



Tolbooth Times Summer



2019

From the Editor

The exciting news this quarter is the award of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Tolbooth Museum. The award is considered to be the MBE for volunteer groups and recognises the commitment and efforts of our volunteers. You can find all the details in the official citation on page two, together with a response from the STA Chair, Cressida Coates.

It's been a busy 3 months for the Tolbooth with an increasing number of special visits, as the Tollbooth's gains more and more visibility as an attraction to visit. You can read about these visits inside.

We are now on the Globus Tours circuit. The newsletter is now being held in the prestigious UK's Legal Deposit Libraries. Volunteers manned a stall at the recent KDP Volunteer Fair and successfully secured new members.

Finally, we see a continuing increase year on years on the number of visitors to the Tolbooth.

I hope you enjoy reading the details of these exciting new developments for our museum.

Tom Macpherson

April-June 2019

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Stunning Stonehaven website

Since the closure of the Tourist Office and the reduction of funding to **Visit Aberdeenshire**, Stonehaven Tourism Group and Business Association recognised the need for a new way for all visitors and local folk to discover what there is to see and do in Stonehaven, as well as where to eat, drink and stay.

As a result STG and the Business Association have jointly developed a new Official website to showcase our town. It's called **Stunning Stonehaven** and was launched in April 2019. The website has a modern design and is easy to navigate

The site is ready to receive listings for accommodation, food & drink, activities, attractions, shopping and events and it is hoped that for a modest annual fee local businesses and organisations will be keen to promote themselves on the website, showing what Stonehaven has to offer visitors from both near and far, as well as the local community. can be truly showcased.

Stunning Stonehaven is intended to be recognised as *the* primary place people visit to find out everything anyone needs to know about our town. list all tourism, retail and event related businesses and promote events through social media channels. Businesses and organisations, for a small annual fee, can add full descriptive details, a logo, contact information, photographs and any social media channels needed to publicise.

The committee decided that publicising the Tolbooth could increase Museum's prominence and visibility and we have now subscribed to the website.



Stonehaven Tolbooth Association receives the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association has been honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Stonehaven Tolbooth Association was founded 8 years ago to re-launch the Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum which had been closed by Aberdeenshire Council in 2011. Located in the iconic setting of Stonehaven harbour the volunteers were of the belief that a thriving museum could offer much to the local community and to visitors. This view has been borne out by the annual footfall now in excess of 24,000 and mention in numerous travel guides including the UK version of the Lonely Planet Guide 2019

Representatives from the Association will attend a garden party at Holyrood Palace in July, along with other recipients of this year's Award.

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association is one of 281 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. The number of nominations and awards has increased year on year since the awards were introduced in 2002, showing that the voluntary sector is thriving and full of innovative ideas to make life better for those around them.

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by volunteer groups to benefit their local communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Winners are announced each year on 2 June – the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation. Award winners this year are wonderfully diverse. They include volunteers helping people overcome mental health problems through sport, volunteers using caravans as mobile cafe/information centres in geographically remote locations and another group mentoring children who have a parent in prison.

Representatives of Stonehaven Tolbooth Association will receive the award from Mrs Carol Kinghorn, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire later this summer.

The Chair of Stonehaven Tolbooth Association, Cressida Coates says:

"We are delighted to receive this award, especially as we are a very young organisation. Our volunteers have worked tirelessly and dedicated many hours to creating an exciting attraction which is a magnet for tourists and locals alike. Without their dedication it is doubtful whether the museum would exist and we regard this award as a tribute to their hard work and commitment"

Globus Tours

Founded in 1928, Globus Tours, is an international travel company providing high quality escorted holidays world-wide. The museum was recently approached by Globus to enquire if they could include the Tolbooth as one of the attractions to visit for their tours to this part of the country.

This has now been agreed with Globus and trial visits are taking place every Wednesday at 7pm during June and July with around 40 Globus clients visiting the Tolbooth. Volunteers are invited to participate in the rota to meet the visitors. Please contact Cressida if you would like to participate.

Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries (ALDL)

The Agency for the Legal Deposit Libraries (ALDL) is a charity which requests and receives copies of publications for distribution to the six legal deposit libraries. ALDL is maintained by the six legal deposit libraries and ensures that they receive legal deposit copies of British and Irish publications.

Legal deposit is the act of depositing published material in designated libraries. Publishers and distributors in the United Kingdom and in Ireland have a legal obligation to deposit published material in the six legal deposit libraries. These collectively maintain the national published archive of the British Isles.

Secretary Andrew Newton has received a request from ALDL for hard copies of all *Tolbooth Times* publications.

The six legal deposit libraries are:

- Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford
- Cambridge University Library
- National Library of Scotland
- Library of Trinity College, Dublin
- National Library of Wales.
- British Library

It's nice to know that copies of the newsletter for our wee museum here in Stonehaven may end up residing in some of most prestigious libraries in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Footfall April to June 2019

Month	Museum	Tower	Combined	Days Open	Museum Avge	Tower Avge
April	2978	736	3714	25	120	29
May	2705	428	1562	27	100	21**
June	3027	508	3535	26	116	26**
Totals						

Accumulative 2019 Totals

Museum	12,028
Clock Tower	2,620
Both Attractions	14,618

Comparative 2018 Totals

10,147
2,314
12,461

** Tower footfall not recorded for 5 days in May due to faulty recorder.

** Tower footfall not recorded for 7 days in June due to staff shortages

Despite this both locations showed a footfall increase from last year.

