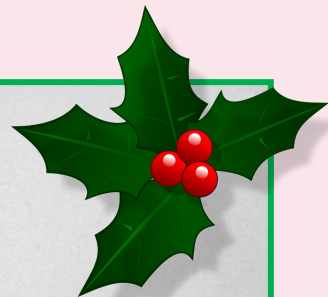


# STANEHYVE ·TOLBOOTH TIMES·



A snowy Market Square around 1930.



## Editorial

When the Heritage Society was founded in 1987, it was always intended to publish books on various aspects of Stonehaven's history and over the years, quite a few have appeared. In the early years, Archie Watt's Highways and Byways Round Stonehaven, still the only full history of the Town, was reprinted and a few copies still remain. In the 1970s, Miss Elizabeth Christie of Cowie published 2 books on Cowie and Stonehaven, and the Society acquired the final copies and again, there are a few left.

It is pleasing therefore that the Tolbooth Association have been able to continue with new books and to bring Madge Mackie's Auld Toon Memories to a wider audience. In addition to the books listed on page 5 of this issue, we still have stocks of the books published by the Heritage Society, including Stonehaven of Old Vol. 2 (photos), Picturesque Stonehaven (guide book of 1900) and George Swapp's 2 books, Dunnottar Woods and House, and Stonehaven Street Names. Quite a range of local books and ideal gifts at this time of year.

Wishing you all 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

### ♦ Christmas/ New Year opening hours

We will be open as usual each weekend from 12.30pm to 3.30pm BUT are hoping to open extended hours over the holidays for the many visitors coming to the town to visit family and friends., take part in the New Year Nippy Dip and of course coming to watch our famous Fireball Ceremony. If you can help by volunteering on any of the following dates, please get in touch with Cressida Coates.

Monday 23rd December

Tuesday 24th December

Thursday 26th December

Friday 27th December

Monday 30th December

Tuesday 31st December

Wednesday 1st January

Thursday 2nd January

Friday 3rd January

### New Book

The museum recently assisted Madge Mackie in producing a wonderfully entertaining account of her childhood in Stoney. Auld Toon Memories is available from the museum shop and costs £5. If you are looking for other last minute gifts we have a great selection of small books about Stonehaven. See page 5 for further details

**Front cover image** It shows taxi rank on north side of the square and not on the east side as now and a large snowman. A delivery van is in front of butchers shop but there is no sign of any cars!



## MUSEUM SNIPPETS

### Footfall for the last few months

**September**—saw us closed 1 day because of bad weather and then taking part in Doors Open Days later in the month. A creative writing workshop was hosted by one of our new volunteers and was well received.

**October**— the museum went to winter weekend opening from 1st October but opened extra days for the ‘Tattie holidays’ and saw lots of groups visit the museum including a local nursery, 5th Stonehaven Brownie unit, and Elphinstone Institute. For Halloween we had local story teller Pauline Cordiner come and entertain with scary stories.

**November**—we had a visit from 2 Glasgow Museum curators who were on holiday in the area and loved what they saw on their tour. Bad weather meant museum was closed later in the month.

The figures below show that the 3 months to November are consistently better than in previous years and are getting closer to our pre-Covid numbers of 2019.

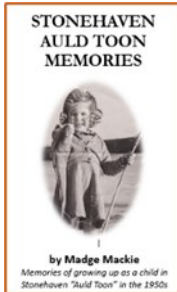
2024	Museum	Clock tower	Total	Days open	Average Daily footfall
September	2465	933	3398	26	131
October	1091	275	1366	18	76
November	479	67	546	10	55
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4035</b>	<b>1275</b>	<b>5310</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>98</b>

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
September	2360	1399	1048	83	4647
October	655	935	426	88	1778
November	392	284	219	178	705
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3407</b>	<b>2618</b>	<b>1693</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>7130</b>



## BOOKS ON STONEHAVEN

All these books are available from the museum shop and are all priced £5.

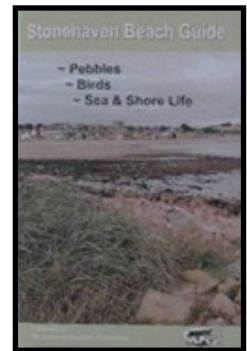


### Stonehaven Auld Toon Memories (new release)

by Madge Mackie – memories of growing up in the Auld Toon in the 1950s

### Stonehaven Beach Guide

a guide to the birds, rocks, plants and sea-life of Stoney's beach

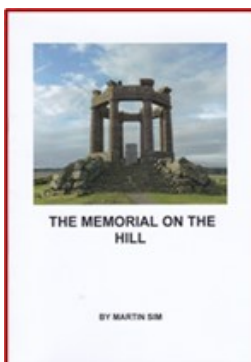
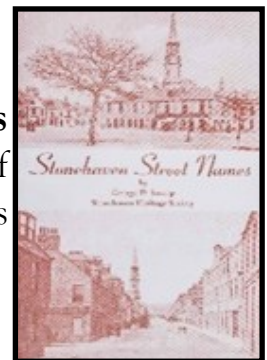


