



CURIO CURATORS

SOURCE: SUPPLIED

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LIFESTYLE: GLENFEST 2024



THE OLD UNDERTAKERS AT 329 BURWOOD ROAD CIRCA 1992 (LEFT) AND 2024 (RIGHT)



SOURCE: HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Old Undertakers Lives On

**Death amongst Victoria's earliest, mostly criminal colonies was unsurprisingly common given the cruel and unusual conditions of our first prisons. It goes without saying that in those tenuous times, the business of undertaking quickly became a necessity.**

As with many such trades throughout history, one of Victoria's oldest 'dispatch' firms soon became a family business. Descended from early colonial undertakers, former Richmond Councillor, Herbert King grew his inherited burial business from his main premises in Richmond to include a branch at 329 Burwood Road, Hawthorn around the beginning of the Edwardian era (1901-1910).

Fashioned to compliment the near-by Hawthorn Catholic Immaculate Conception Church and its associated buildings, King's building was designed in the Gothic Revival style, notable for its chapel- evocative arched windows. Standing in place of a cross, a decorative period weathervane remains prominent at the peak of the building's façade.

King's in Burwood Road was established as a 'one-stop shop' for all your funeral needs. Aside from serving as an office, undertakers and embalmers, the premises even stabled several black horses for use in processions, as well as housing mourning coaches and glass-sided hearses. Although an Anglican, King's particular trade saw him in strong alliance with his Catholic neighbour. Upon his death in 1913, King even left considerable benefits to various churches he had associations with.

**Hawthorn Funeral Branch.**  
**HERBERT KING & SONS,**  
**Undertakers and Embalmers,**  
 Burwood Road, Hawthorn.  
 Under the Management of—  
**HAROLD V. KING, Junr.** Tel. 912.  
 Head Office and Factory—Lennox St., Richmond

Ultimately, his descendants got out of the funeral trade and his business was eventually bought out by [Tobin Brothers Funerals](#) who remain in operation today at other locations. By 1975, the building was under the ownership of the Roman Catholic Trusts Corporation for the Diocese of Melbourne and was being utilised by the neighbouring Immaculate Conception Church. At this time, the late Fr Paul Cleary ran craft classes out of the building, teaching candle making and macrame.



STAIRWAY TO THE DARK PAST

After Fr Cleary passed away, the building fell into disuse and was finally put on the market in 2002, reducing the Immaculate Conception Church's footprint. Some locals might also remember Manresa Kindergarten, founded in 1929, and located in the grounds at the rear of the undertakers. During its time at the site, Manresa made headlines when in 1989, a crazed individual placed the kindergarten under siege by taking children hostage, pouring petrol over them and threatening to ignite the fuel. The situation was brought under control by police with no fatalities and

the kindergarten remained in operation until the site was sold by the church in approximately 2010. The modest kindergarten was demolished and developed into 50+ apartments at 80 Lynch Street. 329 Burwood Road survived such a fate and its dark history has been more readily embraced.

A heritage study was conducted on the building in 1992 by Conservation Architect Meredith Gould, when it was identified as part of a 'notable group of buildings' and an example of 'Edwardian prosperity'. Although exactly when the undertakers departed from its Burwood Road address was not reported.

The first business to occupy the building since King's undertakers was a bar/restaurant appropriately named [The Undertaker](#), opening in 2005 followed by [Beer DeLuxe](#) from around 2013. During the building's revival as a bar, the dank undertaker's cellar was converted into an inviting, cosy, space, no doubt serving spirits with a good dose of gallows humour. Rumours of the space being haunted circulated for years as 'campfire stories', with one owner even claiming to have had the place 'blessed by a priest... just in case'.



EMANELE AND LANI FROM AMAZON STATE

Long after the last horse-drawn hearse pulled away from 329 Burwood Road, the façade still proudly wears its Edwardian-era title. Yet, today the space is occupied by a new Italian restaurant called [Amazon State](#), which largely dispenses with many notable ties to the building's dark past. General Manager, Ellias is a little superstitious after all. Once a place of quiet reflective mourning, a lively, ultra-modern ground-floor dining room now welcomes customers, while upstairs function rooms brim with coloured lighting, plant-life and bold artwork. The echo of the building's past is all but faded from its interior, yet its protected facade still beautifully honour's the passing of a family trade dating back to the first prison colonies. ■



### Electrify Survey

Electrify Boroondara is inviting interested parties to take part in a three minute survey to gain insights into what barriers locals have encountered in transitioning away from gas to fully electric power. Scan the QR code to take part in the survey.

