

Meeting of the Stonehaven Tolbooth Association (STA)
Wednesday 19th March 2025
Tolbooth Museum

Prior to the meeting John (Johnny) Trudgill gave a short talk about the local agates that he is donating to the museum. The talk was informative as it covered the still uncertain geological processes of agate formation within larva fields and provided examples of the agates found on Stonehaven beach and inland locations around the town. Johnny has offered to set up a display in the museum and review our current exhibits, many of which are not local and come from elsewhere in the world. Johnny was thanked for his donations and offer of help, both of which were accepted.

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting
 - a) acceptance
 - b) matters arising
- 4 Chair's report
- 5 Treasurer's report
- 6 Secretary's report
- 7 CAT and Grants - update
- 8 Events report
- 9 Collections report
- 10 Curator's report
- 11 Shop report
- 12 Clock Tower report
- 13 AOCB
- 14 Future date

Minutes

Present. Cressida Coates (CC), Andrew Newton (AN), Dennis Collie (DC), Clare Thomas (CT), Gordon Ritchie (GR), Mary Sutcliffe (MS),

1 Welcome.

CC welcomed attendees to the meeting after the presentation by Johnny Trudgill..

2 Apologies. Louise Coates (LC), Lindsay Petrie (LP), Liz Ritchie (LR), Douglas Cusine (DCu), Neil Smith (NS),

3 Minutes of previous meetings.

a) Acceptance. The previous minutes of 19th February 2025 were accepted.

b) Matters arising.

Summary of Action Points

Summary of Action Points	Person	Report
Contact owner of ship's bell	CC	CC will meet with donor's wife this week
Pursue new sign for Bervie Braes	DCu	DCU is willing to follow up but the location of the sign is unknown
Continue considering options provided by the old blocks	LR	Situation unknown
Contact AU over student opportunities	LP	Situation unknown
Source and purchase suitable storage containers.	LP	Situation unknown
Contact Katy re re-working poster	LP	Situation unknown
Investigate funding for recording local history	LP	Situation unknown
Investigate Temu products	LR	Situation unknown
Thank Evelynne McAllan	CC	Card sent
Contact Jimmy Malcolm	DCu	Letter sent to Jimmy Malcolm
Submit grant application to K&M Area Committee	AN	See CAT and Grants
Ask GR to update members on CAT	CC	GR explained that responses from the Council are shambolic and glacially slow. Consequently there is no meaningful update at the moment.
To thank Ladies Probus	AN	Letter sent
To write to David Fleming	CC	Done

Action Points

CC Ship's bell

DCu Pursue new sign for Bervie Braes

LR Old printing blocks

LP Contact AU over student opportunities

LP Source suitable storage containers

LP Contact Katy re re-working poster

LP Investigate funding for recording local history

LR Investigate Temu products

4 Chair's report (CC)

The rota for March is complete and on Wednesday 2nd April the museum will start the summer season – open 6 days a week from 13.30 to 16.30. The April rota will be digital and CC has been spending some time acquainting herself with the software. Guidance will shortly be provided to all volunteers.

Subsequent to our Volunteer Day the museum has acquired 5 new volunteers and all seem keen to work at the museum. CC has been in discussion with Nicky from Aberdeen Foyer (an organisation helping vulnerable young adults) concerning a potential volunteer from the Foyer. Nicky will visit the museum on 26th March to discuss with CC.

With new volunteers additional lanyards are required and DC agreed to purchase when names are provided.

Action Point

DC to source new lanyards

5 Treasurer's report (DC)

Summary of Activity from 01/02/2025 to 28/02/2025

Income		Expenditure	
Cash Sales	44.50	Martin Sim (stock)	215.00
Sumup	90.86	Donation to Fireballs	40.00
Donations (Barrel)	118.95	HPS (courtyard blacksmith)	2960.40
Gift Aid	10.00	Simbas (courtyard)	2760.00
Probus donation	70.00	Total	£5,975.40
Ian's funeral	500.00		
Total	£834.31		

6 Secretary's report (AN)

The museum has been invited to participate in Open Doors Day 2025. Trustees agreed and AN will provide an Expression of Interest to the Council.

There has been an inquiry from Scottish Paranormal Investigations regarding the possibility of the museum hosting an evening of paranormal activities. Unfortunately the chosen day always appear to be a Saturday when the upstairs restaurant is busy and noisy. AN to decline.

AN reported that the Hillhead of Auquhirie Windfarm Fund and the K&M Area budget will be opening shortly for applications and either could be a source for funding the printing of the forthcoming Harbour book. DC and GR will confer.

