

STANEHYVE ·TOLBOOTH TIMES·





Editorial

In these difficult times, whilst the country has faced a situation quite unlike anything else in most of our lifetimes, it was a ray of sunshine to see the great success that was the publication of the Stonehaven Shops book just before Christmas. A more detailed report follows in this issue, but undoubtedly Donald Mitchell's book brought back very many happy memories to generations of Stonehaven folk.

It also added to the Tolbooth Museum's funds, as did several grants to allow us to cope with the closure and to make plans for re-opening. Some of us have still been busy and good progress has been made with completion of new display panels on the Pool and famous people of this area, and improving the large selection of old photos formerly held by the Heritage Society with new display boards for them.

We can all look forward now to better times ahead and the re-opening of the Museum, and hopefully a busy summer when we can return to more normal days.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO

Editor

If you have any stories or information you think could be included in future editions, please get in touch with either lizmkritchie@gmail.com or gritchie626@gmail.com

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Old Pier
Stonehaven AB39 2JU
Phone: 07512 466329
Email: enquiries@stonehaventolbooth.co.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC043279



MUSEUM SNIPPETS



As a lot of you may already be aware, we sadly heard that 2 of our long standing members had recently passed away. Bill Abernethy died at the end of last year in November and George Strang died in March 2021. George had for a few years been the curator of the Museum and was also instrumental in bringing together our large geology section. Our deepest condolences to their friends and families.



From January 2021 the museum, as well as having a Facebook page, is now also on Instagram. Check us out on [stonehaventolboothmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/stonehaventolboothmuseum). Each week we are highlighting some of the many artifacts that we have in the museum.—so look out for Alphabet Fridays.



On Tuesday 23rd March the Association held its first ever Zoom AGM. The Chair's report together with the accounts to 31st March 2020 are to be found on pages 9–11



STOP PRESS

If all goes to plan and the government lockdown easing rules do not change, then the Museum hopes to reopen on the weekend of **Saturday 1st May**. Social distancing and hygiene measures will probably have to be in place for some time yet—but it will be lovely to welcome back visitors to the Museum.

Opening hours will very much depend on us having volunteers willing and able to be at the museum. If you haven't volunteered before or if you haven't volunteered for a while and you can spare a few hours each month, then please get in touch.





Stonehaven Shops 1960 to 2020

Did you know that Stonehaven was the only place in Britain where the top selling book in the week before Christmas 2020 was not 'The Thursday Murder Club' by Richard Osman? Yes—it was our own book—Stonehaven Shops 1960-2020 by Donald Mitchell.

As many of you will be aware, Donald Mitchell first started giving talks a few years ago to local groups on the subject of the various shops in Stonehaven from 1958 when he first moved here and his parents took over the Star Inn. These were greatly enjoyed and stirred up lots of memories and on occasions, quite heated discussions as to when a particular shop was there, or who it was took it over. Most shops changed hands regularly over the years. And Donald found himself corrected more than once. He was asked many times if he could turn his talk into a book but even he could not have anticipated what a great success it would turn out to be.

Douglas Cusine had typed out Donald's handwritten notes and Donald and I got together last summer(keeping to the Covid rules) to plan the book and add to the many photos and adverts required. This was a big task but Donald ,with Raymond Penny, had already a long list of photos and we found others in the Heritage archive and adverts in various town guides and old Mearns Leaders. The book got longer and longer as we found more facts to add, characters to include and it stretched from the original 48 pages to 65 pages.

Frank Robertson is an old pal of Donald's, brought up in Allardice Street , and who became a successful commercial artist. He agreed to do the cover and produced a wonderful drawing of the Market Square in the 1960's and which really captures the town as it was then. Tom MacPherson helped with the typesetting and as sadly we no longer have any printers in Stonehaven, it was printed by Steve Mackenzie of Mackenzie Print at Dyce.