### Stonehaven Shops 1960 - 2020

by Donald Mitchell – a history of Stoney's shops for 60 years

### Stonehaven Street Names

by George Swapp – interesting history on the origin of most of Stonehaven's street names

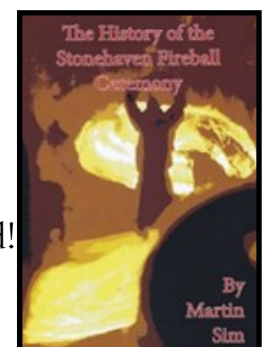


### Stonehaven War Memorial

by Martin Sim – an illustrated background to Stonehaven's impressive monument

### Stonehaven Fireball Ceremony

- by Martin Sim – a flaming good read!





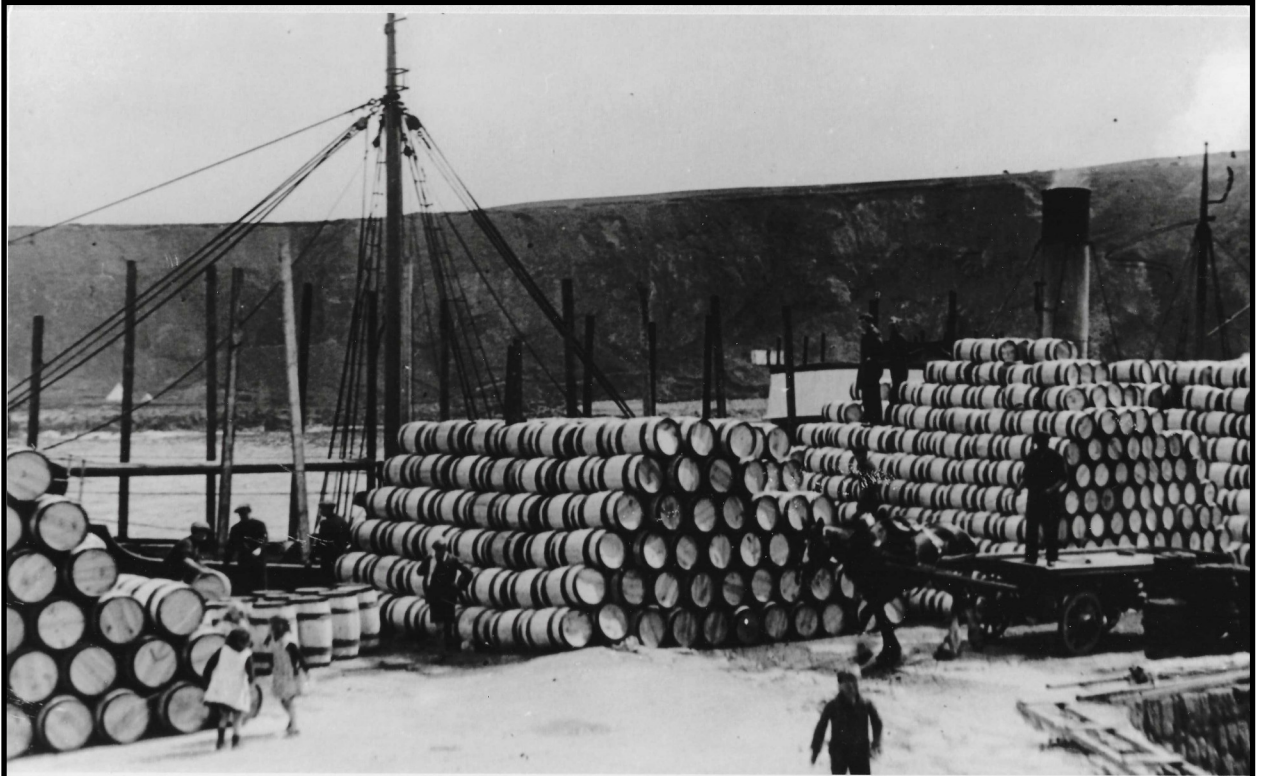


## .SS HALLADALE by Gordon Ritchie

These photos have been in the Photo archive for some years and may have come from the Taylor family who ran a Cooperage in the High Street for many years under the name of Dan Taylor & Sons. We knew the ship was the steam coaster Halladale, but not the year when the photo was taken. Thanks to Roy Cargill who posted the details, we now know the Halladale was registered in Liverpool and owned by George Couper & Sons, Helmsdale. It takes its name from a river in Sutherland. The Master was G. Gilmore with a crew of 8. It arrived in Stonehaven on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1938 and left with 1833 herring barrels. The barrels, which were new and obviously empty, as you can see a small boy lifting one, were headed probably for Wick or Helmsdale. At one time, Helmsdale had the largest herring fishing fleet on the east coast of Scotland and Coupers built up a large business with a curing yard gutting, salting and packing herring in barrels for export abroad. They had a fleet of fishing drifters and cargo ships transporting salt and coal.