On Tuesday 18th AN hosted Paul and John Mair (Tolbooth Restaurant) at the Courtyard, Whilst both were impressed with the renovation of the Inner Yard, on which they had previously had discussions with STA on potential usage, they were now taken with the potential of the Outer Yard as a business venture. This would entail them relinquishing any interest in the Inner Yard. This would be a complete change although the previously suggested financial arrangements would stay the same. Discussions will continue on an informal basis although nothing can be decided until STA holds the Title to the yards.

Action Point

AN to contact Council re Open Doors Day

AN to decline paranormal investigation

DC/GR to confer over funding application

7 CAT and Grants (GR/AN)

As recorded in the Action Points in section 3 above, discussions with the Council are going nowhere fast. It has taken the Council 18 months to understand that they require listed building consent and building warrants for some of the repairs that they have undertaken to effect. At the last meeting an official crucial to the meeting failed to turn up so no progress was made. Over the last six weeks the Council have requested that the date of exchange of missives should be a) 18th October and then b) 31st December. These delays have had a knock on effect as the Coastal Community Challenge Fund is withholding 10% of a previously agreed grant; as a consequence STA have stipulated that the only suitable date is 31st May as per the original CAT offer. The Council has accepted the revised date but GR is sceptical as a Deed of Conditions is required and given the complexity in separating the two floors production of this document will not be a straight forward.

Subsequent to the February meeting AN has been progressing on writing a grant application to renovate the Outer Yard. The application is almost completed and AN is now waiting for quotes and letters of

support. The initial feedback is that the quotes will come in at around £10,000; the committee agreed to fund 20% of the project cost. The deadline for submitting the bid is 7th April.

8. Events report (CT)

CT has hosted two visits last week – 8 from Kincardine Pillar who donated £10 and 15 from Maryculter Scouts who donated £40.

There is a booking for a group from Kentucky on 30th July.

CT and MS will initiate the annual Easter Hunt next week.

9 Collection Report (GR)

GR and DC have installed new display panels and there is one more relating to the Tolbooth to be installed.

As mentioned previously Johnny Trudgill has offered to review the museum's collection of agates and make a display concentrating on local and Scottish examples.

GR seeks help to create displays on local education and on ships.

All the original old photographs have now been digitised and mounted; GR is keeping the originals and the digitised versions at home as there is no storage space in the museum.

10 Curator's report (LP/CC)

A date for the next meeting between CC and LP is still to be set.

11 Shop report (LR by email)

LR has spoken to the producer of shortbread sold in a tin but it only has a shelf life of 7(?) weeks and may not be suitable for selling in the museum. LR is chasing up the supplier of sea salt.

The shop is low on copies of George Swapp's Street Names but GR has a supply at home and will put more into the museum. GR also has a large supply of postcards and he will deposit a selection into the museum.

A problem has arisen over the sale of goods supplied by individuals making casual contact with duty volunteers. In many cases LZ and DC do not know the number of goods supplied or on what terms; in some cases it appears that the museum is expected to sell at no mark up. The committee agreed with DC that all sales should generate revenue to the shop. In future volunteers will be requested to refer individuals offering goods for sale to LR for confirmation.

Action Point

CC to provide instructions to refer all potential sale of goods to LR (*Secretarial note – not agreed at meeting. To action?*)

12 Clock Tower report (AN)

AN will undertake a cleaning of the Tower.

The main video is temperamental; sometimes it is easy to switch on but on other days the software fails to find the video. Currently there is no easy solution.

Action Point

AN to clean Clock Tower

13 AOCB.

Stanehyve Magazine. The next edition is due out shortly and GR welcomes any contributions.

Press Release. The committee reviewed the previously circulated press release and this will now be submitted to The Bellman.

Action Point

AN to submit press release.

14 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 23rd April

Andrew Newton

20th March 2025

Secretary

Stonehaven Tolbooth Association (Tolbooth Museum)

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC043279)

Summary of Action Points

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Contact owner of ship's bell	CC
Pursue new sign for Bervie Braes	DCu
Continue considering options provided by the old blocks	LR
Contact AU over student opportunities	LP
Source and purchase suitable storage containers.	LP
Contact Katy re re-working poster	LP
Investigate funding for recording local history	LP
Investigate Temu products	LR
Source new lanyards	DC
Contact Council re Open Doors Day	AN
Decline paranormal investigation	AN
Confer over funding application	DC/GR
Provide instructions to refer all potential sale of goods to LR	CC ?
Clean Clock Tower	AN
Submit press release.	AN