### Monthly Meet-Up with Cr Wes Gault & Cr Susan Biggar

All local residents and businesses are invited to attend, have a chat, and share their ideas and thoughts for the Glenferrie Ward with (Cr Gault) and Riversdale Ward (Cr Biggar). No RSVP necessary, simply drop in.

**Thursday 18 April 2024**  
**4:00 - 5:00pm**  
**Hawthorn Aquatic & Leisure Centre**  
**1 Grace St, Hawthorn**

**Thursday 23 May 2024**  
**4:00 - 5:00pm**  
**St-Germain Wine Bar**  
**838 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn**

## About

The Glenferrie Times is an independent publication for the traders, residents, and visitors of the Glenferrie precinct in Hawthorn.

The Glenferrie Times is produced by a small team dedicated to fostering connection within the local community, aiming to provide the people of Glenferrie with relevant and informative local news and a forum for the betterment of the area.

If you are a Glenferrie trader or resident interested in being featured in The Glenferrie Times, please contact us.

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Find us online at:  
[theglenferrietimes.com](http://theglenferrietimes.com)  
[facebook.com/TheGlenferrieTimes](https://facebook.com/TheGlenferrieTimes)

### Distribution

The Glenferrie Times is distributed to the traders of Glenferrie Hawthorn and, when resources are available, also circulated to the letterboxes of some residences within the Glenferrie Hawthorn area. Copies of the latest edition can be found at Hawthorn Arts Centre, Hawthorn Library, Hawthorn Aquatic and Leisure Centre, Coles Local, the noticeboard in the laneway of 817 Glenferrie Road, or in one of Glenferrie's many cafes and some retailers.

To receive a digital copy sign up to our mailing list through our website or by emailing us.

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The Glenferrie Times encourages feedback from readers and the community.



RED TAPE ENCOUNTER IN CLEAN UP SOURCE: SUPPLIED

## Clean Up Cop Out

On Clean Up Australia Day, first Sunday in March, the **Kew East Community Recycling (KECR) group** received a tip that an area in Glenferrie Hawthorn was overdue for a clean up. Specifically, the area along the railway track running parallel to Lynch Street, Hawthorn.

KECR approached Boroondara Council for assistance by either waiving tip fees or removing hard rubbish once KECR had gathered it in a pile. Initially Council seemed positive. However, with only 24 hours notice KECR were informed by Council that due to the rubbish coming off VicTrack owned land, they would not assist. Furthermore, going onto VicTrack land to remove the rubbish is considered trespassing. Having volunteers already organised for the day, KECR still went ahead.

VicTrack owns Victoria's transport land, assets and



## Helping Our Homeless

**At a casual glance, we might consider Glenferrie, Hawthorn relatively 'low' in the number of people generally experiencing homelessness. But like any populated area, 'visible homelessness' is merely the tip of the proverbial iceberg. According to the Council To Homeless Persons, 'visible homelessness' - the type we encounter in busy, commercial zones - only constitutes around seven percent of the actual number nationally.**

Homelessness more commonly constitutes couch surfing, which typically means having no fixed address but sleeping at friend's places temporarily; occupying a tent or car for shelter; crisis accommodation or other forms of 'unstable' living arrangements. While the struggle of 'invisible homelessness' plays out largely unobserved, the 'visible', begging and sleeping rough counterpart, forces us to confront the issue and can trigger reactions ranging from pity to disdain through to a sense of helplessness.

Most of us know the hectic pace of modern life means time and empathy can both be stretched thin. We take some comfort in knowing there are many social services available as we pass the visible homeless, but perhaps with surprisingly little effort, the individual can make a difference beyond parting with a few coins. For instance, not many people may be aware that local Councils are often properly versed in assisting the homeless.

