

# VILLAGE CRIER



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50th Edition

June 2021

Closing date for September edition 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021

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Evelyn Scobie



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**Museum of Abernethy**

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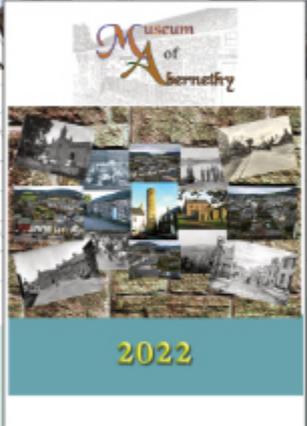
**The Museum has a tea towel featuring Abernethy icons and a calendar for 2022 showing then and now pictures of Abernethy.**

**Both items are on sale from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

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## EDITOR'S VIEW

While I sit and type my "view" it's belting down with hail outside and is minus something.

Hopefully by the time your Crier drops through your door things will be a bit more normal, I say more normal as it will be a long time before we get back to the old normal, if we ever do.

Many of the village organisations will be open again or thinking about opening but, I am sure, with some restrictions.

Abernethy has a new councillor, Mr Frank Smith. I wish him well. He has a hard act to follow as the late Henry Anderson worked hard for the area.

Abernethy and District has done well over the winter months, two new Puffin crossings, a new bus shelter and bike store, the extension of the "bike and walking" path and some pavement repair and pot hole filling.

The Crier received a reply to my view in the last edition regarding the clearing of snow from our pavements. Due to the extremely foul language the reply could not be printed, and anyway the contributor was not brave enough to supply a name or address. Stand up for your convictions, I say.

Have a great summer and stay safe.

**Jimmy Swan**

## FROM THE CHAIR

I can hardly believe that this is the 50th edition of the Crier. It should have been the 51<sup>st</sup> but we cancelled last June's edition because of the unknown situation which we were thrown into by Covid19. So here we are one year later still wondering when normality will return and indeed what will be classed as normal when it does return. The first Crier came out in December 2008.



This photograph shows two of the original, and the current, committee raising awareness of the Crier at the Gala Day in 2009. In case the newer members of the village were wondering, the Town Crier is Maureen Nisbet and her assistant is Hilda Clow.

This time round you are going to find quite a bit of history which I hope people who have come to live in the village in more recent times will find interesting, while it may bring back happy memories to those longer-standing residents. For example in the article written about the Walker family there is mention of Gala Week, Yes, a whole week of events to raise money for the Williamson Hall, culminating in a dance in the hall at which the Pictish Maid was chosen. She would be crowned the Gala Queen the following year.

On a more personal note, I too was taken back in time by the mention of Charlie Bates. I knew Charlie long before I had anything to do with

Abernethy when I was working as a physio in P.R.I. A gymnasium had been added to the department and Charlie was appointed the first Remedial Gymnast coming from the rehabilitation centre in Bridge of Earn Hospital. He was such a popular figure and helped so many people, both old and young, both as a gymnast and a youth leader. Charlie had been a commando during the war and lived a full and active life for 100 years!

Bob Macdonald has once again produced another happy memory of VE day. Bob has fantastic recall and his articles are always so vivid and entertaining.

Just one more mention of the past, leading to the future. The Museum is hoping to re-open in the beginning of June so in the future you can now look forward to looking at the past.

Coming up to date, we have our usual reports from our local councillors including an introduction from our new councillor Frank Smith.

The Rev Stan is keeping us up to date in his own inimitable way with church affairs, and he hopes that normal church services will resume in the not too distant future.

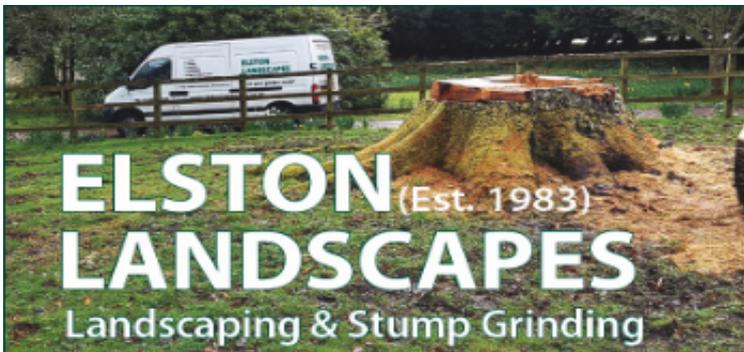
Thanks also to Gordon Miller for his report on the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and also the update on the improvements in the Pavilion.

We are grateful too to Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, keeping us abreast of the work being carried on in Abernethy and Bridge of Earn. This should be an asset to us all.

One thing before I leave you to turn over the pages. Are there no babies being born in Abernethy now, no-one getting engaged or married? Sadly all we get are notices of deaths. Please let us be able to publish happy events.

Enjoy the summer, and I hope everyone manages to have a good holiday this year.

**Hilda Clow**



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## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY



The Museum of Abernethy cannot open its doors without a band of volunteers, and lately some of our senior members have decided to retire after many years of dedicated service.

To continue keeping the museum open we need new volunteers, and we are putting out this invitation to anyone who might be interested in giving up a few hours per month to welcome visitors to Abernethy's Five Star attraction. You don't need a degree in Abernethy history to become a volunteer. A few minutes to show you the ropes is all it takes.

If you have someone with whom you would like to be on duty, this can be arranged.

For further information contact Jimmy Swan or any other board member.

Please note

**All adverts were correct at time of submission i.e. 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 but circumstances may have changed due to Coronavirus restrictions and you should check before relying on the advert.**



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# THE WALKER FAMILY

When Sandy and I were asked if we could write a little story about growing up in Abernethy we were not sure where to start. The village has changed in so many ways. It has grown so much bigger – at one time everyone knew everyone else but that is not the case nowadays. We grew up with a baker, butcher, grocery stores, post office, coal merchant, bicycle repair shop, cobbler, joiner/undertaker and we even had a small branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland, but most of the local amenities have now disappeared.

Our dad, Sandy Walker, was born in Abernethy and his mum (our gran) had the small general merchant shop just two doors along from Brian's. Our dad married our mum, a Perth lass Tib Brodie, in the summer of 1942. They started their married life up Glenfoot, where they had our big brother Jim in January, 1946. They then moved into Hall Park where Sandy was born in 1948 and eventually ended up in Den Park where I was born in September 1952.



**Sandy, Mum, dad Jim and Anne in front**

Our mum and dad remained in Den Park until mum passed away in September 1998. Most of the houses in Den Park in those early years were filled with families, so we had plenty of friends to play with. We would play football in the street, go exploring down the Den and go paddling and guddling for fish. Sometimes we would also go down to Powrie Park to play tennis or climb trees. Sandy would also go camping up the hill with his friends and would get up to all sorts of mayhem! In the evenings we would all sit round our black and white television set. Some of the programmes we enjoyed as a family were 'I Love Lucy', 'The Lone Ranger' and 'Wagon Train'.

We all attended Abernethy Primary School which is now James Roy Court. Luckily the building has been renovated into flats with indoor toilets. We did not have that luxury when we were at school. We had to go to the outdoor blocks in the playground! We were always fortunate enough to go home for our lunch – which was usually mum's delicious homemade soup.

When we weren't at school, the boys attended Cubs then Scouts in the local scout hut in West Park and I attended the Brownies then the Guides in the same hut. Jim and Sandy also attended the Boys Club with the leader Charlie Bates. On Sundays we went to the Sunday School at Abernethy Church. Jim ended up being an elder at the church and I joined the church choir under the direction of the Rev. T. K. Potts.

Sandy was a delivery boy for the butcher and would get up at the crack of dawn to carry out his deliveries. He would also deliver early morning rolls for the baker, all on his trusty bike. During the summer holidays, we would go berry picking at the local berry growers and during the October holiday we would go tattie picking at the local farms. Our dad would always have a week's holiday in the summer and we were fortunate enough to get away to Aberdeen with the family caravan. When we were older, we would go to Butlin's at Filey.

For as long as we can remember, there has always been a Gala Day, which in the early days was opened by the Abernethy Provost, and for a good few

years the Gala would take over an entire week with the events ending on the Saturday with a procession of floats round the village ending up at Powrie Park. There would also be a dance on the Saturday night where all the locals would come together to celebrate.

We were fortunate enough not to have to leave the village for entertainment when we were growing up. There were dances every weekend in the Abernethy Hotel and occasionally the Williamson Hall. The most famous act at the hall, that I can remember, was Peter and Gordon; anyone younger than sixty probably won't remember them! The hotel also had afternoon teas to die for, which were introduced by Margaret and Randy Wallace when they took over ownership from Mrs Jamieson.

We all went on to marry and had twelve children between us. You can blame my brothers for the majority of them; I only had two! Jim left Abernethy with his wife in 1967 to live in Perth; sadly we lost Jim in 2001. Sandy still resides in the village with his wife and will never leave. I moved to Scone last year with my hubby to be closer to my children and grandchildren, but a part of my heart will always remain in Abernethy.

Abernethy was a very happy and friendly place to grow up in and I'm sure it always will be.

