

# STANEHYVE ·TOLBOOTH TIMES·



Around 1920—a snowy and empty Market Square,  
Stonehaven



## Editorial

I have been spending the last 2 months or so , with the assistance of Douglas Cusine, working through the large archive of old photographs of Stonehaven and which the Tolbooth Museum inherited from Stonehaven Heritage Society. There are over 400 photos, originally copied and printed on card by the late James Craig, and these are being scanned and reprinted in a standard A4 format with new captions. And it is the captions which take time, particularly in working out the date of the photo. The Market Square and the Harbour have not changed much in the past 100 years, but there can be clues, perhaps when a particular building was erected, or the type of motor vehicle or fishing boat. We also have the excellent album of 400 postcards of Stonehaven, collected by the late Jack Airth, and bequeathed to the Heritage Society , but these can be easier to date as there is usually a postmark.

The fine cover photo of the Market Square in snow came from a collection of photos sent to me a few years ago by the family of a man from the south of England, where they had been found in the family archives. They were from a time when he was working at the original Wireless Station at Upper Criggie and gave a date of 1920. They were able to identify Stonehaven by captions on the photos and were considerate enough to send them to the Heritage Society as they thought we would be better to have them. Over the years of the Heritage Society, I received many old photos, usually from local folk, but these always stood out because if someone had not taken the trouble to locate the Heritage Society, the photos would never have come to light.

Have you ever seen the Square so empty? We always seem to associate a snowy scene with Christmas and can I take the opportunity at this time of wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Gordon Ritchie* MVO DL

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 [gritchie626@gmail.com](mailto:gritchie626@gmail.com)

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## MUSEUM SNIPPETS

### Winter opening hours

The museum reverted to winter opening hours on 1st October—Saturdays and Sundays only from 12.30pm to 3.30pm.

### School/ University visits

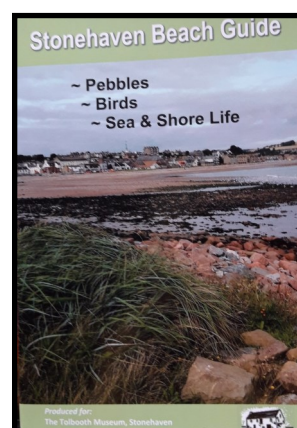
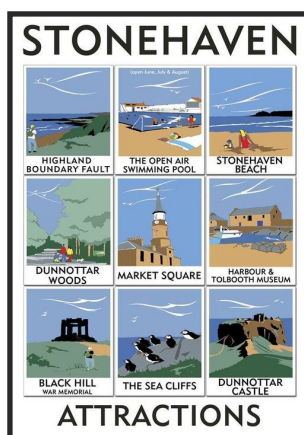
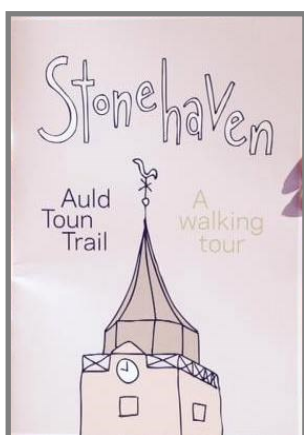
Our close links with local school—Dunnottar Primary - continued with a visit from Primary 2/3 in early October and followed a week later by Primary 1/2. More than 50 schoolchildren together with teachers and parents thoroughly enjoyed their tour of the museum. October also saw a return visit by 10 students from the Elphinstone Institute of Aberdeen.

### Globus Tours

The national tour company have been in touch and confirmed that in 2024 they will again be including a visit to the museum on their twice weekly tours of the area. Dates for 2024 still to be confirmed but usually cover summer months April to September.

### Museum Shop—Last Minute Christmas Gifts

We have a number of small stocking filler gifts and books of local interest available at the shop. Museum will be open 23rd and 24th December as usual for those visiting the town or for last minute shoppers. We will also be open on 30th and 31st January for those in town for the New Year celebrations.





## MUSEUM SNIPPETS

### Footfall for the last few months

October saw the museum change to winter hours—weekends only from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. and this coincided with some very stormy weather including Storm Babet. Bad weather forced the museum to be closed for 2 weekends but we did open additional Fridays and Mondays for the ‘tattie holidays’.

November saw volunteers Ian and Clare give talks to Kinneff WRI and Fetteresso Church Guild respectively. We also hosted the raffle winners from our recent quiz night, who were given a private conducted tour of the museum as their prize.

The Clock Tower has suffered some repair issues since its re-opening earlier in the summer. It finally reopened again on 1st October and saw visitors of 112 and 99 for the 2 months October and November.

