

STANEHYVE

• & TOLBOOTH TIMES •



• ROYAL VISIT •

The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay visit Stonehaven

Editorial

Well, 2019 has really been a momentous year for the Tolbooth Museum. We have continued to attract more and more visitors, from literally all over the world, and shown that our Museum can hold its own against bigger

attractions. In April, Stonehaven Heritage Society was wound up, but the decision was made to transfer all its assets, including a sizeable bank balance, stock of books and its photo archive, to the Tolbooth, with Chairman Douglas Cusine, and Secretary Gordon Ritchie, joining the Trustees of the Museum.

We were all very delighted in June that the Tolbooth had been awarded the prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour that can be given to a voluntary organisation, and this was presented in July. And to top it all, the Museum was visited in October by Prince Charles and Camilla, The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay, who greatly enjoyed their visit. Certainly, the Tolbooth

Museum is now on the map, and we are looking forward to welcoming even more visitors in the future.

Many thanks to Tom Macpherson who has stood down as Editor, with his duties being taken over by Gordon Ritchie and Liz Ritchie. We can also welcome to our readership, the former members of Stonehaven Heritage Society and hopefully encourage them to support our Museum.

Gordon Ritchie, MVO

Editor



Diary

Winter opening hours are
Saturday/Sunday
12.30 to 15.30

December Opening Hours
are weekends as normal—
plus

Monday 23rd

Tuesday 24th

Friday 27th

Monday 30th

Hogmanay

Opening Hours

12.30–16.30

and 19.00–22.00

New Year's Day 2020

Wednesday 1st

11.00–14.00

Christmas Party

Wednesday 18th

December at

Invercarron Resource

Centre

(Location and time to be
confirmed)

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PRINCE CHARLES VISIT TO TOLBOOTH MUSEUM

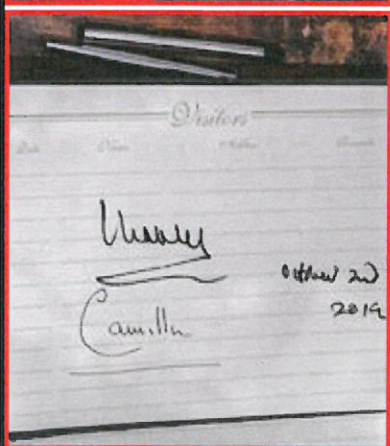
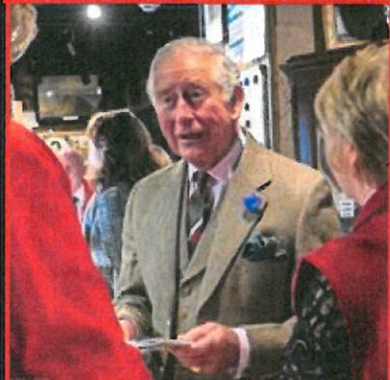
On 2nd October 2019, T.R.H. The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay and the Duchess of Rothesay paid an official visit to Stonehaven and to the Tolbooth Museum. Welcomed to Kincardineshire earlier that morning by H.M. Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Carol Kinghorn, the royal couple visited Dunnottar Castle, as the Prince had expressed a wish to see this very famous Scottish castle for the first time. They arrived on a lovely sunny morning and enjoyed a brisk walk from the cliff top down the many steps and up to the Castle on its impressive rocky outcrop. They then travelled by car to Stonehaven Harbour, passing the distinctive war memorial perched on the Black Hill, and down the Bervie Braes road, enjoying the fine panoramic views over Stonehaven Bay. Arriving in front of the Tolbooth, Mrs Kinghorn presented Mrs Cressida Coates, Chairperson of the Tolbooth Association, surrounded by many of the volunteers in their red fleeces and members of the public.

The Duke and Duchess spent about 15 minutes touring the Museum and commented on many of the fascinating items on display. They met and chatted with almost all the volunteers present and learned why the Museum is such a special place to visit. Leaving the Museum, both took time to greet the boys and girls of Dunnottar Primary School who had come especially from the school with their teachers.

