



EDITION 40 September 2018

Closing date for articles for the next edition is 31.10.18

It has been a great summer and the village was looking very colourful with tubs, containers and hanging baskets, organised and maintained by the Abernethy in Bloom volunteers.

I think I am right in saying there was a record number of entries for the village flowering container competition.

Below is one of the many entries, Lorna Irving's flowering lady. Isn't it amazing all the things you can do with a latex blow up doll !!!!!





LETTERS TO THE ED

Dear Ed

I enjoyed the article in the last Crier, the interview with Janet Paton. She wasn't quite right about the weavers, as not all weavers' houses had upstairs dwellings and downstairs loom stance. Alma Cottage had a loom shed at the rear, still can be seen, Rose Cottage also had a loom shed at the rear and was a single storey cottage, and Ivy Cottage had an extension at the rear of the building for the loom stance and a single storey.

Name and address supplied

THE GREAT WAR

By the time the December Crier pops through your door the war on the Western Front will be over, the guns will have fallen silent.

We have been running the World War 1 timeline for the four years of commemoration and we hope it has been of interest. In this edition it will run from September to the Armistice on the 11th day of the 11th month, 1918.

Silver Lining

Hair Studio



Ladies

Gents

01738 851110

Situated above Jamesfield Farm shop
and restaurant in Abernethy



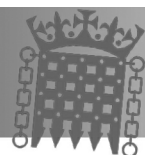
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Please note ALL articles must be accompanied with a name and address BEFORE they will be published in the Crier.
On request, the name and address may be withheld from publication.
Any submission without these details will NOT be printed.

SUMMER SURGERY TOUR

SURGERIES

with Luke Graham MP



WEDNESDAY 25TH JULY

1.00pm Alloa Constituency Office, 38 Primrose Street, Alloa
2.30pm Menstrie Parish Church
4.00pm Blairingone, Street Surgery

THURSDAY, 26TH JULY

1.00pm Powmill, Street Surgery
2.30pm Drum, Street Surgery
4.00pm Cleish, Street Surgery

SATURDAY, 28TH JULY

9.45am Forgandenny, Street Surgery
11.00am Forteviot, Street Surgery
12.30pm Dunning, Street Surgery

MONDAY 30TH JULY

1.30pm Rumbling Bridge, Street Surgery
3.00pm Carnbo, Street Surgery
4.15pm Unorthodox Roasters, 129 High Street, Kinross

FRIDAY 3RD AUGUST

1.30pm Rhynd, Street Surgery
3.00pm Bridge of Earn Institute
4.00pm The Session House, School Wynd, Abernethy

MONDAY 6TH AUGUST

11.00am Dollar, Street Surgery
12 noon Tillicoultry, Street Surgery
1.30pm Alva CAP, West Stirling Street

TUESDAY 7TH AUGUST

10.30am Blackford, Street Surgery
11.45am Auchterarder Community Church Centre
1.00pm Aberuthven, Street Surgery

WEDNESDAY 8TH AUGUST

10.30am Tomaukin Hotel, Glendevon
11.45am Crook of Devon, Street Surgery

THURSDAY 9TH AUGUST

10.00am Muthill, Street Surgery
11.15am Braco, Street Surgery
12.45pm Greenloaning, Street Surgery

MONDAY 13TH AUGUST

10am Madderty, Street Surgery
11.15am Fowls Wester, Street Surgery

TUESDAY 14TH AUGUST

10.00am Coalsnaughton, Street Surgery
11.00am Fishcross, Street Surgery
12.15pm Tullibody, Street Surgery

WEDNESDAY 15TH AUGUST

2.00pm Methven, Street Surgery
3.00pm Huntingtower, Street Surgery
4.15pm Almondbank, Street Surgery

THURSDAY 16TH AUGUST

10.00am Bankfoot, Street Surgery
11.15am Luncarty, Street Surgery
12.45pm Glenfarg, Street Surgery
1.45pm Balgedie, Street Surgery

FRIDAY 17TH AUGUST

10.00am St Fillans, Street Surgery
11.00am Comrie, Street Surgery
12 noon Crieff Constituency Office, 2 Comrie Street, Crieff, PH7 4AX
2.00pm Milnathort, Street Surgery
3.00pm Portmoak, Street Surgery

No appointment necessary but it would be helpful if you could let me know in advance if you plan to attend. Thank you!

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ABERNETHY IN BLOOM



Since our last update in May our dedicated band of volunteers have been working hard to plant all our containers for the summer. We have received such great feedback from the community about how good all the container, railing and hanging basket displays look this year. It makes it all worthwhile. However, it doesn't end there. This very hot spell of weather has meant that the extra watering required has been an additional burden on what would normally be expected. We therefore thank all those who are helping with the watering to give the displays that extra TLC. Our new water pump rig, designed and built in house by Abernethy In Bloom has played a huge role in aiding the watering task. In the meantime, work continues to keep Nurse Peattie's Garden a welcome place to share with all. There may just have been a touch of magic with a few golden additions.

Nurse Peattie's Garden was looking especially colourful for the Open garden event on the 5th May. The spring flowering was admired by all who visited the garden from far and wide. The Burnside, a development project for this year, was looking especially colourful and was a hit with the visitors. Abernethy In Bloom received a welcome financial contribution by way of a percentage of the funds collected on the day.

