

# Tolbooth Times



## Stonehaven Tolbooth Association 2018

### From the Editor

As March ends, we begin the Tolbooth summer opening hours. As you will see from the article below, the museum was once again the most visited of all Aberdeenshire Museum Services locations.

I'm sure that this will give great satisfaction to all of you who gave your time to keep the museum open despite the sometimes appalling weather and low museum temperatures, when the SE wind came whipping in through the open door! Many visitors voiced their appreciation at having somewhere warm(ish) to go when the weather wasn't really conducive to strolling round the bay, harbour or town.

However, at times Cressida struggled to fill the roster for each month and now as we begin summer six-day opening this may prove even harder. We have over 45 members and if each one committed to one afternoon per month, filling the roster would not be a problem. Please, try to fill at least one of the afternoon slots when the roster is issued, it's a very pleasant way to spend 3 hours, chatting to visitors and watching the excitement of the children as they hunt for dinosaurs.

You will have noticed a change to the format of the newsletter. To enhance our links with Stonehaven Heritage Society (SHS Hon. Secretary Gordon Ritchie is also a Tolbooth committee member) it was agreed to combine the Tolbooth Times and SHS newsletters. We hope members will enjoy each others' news.

### January-March 2018

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### Top Attraction !

#### Tolbooth + Clock Tower 24365

Farming museum	19220
Peterhead museum	9863
Hareshowe	4481
Banchory museum	2465
Maud railway museum	476
Museum Service – Mintlaw	277
Sandhaven Meal Mill	239
Banff museum	182
Fordyce Joiners	0
Garlogie Power Mill	0

Secretary Andrew Newton has obtained annual visitor numbers for all of Aberdeenshire Museum Services locations and for the second year running these show that, as the Tina Turner song goes, "We're Simply The Best". The Tolbooth is now firmly established as the leading Aberdeenshire attraction and a major Stonehaven tourism asset .

Note: ACMS combine the 2 attractions at Aden Park (Farming & Hareshowe) into one total 23701. However, they don't include our Clock Tower in their figures—but we do.

### Footfall January to March 2018

Month	Museum	Tower	Combined	Days Open	Museum Avge	Tower Avge
Jan	754	208	962	8	94	26
Feb	710	121	831	8	89	15
Mar	996	246	1242	11	90	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>3005</b>			

#### Accumulative 2018 Totals

Museum	2460
Clock Tower	575

#### Comparative

#### 2017 Totals

2177
724

## Suffragette Movement Display

The 100th anniversary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, enabling all men and some women over the age of 30 to vote for the first time, was celebrated on 6 February 2018. The women who campaigned so effectively for the right to vote suffered immensely to achieve their victory. As a tribute to their perseverance and courage a year of plays, parades and talks are taking place throughout the UK plus the Museum of London's *suffragette movement* exhibition.

Thanks to volunteers Shona Barclay and Jean Skinner we have our own tribute. Using the mannequin which they dressed last year to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the WRI, they have recreated a remarkable likeness of a typical suffragette from 1918. This will be on display for the rest of the year in the prison area of the museum where it will be seen as visitors arrive. The display also includes posters with the following information.

### Suffragettes in Scotland

For a long time the suffrage movement was located in London and the leadership was also based there, but Scotland's Suffragettes and Suffragists were an important part in the fight for women's votes. Edinburgh had one of the earliest suffrage societies in the 1870s and after 1905 Scotland was "punching above its weight" in the struggle for votes for women. There were plenty of opportunities to confront high ranking MPs and officials with Herbert Asquith, the Prime Minister, having his constituency in Fife and Winston Churchill being an MP for Dundee.

Militant women pledged to argue at every by-election at which the Liberal Party stood because that party kept refusing them votes. This meant that all parts of Scotland were involved. At one point in 1908 Churchill hid in a shed in Dundee where he tried to hold a meeting. He was being followed by 27 of the National Leaders of Women's Suffrage Movements!

Around 1912, the women became more militant. They burned down buildings including the Grandstands at Perth and Ayr Racecourse; they poured acid into letter boxes to destroy the mail and they burned "Votes for Women" into the greens on golf courses with acid. However, they were careful not to harm or kill anyone. In 1909, there was a big Rally in Edinburgh led by Flora Drummond riding on horseback. She had grown up in Arran. Suffragettes imprisoned in Perth and Edinburgh were "force fed" if they went on hunger strike.

