

STANEHYVE ·TOLBOOTH TIMES·



Summer in Stonehaven



Editorial

Stonehaven Harbour is busy this summer, with not only lots of visitors to the Tolbooth Museum, but with major works being carried out by a Devon contractor to renew the steel piles on each pier. This means that all the piers are closed with some reduced parking. The Harbour is always a popular attraction and the ongoing works are of course, a reminder that this has been a working harbour for hundreds of years. There was probably a community in this location at the time of the Roman Camp at Raedykes a few miles north west around the year 210, and the Romans brought supplies by sea. Then came the Picts and the Vikings. When the Tolbooth was first built around 1600, there was still not a proper harbour and it was not until 1700 when the Old Pier was built, and later in 1826 when Robert Stevenson removed the large rock Craig-ma-Cair and built the South Pier, that we had a harbour as it looks today. The fishing industry had its peak around 1900, but still continues in a smaller way, and today the harbour is full of leisure craft.

The fishing industry is covered in the Museum, but perhaps in the future, we can look at telling the story of our wonderful harbour in more detail. I have obtained fascinating details of ships registered in Stonehaven during the 19th Century and will feature these in a future issue and a new display in the museum.

Enjoy your summer, wherever you may be.

Gordon Ritchie MVO

Editor

***FRONT COVER PHOTO**– A fine view of the Editor's Hillman Imp Van on the Middle Pier with the Tolbooth behind. This has been recently restored and, with permission of Sir Boyd Tunnock, painted in Tunnock's Caramel Wafer livery. It has attracted great interest, particularly from youngsters who all ask for free samples!*

If you have any stories or information you think could be included in future editions, please get in touch with either lizmkritchie@gmail.com or gritchie626@gmail.com

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MUSEUM SNIPPETS

#summeratthecourtyard

The outdoor series of events started 12th June with children's storytelling from Pauline Cordiner. On the same day we announced all the winners in our children's art competition. With more than 70 entries, this year we almost doubled the number received in 2021. The winning entries are still on display inside the museum for the next few weeks.

Sunday 26th June saw us have a visit from members of the Grampian Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. They intrigued all the visitors with their skills at turning sheep's wool in to yarn suitable for weaving. Fascinating to watch.



Saturday 16th July between 2pm and 4pm sees Ian Balgowan and Martin Sim demonstrate their skills at net making and fireball making respectively. This duo was a great success last year with their stories and being able to answer peoples questions.



If you missed any of the Stonehaven Folk Festival, then you can catch up with some members of the Folk Club as they play an outdoor concert in the courtyard on **Sunday 17th July between 2pm and 4pm**. This event proved very popular last year.



The Harbour Festival on Sunday 28th August sees a return of the Seafood Bothy to the courtyard as they demonstrate the art of mackerel smoking. Despite all the pier repair upheaval, a great weekend of events is planned for the harbour.



Mary and Clare are close to finalising other events over the summer, so please check our Facebook and Instagram pages for up to date information. On days when there are events planned, the ladies are always keen to get volunteers in early to help set up the courtyard—set up gazebo, set out chairs, and tables etc. If you feel able to help with setting up, then please email Cressida and she will forward your details to Clare and Mary.



A News With Stonehaven

by Gordon Ritchie

As we all know, the publication of Donald Mitchell's book on Stonehaven Shops in 2020 was a great success and Donald has received many messages and calls from people all over the country and who enjoyed memories of shops in years past and what life used to be like in Stonehaven. One was from Katie McIntyre whose grandparents Robert and Annie ran a Confectioners/tobacconist shop at 30 Barclay Street, where Donald had his own hairdresser's shop many years later. Katie has in fact published privately her own book entitled 'A News with Stonehaven' and which reprints the letters her Granny, Annie McIntyre sent every week to Katie's parents Ian and Leik McIntyre from 1954 to 1978. These give you a fascinating view into what life was like at that time, how hard a shopkeeper had to work and what was happening in the town.



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In 1954, Mr. and Mrs. McIntyre were looking to buy a house and business in Stonehaven, having previously lived north of Aberdeen. They bought the shop and house above at 30/32 Barclay Street for £2,000 and which was probably a lot of money at that time. They had a son Ian who had been to university and was then in the Army before a career in politics and later at the BBC, where he went on to head Radio 4. In 1954, he had just married his Norwegian wife Leik and the book narrates his house moves and career changes over the years. As well as selling sweets and cigarettes, they also made toffee, or Swiss milk tablet, and marmalade, in the shop and these were great sellers, bringing in extra profit to the business. It was a hard life, working 6 days for long hours. Mr. McIntyre was a taxidermist and received parcels with birds and animals to deal with. It is not clear whether he did the taxidermist work in the same kitchen as they made the toffee and marmalade! They had no telephone in the early years and never had a car.



A News With Stonehaven

by Gordon Ritchie



They had a dream to have their own bungalow and obviously saved up each year to be able to afford one and retire. They bought a house plot in Princess Road from the Town Council and erected a Dorran bungalow into which they moved in 1961, The shop was sold to Mr. & Mrs. Innes who were there for some years. There are stories of setting up the new house and laying out the garden, and holiday visits to Stonehaven by Ian and his family. The book paints a lovely picture of a hard working couple ,running a wee shop and watching their family grow up.

Robert and Annie McIntyre at
the Stonehaven Outdoor
Swimming Pool





MUSEUM FOOTFALL

The museum managed to reopen in February this year but only at weekends. By the beginning of April however, we felt able to expand the opening hours to 4 days per week - Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. As yet we do not have a big enough pool of volunteers able to open and man the museum for a full week or even 6 days - but if you or anyone you know would like to join the team of museum volunteers, please get in touch at enquiries@stonehaventolbooth.co.uk

The figures below are for the museum only because as yet we have no information from Aberdeenshire Council as to when the clock tower will be safe and ready to be open again to the public.

The figures also include the numbers for Globus Tours. Having visited the museum in earlier years, this tour company has the museum on its itinerary again and they visit the museum on a Wednesday and Sunday afternoon between 5pm and 6pm. With a guaranteed donation from each visit and potential sales, opening the extra hour on those days has been worth it. The Wednesday early evening visit has been very kindly manned by Chair Cressida for several weeks but it would be nice to find others willing to help. Many volunteers who are on duty on the Sunday afternoons, have been willing to stay on longer for the tour visit—but not all can do so and again we put out a plea for extra help which would be much appreciated.

	Days open	Museum	Globus	Total	2021 total
May	20	1256	166	1422	354
June	22	1657	152	1809	356