To help with the identification of plants in Nurse Peattie's garden, a task to number and list all the planting in the garden is appreciated by all visitors. Copies of the plant listing are available at the entrance to the garden.

Following successful completion of the horse cart, it has been planted for the summer and is now looking particularly colourful. To celebrate its completion, Douglas Sinclair of East Dron farm, who had made the cart available to us, was joined by Abernethy In Bloom and Branston staff for a photo shoot to record the return of the cart to its former glory. Many hours had been given to refurbishment of the cart before it was given its final coat of paint and a new location at the entry to the Branston potato packing site.

The Branston staff have also helped with the restoration of the original Fruit Tree Trail including the Williamson Hall park fruit trees, the blueberry hedge, and the four fruit tree beds at Powrie Park. Wild flower seeds donated by the Kew gardens project will be added to the beds for display next year.

The Beavers' planter has been moved from opposite Nurse Peattie's Garden to take pride of place in Powrie Park where it has been planted up and cared for by the Beavers. The Sensory Garden now has a well maintained look and with help from Abernethy In Bloom is being carefully looked after by the Cubs. These activities will play an important part in the forthcoming judging for 'Pride In Perthshire' and 'Beautiful Scotland' events.

Abernethy 'Pride In Perthshire' judging will take place on Thursday 2nd August between 1200 and 1330. We were also encouraged to enter the judging for 'Beautiful Scotland' which will take place on the 8th August between 1600 and 1800. The proposed routes for both competitions are similar; starting at the Memorial on Main Street, School Wynd, Powrie Park via Station Road, returning along Back Dykes via the roundabout at Brandywell Road passing the school and ending at Nurse Peattie's Garden.

This year we are hoping to improve on our success in 2016 when we were awarded a Silver Gilt and Best New Entry award. How successful we are being very much dependent on the participation of the whole village. It is therefore good to see the increase in additional floral displays being displayed by the community.

Judging for the fourth Village Container and Best Street competition took place on the 28th July and despite a change in the weather to a wet and windy day, the village community excelled with their beautiful floral displays with a bumper entry for this year's competition. Support for this annual competition increases each year adding to the display of colour throughout the village. A sample of the pot displays will be located at the Museum to catch the 'Pride In Perthshire' and 'Beautiful Scotland' judges eye as an example of the Abernethy community's involvement in all we do.

Ideas for development of the grass area at Hatton Road continue to be received which supports the initiative to develop this space into a community rest area. A review of the ideas submitted will be considered in the autumn before an application for funding is made.

Our project to refurbish two old sailing boats is on hold as we have been unable to locate a covered area where the work required could be progressed in the latter part of the year. If anyone has or knows of a covered area that could be made available to Abernethy In Bloom over the autumn and winter months, we would appreciate your help to make it available for our use.

If you would like to join us to help keep Abernethy bright and cheerful, we would be pleased to welcome you, at any

age, to join Abernethy In Bloom. No horticultural knowledge required and absolute beginners welcome. You will see us at Nurse Peattie's garden every Monday afternoon. If keen to join us please let us know or just come along.

Key Diary dates for 2018 are:

Saturday 28 July – Judging the fourth annual Village Container Competition

Thursday 2nd August – Pride In Perthshire judging 1200 to 1330

Wednesday 8th August – Beautiful Scotland judging 1600 to 1800

Saturday 13 October – Planting autumn bulbs

Friday 7 December 1830 – Annual Christmas tree lighting event

Ian Lamond, Secretary Abernethy in Bloom (Tel: 850186)

COMPLETION OF THE HORSE CART REFURBISHMENT PROJECT



Abernethy In Bloom and Branston got together with farmer Douglas Sinclair of East Dron Farm to record completion of the Horse Cart refurbishment project.

Douglas Sinclair helped rescue the cart from a field at his farm and after many hours of hard work in all weathers, the cart was restored to its former glory by members of Abernethy In Bloom and Branston staff. Branston gave the cart its final coats of paint before helping to move the cart to its new location at the entrance to the Branston Potato Packing Site.

The cart was completed in time for summer planting by Abernethy In Bloom and maintained by Branston to provide a wonderful display of colour for all the community to admire.

Ian Lamond

ABERNETHY S.W.I.



Our first meeting of the new session will be held on Wed 19th September 2018 when member Jane Sanderson will give a presentation on her trip to Kilimanjaro.

Competitions are: Holiday Photo and Flower of the Month.

Meetings are held in the Church Session House (unless otherwise stated) at 7.15pm on the third Wed of the month from September to May each year. New members and visitors are always welcome. Membership for 2018/2019 will be £27, visitors £3 per meeting.