**Anne Millar and Sandy Walker**

## MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

Things are starting to open up again, and by the time you are reading this I hope the Museum of Abernethy is open for business. As I write this article, at the beginning of April, the committee are working hard to get set up for opening. It is very difficult for organisations as well as businesses to plan ahead as over this last year the restrictions have been changing as the pandemic changes.

When you visit the museum you will be asked to make a few changes since your last visit. There will be an entry door and an exit door with a "one way system" operating within the building. You will be asked to wear a mask and there will be a sanitising station at both doors. You will be asked not to touch any of the display cases or artefacts and all the doors leading to the upstairs area and the garden will be open. The toilet will be open and can be used as normal. The shop area will be screened and the volunteers will also be wearing masks.

One of the projects we have been tackling is the refurbishment of the fishing net barrow. The old one had seen better days and needed replaced (see "before" photo). I would like to thank Scott Greig, A&B Motors for



giving up some of his time to do a bit of welding to the metal work from the old barrow, we were keen to retain it. Thank you Scott. The next time you visit the museum you will see the new finished article.

The Museum of Abernethy is to open on Saturday 5th June 1pm – 4pm and for the month of June it will just be Saturday and Sunday. Be there or be square.

**Jimmy Swan**

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# FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

As I write this, there is much speculation as to whether the Tokyo Olympic Games will actually take place this Summer. Postponed from last year due to pandemic issues, there have been nagging problems with logistics, spiralling costs and countries threatening to 'pull-out'. I remember holding a school assembly in a small Borders primary school, immediately prior to one Olympic Games. The thought of creating a sports orientated theme had occurred to me. Having rolled up my shirt sleeves, I asked the children what they could see when I moved my arm in a Charles Atlas type movement. To my disdain, there was no response at first, and then a wee boy near the front row tentatively put up his hand. With a hesitating voice he put forward his theory: 'Is that a muscle, Rev Stan?' Right enough, as a visual aid, maybe that wasn't one of my most obvious ideas. All was not lost, however, because that particular day, their young male peripatetic gym teacher happened to be standing at the back of the hall. The keen rugby player was only too quick to come to the front and reveal to the assembled schoolchildren all his rather more obvious muscle groups. I don't think that I have ever had such an attentive group of female teachers at a school assembly since. The bulging biceps had their eyes out on proverbial stalks even if the display was completely lost on the kids. Their ambivalence gave me great comfort: weedy ministerial muscle never had a hope of competing with Borders rugby beefcake.

The message was, of course, that external strength has always to be coupled with internal strength of spirit. One of the most privileged things about being a parish minister is that you get glimpses into the lives of people who face huge challenges in the game of life. We all know friends and neighbours who encounter such challenges, be they a life threatening illness in a child, a tragic family episode or the revelation of a personal terminal diagnosis. Such rounds can be harder than others and all leave their mark, yet often out of expected defeat, comes victory. We are astounded when individuals can find the strength to pick themselves up off the bitter field and keep running. Often, they are an inspiration to us all.

In these days, when hopefully life is re-emerging from the effects of the pandemic, I am convinced that the inner strength to conquer defeat is a gift to humanity from God. The so-called weaklings amongst us would say that this is the reason we go to church - to build up our spiritual muscles and help us win through. Bulging biceps are a good thing, but they can never beat well developed inner resources.

May God bless you and even if the Olympics don't go ahead as planned, can I wish you all a happy summer and great success in your personal race?

**Rev Stan May 2021**

## KIRK NEWS

From Easter Sunday, thanks to the lessening of Covid restrictions, we have been able to hold weekly physical services in Church once more and have been able to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion again in a way which conforms to regulations. Although we are still currently restricted by two metre spacing when members of the congregation are seated in pews, sixteen spaces are available in Kirk of St. Bride, Abernethy and fourteen in Arngask. We are still unable to sing hymns, and the wearing of masks remains compulsory although, as the vaccination programme progresses and the incidence of the virus decreases, we hope to see big changes soon. A monthly Zoom Fun Church has been taking place for our Sunday Club children and the Kirk Session has been meeting occasionally also by Zoom. The minister and volunteer team continue to send out and deliver 'On-Line Church' services every Sunday for those who feel that they are not ready to return to the kirk in person.

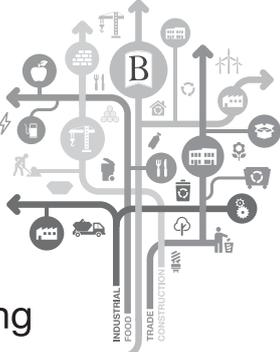
More than ever, as the weeks progress into Summer, the Scottish Government is actively relaxing regulations bit by bit. For this reason, you are encouraged to access up-to-the-minute Kirk news through the Church ADA (Abernethy & Dron & Arngask) Facebook page. Current worship information can be found here and you can also find details about how to 'book a pew' by registering your 'Trace and Protect' details.

**Rev Stan May 2021**



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## AULD ABERNETHY ASSOCIATION

It is hoped the association's meetings will resume in October of this year. This will obviously depend on whether or not there are still restrictions in place. The museum interior does not lend itself to social distancing so the committee will take this into consideration when plans are being made for the reopening.

**Jimmy Swan (Pres.)**

**It is with regret.....**that we hear of the death of Jack Kettles and Dick Thorman

Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

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## FRAE YOUR COONCILLOR

I would like to welcome our new Councillor, Frank Smith who recently won the by-election following the passing of Councillor Henry Anderson. Councillor Smith has attended Zoom meetings of the Abernethy Community Council and can't wait to get to know people.

Summer time is here and we have all enjoyed some lovely sunny days (I know gardeners and farmers are looking for a few nights of gentle rain and I hope by the time you read this we will have had some). It is raining now!!

In the last Crier, I mentioned that we were about to set the Council Budget for the coming year and some tough decisions would need to be made. Budget day is over for another year; it was a long day with all four political groups presenting their own budget, but eventually the 2021/22 budget was passed. Moving in and out of "Teams" meetings was challenging, but after a world wide technical hitch in the morning we got through the day. Councillors in Almond and Earn are pleased with the budget and we are going to see more funds for road improvements and winter maintenance.

The environment matters very much to the residents of Abernethy & District. I am pleased that this administration has, through the budget process, increased funding of £35k for the provision of community gritting equipment such as spreaders.

The work carried out by voluntary groups such as "In Bloom" groups, "Paths" groups, "Litter Picking" groups is valued by all and additional funding has been made available to help them in their important work.

Special funding has also been given to Environmental Health to help them with all the additional visits to restaurants and licensed premises due to Covid regulations.

An additional £4m was also allocated to the road maintenance budget bringing it to almost £15m. I think we can all agree that there are visible improvements to the main road through Abernethy and the Baigie Straight. Other road issues have been addressed by Scottish Water. Resurfacing in some areas is also very welcome. Hopefully this additional funding will go some way to reduce the back log of road defects and progress other road projects.

Road safety is a priority for all. Following requests from the parent council and the Community Council, two puffin crossings have been installed, making the road safer for children to walk to school. Quite a bit of money has been spent in Abernethy in recent weeks.

A big thank you to Abernethy in Bloom for the beautiful displays of spring flowers throughout the village. Nurse Peattie's garden, is looking lovely and is a lovely spot to sit and watch the world go by and maybe meet a friend for a chat.

This last month I have had the opportunity to walk round the village and admire some beautiful gardens; we are so fortunate to live in such a lovely area.

School will soon be out for the summer, a year all staff and pupils will never forget. Thank you to all staff at our schools who have worked so hard to give the pupils the best experience possible under extremely difficult circumstances.

Thank you also to the leaders of youth organisations and sport leaders who have supported our young people online initially but now outdoors, having fun once more.

Wherever you spend this summer, be it at home here in Abernethy or further afield, I hope that you can enjoy some sunshine, meet families and friends and most of all stay safe.

### Councillor Kathleen Baird

As always I can be contacted on  
07584206839 or at  
[kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:kathleenbaird@pkc.gov.uk)



# WHO IS IN YOUR GRAVEYARD?

If you went to check out the Robertson brothers' grave I hope you found it, and I will use the same orange marker again this time.

The name Williamson will be familiar to many in the village, yes the Williamson Hall. But who was Williamson? The man in question was Andrew Williamson, one of the Williamsons who farmed Mid and Easter Clunie and Skirlbear.

Andrew worked as a school teacher in Kirkcaldy and met his wife Margaret Scott there.

The Williamsons were, as you say, well connected and owned much land and property in the area. They were kirk goers and were members of the U.P. Kirk, the one in Kirk Wynd presently owned by Mr and Mrs Smith, Kirkland Restoration.

Presumably Andrew came up with the idea of a public hall to be used for the betterment of the population of the village and surrounding area. Andrew donated £50 6s 5d, to start a fund to raise the money needed to build the hall. Under the control of the U.P. Kirk, £5 was added annually from 1843 to 1880 until enough was in the coffers to enable the work to begin. The total cost of the hall was £420 17s, (£50,857. 68p in today's money).

The hall was opened on the 11th October 1880, but unfortunately Andrew never saw it as he died in 1846.

