



Tolbooth Times and Stanehyve Magazine



Stonehaven Tolbooth Association 2018

From the Editor

As we enter 2019 we can look back on another successful for the museum. Disappointingly, footfall is down on last year's, but this is almost certainly down to the prolonged "Beast from the East" weather and the cancellation of the Harbour Festival, which always brings an greatly increased museum footfall on the day.

I hope you will find this issue's content interesting and informative with an update on the museum extension, visits by the Men's Shed and other events. Stanehyve is also an extended edition with no less than 10 pages!

I hope you had an enjoyable, peaceful Christmas and New Year. May your hopes, wishes and dreams come true in the year ahead.

Tom Macpherson

October — December 2018

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Museum Keys

Now that the Harbour Hut has closed alternative arrangements have been made for the museum keys. A code-controlled security box was purchased and initially mounted on a fence beside Ian Balgowan's house in Jubilee Place. However, this location did not prove the most convenient and the box has been relocated to the double white door of the museum behind the Tolbooth restaurant stairs.

To open the box slide down the cover, turn the 4 wheels to set the code then pull down the release tab at the left of the code wheels. There are two keys – the Yale and mortice keys. All other keys are now held in the museum. The 2 keys should be returned to the box at the end of the day and after closing the box, the combination scrambled to protect the code. Please remember to slide the protective outer cover back up.

To obtain the code, or if you have forgotten it please contact a committee member.

Footfall October to December 2018

Month	Museum	Tower	Combined	Days Open	Museum Avge	Tower Avge
Oct	1395	211	1606	16	100	21 (10 days)
Nov	664	173	837	8	83	22
Dec	1450	327	1777	13	112	36 (9 days)
Totals	3509	711	4220			

Accumulative 2018 Totals

Museum 23,179
 Clock Tower 5,817
 Both Attractions 28,996

Comparative 2017 Totals

24,365
 6,001
 30,366

Museum Extension Progress Report from Andrew Newton, STA Secretary.

The consultants (Ergadia Museums & Heritage), who have been employed to take forward the planned extension, started their work in September and there was subsequently a quiet period as they got to grips with the complexities of the project. However, the pace has picked up and in November one of the consultants (Robin Patel) held a meeting with about 20 volunteers in the Community Centre; the purpose of the meeting was to get to know the volunteers and to obtain their thoughts and ideas for the future.

It was a productive meeting and Robin made the following comment –*“I had a chance to listen through the audio on the way home this morning and there are some great comments and ideas from the group. In terms of volunteer development, there does appear to be a path forming. I was particularly enthused to hear ideas regarding volunteer placements and a supported internal (and external) training programme.”* We will get a full report later.

The following day Cressida, Dennis and Andrew had a meeting with 3 other consultants from Ergadia and these talks revolved around option appraisals and issues that have to be resolved. The latter included flooding – not just in 2020 but the effect of climate change in 2070 and beyond -, costs, the ownership of our various collections, community asset transfer, timescales, the layout of the extension (e.g. is the upstairs a café/restaurant/exhibition space) and even car parking.

As expected none of these items could be resolved in one meeting and discussions will continue for many months to come. As time progresses we hope to build a solid, and profitable, working relationship with our consultants and we will keep all our volunteers informed of developments.

Jim Bruce

Volunteer and committee member Jim Bruce, the “The Magpie Of The Mearns” as he has been called, is almost legendary for his prolific seeking out and purchase of artefacts from the past and a great deal of the museum’s exhibits have been collected and displayed by him.

In an act of great generosity Jim has recently signed over to STA all of his artefacts currently in the museum (November 2018). The committee wishes to thank Jim for his magnanimity and for his continued hard work for the museum including finding new artefacts to display.

Volunteers Christmas Party



The Volunteers Christmas party was held in the Invercarron Resource Centre on Wednesday 19th December. On arrival, approximately 25 volunteers and partners enjoyed an excellent buffet and drinks arranged by Cressida, Louise and Michael.

Afterwards, the company took part in a quiz compiled by Louise. The questions proved challenging with a great deal of head scratching and whispering in the teams. Despite numerous requests such as “can we have half a point then”, Louise as adjudicator took a firm line with the answer “No!” Congratulations go to the winning team the Four Presents, whose members were Clare, Diane, Liz and Andrew - Dream Team!

