



Tolbooth Times and Stanehyve Magazine Autumn



Stonehaven Tolbooth Association 2018

From the Editor

We are now into October and the museum has moved to Winter opening hours , Saturday and Sunday, 12:30 to 15:30. Summer opening hours will be in place however for the School Holidays. As you can see from the latest visitor numbers, it has been an excellent summer season for visitors to the museum and despite the scorching weather they still ventured in. Mind you, perhaps some did so to escape the sun for a while!

Unfortunately due to the extremely bad weather the Harbour Festival had to be cancelled. As this is a major event in the Tolbooth calendar it was unfortunate, however, it was the right decision due to the severity of the conditions and potential danger to both visitors and stallholders.

We have been bequeathed and offered some interesting artefacts in recent weeks and these are described inside this issue.

We have a fuller than usual newsletter this time and I hope you will enjoy the additional content. George Strang has had an interesting experience recently and Jim Bruce, who can frequently be seen dancing to the Scottish music we play has been caught on camera !

Tom Macpherson

July-September 2018

Inside this issue:

World 1—100 years on Visitor Footfall	2
Museum Extension Report Special Visits Doors Open Day 2018	3
Bequests and Donations Swimming Club Trophies	4
Caught on camera It can happen to anyone! Annual General Meeting 2018	5
Tolbooth Information Snippets	6
Stanehyve Magazine	7+

Stonehaven Poster

In 2016, thanks to work by museum secretary Andrew Newton, the shop began to sell an A4 version of a poster displaying Stonehaven attractions. Originals of the poster which initiated the idea of producing smaller versions were on display in the arches at the town square and the railway station.

Since then the poster has sold reasonably well. However, in early August of this year a copy was added to the Tolbooth website and as a result, sales have increased significantly with many to visitors from the rest of the UK and farther afield.

A number of visitors have even come in specifically to purchase one as a result of the Facebook picture and hopefully this will help to publicise Stonehaven as an major tourist destination both in the UK and abroad.

World War 1—100 years on

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1 and in a few weeks, countries world-wide will commemorate the end of a war that claimed millions in both deaths and casualties. Some UK towns and villages lost a whole generation, with approximately 800,000 UK militarily deaths and 16,000 civilians.

Dennis Collie, Tolbooth Treasurer, has composed a poem which I think captures the courage, sacrifice and futility of that dreadful conflict, in which 19th century military tactics pitted against 20th century weapons brought mass slaughter to so many.

THE MONUMENT ON THE BLACK HILL



The monument on the Black Hill looks down on
Stoney Bay
And west, o'er town and rolling hills to mountains far
away
But to the East: the cold North Sea, to Europe and
afar
Where Mearns' lads of years ago went off to fight
the war

T'was August 1914 when they bravely marched away
Quite happy in the knowledge they'd be home by
Christmas Day
"The enemy half-defeated and already on the run"
Another couple of months or so – it surely would be
won

With very little training they shipped to Flanders and
to France
Still confident that in battle they'd lead the Hun a
merry dance
But there was no glorious battle - t'was bloody mud
and mire
As lambs sent to the slaughter fell to deadly enemy
fire

And Christmas passed, the weeks went by and
months turned into years

Of bullets, gas, barbed wire and shrapnel, sickness
and disease

Verdun, Mons, Ypres, the Somme - infamous for
evermore

Where so many of our brave young lads fell dying in
the gore

Those that survived returned home, but never quite
the same

Still in their head the sound and smell of gun and
bomb and flame

They never spoke of what they'd seen, and less of
what they'd done

Of the days they faced the enemy when they'd
rather turn and run

A hundred years have passed and gone since our
young men marched away

So many never did return – with their lives they had
to pay

But every year on Poppy day we come here to
honour the dead

Remembered still, upon the Hill, where their names
can all be read

Dennis Collie 2014

Footfall July to September 2018

Month	Museum	Tower	Combined	Days Open	Museum Avge	Tower Avge
July	3309	953	4262	26	127	37
Aug	3926	1117	5043	27	145	41
Sept	2288	722	3010	26	88	28
Totals	9523	2792	12345			

Accumulative 2018 Totals

Museum 19,670
Clock Tower 5,106
Both Attractions 24,776

Comparative 2017 Totals

21,191
5,329
26,520

Museum Extension

Thanks to extensive work, prolonged negotiations and tenacity by secretary Andrew Newton, the museum has at last secured a substantial grant from the **European Marine Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** to take forward the museum extension project. His comprehensive report is below.