Apart from the Helmsdale, Stonehaven Harbour looks quiet. From the number of children around the cargo operations, this was before the days of health and safety.





Around 1930, another load of barrels from Dan Taylor & Sons Stonehaven.



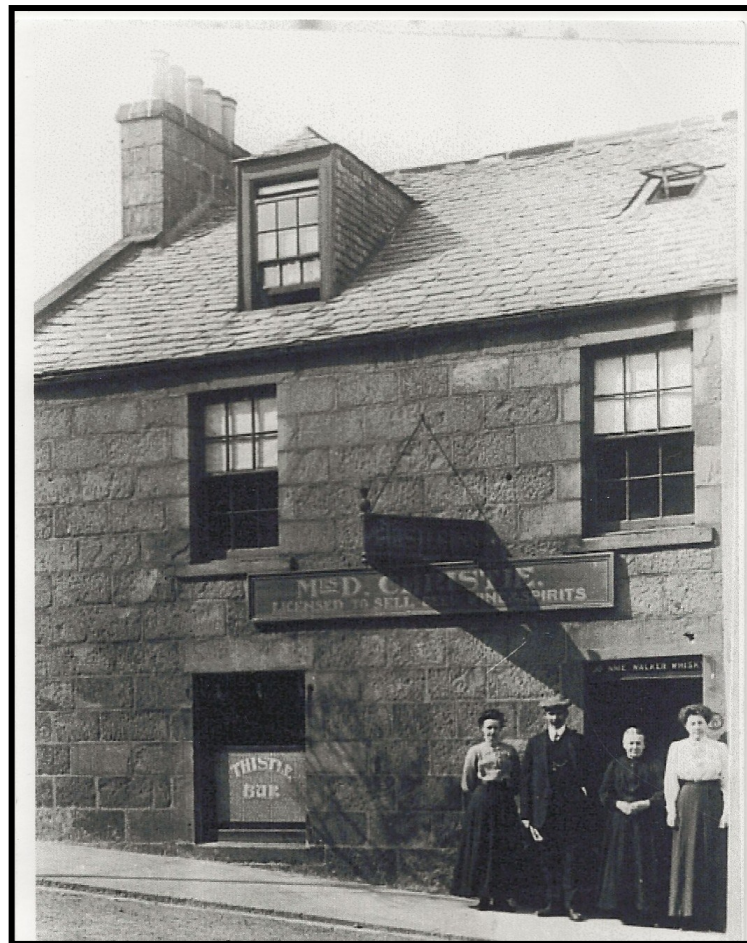
Around 1930, loading barrels made by the Cooperage in the High street, Stonehaven, from Dan Taylor & Sons bound for Lerwick and other ports.





## THE THISTLE BAR by Gordon Ritchie

Those of us of a certain age will remember the many hotels and pubs in Stonehaven in years past and around 1960 there were 25 for a population of 4,500, one for every 180! But I suspect no one recalls the Thistle Bar, which was at 13 Mary Street on the 3 Braes, where the dental surgery is now located. I do not know where the photos came from, but my research has disclosed some of the story behind them.



The photo above shows 4 people outside the Bar, which carries the name of Mrs. D. Christie, licensed to sell wines and spirits. The front window has the name of the Bar, and above the doorway, it reads 'Johnnie Walker Whisky'. I presume this dates from around 1900, as the 1901 Census has David Christie as the Innkeeper, age 55, and his wife Jessie, age 54. They had 6 sons and daughters living with them, aged 9 to 22. Presumably David and Jessie are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in the photo, and their eldest daughter Annie, age 22, on the left. Sadly, David Christie died on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1902, age 56, from diabetes and was survived by his wife Jessie (nee Morrison).





**THE THISTLE BAR** by Gordon Ritchie (cont'd)

Mrs. Jessie Christie took over the tenancy of the Thistle Bar, which at one time belonged to David Carr, Solicitor, Stonehaven, and later George Alexander, who had a Shoemaker's shop at 62 Barclay Street, just around the corner. The second photo shows her as the tall lady with her family, standing outside the Bar, perhaps around 1910. The 1911 census shows Jessie as the Publican age 63, and living with daughters Annie (29), Jane (24), son John (19) a house painter, and grandson David (9).



Jessie must have given up the Bar after World War 1 as the 1920 Valuation Roll has No. 13 occupied by Stonehaven and District Agricultural Co-Operative Society who carried on the business of blacksmiths from the adjacent yard. The 1921 Census has her living on her own at 79 Ann Street, not far away. Her neighbour was presumably her son John, a painter with D.Law & Son, painters, and his family, including a young son Colin age 1. If my information is correct, Colin was the father of John Christie, who recently retired as a painter in Stonehaven.

The Tolbooth Museum has several hundred photos in our archive, and, like the Thistle Bar photos, there must be many stories still to be found within them.