The evening was a great success with everyone leaving in high spirits (some more than others!) and a huge vote of thanks goes to Cressida, Louise and Michael for all their hard work to create such a successful evening.

“Stonehaven Tsunami “

Tsunamis are usually associated with Asia , mainly in what is known as the Pacific Ring of Fire volcano system there. However, Whilst on duty at the Tolbooth in November a visitor came in and asked if we had any information regarding the prehistoric tsunami which hit Stonehaven around 300BC.

Unable to shed any light on this and somewhat intrigued by the question I decided to do some research. I couldn't find anything relating to 300 BC ,but around 6200 BC the east coast of the UK, including Scotland, was struck by a massive tsunami generated on the Norwegian continental shelf by three Storegga Slides,

Storegga are considered to be amongst the largest known **landslides**. They occurred under water at the edge of Norway's continental shelf in the **Norwegian Sea** (Storegga is **Norwegian** for "the Great Edge") 62 miles north-west of the **Møre** coast, causing a massive tsunami in the **North Atlantic Ocean** involving the collapse of an estimated 180 mile length of coastal shelf, with a total volume of 840 cubic miles of debris. This would be the equivalent volume to an area the size of **Iceland** covered to a depth of 112 feet!

Based on **carbon dating** of plant material recovered from the tsunami sediment, the latest incident occurred around approximately 6225–6170 BC. Traces of the subsequent tsunami have been recorded with deposited sediment being discovered in **Montrose Basin**, the **Firth of Forth**, up to 50 miles inland and 13 ft above current normal tide levels. It is believed that this had a major impact on Mesolithic populations.

Let's hope that, like the Great Highland Boundary Fault that Stonehaven sits on, the Storegga slumbers on!

Special Visits

On 27th September Volunteers Jim Bruce and George Strang gave a talk to Stonehaven Men's Shed Group on the work of the Tolbooth and its history and showed a video of the Queen Mother re-opening the newly refurbished Tolbooth in 1963. In closing they extended an invitation to the Sheddors visit the museum.

Following this on 25th October approximately 20 Men's Shed members visited, hosted by Tolbooth volunteers Jim Bruce, Ian Balgowan, George Strang and Tom Macpherson. Clare Thomas, the Tolbooth's events co-ordinator thanked the volunteers for their help during the visit. It is hoped that perhaps we may recruit new Tolbooth volunteers from the ranks of the Men's Shed.



Another Tolbooth Accolade

Inspired by a “shoestring” trip across Europe and Asia ending in Melbourne, The Lonely Planet company was founded by Tony and Maureen Wheeler in 1973. The brand name was born after Tony Wheeler misheard the words of a **Joe Cocker** song (the lyric was, in fact, "Lovely Planet"). Since then it has grown to be a recognised source of world-wide travel information. Its combined social media community reaches 10 million users and they publish the world's most iconic travel guides

In addition to the excellent reviews the museum receives on the TripAdvisor website, the Tolbooth has now been included in the of Lonely Planet's Great Britain Travel guide for 2019/2020, as one of the two “must-see” attractions in Stonehaven; the other is Dunnottar Castle.

The reviewers are independent, dedicated travellers who tell it like it is and never accept freebies or favours in return for positive reviews. This accolade can only mean a significant boost in publicity for the museum on a world-wide basis, as Lonely Planet guidebooks are sold in numerous countries.

Thanks to Andrew Newton, next issue will contain some in-depth analysis of our visitors' books, with some extremely interesting results on international visitors.

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

The defective lights in the display cabinet opposite the geology section, which have been out of action for some time now, have been repaired.

Stirling University student Emily Maroath completed her month-long work experience with the museum as part of her Heritage and Tourism course. Emily seemed to enjoy her spells on duty with volunteers. We hope she found it useful and wish her every success in her degree.

Dennis Collie has cleared the coins stuck in the Clock Tower Perspex donation box and emptied the safe. All donations received in the box over this calendar year have been aggregated and a cheque for £178.74 issued to the Fire Balls Association.