Progress Report from Andrew Newton, STA Secretary.

In December 2017 we finally received planning permission to build the new extension. Although this took nearly three years the battle was only just beginning as a capital build on this scale requires a vast amount of money; money far beyond the reaches of STA.

The committee reached two conclusions

- 1) we would have to seek significant external funding and
- 2) we had neither the skills nor the time to put together all the required documentation and to knock on various doors with a hat in our hand. The only viable alternative is to obtain professional help but this also requires money.

We put out an Invitation to Tender for the consultancy and received 4 bids at around £60,000 each. The next step was to find the funding. NESFLAG (the local arm of the European Marine Fisheries Fund) offered us a grant of 75%. Stonehaven Heritage Society offered us a grant of 10% and STA will put up the final 15%. Having secured this funding we awarded the contract to Ergadia Museums & Heritage which is a non-profit consultancy based in the central belt. An inception meeting was held at Viewmount on 20th September.

First impressions are that the consultancy is very professional and that they are already tied into our vision for the future. Over the next year there will be plenty to report – no doubts lows as well as highs – but hopefully we will get a successful outcome. On the road to completion there will be a lot of work to be done; for example there will be a couple of public meetings in Stonehaven to gauge the level of support for the extension. Much of the work will be behind the scenes but I know that Ergadia want to meet with all the volunteers because your input into the future will have a huge bearing on how Ergadia frame the applications for capital funding. Exciting times ahead !

Special Visits

During September the museum hosted visits from two parties of Cub Scouts. On Tuesday 25th 28 Cubs & 4 leaders spent over 1 hour with volunteers Cressida Coates, Clare Thomas and Bill Emslie. The Cubs proved to be good listeners rather than asking questions and were I believe working for their Discovery badge.

On Thursday 27th a second party of Cubs was hosted by Clare Thomas, George Strang and Dennis Collie. 17 cubs and 6 leaders, including Scouts came along . The leaders had good control and the boys were well-behaved. In the North Room with the school exhibit, they particularly liked hearing about the use of school belt, lifting the fireball and counting to 10 before lowering it and looking for their birthday gemstone in the Geology section.

Mens Shed Talk

Volunteers Jim Bruce and George Strang talked to Mens Shed volunteers at the community centre at lunch time on the 27th September. Their talk was about the Tolbooth and included the showing of a film about the Queen Mother reopening the renovated Tolbooth in 1963. Jim and George also gave a brief history of the Tolbooth and displayed some 20 or more artefacts from the both Tolbooth and Jim's sheds. George reports that it was a very

Doors Open Day 2018

On Saturday 15th September the museum participated in the Open Doors Scotland event. Volunteers who were on duty at different times of the day were Jean Skinner, Clare Thomas, Kelley Macpherson, Andrew Newton, George Strang Jim Bruce and Tom Macpherson.

Banners, balloons and visitor comments sheets were supplied for both the Tolbooth and Clock Tower and visitors' comments recorded were very favourable. The banners promoting Open Doors Day were displayed outside the museum and we had a total of ??? Visitors during the 10 am—4:30 pm opening.

Bequests and donations

We have recently had several artefacts offered to the museum.



This painting of the harbour and Tolbooth by artist George Kelly was bequeathed by Mrs Joyce Farquharson Stephen, formerly of Queens Road, Aberdeen. Not much is known of the artist Kelly, (1920-1965) but he painted several local scenes. It is now hanging in the east room of the museum beside the 1908 picture of the harbour. Andrew Newton has traced two further paintings by Kelly.