Future Meetings will be as follows:

Wed 17 th October	Knitting with Wire – Gillian Skene Competitions: Favourite piece of jewellery & Flower of the Month.
Wed 21 st November	Cooking in a pan – C Taylor Competitions: Shortcrust Xmas pies and Flower of the Month.
Wed 19 th December	Christmas Party – venue TBA Pretty parcel about £5
2019	
Wed 16 th January	Bill Nicol – My time at BBC Mushroom Soup and Flower of the Month.
Wed 20 th February	Jay Hutchison – Needle Felting Favourite necklace and Flower of the Month.
Wed 20 th March	Talk by Ian Agnew – subject to be confirmed. Competitions: Jar of Jam and Flower of the Month.
Wed 17 th April	Open Night – Wiltshire Farm Foods – Laura Baird. Competitions: Small Apple Tart and Flower of the Month.
Wed 15 th May	AGM – Members Night. Competitions: Favourite Bowl and Flower of the Month.
It is also proposed to hold a Bingo Tea on Friday 19 th October, and a Quiz on Friday 22 nd February – details later.	

Please see village notice board each month for fuller details about meetings.

Should you have any queries about Abernethy SWI please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary Barbara Baird on 01337 840307 or President Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850477.

Evelyn Scobie

PATHS IN ABERNETHY

Abernethy is blessed to have a fantastic network of core paths that wind their way around the hills above our lovely village. It's a valuable health resource that promotes well being by encouraging physical exercise and, also, provides opportunities to get out into the countryside and put worries and concerns into perspective. The pub, tea-room and village shops all benefit from visitors who tramp round the paths then come and spend their hard earned cash afterwards.

If the paths aren't maintained properly, then eventually they become overgrown and we will lose these important facilities, so I'm happy to report lots of progress over the last couple of months.

When part of the old bridge at the very top of Kirk Wynd collapsed back in the spring of 2013, most people thought it wouldn't be long before it fell down completely. However, the original structure confounded expectations and kept on standing. In the meantime, a number of organisations came along to look at it and after much gnashing of teeth found they weren't able to help for quite understandable reasons. This summer, local farmer, Jack Lawrie decided to bite the bullet and replaced the dilapidated bridge with a great big culvert. As well as giving him access to his field of Swedes, Jack has removed the risk of the bridge collapsing while the burn was in spate and causing flooding in Kirk Wynd and Main Street as well as, obviously, improving our access to the hills.

Perth and Kinross Council has also been working hard maintaining the 108 steps and wooden bridge at the top of the Witches Road. They've repaired rotting wooden railing, replaced the gravel on the steps, strengthened the foundations of the bridge, as well as given the bridge a good clean. In addition, they commissioned tree surgeons to cut down a large dangerous tree in the Den which could easily have fallen on a passer-by. That would have spoiled their day a bit.

In June, the Abernethy Path Group volunteers: Stewart, Alistair and myself met with Dave, Jo and Peter from PKC. We volunteers were given thorough health and safety training in how to use PKC's lovely petrol trimmers and we then went off to clear the path around the horses' field up by the Glenfoot Road. A good days work, we thought. And then, as if by magic in the next couple of days, somebody else cleared away the undergrowth in the Witches' Road and the Rough Glen. I haven't found out who did this work, but he, she, or they, have made a real difference – Thank you!! Whoever you are.

So, all in all, the core path network around the village is actually in quite good condition and we can be proud to have such a valuable resource literally on our doorstep.

David Illingworth

CHURCH NEWS

Kirk of St Bride

Morning worship – Since we share a part-time minister, for **2018** the service will be in **Abernethy at 9.30 am** and in Glenfarg at 11 am. However, **on the last Sunday of each month we meet at 11am**, together with the Glenfarg part of our congregation, while alternating locations; Abernethy on the last Sunday of October and December and in Glenfarg in September and November. **There will be no service in Abernethy when the united service is in Glenfarg.**

Anyone wishing transport to Glenfarg may contact Kathleen Baird on 01337 840 218. Drinks and refreshments are served after the services. You will be very welcome to join us at either church.

Children's Sunday club meets in school term time during the morning service at each location. Please bring yourself and the children along for a time of fun, games, crafts, Bible stories and songs. Outwith term time there are toys and books in the adjacent hall cupboard for children to use.

Locum minister; We now have a new Locum minister; Rev Susan Thorburn who is with us initially for 6 months. We are very much appreciating her enthusiasm and helpful ministry.

Open Doors

The Church is open on Tuesday afternoon of 11th September and fortnightly thereafter. Teas, coffees and home baking are served in the adjacent hall between 2.30pm and 4pm. Come and spend some quiet time in the church and join us after for refreshments.

Ceilidh

On **Friday 21st September** We are planning an autumn ceilidh in the Williamson hall from 7-9 pm. This is an event for all ages and we hope lots of you will join in. A light supper will be served. See the separate notice.

Harvest Thanksgiving will be on Sunday 23rd September at 9.30am

Macmillan Coffee morning will be held in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 29th September at 10am.

Holy Communion will be in **Glenfarg** on Sun November 25th at 11am. There will be no service in Abernethy on that morning.

Village 'Welcome' packs

These packs contain useful village information, telephone numbers and activities in Abernethy. The plastic folders may be picked up from the church vestibules. If you want to welcome someone new moving in to your street, why not

collect a pack and add something to it – perhaps a packet of Abernethy biscuits or some flowers! The leaflets are also in the museum and Berryfields tearoom. The information will be updated regularly but if you are aware of any errors in the current version, please let Celia King know on Tel: 851 010.

