



VILLAGE CRIER



DELIVERED TO 800 HOUSEHOLDS

Info@villagecrier.co.uk

ABERNETHY, ABERARGIE AND DRON NEWS

19th EDITION

JUNE 2013

CLOSING DATE FOR 20th EDITION 31 JULY 2013

As I start to write my contribution for the 19th Edition of The Crier we are entering the last week of April and I should be referring to winter in the past tense but by the feel of the temperature this evening and the weather forecast for the end of the week, I fear winter is still here. However by the time you read this I hope most sincerely that summer will have arrived.

After this long winter I was wondering what I would have to write about but today I am inspired to describe my situation; a Sunday morning 28th April, sitting in front of a blazing log fire listening to the wind howling, the rain beating against the windows and watching the huge waves rolling in. A contrast from Thursday evening when I drove north and was so impressed seeing the fascinating contours created by sun and shadow on the Monadhliath Mountains still with a slight covering of snow.. Yesterday, the cobwebs were completely blown away, sailing over to the Island of Eigg. It is amazing the pleasure one gets just by living and travelling around Scotland, whatever the weather and all for free!

I think I am beginning to be like Fidelma Cook (but not nearly so good) who writes for The Herald and has wonderful descriptions of her place in France

Anyway having had my Fix of the sea and the wind to keep me going I had better turn to matters at home.

I am now dependent on The Crier for Abernethy news. I only hear about certain things going on in the village since I no longer live there but I think this could apply to local people as well in matters in which they are not directly involved so it is important that we keep receiving contributions from all the organisations and clubs etc.

Since The Crier is issued quarterly it may be difficult to remember the final date for contributions. This is always printed in the current issue so could be noted in your diary or "Kitchen Calendar" There is never any excuse!

Also, do not be shy in expressing personal opinions, your own thoughts on things which are good or bad about the Abernethy and District. I am a great believer in writing to the papers. It is an excellent way of getting things done or not done as the case may be. I can't remember who said it but "bad publicity is better than no publicity at all".

I am disappointed there is never any contribution from either our MP, MSP, or local councillors. Other local newsletters seem to receive articles from their representatives, why not here? Another matter----we are always able to publish notice of those who have died but never any news is sent to us of Births. I cannot believe there are no new babies in the Parish of Abernethy and Dron.

I was delighted to hear that two young people from Abernethy took part in Perth Operatic Society's production of Oliver namely Sam Donnachie and Imogen Graham. Well done Sam and Imogen. Why not write and tell us of your experience being on stage in Perth Theatre?

By the way we are looking for a young reporter.

Finally an apology; there were one or two errors in the last edition. Sorry, I am afraid it sometimes happens.

Have a good summer everyone.

Hilda Clow.

EDITORS VIEW

Firstly, the committee of the Crier would like apologise to advertisers for the mistakes in their ads in the last edition.

The newsletter is proof read very carefully before it goes to print but this time some bits slipped through the net.

We will try our best to avoid this happening in the future. Sorry.

Many thanks to Brian Boyes, the one and only letter so far on the independence issue.

Brian obviously cares about the future for his family and for his country, what about the rest of you?

Brian puts a good case for the "YES" vote, what about someone presenting the case for voting "NO". As he has said parties on both sides will be "muddying the waters" with untruths and red herrings.

Let us hear how this area of Scotland feels about it.



The ED



LETTERS TO THE ED

DEAR ED

In the Autumn of next year we in Scotland will be invited to vote in a referendum which will decide on whether Scotland becomes an independent country or not....to say such an opportunity arises only ONCE IN A LIFETIME is not "over-egging" the matter!!! During the next 18 months the Conservatives and Labour Party (and everyone else opposed to Independence) will resort to every trick to "muddy the waters" relating to our freedom. Questions will posed regarding membership of the European Union, economic policy/currency, defence, etc .etc but I would suggest at this juncture such questions/arguments are peripheral. When this momentous day arrives and you are about to register your vote to the question "Should Scotland be an Independent country" I would humbly ask you to take a moment to contemplate, (ask yourself)....."do I believe in my own ability and the future aspirations of my countrymen"? If the answer is in the affirmative then the only thing that will stop you voting "YES" is the fear of FEAR itself. My case rests.

Brian Boyes

Dear Editor,

On Sunday 31st March I happened to be in the Cree's Inn in the evening and found myself enjoying an evening of folk music. It seems that this is a monthly event, on the last Sunday of every month, and is organised and hosted by Roddy Johnston and Kate Badcock. I was told it is an impromptu evening, with all singers and instrumentalists welcome to come along, just turn up with your instrument and you will be made to feel welcome. If you don't play anything but enjoy listening to music then this is an enjoyable night for you too.

I can certainly recommend it and I suspect that every-one in the bar that night would endorse this view. If you like music in an informal atmosphere then keep the last Sunday of each month free and go to the Cree's.

Name and Address supplied

DEAR ED

Attempted to access this wonderful Ancient Monument today, to be told it has been closed since November, 2012. Amazing, .. I am amazed to be honest. On enquiring at the little Culdees Tea rooms who hold the keys for the Tower for visitors, I was informed that they have had over six to ten visitor per week, unable to access this monument, just for a stupid hatch. The amazing thing is that you send a team of men to clean the tower every fortnight from St Andrews. For what purpose???????? The Abernethy Museum has a long association with this Tower.. They open on the 4th May 2013, this Saturday, Would be nice to have the two interests assisting each other.. I am amazed at the lack of action. I could have got a local Joiner to fix the HATCH.....A very angry Supporter, of Historic Scotland. What are you senior staff thinking about... This is the tourist season dont you know.....

MIKE THOMPSON ABERNETHY

REPLY

Dear Mr Thomson,

Thank you for your email dated 01 April received yesterday regarding access to the top of Abernethy Round Tower.

