

# STANEHYVE

## 'TOLBOOTH TIMES'



Evans Street, Stonehaven

Old shops and businesses— Market Square looking west







## Editorial

I have always been fascinated with old photographs of Stonehaven and when the Heritage Society was first founded in 1988, we asked the public to donate or loan for copying, any old images of the Town. A large majority were from old postcards, which were extremely popular around 1900. Standard size postcards were introduced in 1899 and in 1902 the Divided Back, which allowed you to write a message on one half and the name and address on the other. Between 1902 and 1914 was the Golden Age of postcards and it became almost a national craze. They were used to send messages before the days of the telephone and next day delivery was taken for granted. The Society were fortunate to receive the large collection of postcards made by the late Jack Airth and we have some very fine images of Stonehaven.

One of these is our cover photo, which was posted in Stonehaven to Miss E Mackie in Muchalls on 26 July 1909. It would be fascinating to know what stories lie behind this photo. Who was the girl on the bicycle? Did she know the 2 lads and did she stop to speak to them? Who is the gentleman with the black hat and cane on the corner? Did the bicycle come from one of the local cycle agents, either at 4 Mary Street or 12 David Street?

During lockdown, a large number of the photographs in the Tolbooth collection have been reprinted and if you have seen the new displays, they now look much better, with improved captions. The most famous photo is, of course, the one of the Stationer's Shop at 1 Market Square, (also shown in our cover photo) and taken in 1912 on the day that news of the loss of the Titanic appeared in the newspapers. It is intended to copy more photos and also make them available online at some point but in the meantime, please take time to call in and look at our collection, and maybe see if you can find any more interesting stories behind them?

**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](mailto:lizmkritchie@gmail.com) or [gritch626@gmail.com](mailto:gritch626@gmail.com)

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## MUSEUM SNIPPETS

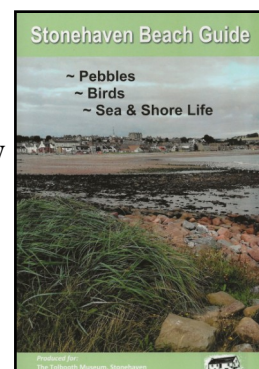
### Courtyard events

Our series of events in the courtyard over the summer were a big success. A varied programme, put together by Mary and Clare, saw storytellers, a children's painting competition, Mearns FM broadcasting, a magician, and folk club musicians entertain young and old and there were demonstrations of corn dolly making, fireball making, net repairing and spinning and weaving. A local fisherman and businessman then asked if he could host his own event in the courtyard demonstrating how to smoke mackerel. A new poetry festival hosted one of its events in the courtyard and the Scottish Geology Trust visited the beach in late September to give people a new insight in to the geology and rocks on our foreshore. So a busy summer in the Courtyard.

Following on from the success of the summer events, Mary and Clare are busy trying to organize a Christmas event for the courtyard. We have heard them mention singers, bell ringers, Christmas tree – and other surprises. Pencil in Saturday afternoon 18th December and look out for final details on our social media –Website, Facebook & Instagram.

### New book

Copies are now available of our new **Stonehaven Beach Guide** booklet, prepared by Treasurer Dennis Collie, and which gives fascinating information about the flora, fauna, rocks and birds on our beach. A handy guide to have with you as you go exploring our foreshore. Priced at only £4.00. A full review and report on the book will be in our next issue before Christmas.



### Cover photo

A delightful photograph taken looking up from the Junction of Allardice Street and Market Square with Evan Street in the distance. On the left is Mary Bell's Stationer at Number 1 but prominent is the girl on her bicycle and the 2 young lads. Are they admiring the bicycle or just having a chat?

I have been able to date this photo as having been taken on Friday 7 August 1903. A clue is the billboard for the Glasgow Herald on the left which proclaims 'Election of the Pope'. Pope Pius X was elected on Tuesday 4 August 1903 and served until 1914. The news may have taken a couple of days to travel and as Thursday was Stonehaven Market Day when the Town would have been much busier, I guess it was taken on Friday.