### The Colours of the Suffragettes.

In 1908, The Women's Social and Political Union, or WSPU, adopted a colour scheme of green, white and purple/violet. This made them stand out and proved a huge marketing success as large, fashionable stores in London such as Lilley and Skinner, Burberry and Derry and Toms advertised in their magazine, *Votes for Women*. Derry and Toms even sold tricolour underwear in green, white and purple and Mappin and Webb issued a catalogue of Suffragette jewellery for Christmas 1908.

### The Meanings of the Colours

**GREEN** – Give, **WHITE** – Women **VIOLET** – Votes

Green is the colour of Hope and Spring, White stands for Purity, Purple / Violet stands for Freedom and Dignity. The ladies in the various Suffrage organisations were well off and from the upper classes in society. They were well turned out and Christabel Pankhurst implored Suffragettes **NOT** to look "dowdy!" They wore feminine looking, stylish clothes and sashes and jewellery in support of the cause.

**In 1918, ladies over 30 were able to vote but not until ten years later in 1928 did that include those over the age of 21.**



### Suffragette Mannequin

Congratulations to Shona and Jean for their time and hard work to create this excellent display.

### Suffragette Brooch



## Visitor Comments on TripAdvisor

Tolbooth visitors frequently express their appreciation through TripAdvisor. As a leading website to check out holiday destinations and attractions, it makes those planning to visit the area aware of the museum and its great FREE publicity. Their latest comments are below. [sic]

- *Loved It so Beautiful and charming Beautiful part of Scotland. We just popped in just for a small look but it was just great to have a good read about the history of the building was great to see original authentic history the staff were so nice and were telling us about the building. Bonus Its FREE entry!!! all they ask for is donations so we gave all our change which was a good 8 pounds sounds cheap but that's all we had lol. But defo don't miss this hidden treasure!!*
- *A lovely quaint museum on the harbour in Stonehaven. Lots of very interesting items to look at. Staff very helpful.*
- *Such a lovely welcome, 2 very happy ladies, willing to make your visit a happy one, so interesting to look at history on your doorstep, Thankyou*
- *This free museum is in the oldest building of the town (17th century), nearly at the very end of the harbour. Volunteers are taking care of it, to keep the memories alive. The love they put in the museum, the warmth of their welcome made the dreadfully windy day much brighter. Not only did I visit a small museum, very eclectic, with videos retracing the history of the town, and of its people, but I got to meet locals- but Gwynne and Marjorie (the museum volunteers) were wonderful, warm, knowledgeable, welcoming and overall perfect. I had the greatest time talking with them. Thank you for being there and keeping the Stonehaven flame alive ! See you soon ! [sic]*

## St. James Church Bell

The church bell, forged in 1788, which originally hung in the Episcopal Chapel in the Old High Street recently came perilously close to falling due to severe corrosion in the mountings. The bell has been made safe and fundraising is underway including the use of crowdfunding, to replace the mountings and bring this historical artefact back into use. It is hoped to complete this by Armistice Day 2018, when the bell will be rung once for each name on Stonehaven war memorial. Volunteer David Fleming has asked if we could publicise the crowdfunding website. David says -

*"The Crowdfunding scheme has now been launched – at a noisy bell ringing during the Mothering Day Service . I would greatly appreciate it if you could use the link <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/restoring-st-james-1788-bell/> if you feel able to pledge a donation. The website contains quite a lot of information about the bell and its restoration and our project deadline of ringing the bell on 11th November. If you have any queries or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also ask you to help spread the word about this Crowdfunding to anyone whom you consider might be interested. The website will be open for 8 weeks (until .6th May)*

## Special Visits

There have been a number of special visits this month. On Saturday 10th March approximately 15 foreign students, mainly Spanish I think, visited the museum.

Visits were scheduled by two Arduthie P2/3 and P3 Primary classes but were postponed due to the severe weather. They were rescheduled for 20th and 27th March. Both visits have now taken place. The topic for these visits was "Old Stonehaven" and as usual the children asked many questions and tried out the various artefacts in the museum. Unfortunately the children had to walk down from Arduthie and back in the rain, but it wasn't as dire as the earlier weather which caused the original cancellation.