Church/ adjacent Church hall bookings

The Church (with the Minister's permission) and the adjacent church hall are available for hire. To enquire about charges and book the facilities please contact Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850 477.

The Church premises are to be painted and lighting improved. Abernethy church building and adjacent hall will be closed for all uses, in September and the first week of October. Apologies for any inconvenience caused to those who usually meet there. Church services on Sundays will be held in the Williamson Hall at 9.30am and on the 30th of September will be in Arngask Church, Glenfarg at 11am. Come and see the improved version in October!

Church Website; www.ada-church.org.uk for further information.

Contact Details; Minister@ada-church.org.uk
Session.Clerk@ada-church.org.uk

Celia King

POETRY ANTHOLOGY

The Village Crier team have decided that they would like to publish an anthology of poems. This anthology would contain poems about Abernethy or written by inhabitants of Abernethy or written by past inhabitants of Abernethy. We will publish some of the poems we are looking at and would like to know whether our readers think we should proceed and what they may feel about any of the poems we print. All profits from the sale of the anthology will be used to support local enterprises and organisations. The first of these poems is published here and others will be found through this edition.

A FROSTY MORNING

The rime lies white upon the grass,
The hedges bear a mantle fair,
The road rings out with every step,
The breath steams in the sharpened air.

The sun peeps from a reddened sky,
Gilding the tree trunks gaunt and bare,
And through the bare boughs tracery,
The distant hills seem very near.

Brave patterns on the window pane,
Jack Frost has drawn with icy pen,
Icicles hang from the eaves,
Glittering like diamonds in the sun.

Ann K. Smart.

Rebuff to Des Lynam¹

I'm a regular viewer of Countdown
Like many a fellow Scot
And up to a week past Friday
I liked the show a lot
But Des, you had to spoil it
By commenting on the score
And since that awful day
I don't watch it anymore.
What was it that upset me
And made me feel sick?
The score at that point was nineteen - sixty six!!
The English never miss a chance
To remind us of that win
But you Des as an Irishman
Have committed a deadly sin.
But you can redress the balance
And give us Scots a turn
When thirteen-fourteen is the score
Just mention BANNOCKBURN

¹ *Des Lynam is a well known Sports commentator and was presenter on Grandstand, the BBC flagship sports programme. He also hosted Countdown for a spell after the death of Richard Whiteley.*

Letter to the Taxman

Again it seems I have been lax
In submitting my return for tax.
This fact to me was underlined
And my oversight was brought to mind
When the local postman handed in
Notice of punishment for my sin.
I had a sense of deep foreboding
As I opened up my notice of coding.
My guess was right, I knew the score,
Personal allowance - and nothing more.
At times I've yearned for single bliss,
'Cos bachelorhood was ne'er like this,
With wife and kids to clothe and feed
The cash I earn I really need, but to be reduced to single state
And still provide for self and mate
Plus kids and mortgage, also car.
This time I've let it go too far,
So my return I now enclose.
Tonight I'll rest in sweet repose
With confidence that Centre One ¹
Will see that justice now is done.

¹ *Centre One was the Scottish Tax Office at East Kilbride.*

The Museum of Abernethy

The Museum, this year, is open every Wednesday to Sunday from 1pm to 4pm until **30th September**.

We made the decision to change our opening hours to see if that helped with the numbers and it seems to have worked. That plus the better signage has seen our numbers of visitors increase by over 30% at this time which is marvellous!

Thank you to all the volunteers who help run the Museum both on the desk and behind the scenes - without you we could not function.

As with every business our running costs are ever increasing. We had a Bingo Tea on the 8th August, at the Tulloch Institute, to raise funds for the Museum. We are thrilled to announce that we made just under £1000. Huge thanks to all who have donated their time, prizes, baking and other food and supported us by participating in the fun and to all our excellent helpers, on the night, who did a sterling job. A very special thanks go to Eileen Milne and Vera Couttie who have been instrumental in organising this event and to our caller Sandra who did an excellent job.

Other fundraising this year to look forward to are:

1. A quiz in the Mason's Hall, Abernethy on the 26th October

Each team should consist of no more than four people and the cost to enter will be £20 per team. Don't worry if you cannot make up a full team, please still come and join us, we will only charge £5 per person and make up teams.

Come and join in the fun and bring your friends and family - we really need good numbers to make it a fun evening.

2. A big raffle over the season

Tickets will be available in the Museum soon. They will be £1 per ticket/£5 for a book.

There will be lovely prizes including an Afternoon Tea at Ballathie House for 2 and a lovely Christmas Hamper full of Wine and goodies to enjoy over the festive season.

We will draw the raffle in December so get your tickets to have a chance of winning a great prize.

3. Bob Macdonald's excellent Paper Quiz

These are available in the Museum now and also in Berryfields, the Crees, Jamesfield, the hairdressers in Bridge of Earn and Newburgh and the Brig. Do come into the Museum and pick up a quiz. They are only £1 and you could win £20 if you get all the answers right!

If you wish to become a member of the Museum and/or become a volunteer, your support would be greatly appreciated. Enjoy the satisfaction of being involved in a fantastic local facility.

For more information please call the Museum on 850889 or look at the website www.museumofabernethy.co.uk or email me at secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk.