The Duke and Duchess then drove by car to the Market Square, where they were met by a large and friendly crowd, and visited three food outlets. First was, Charles McHardy, Butchers where they were welcomed by Robert Clark, Proprietor and then on to Giulianotti's where Marjorie Stephen displayed her award-winning ice creams and lastly to Grainger's Deli where the couple sampled the cheeses and pates on offer.

It was a special day for Stonehaven. The Duke and Duchess took time to speak to as many as possible and clearly enjoyed their visit to our town.

By Gordon Ritchie



KINCARDINESHIRE POST OFFICES

The speaker at one of the last meeting of Stonehaven Heritage society earlier this year was Bruce Walker from Aberdeen, who told the story of the postal system in this area from its earliest days. Bruce is the joint author of the excellent book *'Kincardineshire Post Offices and Postmarks 1741 – 2017'*. Millions of letters are still delivered daily but how much do you know of the history behind the Post Office and Royal Mail?

The first Post Office opened in Stonehaven in 1669, and a Postmaster appointed. At this time, Stonehaven was on the route of the Edinburgh to Aberdeen postal service. By 1735 a horse post was operating 3 times per week between Aberdeen and Edinburgh, taking around 32 hours from Edinburgh to Stonehaven and then a further 4 hours to Aberdeen. In 1795 the mail departed Edinburgh at 2pm and reached Stonehaven at 5pm the following day. The first mailcoach ran on 1st August 1798 from Edinburgh with a journey time of 23 hours in each direction. By 1840 there were 2 mailcoaches each day, taking 12 hours from Aberdeen to Edinburgh. A night coach left Aberdeen at 3.30pm, passing Stonehaven at 5pm and reaching Edinburgh at 5am the following morning.

The railway came to Stonehaven in 1849, and extended to Aberdeen in 1850, transforming journey times. The train took 27 minutes between Aberdeen and Stonehaven, compared with 1 ½ hours previously by mailcoach. After then, Stonehaven had a number of sub- post offices including Kinneff, Catterline, Rickarton, Bourtreebush, Netherley, Cairngrassie and Newtonhill.

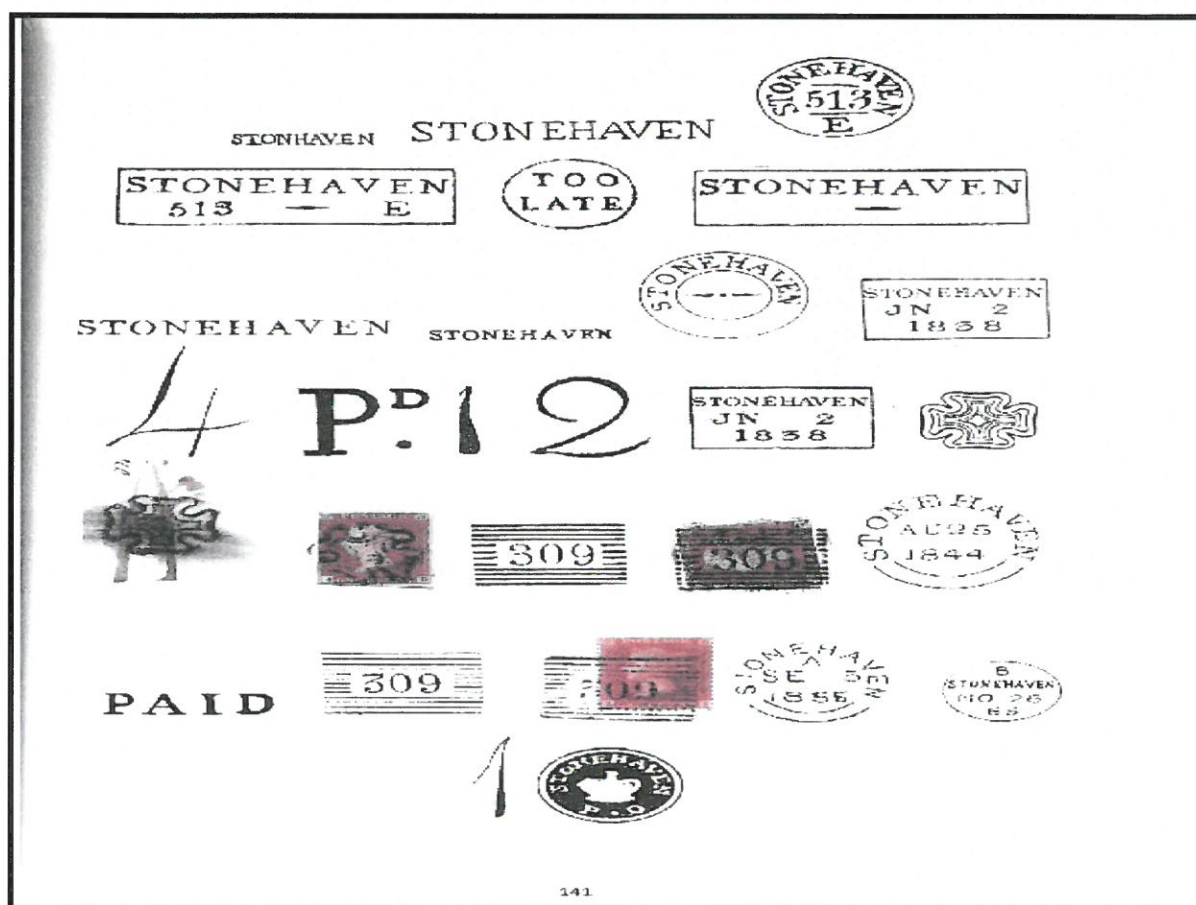
In 1825, Stonehaven post office was in Barclay Street where the Star Inn was later located. By 1877, it was in Ann Street on the corner with Cameron Street and around 1890 it moved to 48 Allardice Street. A new post office opened in 1968, and was later re-located to the new Mace supermarket next door in 1991. Later on the post office moved back to its original location at no. 48. The 1968 building remained as the Royal Mail sorting office with garage for the mail vans.

Bruce showed a large selection of letters with Stonehaven postmarks, with many changes over the years and the earliest dating from 1741.

By Gordon Ritchie

A selection of old Stonehaven postmarks are shown on the next page.

The figures reflect the fact that in October the museum moved to its winter schedule and a shortage of staff has sometimes restricted the opening of the Clock Tower. During the summer however we had Globus Tours visiting each Wednesday evening and various local events have also ensured healthy numbers over the summer. July saw the Folk Festival Weekend, August the Harbour Festival Day, and September the Aberdeenshire Open Doors days. All of these events have seen total visitor numbers to the Museum and Tower for the 10 months to end of October increase by almost 23% - from 26,382 in 2018 to 32,432 this year.



TOLBOOTH MUSEUM – COLLECTIONS SUB-GROUP

As part of their study of the Museum, the Ergadia group held a workshop at the Museum last June. They toured the collection in the morning and noted various suggestions for improving the displays. After lunch, we discussed what is called a Collection Review. This is basically to look at what is in the museum, know how to care for the items on display, and list areas or themes that could be included or expanded.

For example, there could be more space allocated for Family History displays and greater use of the archive of photographs, postcards and guide books of Stonehaven built up over the years by the Stonehaven Heritage society. Displays on famous men and women of Stonehaven could be expanded.

The Committee have therefore agreed that a Collections Sub-Group be formed under the Chairmanship of Gordon Ritchie. They will be meeting shortly and coming back with proposals as to how to improve the present collections and displays. If any volunteers wish to join the sub-group, please get in touch with Gordon Ritchie.

GEOCACHING

For those of you who don't know what Geocaching is—it is an outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS devices. An item or a container holding a number of items is hidden at a particular location for GPS users to find by means of coordinates and clues posted on the internet.