Locally, **Boroondara Council** provide detailed advice on how you might help someone sleeping rough. They recommend you note down the location, time, date and a description of the person and their belongs as well as any risks or hazards present for someone approaching the homeless person. With these details then contact Boroondara Council on (03) 9278 4326 or [homelessness@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:homelessness@boroondara.vic.gov.au). Council will then notify **The Salvation Army - Homelessness East**, who will complete an outreach service, which involves visiting the person sleeping rough and offering support services, or refer them to Victoria Police for a welfare check.

infrastructure. On Lynch Street, the land between the train tracks and the fence is owned by VicTrack who then lease this land to Metro Trains, making them responsible for the land's upkeep.

A **Metro Trains** spokesperson explained that "Rubbish is unsightly and has no place in or around our train network - that's why we have a comprehensive cleaning management program in place." In regards to vegetation they said that vegetation management is conducted twice a year.

Despite the claim of a 'comprehensive cleaning management program', when the ten-plus KECR volunteers removed rubbish and gathered it into a large pile, much of it was weathered and had clearly been there a long time. On the day of the clean up, the Glenferrie Ward Councillor, Cr Wes Gault, was directly approached about the issue and assisted in organising a one-off Council hard rubbish collection for the pile. He also said he would raise the issue at the next Waste Management Reference Group meeting.

Metro Trains also explained that if they receive a complaint about rubbish dumping, the area is inspected as soon as possible. They encourage residents and passengers to report rubbish dumping or any concerns to the **Department of Transport and Planning** on 1800 800 007.

A spokesperson for John Pesutto MP, State Member for Hawthorn, asserted that "VicTrack should be making sure their tenants are upkeeping the public property with which they are custodians." ■

Also offering assistance locally are **Servants Community Housing**, who are one of 39 registered not-for-profit Community Housing Providers in Victoria. They manage four properties supporting 96 residents across Hawthorn and Kew. People find accommodation at Servants by direct application from those experiencing/at risk of homelessness or through referral by a family member, case worker, or other trusted person.

Jayden from Servants told The Glenferrie Times, "Many of our residents come to us after a significant trauma; for example, a family violence incident, a stint in hospital, or a period of sleeping on the streets. Some also experience challenges including a mental illness (e.g. schizophrenia), a disability, or an acquired brain injury." Servants CEO Amanda Donohoe, explained that "Every person has a different story. We see people who have been severely impacted by a workplace injury and cannot afford their rent or mortgage. Patients exiting psychiatric hospital or ageing parents who have cared for their children with mental health issues long into their adult life are desperate to find a safe, affordable home for their loved ones."

Homelessness amongst youths is another increasing statistic, according to Lisa O'Brien from **Melbourne City Mission (MCM)**. She explained that family violence is the most common cause of youth homelessness, and that many youths come into the city from regional Victoria because it represents a 'safe space' where one can hide in anonymity. Additionally, there are more resources. Regional town's resources are very limited compared to urban areas, and due to an increase in the number of homeless recently, a bottleneck of people needing assistance has occurred.

Coming dates to take note of are; **Youth Homelessness Matters Day (YHMD)** on Wednesday 17 April, which aims to raise awareness. 'Sleep at the G' on Thursday 16 May 2024, raises funds for MCM, who have been offering assistance to disadvantaged Victorians since 1854.

Local community organisations that you could donate or approach about volunteering include: **Boroondara Community Outreach, Camcare, The Salvation Army Camberwell** and **Servants Community Housing**. ■



THE ANNUAL 'SLEEP AT THE G' FUNDRAISER SOURCE: SUPPLIED

## Road to Ruin?

**In March, Boroondara Council proposed a Draft Road Materials Policy 2024 to guide the materials used to maintain and replace Council-owned roads.**

The policy proposes to only reconstruct concrete roads using concrete, if they are in one of the ten heritage-controlled areas. For other concrete roads requiring reconstruction, asphalt will be used due to its cost-effectiveness and ease to maintain. Concrete roads were installed between the First and Second World Wars and Council acknowledges they "contribute to the municipality's interwar heritage character".

Where reconstruction of bluestone kerbs and channels is required, unless the road is classified as heritage-significant, they will be constructed with a single kerb stone and a single pitcher channel stone. Council explain that "bluestone pitchers suitable for maintaining and renewing gutters are no longer mined or produced. We only have a limited number available."

**Hawthorn Historical Society** member, George Demetrios, is concerned that without our bluestone kerbs currently being heritage protected, they are at risk of disappearing in their present state.

Boroondara Council invite community feedback on the policy, with a survey available until 12 April 2024 at [engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au](http://engage.boroondara.vic.gov.au). Feedback will be considered before the policy is finalised and presented to Councillors at a Council Meeting mid-2024. ■



FIONA DIVES INTO HER 172 STRONG ARCHIE COMIC COLLECTION

## Curio Curators

**Not long ago, Meridee realised that she had developed a peculiar habit. In a flash of realisation, she suddenly realised she had been unconsciously surrounding herself with ceramic birds for years. In addition, as an artist, she awoke to the fact that her paintings were mostly concerned with birds of all kinds. One might assume Meridee was some kind of ornithophile, but in reality, she admits to having no conscious interest in the creatures whatsoever.**

But Meridee's story is not as unusual as we might think. While many self-confessed collectors can identify the genesis of their chosen focal point, a special Glenferrie Times investigation found that a number of hunter/gatherers admitted to being 'unaware' they were collectors until it became too hard to ignore. Similarly, there are the deniers, who like one local man, refused to be classed as 'a collector', yet admitted space was the only reason he 'only owned three motorcycles'.

Famed psychoanalyst Carl Jung said, the unconscious mind is genetically inherited and not shaped by personal experience. If we apply his theory to collecting, perhaps our subjects are guided to their preference by a bird or motorbike-loving ancestor. For many people, collecting is a habit and ritual; two things which often defy logic, but give us a strange sort of comfort.

Aside from subconscious collecting and straight up denial, our study found that the most common ways in which people become serious collectors is; through being gifted a collectible, inheriting a collection and through a school project which sparked an obsession. Some locals who shared the appeal of collecting explained that it provided a focus, a worthy investment and as a way to connect with others who shared their interest. Some concluded that collecting is occasionally a problem, which can encroach on one's space, time and money. As to why someone may stop collecting, a former flavoured water bottle collector nominated ants as their primary reason.

Some items are simply designed to become collectables; eternal favourites such as stamps and coins never really fell out of fashion, as evidenced by the multiple numismatists (coin collectors) and philatelists (stamp collectors) we encountered. These items along with trading cards made up the lion's share of local collector's stashes. Unsurprising when you consider the market for coins, stamps and cards can generate serious big bucks and the variety of collectables of this ilk is staggering. Miniatures and



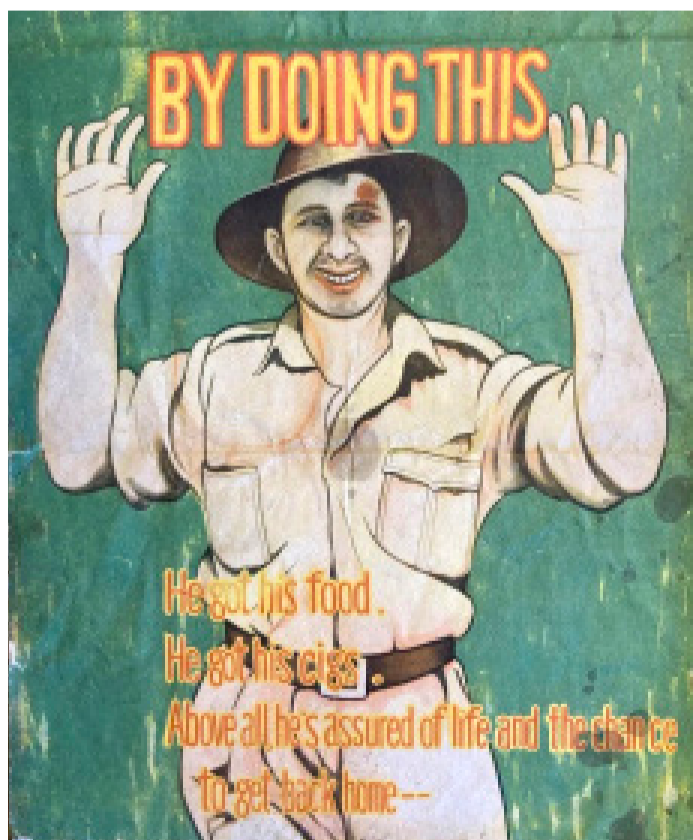
THE \$5.275 MILLION DOLLAR POKEMON CARD STOCK IMAGE

figurines were also popular, but relatively valueless themed beer coasters and matchboxes also found strong representation.

These items tend to be evocative of happy memories of travel, filling the sentimental value tanks. For younger collectors, trading cards such as Pokemon and Dragonball Z, doubtlessly scratch the same sentimental itch, while potentially acting as the most surefire investment anyone could ask for. Pokemon is recognised as the most valuable collector's brand in the world today, with a single card selling for a record \$5.275 million in July 2021. Gotta catch 'em all indeed. Meanwhile, in the world of comics, \$5.30 million can snag you a copy of the first ever Superman - it's enough to make one leap over a tall building in a single bound.

Local Archie comic collector, Fiona may not be aware that a copy of one such comic sold for \$167,000 in 2011. She simply "enjoyed the cast and their adventures enough that I wanted to read more." Fiona possesses 172 Archie comics from over 15 years of collecting. She inherited the interest from her mother who "had to give up her collection when she was young." This passing of the baton has resulted in Fiona developing "a third eye trained in just spotting Archie comics."

"I have to check a lot of second hand locations. Op-shops, markets, antique stalls and book sales are some of the main ones. You never know where you might find something good. I also have my mother and some friends keeping an eye out, just in case!"



WWII PROPAGANDA: SURRENDER FOR ASSURED SURVIVAL?

While comics were traditionally lighthearted adventures which encouraged kids to read, local collector Dan's hoard spotlights a time when comic art was used to denigrate, dishearten and dehumanise. As the Japanese and the Australians fought in the Pacific region during WWII, hundreds of brightly coloured pamphlets were airdropped over the battlefields. These often disturbing comic illustrations were classed as propaganda and their messages were far

from subtle.

Coming from the Japanese, these pamphlets depict such things as Australian soldiers at risk from the US allies, while others promote the idea that surrender was a way to guarantee survival. This fascinating collection in Dan's words "reminds me how bitter enemies Japan and Australia were, and it gives me hope that if two countries who hated each other so much can reconcile and become great allies and friends, there might be hope for our world today". Dan's collection is rare in the sense that it is complete.

"I spend 1-2 hours a month communicating with a network of people around the world to check if any new examples pop up, however I have not seen any I don't have in nearly two years." He developed an interest in these relics after walking the Kokoda Trail and conversing with returned servicemen. Dan sees his collection "preserving history" and "one day will donate the collection to the Australian War Memorial."

By sheer numbers, local business card collector Steve has to take the top prize, with close to 70,000 individual items in his possession. Not bad for 14 years work, but not enough to get him into the record books, Steve explains. "Honestly, it started off because I wanted to get into the Guinness Book of Records but that dream got crushed early on when I found out somebody in America had a lot more than me. So I started to collect from a historical perspective".



STEVE WITH SOME OF HIS VAST BUSINESS CARD COLLECTION

"I keep all the general business cards from local suburbs. In, say, 50 years, someone could look back through the collection and see the businesses that existed on Glenferrie Road at one time. There are already a number of businesses that have disappeared since I began collecting, and these cards might be the only remaining physical item of their existence." His collection has a strong Melbourne leaning, but also covers international icons like Barack Obama, Madonna, Fidel Castro and Elvis Presley to name a few.

As to what motivates us to hunt and collect, Steve surmises that "collecting becomes a game. It's fun. It involves research and organisation, and you encounter many surprises and discoveries along the way. There is a financial or investment component as well, so I guess many people also like to collect in the hope things will appreciate in value."

Given the uniquely human trait of placing value on pretty much everything, perhaps our most natural state is assuming the role of Earth's curators; cataloguing, labelling, revising and legacy building for future generations. ■

Collector's photos supplied.

## Glenferrie Ward Meeting

Cr Wes Gault is hosting a Glenferrie Ward Meeting where developments throughout the Ward in 2023 and anticipated for 2024 will be presented and open for discussion. All are encouraged and welcome to attend.

**Mayors Room  
Hawthorn Arts Centre  
360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn  
7.00pm, Thursday 18 April**

Agenda:

- Glenferrie Place Plan (revitalisation)
- Liddiard Street Car Park
- Serpells Lane Future
- Tuck Stand Redevelopment
- Green Link between Glenferrie Oval & Grace Park

# GlenFest 2024

The 2024 Glenferrie Festival's atmosphere was relaxed and cheerful amidst the broadly appealing food, drink, music, carnival rides and huge range of stalls. Staff at one of the more than 80 stalls remarked that "it's the weather. We're not sweating through 30+ degrees" as the cause of such a buoyant mood.