Special Visits

A visit from the Muchalls branch of Scottish Women's Institute (there are 14 institutes in Kincardineshire alone) took place on Thursday 11th April. The visit was hosted by Cressida Coates, and Jim Bruce. Shona Barclay, who is a Muchalls SWI member was also with the party.

Bridge of Don Over 50's Group visited on Wednesday 5th June. This was an afternoon visit during opening hours but Gwynne Stewart and George Strang were also there as extra staff.

A VisitScotland FAM group visited on Thursday 16th May. This is a group of 13 from various VisitScotland Information Centres who wish to view what the museum can offer visitors.

On 25th May the museum was opened between 1700 and 1900 hours for a private wedding party, prior to their wedding meal in the Tolbooth restaurant upstairs.

On 28th May we hosted a visit by the Invercarron Arthritis Group

Bridge of Don Over 50's Group visited on Wednesday 5th June. This is an afternoon visit during opening hours and Gwynne Stewart and George Strang were available as extra staff.

On Monday 9th September we are expecting 53 members of the Friends of the Norwegian Maritime Museum to attend. More details nearer the event.

Mega Wednesday

One of the more unusual visits occurred on Wed 5th June. A party from Bridge of Don 50+ club were scheduled for 1pm. A coach arrived and thinking that this was BOD, were welcomed in. However, it turned out that this was a party of 17 from Perth on an ad-hoc visit! Five minutes later the BOD party arrived as planned. The two groups stayed for quite a while and chatted with George and Jim.

At 4:30 just after closing a group of 25 French school students led by Richard Gibson came in. They were soaked after walking down from the castle in the rain. Most of them enjoyed looking round and there was some impromptu Scottish dancing to various tunes on the record player.

Finally in the evening the regular Wednesday visit from Globus tours arrived. They were from Canada and USA. They left their coach and immediately went into the Ship Inn instead of the museum! However a volunteer went to the Ship and "chased" them down to the Tolbooth where the rest of the volunteers were patiently waiting. This was a misunderstanding due to the fact that the museum's contact details had not been passed to the tour guide by the Globus company!

The guide now has the necessary contact details and we look forward to a smoother future visits.

All in all a busy day for the volunteers!

KDP Recruitment Fair

Kincardineshire Development Partnership ran a Volunteer Recruitment Fair on 6th June and volunteers Douglas Cusines, Claire Thomas, Cressida Coates and Mary Sutcliffe volunteered to run the stall.

Six Mackie Academy pupils signed up but unfortunately only one turned up for an induction on the following Saturday. The missing five will be contacted to establish whether they wish to pursue their stated interest in volunteering. The parents/guardians of pupils under 18 will be contacted for their consent.

Sadly, no adult volunteers were forthcoming but it was agreed that despite this it had been a worthwhile exercise.

Business Name

Primary Business Address
Address Line 2

Phone: 555-555-5555

Fax: 555-555-5555

Email: someone@example.com

The Stonehaven Tolbooth is thought to have been founded by George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal (c. 1553–1623), with the original purpose of the rectangular building being to act as a storehouse during the construction of the nearby Dunnottar Castle. In 1600, an Act of Parliament provided that the building become a Tolbooth.

After 1624, the town business functions were conducted on the upper level of the Stonehaven Tolbooth, with the ground floor being used as the prison. It remained a courthouse (upper floor) and prison (ground floor) until 1767 when these activities were relocated.

We're on the web!

www.stonehaventolbooth.co.uk

The building then reverted as a store until the 1950s by which time it had fallen into disrepair. In 1963 the building was renovated and officially re-opened by Her Majesty the Queen Mother. In 1975 the lower floor was converted into a museum reflecting Stonehaven's long history. Currently the museum occupies the ground floor whilst a separate restaurant operates on the upper floor.

Entry is free.

Snippets

Aberdeen University has produced a short video on the Pictish fort at Dunnicaer. We have been granted permission to use it and I hope to include it into the current video set. More in next the issue.

Royal Garden Party.

Dennis Collie and Tom Macpherson are the chosen STA representatives for the 3rd July event at Holyrood. A full report in photos in the next quarter's issue.

Discussions are ongoing with Ergadia Consultants regarding the current displays and artefacts on how they might be presented in a more structured and informative way.

Become a Tolbooth Volunteer!

The Tolbooth museum is supported by Aberdeenshire Council, but managed and operated entirely by a team of volunteers.

The museum is visited by over 22000 people a year of all ages, and from 108 countries across the globe, as we can see from our visitors book. We regularly have visitors from Europe, Asia, Australasia, the USA and Canada and many other parts of the world.

Volunteers play a vital role in providing a warm greeting to visitors as they arrive and in

answering the many questions about items in the museum.

Also, we frequently act as an information service, including providing directions to other attractions such as the castle.

We have a dinosaur hunt for the children with a small prize at the end which they find great fun.

No experience is necessary, just an interest in being part of an enthusiastic team dedicated to preserving and sharing this incredible piece of history.

We're a friendly bunch and volunteers are on duty while the museum is open. Most

volunteers do one or two afternoons a month, but you can do as many or as few as you choose.

The museum's opening hours are

Summer Season

Daily except Tuesday,
13:30 — 16:30

Winter Season

Saturday & Sunday 12:30—15:30

If you'd like to join us, you can complete the form on the website or drop in when the Tolbooth is open.

You'll even get one of the famous red fleeces!