In August a large convention of geocachers were based on Deeside and several groups found their way over to Stonehaven. The Museum itself has a cache hidden on the premises that they must find by solving clues. The cache has a padlock which requires a 3 digit code. The padlock numbers are found at various locations in the town and the final number is to be found in the Museum.

I found out that geocachers don't like receiving help with clue solving and so my only hints are Fishing and Education. 😊



VISITORS

In October the Museum received visitors from our **132nd** different country!!

Lots of young visitors too – just before the end of term, in early July, we had a visit from the children of Summers Nursery in Inverurie. This was followed 2 days later by two P2 classes from Mill O'Forest School.

Each week from June to September we also had approx 20–30 people visit from Globus Tours.

And in September we had a visit by a large group of volunteers from the Norwegian Maritime Museum.

Maybe we could reciprocate with a visit to their museum in Oslo? Put my name down.

STONEHAVEN BOOKS ON SPECIAL OFFER

The Tolbooth Museum now has on sale the books on Stonehaven published by the Heritage Society. These are all now available from the Shop in the Museum and would make ideal Christmas gifts.

Stonehaven Street Names by George Swapp	£4.00
Dunnottar Woods and House by George Swapp	£4.00
Picturesque Stonehaven by Gordon Ritchie	£4.00
Stonehaven of Old Volume 2 by Gordon Ritchie	£2.00
Early Stonehaven Settlers by Archie Watt	£2.00



Holyrood Garden Party

As a result of receiving the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, two members of the Tolbooth Committee were invited to attend the Queen's Garden Party in Edinburgh in July. Step forward committee volunteers Dennis Collie and Tom Macpherson.

On a blisteringly hot day, they listened to the music of the pipe band, whilst they enjoyed an excellent afternoon tea. A welcome cooling ice-cream followed.

Whilst disappointed to get only brief glimpses of the Royal Party as they walked from the Palace to the Royal Tea Tent, both Dennis and Tom thoroughly enjoyed their Royal day out in Edinburgh.



JOCK McKENZIE 1966

Half hidden in a wall on Cheyne Hill above Stonehaven is a small memorial which reads 'JOCK McKENZIE 1966'. Spread out before you is the view over the town of Stonehaven to the sea beyond – a beautiful spot on a nice sunny day. A few years ago a friend noticed this memorial and asked if I knew what it was – I couldn't resist the challenge to find out. Seeing 1966 as significant, I immediately searched for death records and sure enough found that John McKenzie, retired shoemaker and widower of Williamina Smith, died at Woodcot Hospital on 2nd December 1966. He was 81 years of age and lived in Arduthie Street. Some may remember his Shoemakers shop at 25 High Street. John was born in Woodside, Aberdeen in 1885, where his father was also a Shoemaker. In 1908 he was working in Glasgow when he married Williamina Smith in Aberdeen. Their son John was born in Glasgow a year later, but the family moved to Stonehaven shortly afterwards and lived the remainder of their lives at 25 Arduthie Street. A further 3 children were born at Arduthie Street, Robert in 1912, Williamina in 1914 and Isabella in 1920. Williamina died in 1934 at the age of 55 years.

So why was this memorial created in memory of John McKenzie? The Mearns Leader provided a clue:. The issue dated 9 December 1966 carried an acknowledgement from the family of John McKenzie thanking the staff at Woodcot Hospital, the Rev. J Roy, and friends and neighbours, for their attention and kind expressions of sympathy on their recent bereavement. Sadly the following week, the Death Announcements in the Mearns Leader included that of John McKenzie's elder son John, and an obituary in the same paper provided more information.

Father and son die on Same Day Shoemaker and Marine Engineer

A Stonehaven man and his son in Australia died the same day. Mr. John McKenzie (58) died suddenly in Sydney within a few hours of the death of his father, Mr. John McKenzie, who formerly carried on a shoemaker's business in High Street, Stonehaven.