## MUSEUM SNIPPETS (cont'd)

### Cover photo—cont'd

The shadows indicate that it was taken after midday. The frontage of Hugh Ramsay's shop was not altered with its curved glass windows until 1912. I was asked before the Tour of Britain cycle race started in Stonehaven in September if I had any old cycling photos ,but although the girl cyclist is not racing, this is a charming photo of our Town centre with no cars to be seen.

### Visitor numbers

Since we reopened on 1st May, the museum has seen visitors tentatively coming back. In line with government regulations, we still require masks to be worn inside the museum and track and trace contact details are required. Whilst our numbers are not what they were pre-Covid, we are hopeful that next year will see a return to the numbers of 2018 or 2019. A campaign on social media saw some new volunteers come forward and so for August and September we were able to expand our opening to 4 days—Friday to Monday. From 1st October we have reverted to winter opening hours of weekends only from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. The numbers below are for visitors to the museum only , as the Council have still not approved the reopening of the clock tower.

### Visitor numbers May to Sept 2021

<u>Month</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
May	354	0	2705	2359
June	356	0	3027	2274
July	638	78	3912	3309
August	2134	50	5718	3926
Sept	1048	83	3728	2288

There were some encouraging signs in the daily visitor numbers that showed we had more visitors on the weekends when we had organised events in the courtyard and so this is being considered as something to plan again for next year.



## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven

by Gordon Ritchie

A great success last Christmas was Donald Mitchell's book on Stonehaven Shops 1960-2020 but of course there have been shops in Stonehaven for a long time before that. We still have shops today which have been trading for well over 100 years, namely DE Shoes which have been in Evan Street since around 1900, Charles McHardy's the Butchers from 1907 and Giulianotti's Ice Cream and Confectioners shop from 1909. One of the collections transferred from Stonehaven Heritage Society to the Tolbooth Museum was of Billheads of Stonehaven Shops and Businesses dating from around the mid 1800's. These will form the basis of a future display in the Museum.

Some of you may remember Miss Margaret Allan, the first Treasurer of the Heritage Society, and formerly Cashier in the long established Legal firm of Scott & Gardner at 20 Ann Street, Stonehaven, next to the Clydesdale Bank, for many years.

Well respected in the Town, she encouraged new members of the Society in her own way, with membership reaching nearly 300 within a couple of years. Although the last of the Gardners, Alexander E P Gardner, who lived at Cardowan, Slug Road, died in 1962, the firm traded under the same name until 1982 when it merged with Cannon, McRobert & Bisset at 50 Allardice Street.



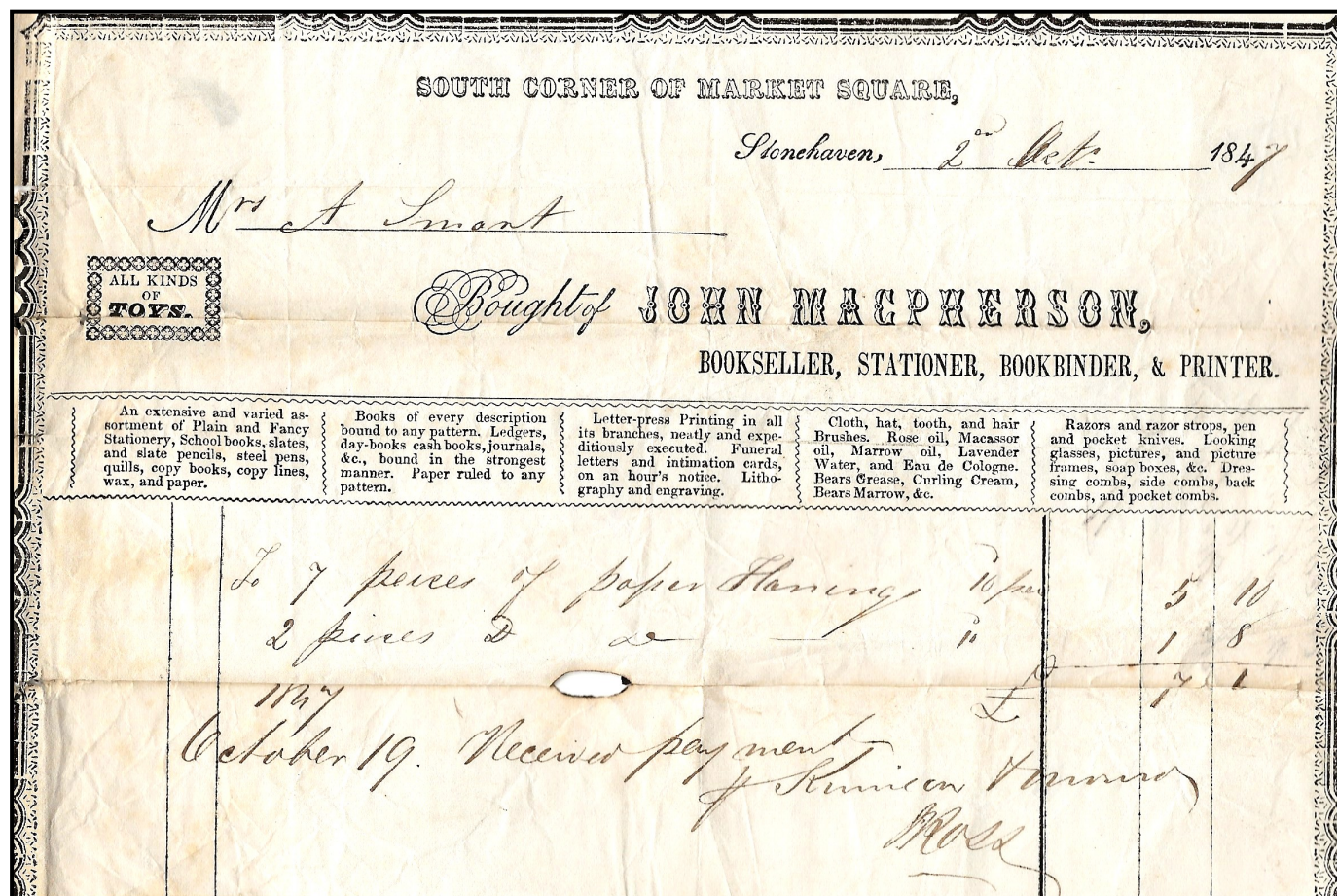
At that time, Miss Allan supervised the clearing of the firm's records and sorted out the collection of billheads. Many of these date from a time when credit seemed to have been freely given, and people had monthly accounts with the grocer, baker, butcher and the like. These now form this large collection.





## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven (cont'd)

To give you a sample, here are images of some shops in the Market Square, starting at Number 1.



This Bill is one of the oldest, from **John MacPherson's** shop at the South corner of the Square and sent to Mrs. A. Smart. It seems to be for paper hangings, perhaps what we call wallpaper today, at 10d each, a total of 7s 6d. The list of items stocked is extensive and featured '*All kinds of Toys*'. Bears Grease was a treatment for men's hair loss and originally made from bear fat!



## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven (cont'd)

The next Bill is for **William Paterson**, Grocer at Number 1 in 1886, although I wonder if this is correct as Paterson was at Number 3 only a few years later? This account was sent to Mr. Masson at Mill of Uras and covers from October 1886 until September 1887, but was not paid until June 1888.

I. MARKET SQUARE STONEHAVEN	
Mr Masson	
Mill of Uras	
BOT OF WILLIAM PATERSON	
Wine Merchant & Family Grocer.	
1886	
Oct. 23 1886	1 Cask for paraffine - 3/6
Sep 24	120T Whisky - 2 10
	£ 6/14
Paid	
W Paterson	
June 7th 1888	





## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven (cont'd)

The Bill for **Mary Bell** is from 1899 and perhaps she took over John MacPherson's business? Her family the Murdoch's continued to run the Shop until it was taken over by Eddie Craib in the 1960s. This Bill is for Scott & Gardner, Solicitors, for a Sederunt Book for Mr. Donald's Trust. This would have been a leather bound book used to record transactions of the Trust by the Solicitors. Number 1 is now of course occupied by Duncan & Todd, Opticians.

1 Market Square,			
STONEHAVEN, <i>Nov</i> 1899			
<i>Messrs Scott &amp; Gardner</i>			
<i>Solicitors for Mr Donald's Trust</i>			
TO MARY BELL,			
Bookseller, Stationer, and News-Agent.			
<i>July</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1 Sederunt Book</i>	
		<i>Made to order half calf</i>	
		<i>Labeled</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Paid M Bell</i>			
<i>20/11/99</i>			





## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven (cont'd)

The next Shop is Number 3, now occupied by my daughter's business Ritchie Leasing Ltd, and in 1869 by **John Taylor**, Bookseller, Printer & Stationer. John Scott was a solicitor and later Partner in Scott & Gardner and the bill is for general office supplies. I wonder if he is connected to the Taylors who later had a Printing business at 34 Market Square where Specsavers are today.?

James Scott Esq		3 MARKET SQUARE, STONEHAVEN.	
BOUGHT OF JOHN TAYLOR,			
Bookseller, Stationer, and Printer.			
Printing, BOOKBINDING, In all its Branches.		PERIODICALS, MAGAZINES, DAILY AND WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS, ON PUBLICATION.	LEDGERS, Cash-Books, Day-Books, &c., Ruled and Bound to Order.
1869-70		Funeral Cards on the Shortest Notice.	Invoice Tops, Bills, Posters, Cards, Circulars, &c., &c.
Sept. 3	to Minute Book	£	3 6
Oct. 12	" 2 Albums	"	13 4
	" B. B. Paper & Envelopes	"	1 4
	" Repairing Bible	"	8
Dec. 1	" Paper	"	1 6
	" Paper, Envelopes, &c.	"	1 2
26	" Paper	"	3 6
Oct. 1	" Reid's Dictionary	"	5 4
	" Leather Cover for B.D.	"	1 3
	" Note Paper & Envelopes	"	6
22	" Pencils & Mem. Books	"	1 2
		£	1 12 3
Dec. 8	" Drawing Book & Penholder	"	4 4
		£	1 12 7
March 8/71 - Received payment			
John Taylor			



## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven (cont'd)

In 1879, Number 5, now bookmakers, was **James Cowie**, Tailor & Clothier. This bill to Mr. Walker bears a receipt stamp of 1d which was a legal requirement for any receipt over £2 and in fact continued until around 1970 when the stamp duty on a receipt was 2d.

5 MARKET SQUARE,  
STONEHAVEN, 187

*W. Walker*

**Bought of JAMES COWIE,**  
TAILOR AND CLOTHIER, LINEN AND WOOLLEN DRAPER

Linens, Sheetings, Flannels, Blankets, Plaidings, Hats, Caps, &c., &c.  
Mantles, Shawls, Gloves, Furs, Ribbons, Laces, Hosiery, &c.

1879	July 25	20 Home made white shirt	4	6
	Aug 3	2 3/4 cotton 8	1	10
	- 5	Breast	1	6
	14	2 3/4 cotton 8	1	10
	14	Breast	1	6
	bet 14	1 Blankets.	13	6
	- 14	1 Bed cover	13	6
			2	2

60/25 1879

*James Cowie*


Other interesting Bills shown are from **J Begg & Son**, Stonehaven Brewery in 1903, this is now the site of the Burns Garden at the bottom of Belmont Brae. Also, **James Clark** Boatbuilder, Cowie had a large shed next to where the Beach pavilion is today.