Bring your friends and family and spread the word about your lovely local museum - enjoy all our displays, the children's activities and find out more about the life and times of our charming ancient burgh and parish.

Follow us on Facebook @
www.facebook.com/museumofabernethy

Lesley Robinson, Chair, Museum of Abernethy
Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity
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TO THE DISTRIBUTORS

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

Thank you again for your assistance in this matter.

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The Great War September 30 1918

British and Arab troops take Damascus, capturing 7000 prisoners and securing stability in the Middle East.

BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS COMPETITION 2018

The long hot spell of weather produced a bumper crop this summer - 62 entries including a host of new ones. We ran four categories: Best Single Container, Best Group of Containers, Best Young Shoot and Best Street. The judges were again looking for healthy growth, colour and texture, and that special wow factor. The winners of the Best Single Container this year all showed real imagination and flair:

First. Hazel Lowe for her marine garden container

Second. Lorna Irving for the glamorous reclining lady - Bertha

Third. Jimmy Swan for his Abernethy Tower and tourists
In the Best Group of Containers Frank Cadger took first prize with Andy Duncan and John Hussen as equal second. Best Young Shoot was Amy Tait. Ballo Braes won Best Street for the third year in a row.

Congratulations must also go to everyone who took part this year. The dedicated watering needed through weeks of sun and high temperatures merits a medal! A display of photos of the entries was on show outside the museum in early August and many viewers said they felt inspired by seeing what other people had achieved to try something a little different themselves next year. We look forward to seeing 2019's entries!

Thanks as always must go to Margaret Donaldson for her organisation of the event. It would not happen without her.

Whatever the weather we hope even more of you may consider entering next year.

Caroline Boyle. For Abernethy in Bloom





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Dron**

The Great War
October 4, 1918

Germany asks Allies for an armistice

The Great War
October 17, 1918

The whole of the Channel coast in the
West of Flanders is liberated.

PONY MAINTENANCE

Ponies are just like children in that they have to learn to have their teeth and feet looked after.

Even a youngster who has no shoes has to have its feet trimmed. When Flora was just a six month old baby she had to have plastic shoes glued on her back feet to help her legs grow straight. Our farrier, Gary, has an amazing way with horses. He stayed calm but kept a grip on her hoof while she tried to leap around.

At about five years old she got used to having shoes on her front feet and now she is as good as gold while metal shoes are put in the furnace, put on her hoof while red hot and clouds of smoke swirl around, then finally hammered onto her hooves with nails. Hooves are like fingernails and have no sensation but it is still a lot to get used to. Our farrier is never rough or angry with any of the horses but he is strong and determined and they respect him and his son Ross.



The picture shows her having the hoof filed to finish off, like a manicure.

Teeth have to be checked regularly. Horses teeth get jags and points which hurt their mouths and they have these filed down with a buzzing electric grinder.

Modern horse dentists put a metal gag in the horse's mouth to help keep it open. The first time this happened to Flora she was sedated. Our dentist, Frances, did not want her to have a bad experience and she took the chance to extract two unnecessary teeth called wolf teeth.

If you passed the pony field one day in July you might have seen and heard Frances in action and been glad it wasn't you. Flora, Fennela and Mac were well behaved. They backed up inside the shelter and accepted the water squirted into their mouths and then the buzzing grinding. Rather like

us when we go to the dentist.

Bella did not like the idea and she had to be sedated. The picture shows Frances working on her.



They feel the benefit, just like us after a visit to the dentist
AH

ANOTHER POEM

A Beggars Reply to his Chieftains invitation to The Jolly Beggars Dinner

Your invite's here and like you man it's grand, WHO
SAID LARGE

Just kiddin', its good to have you as our Chieftain in
charge.

For rhyming ye've nae equal, I have to admit,
But these are some of my thoughts I'd like to submit.

When you look back at life do you no ever think
Your workin' tools instead of brushes should have been
pen and ink.

Then instead o' slabberin' on gloss, creosote or
distemper

Ye micht o' been a poet instead o' just a penter.

I just hope this year the chef is inspired

For last year his steak pie was decidedly tired.

I'm gonny have a look when the first plates come
through

And if I'm no impressed here's what I will do.

A quick change o' direction, a new action plan

Instead o' the steak pie I'll just ask for biled ham.

I'm definitely comin' so keep me a pew _

Beside the rest o' the Abernethians will do.

After twa or three years sittin' at the tap table to dine,

Bein' back wi' the common 5/8ths will dae me just fine.

COUNTDOWN TO FAME _ STILL COUNTING

When I retired at the end of November away back in 1987 I discovered daytime television. The programme which appealed to me was "Countdown". It struck me as the ideal way to keep my mind active and alert in my advancing years and I became hooked. In those days the host was Richard Whiteley with Carol Vorderman as the numbers expert. On one famous day I managed to solve the numbers round within the 30 seconds whereas Carol came up with the solution after the interval. I was so chuffed that I composed the following verses and despatched them to Richard.