1 The *Gorch Fock* owned by University of Hertfordshire.

2 Coastline near Montrose 1962. Owned by University of Aberdeen.



These three paintings were originally offered to Aberdeen Museum services by Judith Taylor, who lives in New Zealand. However, as they did not meet Aberdeenshire Museum Services criteria for donations, the Tolbooth was asked if they would like to accept them.

Judith's father's home was originally in Mintlaw and the paintings originally came from his parents' home there (Alfred and Adriana Taylor). Judith works in the museum area of Te Papa NZ, New Zealand's national museum.



The paintings are of Stonehaven by artist W Gordon. Unfortunately we have been unable to find out anything of the artist or the individual pieces. However, from the lack of any infrastructure on the shoreline and the several red-sailed fishing boats in the harbour painting, it is likely that they painted in the early 1900's. The harbour picture includes the outer breakwater which was built in 1908, so the harbour picture must have been painted after then.



Unfortunately due to the high shipping costs from New Zealand to Stonehaven the committee have had to decline the offer. However I have included this item to show the kind of "behind the scenes" work that goes on in committee and to highlight that Stonehaven has a presence even on the far side of the world.

Stonehaven Amateur Swimming Club (SASC) Trophies



A few weeks ago Jim Henderson, Stonehaven resident and Friends of Stonehaven Pool member, offered us a number of SASC trophies which had been stored away in a box at the outdoor pool for a number of years. The trophies were tarnished almost black. Jim had decided to refurbish them and then offer them to the Tolbooth where they could be seen all year round, rather than during the short Pool season. Coincidentally one of his neighbours was downsizing and offered the museum a display cabinet. The trophies are now in the prison area of the museum. Jim's Henderson's excellent restoration has returned the trophies almost to their original condition. They date from 1938—1992 and contain the names of many winners. If you think your name may be on one of the them and would like to look at the trophies please ask a volunteer.

Caught on camera!

I'm sure that volunteers and visitors alike have seen Jim Bruce's penchant for a wee dance from time to time as we play our Scottish tracks. While I was on duty with Jim recently a lady from England came in with relations from Texas who were visiting her.

On hearing the music the English lady had a wee jig and Jim without further ado joined in, both ending up outside on the pier. They danced for several minutes and were rewarded with a clap and cheer from passers-by. I couldn't resist taking some photos and with Jim's permission share them with you.



It Can Happen To Anyone

In 2012 former Prime Minister David Cameron hit the headlines when he, his security detail and wife left a pub after Sunday drinks, but forgot to take their eight-year-old daughter with them! While on duty at the museum with George Strang a few weeks ago George recounted a similar occurrence and agreed I could share it with you.

George and wife Irene went to Portlethen recently. George was dropped off at Homebase to purchase some DIY items, while Irene went off to attend to some family business. Having done so, she then set off back to Stonehaven, completely forgetting that George was waiting at Homebase to be picked up! Fortunately by Newtonhill Irene realised that she was one passenger light and swiftly returned to collect George.

I'm sure many of you may have similar stories, in my case it includes turning up for a hospital appointment a month early and dropping the kids off at Sunday School just as it finished, completely forgetting that the clocks had gone forward.

Annual General Meeting 2018 Extracts

We have received throughout year various donations and we will endeavour to display these to the full. The Mannequin is a Suffragette at this point in time.

Our kitchen/bathroom now hosts the kettle and an area to make a cuppa to keep us going on cold days. The heating has been trying over the last year but touch wood it appears to be ok.

The Shop has undergone a major change. Our thanks to Dennis Collie who undertook this project. We are still able to provide and display a variety of goods to suit all ages.

The latest editions of the *Tolbooth Times* have been in collaboration with the Stonehaven Heritage Society's *Stanhyve* Magazine and we will continue to run with this format. Thank you to Tom Macpherson and to Gordon Ritchie for all their hard work.

