



Lockerbie Scoops Award

Abbeyfield Parklea, Lockerbie has been commended as the Best UK Retirement Housing scheme in the under 24 units category by the Elderly Accommodation Counsel (EAC).

Liz Guthrie, House Supervisor, was over the moon when discovering they had won, adding “This is not just an award for our staff but also for our volunteers and our residents. It’s everyone’s hard work and great attitudes that have helped us win the award. The certificate hangs in pride of place at Parklea.”





Supported by STV and the Hunter Foundation, the STV Appeal campaigned to raise awareness and funds to tackle the serious issue of child poverty in Scotland where sadly, many children's lives are affected. Every penny donated went directly to helping the most vulnerable children in Scotland. Abbeyfield Scotland raised the grand sum of **£1,174** and included in the total was the amount of **£144** raised from our blanket auction.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the auction and who donated to a very worthy cause.

Niall and Karen were invited to the First Minister's Reception at Stirling Castle in mid-December to be thanked for Abbeyfield Scotland's contribution to the STV Appeal. Karen said "It was a wintry night but we and all the charities involved got a very warm musical welcome from the youth groups supported by the Appeal."





Well Done Linzi!

Linzi Inglis recently completed the SVQ 3 in Health and Social Care for Adults and said “I am delighted to have achieved this qualification. It has provided me with knowledge, understanding and principles which I will put into good use when supporting residents.”

Abbeyfield Scotland are supporting staff members to complete SVQs in Health & Social Care. Six staff members are currently studying SVQ Level 3, three are studying SVQ Level 2 and one is studying SVQ Level 4. A number of staff have already achieved SVQs.



Avril you will be missed!

Avril Tomkins celebrated her retirement with some of the residents and staff at Ferndean, Lenzie on 30th January.

Avril had worked there for over six years and will be greatly missed.



Congratulations Allan!

Allan MacDonald of Davidson Villa, Nairn with his special awards.

The Marquis of Isla Trophy and the Lewis and Harris Gold Medal for the Bard were awarded to Allan for his three Gaelic poems.





Coatbridge

Celebrate in Style

Students from Coatbridge College and Abbeyfield House in Coatbridge celebrated in style with a Scottish themed concert for all the residents, staff, volunteers and other invited guests.

The concert at the house in Buchanan Street was a celebration of the fund raising efforts of four HND Administration and IT students - Lisa McAloon, Emma Peters, Ebony Louise McGuiness and Jane Wood - who organised a local raffle with exciting prizes including a tour of Ibrox, luxury hampers, Slater's clothing voucher and even a giant cupcake from Greggs. The raffle raised an impressive £400.

The students chose Abbeyfield House as the focus of their course project which required them to work as a team to organise an activity including an element of fund raising.

Talking about the project, one of team members, Lisa McAloon, explained: "We chose Abbeyfield as my Mum works for the company and I am familiar with the work that Abbeyfield does. We thought it would be a nice idea to raise money to put on an event or a day out for the residents.

To raise funds we held a raffle and a bake sale. We contacted lots of local businesses to ask them to donate prizes for our raffle and we held a bake sale in the college. We managed to raise £402. With this money we then organised the concert event which had a Scottish theme. We had a great time organising the event and working with Abbeyfield and we even have some money left over which we will donate to the residents."

Carolynn Malone, Area Manager for Abbeyfield Scotland, said: "We were all delighted that Lisa, Emma, Ebony and Jane had chosen Abbeyfield for their project. We enjoyed working with them and their idea of the celebration event was very well received by our residents. It was a delight to see so many people enjoying the concert. It was a perfect choice and helps us with our desire to provide the best possible experience for our residents. We wish the girls every success as they continue their course."





Community Café

A new community cafe has opened at Abbeyfield House in Torphins.

The building in Kincardine Road has been a popular landmark in the Torphins community for many years.

The cafe project is aimed at helping raise the awareness of what it has to offer to the village and the surrounding area since becoming part of Abbeyfield Scotland.

Following the launch, it is planned to hold the cafe every two weeks from mid-January to the end of March next year.

Carole Foreman, the North-East Housing and Support Team Leader for Abbeyfield Scotland, said some people in the Torphins area were unaware of what exactly the house did.

She explained *“Abbeyfield Torphins was originally a local initiative which offered places to older people with a connection to the area.”*

“Since becoming part of Abbeyfield Scotland we wanted to highlight just how important a role it plays in the community and what it has to offer.”

There are eight rooms in the Torphins house and the community cafe will be used to introduce new staff members and showcase the facilities in the building.

Carole added *“Anyone is welcome to come along to have a cup of coffee, a scone and a blether. We would be delighted for them to have a look around the house and speak to the staff. This is the first time we have done something like this in Torphins and our residents are all involved with the idea and are very excited about the cafe.”*

2nd Annual Burns Lunch

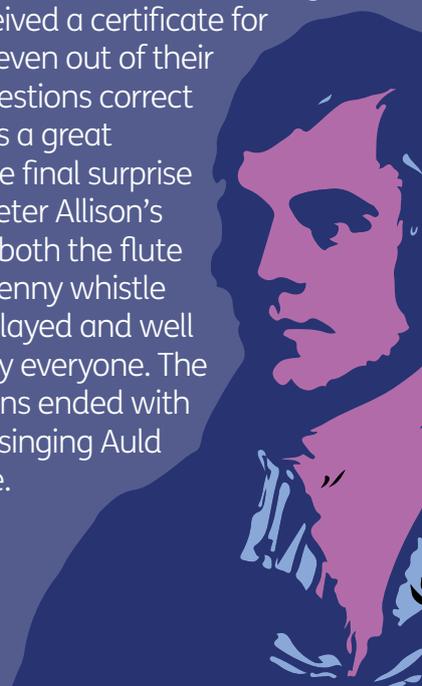
On Friday 23rd January 2015, the Abbeyfield Killearn Burns Society held its second annual Burns lunch.