ODE TO COUNTDOWN

I love those winter afternoons
When it's dark at half-past four
And I sneak in from the garden
And gently close the door.
If you should wonder why
I'll endeavour to explain.
I like to rest my muscles
And exercise my brain
'Cos life would be unbearable
Without my daily fix
Of that game of words and numbers
And those awful puns of Dick's.
In summer it is different
I seldom see it live
As I'm working in the garden
Until tea is served at five.
It is on such occasions
The video comes in to play
To record my favourite programme
For later on that day
Which is often after midnight
When my brain is going numb
And I'm pushed to make a decent word
Or solve a simple sum
So welcome back to winter.
Today I was in heaven
When within the thirty seconds
I got the nine seven seven!
So why the sudden urge
To burst out into rhyme
As Carol also solved it
- BUT NOT WITHIN THE TIME ! -

At last the big day came, Richard was about to read my poem on national T.V. Fame at last! But then, half way through he suddenly decided that's enough. Perhaps he wanted to spare Carol's blushes at being beaten to the numbers game by a humble

viewer. "And who was that from?" Enquired Carol. "Someone from Perthshire" Richard replied. So that was it, the nation denied knowing the identity of this budding poet. My pride was hurt. This slight deserves a response. Out came the pen and the following lines were despatched to Richard.

REBUFF TO RICHARD

I composed an ode to Countdown
In a burst of inspiration
In the hope that Richard Whiteley
Might read it to the nation.
I thought it was quite witty and
Would make the viewers laugh
But when at last my big day came
He only read out half!
As it wasn't quite enough
To mar my day of fame
He then said where I came from
But didn't give my name.
How could you do it Richard?
It really makes me sick
In fact to put it mildly
You cut me to the quick
For had the Queen been watching
I'd be prepared to bet
She would have me on the short leet
For the next Poet Laureate.

Bob Macdonald February 2001

Although I received a letter of acknowledgement the poem was never read on air, but hopefully I made my point.

Bob Macdonald.

The Great War October 20, 1918

Germany suspends submarine warfare

CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

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FROM OUR COOUNCILLOR

In June Perth & Kinross Council set the Provisional Capital budget for the next 10 years. Allocating £50m by reprioritisation of projects and programmes already in the capital budget to build a replacement Perth High School. The present building is over 40 years old and is in a poor condition. The council will continue to invest in the present school in order to ensure that the school remains operational. Pupils from Abernethy in the future will be attending this new school, which will be built on the playing fields therefore there will be no need to decant pupils during building works. Dunbarney and Forgandenny pupils who are going into S1 this year will be at Perth Grammar School for 1 year before moving into the new Bertha Park School in Autumn 2019.

The Council is committed to improving Community Greenspace and Road Safety measures as well as many other projects. Many VAS are being installed throughout the area, generally this is helping to improve driver behaviour. Abernethy has signs as you enter and leave the village, Aberargie has one 40mph VAS. I have requested another one.

I am delighted that Almond and Earn Action Partnership agreed to allocate some funding to Abernethy Pavilion, Bridge of Earn Institute and Methven Community Centre; all buildings used by community but needing investment. These Halls applied for funding through Participatory Budgeting - Abernethy Pavilion received funding, Methven a small percentage and the Institute were unsuccessful. The Action partnership were keen to help the most needy, addressing inequalities helping to make buildings more fit for purpose. We presented the three groups with £7000 in June, hopefully this will encourage the committees to apply for further funding.

Health and Wellbeing is very much in the news and locally the long awaited new Surgery provision at Bridge of Earn which does involve some Abernethy residents. Councillors, representatives from Earn CC have met with representatives from NHS. Next stage is to gather information by engaging with the community. To make this engagement as speedy as possible, a Place Standard tool will be used, planning for this is at early stage. An event is planned for Saturday 27th October at Bridge of Earn Institute A Better Place To Live Event where you will be able to add your comments. If you have a view or opinion it is important to speak up now.

Fantastic summer weather residents and visitors have been out and about enjoying the beautiful countryside either walking or cycling. I would like to remind everyone of the country code. If the GATE is shut please shut behind you. Take your litter home please. Keep Dogs on Lead where there are animals. At this time of year hedges can be a problem can I remind householders it is their responsibility to make sure that any hedge is not

protruding on to the footpath.

Facebook seems to thrive on people commenting about
Inconsiderate Dog Owners
Inconsiderate Car parking
Inconsiderate drivers who ignore speed limits.

There are many individuals and groups who work hard to make the village attractive. I thoroughly enjoyed the Garden Open Day visiting the Hidden Gems, chatting to enthusiastic gardeners. Abernethy In Bloom have achieved much in a very short time. Well done to everyone who helps to improve the village. I would like to see more positive comments on Facebook to show our appreciation. This summer there was a good feeling in the village, new businesses opening, visitors about. Happy smiley children enjoying the sunshine.

Councillor Kathleen Baird

If you wish to discuss any matter with me please call
01738475086 mob 07584206839.

kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk

Kathleen Baird

The Great War **November 8, 1918**

Armistice negotiations between Allies and Germany begin in Marshal Foch's railway carriage HQ

The Great War **November 11, 1918**

At 10.57am American Private Henry Gunther is killed, the last soldier to die in action on the Western Front.

The Great War **November 11, 1918**

Germany signs Armistice at 6am, the fighting ends at 11am

MORE POEMS.