We realised that the best market for the book would be at Christmas and we had to get it on the market by then. The first 200 copies were picked up on 8 December and launched the next day. All sold out within 2 days, Unfortunately we had to wait until 17 December before the main print run of 1000 were ready but not surprisingly, most of them sold out before Christmas Eve. Obviously many of these were intended for Christmas stockings and some people bought up to 5 copies to give to family and friends. Mail orders also came in fast.

Needless to say, the book was very well received by all who bought it, and it brought back many happy memories of shops in the town in years gone by. Sadly, we found that we had missed out one or two shops and our memories were jogged by others, but overall I think that you would describe the publication as a great success.



Stonehaven Shops 1960 to 2020 cont'd

Our grateful thanks go to the shops and others who agreed to sell the book, all without taking commission, namely Marjorie at Giulianotti's, Anona at Ritchie Leasing, Fiona and Gillian at Cut'n'Go hairdressers and Lesley at Arduthie House.

As there are now barely any copies left, a second print run is planned ,ready for the re-opening of the Tolbooth Museum. In normal times, we would have arranged a book launch to enable folk to come along and meet Donald and tell their stories of shops in days gone by. Maybe we can do that another time? Will Donald do another book? I suggested Stonehaven Haircuts 1967 to 2007 to cover the time Donald ran Hair Care but he tells me that he will leave that just now!

Gordon Ritchie

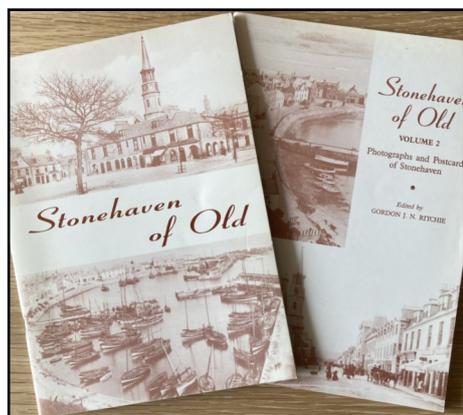




Old Photographs of Stonehaven by Gordon Ritchie

In any Museum that you may visit, photographs always play a big part in telling the story of a place, and the Tolbooth Museum is no different. When Stonehaven Heritage Society was first founded in 1987, one of the first aims was to collect old photographs of Stonehaven as I had already been collecting old postcards for some time. James Craig, a local retired joiner, was employed by me to take property photographs but was also keen on old images of the Town and area. We asked the public for photos, either to donate, or to lend us, so that James could take a copy, and for the next few years, we were busy building up an excellent collection. Many were from the years around 1900 when postcards were at their peak and used, not only to send when you were on holiday, but before the days of telephones in every house, to send a message. With up to 3 postal deliveries a day, you could send a postcard first thing in the morning to tell your friend you would call for your tea and the postie delivered the card in the afternoon post!

Within a year or so, we had collected enough to put together a small book 'Stonehaven of Old' and 2,500 copies were snapped up within a few months. Looking back, the print quality was not great and it has not been reprinted. Volume 2 came out in 1993 and copies are still available. James also printed and mounted all photos for display and I added captions. Before the days of the internet and websites, in order to display the collection, the Society put on Heritage Exhibitions annually in the Town Hall, attracting over 1,000 visitors over 2 days. The photos were later scanned for the Photo Archive on a website and this is the same archive that can be seen today on the Tolbooth website. When the Tolbooth Museum was reopened in 2011, the Heritage Society gave the blue display boards and a selection of photos for display.



However, the display photos are now showing their age, and in lockdown, I embarked on a project to freshen up the collection. After sorting the photos into various categories, the Harbour, Fisher folk, the Old Town, the Market Square, Stonehaven at Work and Around Stonehaven, the captions for each have been reviewed by myself and Douglas Cusine, and the photos have all been re-copied and printed by Val Sharp of Sharper Images, Market Buildings, Stonehaven. They all now look so much better and with grant assistance from the Co-op, the Museum have new display boards (still blue) and they will make an excellent display when the Museum re-opens. The intention is to rotate the photos in the collection and change them every few months. We also have from the Heritage Society a small set of mobile display boards and which can be used for displaying photos in other locations.