We have retained our 3 Star rating from Visit Scotland and although the report was excellent we feel they did not appreciate the unique character of the Museum, however we will take their comments on board.

The trustees for 2018-2019 are Ian Balgowan, Jim Bruce, Cressida Coates, Louise Coates, Dennis Collie, Bill Emslie, Tom Macpherson, Andrew Newton, Gordon Ritchie, Mary Sutcliffe, Gwynne Stewart, Clare Thomas.

On behalf of the community in general Councillor Dickinson wished to record her appreciation of the work done by all the volunteers in running an attraction which has become a landmark place to visit in Stonehaven.

It was agreed that admittance of dogs is at the discretion of the volunteers on duty but if they are admitted they should **be on a leash or carried in their owner's arms**.

Finally a vote of thanks was offered to Cressida Coates for all her efforts as Chair.

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association

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The Stonehaven Tolbooth is thought to have been founded by George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal (c. 1553–1623), with the original purpose of the rectangular building being to act as a storehouse during the construction of the nearby Dunnottar Castle. In 1600, an Act of Parliament provided that the building become a Tolbooth.

After 1624, the town business functions were conducted on the upper level of the Stonehaven Tolbooth, with the ground floor being used as the prison. It remained a courthouse (upper floor) and prison (ground floor) until 1767 when these activities were relocated.

The building then reverted as a store until the 1950s by which time it had fallen into disrepair. In 1963 the building was renovated and officially re-opened by Her Majesty the Queen Mother. In 1975 the lower floor was converted into a museum reflecting Stonehaven's long history. Currently the museum occupies the ground floor whilst a separate restaurant operates on the upper floor.

Entry is free.

Snippets

In August the museum was visited by an assessor from the Scottish Tourist Board to reassess our 3 star rating. We are pleased to announce that we have retained our current 3 star rating and that our next visit will be in 2020

.We have been approached by Globus Tours who wish to make the museum a 'calling event' on one of the regular tours in 2019. Cressida is liaising with their representative on the exact details.

The Clock Tower counter stopped working and was traced to battery failure. With new batteries the counter is fully functional again. Also A couple of coins are stuck in the Perspex tower donation box and will need to be freed with an appropriate screwdriver.

Become a Tolbooth Volunteer!

The Tolbooth museum is supported by Aberdeenshire Council, but managed and operated entirely by a team of volunteers.

The museum is visited by over 22000 people a year of all ages, and from 108 countries across the globe, as we can see from our visitors book. We regularly have visitors from Europe, Asia, Australasia, the USA and Canada and many other parts of the world.

Volunteers play a vital role in providing a warm greeting to visitors as they arrive and in

answering the many questions about items in the museum .

Also, we frequently act as an information service, including providing directions to other attractions such as the castle.

We have a dinosaur hunt for the children with a small prize at the end which they find great fun.

No experience is necessary, just an interest in being part of an enthusiastic team dedicated to preserving and sharing this incredible piece of history .

We're a friendly bunch and volunteers are on duty while the

museum is open. Most volunteers do one or two afternoons a month, but you can do as many or as few as you choose.

The museum's opening hours are

Summer Season

Daily except Tuesday,
13:30 — 16:30

Winter Season

Saturday & Sunday 12:30—15:30

If you'd like to join us, you can complete the form on the website or drop in when the Tolbooth is open.

STANEHYVE



The Magazine of STONEHAVEN HERITAGE SOCIETY

In This Issue

Cissy Wood, Rickarton

Stonehaven's Mansion Houses

Autumn
2018

Issue No. 105



Cover Photo

A fine photograph, probably dating from about 1900, looking towards the Tolbooth and the Old Pier. The buildings on the right hand side of the photo are little changed today, and the Ship Inn is recognisable. The large building next to the Ship Inn and the 2 smaller houses were demolished by the Town Council around 1950 and new housing in vernacular stone style erected on the corner of the High Street.