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 24000 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



Stonehaven Harbour by Rob Powell

The Magazine of STONEHAVEN HERITAGE SOCIETY

William Farquhar

From Stonehaven to Bervie

**Winter
2018**

**Issue No.
106**

EDITORIAL

This issue should reach you before Christmas, but as the Tolbooth Times issued by the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association is usually published in January, you will receive a copy at that time. The revived Tolbooth Museum has been a great success in Stonehaven and hopefully has created more interest in our fine history and heritage.

In this issue, you will see that the Society is looking for a new Secretary and new Treasurer, and I trust that people come forward who are able to fill these posts in order to ensure the continuance of the Society. We have done much for Stonehaven in the past 30 years and hopefully this may continue.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO
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SPEAKERS FOR SEASON 2018 – 2019

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

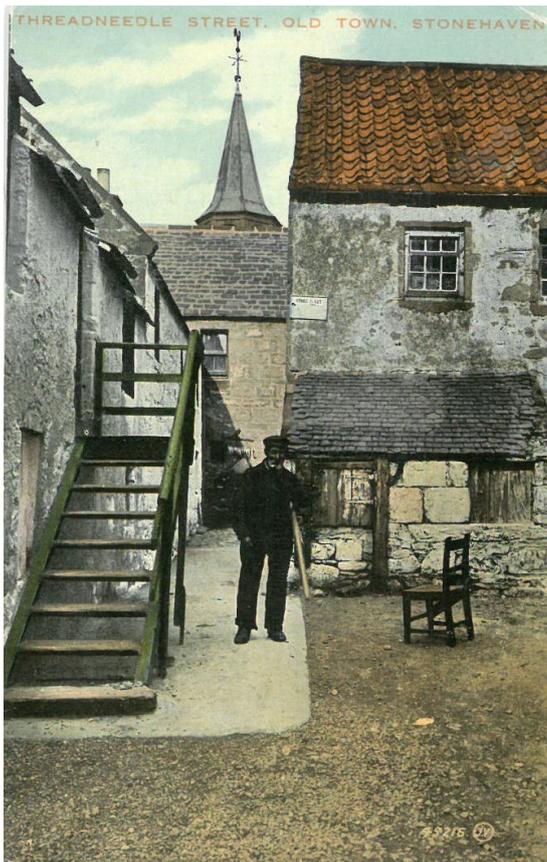
Annual General Meeting

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

JAMES MORRISON PAINTING



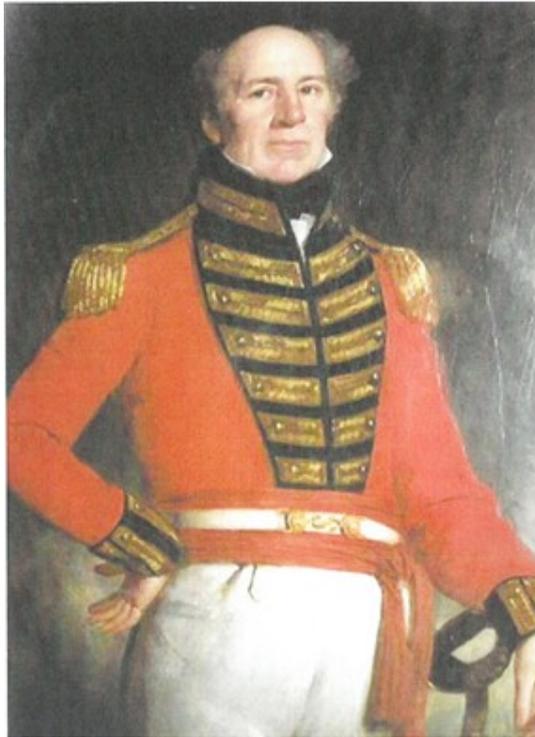
The re-framed painting by James Morrison of Catterline Boats originally presented by him to Catterline School in 1965 together with plaque presented by Stonehaven Heritage Society and photograph of the artist with the painting.



Threadneedle Street, Old Town, Stonehaven

A fine postcard dating from around 1900 showing a fisherman in this Street which ran behind the Ship Inn and showing the distinctive Steeple of the Clock Tower.

These buildings were all demolished and the present day Threadneedle Street runs alongside the Ship Inn.