Old Photographs of Stonehaven by Gordon Ritchie—cont'd

I am grateful to all who have donated photos in the past, to the family of the late James Craig for his hard work in the early days ,and those who have helped refresh the collection . I hope you can take time and enjoy some wonderful images of our Town.



Looking over the Harbour with fishing boats moored. The buildings seen are still there today, the Marine Hotel and the Granary of R.V. Mitchell, grain merchant, both prominent. A 265 is "Sunrise" owned by James Clark and A219 is "Nancy" owned by Alex. Taylor.



classic view of the Harbour around 1900, full of fishing boats. The Outer Breakwater had not yet been built.



FAMOUS NAMES OF STONEHAVEN by Liz Ritchie

(from information provided by Lorraine Stewart)



The chapel set high on the hill above Cowie and called locally St. Mary of the Storms is home to an unusual memorial for perhaps a not so famous name of Stonehaven. The memorial to Rymond or Raymond Stewart states the following

*To the memory of
RYMOND STEWART a black man, a
native of Grenada who lived for 30 years
in the service of the late
Mr FARQUHARSON of Breda in this
County and was much respected. He died
at Elsick 3rd January 1834 leaving
money which he had saved for charitable
purposes.*



His will shows that in 1834, Rymond Stewart left a sum of £517: 10s/6d or £517.53. The Bank of England inflation calculator states that £517 in 1834 is now worth approx. £68,700 today. A staggering amount for those days and especially so for a servant.

Breda is an estate near Alford, but of local interest is the fact that his will allocates £10 (or £1320 today) to the Kirk Session of Fetteresso, £5 (or £660 today) to help the poor of the Parish generally and £5 to help the poor of the parish of Elsick.

Lots of questions (as yet unanswered) arise from this memorial inscription. Why did Rymond die at Elsick? Was he living at Elsick at the time or just visiting? How old was Rymond at his death? How did he come from Grenada to Scotland? A Robert Farquharson (d 1863) who lived at Breda was married to an Elizabeth Innes. Could this be a connection to the Innes of Cowie? A project for an other time perhaps.



Stonehaven Tolbooth Association

Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd March 2021—by Zoom

Chair's Report

As you all know it is traditional for the Chair to provide a report on what has occurred throughout the previous year, but before I do that, I would like to take this time to mention George Strang who sadly passed away last week and Bill Abernethy who passed away last November. They were both great supporters of the Tolbooth Museum and valued members who will be greatly missed by all who knew them. Our thoughts are with their families.

To say that it has been a funny old time of late is an understatement, and I will endeavour to bring you up to date as to what we have been able to achieve within these constraints over the last year or so.

Going back to the end of 2019 we were able to attend some 'Business Breakfasts' which were organised by Dave Ramsay and held at Lathallan School. These sessions enabled us to meet up with other organisations within the Voluntary Sector to discuss various ways in which we could assist each other. At the end of the year we had a good 2019 Christmas Party where we were able to come together for a catch up.

2020 started off in the usual way. We were contacted by Stewart Aitken from our local Co-op in January 2021 as we had been selected as a Co-op Cause for Stonehaven. In the interim Stewart Aitken had contact with Dennis Collie (Treasurer), and latterly with Gordon Ritchie when he came on board, to discuss how any monies awarded to the Tolbooth, could be used. Then of course came the news that we were all heading for 'Lockdown' and life as we knew it was put on hold.....

In this period of uncertainty, we still had to keep any eye on the Tolbooth, and Andrew Newton (Secretary) became the 'checker'. As with everything there is always some form that the Local Authority want you to complete and Andrew was our man.

The default position was that the Tolbooth would remain closed until when we didn't know. There was a glimmer (although small) of normality coming for the summer 2020 when restrictions seemed to be easing and with that in mind and following Scottish Government guidelines, we nurtured the fact that we could reopen the Tolbooth.