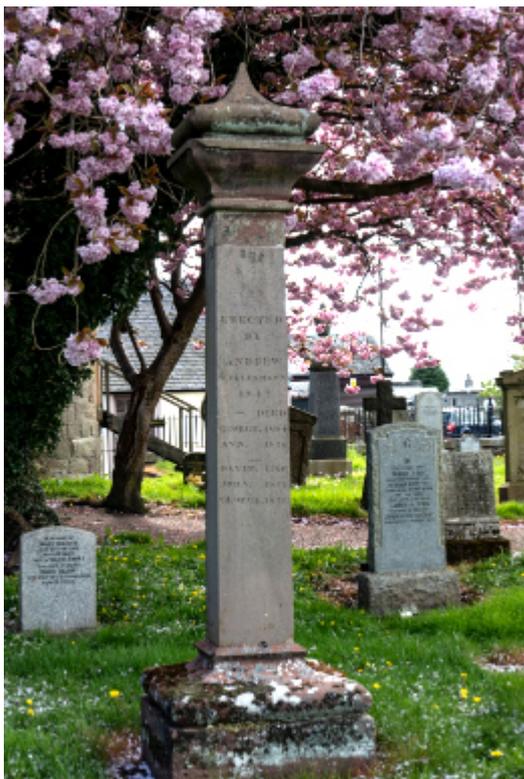
It was dedicated to him with the grand title of The Williamsonian Scientific Hall and Library, better known to us as the Willi Hall.

In the early days it had a library, and a further fund was set up to purchase books for it as well as the many functions held in the main hall.

The Williamson Hall is still a favourite venue for all sorts of functions, weddings, craft fairs, Burns suppers and many more.

As you can see from the photo below the family grave stone is a tall majestic one and stands head and shoulders above the stones surrounding it. To find it easily enter the graveyard by the main gate, bear right, and look for the orange marker.

## Jimmy Swan



# FROM COUNCILLOR FRANK SMITH

I would like to introduce myself as newly elected Councillor Frank Smith for Almond and Earn Ward.

My background as a Golf Professional found me extensively travelling through the area.

During the by-election I expressed my concerns for local environmental issues and road traffic management and so moving forward, when instances arise relating to Abernethy and the surrounding area, with the support of Kathleen Baird and David Illingworth, I will aim to resolve such local concerns mentioned above and any other issues that occur.

## Councillor Frank Smith

### Contact Details

Address: c/o Perth & Kinross Council,  
2 High Street, Perth, PH1 5PH  
Telephone No: 01738 475039  
Mobile No: 07901 327904  
Email: FrankSmith@pkc.gov.uk



# AN APPRECIATION

## Dick Thorman

Dick Thorman died in PRI on 18<sup>th</sup> April after a long illness. He was 88. He leaves his wife Terry. They had been married for 62 years, with two sons and a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Most of Dick's working life was spent in the Far East, working with Ben Line. When they returned to the UK the family settled in Pitcurran House on the Newburgh Road. Latterly they moved to Drumgate. Dick was a man of many talents. He taught himself to play the organ and became a church organist. At Pitcurran he built a microlight aircraft, in the stables. He kept it at Scone, and was often to be seen flying around the village.

He and I joined the committee of the Williamson Hall together, I as chairman and he as treasurer, and remained as a team for eight years. We enjoyed some great times together, particularly around Gala Week. He will be remembered for the whisky curling at the Gala dance and helping with the tuck shop at the "five-a-side" football. He handed over the finances of the Williamson Hall in a very sound state.

Dick took a great interest in village life and was a governor of the village school.

He will be greatly missed.

## Ian Cartwright

# ABERNETHY SWI



Now that Covid restrictions have started to lift, there is hope we may be able to hold meetings again in the foreseeable future, and as soon as circumstances allow. This will of course depend on the availability of suitable premises. We will monitor the situation in the coming months and keep you updated.

Our new bench is now in place in Nurse Peattie's Garden, and our grateful thanks go to the Elston Family, who have donated the bench in remembrance of Heather, a devoted wife and mother, and stalwart member of the Rural. We hope the bench will be enjoyed for many years to come.

## Elizabeth Taylor, President



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## Newsletter 2: April 2021

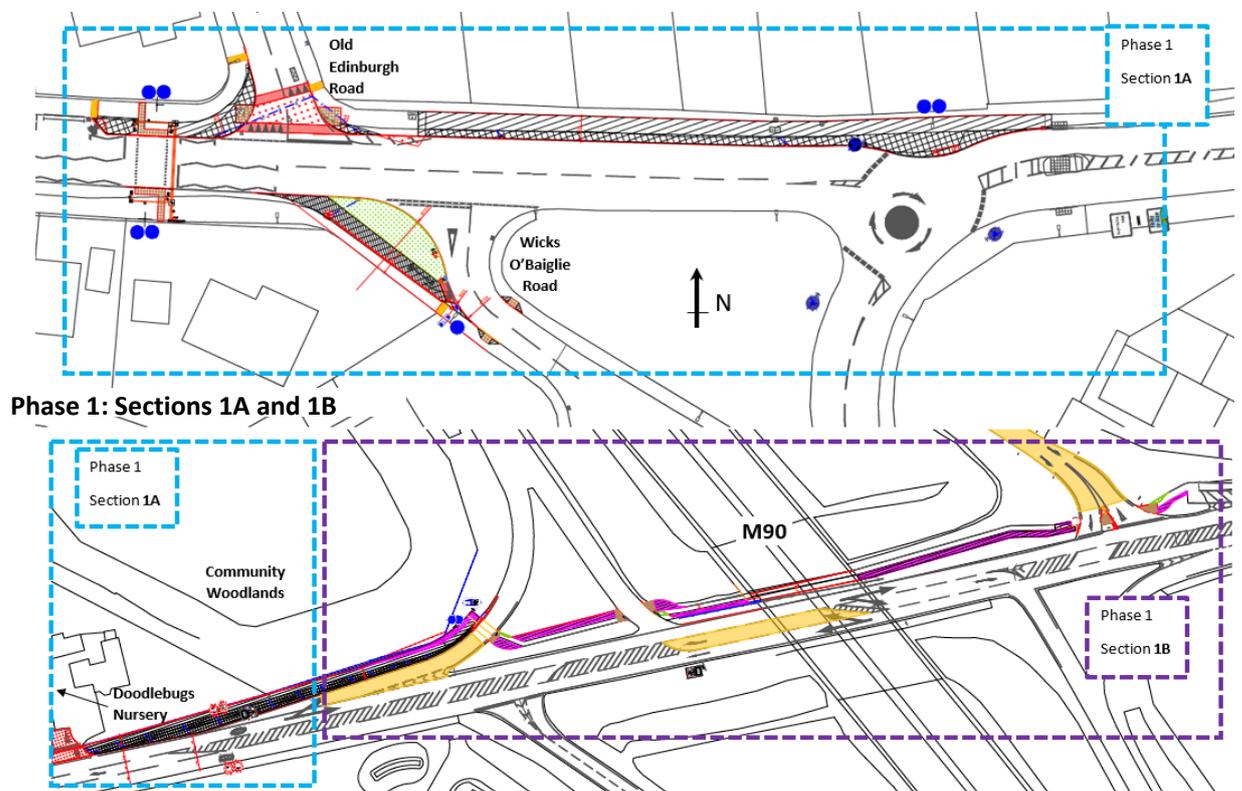
### Welcome to the second Newsletter for the

### Bridge of Earn to Newburgh Active Travel Project.

This update aims to inform stakeholders on a regular basis of the latest progress on the project.

As noted in the previous newsletter, the project has been split into 3 phases, and the delivery is to be rolled out from the western end in Bridge of Earn heading eastwards:

- Phase 1: Section 1A: Bridge of Earn near Old Edinburgh Road to the Community Woodlands
- Phase 1: Section 1B: Community Woodlands underneath the M90 to just west of Oudenarde Roundabout
- Phase 1: Section 2: Baiglie Straight down to Aberargie Roundabout
- Phase 2: Glenfoot through Abernethy to Jamesfield just over the railway line
- Phase 3: Jamesfield into Newburgh



### Update on funding developments since March.

Landfill Operator fund Suez Community Trust advised that the project Ph 1A had been unsuccessful in the application for £50,000, which is disappointing. However, PKC has been able to offer a similar contribution to the 2020/21 funding award from CWSS in 2021/22 of £30,000 and PKCT has offered to contribute £6,000 both of which will help greatly.

### Phase 1 Section 1A Progress Update

The pedestrian and cyclist priority feature over the Old Edinburgh Road junction with the A912 is still under design review. Balancing the need to control the speed of vehicles and raise visibility of footway

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users to traffic whilst still enabling vehicle manoeuvres is a challenge. Additional surveying has taken place to ensure we have the correct data to assist PKC in selecting the best design.

#### Next Steps for Phase 1 Section 1A

The design for the pedestrian and cyclist priority feature over the Old Edinburgh Road junction will be required to go for consultation under the Road Humps (Scotland) Regulations. This is where the Police, the Emergency Services and organisations representing local road users are contacted.

The application for Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) is ready to be submitted to enable the necessary traffic control needed to keep contractor, the footway and road users safe once works commence.

The contract shall then be put out to tender, with works anticipated to start within 2-3 weeks from contractor selection.