EDITORIAL

It is surely very pleasing to Stonehaven folk that the Tolbooth Museum has continued to be a great success, since it was unceremoniously cleared out and closed by our local council in 2011, and then re-opened, re-filled and re-furbished by the Tolbooth Museum Association. Visitor numbers now reach 24,000 a year, and it is the most visited Museum in the Aberdeenshire Council area.

And more good news for the Tolbooth Museum is that, not only has Planning Permission been granted for their ambitious and exciting plans for an extension to the existing building, but they have been given a grant which will pay the costs of a feasibility study and business plan, the first steps in obtaining lottery or other grants necessary for this important project for Stonehaven. The Heritage Society were pleased to offer financial assistance to the Tolbooth Association towards the next phase of the extension project.

It is never easy to find speakers on topics of local interest, but you will hopefully find something of interest in the forthcoming season of speakers. I hope to see you at one of our meetings.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO

CECILIA (CISSY) WOOD OF RICKARTON

I am grateful to Mrs Violet Craib of Rickarton for the attached photograph of Cissy Wood who lived at Glenton Croft, Rickarton. Born in 1831, the photo must have been taken around 1900 and show her holding a scythe. The other photo was a local postcard showing Cissy ploughing her croft with 2 fine horses.



The 1891 census has Cecilia Wood age 60, living at Glenton Croft, unmarried, with her nephew Alfred Scorgie, age 6, a resident with her. It seems that Cissy was unusual in that she ran her croft single handed. I wonder if anyone has any more information about her?

Gordon Ritchie, MVO

Stonehaven Mansion Houses (Part 1)

Before World War 2 Stonehaven had three impressive mansion houses just outside the town, Dunnottar House, Fetteresso Castle and Urie House.



Dunnottar House

This once fine house, dating from 1806, stood in the centre of what we today know as Dunnottar Woods, and was demolished around 1960. The present house known as Dunnottar Park is close to the original location.

The House was built for Elenora Allardyce, daughter of the late Alexander Allardyce who had purchased what became Dunnottar Estate in 1782, having made his fortune in sugar plantations in the West Indies.

Elenora married Lord Archibald Kennedy of Culzean Castle in Ayrshire in 1814, who became notorious as a sportsman and gambler. The House and Estate were purchased in 1832 by Nathaniel Forbes from Strathdon, and from the 1860's was rented by the Ritchie's who owned Glenury Royal Distillery, and later purchased by William Ritchie in 1901.

He lived there until his death in 1944, when the House and Estate were sold to a Yorkshire family. Dunnottar House was never fully lived in from then and fell into disrepair until its demolition.

However, there have still survived today within the woods the original Ice House, the Shell House, Lady Kennedy's Bath and the large walled Gardens, still housing Sam Jolly's market garden. The full story of Dunnottar Woods and House is told in George Swapp's book of that title, published by the Heritage Society in 2008 and still available.

SPEAKERS FOR SEASON 2018 – 2019

Wednesday, 24 October 2018

Angus Whitson, Fettercairn on “A Countryside Diary”. Angus writes a weekly column in The Courier on his travels through the country.

Wednesday 28 November 2018

Bruce Keith “Bridgescapes”. Bruce is the author of a new book to celebrate the long history of bridges in Scotland, the most recent being the Queensferry Crossing. He will include the many iconic bridges in N. E. Scotland.

Wednesday 23 January 2019

Professor John Morrison, Professor of Art History at the University of Aberdeen. The title of his talk will be “Caught in the Spring of the Kirk – For Covenant and King; Charles II 1650-51”. John is involved in the restoration of 3 large 17th century paintings which relate directly to the Civil War, and will talk on how these threaten and promise various things to Charles II on behalf of the Scottish Parliament.

Wednesday 27 February 2019

Bruce Walker, Aberdeen Philately Society “Kincardineshire Post Offices and Postmarks 1741 – 2017”

Wednesday 27 March 2019

Elinor Vickers, “Blairs Museum”

Wednesday 24 April 2019

Annual General Meeting

All meetings in St. Bridget’s Hall, Dunnottar Avenue, Stonehaven, at 7.30 p.m.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO