

# Nautical News



Newsletter of the Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association.  
2008 - Issue 1. August 2008.



## View from the Chair

A lot has happened since the 2007 AGM which was held in Macduff Arts Centre on the 16<sup>th</sup> April; so much in fact that it has led to the birth of this our first ever newsletter. The most memorable times for me are:

- Liam's 'Nautical Knot Board' which made it's way into the Press and Journal, and the otter he caught one day on his way over from Banff which made news in the Banffshire Journal.
- Rosemary's window displays and her revolutionary 'Seed Swap' which I'm sure is the first ever seed swap held in a maritime museum; our fisherman dummy fair looked the part with his gardening gear on.
- Chris Earl's amazing Dalek (on loan) which he made himself; this was an added attraction for the youngsters and the older Doctor Who fans.
- The 2007 poetry competition which attracted entries as far away as Tasmania in Australia, the prize-giving on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007 with MSP Stewart Stevenson was a day I'll personally never forget.



***2007 Poetry Competition Prize-giving by Stewart Stevenson MSP.  
(Photo – Andrew Bruce).***

- In June 2008 we had a yacht art competition to coincide with the 'North Sea Yacht Race' which attracted a decent amount of entries from local schools, the faces on the kids as they collected their prizes certainly made all the effort we put in worthwhile.

After completing our lease on 6 to 8 Duff Street, we decided not to ask for an extension this was mainly due to the cost of running it which was approx £5,000 p.a. The final nail in the coffin was the Scottish Water bill of £660 p.a. for one toilet with a small wash hand basin. The number of visitors was limited and it's clear to me that there still aren't enough tourists coming to

the area to make a permanent museum sustainable without financial support from Aberdeenshire Council. However during the last year and a bit we have put in place the stepping stones for the future, that is the publication of our own books, postcards and calendar, these in particular the books will bring in revenue hopefully for a long time. I hope you enjoy reading our news and if you want to be part of it come along to the Town Hall Macduff the first Monday of the month 7pm to 8pm and join us, we look forward to any new volunteers especially ones with new ideas and the enthusiasm to bring them to life.

The five month 2007 exhibition is the longest ever maritime exhibition held in Banff or Macduff, exceeding the previous record of 3.5 months which we held in 2006, something that we can all be very proud of. For 2007 many improvements were made on the 2006 exhibition and Liam Sparke spent a lot of his time erecting new partitions to display the many new items. These included many new information panels, 'Liam's Nautical Knot Board', a loan of Chris Earl's 'Dalek', and a loan of a supply boat model the 'Skandi Foula' from Shell and DOF UK. Of course we had many other bits and pieces kindly loaned from local folk.

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### **2007 Exhibition**

From June to October we held an exhibition in premises 6 to 8 Duff Street, this was the second year of a two year lease taken on ex J.D. Stephen's shop.



*Skandi Foula model.*



*BMHA premises 2006 to 2007, 6 to 8 Duff Street, Macduff.*



*Chris Earl's Dalek.*

We opened the wash-house as an auditorium, which also became a temporary home to a 'Bone-shaker' bicycle on loan from Ron Storey from Methlick, a 'Penny Farthing' bicycle and Watkinson of Gellymill Street's giraffe bike from Andrew Wilson, Macduff and also Chris Earls' old weighing scales and one or two other interesting items.



*Watkinson's Giraffe Bike.*

More information on local entertainer and illusionist Walford Bodie was on display including a very large photograph of 'Bodie at work' with his electric chair and a unsuspecting assistant. This for a while made a very interesting feature for our window. Several locals mentioned that they had never seen the photo of Bodie's Baths before. (These display items were all given to Chris Earl when we closed. Chris hopes to open a

small museum in his home which is the Manor House which was built by Bodie in 1905).



*Walford Bodie at Work.*

In addition Rosemary Sanderson brought along many of her own collectables and this was a very welcome addition to the exhibition. We also ordered some model boats which we sold. These were great because they brought in some revenue and also filled several shelves and a section of the window.