Live music enjoyed greater prominence this year with the feature of a small 'main' stage. However, the ever popular Itchy Feet Pep Band roamed the festival as usual, getting everyone bopping and singing along. Carnival ride fans got plenty of bang for their buck with their unlimited ride passes and our many community group's stalls offered imaginative interactive elements.

Each year community groups are welcomed by festival organisers, the Glenferrie Traders Association, to host a stall. Around 20 community groups were represented this year, including local schools, sports groups, charities, social groups, community services and advocacy groups. These often volunteer-run, organisations shine a spotlight on a multitude of activities, services and/or causes and for them, the festival provides an opportunity to actively engage with the community. The Glenferrie Times spoke to a selection of community groups that were at the 2024 Glenferrie Festival to find out a little about the important work they do.



## State Emergency Services (SES)

The SES rely on continued membership and donations. Volunteer, Angus explained, "At present we have around 50 local Hawthorn members." The SES needs little introduction, however the roles they play can vary wildly from week to week. "We are involved in any number of emergency responses, including the preservation of accident scenes to allow the police to conduct uninterrupted forensic analysis; the clearing up of fallen and damaged trees following severe winds as well as search and rescue."



## Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL)

RSL branches are communities that are an essential support network in which friendships are formed around a first-hand understanding of what it truly means to engage in war and peacekeeping. Iraq war veteran and Vice-President, Eamon praised the exceptional community he has found as a member of Hawthorn RSL. He said, "The festival gives us a chance to remind the broader community that veterans are not only found in old sepia photos but include fresh-faced young men and women."



DARK CLOUDS FAILED TO DAMPEN SPIRITS AT GLENFERRIE FESTIVAL 2024

The Hawthorn RSL will be hosting their traditional ANZAC Day Dawn Service on Thursday 25 April, 5:45am arrival for 6:00am service commencement at the Hawthorn War Memorial in St James Park. Followed by a gunfire breakfast (donations appreciated) at the Hawthorn Bowls Club, next to the park at 1 Wood Street - all welcome. Hawthorn RSL, 605 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, will be open from 12pm for veterans and their families.



## Servants Community Housing

Servants Community Housing is a local community housing provider, ensuring people at risk of homelessness have respect, dignity, hope and opportunity. Jayden explains, "Our purpose is to help people find long-term housing and a safe community they can belong and contribute to." Servants utilised the festival to promote their emerging social enterprise 'For The Love of Good' - a line of products, honey and slightly sparkling apple juice, created by staff, residents and volunteers of Servants Community Housing.



## Hawthorn Magic

Hawthorn Magic, a local basketball club in collaboration with their sponsor McDonald's Hawthorn, saw the festival as an opportunity to give kids a chance to try out their basketball skills and shoot some hoops to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Jess, General

Manager Hawthorn Magic, proclaimed the festival as 'highly successful', "We got to meet lots of people new to Basketball Hawthorn and our representative team. We had plenty of people register for more information on the day, so we look forward to welcoming them into our basketball community."



## ABC Friends

A regular fixture for many years, ABC Friends sprung up in support of keeping the ABC properly funded and not privatised. This festival, they were literally 'beating the drum' in support for the return of talk-back themed discussion program, The Drum which was recently cancelled. A spokesman for the organisation said, "we have a surprisingly positive response... community focused programming is important to a lot of people."



## Bikers Against Child Abuse

Motorcycle 'gangs' might be one of the more commonly misunderstood groups, but their presence at the festival under the banner Bikers Against Child Abuse, stated that these "outlaw tough guys" had hearts of gold. Perhaps surprising to some, this group frequently liaise with police in their efforts to provide support and mentorship to victims of child abuse. Their mission statement is to 'send a clear message to all involved with the abused child, that this child is under their protection. They wish to empower abused children to not be fearful of the world and to feel included within a united, supportive organisation. The BACA proudly state they 'do not condone the use of violence' but are 'prepared to be obstacles' to abuse if needed. ■



EVERYONE HAD PLENTY TO SMILE ABOUT AT THIS YEAR'S GLENFERRIE FESTIVAL