2023/24	Museum	Globus	Total	Days open	Average daily footfall
October	610	45	655	12	55
November	392	0	392	9	44
December					
TOTALS	1002	45	1047	21	50

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
October	935	426	88	1598	1395
November	284	219	178	660	664
December					
TOTALS	1219	645	266	2258	2059





## Books of Stonehaven

Our Shop in the Tolbooth Museum always has a good selection of local books, ideal as Christmas presents for family or friends with an interest in the history of Stonehaven. These include-

**Stonehaven of Old Volume 2 by Gordon Ritchie.** A selection of old photos of the Town. We have recently come across some copies of Volume 1 which has been out of print for some years but these will go quickly.

**Picturesque Stonehaven by Gordon Ritchie.** Reprint of 1899 visitors guide with many interesting photos of houses to let.

**Dunnottar Woods and House by George Swapp.** The story of the estate in the Woods.

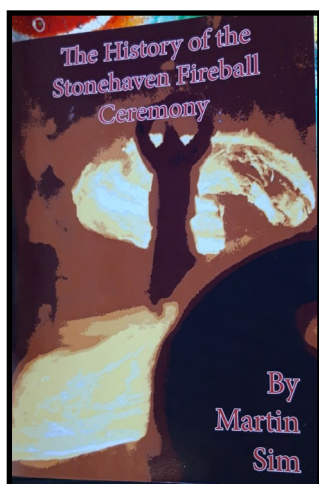
**Stonehaven Street Names by George Swapp.** Where does your street name come from? This book has the answer.

**Stonehaven Shops 1960 to 2020 by Donald Mitchell.** A walk through the Town remembering the many shops and businesses through the years.

**Stonehaven Beach Guide by Dennis Collie.** What to see on the Beach and a detailed guide to the pebbles and stones ,birds and shore life.

**Stonehaven War Memorial by Martin Sim.** The story of our unique memorial on the Black Hill.

**Stonehaven Fireballs by Martin Sim.** How our famous ceremony came about and history over the years.





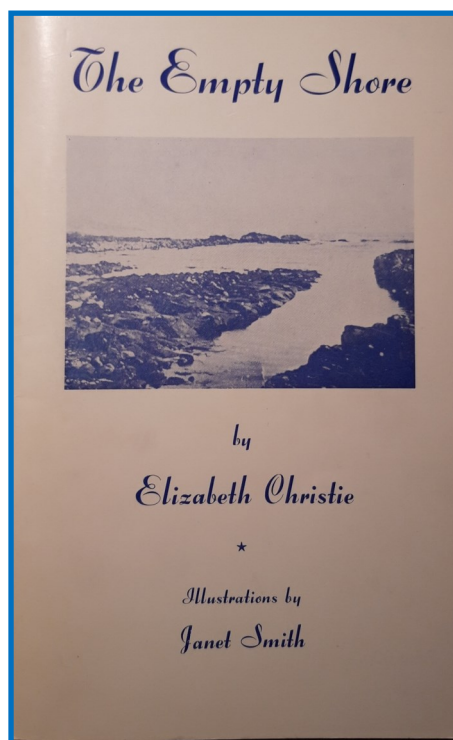
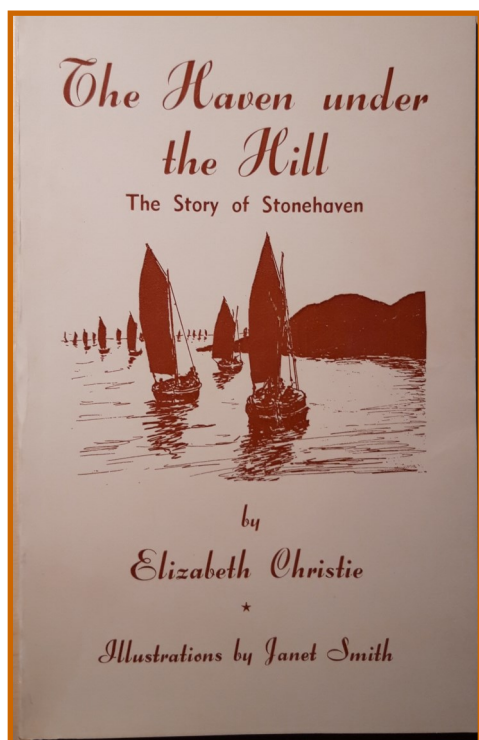
## NEW STOCK of BOOKS

From the records of Stonehaven Heritage Society, we have received a small supply of the very interesting books on Stonehaven and Cowie self published by Miss Elizabeth Christie in the 1970s. Miss Christie lived in the Old Schoolhouse at Cowie and taught at Dunnottar School.