(Major General William Farquhar)
Born 1774, Died 1839 Perth, Scotland

William Farquhar was born in Newhall (near the present Elsie House, West of Newtonhill) in the parish of Fetteresso, Kincardineshire. He joined the Madras Engineers in 1791 as a cadet and in 1795 he became the Chief Engineer for the expedition to Malacca to take it over from the Dutch. It was successful and he remained there till 1818, progressing up the ranks until, on his retirement in 1837, he was promoted to Major General. He acted as Resident of Malacca from 1803 and later Resident and Commandant.

Since it was clear that the Dutch would return to Malacca, he suggested that a new port settlement should be sought at the southern end of the peninsula. Sir Thomas Raffles was appointed as his superior and in 1818 they both travelled south to seek and establish a new port. Singapore was agreed and he remained as Resident, continuing successfully in that role for four years until he was discharged by Raffles. This meant Raffles claimed all the credit for its success, and Farquhar's significant contribution was completely ignored. He returned to Scotland in 1823 an angry man, living in Perth until he died in 1839 and buried there in Greyfriars Burial Ground.

His time in Malacca and Singapore was characterised by hard work, and ability to develop good relationships with the local communities and be successful developing Malacca and then Singapore as trading ports. When he left to return home from Singapore he was presented by the European and Armenian merchants with a silver cup and by the Chinese Community with a silver epergne.

While in Malacca he had a partner, Antoinette “Nonio” Clement, daughter of a French father and Malaccan mother. Their 5th great grandson is Justin Trudeau, the present Prime Minister of Canada. One of William Farquhar’s other contributions is the collection s of watercolours of plants and animals of the Malaysian peninsula. The 477 paintings, produced by skilled painters, are now held in the National Museum of Singapore.

Now with the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Singapore being celebrated next year (2019), it is important to remember William Farquhar and his significant contribution to its history. Another person from the Stonehaven area who made an important contribution in the world.

Shelling Mussels, Old Town, Stonehaven

A group of fishwives and girls, busy outside one of the houses, probably in the Castle Street area.



FROM STONEHAVEN TO BERVIE – PLACE NAMES

by Douglas Cusine

In the recent past, I have on a number of occasions, come by boat from Gourdon to Stonehaven, principally to take photographs of Dunnottar Castle and Todhead Lighthouse. The boat "The Harvester" belongs to Ian Balgowan who spoke to the Society not long ago about his 50 years at sea. He also puts up notices for our meetings.

On these occasions, Ian drew my attention to the names of various places en route, wondering, at times, what they meant. On the second trip, he said, with a rye smile, that the Chairman of the Society should know these things. I have taken up the challenge. There may be some debate about the geographic boundaries of "Stonehaven Heritage Society," but the names I mention are between Stonehaven and Inverbervie.

My research has benefited obviously from looking at maps, especially Ordnance Survey, but also from information supplied by Dave Ramsay from Gourdon who also spoke to us a while ago about fishing villages between St Cyrus and Stonehaven.

Prior to the Ordnance Survey maps, there are 5, viz:- Robert Gordon 1580-1661 who map of the Mearns was produced between 1636 and 1652, Herman Moll (died 1732), whose map, The Shire of Kincardine or Mearns, is dated 1745, William Garden 1771-1806 whose map of Kincardineshire is dated 1774, James Robertson who produced a topographical map of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine between 1810 and 1829 and John Thomson and William Johnston whose map of Kincardineshire is dated 1822.

The first OS map appeared in 1856 and these maps contain much more detail. For example, Robert Gordon's map lists only Stonehaven, Dunnottar and Bervie. Some names which appeared in earlier OS maps do not feature in more modern ones. There are lots of books about Scottish place names, but one of the most useful is by Adam Watson "Place Names of Much of the North-East of Scotland." (2013)

For present purposes, I will look at place names, starting at Stonehaven and going south as far as Inverbervie. The most detailed map is 6ins Kincardineshire (Sheet xvii, 1868) I have not been able to attach a meaning to some of the place names, but, perhaps, some readers can.

Downie Point. "Little knoll."

Strathlethan Bay. "Strath" is a wide valley, hence roomy shore.

Carlin Craig. "Carlin" a witch, "Craig" a rock, perhaps "hard rock."

Dunnicaer. Little hill or fort.

