

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF TOLBOOTH MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

HELD AT INVERCARRON RESOURCE CENTRE

ON 24TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Present:

Ian Balgowan, Jim Bruce, James Paterson, Freda Adams, Bert Fullerton, Gwynne Stewart, Tom Walker, George Swapp, Tom Macpherson, George Strang, Marjory Edward, Clare Thomas, Dennis Collie, Cressida Coates.

Apologies:

Andrew Newton, Liz Johnstone, Raymond Milne, Liz Molloy, James Heligoe, Mr and Mrs Ross, David and Diane Fleming, Shona Barclay, Beatrice Evison, Bill Emslie.

Welcome:

Cressida Coates, the Chairman, welcomed all present to the AGM.

Report from the Chair:

Thank everyone for attending and invite them to have a glass of wine and some nibbles at the end.

As you all know it is customary for the Chair to give a report on what has transpired the previous year and whether or not it's a sign of getting old but I feel like this has been a quick year.

We have again had another fantastic year and a sincere thank you goes to each and every one who has supported the running of the Tolbooth Museum.

We have welcomed some new volunteers to the wearing of the famous 'Red Fleece' and remember fondly Bill Leitch who passed away in November last year.

We continue to support our younger volunteers as they work towards The Duke of Edinburgh or Saltire Awards.

We welcomed Carol Kinghorn, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire, Ian Parkinson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and their spouses to a visit back in October. They were most impressed by the commitment of the volunteers and taken aback by the quality and the quantity of artifacts.

We also saw the handing over of the Editorship of the Tolbooth Times. We thank Dennis for his hard work and express our gratitude to Tom Macpherson who is continuing to do an excellent job.

We have over the last year seen some editions to the Museum. We purchased from Andy Bain model ships of:-

- Titanic
- Bismarck
- Bounty
- A Big Trawler
- A Matchstick Trawler.

A case was donated by Mr Bruce to house the above.

We have seen an expansion to the already excellent Fishing display and our thanks go to Ian Balgowan for putting together the additional displays and Mr Bruce.

There has been additions added to the DVD which is played and these are the 'Storms' that battered Stonehaven. One was produced by Tom Macpherson and the other donated by retired journalist Nigel Horne.

Our visitor numbers keep going from strength to strength as continue to greet folk for all over the globe and closer to home. And due to the continued commitment of volunteers we have been able to open the Tolbooth for longer hours on Hogmanay, Folk Festival in July and recently Stonehaven Harbour Day.

We have played host to a number of visits by Primary Schools and also investigated (again) by the Paranormal Group.

We saw in March of this year a Wedding held at the Tolbooth; the couple Charlie and Victoria were delighted as they wanted something different. Thank you to all those who assisted to give them a day to remember.

In July the Tolbooth was honoured again as four volunteers attended the Queens Garden party at Holyrood Palace.

The Shop continues to thrive and our Dinosaur quiz is still very popular and the introduction of a quiz for the older children has had positive feedback.

We again employed an intern for the busier months June, July and August. One the roles of the intern was to assist George Strang in bringing the Asset Register up to date.

So what does our future hold ?

We are progressing with our 'Vision' for the Tolbooth and will be submitting plans for the extension to the Museum to the Local Authority. Once approved we can look at ways of raising the funds.

The Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee have awarded us a sum of £4000 to put towards the cost of drawing up the plans.

We will be taking over the running of the Clock Tower, as we move to our winter hours. Raymond has done an excellent job but due to other commitments he is unable to carry on.

We hope that our relationship will improve with our Aberdeenshire Council contacts and both Avril Nicol, Quality Development Manager and Carol Leathley, Art and Heritage Manager and they have visited the Tolbooth recently to offer their support and we will strive to build on this.

So once again as we look forward to what I believe will be an exciting year for the Tolbooth I'd like to express my thanks to each and everyone for their continued support and commitment to the Tolbooth Museum.

Thank you.

Treasurer's Report:

The accounts presented to the meeting were prepared for the year ending 31 March 2015 and showed that during the last 12 months income totaled £14,781.81 with expenditure of £10,905.15. This gave an overall surplus of £3,876.66. The major expenditure was £3,964.88 for shop stock but this generated sales of £5,725.64. A pleasing return. The second highest expenditure was £2,278.60 for architectural fees and there will be further expenditure in this direction as the plans for the extension proceed. However, overall the Association is financially secure at the moment.

Dennis Collie (Treasurer) expressed his thank to Andrew Newton for all his support, to Gwynne Stewart for all her work with the Shop and to all volunteers.

AGM -24th September 2015 Approved by circulation January 2016

Election of Trustees:

Andrew, Raymond and Clare all retired from the Committee and Raymond had previously indicated that he would not be re-standing. Andrew and Clare were re-elected and Tom Walker was proposed and elected to the Committee from the floor. The committee now comprises:

Dennis Collie, Cressida Coates, Ian Balgowan, Jim Bruce, George Strang, Tom Macpherson, Gwynne Stewart, Clare Thomas, Andrew Newton and Tom Walker.

Raymond Milne was thanked for his work in connection with the Clock Tower.

AOB:

- 1.It was suggested that a £5 note should be left in the donation box as a gentle suggestion of the type of donation we were seeking. The new building signs might have a request for donations on them.
- 2.Lighting: George Swapp asked about the lighting and it was confirmed that this was mentioned at a recent meeting with Council contacts. Cressida Coates will continue to press them on this. Perhaps all the existing lighting could be installed in one room and new placed in the other room(s).
- 3.Front door: the condition of the door had also been discussed at a recent meeting with the Council.
- 4.Raymond Milne was retiring from 3rd October and it was suggested that some training was given to volunteers about the opening of the Clock Tower. Louise Coates is to prepare some simple instructions.
- 5.Dennis Collie had the following matter raised with him: Whether the summer opening hours should be changed so that the museum opened earlier. This would be discussed by the Committee before next year.
- 6.It had also been suggested to Dennis that someone should take charge of tidying the shelf over the till and in the kitchen/toilet.
- 7.Stamps: One volunteer was unaware that stamps were for sale. CC would suggest that a regular email was sent to all volunteers with updates.

Thanks were expressed to Cressida for chairing the meeting and all her hard work during the year.

Clare Thomas

24th September 2015