#### Next Steps for Phase 1 Section 1B

The outstanding boundary issue over the sliproads and under the M90 flyover is still to be resolved between PKC and Transport Scotland.

The land acquisition of the narrow strip of adjacent community woodland to allow the necessary footway widening and improved visibility at this point has been completed.

The necessary crown lifting and tree work along the narrow strip of community woodland adjacent to the northbound on ramp slip road has also taken place. This shall provide the space required to widen the footway and ensure footway users are not affected by decaying trees or overhanging branches.

#### Phase 1 Section 2 Baigie Straight

Design work progresses on this section of the active travel route. In response to concerns raised around the impact the proposals will have on vehicles using the road, Traffic Services within the council are currently considering the outline proposals. The design going forward will embrace all road safety legislation required on A class arterial roads.

#### Phase 2

The work continues to create provision for active travel from the point where the upgraded footway carried out by Perth & Kinross Council ends at Glenfoot. The options appraisal first draft is complete and wider community consultation shall commence shortly with the publication of the options appraisal report. This follows a presentation made at the Abernethy Community Council meeting in March. The wider consultation will assist in establishing the preferred route option through Abernethy and onto the railway bridge near Jamesfield.

#### Phase 3

Continuing from the eastern side of the railway bridge at Jamesfield and onto Newburgh, the process of options appraisal is also completed. However, landowner discussions remain outstanding prior to the routes being finalised.

#### How you can help & further updates

Regular updates and more info can be found on [www.pkct.org](http://www.pkct.org)  
Please contact us on [info@pkct.org](mailto:info@pkct.org) if there are any queries or facts that you require more information on.

We will be looking to find further ways to communicate the project details depending on the lifting of Covid-19 Restrictions.

حلال



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# MEMORIES OF A SPECIAL OCCASION

One of my earliest contributions to the Crier was in the December 2010 edition which was an account of the Victory Parade which I was lucky enough to attend. This followed the discovery of a letter which I had written to my late sister Betty describing the event. All going well this copy of the Crier should be in our hands to coincide with the 75th anniversary which falls in June of this year. It occurred to me that a reprint of my original article would be of interest to present day readers. I then had a much better idea. In 2017 I submitted the article to In Touch, the magazine for retired staff of AVIVA. The result was a two page fully illustrated spread which won me the prize for the best letter. Much of the credit must go to Brian Henham, the Editor who went to the trouble of purchasing the special Victory Parade edition of the Illustrated London News using pictures from it to greatly enhance my article. Not only that, it was given to me as my prize for the best letter. So it is the article from In Touch that you are about to read. I think you will agree that I made the right decision. I decided at the time that this lovely souvenir deserved a better fate than lying hidden in a drawer so earlier this year I handed it on to the Museum of Abernethy, which hopefully will be able to reopen to the public in the not too distant future .By that time we may be nearer to celebrating another V.E Day - VIRUS ELIMINATED.

Bob Macdonald



## A Letter from the Past

I WAS FORTUNATE to be stationed in Hampshire when the Victory Parade took place in London in June 1946, following the end of World War II. I managed to book a room at a YMCA hostel in a fairly central location just off the Strand, which enabled me to attend this spectacular event. My nephew recently discovered a letter which I had written to my late sister, describing the event. The letter ran to 16 pages, 12 of which were devoted to the parade. Here are some of the edited highlights.

*"I got into town about 9.20pm and after dumping my kit at the hostel, I decided to have a stroll around and see all the decorations. I headed for the Mall and it was pretty crowded. All the available space was occupied and they had all come prepared with flasks, cases with grub and travelling rugs. Some sailors had their hammocks slung between the trees. I was thankful that I had a bed to go to when I saw them settling down for the night. The din was deafening, with rattles, squeakers, anything that could make a noise. The racketeers were there too, selling flashy programmes at ridiculous prices and lemonade at 6d per glass and weak as water.*

*Next morning I met my pal at Charing Cross at 7am and after a bit of shoving we got a good place about five back at St Martins-in-the-Fields. After half an hour they were 20 deep*

*behind us and we were being squashed a bit, with two hours to wait in front of us. We fought our way out and started to breathe again. And that Betty, was the Victory Parade? Don't you believe it. We went right round the route until we found a quiet part in Oxford Street, where they were only about four deep. By this time we had about half-an-hour to wait which soon passed and then the trumpets were heralding the arrival of the Royal family. The King, Queen and two Princesses were there with the Household Cavalry escort. The horses are wonderfully trained.*



*After that came the parade and never have I seen so many different uniforms and types together. The Yanks were first, then came all the allies and colonial troops. I can't possibly describe them all. There were five pipe bands, the Indians, the Irish, the ATS, the RAF and last but not least, the combined bands of the Scottish regiments, led by three drum-majors, one being the drum-major of our sister regiment, the 10th Black Watch, with whom I did my training at Lockerbie. A few of the pipers and drummers I recognised. They were the only band who played when passing us and if they hadn't it would have been a flop as far as I was concerned.*

*The one event I really wanted to see was the massed pipers in the Mall but we couldn't get near the place for crowds. The fly-past followed the parade and then the rain came. We queued up to get into a news cinema, many had the same idea. When we emerged it was still raining so we returned to the hostel for some food and a much needed change of socks.*

We then headed for the south side of the Thames to see the water pageant. We got a lovely position opposite the Houses of Parliament, directly in front of the three set pieces of the King, Queen and Princesses. The parade started with the fireboats throwing out illuminated jets in all directions, in all the colours of the rainbow. The Royal family arrived and the searchlights dipped in salute. Then followed the most fantastic fireworks display. When the rockets burst they filled the sky with green, gold, purple and silver stars. Each fresh burst brought bigger gasps from the



crowds. The set pieces were lit and the outlines of the King, Queen and the Princess Elizabeth in lights lasted for several minutes. All the prominent buildings were illuminated in various colours and the fountains in Trafalgar Square were also illuminated in red, white and blue. The loveliest sight of



all however, was the view of Buckingham Palace from the Mall. It was floodlit in purple and it really was a sight worth seeing, with the Victoria Memorial in front and two light blue searchlights forming a V above it against the dark blue of the sky. I could write many more pages and still not cover everything but I don't think I have done too badly."



Holding the letter again, which I had completely forgotten about after all these years, brought back so many memories of a day which will live forever in my memory.

**BOB MACDONALD, Abernethy**

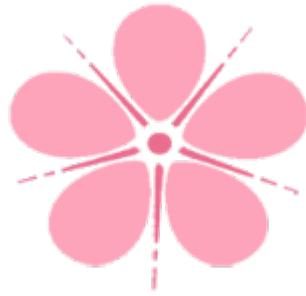
*The picture above shows the parade marching down Whitehall, led by the Scottish pipe band. All the illustrations are original pictures from the Illustrated London News Victory Parade number. Bob Macdonald had no photographs of the event. Our Editor purchased an original copy of the magazine on the internet and this has been sent to Bob to be kept with the original letter to his sister.*



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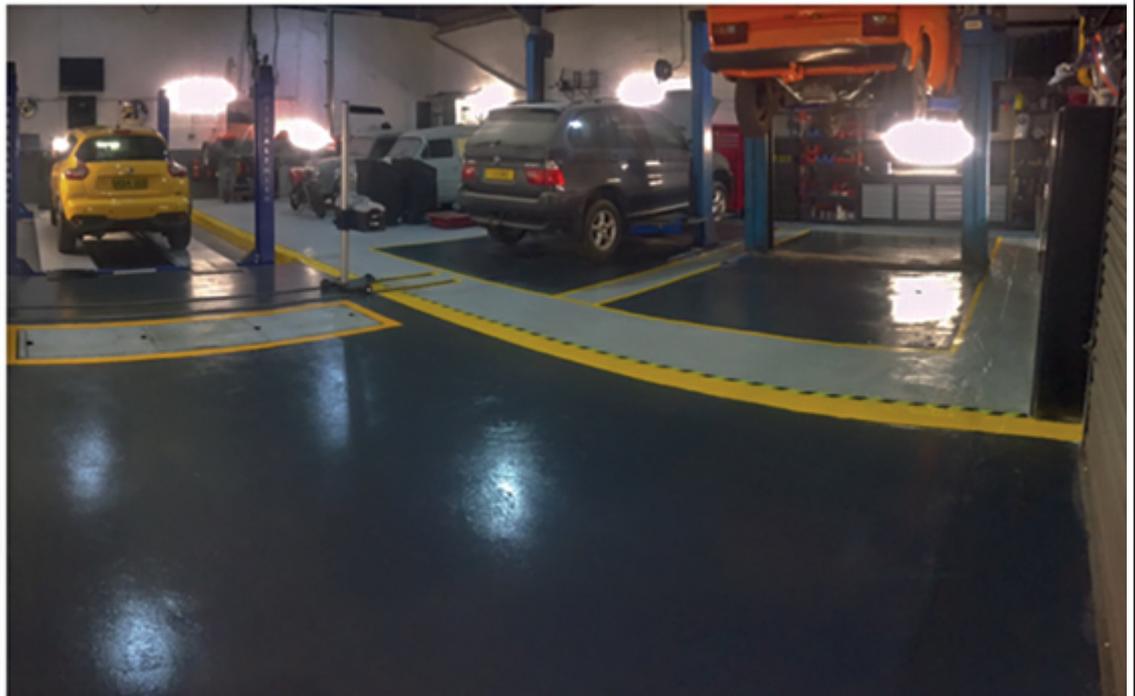
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## ABERNETHY IN BLOOM

Spring arrived at last but not without a few cold mornings which held us up getting back into Nurse Peattie's Garden. However, all our efforts last October are bearing fruit and the village is once again blooming with all the colours of spring. The changeable weather has also brought some very dry weather which has meant that we have had to get the watering cans out earlier than usual. However, as we leave the winter behind for another year we can once again start to think about what needs done in Nurse Peattie's and around the village. Unfortunately, the COVID 19 restrictions are still with us, but being out and about gives us a little more freedom to work within a social distance.