The tables were all decked out with tartan strips to create the perfect ambience. Barbara Welch, our Housekeeper, cooked the traditional haggis, neeps and tatties to perfection followed by oatcakes and cheddar cheese, coffee and tablet.

The haggis was piped in by Iain Sinclair, the local piper, followed by Barbara bearing the haggis. The haggis was addressed by Mike Menzies of the Friends with a toast in Irn-Bru (your other national drink).

After the meal there was a varied programme of entertainment. Songs were provided by Pat Rodger, one of the Friends accompanied by Norma Forrest on the piano and George Bone, our guest singer, who in his time has sung at many Burns Suppers overseas.

Felicity Jackson, one of the Friends, held a small quiz about Robert Burns which was fun. The winning team received a certificate for getting eleven out of their fifteen questions correct which was a great result! The final surprise act was Peter Allison's recital on both the flute and the penny whistle expertly played and well enjoyed by everyone. The celebrations ended with everyone singing Auld Lang Syne.





Lenzie Development

The Board agreed in May 2014 to appoint a design team and contractor to carry out improvement works to Abbeyfield Scotland, Lenzie.

Marshall Construction were appointed through a tender process and work began in December 2014. The works include the installation of a platform lift, assisted bathroom and works to enlarge the en-suites to each bedroom, which currently fall below the Scottish Housing Quality Standard.

Works are due to complete in April 2015 and will benefit both current and future residents greatly.

We ran our first 'Caring at Christmas' campaign. Whilst there was a lot of interest, we will seek to raise the take-up in 2015.



#VendorWeek

On 5 February, Niall Patterson sold The Big Issue for one hour on the streets of Edinburgh as part of INSP's #VendorWeek Big Sell.

Organised by Glasgow-based charity INSP (International Network of Street Papers) and The Big Issue, the #VendorWeek Big Sell aimed to raise awareness of homelessness, boost Big Issue vendor morale and sales and raise funds for both INSP and Big Issue vendors.

Over 60 high-profile individuals, including celebrities, business leaders and government ministers were involved in the event, trying their hand at selling The Big Issue on the streets of the UK.

Abbeyfield Scotland provides homes and so much more for those in later life. Like us, The Big Issue is a charity and one that offers people who are homeless the opportunity to earn their own money; a livelihood. Participating in an event such as this allows us to offer our support, take our values of care and respect on to the street and promote ourselves to opinion-formers.

The money raised will go towards INSP's work supporting street papers around the world to start up, grow and develop so that they can provide homeless and unemployed people with a way to earn an income and improve their lives.

It will also help The Big Issue to support its vendors at a particularly hard time of year.



Christmas Lunch at Killearn

On Friday 12th December 2014, twenty-nine people sat down to a mouth watering Christmas lunch at Abbeyfield House, Killearn. The residents' lounge was transformed and beautifully decorated complete with illuminated Christmas tree setting the scene for the meal that was to follow.

The party consisted of the Abbeyfield residents, Friends, staff and guests including the local minister. Food was provided by the Three Sisters Bake, a company run by three sisters who recently took over the coffee shop in Killearn Village Hall and have now embarked on outside catering. Lynsey and Nichola, two of

the three sisters, produced delicious canapés to start followed by a traditional turkey Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

The ladies on the Friends' committee supplied all the mouth watering desserts which were followed by coffee and petit fours. Everyone enjoyed the day and Michael Pell of the Friends proposed the vote of thanks to all concerned and Jimmy McGibbon replied on behalf of the residents.

Pictured top left - Michael Pell with two of the three lovely sisters, Nichola and Lynsey, who prepared the wonderful Christmas lunch for Abbeyfield House, Killearn.

Residents of Park House

Back row left to right, Lilius McDonald, Peter Calder and Margo Barclay, front row left to right, Bridget Robinson (93 years old), Pauline Fraser (78 years old on 30th January) and Helen Worrall.

The Friends and staff organised a lunch on Friday 30th January for them, during which Rod McLeod played a selection of Scottish songs and tunes on his accordion. After lunch, the Birthday girls, residents and Friends were entertained by Alastair, Nancy and Garry to further songs and poems, ably helped by Liz.



Coatbridge

Art Projects

We received funding via the Scottish Government Reshaping Care Fund to provide a tutor and materials for an Art Project with Bazooka Arts. Our artists in the Coatbridge house hope to hold an exhibition soon.



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A word from the Chairman, Jim Craigie



Like myself you may feel that 2014 flew by and with it the various sporting and political events which raised the profile of Scotland worldwide. Likewise during 2014 we showcased Abbeyfield Scotland as never before with excellent press coverage for events and a growing interest in the Abbeyfield Experience.

Service providers in every sector are challenged by falling public resources but your Board and Management continue to be focussed on taking Abbeyfield Scotland into the future as a prosperous charitable business. This is challenging but we are confident that we will succeed by continuing to provide better value to our existing residents and developing services which meet the demands of the future.

Our staff are vital in this aim and their performance and outstanding service to our residents is appreciated and I thank them for their support throughout 2014.

Sudoku

March 2015

Answers from Nov >

1	3	7	9	6	8	4	5	2
6	8	4	3	5	2	9	7	1
5	9	2	1	7	4	6	8	3
7	1	6	2	8	5	3	9	4
9	5	3	6	4	1	7	2	8
2	4	8	7	3	9	1	6	5
4	7	9	5	2	3	8	1	6
3	6	5	8	1	7	2	4	9
8	2	1	4	9	6	5	3	7

Newsletter also available in large print and on tape.

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