There was a visit by Dunnottar P6 on Friday 23rd March and this was followed by 42 children from Dunnottar P1/2 on Wednesday 28th. Although it was planned to have 4 volunteers for the Dunnottar visit, due to illness this was reduced to Clair and myself. Usually we divide the children into groups of 8–10. However, on this visit we had to divide them into two groups of 21! It was quite a sight seeing 21 of them crowding into the museum jail. Fortunately they were all quite wee, but it was still a tight fit. However, the children were very well behaved, asked lots of questions and answered the questions we posed them. Some interesting answers, especially when asked what they thought the chamber pot under the bed in the cell was for!

We really enjoyed their visit although we both admitted afterwards it was time to head home for a coffee and a seat!.

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## Stonehaven Tolbooth Association

OSCR Charity SC043279

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Email: [inquiries@stonehaventolbooth.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@stonehaventolbooth.co.uk)

We're on the web!

[www.stonehaventolbooth.co.uk](http://www.stonehaventolbooth.co.uk)

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

We welcome new volunteer Colin Davies and hope he will enjoy his Tolbooth experience including meeting and chatting with our visitors from near and far.

Bill Emslie and Tom Macpherson investigated the heating problem. It was traced to the time clock on the distribution board. A repair was made and the situation will be monitored.

In the wake of the Oxfam scandal STA had received a request from OSCR that the organisation review its policies on Safeguarding and Notifiable Events. The committee discussed this and the trustees are confident that STA is compliant.

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### 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

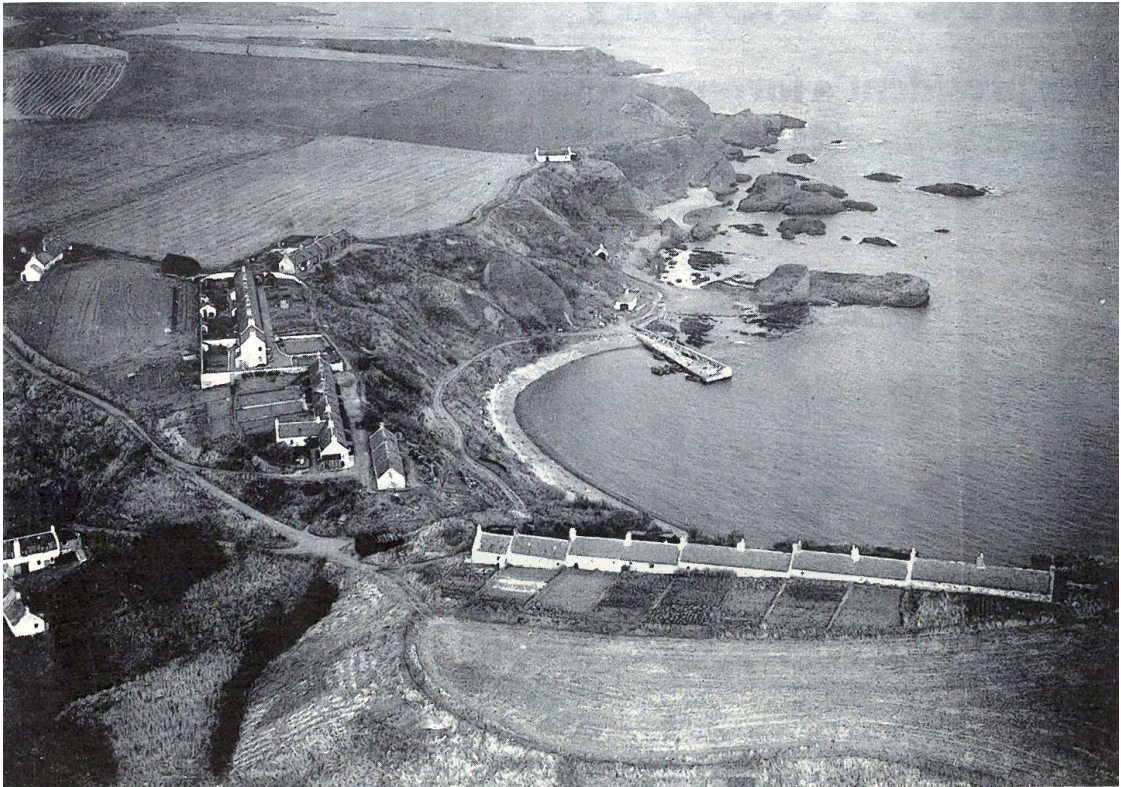
**If you'd like to join us, you can complete the form on the website or drop in when the Tolbooth is open.**

**You'll even get one of the famous red fleeces!**

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# STANEHYVE



## The Magazine of **STONEHAVEN HERITAGE SOCIETY**

### In This Issue

**THE HISTORY OF CATTERLINE  
THE CATTERLINE SCHOOL OF ARTISTS**

SPRING 2018

Issue No. 103

## EDITORIAL

The collection of bound volumes of The Mearns Leader held by the Society continues to be a fascinating source of stories and information. The Leader in the 60's and 70's was full of news about what was happening in Stonehaven from Council reports (the Town Council were always reluctant to spend money), Court reports (if you went through a Stop sign on your bike, you would find your name in the paper!), road accidents (there was a tragic loss of many lives then), news from Clubs and Societies (there was something on every night of the week) and just general local news! The old papers give you a real sense of what Stonehaven was like at that time.

Following the unveiling of the new plaque in Catterline for Joan Eardley in January, I was able to find in the Leader, the 1963 obituary by painter James Morrison, and in late 1964, news of the donation of one of her paintings by her mother and sister to the village and people of Catterline. This still hangs in the Creel Inn.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Janie Emslie, one of the founder members of the Society, former Committee Member and the recipient of Honorary Membership in 2016. She always showed a keen interest in the history and heritage of our fine town, and played an active role in the Society.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO

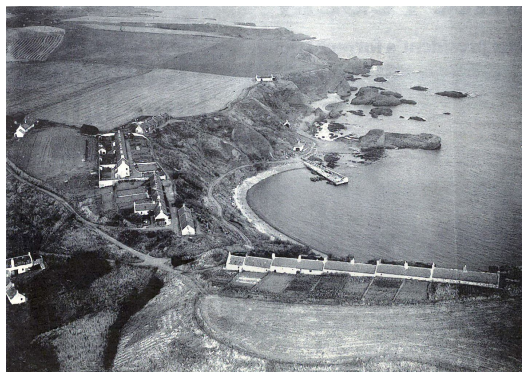
## DIARY

**Wednesday 25 April 2018** – Annual General Meeting followed by Talk by David Fleming on the Church of St. James the Great, Stonehaven

### CARRON WOOLLEN MILL



This Mill sat on the north bank of the Carron Water, adjacent to the Red Bridge, which is still there today. It was demolished to make way for the houses in Carronhall in the 1960s.



## CATTERLINE

Catterline evolved as a fishing settlement around its bay. It first appears on record in the 12th century as Katerlin and about 1206 the green 'Reath' of Catterline from the Mill of Catterline to Braidon's Bay, was granted to the monks of Arbroath Abbey by the Norman family of Fitz-Bernard who had been introduced among the people of the Mearns by King William. They were ancestors of the Sibbalds of Kair. 'The Reath' begins in the field behind the South Row cottages.

Catterline was once a parish in its own right, but in 1719 was joined to Kinneff at the instance of the Presbytery of Fordoun. By 1793 the village was a 'sea-town' in a very small way, but a very rapid build-up came when the tiny harbour was constructed around 1840 by the then superior, Viscount Arbutnott.

The nucleus of the village is its fisher-type cottages, set in rows facing the cliffs. And it is this cliff-top housing arranged around the wide sweep of the bay which gives Catterline its considerable character. Most important, of course, are the early 19th century South Row cottages, stepped to the slope, a rare and possibly unique example of an authentic early fishing village settlement.

### **Fishing**

At no time in its history does Catterline seem to have been a very important fishing station. Neither the old nor the new Statistical Account has more than a passing reference to it beyond an allusion to *drunkenness, theft and perjury* and the fact that *smuggling has been suppressed*. In 1845 no more than nine boats, with twenty-two fishermen, fished from here. By the 1880's the number of yawls and drifters had increased to twenty-eight while the fishermen mustered thirty. Every summer eight boats, all engaged by a local curer, left Catterline for the herring fisheries, while during the other months of the year twelve yawls or so went to the line-fishing. So did the importance of Catterline fisheries increase until about 1900 when the prosperity of the village began to decrease.

In the years of the 20th century the village possessed six or seven whitefishing boats, and there was actually a boom during the War years. But by 1930 only some half-dozen boats sailed from the harbour, and only some twenty elderly fishermen were left to find a more or less profitable occupation catching lobsters or, in the winter, fishing with hand lines.

### **Joan Eardley**

Today Catterline is famous for its colony of artists, past and present. James C. Morrison for a time made his home there, exploiting the visual inspiration which he found; Mrs Annette Stephen over three decades depicted it in works of great delicacy; Miss Lil Neilson, who lived for many years at No. 2 South Row, painted the sea and its wildness. Best known, however, is the late Joan Eardley (1921-63), a leader of a modern Glasgow School who was already an artist of great achievement before she came to the North-east in 1950.

In Catterline she lived first in the Creel Inn, then at No. 1 South Row (the top house) and finally in No. 18 Catterline where she died. In Catterline she was to discover sombre grandeur in the wildness of the sea and the menace of storms in the dead of winter with a pale, yellow sun scarcely breaking through the heavy storm-clouds and the cottages of South Row reeling almost drunkenly under the impact of the weather on their exposed cliff-top.

These South Row cottages have featured in so many of Joan Eardley's pictures that the terrace had been made famous and become a shrine visited by many. By force of her intense impressionism, she etched upon many minds at home and abroad the uniqueness of the Catterline scene. On 26th January a plaque in memory of Joan Eardley was unveiled on the Creel Inn by Carol Kinghorn, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire and Bill Howatson, Lord Provost of Aberdeenshire.

## THE CATTERLINE SCHOOL OF ARTISTS

### JOAN EARDLEY 1921 - 1963

Joan Eardley was born at Bailing Hill Dairy Farm in Sussex.

The family moved to Auchterarder in 1939 and then to Bearsden, to escape the Second World War bombings in London. She graduated from the Glasgow School of Art in 1943 and travelled and painted abroad.

In 1947 she spent time at the Patrick Allan Fraser College of Art at Hospitalfield, Arbroath, where she met Angus Neil who was to become a lifelong friend.

A solo exhibition of her work in Aberdeen in 1950 left to her introduction to Annette Soper, and the village of Catterline. She spent her time between her studio in Glasgow and Catterline, and rented No. 1 Catterline in 1954. In 1959, she bought No. 18 Catterline.

Joan Eardley died in 1963, and her ashes were scattered on the foreshore of her beloved Catterline. A Catterline painting by Joan Eardley hangs in the Creel Inn, a gift from her family to the community.

### ANNETTE (SOPER) STEPHEN 1910 – 1991

Annette was born in Aberdeen and raised in Stonehaven, and it was Joan Eardley's solo exhibition at the Gaumont in Aberdeen, which led to their meeting and life-long friendship.

Annette purchased the "Watchie" on the cliff top as a studio, and gave Joan Eardley the use of the studio, until Joan moved permanently to Catterline and found her own place.

Annette studied under W. G. Gillies at Edinburgh College of Art, and travelled to France, but on the outbreak of war in 1939, she came home to Stonehaven, where she worked as an Art Teacher in various schools.

Most of Annette's work was in the watercolour media, and her paintings have a rightful place in today's world of art.

Annette was the first of the "Catterline School" of artists to live and work in the village, and it is interesting to note that she should have the credit for establishing the enclave of working artists, which has become such a feature which is still very much a key part of Catterline today, and the various connections with the world of art, and artists.

She married Jim Stephen, a Catterline fisherman. His boat "The Hopeful" is featured in the James Morrison painting in Catterline School.

### JAMES MORRISON 1932 – present

James Morrison was born in Glasgow and from 1950 – 1954 studied and graduated from Glasgow School of Art.

He taught at Mackie Academy and then Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art in Dundee as a lecturer in 1965, and remained there until 1987 when he left to pursue his painting on a full time basis.

James Morrison lived and worked in Catterline, until moving to Montrose in 1965.

He specialises predominantly in landscapes, and was admitted to the RSA and RSW in recognition of his contribution to the world of art.

As a gift to the village and community he presented the painting which hangs in the school hall.