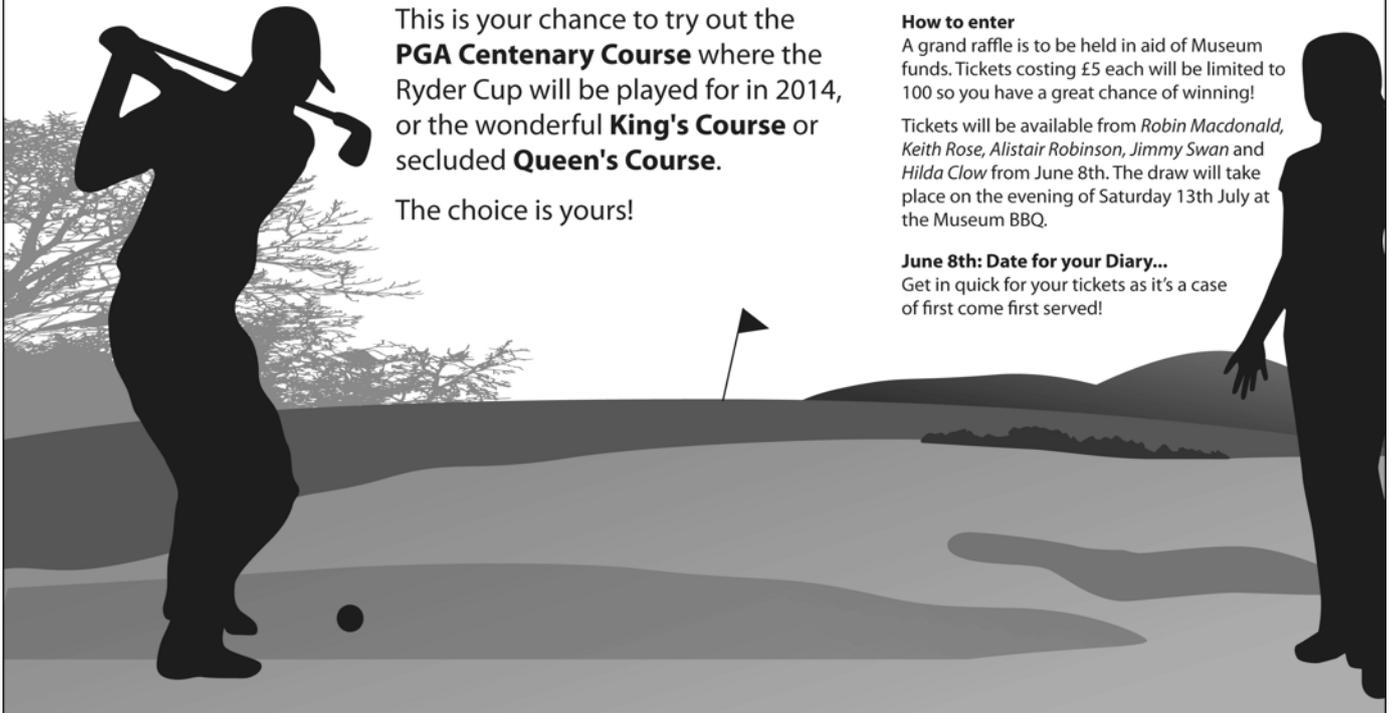
We are awaiting final costs for repairs required around the base of the roof hatch and have purchased new hydraulic arms to assist with safe access for visitors lifting the hatch. We have just received note of our new financial year budgets and hope to move on this issue within the next month. This will allow us to re-open the Tower to visitors this summer.

A wider scope of works is required to repair the roof area including a new flagpole with integral internal rope system and we hope to have this resourced later in the year. Please contact us if you wish any further clarification or wish to discuss any other issues regarding the Tower.

Best regards,
Karen W

"Golfers, Keep Your Eye on the Ball"

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This is your chance to try out the **PGA Centenary Course** where the Ryder Cup will be played in 2014, or the wonderful **King's Course** or secluded **Queen's Course**.

The choice is yours!

How to enter

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

Tickets will be available from *Robin Macdonald, Keith Rose, Alistair Robinson, Jimmy Swan and Hilda Clow* from June 8th. The draw will take place on the evening of Saturday 13th July at the Museum BBQ.

June 8th: Date for your Diary...

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

ABERNETHY, DRON & ARNGASK CHURCH

A reminder of Church activities in St Brides Church, Abernethy

For the remainder of this year

- Sunday worship continues at 11am with Sunday club for children during the service
- 'Open doors' is on 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 10am -11.30; come and join in for a cuppa and a blether. All will be welcomed.
- Some members of the Jambouree Choir are to be singing on Friday 14th June at 7.30pm in the church. The concert is partly in aid of church funds and also to help our local mission partners, Rob and Ritu Jones and family who work in a hospital pharmacy and nursery project in Malawi. Look out for further information in Church, on village notice boards and in the Perthshire Advertiser. Tickets, £7.50 are available from Kathleen Baird at 01337 840 218 and Elizabeth Taylor 850 477. An evening not to be missed!
- There's more information about your local church on the website at

It is with regret we here of the death of John Harvey, Jean Ramsey and Eric Kemp Ray Robertson and Irene Copland.

We would also like to report the the death of Eva Davidson once of Abernethy.

Our thoughts are with their families at this difficult time.



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THE TALE OF VISITING MZUNGU

Mzungu? If you've ever visited Africa then you'll know that Mzungu is a term used by Africans to refer pleasantly to white people. Why the title? Well Jenny Cleeton is my daughter who is currently spending a gap year in Kiwangala, Masaka District, Uganda, and has a blog called 'The Tale of a Lost Mzungu' which can be read at <http://jennyinuganda.blogspot.co.uk/>

In the last issue, Jenny gave an update on her time in Uganda since September 2012. We have been in contact with Jenny using Skype and don't rely solely on her blog to keep us up to date. My step-daughter, Michelle (from Crook of Devon) and I decided to go a step further and visit Jenny in Uganda. In March 2013, via Heathrow, we flew from Edinburgh to Entebbe, where we were met by my very excited daughter. Having arrived at midnight, we were driven to Kampala to our hotel. The sights and smells at this hour did not prepare us for the norm when daylight woke us the following morning.



The first thing noticeable was traffic and the lawlessness of the roads. The disorganised chaos that somehow works left me in no doubt that I would never hire a car in this city. Secondly the number of motor bikes stopping to offer us a lift, without helmets, was overwhelming. This was my introduction to 'boda boda's', the local term for these motor bikes. Boda boda's are easily the quickest and most economical way to get around, if you can come to terms with wearing no helmet and the madness that boda boda drivers use to get from A to B.

Prior to getting onto a boda boda Jenny insisted in negotiating in Lugandan with the drivers for the best deal. Whilst I was charged 3000 Ugandan schillings, she and Michelle were charged 5000 Ugandan schillings for doubling up. Sounds a lot? This equates to 75p and £1.25 for a journey that our beloved taxi drivers at home would easily have claimed was worth at least £10!



We travelled around Kampala, saw many incredible and wonderful sights; we visited the market, or perhaps it was the city centre, where you may have seen the 'Top Gear' team stop and buy equipment for their respective cars.



It is no different in reality; busy, a traffic logjam and very loud. The smells of cooking food, fumes, open drains, spices and coffee attract your senses, and are often overpowering, however this is the norm and only we noticed. On our 2nd day we didn't notice ei-

Kampala is busy 24 hours a day. The traffic is nose to tail always. Boda boda's swerve in and out, go over pavements, up roads the wrong way and get you to your destination in one piece albeit with a frazzled nervous system. Between the boda boda's and the visible armed guards at every bank and shopping centre you would be excused for being on edge.

It was a relief to leave Kampala to go to Jennys village, Kiwangala. Via the wacky races, that lasted 4 hours, taking us through the Equator and various villages including the 7th largest town, Masaka, we arrived at Kiwangala. Quite simply, it was a shock. When you watch Comic Relief and see the suffering that goes on you are moved and often donate. To be there in person and witness poverty, deprivation, hunger, illness mixed with happiness, friendliness, gratitude and a very warm welcome left us humble. The kids frequently called after us, 'Mzungu, Mzungu' and want only to shake your hand or get a response. They are genuinely delighted we have visited them. Compare that to the 'hoodies' we tolerate that have everything, and duck their heads to avoid any form of

We were accommodated in a concrete building with more than one room, which is exceptional in the village and a tremendous offering. Having been taken to the Childrens Sure House, the school where Jenny works, we were bowled over by the kids desire to learn, to listen and to play. We witnessed the sports afternoon which consisted of all kids from P1 - S4 running about 8000 metres in 35C heat. They ran, they competed, they completed the run and they didn't complain. Then they played football!

We experienced the walk to the well, about 1 km away, to get water, where a 10 year old local boy gave me a lesson on how to carry a 5 gallon jerry can on my head. I failed miserably and succeeded in

soaking those near to me as I dropped it, so I reverted to the Scottish way of swapping the can from hand to hand, putting it on my shoulder or a combination of those. Oh, and as the walk was uphill back from the well, a 2nd visit was required to wash away the sweat and tears.

Jenny and the other volunteers from Project Trust (in the village), namely Kate, Holly and Calum are incredibly patient, understanding and helpful. They have integrated into the village and are like family to many. They teach English, Maths, Science, Computing, Music and anything else asked of them.



Like Kampala on day 2, Kiwangala on day 2 was less shocking than day 1. However, this is probably because we knew we were another day closer to returning to electricity, running water, a toilet and a shower. Ugandans are extremely friendly, speak English, drive on the same side of the road (sometimes) and are very respectful. In the village of Kiwangala we met people who have only a roof over their head and they are so grateful for that. Everyone we met is grateful that they are better off than someone else; that they don't have malaria; that their kids have survived infancy; that they have something to eat that day. This is their norm. In the western world our norm is wall to wall TV, Internet access, chocolate, buses on time, a time to start work and a time to finish work. I could go on – we are not wrong; it's just our norm.

All parents will understand the emotion of meeting their child after being separated for so long; leaving Jenny in Uganda was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life, particularly when you consider her living conditions. But, Jenny is happy, she didn't want to come home as she is dedicated to her school, the village, to Project Trust and to completing her year. Certainly she was emotional at leaving her Dad and Sister for a 2nd time, but she couldn't wait to get back to her village and her Ugandan family.

In one week in March I experienced almost every emotion that is possible. We left behind 75 kg of clothing, food, sports equipment and Scottish memorabilia which had been kindly donated, bought or supplied for the village. You would have thought we'd left the bank vault door open (not RBS vault, UK taxpayers will be pleased to know)!

Whilst we could give money and improve life in Kiwangala, unless you improve every village and every road in Uganda the money will benefit those who receive it in the short term, but will change very little long term.

Uganda is a beautiful country, with many friendly and helpful people, included in which are the wonderful volunteers who give up a year of their life to help those who don't even know they need it.

I now have some realisation of the difficulties faced in the 3rd world, rather than just 'as seen on TV' and know that Uganda is not alone. If I ever needed reminding that we have no choice over where we are born, and what we are born into, this was it. Hopefully, I will keep my promise to myself to stop moaning about trivialities, and to never travel on a boda boda again.

Dougie Cleeton

ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB

Summer 2012 we had a men's single competition won by Alisdair Stoddart and a mixed doubles competition won by Gary Millar and Liz Yull.

Junior coaching continued throughout the season. Teenage and Parent and Child coaching is planned after the Easter holidays.

Thanks to Branston who donated money for the purchase of netball stands. The netball club played on Monday evenings.

Our money raising Race Night was a huge success - thank you to all those who gave very generously. It was a good night supported by a good crowd. The proceeds will be saved for the future resurfacing of the courts, probably in 10 – 15 years.

Looking ahead, hopefully the club membership will increase again this year. Do come along and enjoy physical activity in the fresh air, no previous experience necessary.

The new season begins on 1st April 2013.

LIZ YULL

HEATING OIL CLUB

In a recent "Crier" I read about Abernethy's involvement in a club, to save money on heating oil, as well as helping to cut down on carbon emissions etc. I tried several years ago to start something similar, albeit in my own street. The response then was lacklustre, but the oil price was probably around 35-40p/litre at the time. Maybe my fellow villagers thought I was trying to set up some sort of scam! I only wanted to save money for everyone, and do my wee bit for the environment.

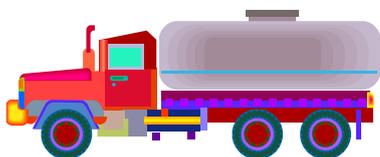
So, when I saw this bigger, more formal version being established in the village, I thought it would be great to join. I ordered 1000l, but saw that, as a "club", we were still around 5000l away from getting a delivery, and, therefore, a better price.

However, as the cold spell hit, my oil level was dangerously low, and I had already been waiting around 3 weeks for the confirmation of a delivery. So I ordered directly from one of the many companies that delivers to Abernethy. I asked about the success of this type of community buying, but was told (at least by the company I spoke to) that heating-oil companies simply inflate the price to cover the commission charged by the companies set up to save us money. Catch 22!

It really annoys me seeing lorries coming to Castlelaw, day after day...one day it's "j-oil", 2 days later, it's "Brogan", then 3 days later it's Carnegie, and so it goes on.

I have previously discussed, with 3 different companies, the possibility of multiple drop discounts within the area, and there are discounts to be had. It seems ludicrous that we see these delivery vehicles trundling through the village several times a week, when a co-ordinated, "fee-free" system could be established exclusively in the village, with no "fees" or overheads.

If there was something established, by an individual(me??) or something in the shop, or on the community noticeboard where locals could notify others that they will be ordering in the next 7-10 days, then maybe we could try something as we head into next summer and winter? Even just a list of 10, 20, or 30 interested individuals who could be contacted, say fortnightly, to put a bigger order together?



I am happy to be contacted if anyone thinks there is mileage in this idea. Or we can continue to pollute the village and pay the exorbitant prices.

It may even be an idea to set up an informal meeting somewhere, in the next few months, to see if we could instigate an independent buying group, with no commissions or expectations, just a sensible and structured buying regime!

I am open to comments or suggestions.

LAWRENCE BEC

UNPLEASANT ODOUR



Did you know you can report this smell to SEPA.(Scottish Environment Protection Agency)

Once they are informed of this unpleasant odour they can investigate.

Do you rely on someone else reporting it?

SEPA will only know the extent of the problem if it is reported to them each time the smell occurs and by the number of reports they receive.

You can call any time night or day. All that will be requested from you when you call is – Where the smell is – Type of smell – When you first noticed it – and a contact telephone number.

SEPA 24 Hour Pollution Report Line

Tel - 0800 80 70 60

A NEW PONY

A new pony has arrived at the Pony field in Station Road. She is a grey Connemara called Fenella and is Imogen's new Endurance Pony.



At first glance you may think she looks just like Bella. Bella is a 13.3 Arab/ Welsh grey pony and Fenella is a 13.1 Connemara. Connemaras come from Ireland and are thought to have Arab blood in them. When the Spanish Armada was defeated some ships tried to get home by going round Scotland and Ireland. Some were sunk in storms and the Spanish horses that swam ashore to Ireland introduced Arab blood into the native ponies which is why Connemaras are so handsome.

Imogen has already started by riding 20k at Tentsmuir. Her aim this season is to gain her Bronze This-tle Award and she will begin this by riding for 30 k at West Fenton in May.

If you are interested in Scottish Endurance riding the website is www.scottishendurance.com

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MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

The Museum of Abernethy will be opening to the public on Saturday 4 May. The Museum will now be open Wednesdays to Sundays from 2pm to 5pm (please note the extra day and slightly later start time). As you may be aware, the display this year is the First World War. I would like to extend my thanks to Bill Drever and the collections management group for compiling a thorough and fascinating exhibition, which includes locally donated artefacts and a replica of the Abernethy War Memorial. I recommend a visit!

As always, we still have other displays relating to the history of the Parish of Abernethy. We have also made improvements at the Museum, namely refurbished lighting inside and brand new lights in the Garden Gallery outside. The garden itself is also subject to an overhaul which will have a monastic theme in keeping with the history of the site.

The social committee have also been hard at work. Our first valentines dinner in February proved to be a cosy and successful evening. We are now working hard to promote the golf raffle. Do you want to win a round of golf for two at Gleneagles? Only £5 a ticket and with only 100 tickets available the odds are pretty good! The draw will take place on Saturday 13 July in the Museum during the summer BBQ.

We look forward to welcoming lots of local visitors to the Museum over the summer months and here's hoping for some sunshine to encourage those from further afield!

Rachel Cheer
Chair of the Museum of Abernethy
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THE NEXT CRIER COMES OUT FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

SAMARITANS AT SIXTY

The organisation we now know as Samaritans came into being on 2 November 1953 when the first phone call was made to the number which founder Chad Varah referred to as "999 for the suicidal". From these early days in a London church hall Samaritans has grown to 201 branches throughout the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland staffed by over 20,000 volunteers. There are 20 branches in Scotland stretching from Shetland to the Borders including Perth which started work in 1970.

Samaritans' vision is that fewer people die by suicide and this is underpinned by the values of listening, confidentiality, allowing people to make their own decisions, being non-judgemental and offering human contact. Samaritans is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of emotional distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. While the telephone call remains vitally important, support is also given by e-mail, SMS text, face-to-face meeting and traditional letterwriting. As well as supporting callers directly, Samaritans works with other organisations to reduce suicide, for example in partnership with Network Rail to reduce railway suicide and with the Scottish Prison Service to provide trained Listeners who operate in all Scottish prisons and offer support to fellow prisoners, one of the highest-risk groups for suicide.

People do not have to be suicidal to call Samaritans and statistics show that only about one caller in five is actually feeling suicidal. There is no typical call. Sometimes people contact Samaritans because of a single problem although more often it is because a number of problems have mounted up and the caller is finding it hard to cope. What one person might consider a small issue could be huge to somebody else. There is no limit to the issues which can arise but common examples include relationship and family problems, bereavement, financial worries, stress, loneliness, depression and dependency on drugs or alcohol. Many callers have no-one else to turn to.

Samaritan volunteers are ordinary people who, after training, give up 3-4 hours a week to support our callers. Volunteers are of all ages and from all walks of life united by the common vision that fewer people should die by suicide. Whatever the initial reason for joining, most volunteers feel that they get a lot back whether from the satisfaction of helping someone through a tough time, meeting like-minded colleagues or gaining new skills. As Chad Varah put it, "There are in this world, in every country people who seem to be ordinary but who, when meeting a suicidal or distressed person, turn out to be extraordinary" Could you be that ordinary person who turns out to be extraordinary? Perth Samaritans is always looking for new volunteers and we will be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining. To find out more call 07908 874017, e-mail perthsamaritans@hotmail.co.uk or visit the national website www.samaritans.org.

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BURNS CLUB OF ABERNETHY

The club held it's AGM on Thursday 11th April in The Cree's Inn.

A well attended meeting saw the following office bearers elected for the year 2013 / 2014

President Jimmy Swan
Vice President Margaret Folan
Secretary Ian Bett
Treasurer Margaret Folan

Committee members:

Billy Folan, Brenda Calderwood, Margaret Mair,
Jimmy Caderwood and Gavin Davies

A full Annual General meeting then took place. This years Burns supper was discussed along with the plans for next year.

It was reported that the folk group Gaberlunzie had been booked to perform in the Williamson hall on Saturday 12.10.2013.

Further details will be published nearer the time.

FORMER ABERNETHY YOUTH CLUB

The above club which was formed in 2001 has not met since 2003. A proposal has been made that the existing funds of £700 should be given to the Abernethy Parks Project which in turn would benefit the whole Community. Much of this funding came in the way of community grants.

If anyone objects to this proposal please put their objection in writing and send to the treasurer.

Mrs Margaret Folan

4 Glencairn Place Abernethy by 30th June 2013.

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MUSEUM OF ABERNETHY

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Abernethy as a community has changed much over the years, and whilst the Museum shows many fascinating and interesting aspects of these changes, what it does not show (at the moment), is peoples' memories.

What we want to do is to create an archive of memories, and possibly to have "listening posts" at some of the exhibits to really make them come alive.

To that end a project group has been set up to capture the memories of Abernethy residents, the group consists of Janet Paton, Caroline Haddow, Angus MacIntyre and Alistair Robinson. They have all recently attended a course on the subject held at Perth Museum, and are raring to go!

In fact they have already started the project, with the first few interviews having taken place. However, they do need help in a number of areas.

Firstly – do you have any good memories of Abernethy in days gone by? If so, please get in touch, because although as a group we can think of some residents we would like to interview, we don't know everyone in the village, and would hate to miss out an important contribution. In all cases interviewees will have the opportunity to review their material before any of it is made available in the Museum.

Secondly – although we have had some training on the interview process, we need a bit of support on the I.T. side – nothing too complicated, mostly involved in transferring the interviews from machine to disc and some editing. Finally – once we have the interviews transferred to disc we need some assistance in typing out the content into black and white to allow us and the interviewee to review the material – we already have two volunteers in this area, but we really need more.

If you can help with any of the above, or if you have a memory of Abernethy that you wish to share;

Please contact Alistair Robinson on 850038, or e mail secretary@museumofabernethy.co.uk

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NEWBURGH SURGERY & ABERNETHY CLINIC



Some time ago the practice was involved in a project called the Links Project and as a consequence of this funding was found for information pods to help signpost people in the area to up to date and relevant information, to do with clinical help and social needs.

Project schedule.

Installation dates:

Newburgh Medical Practice

6th March 12:30

Following this installation I would suggest a "bedding in" period of two weeks to ensure everything is running as expected and allow an opportunity to receive feedback from the practice and make any adjustments as necessary.



WHAT A PERFORMANCE

On my annual visit to Perth Operatic Society performance which this year was Oliver, I did not know what a real treat was in store. All the boys and girls who performed, were just great. Sam Donnachie aged 9 from Abernethy took the leading part of Oliver, singing solo and acting like a professional. Well done Sam, you and all the other boys and girls who took part did the village proud. well done.

Lillias Johnston

IT MAKES SENSE TO ADVERTISE IN THE CRIER



ABERNETHY AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Since our last update, our Vice Chairman, Simon Downes has stepped down, as work has taken him north to Nairn where he has taken up the position of General Manager of the Golf View Hotel. We wish Simon well in his new venture and thank him for his input while on the Council. Colin Morrison has taken on the position of Vice Chairman.

This now leaves us with two vacancies on the Community Council and we would be pleased to hear from any residents in Abernethy & District who would like to join the Community Council and get involved. We have 10 monthly meetings per year (none in July or December), so if you feel you could make a difference, and would like to contribute to the local community please contact us on abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Meetings are currently being held in the Cree's Dining Room at 7:30pm on the dates shown at the end of this article.

Our regular Community involvement police officer Euan Mitchell has transferred to Auchterarder, and his replacement is PC Jim Pentley, who can be contacted on 0300 111 2222, if you have any local matters that need some Police attention.

The big development under discussion in the area is the construction of a wind farm in the Binn Farm locality. This will consist of between 3 and 5 turbines producing some 2.5 megawatts each. Many of you attended a public information meeting on the matter in the Mason's Hall back on 23rd November.

Following input at this meeting, a further revised plan and event will be available in early June, so watch out for information on the notice boards about this event.

As well as generating electricity, these turbine will contribute to a Community Fund (shared between us and three other affected Community Councils), which we hope will allow funding of important local projects once the turbines are in operation, probably in about two years from now. Finally we are pleased to say that the Community Council minutes are now available to be read on our website: - abernethyvillage.co.uk, if you have any items you wish to be included on the website, please submit them to news@abernethyvillage.co.uk

Remember if you want become involved in your local Community Council contact us on abernethycommunitycouncil@pkc.gov.uk

Community Council Meetings for the remainder of 2013

May 23rd June 20st No meeting in July
August 22nd September 19th October 24th
November 21st No meeting in December

WILLIAMSON HALL

Following Hilda's comments in the last Crier, I wanted to provide an update on the hall management committee. The good news is we still have one! February's AGM brought three new committee members and, following a bit of a reshuffle, I found myself 'volunteering' to take the chair. Another notable change was that, after more years than she could remember (or wanted to admit to?), Evelyn Scobie has stepped down from running the 100 Club. Thank you Evelyn for all the hard work you have put in over the years to make this a continued success.

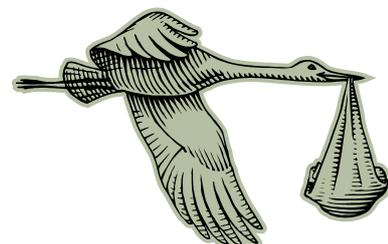
Having averted the threat of closure, the new committee wants to make the hall the best it can be. As well as all the local groups that use it on a regular basis, it's a great venue for parties, ceilidhs, quiz nights and fund-raisers and has a capacity of 100 people. We also have a new Facebook page (Williamson Hall, Abernethy) and our web-site will be up and running soon. Please 'like' us to keep up to date with what's going on in the hall and feel free to add any relevant comments. To book the hall, please call Andrea Dewar on 850960.

Finally, don't forget our annual fete on 15th June. By the time you read this, that'll probably be just a few days away. Look out for more details in this Crier, on posters around the village or on Facebook and please keep your fingers crossed for good weather!

Jill Young, Chair

IT' A BOY

The Mair family are very happy to announce the arrival of their third grandchild, a boy to Fiona and Callum, Torin Mathew Reid.





Abdie Ladies Curling Club New Members Welcome

Friendly Club playing in Perth

Come and try

For more details contact

Lesley 01738 850038
abdieladies@btinternet.com



WILLIAMSON HALL 100 CLUB

March

£20 winner - Jean Ramsay (No. 64)

£15 winner - Margaret Miles (No. 32)

April

£20 winner - Isobel Buchan (No. 68)

£15 winner - Dinah Moran (No. 55)

Jill Young

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ABERNETHY SWRI

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

The last meeting for this session is on Wed 15th May, which is the AGM, when we have Margaret Skinner giving a demonstration of flower arranging. Competitions are: "Arrangement in an Unusual Container" and "Flower of the Month". The Points Winner for the year will be announced. There will also be Tea, Sales Table, and Raffle.

Our meeting in April was an "Open Night" in the Masonic Hall when we had a Talk on the History of Beads and a Demonstration of Jewellery Making by Pat Dick. Also Exhibition and Sale of items including hand made bags. We had a good turn out of members and friends and a very successful Sales Table which raised £35 in aid of RSABI. Tea and tasty bites were served by the committee. A Raffle was drawn.

Competitions: "Favourite Necklace" 1st Elizabeth Taylor, 2nd Alison Smart, 3rd Chris Stewart. "Flower of the Month" 1st Alison Smart, 2nd Elizabeth Taylor, 3rd Pat Miller.

We start up again in September after the Summer break, when we will have a Talk on "Beatrix Potter" by Sandra Batty. (Postponed from March when we had to cancel the meeting due to adverse weather conditions.) More details in next issue of the Crier. We still need new members so please come along and give it a try. If you are not sure if this is for you, please feel free to come along as a visitor first. Contact person Evelyn Scobie Tel: 01738 850496.

Please also see Village Notice Board each month for fuller details

ABERNETHY TENNIS CLUB



The 2013/14 season is now underway and hopefully the summer weather will be kind to us! New members are always welcome and the fees are as undernoted. The Membership Secretary can be contacted on 851199 – Susan MacDougall. Adult Club night is on a Wednesday 6.30 till dusk – just turn up!

Please note that the website for the Club has changed to

<http://abernethytennis.webs.com>

Membership forms can be downloaded from this site.

We look forward to seeing you in the near future!

Enid Campbell
Secretary
Email: enid8018@aol.co.uk

Note referred to:

Family membership: (2 adults and 4 children) £75.00
Adult single £ 40.00
Junior (under 18) £ 15.00

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

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

Any submission without these details will NOT be included

CONTACTS FOR THE CRIER

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JIMMY SWAN (Editor)	850569
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ABERNETHY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (AHS)

In March our AGM was held and a new committee (Ian, Caroline, Margaret, Susan, Bill, Jane and Rachel B) was elected. Leaving the committee are Claire, Keir, Liz and Rachel K. On behalf of the members we thank them for their continued support and hard work during their extended time in the running of the AHS.

In February we had a very interesting talk from Steve Mcnamara, Head gardener at Branklyn Gardens in Perth. They are local to our community and would be well worth a visit during the coming season. Following the AGM in March Geoff Bereton advised on how to get the perfect lawn. Also in March a number of us attended an Apple Grafting Workshop held by Gerben de Vries at Auchtermuchty. We all came away with two grafts and I am advised that Bill, won the bottle of wine donated by Susan, for the first person to see that their grafting technique had been successful. Some of us are still waiting for signs of a new apple tree in the making!

In April Abernethy's own Les Bisset completed a successful season of talks by sharing his passion for all things related to trees and things.

The new committee will be getting together over the coming months to plan a new and exciting programme starting in the Autumn and make a note in your diaries for our Annual Garden Day on the last Saturday in September.

We still have our Road Trip to come. This will be to Drummond Castle Gardens on the 11th May when we hope to repeat the wonderful day out we had last year.

As part of our projects within the community we will continue to maintain Nurse Peatties garden. A number of improvements were made to the Garden last year with the addition of a variety of plants and flowers which we should see in full bloom this year. Notice of all our events can be found on the village notice boards, in the shop, tearoom and the Perth Advertiser. Details of events will also be given on our Facebook page, Abernethy Horticultural Society and in an e-mail to all our members. We are always pleased to see new members joining us and non-members are welcome to come along to meetings and see what we are up to. You can also join

our mailing list and receive email updates. For more information, contact me on 850186 or Caroline on 851190 and/or 07951 742618 or abernethyhorticulture@gmail.co.uk
Wishing everyone fine weather and good gardening.

Ian



A SAILING ADVENTURE

On the 16th March 2013 I left Abernethy for Edinburgh Airport to join a Tall Ship called SS Tenacious at the Prince Rainier Berth at the Monaco Port. Although a little anxious about my ability to sail as part of the Voyage Crew on Tenacious I never the less had a real sense of excitement about what I had decided to do for a week in my life of retirement. I had sailed on Tall Ships as a much younger person when in the Royal Navy when doing my seamanship training on the south coast of England. So was I trying to revisit my youth? I was about to find out. SS Tenacious is one of two ships operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust (JST), the other being the Lord Nelson. The JST operates as a charity and caters for people of all abilities. Therefore as part of the conditions to join the ship to sail between Monaco and Valencia, was a willingness to work within a team and help other less able members of the crew where required.

After a flight from Edinburgh to Nice and on by public transport to the port at Monaco, I arrived for boarding by 1600 (4pm). I was met by the 1st Mate and my watch leader, an old hand who had sailed with JST on numerous occasions. So after being shown my bunk space and a brief on location of the Heads (Toilets) and Mess (Dining) I became a member of the Aft Port Watch for the duration of voyage.

Watches have been the daily method used by all Navies for hundreds of years to divide the running of a ship into 7 time slots: 0001 to 0400 (Midnight watch), 0400 to 0800 (Morning watch), 0800 to 1200 (Forenoon watch), 1200 to 1600 (Afternoon Watch), 1600 to 1800 (1st Dog watch), 1800 to 2000 (2nd Dog Watch), 2000 to Midnight (Evening Watch). The Dog watches enable the change in rotation of the watches to allow sufficient rest periods for the crew.

With all the Voyage and Permanent crew on board the 1st Mate (Steve) gave a briefing on the aims and all aspects of safety for the voyage ahead. (One good thing was his advice to switch off all mobiles so as not to disturb other members who may be sleeping in between watches. In any case we would often be out of reach of any useable signal)

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We spent the night docked at Monaco which gave us the opportunity to meet other members of the crew and to go ashore for a look at this small but affluent principality, before setting sail the following day. I had chosen this leg of the ship's voyage as I thought the weather would be a little warmer than sailing around the coast of Scotland. However we woke up next day to a wet and cold Monaco. Before setting off we were all on Deck to get our first opportunity of climbing the mast so that we could lend a hand to set the sails for our journey to Barcelona and from there to Valencia.

We were soon out of Monaco Marina and into open waters which were very choppy. With help from us novices, the sails were set and off we went on a ship that was definitely 'Rockin an Rollin'. Needless to say there were a few missing persons from each watch as the not so well could only lie on their bunks to try and counter the movement of the ship. Terrific weather for sailing but not for those yet to find their sea legs. The rough weather stayed with us for the rest of Sunday and Monday and Tuesday and then overnight the weather calmed and we woke up to a calm and sunny Wednesday morning on a heading for Barcelona.

The ship docked late morning into Barcelona where we would stay until the next morning when we would set sail for the



last part of my time on the ship to Valencia. This enabled all us non-permanent crew to get ashore to see the sights.

Barcelona has many sights to see but as we were only there for a short stay the majority opted to take the Red and Blue Bus Routes to see the city. Stopping off at the centre where the Cathedral still under construction was quite a sight to see. However as there was a large crowd waiting to get inside, the shipmates I was with, opted to sit with a beer on a surface that was not moving beneath our feet. It was then back on the Bus to finish the tour and onto a restaurant to have a meal before returning to the ship for a good night's rest before setting sail again in the morning.



Having departed Barcelona in the sunshine into a calm sea, the wind was unfortunately in the wrong direction for us to set the sails for our journey to Valencia. As the ship had to be docked in Valencia on Friday evening there was not enough time to sail there. As you will appreciate, unless the wind is in the direction of the journey, use of the wind available requires the ship to tack to catch the wind which would not have got us to the Port of Valencia for our docking time. So we had to revert to engine power for the remaining leg of our journey. However, after the stormy start we all took the opportunity to enjoy and relax in the sunshine.

Also, now that the calmer weather was with us there was time, when not on watch, to get together in the Mess deck for a Beer and a sing song. It never fails to amaze me that wherever I go, there are always talented people within any group to entertain, who can play an instrument and sing which bonded us as shipmates and friends. Needless to say the Bar had strict hours for closing but never the less they were always very enjoyable get togethers and yes many a Sea Shanty was sung.

Reaching Valencia as planned on Friday evening we took advantage to go ashore for a meal as this would be the last opportunity to get together and say our goodbyes to new friends before departing on Saturday morning for home.

After a delayed flight because of the bad weather in the UK I finally arrived back in Abernethy on the 23rd, tired but with a feeling that I had experienced something very special.

Would I do it again? Looking back my main thoughts are how lucky I am when I saw those less able in their wheelchairs and those with various impairments showing a determination to be involved and part of every day's sailing. Whilst it is the aim of the Jubilee sailing Trust to provide this opportunity, it is truly wonderful to see it working and being enjoyed with very few limitations on those taking part. So yes I hope to be able to do it again. There is no age limit for anybody wanting to do this.



Ian Lamond

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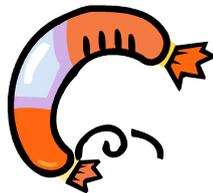
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SPONSORED WALK FIFE COASTAL PATH

Graham Smart, Jane Sanderson, and Evelyn Scobie, recently took part in a "Sponsored Walk" to raise funds for "Greyhound Rescue Fife."

They walked the Fife Coastal Path over 6 days (115 miles) from Sat 30th March to Thursday 4th April, and raised the marvellous sum of £1,750. They would sincerely like to thank everyone who sponsored them and enabled them to raise such a wonderful sum for the greyhounds.

For further information about the Rescue Centre please see the GRF website:

www.greyhoundrescuefife.com



Williamson Hall Fete

Kirk Wynd, Abernethy

15th June 2013

1-4pm

Hall Fete

1pm - 4pm

Attractions

Live music
Teas & Coffees
Ice Cream
Bouncy Castle
Beat the Goalie
Badge Making
Raffle

Stalls

Tuck shop
Bottle Stall
Cake and Candy
Table Football
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Book Stall
and more...!

625's

Local Band

8pm - Midnight

Ticket only.
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Check our new website for
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www.williamsonhall.org.uk

**Fancy Dress
Competition.**
Individual and
group prizes!

Hill Race - Sunday 16th at 1pm



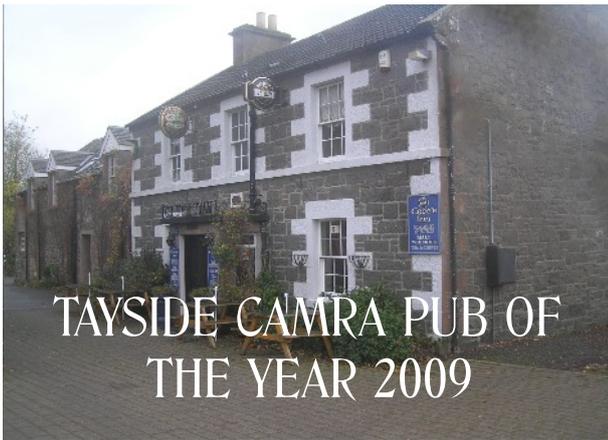
Donations Needed!

Bottles, home baking, raffle prizes and books

Please leave your donations at the hall during playgroup on Wednesday or Friday morning before the Fete.

For further event info, please visit www.williamsonhall.org.uk

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The Miller family have been rearing organically produced beef and lamb since 1986.

Seven years ago they opened the **Jamesfield Farm Shop** and the **Farmhouse Kitchen Restaurant** which use organic beef and lamb straight from the farm or venison from Auchtermuchty.

This same quality meat is used in the delicious ready-meals such as the popular lasagne, which uses only good steak mince with no worries about where it came from. To follow there are puddings such as Sticky Toffee or Bread and Butter Pudding as well as a wide range of home-baking and bread. To drink with these the range of beverages includes traditional Scottish Ale, organic cider and Cairn O Mohr wines.

It is enjoyable to browse round a wide range of Antiques and Collectables, work from local craftspeople and a wide range of original works and prints by local artists.

Beautiful views across to the Sidlaws and ample parking make the Jamesfield Experience a very happy one.



Across the car park is Perthshire's newest Garden Centre, **Jamesfield Garden Centre**, owned by For-gandenny residents Robert and Cath Figs

Robert trained as a Chartered Accountant and Cath was a Geologist and Environmental Consultant. They met on the shores of Heavenly Lake in China and Robert proposed to Cath on the top of Mount Bu-whit in Ethiopia. Their shared a passion for plants which led them to open their first Garden Centre in Aberfoyle 13 years ago. They followed this with Ben-

Bennybeg Plant Centre in Crieff and three years ago came to Jamesfield.

Most of their plants are grown in the UK and a lot in Scotland by independent nurseries. Partnerships have been built up with some excellent specialist plant growers. So quality plants can be offered at prices that compare very favourably and are often significantly cheaper than the large nurseries from Holland that the big Garden Centre use. Also it means that the plants are suitable for our climate. By using smaller nurseries Jamesfield do not need to buy large quantities of the same type of plant therefore can buy small quantities of a wide range of plants. The Garden Centres prides itself as having one of the largest selection of plants in Scotland, including a few rare and unusual ones.

BONNIES ADVENTURE



It was very cold and dark one morning as I woke my mum up, "I just want to see if the geese are coping o.k with the cold night, mum" I tried to tell her with my anxious actions. Soon we were set to go outside with all the usual bread for the birds and feeding for the geese. Not so fast Bonnie, I will have to boil the kettle for their water as it will be frozen over. I just could not wait to get out of the door which I am always getting into bother for, Ozzie & Skye were alright and got out of their pen, then mum went to let Bud, Amber, Pearl and Gem out of their shed, but the key would not turn, mum tried and tried but it was frozen, I saw her run to the house and get a can of something and squirted it into the lock but the key still would not turn. By this time Bud and others were getting very agitated and mum beginning to panic as I could see by her face all was not well. Oh Bonnie, I will have to run and boil another kettle of water, and was gone while I saw that Ozzie & Skye were managing to get a drink of water which mum had already put the boiling water in and broke the ice. She came back with the kettle and poured the boiling water over the lock. That did the trick and the key turned, Bud and others rushed out and soon got a drink and started feeding. Oh Bonnie I wish the warmer mornings would come back to save this each morning. One wet, windy day we went for our usual walk when I saw a black-bird hen (so my mum says) which was just walking across the road in front of us and went into the grass, I went up to it and sniffed, what have you found Bonnie? Good girl, let mum see if it is ok. and picked it up with her gloved hands. It seems to be just cold and wet Bonnie, I will just give it a dry, which she did and felt its wings and held it for a few minutes then

for a few minutes then put it on the fence post, it paused for a few seconds and flew off." It will be alright now, it was a good thing you saw it, well done". After I got home and dried I just curled up and fell asleep. One Sunday my Aunt Margaret came for a visit and offered to take us somewhere. Before I knew what was happening I was in her car and looking out of the window." this is a mystery tour Bonnie, I wonder where we will go. it was fun wondering what adventure would lie in store today. Soon we arrived and the door got opened, carefully mum put my lead on as I had not a clue where I was. " You are going to love this Bonnie" Margaret said," look there is the sand and the sea, come on and have fun with you're ball, it was good we remembered it." The sand had a strange feeling on my paws but got used to it fast, also the water which I managed to put my paws into but only as the waves came up on to the sand. This was exciting as I met lots of other dogs, some on leads but mostly like myself having fun chasing balls. I was frightened by a bigger dog which was on a lead, I know it was just wanting to play but I did not want to play with it. I met a lovely wee dog who wanted to be my friend and played with me for a short time but its master walked away and of course it had to go with him. What a lovely day we had, it was cold but I did not feel it. That night mum said "You will sleep well tonight Bonnie, it was good fun, good night", it certainly was a day to remember, Thank you Aunt Margaret,

COFFEE MORNING



We went to the parents coffee morning and book sale in the Williamson Hall in now distant February. The place was jumping. Hordes of young children, lots of enthusiastic parents, grannies and friends and lots of buying.

It was wonderful to realise that so much is happening at the younger end of the village. So good to see the commitment and support to keep the village thriving. There's room for young and old in our community, and it was uplifting and hopeful to witness this Well done everyone.

B Guthrie
Hatton Road



IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY
GET IT IN THE CRIER

Young Journalist Competition

For all children aged 7-18 in the CRIER distribution area

Get Thinking. Get Writing. Win a Prize!

All you have to do is to write a short piece that has some connection with Abernethy and district, either the place or a resident.

It could be your personal feelings about the village, how it could be improved, what you like or what you don't like. If you moved in recently how does Abernethy compare with where you lived before?

It could be about the history of the village or a particular building or family.

It could be about the career of someone from these parts or about you; you are a resident!

It could be about the surrounding country or wildlife.

What would Abernethy's Facebook page look like? What might it tweet?

Entry Requirements

JUNIOR CATEGORY

Age 12 years old and under (on 31st Dec 2012)

200 - 500 words

SENIOR CATEGORY

Age 18 years old and under (on 31st Dec 2012)

300 - 1000 words

How to Enter

Entries should be emailed to info@villagecrier.co.uk, sent to 63 Brandywell Road or handed to a committee member.

Remember. The closing date is June 30th, 2013.

Winners will be announced in the September issue of the village Crier and the winning articles will be printed in the December issue. All entries may be published in the Crier. Prizes will be presented at the distributors get together in December 2013.

CLOSING DATE
30th June 2013

PRIZES

GOLD
£30

SILVER
£20

BRONZE
£10

You can insert photos and drawings too!

Top Tip...
Longer is not better. Use just enough words to tell the story.

ABERNETHY PLAYGROUP

WHAT: A parent-run group with almost a decade of experience, provides a friendly and stimulating environment for pre-school children. During their time at Playgroup, the children can play, learn and socialise with other children their own age.

WHERE: The group operates from the Williamson Hall.

WHEN: Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning (9:30 - 11:45).

WHO: Children from the age of 2 years old to pre-school age are welcome to attend. If you would like to *sample* the group, there is a free taster session available to all who are interested.

WHAT ELSE: For more information, please contact Alison (850124), or Marcel (850399).

AGM: - We would like to invite each family to be represented at the upcoming Annual General Meeting scheduled for the 20th May at 8pm in The Cree's. The agenda will include very important items such as: the election of a new Committee, human resource and rotas. Your input and your skills will be greatly appreciated.

PLAYGROUP STAFF VACANCIES

Manager Position:

Abernethy Playgroup is looking to appoint a new manager. The prospective candidate will be qualified to minimum of SVQ Level 3 in Care Learning and Development, or HNC in Care Learning and Development (or equivalent) and be prepared to undertake additional training as necessary to allow him / her to register as a manager, Lead Practitioner with the Scottish Social Services Council. This is an opportunity to develop the group both organisationally but also from a curriculum point of view, while providing a warm, caring and welcoming environment in which children will be given plenty of opportunity to learn, develop and explore through play. Furthermore, they will manage, encourage and develop other members of staff, plan the play sessions and maintain the necessary paper work. Liaison with the relevant authorities e.g. Care Inspectorate, etc, is essential. Working together with the group could also provide further possibilities that are worth exploring: such as

such as breakfast club, lunch club, after school club, extending the group to run other mornings and even some afternoons. In other words, the sky is the limit.

Playworker Position

Abernethy Playgroup also requires to employ a playworker. This individual will assist the manager in the daily care of the children, and also be involved in the planning and organisation of the activities. If you love having fun with children, are active, have a responsible and caring attitude, and get on well with people this could be the perfect job for you.

If you would like more information on either of the above vacancies please contact Alison (850124), or Marcel (850399).

MORE SCAMS

People who phone to get you to part with money have very smooth tongues and are very convincing. So much so that even when the victim knows it is a scam they can cherish a hope that eventually they will get money.

Some one who was given shares in a well-known local company was called by a very reputable sounding company saying they had found his name in the Share Register and had a buyer for his shares. He checked the company on-line and it had a very respectable seeming web-site. The shares are worth about £3 but the buyer was secretly trying to get control of the company and was prepared to offer £12-£15 per share. Would he be prepared to sell?

Yes! And he was sent a letter to sign agreeing to the sale and promising confidentiality.

The next step was to ask him for a bond of £5000 as a sign of good faith. The money would be returned when he sold the shares. He transferred £5000 to a Middle Eastern bank.

What next?

Another call comes telling him his shares are specially valuable. The buyer will pay £90 000 for them. However the U.S. Government wants tax paid on this, up-front, before the sale can go ahead. The next call will tell him how much money he needs to send before the shares can be sold.

Once again he checked the web-site and now he noticed a link. This took him to a forum where people recounted their dealings with the scammers. The names of the shares changed but the method was the same. He realised he was a victim of fraud.

The police were not interested but Trading Standards should be informed. They keep a record of the scams they come across in order to warn the public.

Another victim was someone who had signed up to an Internet dating site. She began an e-mail correspondence with a man who sounded like her soul mate. He was working abroad but would soon be visiting Scotland and they could meet.

Then a snag developed.

He would be flying to Scotland a few days before his salary went into his account. Not to worry, she could send him his fare and he would return the cash when he arrived.

Fortunately she did not send him any money. Her dreams were shattered but her money was intact. Had she sent the money she would never have seen him. It might have been a long, lonely wait at the airport. But, as I wrote, people have their dreams and the scammers are convincing.

If in doubt about a particularly convincing telephone call, e-mail or letter, telephone the Citizen's Advice Bureau and ask an adviser. It will cost you a standard rate phone call to be informed about what is a scam and then you can be sure you have not missed the chance of a lifetime.

The Citizen's Advice Bureau is at 7 Atholl Crescent. Drop in is 10am-12 noon, Monday to Friday or phone 01738 450581 for an appointment in the afternoon. 01738 450580 is the Advice Line. Everything is confidential, even the fact that you visited the bureau.

AH

ABERNETHY - WRVS - LUNCH CLUB

The WRVS Lunch Club for Abernethy and District is held every Thursday from 11.00am till 2.00pm in the Session House at the Church.

Members of the Lunch Club enjoy meeting with others, having tea/coffee and chat, playing some games and of course having lunch.

We are getting very low in number and we DON'T want the village to lose this facility

SO

DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO COULD BENEFIT FROM BECOMING A MEMBER?

Please contact Elizabeth Taylor on 01738 850477 or 07866559305 for a confidential chat and more information.

(Transport to/from the club can be arranged for those who require it.)

STOP PRESS

DEAR ED

I am a very keen museum goer and I visit dozens throughout the year, some good, some not so. The Abernethy Museum was my destination today.

The roadside signage was good, directing you up a Wynd towards the Museum building.

Unfortunately, the sign outside the door showing the entrance had blown down, just a minor point.

On entering the building I received a warm welcome by two members of staff who were willing help me in any way they could. They told me the new exhibit for 2013 is the First World War.

In the foyer area is an interesting history of Round Towers including the village's own Tower.

Across the room the Edwardian period is well Presented.

Moving through to the main area you are faced by An amazing scale model of the village War Memorial. The staff informed me that it was made by a local Man, very skilful indeed, folks you have got to see this!

The overall attention to detail of all the displays is obvious, they are to a very high standard, unfortunately the use of red and green pins to hold up a rubbing, well!

In general the lighting is good but there are a few Darker areas, these could do with additional illumination.

The use of monitors with a photographic slide show is very effective and informative.

Moving around inside the building is easy with plenty of room between the museum furniture.

I enjoyed my visit, you must go.

T. Mitchell

THE RYDER CUP -

DID YOU KNOW



You will have seen in the press that the Ryder Cup – the biennial golf tournament between Europe and the USA – is coming to Gleneagles in 2014 and will be played on The PGA Centenary Course between 26th-28th September next year.

The PGA Centenary Course is the course that Jack built – Jack Nicklaus to be precise, who in a stellar career amassed no fewer than 18 wins of the 'Golf Majors', the four championship events that includes the Masters and the Open.

Nicklaus is one of the most respected course designers in the world and The PGA Centenary Course was his first course design in Scotland. Even for a champion and acclaimed golf architect like Nicklaus, the new course was a challenge. It had to be a great golf course and, set as it is in the heart of Scotland, the country that gave the world golf, Nicklaus described the ground as "The finest parcel of land in the world I have ever been given to work with".

The last Ryder Cup to be played on Scottish soil was over 40 years ago when Great Britain & Ireland, as they were then, played the United States at Muirfield in East Lothian. The US triumphed 19-13 on that occasion with Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson and Arnold Palmer all in the winning team. Brian Barnes and Bernard Gallacher were the Scottish representatives for GB&I.



However, it was back in 1921 where it all began for Gleneagles. James Braid (the designer of the King's Course), Harry Vardon, J H Taylor, Jock Hutchison, Freddie McLeod and Walter Hagen, were just some of the names who were competing on the King's in the renowned Glasgow Herald Tournament on 6 June that year.

At the conclusion of the tournament an impromptu match was played. Great Britain versus the United States. Nobody knew at the time, but for the stellar cast list who gathered on The King's Course, for the first-ever meeting between Great Britain and American professionals, the seed was sown to allow a regular transatlantic match to flower. At the end of a special day, the hosts won 9-3.

Such was the talent, across both sides, that by the time the 20 competing players had retired they had secured 35 Major titles between them and left a majestic mark on the annals of golf history.

A further match followed over the East Course at Wentworth in 1926, before The Ryder Cup officially started in 1927 at Worcester Country Club in Massachusetts. It was to be 2001 before Gleneagles secured its return to The Ryder Cup fold, if you like, fittingly winning the right to host the 40th staging of the matches in 2014 - a homecoming for the competition it could be said.



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VACANCIES