## Old Shops & Businesses in Stonehaven (cont'd)

STONEHAVEN BREWERY,  
Stonehaven, Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 190

M<sup>rs</sup> Donald,  
Upper Touchs  
To J. BEGG & SON,   
BREWERS.

May	15	2 1/4	anchors mixed Beer	"	3	6
"	21	1/2	"	"	1	9
"	28	1/4	"	"	1	9
					Total £ 4 15	

paid 10/12/1903  
John Beggs

COWIE, STONEHAVEN.

Mr James Lawson, Painter

To James Clark,  
BOAT BUILDER.

1899

Augst	3	To a new buther to pleasure boat	"	3	6
do	4	putting a new thatch for mast wood	"	2	"
do	do	shipping fore Dake down in boat			
		wood & time 20 hours at 6 p per hr.		10	
				£	15 6
Contract 8/3					



## Stonehaven Tolbooth Association AGM 6th October 2021

### Chair's report

As you all know it is customary for the Chair to provide a summary on what has occurred throughout the previous year, however as we only had our 2020 AGM earlier this year, this report you will be glad to learn will be brief as we only have six months to report on.

In line with Scottish Government Guidelines, we managed to open the Tolbooth albeit Saturday and Sundays only from the beginning of May 2021 but at least it was a positive step towards some form of normality. The Tolbooth was given a good clean in readiness for opening day. Our visitor numbers were good, and it was hoped that visitors would come back and see us. We maintained the weekend opening through to the end of June to allow us to measure the demand for the museum.

As COVID restrictions were being eased we decided to open longer at weekends adding a Friday and Monday to the mix and this has generally worked well throughout the months of July, August and September although there were a few occasions we had to close. As you all know we are now in our winter season and have reverted to weekend openings with winter times of 12.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. During this time, we have welcomed quite a few more volunteers to the wearing of that special 'red fleece' and we hope they will indeed enjoy their time as a volunteer.

During the last six months we have continued work behind the scenes with some improvements to the Museum. There is new shelving in the North Room which houses some exhibits. There have been a large number of photographs re-imaged, and some are placed on new display boards to provide a fresher look and will be revamped periodically. There is also a new front door and I think we can all agree it is certainly an improvement on the last one.

As we were/are still within certain restrictions it was felt that we should utilise the 'Courtyard' to hold outside events if visitors were nervous about coming inside.—but the 'Courtyard' even now has been a bit of a bone of contention, and we all know sadly that in plain terms what that meant was it was a disgrace. These issues were not new and have been going on for years but in light of wanting to hold events in the 'Courtyard' more action had to be taken. Improvements have been made but we will need to keep on top of this to stop it happening again.



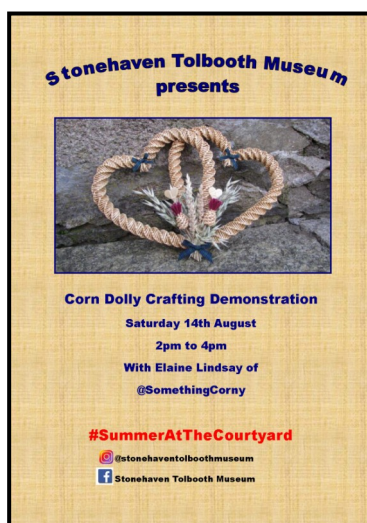


## Stonehaven Tolbooth Association AGM 6th October 2021

### Chair's report—cont'd

Outside courtyard events were arranged and the topics covered were: -

- Art Competition for P5 - P7 children
- Story Telling
- Net Making
- Fire Ball Construction
- Bothy Ballad's
- Folk Club
- Mearns FM broadcast live from the courtyard
- Demonstrations on the art of Corn Dolly Making
- Grampian Guild of Weavers and Spinners
- Mackerel Smoking - to name but a few.