Bowdun Head, "House on the hill," or "rocks drowned by the sea."

Tilfilly Craig. "grassy hillock," or "narrow promontory."

Kirk Craig. Church on a rocky hill.

Job's Craig.

Silver Slough. "slough" a narrow inlet.

Castle Haven. "shore beside the Castle."
Dunnottar Castle. "Fort on the shelving slope."
Old Hall Bay
Dunnimaol. "The rock of the whirlpool." or "bare little hill."
Maiden Kaim. "Kaim" is a long narrow ridge.
Strabandra Knap. Steep-sided cape.
Tremuda Bay/Tongue. "House on the cove," or "steep sided slope."
Mons Craig. "craig" is a rock.
Thornyhive Bay. Harbour of thorns.
Dooly Cove. "dooly" is sorrowful.
Gu' Craig. "Gu' is a gull.
Turturra. a rock or pillar.
Wine Cove. Self-explanatory.
Craig Graceless. "Nasty" rock.
Grey Bear.
Yellow Post.
Craiglethy. Broad rock.
Hope Cove
Guide About.
Dovethirl's Coves. "Thirl" accustomed. Place therefore for doves.
Fail you Never.
Henry's Scorth. "Scord" is a crevice in a rock. Who was Henry?
Hog's Holes.
Long Gallery. Described in the Statistical Account as, "This singular cavern...formed in solid rock, admits the passage of an ordinary sized boat...seldom omitted by boatmen conducting parties of pleasure." (p. 213.)
Wallace Bridge. Who was "Wallace?" Sir William, perhaps?
Fowlsheugh. "Heugh" is a cliff ravine. In the past, locals used to be lowered from the cliff-top to get birds' eggs!
Crawton Ness. "Craw" an enclosure for animals; "Ness" is a headland.
Trollochy. A dark heap, or stoney haven.
Crawton Bay. "Craw" is a sheep pend
North/South Hare Craig. "Hare" is a boundary.
Turntrough Coves. "Great" cove.
South Hare.
Braddie's Cove
Hilton's Cove.
Girdles. Offshore rocks,
The Garran. "garran" a house, perhaps therefore rocks resembling a house.
Eyemouth. Mouth of a stream.
Trelong Bay. A boat house.
Spurnell's Cove.

Swallow Cove. "Cove" is a rocky channel. Speaks for itself.
Close Cadden. "Cadden" is "hard fort."
Cadden Castle (site of)
Adam's Castle (site of)
Burian's Hole.
Open Cadden.
Catterline. "carthair" is a fort and "linn" a waterfall.
Death Cove.
Forley Craig/Little Forley Craig. Small stack.
Weavers' Knap. "Knap" promontory.
Braidon Bay. a burn running down a steep-sided glen.
Green Dorle. "Dorle" is a small quantity.
Powdam Head. "dam" or a "pool."
Rouen Bay. "Rouen" high water tangle mark on beach.
Scarts' Craig. "scarts" are cormorants.
Todhead. "tod" is a fox.
Swirl Cove. Whirlpool
Green Heugh. "Heugh" is a precipice or steep rock.
Kinneff a headland.
Doun of Kinneff. Down from Kinneff.
The Slainges. "slainge" a headlong fall.
Whistleberry Castle. (Ruins of)
Shieldhill. "Sheltered" hill.
Rough Haven. self-explanatory.
Maws Craig. "Maw" a seagull.
Crooked Haven. Self-explanatory.
Black Ness. Black headland.
Pintill Stone. "Pintill" pointed.
Little John's Haven. Who was "Little John?"
Darn Bay. "darn" is excrement.
Hawk Craig. Perhaps self-explanatory.
Ha' Cove. "Ha" is a big house.
Yellow Ark. "Ark" is a square-shaped rock. There is a story that a ship called "Arqueval" was stranded here.
Rich Madam.
Big Rob's Cove/Rob's Cove. Who was "Big Rob?"
King's Steps. Large steps, by why "King's?"
Craig David. Perhaps after David 1 who made Inverbervie into a Royal Burgh in 1341.
Kinghorny. A piece of boggy ground/rocky place.