This year again we will not be taking part in the Beautiful Scotland or Take A Pride in Perthshire & Kinross Garden Competitions, but we are never the less starting to plan for the summer planting. Unfortunately, again due to the current circumstances we will not manage to have our full range of planters and hanging baskets on display but will use our polytunnel to bring on as many extra plants as we can for the summer.

The SWI seat in Nurse Peattie's suffered a major collapse, probably due to the extreme weather during the winter. However, a member of our community has kindly donated a replacement. The SWI requested that their new seat be relocated adjacent to the Nurse's bike. The seat has now been given a sound weather treatment and secured in its new position by a friend of the SWI.

In the meantime, Abernethy In Bloom were offered a garden seat from Bill and Linda Hughes. After a bit of TLC, it has filled the vacant space left by the SWI seat under the tree. Also you may have noticed that we have utilised the space under the seat to locate and save the stones from the caterpillar trail. A few stones have lost their colour, but we hope all will agree this is an ideal position to save the artistic display from (mainly) our younger members of the community. Therefore, if you wish to replace or add to what is a colourful addition to Nurse Peattie's Garden, creating a permanent location for the stones, please do so.

In addition to the many generous donations we have received towards the new 'Heritage Garden', the proceeds from Jimmy Swan's 'Garden Products Store' also adds to the contribution from the village for the new garden. Abernethy in Bloom therefore gives its thanks to Jimmy Swan and the community for their continuing support.

The current situation has also delayed a number of the funding applications for the 'Heritage Garden'. It was therefore decided to proceed with the project in two phases. We are pleased to say that the planning for Phase One has been completed and Take A Pride In Perthshire & Kinross, who are managing the project, are now going out to tender for the initial work required. This will involve completion of the infrastructure with the exception of the mini-Tower, which is planned for phase 2. As previously advised, phase 1 will require a greater input from Abernethy In Bloom than was originally planned for the planting, but we anticipate that with help from within the community we will be able to provide the range of plants, trees and shrubs that were originally outlined. In the meantime, donations can continue to be made via the Hatton Road project 'Just Giving' page or directly to Abernethy In Bloom, which will help to boost the village's contribution for this exciting new project.

Although we are still working under current restrictions, now that we have begun our activities for another year, if you would like to help, please come and join us on a Monday for either our morning or afternoon sessions at Nurse Peattie's or wherever you see us around the village. We will also be looking for volunteers to look after the new 'Heritage' garden when it is completed. So please let us know if you are interested on taking on this new addition in the village. No horticultural knowledge is required, just a willing pair of hands. You will always be welcome.

Please keep safe.

**Ian Lamond,**  
**Secretary Abernethy in Bloom**  
**Tel: 850186**  
**E-Mail: lamond0583@hotmail.com**

## SILVER LINING HAIR STUDIOS



Firstly we would like to introduce ourselves to those who don't know us. We are Fran and Debi at the Silver Lining Hair Studio, previously at Jamesfield Farm centre but now situated at the old Berryfields café. We began our journey at Jamesfield establishing our business in 2017. Having worked together at a previous salon we made the decision to go into partnership and open our very own hair salon. Over the past 5 years at Jamesfield we have had an amazing time and are sad to leave where it all began, but we felt that moving the business into Abernethy, although hard because we were settled, made sense from a personal and business point of view. We would however like to thank Irene and Ian for looking after us over the 5 years; it has been a pleasure working alongside them and it is with a touch of sadness that we are leaving.

Fran has been in hairdressing since she was 17, training at college and furthering her knowledge and expertise by working with experienced stylists. One thing Fran loves to do is "hair ups" and in particular wedding hair. She loves nothing better than to see the joy in the bride's face once she has finished.

Debi has been in hair dressing since 2010. She attended Charlie Taylor training school in Dundee for three years. Debi's favourite part of being a hair dresser is being able to tailor colour and cuts on a more personal level.

We would like to thank our new neighbours Ruth and Ross for their patience while we have had works on going in the salon, some late nights and noise for which we do apologise.

Well, we will end our segment by saying that we are extremely excited about moving into Berryfields, becoming part of the community and making it the Silver Lining Hair Studio Abernethy. We look forward to welcoming all our clients old and new into the Silver Lining Hair Studio's new home.





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# LONGING FOR NORMALITY

This lockdown, to put it bluntly, has been brutal for many. More so for the self-employed and business owners. I don't know if it's just been because the start of the year has always been hard in the UK or whether the pandemic has just made it worse.

Before Covid, having trips to the salon to have our hair done, or a lovely massage and being pampered, followed by a night out always made those cold dark days and nights easier to ignore and somehow made it more bearable.

It has been a weird year for me. I have been a hairdresser since the age of 17 and finding something to do while I was off was hard and yes, this lockdown hit me hard emotionally. With a team of seven staff members on furlough and making sure everyone still had employment to come back to was daunting, but we have been established since 2005 and know how to dig deep to keep going and surviving. Not quite living off beans on toast, but near enough.

Lucky for me I also know how to be a groom and stable hand so was delighted to offer my services to Team Oakden at Dunbog Farm just outside Newburgh. I can't thank them enough for allowing me to volunteer; they made me feel so welcome. I'm not going to lie, it was hard to come back to my own profession as I enjoyed working with the horses so much.



However my colour correction skills had been put to good use after I was asked to sort out a pony's tail as it had been very messy and turned orange from white. I had one delighted owner when after two days of gentle lifting and toning we managed

to get a beautiful silver tail back. If you're on Instagram or Tik Tok you can find the videos under Rebeltina.

Working with horses is different to owning them, that's for sure. I think I lost about a stone in my first week and I only got face planted through the mud once, at which James Oakden, being the gentleman that he is, didn't laugh. As many who know me will realise I couldn't get up for laughing at myself. It was made even funnier by the fact that Daniel, one of the grooms who had been waiting for it to happen, was off that day.

We were all set to go back to the salon on the 26th of April and the date got pulled forward to April the 5th so it was panic stations to get everything ready for coming back. Daunting as it was, the minute I slipped back on those Doc Martins and dressed in the standard black outfit I felt so good welcoming customers back; it felt like Christmas. Compressing three months of backdated appointments was not as bad as I had imagined. Clients have been fantastic making our transition back to normality as easy as possible.

I know I say this all the time but all our local businesses need your support more than ever.

As we long for normality we are not out of the woods, 4000 hairdressers across the UK have closed their doors for good. How many more who are self-employed have moved on to other professions during this pandemic we don't know.

No matter how small the purchase you make at a small business you're paying for quality and care. Sure, you maybe be able to pick it up online but trust me when I say each time you buy something local we do a happy dance when you leave. You're helping support future generations of trades people. You're keeping business ALIVE.

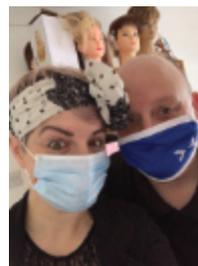
So, if you're growing your colour out, how about a glossing service, maybe upgrading your service to a conditioning treatment with your cut? How about a blow dry once a week as a treat? Or maybe even having your nails done or treat yourself to a fabulous back, neck and shoulder massage.

It seems more likely now this year that some of us may not get a holiday abroad or a festival, but by goodness we should all be looking glamorous and feeling great, that's for sure.

As I finish this article I want to thank all our staff. I could not be more proud of our team especially the younger ones who I worried about being thrown back in at the deep end but boy, they have really stepped up and proved themselves and it gives me great joy to see them grow in confidence and maturity. I am really looking forward to the future of the Little Hair Company. So till next time be safe, be kind to yourselves and enjoy the little things.

Kind regards

**Tina**



PS

Talking of our Staff, we would like to introduce a new member to our team, Sheree Cunningham who is our new Beauty Therapist. Sheree is local to the area and has worked locally before joining the team here at The Little Hair Company.

## LIFE IN LOCKDOWN

"Lockdown hair" and "dressing down" has been the norm this year, we've learned new crafts, painted stones, and knitted blankets to bring good cheer.

With cries of "press unmute" and "can you hear me Anne?" Meetings on Zoom were mostly fun when everything went to plan!

We've missed our families and friends but we hope to meet up soon. Video calls and quizzes have kept us in touch on Zoom.

The pubs are open, and the shops, and we can meet up with friends for lunch. We feel safer now, we've had our jags, well most of the older bunch!

We must still take precautions though, wear masks and sanitise, stay apart when out and about, we don't want the numbers to rise.