Mr. McKenzie Jnr., a marine engineer, was in the assault landing craft section of the Royal Navy during the last war. Actions in which he took part included the Lofoten Islands and the Dieppe raid. He was later attached to the Australian Navy and stayed on in Australia after being demobilised there. He was a well known football player in the Mearns and Aberdeen, turning out regularly for the Stonehaven Club in the 1930's.

A member of Stonehaven's pre-war volunteer fire brigade, he was in the local coastal lifesaving crew, and played in the town's silver band. He was member of Stonehaven Masonic Lodge No. 65.

Mr. McKenzie is survived by his wife who is a daughter of Mr. And Mrs. James Adamson, 8 Cruden Terrace, Stonehaven and a married daughter.

JOCK McKENZIE 1966 (cont'd)

No link has been confirmed between John McKenzie – father or son – and the memorial on the hill above Redcloak, but the retired shoemaker was the only J. McKenzie whose death is recorded in the area in 1966, and he is buried with his wife in Dunnottar Kirkyard. It is thought his son's ashes were brought back from Australia and scattered above Redcloak a few months later, and that the memorial was created there by a friend or family member. If anyone knows any more about this memorial I would be delighted to hear from them.

By Lorraine Stewart



5 July 2019— Queens Award being presented by Mrs. Carol Kinghorn, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire to Chair Cressida Coates. Also present are Jennifer Macdonald, Deputy Lieutenant and Gordon Ritchie, Clerk to the Lieutenancy.

Co-op Local Community Fund

The Museum has been selected to take part in the Co-op Local Community Fund. This means that the Tolbooth can earn money each time you shop at any of the 4 local Co-ops at Market Square, Kirkton Road, Redcloak and the main store on David Street.

To ensure that the Co-op donates 1% of your total spend to the Museum, please go to the Tolbooth page on the Co-op membership website and choose us as your cause.

<https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/39349>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of Stonehaven Tolbooth Association was held on 2 October 2019 in the Community Centre. Cressida Coates welcomed all members present and reported on excellent progress for the Museum during the year, with new volunteers starting, various visits from schools and groups, weekly visits from Globus Tours, and increasing numbers of visitors, the busiest being the Harbour Festival in August when there were 1061! The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service had been awarded and presented in July by H.M Lord Lieutenant Mrs Carol Kinghorn, and to top that event, the Museum had been visited earlier that day by T.R.H The Duke and Duchess of Rothesay.

Treasurer Dennis Collie reported on the accounts. Bill Emslie and Tom Macpherson retired as Trustees and the following were confirmed as Trustees:-

Ian Balgowan	Jim Bruce
Cressida Coates	Louise Coates
Dennis Collie	Douglas Cusine
Andrew Newton	Gordon Ritchie
Liz Ritchie	Gwynne Stewart
Mary Sutcliffe	Clare Thomas

At the October Committee meeting, the following office bearers were re-appointed:-

Chair	Cressida Coates	Secretary	Andrew Newton
Treasurer	Dennis Collie	Curator	Louise Coates
Shop	Gwynne Stewart	Events	Clare Thomas



Duchess laughing
at something Jim
Bruce said?



Meeting volunteers
lined up outside in
their red fleeces.



HRH signing
the visitors
book.



A chat about fishing
with Ian Balgowan



A warm welcome to the
Museum by Chair Cressida Coates

To see more photos from our Royal visit , go to our website at
<http://www.stonehaventolbooth.co.uk/>

Or find us on Facebook at Tolbooth Museum, Stonehaven

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STOP PRESS

Globus Tours have confirmed that they will be coming back to the Museum in 2020.

A quote from them says:-

For sure we'll be back . The clients loved the museum. Thanks for making us so welcome and entertaining and educating the clients. We all loved our time in Stonehaven.

Happy
Holidays!

If you have any stories or information you think could be included in future editions, please get in touch with either

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- gordon.ritchie@connons.co.uk

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