**The Empty Shore** published in 1974 tells the story of Cowie village, its long history, fishing and village life in years past.

**The Haven under the Hill** published in 1977 contains the history of Stonehaven with details on the harbour, fishing industry, churches, schools, industries, shops hotels and generally life in the town over the years.

These will sell quickly.



There are also a few copies of **Highways and Byways Round Stonehaven** by Archibald Watt—available on special request to the Editors.



## STONEHAVEN SCHOOLS

Over the years Stonehaven has been well served for Schools. There were Parish schools for Dunnottar and Fetteresso, and an Episcopal Church School and in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, there were private schools paid for by well off families.

The Episcopal Church opened in 1846 in the High Street and closed in 1939. It later became the headquarters for the Sea Cadets and is presently vacant with plans for a Youth Club. Dunnottar School was originally where the Cannon Court flats are today but a new building opened across the road in 1889 and is still in use today.

The original Fetteresso Parish school was in the Kirktown of Fetteresso and the building, next to the Cemetery, is still there today. After the new Fetteresso Church on Bath Street opened in 1812, the School moved to a site opposite the Church and which is now a private house, Ardgour. Presumably due to the Town expanding, a new school was built further down Bath Street and opened in 1876. Although always known as Fetteresso School, its official name was Stonehaven Public School, until it closed in 1970.



Fetteresso School 1876—1970. Now Community Centre

William Mackie, a local grocer who lived in Carron Terrace, left funds to provide for a secondary school and this opened in 1893 on a central location in Arduthie Road. Rebuilt following a fire in 1929, by the 1960s, the Academy was bursting at the seams and a new Academy opened in 1969 on the school playing fields at Ury, where it still is today. The old building became Arduthie Primary School which is still there today.

Mill Of Forest School opened in 1976 to cater for the new houses in the Town following the oil boom and next to it, Carronhill School for pupils with special needs.



The original Academy before 1929 fire



The Academy in the 1930's after rebuilding



## Bakers in Stonehaven

If you look back over the history of shops in Stonehaven, there were always several Bakeries in the Town, as, of course, bread did not last long and folk relied on fresh bread baked each day. I am grateful to Silver Barclay for the attached photo of a group of bakers in Stonehaven, probably taken around 1910/1920. The tall gentleman on the left is her great grandfather Alexander Dallas (1874 to 1947) who was a baker all his days and lived at Seaview Cottage, 19 Robert Street with his wife Agnes (nee Fowler) and 5 children, Mabel, Sandy, Jess, Peter and Violet.

The photograph was taken outside the Bakery of David Greig at 7-9 Cameron Street and his Shop was at 11 Market Square, where Charles McHardy, butchers, are today. David Greig and his sisters lived at The Hermitage in Baird Street and he was Provost of the Town from 1912 to 1920. After the Greig's sold the business, it became Kennaway's.

The bakery in Cameron Street had previously been a Music Hall in the 19<sup>th</sup> century before the Town Hall opened in 1878. When the bakery closed in the 1940s, it became a furniture store for William Leslie and Sons, who had their shop in Barclay Street. When Leslie's closed around 2010, the Store was sold and the building was converted to flats.

When we posted this photo on Facebook, there were several interesting comments. David Dallas posted a photo of his grandfather Hugh Dallas and his father also Hugh Dallas, (late of Ramsay's). Frances Patterson remembered Mr. Dallas delivering on a horse and cart to Dunnottar School, and that Pattsie Simpson is the man on the front left of the photo. Wilma Bruce advised that in the centre is John Brown, Master Baker, grandfather of her husband Allan Bruce and Colin Brown. John Brown had 5 of a family, Alex, Violet, Allan, Ethel (married Sam Bruce) and Jean. John Starrs worked for Leslie's and recalled the 2 baking ovens at the rear, and a pulley and hatch to take flour sacks up to the next floor, and on the ground floor, large rings and water troughs for horses.

It is great to get such a good response to an old photo and if we can get more information, we can maybe do a more detailed caption before the photo is displayed in the Museum.





Picture submitted to us by Silver Barclay  
Identified so far

**1**— ALEXANDER DALLAS (1874—1947)

**2**— PATTSIE SIMPSON

**3**— JOHN BROWN

Can you identify any of the other bakers in this photo? Please get in touch either through our website or by email addresses on Editorial page.



This is the same view today with 7 Cameron Street on the left, and the Kip McGrath office at no.9. The ornate stonework below the upper window of no.11 can also just be seen in the baker's photo above.