Sad times and happy times in this lockdown year we've had, but we're looking forward to meeting up again, so let's think happy thoughts, not sad.

**Evelyn Scobie**

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# ABERNETHY SCOUT GROUP

After the disappointment of the second lock down between January and March and although there are still Covid restrictions (April 2021) Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all managed to start meeting again after the Easter holidays. The Scout group and Leaders were delighted to be able to start back and hope that this time we can ease into the new normal without the need for any further lockdown measures. The one thing that we have learnt over the lock downs, was just how much enjoyment that the kids have had from scouting and it is refreshing for the Leaders to realise that all their hard work has a real positive impact, with the Scouts learning essential life skills in communication, problem solving, teamworking and leadership to name a few.

At the end of April, Abernethy Beavers and Cubs met Perth Police Officers PC Alana Brown and PC Aitkenhead, who took time to visit the group from their busy late shift. As well as showing them all the equipment they carried and explaining what their job entails in the community, they answered numerous questions, which ranged from "Have you ever been scared?" to "Where is your gun?" and "Do you use your radio to order beer and donuts?". The object of the Beavers and Cubs meeting the Officers was not only to learn about policing in their community but to let the kids realise that the Police are approachable and not to fear them, and by some of their questions I think it is safe to say we met our objective.



**Above Abernethy Cubs meet PC Alana Brown**

We now have 22 Scouts with numbers due to increase again after the summer with the Scout group almost again at capacity, which again is testament to the leaders who have worked tirelessly to provide an exciting outdoor programme whilst staying within the boundaries of the covid restrictions.



**Above Abernethy Beavers with PC Alana Brown and PC Neil Aitkenhead**  
Due to the Covid restriction in April we could only meet in groups up to a maximum of 15, so this resulted in the Cubs and Scouts needing to be run as two separate groups on the nights they met. Again, the Leaders embraced this and ensured it ran smoothly, assuring that the groups complied to all the Covid rules and guidance.



Another of the challenges that the Scouts have is with their age group being 10 ½ to 14 years of age and with all over 12's needing to socially distance whenever we can as its impracticable to have over 12s socially distancing and under 12s not. However, the Scouts have taken it in their stride as can be seen above.



**Above half of Abernethy Cubs meet PC Aitkenhead**



The other half of the Scouts enjoy a game of basketball on a lovely spring evening on their return to regular meetings.

During the last few months, we have used the opportunity of lockdown to continue with some of the maintenance work in the Pavilion and in addition we looked to improve the car park area outside so we could have additional parking to cope with the increasing popularity of the groups and park use.





Grading work is carried out with the bottoming that was dug out from previous work at the pavilion being spread. The car park is now able to hold 20 cars.



Thanks go to Joe McLaren (AKA Uncle Ali) below for all his efforts and patience in helping to construct a temporary shelter at the pavilion for the Scout groups to use whenever there is heavy rain, as indoors the groups are very limited in what they can do because of Covid restrictions. It took several hours to construct a temporary shelter that can go up and down quickly. Since retiring, Joe's wife Irene usually demands that he spends all his time with her, so thanks go to Irene for releasing him for the day to help with the pavilion work. Right is



the temporary shelter which will help keep the rain off. Hopefully we will not require it but in true scouting fashion "Be Prepared".

In the previous edition of the Village Crier, I mentioned David Wotherspoon who had previously been an Abernethy Cub and since that time he has gone on to win the Scottish League Cup in February along with Stevie May who is a Newburgh lad. Both David and Stevie as well as being St Johnstone Players are St Johnstone Fans and have now played for their boyhood team, winning both the Scottish Cup in 2014 (see Brian the Sainte Stewart for more details) and now the Scottish League Cup in 2021.



David Wotherspoon pictured on his return to McDiarmid park with the League Cup.



Stevie May (centre) and David Wotherspoon (right) celebrate a goal with Scott Tanser.

At the end of March 2021, David Wotherspoon was again capped for the Canadian National team and not only scored his first goal for them but was credited with a further three assists. Who knows, we might have an Abernethy Cub playing in the World Cup yet.

With the village tearoom now closed and being transformed into a hairdressing salon, and with the increasing popularity of families and kids using Powrie Park, the Scout Committee are currently exploring the possibility of opening a Community Tearoom in the pavilion, so as well as enjoying the park you could also meet with others and enjoy a coffee and

a blether (post Covid of course). We are just in the early stages of examining this as a possibility but hopefully we might have something up and running for the summer.

Finally, thanks to all the Leaders and Committee for their continued work in making Abernethy such a successful group.

**Gordon Miller**  
Abernethy Group Scout Leader

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# ABERNETHY STATION AND OTHER MEMORIES

A recent walk down Station Road and a glance over to where the station used to be brought back many childhood memories of what the station was like as I remember it as a laddie seventy years ago. Our family were the local coal merchants and carriers, and with horse and cart carried many of the goods that were delivered to, or left Abernethy by rail. After school or on Saturdays and holidays I would often sit proudly beside my father on the lorry pulled by one of his magnificent Clydesdales. Smiler, Bob and Prince were some of the names I remember but Smiler, a beautiful chestnut with a white diamond splash on his face and four huge, to me anyway, hairy white feet; a gentle giant, he was my favourite. Better still was getting to ride on his back when he would be taken down to one of our fields to graze after work in the summer months. Along with pals it was exciting to go to the smiddy below Margaret Coles' house at 10 Main Street, or the Tootie corner as we knew it, to see her grandfather shoe the horses. The smell of the burning hoof when the hot shoe was put on lingered in the nostrils for a long time. This really was a smiddy under a spreading chestnut tree, and where we got our conkers in the autumn.

At this time much of the produce sold in our local shops, hotel and 2 pubs would still come in by rail and would be delivered morning or afternoon every day. It's hard to believe, but we had eight shops in the village at that time, all I think worth a mention. Starting at the west end 3 Main street now called the Toll House was "Corstorphines" selling groceries and papers. They were also agents for the bus company and you could have items delivered to the shop to be collected or put on the bus to be taken elsewhere. At 21/23 Main Street was a branch of Newburgh Co-op. Every Saturday morning Jim Shepherd the eldest son of a fine family of twelve who lived at Stewarts Hill farm above Gattaway would come down with his donkey pulling a little two wheeled cart. He would load up with enough supplies to at least keep them going until the Monday when they would be down to school! Next door at 25/27 had previously been "Davie Broomes" one of our two bakers which was closed just before the time I am recalling. On the other side of the road now 22 Main Street was Thomson Ramsay the butcher who was also Provost when we had our own Town Council. His front of shop helper was the popular Jean "the butcher" Scott who seemed to forever have a "dreep" at her nose which she normally managed to "dicht" with the sleeve of her "peenie" just before it dropped into your mince, but occasionally she didn't quite make it in time. She seemed to manage to cut her finger almost daily and the bandage she used was a piece of paper tied with butchers string. You were never sure whether the blood on the bandage was from Jean or the mince. The butcher meat was delivered from Perth abattoir most hygienically on the back of the Newburgh carrier's lorry, covered in some hessian sacking. I don't recall anyone ever suffering food poisoning from eating Thomson Ramsay's beef. Previously the cattle sheep and pigs would have been slaughtered in a shed behind the shop where the lock-ups are now and my aunt recalled that they knew when a beast had been killed because the washings from the shed floor ran down an open drain from the shed, along the "shoughie" and into the street drain. If it was a pig being killed the boys always seemed to know and were present to get the pigs bladder for a football. John Smith had a fine grocer's shop where Brian Greig's shop is now and two doors further along, now 30 Main Street, was Kate Walker's wee shop that also sold groceries as well as what would then be described as haberdashery. Across the road in the gap between 29 and 31 Main Street was Andrew Wilkie's bicycle repair shop where he also sold his famous Tower brand cycles. It would be good to have one in the museum showing the unique marque of the Round Tower on its frame below the handle bars. Mr Wilkie's house next door was where you collected your prescription which the Doctor had brought from the Newburgh chemist. All the prescriptions were just left on a tray on a table in the hall, and you just opened the door and took what was yours. Of course you had a good look to see what everyone else was getting pills or potions for; trusting times. I can't recall ever hearing of anybody's medicine being stolen. Where the clinic is now was "Ritchies" the largest of the grocery shops and when he retired it became the Co-op. I can remember seeing large blocks of ice being carried up the close from the Perth Ice Factory lorry for his ice cream machine in the back shop where previously there was a snooker table where the men could go for a game. Across the road, now 61 Main Street, was John Clark's busy bakery. I remember being sent for a half loaf (why was it always called a half loaf when it was in fact a whole loaf) and getting one still warm and picking bits out of it to eat before getting home. Finally across the road again, now 56 Main Street, was Norman Peddie's post office which also sold groceries, papers and some hardware. Years later I would twice work as an auxiliary postie at Christmas time. We delivered to an area stretching from Greenside Farm in the east to Balmanno in the west and all the hill farms, all by bike,

picked up extra mail and parcels at the small post office at Aberargie which had a hand cranked petrol pump outside. The two worst deliveries were to Stewarts Hill farm, which meant leaving the bike at Craig Haxton's farm at Greenside and walking the half mile up a track beside the burn to Stewarts Hill, and to Barclayfield, away up at the back of Ayton House. It is now a much better track and part of the Castle Law circular walk. Abernethy also had a cobbler's shop at West Park and a barber's at the corner of Station Road and Cluny Street. At the house beside that Mrs Richardson made kilts and a Mr Fairfoul had several ladies who made fur-lined ladies gloves in the hall of the church in Kirk Wynd before the hall was destroyed by fire. The fur came from fancy coloured rabbits which he bred in a shed down Cordon Road. So you will see it was quite a metropolis, and up to this time most of the requirements were coming in by rail, although this would soon become less and less as road transport slowly took over. What is now The Old Town House in the square was indeed the Town House where the "Toon Council" would hold its meetings upstairs while the Library and the children's clinic, presided over by our redoubtable Nurse Peattie, was downstairs. Upstairs was also the Registrar's office where John Smith the grocer acted as registrar for births, deaths and marriages including the marriage of Liz and me in 1967.

