

Arthur Ross Nevay (1920–2019)

Hairdresser, industry leader, community historian, and Benarty stalwart



Arthur Ross Nevay, who died on 28 January 2019 aged 98, was a highly respected Scottish hairdresser and a leading figure in his profession. Born on 22 July 1920 in Kinross, he moved as an infant with his parents to Glenraig, where his father had purchased a hairdressing business. Apart from his wartime service in the RAF between 1940 and 1945, Arthur spent his life living and working in the Benarty area.

After leaving school, he joined the family business and expanded it significantly during the 1950s and 1960s, eventually operating five salons. When Glenraig was demolished, he relocated the business to the new township of Ballingry. Arthur and his wife Eliza continued to run their well-known shop in Bank Street, Lochgelly, well into his eighties.

Arthur's influence extended far beyond his own salon. He served as President of the National Hairdressers Federation, chaired the Hairdressing Training Board, and oversaw training for hundreds of apprentices. In 1988, he became the first person from Britain to be elected Vice-President of the Confederation of International de la Coiffure. He also served on the board of Fife College for around 25 years, helping shape vocational education across the region.

In later life, Arthur became a central figure in the Benarty Heritage Preservation Group, where he was valued as a "walking local genealogy" resource. He contributed to the group's many publications and, in 2015, compiled and published *Robert McLeod: Cowdenbeath Miner Poet – An Anthology*, edited by Margaret Bennett.

Arthur was also deeply involved in the scouting movement. As a young man, he represented the area at the 1937 World Scout Jubilee in Holland, and later helped establish the 98th Scout Group in Ballingry. His wider community service was recognised in 2014 when he received the Benarty Citizen of the Year Award.

A long-standing member of Cowdenbeath Rotary Club, Arthur served as President in 1985–86 and contributed research for the club's 90th anniversary booklet. Even into his nineties, he remained active, sharp-minded, and eager to help others. As Rotary President Norman Black remarked, "Arthur was a rotary legend... always ready to help in any way he could."

Arthur Nevay leaves behind a legacy of professional excellence, community dedication, and an enduring commitment to preserving the history and spirit of the Benarty area.

Source: The Herald. <https://www.heraldsotland.com/opinion/17454299.obituary-arthur-nevay-hairdresser-former-president-national-hairdressers-federation/>