

40 years of Abernethy

With 4 Christian Adventure Centres across Scotland, Abernethy is this year celebrating its 40th anniversary. We have seen 40 years of growth, 450,000 guests, 2000 staff and thousands influenced and impacted by their experience. At the helm for the majority of the 40 years has been Lorimer Gray and now, after 36 years as Executive Director of the Abernethy group of Adventure Centres, Lorimer will be retiring at the end of this year.

Lorimer and his wife Moira, who also worked for Abernethy Nethybridge when it was known as Abernethy Outdoor Centre, have worked tirelessly to make Abernethy the business it is today. With a current staff team of 120 staff, many many lives have been changed over the years by the original vision of Norman Walker and the leadership of Lorimer Gray.

Phil Simpson, currently Development Director, will take over the reins in December having led Abernethy Ardeonaig, with his wife Rosemary who is Deputy Centre Director there, for 28 years. His vision, in his own words, is for "more people to have more life changing experiences at the same time as getting more excited about God. Making disciples is what we are all about and that is not going to change. We have a fantastic set up at Abernethy with 4 great adventure centres and we will continue to make the most of these facilities to bring people, young and old, into the outdoors.

Change is often a challenge and challenges are often exciting. I am looking forward to working with all of the Teams and am challenged to make their Abernethy experience as memorable as that of our guests."

The Centres are Abernethy Nethybridge in the Spey Valley, Abernethy Ardeonaig on Loch Tay, Abernethy Ardgour on Loch Linnhe on the west coast and Abernethy Barcaple near Castle Douglas in the Borders. Some will also remember Abernethy Trust, Arran which was also part of the group of Centres.

During the current economic climate, with growing competition from other Centres and with reduced school budgets for residential visits, Abernethy continues to grow and is looking forward to the next 40 years.

www.abernethy.org.uk