A Royal Day

I'm sure that all of us look back
On things that we have seen,
What fun we'd have — if dreams came true,
I'll tell you what I mean!

I'd been to Holyrood Palace
As proud as proud could be
And on a glorious day in summer
I'd been an honoured guest to tea

I went to bed that evening
I remember - so well I may,
I'd had a dram to celebrate,
The end of a perfect day!

I fell asleep so quickly —
And in a wondrous dream,
Spent yet another royal occasion
With Her Majesty the Queen!

She cam to Abernethy
I'd invited her that day!
Britannia berthed at Ferryfield,
The procession came my way.

The New Road at last was opened
The royal car — stopped at the gate,
"Come sit with me", she smiled and said
"You'll drive with me in State".

We drove round Crees Inn corner
Flags were hanging everywhere
And just outside the clinic
The reception party lined up there

There was Dr Lendrum all in tartan
With a baton in his hand —
Conducting the whole welfare committee,
And our local ceilidh band!

We visited the factory
And there met Mr Clow,
His latest style in nightwear
To Her Majesty did show

They're made of silk and satin
He said it — all so well
The Royal Warrant was granted
And the OBE as well.

A very special stamp was struck
It showed our ancient tower
Our new Coat of arms was up on the pole —
And the motto was "Now is the Hour"!

Coming out of the Joughs at the bottom —
A hand grasped a shapely long leg,
The artist announced it was only his wife's
In gold print was "designed by Will Greig"

I know not what we did all day —
But in the Square that night
Dr Melhulish danced the Highland Fling —
With Mrs Alcorn on his right

Miss Cochrane's lassies danced a reel
And then — Miss Dobbie sang,
It really should have been a duet,
She said "Jim, your voice is a' wrang".

We had a royal banquet-
And all of you were there
By Royal Decree, the menu
Was entirely local fare

There was Ian Bett's neeps and tatties —
I can see them in my dream
There was local netted salmon
Stalker's rasps and "double M cream"

The bells rang out "For Auld Lang Syne"
The Queen to the Duke did say
"When we retire, we'll find a house"
and "in Abernethy stay".

Before the Royal Coach drove off
I shouted "Drinks all round"!
On bended knee, she knighted me,
My kilt just touched the ground

Alas, alas to my dismay,
I wakened with a fright,
Jenny laughed and said,
"Get aff your knees — you are a bonny sight!"
"Tak aff my kilt — come back tae bed!"
"You've danced the hale nicht through"
"I wish that a' your local friends
Could only see you noo!"
But let me tell you something
If you see me in the Square,
I'm thinking of that dream I had
When all of you were there

The Queen said "Prince Andrew should join in.
He's dressed in kilt and plaid"
Mr Sutherland's voice was heard to state
"He's awa' with a pictish maid".

And if you see me smiling
And think "What is he up tae noo?"
I'm just planning for a Royal Day
When that dream you shared comes true.

Jimmie Roy

Abernethy Acrostic

2004-5 Moving to the village - what comes next?

A Choice was made and our
B old move to New Build, costly.
E nigmatic view of neighbour
R unning true to form mostly.
N ew extras in the dourer stuff,
E vidence of cash or loan,
T rusting M-ways close enough.
H ere to settle down as Home? (Here or Hope)
Y ours the next move.

Another Poem

This time a tribute to The local
butcher who was also Provost of
Abernethy

To Thomson Ramsay

Noo that I'm just gey far awa'
Tae personally on ye ca'
I thocht I'd write a line or twa'
Tae let ye ken
Hoo ye're held in high regard
By ither men.

T'was in the year o' twenty eight,
I dinna ken just what the date
Ye sallied forth tae meet your fate
In Council work
Frae then richt up 'till sixty six
Ye ne'er did shirk.

Durin' these eight an' thirty years
Nae doot ye've had your joys and fears
An' whiles been unco near tae tears
Yer heid a' bizzin'
Next minute wi' yer blood pepped up
Yer dander fizzin'.

But tho' at times it's been gey teuch
Tae keep a calm and cool like sooch
Yer sense o' humour's been eneuch
Tae get ye by
Tho' customers, thae 'kittle' folk,
Tae rile ye try.

In Abernethy's ancient burgh
Ye've plood an everlastin' furra'
That winna rub oot in a hurra'
Aye it will last
And in the century to come,
Be unsurpassed.

As Treasurer ye watched the "Booty",
As Baillie aye ye did yer duty
But yet when Provost, ne'er got "snooty"
Nor did ye tire
The kind o' man frae skin tae core
That I admire.

Upon Kirk session or committee
Ye've aye stuck in an' done yer "bittie"
Tae help a' kinds thro' love or pity
Ye'd never fail
Wi' bit o' beef or marra bane
For makin' kail

Durin' the war I'll ne'er forget
I hear ma' faither tellin' me yet
On Friday nicht hoo ye wad sweat
Tae mak' the maist
Oot o' yer rationed beef tae gie
Each ane a taste.

It's things like that, that mak man great
Yer heart as big as a burn in spate
Tae speak yer mind ye've ne'er been blate,
But selfish never,
Ye've aye dished oot the best o' steak
An' kept the liver.