HERITAGE SPEAKERS 2018/19

October '18

We had a talk from Angus Whitsun entitled "A Countryside Diary". Angus started life as a Solicitor in Montrose, but for the last 16 years has been writing a column for The Courier and it appears every Saturday. He had two dogs, but now has one and he walks about with it, observing what is going on round about him.

He has seen a merlin in his garden, and a buzzard shielding its prey in a ditch near a road. Part of his interesting, informative and amusing talk was devoted to old Scottish words such as "dicht" which he will use in his columns with an explanation for those who may not be familiar with the expression.

He commented on the fact that people will stop him and ask him things, or make observations, even tell him amusing stories. One such story was of a tight-fisted farmer who, at New Year invited a neighbour in for a dram. A tiny amount appeared in the bottom of the glass, prompting the question, "How old is the whisky?" to which the answer was "18 years." "Well it hasn't grown very much."

Angus has written two books about the man with 2 dogs and one about the dog, Bamse, which gained fame during World War II and there is a model of the dog at the harbour in Montrose.

November '18

The attendance as low, probably owing to the weather, but the speaker, Bruce Keith, was both informative and interesting, the topic being "Bridgescapes." He mentioned bridges both local and national, such as the Brig O'Balgownie, the bridges at Cambus O'May, Craigellachie, and Carrbridge. Further afield, he mentioned some of the bridges built by General Wade, to suppress the highlanders after the 1715 and 1745 rebellions, e.g. the one at Aberfeldy.

Some of the bridges or viaducts mentioned were the longest, or highest at one time in Scotland and many of them remain to this day. We have, for example, the first suspension bridge to take other than foot passengers. The viaduct at Glenfinnan was mentioned as were more modern feats, such as the "Squinty" bridge in Glasgow, the Forth, Tay and Erskine Bridges and the most modern – not a bridge, but a crossing – the Queensferry Crossing.

He covered bridges from the 13th century to the present, showing his vast knowledge, but in a humorous way – a fitting finale to 2018. He got some sales for his book entitled "Bridgescapes" and I suspect that there is a second edition in the making, because, he accepted, in answer to a point made by a member, that there is a lot more to say.

SITUATIONS VACANT
HONORARY SECRETARY

As most of you will know, I have been Secretary of Stonehaven Heritage Society since its foundation in 1987, over 31 years, but the time has now come to pass on the baton. The ideal candidate will have a keen interest in the history and heritage of Stonehaven, and maintaining the role of the Society in its preservation. The main duties could be summarised as follows:-

- Keeping minutes of Meetings.
- Dealing with routine correspondence.
- Maintaining Mailing List of members.
- Keeping website up to date.
- Booking Speakers.

If anyone wishes any more information, please contact me.

HONORARY TREASURER

Bob Grant, our hardworking Treasurer, has also served the Society well for many years, and will retire at our AGM in April 2019. Please contact me if you are interested in this position.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Gordon

A snippet in the Tolbooth section of your autumn publication spurred me into writing this. It was the photo of Jim Bruce dancing outside the Museum!

When I was a child, my mother's (Sheila Brown nee Waldie) weekly 'night out' was to go to her Scottish Country Dancing class. In fact, I often say that I attribute my learning to dance to osmosis! – listening to Jimmy Shand on the radio and seeing my mother 'pas-da basque' and 'skip change of step' around the house! I enjoyed learning danced at both Mackie Academy and in the Girl Guides but that all ended when I moved to England in the mid 60's.

However, the sound of country dance music always stirred my heart and in the early 90's I realised there was an active Scottish Country Dance scene in my area of the Midlands. So I joined a local class, found that my feet still knew what to do – though the range of dances had grown greatly – and soon graduated to going to Saturday social dances within a 40 mile radius of my (now) home town of Kettering.

So, I was pleasantly surprised recently when, at a class night, the teacher announced we were to learn 'Stonehaven Strathspey' and showed me the recently published book of Platinum Anniversary dances produced by Stonehaven Branch of RSCDS. That let me to going on to their website and reading about their celebration.

It just served to remind me that no matter where you go there will be a connection to another dance group and the friendship that exists throughout the SCD community worldwide. Although I have not danced in Stonehaven since my childhood, I'm delighted to have the link with the new book and perhaps next time I'm in Stonehaven, Jim will dance with me!

Yours sincerely

Eileen Smith