Our first date would be 25th July 2020. Andrew & Dennis sourced all the materials required to enable us to reopen on that date and this was funded by a grant from Museum Galleries Scotland which Andrew and Dennis had obtained. We had a minimal number of visitors and all worked well. Could it be we were returning to some form of normality?!



Chair's Report—cont'd

We did manage to keep the Tolbooth open, albeit at weekends for some time in August, September, October, November and December, but sadly came the news again we were entering this current lockdown and the Tolbooth had to close and remains closed until further notice. (see reopening update on page 3)

We as the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association have managed to have meetings via Zoom and these commenced in November last year and my thanks to Liz Ritchie who organises these.

Both Clare Thomas and Liz have been instrumental in promoting and keeping our fingers on the pulse of social media. Our Instagram Account was launched a few weeks ago and has a number of followers and our Facebook page reaches more and more folk.

The Stanehyve publications have still been on-going throughout and thanks goes to Gordon Ritchie and Liz for all their hard work on the production of these.

Louise Coates our Curator has been taking photos of the exhibits throughout the Tolbooth closure and updating the information that we have.

It is with regret that Gwynne Stewart is stepping down from her role as 'Shop Co-ordinator' and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work over the years maintaining the stock and all that goes with that. The sale of 'Stonehaven Shops' by Donald Mitchell has proved very popular indeed.

So, what do we hope for the future? I can only think of one thing - 'OPEN'. To be able to welcome visitors back to the Tolbooth. Enhance the visitor experience. Improve on communication between all of us volunteers and members. We have all experienced difficult times of late and the hope is that better times are on the way.

To that end I would like to take this opportunity to voice my sincere thanks to each and every one for their continued valued support and commitment, to the Tolbooth Museum and Clock Tower. And to my fellow Stonehaven Tolbooth Trustees, my grateful thanks for all the work they undertake.

Thank you.

Cressida Coates—Chair



Stonehaven Tolbooth Association
Accounts Summary prepared for 2020 AGM
for Financial Year ending 31st March 2020

Income	Core Museum	Extens'n	Fireballs	Total Amount	Previous Year	Notes
Bank Interest				-	-	
Gift Aid from HMRC	2,729	-	-	2,729	162	
Funding - Aberdeenshire Council	-	-	-	-	68	
Awards, Sponsors, Donations etc	47,701	7,425	-	55,126	11,318	1
Minor donations etc	10,043	-	42	10,084	8,301	
Gross Sales	7,670	-	-	7,670	7,205	
eCard Sales/Donations	686			686		
Events/hires	480	-	-	480	150	
Total Income	69,309	7,425	42	76,776	27,204	

Expenditure	Core Museum	Extens'n	Fireballs	Total Amount	Previous Yr
Admin/misc expenses	1,339	-		1,339	76
Web site	49	-		49	46
AGM and other meeting expenses	606	186		793	-
Publicity & advertising	160	-		160	150
Volunteer uniforms	70	-		70	216
Donations/grants	-	-		-	179
display materials/furniture	113	-		113	213
Bank charges	-	-		-	50
Stock for sales	4,363	-		4,363	3,677
Lucky dips	474	-		474	475
Shop equipment etc	-	-		-	14
Insurance, H&S etc	338	-		338	-
Legal/Architectural etc	-	9,900		9,900	6,600
Total Expenditure	7,512	10,086	-	17,598	11,696

Annual Trading Profit/Loss	61,798	- 2,661	42	59,178	15,508
-----------------------------------	---------------	----------------	-----------	---------------	---------------

Balances Summary	Total Amount	Previous Yr
Cash & Bank b/f	44,945	29,436
Profit/Loss	59,178	15,508
Balance c/f	104,123	44,944

2

Notes

- 1.** £47,571 from Heritage Society **2.** £60,000 in savings account

D. Collie (Treasurer, STA)

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043279)