Back to the station where smaller items would be sent down a shiny metal chute from platform level to the loading bank at the road side in front of what is now Mitchell Shaw's house but which was previously the station office. At that time it would be boxes of butter which would be cut into required portions in the shop by the shop assistants with wooden butter "pats" and wrapped in paper. Large cheeses had to be cut with the wire cheese cutters. Sugar, lentils, dried fruit and other items would come in bulk and have to be weighed and bagged in the shop. Larger items like bags of flour for the bakers, barrels of beer and boxes of spirits for the pubs and hotel would be unloaded from the vans in one of the three sidings on the north side of the bridge. The contents of the barrels were poured using gallon measures in to the tins which you brought to the shop. All measures and weights had to be taken to the hall once a year when the weights and measures inspectors would check them and put a stamp on them to show that they were up-to-date and accurate. Steelyards from the local farms and all the scales used at the berry picking would also have to be brought in on that day. These sidings were also where the wagons of coal would come in. As well as deliveries to households which were all heated by coal fires, there was a regular supply to the local gasworks situated at the far end of Cluny Street but which closed down shortly after the time I am writing about after a fire. The last manager/engineer was a Mr Sinclair whose duties as well as producing gas was to collect the money from the meters. Anecdotal evidence suggests that in the days after collecting said meter monies Mr Sinclair would occasionally go on a two or three day bender, with the result that the burgh would have no gas. This was winter time, cold and early dark, so with no heating or light the lieges tended to retire earlier than usual. Unequivocal evidence proves that nine months later Abernethy witnessed a spike in the birth rate, substantiated by the fact that in my year at Abernethy school we had seven pupils in my class with birthdays in the same week. I was not one of them. I am not aware if any had Sinclair as a middle name.



The bus was reversing at Abernethy, before picking up passengers and was overturned. The conductor sustained injuries and is detained in Perth Royal Infirmary. Her condition was stated to be comfortable. The driver was unhurt.

A seventy eight year old memory can be hazy at times but I think I can recall when Abernethy had gas street lighting lit each evening in the winter time by the local "scaffie", Geordie Beatson, whose duties also included digging the graves and ringing the "bairn's bell" at eight o'clock every night on the Steeple bell to let you know it was time you were home from the den or the park or wherever you were playing. The Round Tower was always "The Steeple" I think the only remaining evidence of our gas street lighting is the pole at the entrance to the Hall car park. Hint hint to the excellent Abernethy in Bloom

committee, might it not make a fine point for a flower basket? Where Branston's potato plant is now was originally a linen factory and this would need supplies of coal to fire its steam engines working the mill. The original tall "factory lum" still stood at this time as well as the factory pond, where there is now a fine old horse cart flower display, which provided the water for the steam engines and was a favourite place for we boys to catch frogs, newts and sticklebacks. Also a place of great excitement around 1950 when a bus turning there to go back to Perth slipped into the pond (see photograph on previous page). I could be in the photograph of excited onlookers. During the war these buildings were used by the Ministry of Food as a factory to make cheese. I don't know if any of the milk supplies for this purpose came by rail or if any cheese went out by rail. To my generation it was always "The Cheese Factory" where we would climb up the drain pipes and run back and forward over the roof ridges, with no thought of ever falling through one of the many glass roof windows.

The next use of the buildings would be the first of it being used for potato storage, and much of the seed potatoes handled there would go out by rail to growers all over the country. The bags of potatoes would be transferred to the station on small platform trailers pulled by Scammell electric tractors. This was all done in the winter months and the rail vans would need to be lined with bunches of straw brought in from local farms to protect the potatoes from frost damage while in transit. If the weather was very severe then transport would be stopped. Sugar beet was another agricultural produce sent by rail to the sugar beet factory at Cupar. This and other bulk loads would be weighed on the weighbridge which was situated next to the fence bordering Mr and Mrs Banks house opposite the park gate. You can still see a small area of cobble setts where it stood. Some of the farms and big houses would take their coal supplies in bulk and they would also be weighed here as well as coal for the school. Our school at that time had four teachers and not that many less pupils than at our present school, which has I believe around thirty staff, but our teachers each had a belt and I am sure this was a great aid in managing pupil/teacher ratios!



One of the most regular deliveries from and to the station was from Robert Clow and Company's factory, where Clow Square is now and which made high quality ladies nightwear. The bolts of cloth to make the garments would

come in by rail and the boxes of finished goods would be sent to top shops in cities all over Britain, like Jenners in Edinburgh and Harrods in London. Other boxes would go to the docks to be sent to Canada and the USA and some of the Scandinavian countries, under the Fair Maid brand name. The factory in its heyday employed many women and young girls from both Abernethy and Newburgh as you can see from the photograph. It would be on one of his regular visits to the factory with his horse and cart that a young Arch Bett would first set eyes on the bonniest one of them all, Annie Hutton from Newburgh, and they would be married in 1925.

One of the most important exports from Abernethy was the raspberry crop. From the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Abernethy was literally surrounded by raspberry fields where around ten, mostly small, growers produced possibly as much as 100 tons of raspberries in a season. This would be dispatched by rail to several small jam factories in Blairgowrie and Dundee. This all changed during the First World War. Up to that time no raspberry jam was issued to our troops as it was considered that eating raspberry jam greatly increased the risk of someone getting appendicitis. This medical opinion dramatically changed in 1917 when the Government then commandeered the entire country's crop of rasps for jam production for the troops. This seemed to be more to do with the failure of the plum crop that year, which had previously been the main source of jam for the troops, than any medical evidence to prove there was no longer any great risk of appendicitis from eating raspberry jam. This cartoon from the "Bulletin" newspaper of the time lampooned the Minister who issued the orders. As production of fruit increased in the years leading up to the Second



World War most of the crop was dispatched on a daily basis to Hartleys jam factory in Liverpool. The berries were transported in 1 cwt (112 pounds) wooden barrels which had previously been used to transport salt herring from many of the east coast fishing ports, to the Baltic countries. The barrels went south on the late afternoon train and the empties returned next morning. This trade would cease during the war when, as in the first war, the Ministry of Food again



commandeered the entire country's crop of raspberries to be used for jam for the troops and the fruit sent to wherever it was required. However, even before the first war, raspberries from Scotland had been exported all the way to Germany. A whole week's production would go by rail to Leith docks then by ship to ports in Holland then back on rail to Germany. It was apparently wanted for wine production and would, you would think, be well on the way to becoming wine by the time it reached its destination. A Mr Hodge from Blairgowrie who published a book in 1921 on the history of raspberry production in Scotland remarked "By the time the fruit reached Germany it would be in a fairly liquorish condition but it did not seem to be detrimental to the German physique. It may have been something to do with the moral deficiencies of the German people". This trade would of course cease with the advent of war and, who knows, these comments may have contributed to the reasons for conflict.

Livestock was another agricultural cargo with both cattle and sheep coming in by rail. Drafts of mainly Irish cattle which had come in to Glasgow by boat would then come by train and stand in the lairage on the north side until being driven to local farms such as Cordon, Balgonie and Jamesfield. Sheep from sales in the north of Scotland would also arrive to be fattened in this area. Another item of livestock sent off from Abernethy was rabbits. Rabbits were plentiful at this time and were a valuable food source especially during the war years, and Abernethy had several trappers, including my uncle, who would snare the rabbits during the winter months. The gutted rabbits would be hung from rails in couples in coffin-like boxes and taken by my father to the station to be sent to game dealers all over the country. The farmer would get a small rent for allowing the trappers on his land and at the same time keeping the crop-damaging beasties' numbers down. The railway company also rented out lengths of the embankments to anyone who wanted to trap or shoot rabbits, and here is a receipt showing that my uncle did just this. I have even seen goats tethered on the embankments to the east of the station to keep the vegetation down. Their tethers being only as long as to reach the top of the bank but not as far as the rails. One final item of livestock, if you could call it that, which I doubted but

which my father assured me was true, was when occasionally guests at the "Big Hoose" at Carpow would shoot rooks. They would be sent back to their homes in England to make Crow Pie. So you can be relieved that the "Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a pie" were not the blackies that come to your bird table but were in fact rooks. Too bad for the rooks though. Between the wars another unusual import to Abernethy was "Glescae Dung". This was the all encompassing contents of the middens used by the people living in Glasgow tenements. Farmers took wagons of this material and it was spread on the fields and ploughed in. Excellent organic fertiliser that Ian Miller would grab with both hands, although maybe not literally, if it was available today. The people of Abernethy would I am sure on a warm day also get the benefit of its aroma. Surely like today, if you choose to live in the countryside, the smells of the countryside are a small price to pay for the pleasure of living in such a beautiful and peaceful place.



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Passenger traffic of course played an important part in the story of the station. Before buses became more frequent, rail travel was the only way to travel unless by horse and cart or by foot. My uncle told me of driving sheep by foot to be sold in the old Hay's market at Glover Street when he was just a laddie. A Mr Sutherland who worked for my grandfather was in charge, and after delivering the sheep the boys would get the train home but there was no way Mr Sutherland was going to risk life and limb on a train. He

would walk all the way back again. If you wanted to go to Edinburgh you took the train to Bridge of Earn and got the connection from Perth, travelling up the steep Balmanno Hill stretch and through the Glenfarg tunnel and on to the Forth Bridge. Perth was an important rail hub, and where Tesco's Edinburgh Road shop is now was a great area of sidings, where the locomotives were bunkered with water and coal and where there was a huge turntable to allow the engines to change direction. Travelling east most of the Fife coast towns were served by rail and one of my earliest memories was travelling to Dundee by the North Fife line, now long closed, and over the Tay Bridge. Travelling to Cupar after Lindores, you can see where it ran with some of the track still visible and where the bridges were. Another early trip I remember was to Bridge of Earn station and then walking out to Pitkeathly Wells on the Forgandenny road to "Take the Waters" and enjoy a cup of tea and a cake at the wee tea shop beside the Wells. Pupils travelling to Perth for their secondary education travelled by train until passenger services ceased in 1950, sadly the year I was due to go. The carriages at this time on local trains had individual carriages not corridors and we young laddies were intrigued by tales from older boys of what went on with the girls, especially in the darkness going through Moncrieffe Tunnel. I have asked Janet Paton about this but her lips are sealed. However, she couldn't conceal a knowing smile and I'm sure she blushed! Sadly I would never find out.

Goods traffic although much reduced would continue until around 1965 by which time I was now the coal merchant. Deliveries continued to Newburgh station for a further period before it was also closed and deliveries then came by road. The station offices then became a house and my story comes to its end after covering much more than was my first intention. I hope any of my contemporaries reading this will vouch that my recall is reasonably accurate but I will stand corrected if they say otherwise. For the rest of the "Crier" readers I hope you have enjoyed sharing my memories with me.

**Ian Bett**

## LEST WE FORGET

One hundred years ago on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1921, the service of dedication of the war memorial took place.

Prior to the unveiling ceremony, an impressive service was held in the Parish Church, at which Rev. George McDougall, the parish minister, officiated. At its conclusion the large congregation adjourned to the memorial where the unveiling ceremony was performed by the eminent Dr Seton Watson.

Every year since then, on Armistice Sunday in early November, wreaths are laid and prayers said for the dead servicemen of the parish.



The memorial takes the form of a replica market cross, and the casual passer-by may well be unaware of the modest bronze plaques, bearing the names of the 38 local men who lost their lives in the two world wars of the 20th century.

Abernethy's war memorial occupies a prominent central position in the heart of the old burgh. It stands on the site of the old market cross which was there for 300 years from the mid-1400s.

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From the 1750s until 1920 the burgh's Town House stood on this site and was demolished to make way for the memorial.



The old Town House

More information about the monument can be found in the Museum of Abernethy.

Why not pay a visit?

**Irene McLaren**  
Secretary  
Museum of Abernethy

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## ABERNETHY & DISTRICT SENIOR CITIZENS TRUST

The Senior Citizens Committee would like to wish all our Senior Citizens a happy, healthy Summer. We hope you are all well and staying safe. With the easing of restrictions, we are cautiously optimistic we may be able to meet up in the not too distant future. We will be monitoring the situation and will keep you posted in the next Newsletter.

**Evelyn Scobie, Secretary**

# REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID ILLINGWORTH.

## Brown and Sticky

A while back, members of the community commented on untidiness in the park behind the Williamson Hall and the lane that goes from the Bowling Club up to Main Street. Since then, I've been keeping an eye on those areas and tidying up when necessary.



It's a pleasure to report that whenever something brown and sticky is found, it's almost always... well... a stick. And it's not just the park and the lane, the village is virtually clear of poo and litter. A few years ago, walking the kids to the school meant negotiating a chicane of unpleasant mounds on Main Street.

So, what's changed? It certainly wasn't an army of council workers sent out to clean our streets. No, it was you, the residents of Abernethy, who worked hard to reduce this problem. The vast majority of dog-owners take strenuous steps to clear up after their dogs and some super-citizens even pick up after the irresponsible miscreants who don't look after their dogs properly.

Abernethy is a place where people care about the environment around them. It's a place where people feel they belong.

## The New Puffin Crossings

The new Puffin Crossing outside the school was completed just in time for Summer Term. When the new houses off the Newburgh Road are completed, it will be even more useful.



Back in 2019, the Council Administration voted to allocate £1,000,000 for road safety measures outside schools across Perth and Kinross. Following conversations at the Primary School's Parent Council and at Abernethy Community Council, I put in a request for a new crossing from this fund. I was delighted to hear that the project passed the criteria for Capital Spend

and would go ahead. It's been delayed by Covid and the hard winter just gone past, but I hope both this new crossing and the replacement crossing at the bottom of School Wynd will be appreciated by everyone in Abernethy for many years to come.

## Welcome Frank

On the 23rd March, Frank Smith from Methven was elected to be a Councillor for Almond and Earn. I know you will be as patient with him as you were with me, when I was elected 4 years ago. There is a lot to learn about how the Council operates and how to best help people in the ward.

Almond and Earn ward is the only ward in Perth and Kinross where all the Councillors come from the same party. It might even be the only ward in Scotland where that is the case. Which ever party you vote for, the three of us are here to represent and help you to the best of our ability.

Finally...

If you think there's anything I can help you with then please get in touch and I will do my level best to assist.

Councillor David Illingworth,  
Phone 07767 006275 or  
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# FROM THE ARCHIVES 1

As part of the research for my Masters in Scottish History, I've spent many hours in the Archives at Perth Library. There are lots of interesting bits and pieces about the area that I'd like to share. You might even see a relatives name crop up!

In 1783 the parish had five water powered Mills, four of them were in Aberargie. Three grain mills, and one for grinding flax seed for oil and animal feed cake.

In 1792 David Turpie, flax dresser in Abernethy accused of the crime of theft and declared an outlaw and a fugitive!

In 1813 a duck cost 1 shilling, and it cost 2 shillings and sixpence to have shoes mended. In the same year Alexander Speedie paid 18 hens as part of his rent at Easter Greenside.

In 1816 a school (now a house) was built at Dron. Alex Strachan was paid £145 as the builder and it was completed in under 6 months!

## Irene Hallyburton

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The Crier is run by volunteers who give up their time freely but who all have other commitments. To make their jobs as easy as we can there is a date of submission every quarter for articles and advertisements. If this is not adhered to then either the advertisement and/or the article will not be published or the volunteers have to make special, and often time consuming, efforts to accommodate the submitters and publish the item. From now on any item submitted after the deadline will only be published if the committee consider there are exceptional circumstances which justify its inclusion. We are sorry to have to issue such an ultimatum but circumstances make it necessary. Please help us to provide an acceptable service.  
Thank You

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## TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

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.

**We would request that you submit all your contributions to [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk). This will mean that we can maintain a readily accessible archive of all submissions. Those who currently send content directly to Jimmy Swan should use the new address. Those of you who submit their content on paper may continue to do so. Your help in this would be greatly appreciated.**



As we receive reports of crime, the information is shared on <https://www.pkcommunitywatch.co.uk/>

I would encourage you to sign up for notifications.

Guidance on how to protect your property is available via Community Watch as well as on the Police Scotland Website, just click or copy and paste the following links:-

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-home>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-garden-and-outbuildings>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/rural-crime>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/keep-your-bicycle-secure>

Guidance on how to deal with and report bogus callers can be found on the Police Scotland website -

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/personal-safety/doorstep-crime-and-bogus-callers>

For information on vehicle and personal property security please go to the Police Scotland website page; just click or copy and paste the following links:-

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-car>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/keep-safe/home-and-personal-property/secure-your-valuables>

Keep up to date with everything we are doing and all appeals by visiting the following sites:-

<https://twitter.com/policescotland>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoliceScotland>

<http://www.scotland.police.uk/>

<http://www.pkcommunitywatch.co.uk/>

If you wish to make contact with your local community officer please use the following e-mail addresses:

#### **South**

[TaysideKinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:TaysideKinross-shireCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk)

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# ABERNETHY CLUB & ORGANISATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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Baby & Toddler Group  
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*To keep the contact list information up to date please email club contact info changes to either Linda Buchan at [abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com](mailto:abernethycommunitycouncil18@gmail.com) or Les McIntosh at [info@villagecrier.co.uk](mailto:info@villagecrier.co.uk)*

*Thank you*