But noo ye've gi'en up civic life
Tae spend mair time a'side yer wife
Ye've selt yer slicer, kleeeks and knife
Mincer and cleever
Nae mair work frae dawn tae dusk
Like busy beaver.

So Thomson dinna look sae sad
The news is guid as weel as bad
Think o' a the happy times ye've had
In years gaen by
Sit back an' tak ma hearty feed
O' Harris fry.

Now in retirement may ye find
Great happiness and peace o' mind
Just dae things as ye feel inclined
Aye at your leisure,
An' in this way I'm sure ye'll find
A wealth o' pleasure.

Man Thomson aye it's men like you,
Sincere an' honest, upright, true,
Mak's Scotland's colours shine richt thru',
Abune them a',
If there were mair folk o' yer kind
She'd never fa'.

Sae here's tae ye my worthy friend,
A man on whom ye can depend,
I hope long years ye'll hae tae spend
Immune from strife,
Afore auld Gabriel blows his horn
Tae end yer life.

But honours rest where they are due
And this one that's bestowed on you
It's no' for slicing' stirk or soo
But civic service
And "twerrna" but for men like you
The Lord preserve us.

Noo a' you councillors upright stand
An' raise yer glass high in yer hand
Nane ither like him in the land,
Frae Lairg tae Lenzie
The Toast I gie tae you this nicht,
Tae Thomson Ramsay.

So from ten thousand miles or more
Upon Australia's far off shore,
I send good wishes by the score,
And I do pray
I'll hae a chance tae shake your hand
Some future day,

David Monteith, 13th January 1967

A BEGGAR`S LAMENT

(Written when the poet was dortin` because his poem wasn`t read out at the Jolly Beggars Burns supper)

I`m just fair bilin`, smokes coming oot ma ear,
When a think back aboot what happened at the Beggars
this year.

My poem, one o` ma best, I widnae kid ye,
But did they read it oot? No they damned well didnae.

Course I`ve been there, did it, won the cup
So I suppose you could say I`m already one up,
On them that laughed at Me, aye them at oor table,
Wha thought to mock me and my feeble fable.

That fat arsed Calderwood, he laughed the maist, ·
Stickin` oot his chest or was it his waist,

Cause his was read oot, what a lot o` crap,

They must have gein me a handicap.

And that glibbed tongued Lamont and his laddie tae,

I`m no the least sorry they`ve flitted away,

Lookin` doon their noses at me wi scom,

I wish a plague o` weevils on their store o` corn.

And that Davie Nimmo, last tae jine,

First time here and the`ve read oot his rhyme,

Ye`ll better duck, keep yer heid doon, look oot,

There must be backhanders fleein` aboot.

The Colonels half pissed, look at the colour o` his
cheeks,

About as red as his socks and his tartan breeks,

T I`ve never heard them ever read oot HIS ditty,

But thank God at least he`s found the lost kitty.

Billy Folan will never win the cup,

He just writes twa lines and then he gi`es up,

It`s a pity this year he couldnae be there,

But his money`s in the kitty so I drank his share.

Even Alan Gordon, my nephew gi`ed me abuse,

Christ he widnae ken a muse fae a moose,

Fleein` model aeroplanes is rnair his thing

Well I hope it crashes and breaks its wing.

Auld Holy Willie will never be deid,

As long as Jim Aitken can lift his heid,

But write poetry, Huh ye`ve never heard worse,

Awa and play at Tam o` Shanter wi yer new horse.

FROM THE CHAIR

My hopes in the June Crier have been realised, sitting in
sunshine surrounded by colour. Both Abernethy and Aberargie
have worked hard to produce beautiful gardens and beautiful
floral displays throughout both villages and along the A913.
With the harvest being early this year the golden fields have
complemented the greens of the still thick foliage and late
summer flowers

The summer events are over and autumn and winter activities

about to start if not already begun. However the children still
have the October holidays to look forward to.

In this autumn edition one can happily reminisce about the
summer and look forward to what will be happening between
now and Christmas. Reports of past events, notification of
future dates for your diaries are to be found within the pages
along with interesting articles from our regular contributors.

Two events I would like to have seen reported are the fete at
the Williamson Hall and the Hill Race, both important
fundraising events to maintain one of Abernethy's greatest
assets "The Williamson Hall" which has seen many changes
since I first crossed its threshold 50 years ago!

Till December,

Hilda Clow.

The Lassies (3)

When men discuss our ailing nation
And thoughts are on the polling station
They look for men of inspiration
And hope their choice
Can give the coming generation
Cause to rejoice

But when it comes tae hoose and hame
That my freends is anither game
It`s then we choose some worthy dame
To run our life
Though things are never quite the same
When we tak a wife.

They clean and polish, cook and sew,
Keep track of where the cash should go
They cheer us up when we are low
Wi` happy song
And listen to our tales of woe
When things go wrong.

They are the real Premiers in our land
Who govern the home wi firm hand
Their mandate is that golden band
They proudly wear
Marriage is the union they understand
And strikes are rare.

So whether you`re from the upper classes
Or represent the working masses
I ask you all to raise your glasses
And give your vote
To all those lovely lassies
On whom we dote.



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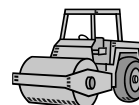
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