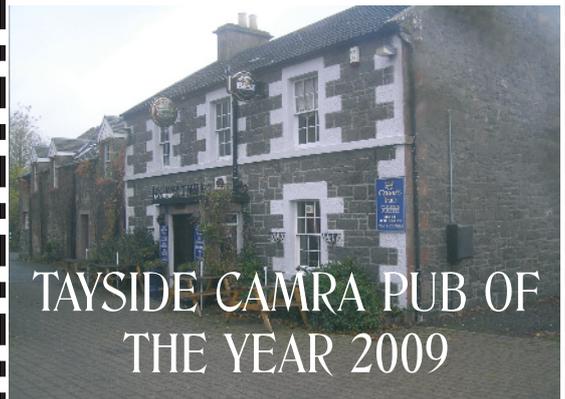


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