At this point I would like to note my appreciation to all those involved that made these events happen. To the trustees Clare, Liz and Mary who gave extra time and energy to make these events happen. To the folk that came along and offered their services. To the enthusiastic support of volunteers and friends as these events proved very popular in those summer months and kept visitors to the town entertained. To our social media gurus who have kept the Tolbooth Museum current. To our new Shop Co-ordinator where all appears to be working well.



Stonehaven Tolbooth Association AGM 6th October 2021

Chair's report—cont'd

The Stanehyve publication has continued throughout, and thanks go to Gordon and Liz for all their hard work. This publication has received some very favourable comments over the year.

It is with regret however that our Curator Louise Coates has stepped down from her role (although she has kindly offered to provide any assistance from afar) to pursue her academic career and we all wish her all the best and thank her for all her hard work in the role of Curator.

So how do we (Trustees and Volunteers alike) see the future of the Tolbooth Museum? What are our hopes for going forward? We are open to learning from all present. Everyone has strengths which they may like to share or bring to the Museum. We can build on our commitment. We can be positive and supportive. Better communication. And last but not least a Christmas get together.

We all know that these last 18 months have been difficult for us all and we all know things can indeed change very quickly but we have met these challenges with 100 % professionalism and commitment which is not bad for a Voluntary Organisation.

To that end I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all the seasoned volunteers who have come back and undertaken duties to keep the Museum open. To all the newbie's who have come on board to support the Museum and finally to my fellow Stonehaven Tolbooth Trustees my grateful thanks for all the work they undertake.

Thank you.

Cressida Coates

Chair





## Stonehaven Tolbooth Association AGM 6th October 2021

### Treasurers Report

The year ending 31st March t2021 was hugely different from the previous financial year.

Due to Covid restrictions, the museum was open on only 14 days, with 467 visitors for the whole year. That compares with the previous year's figures of 223 days open bringing in a total of 27,592 visitors.

#### Note 1 Awards, Sponsors , donations etc

- MGS—covid protection £ 775
- MGS—covid restart £3776
- Co-op various £7772

#### Note 2 Final Balance b/f

The final balance includes £41.80 c/f from the previous year and reserved for the Fire balls organisation.

#### Note 3—Direct and internet sales

- The significant gross sales figure is almost entirely due to the sales of the Stonehaven. Shops booklet (approx £4400) .
- The figure under e-Card is what is taken via the hand-held card reader, and it is really difficult to separate sales from donations so I just record it all as sales.

#### Note 4 Expenditure

- The £886 under Admin is almost entirely the PPE materials (wipes, sanitisers, stands etc) and was covered by the first MGS grant.
- Display materials is covered by another grant
- Stock for sales was mainly the printing of the Shops booklet.

Dennis Collie

Treasurer



## Stonehaven Tolbooth Association Financial Summary for year ended 31st March 2021

	<u>Core</u>			<u>Previous</u>	
	<u>Museum</u>	<u>Fireball</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>year</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>					
Bank interest	440		440	0	
Gift Aid from HMRC			0	2729	
Awards, sponsors, donations	12303		12303	55126	1
Minor donations	337		337	10084	
Gross sales	4168		4168	7670	3
E-Card sales/donations	497		497	686	3
Events/hires			0	480	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>17745</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17745</b>	<b>76775</b>	
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>					
Admin/misc expenses	886		886	1339	4
Web Site costs	56		56	49	
AGM/other meeting expenses			0	793	
Publicity and advertising			0	160	
Volunteer uniforms			0	70	
Donations/grants			0		
Display materials/furniture	3997		3997	113	4
Stock for sale	2020		2020	4363	4
Sales P&P	59		59	0	
Lucky dips			0	474	
Insurance, H&S etc	467		467	338	
Legal/Architectural			0	9900	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>7485</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7485</b>	<b>17599</b>	
<b>Annual trading profit</b>	<b>10260</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10260</b>	<b>59176</b>	
<b><u>Balances summary</u></b>			<b><u>Total</u></b>		
Cash and bank c/f			104123		
Trading profit			10260		
Balance c/f			<u>114383</u>		2