



STANEHYVE

·TOLBOOTH TIMES·



Stonehaven Fire Station in the 1950's



EDITORIAL

I was recently invited to an Open Day at the Local Studies Centre in Oldmeldrum, which is part of the Live Life Library HQ. Although I knew the Library HQ was there, and I had previously given them documents from Connors' solicitors office, I had not appreciated how much material was held there. A very helpful assistant Lynne gave me a tour of the of the records and I was pleasantly surprised as to how much was there, with a copy of nearly every book and publication on the local history of this area, including Stanehyve magazines and the Heritage Society publications.

I have since received a list of all items held for Kincardineshire and these total 2,465. Obviously, I did not have time to look at everything but I did see their postcard collections for Fetteresso and Dunnottar parishes, many of which I had not seen before.

If you are researching any aspect of our local history, a visit to Oldmeldrum is recommended (but please book first).

They were also selling surplus library books, so I could not resist getting a copy of Archie Watt's book on Kincardineshire for £1.

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 gritchie626@gmail.com

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MUSEUM SNIPPETS

Summer Events at the museum;

The first few summer events are listed below. More events to follow, so check our social media and posters around Stonehaven for more details.

Friday 10th July @ 1845. Story Telling with Pauline Cordiner

Saturday 11th July @ 1400. Corn Dolly Demonstration and Workshop

Sunday 19th July @ 1330. Lace Making Demonstration



Front cover image; Before it moved to its present location in Cruden Terrace in the mid 1970's, Stonehaven Fire Station was located in the heart of the Town at 19 Allard-ice Street, just along from the traffic lights. It looks to have been a tight squeeze for 2 fire engines, the one on the left is a Commer (similar to the Dinky Toy model from that time), and the other is a Bedford. This is now the location of the Inspire charity shop.



MUSEUM SNIPPETS

2026 Footfall

By Andrew Newton

2026 did not start well for the museum. After a very successful 1st January (110 visitors), Stonehaven was hit with heavy snow falls from the 2nd until the 9th, - the town was in almost lockdown. The bad weather continued with a normal winter gale and then storm Ingrid arrived. The overall result was that the museum experienced its worst January footfall since 2012. From mid- February to mid- April the museum had to close whilst Aberdeenshire Council undertook restoration work on the Tolbooth building. We re-opened on 15th April but unfortunately missed the important Easter holidays. Again, due to circumstances beyond our control the expected museum footfall was curtailed. Hopefully all these set backs are behind us now and we are starting to build up the numbers again.

Month	Footfall
January	274
February	229
March	0
April	698
May	1681
June	1295



WILLIAM ANGUS AND THE BANTLING BOOK

By Gordon Ritchie

We had an email from Kathryn Padhye from Texas, USA and who told us that her great-great grand-uncle was William Angus (1838 to 1923), who was the former custodian and grain merchant of the Tolbooth in Stonehaven. The attached obituary and article from the Mearns Leader notes his dedication to the Tolbooth and the creation of the Bantling visitor book, which was presented to the Sheriff Court in Stonehaven. It is therefore interesting to note that, over 100 years ago, the historical importance of the Tolbooth was appreciated and that Mr. Angus was keen to tell visitors of its history.

Sadly, we have not yet located the Bantling Book, but it is possible that records from the Stonehaven Court are held in Edinburgh, and we will make further enquiries.



WILLIAM ANGUS AND THE BANTLING BOOK (cont'd)

DEATH OF WELL-KNOWN STONEHAVEN MAN.

THE CUSTODIAN OF "THE AULD TOLBOOTH."

The death took place yesterday morning in a nursing home in Aberdeen, after a short illness, of Mr William Angus, retired grain merchant, Stonehaven, and the well-known custodian of the "Auld Tolbooth" and the "Bantling Book."

Mr Angus, who was 86 years of age, for several years acted as grieve in the service of the Innes family at Raemoir, Banchory-Ternan, and latterly at Cowie Mains, Stonehaven. He retired from the latter place over thirty years ago, and, leasing the Old Tolbooth, situated on the old pier, Stonehaven Harbour, set up business as a grain merchant there until two years ago, when he retired from business.

Deceased took a very active part in promoting matters pertaining to agriculture, and every year gifted prizes for best kept farms and best ploughing on the Cowie estate.

But it is as custodian of the Tolbooth that he is known to thousands of visitors from all parts of the world who visited the Tolbooth, made historic by its associations with the history of the Covenanters and with days when wrongdoers were imprisoned there. The "Bantling," a book in which visitors inscribed their names, was in itself wonderful reading.

Mr Angus, who was a native of Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, was unmarried.



WILLIAM ANGUS AND THE BANTLING BOOK (cont'd)

SHERIFF TAKES CUSTODY OF THE "BANTLING."

MUCH-SIGNED VISITORS' BOOK AT STONEHAVEN.

An interesting ceremony took place in Stonehaven Sheriff Court yesterday when Mr M. A. Hamilton, procurator-fiscal, as agents for the trustees of the estate of the late Mr William Angus, retired grain merchant, Stonehaven, handed over to Sheriff Laing "The Bantling." In doing so he said that the late Mr Angus, who was the tenant of the Old Tolbooth in Stonehaven, had instituted a book, which he had called "The Bantling," for the purpose of having the names of all the visitors inscribed therein who visited that historic building. "The Bantling" had been in use for nine years, and up to the time of Mr Angus' death there were over 12,000 signatures in the book. The night previous to the day on which Mr Angus was removed to a nursing home he expressed the wish that the book be handed over to Sheriff Laing to be kept in the Record Room of the Sheriff Court of Kincardineshire.

Sheriff Laing, in accepting custody of the book, said that he agreed that the book should be kept as wished until such time as the town of Stonehaven had a museum.

STONEHAVEN HARBOUR IN 1944

By Gordon Ritchie

This photo was taken probably not long after 15 November 1944 when a Mine, which drifted in from the sea, exploded against the Fish Jetty, causing extensive damage to many properties around the Harbour. One house, number 10 Shorehead, belonging to Mrs. Mary Main and adjacent to the Granary, was wrecked and had to be demolished. The windows of the Marine Hotel were blown in and other roofs were damaged.

In the bottom left of the photo, the arched windows are in one of the Castle Square houses. The white house in the bottom centre is still there in Castle Street, but all the surrounding houses were later demolished to make way for Castle Square new houses in the 1960's.