*6 to 8 Duff St, October 2007.*



*Shipwrights and Coopers tools, and Rosemary's collection.*



*Sovereign Explorer oil rig and herring baskets.*



*Ron Storey's Bone-shaker.*



*Chris Earl's milk churn and some of our navigation equipment.*



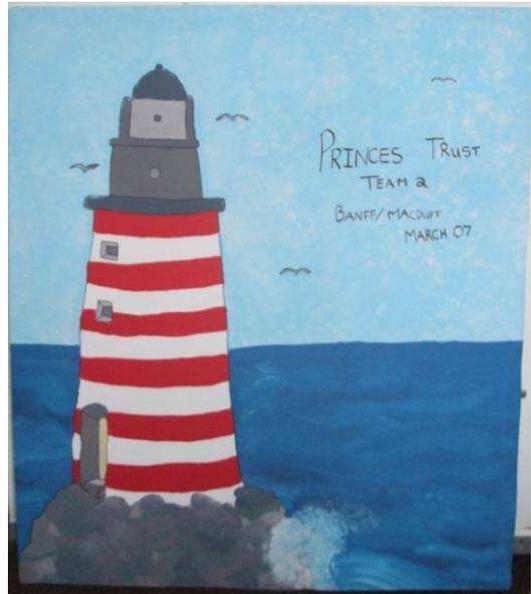
*Herring Lassies Kist.*



*Life-saving corner.*

### Princes Trust

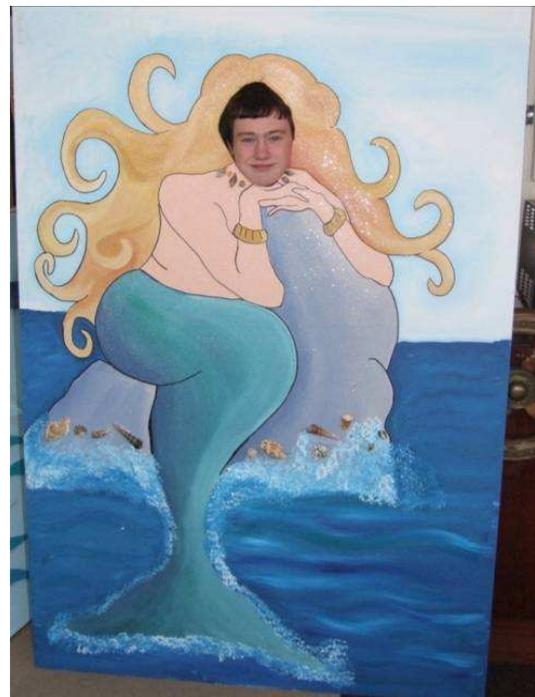
The youngsters from the 'Princes Trust – Team 2' were looking for a project and we were glad to help them out. During March / April 2007 under the supervision of Liam Sparke they painted the interior of the wash-house and they also painted four murals - a mermaid, a fisherman, a lighthouse and dolphins swimming, these became an added attraction to our 2007 exhibition.



*Lighthouse mural.*



*Andrew Bruce (14) as 'The Fisherman from Macduff'.*



*Andrew Bruce (14) as 'The very Bashful Mermaid of Banff'.*



*Dolphins Swimming.*

So its thanks again to Connie Fraser and her team of youngsters from 'Princes Trust Team 2' for all of their help – it's very much appreciated. A letter of thanks was sent and Stanley Bruce, Liam Sparke, and Nick Dolphin attended their show in the Macduff Arts Centre and it was very enjoyable indeed.

## 2007 Funding

We were in the fortunate position to receive funding from the following companies:

Shell UK - £300 donation.

DNV Energy Aberdeen - £350 donation.



*Stanley Bruce accepts a cheque from Bert Droy of DNV Energy.*

The Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association is an association solely run by volunteers and the running costs of the museum were dependant on the amount of local support, the number of visitors, and any donations, because in 2007 entry to the museum was free. Unlike other museums in Aberdeenshire we received no funding directly from Aberdeenshire Council and this leaves us at a considerable disadvantage. It became clear that any museum would struggle to survive without the support of the council. Going forward with the publication of our own literature will give us a niche in the market, and is the only way to become

sustainable in the future. The Association is now in the fortunate position due to our publications to have revenue coming in every month.

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## 2007 Poetry Competition

Early in 2007 we launched our first ever poetry competition and we received entries from many locals, England, and from as far away as Tasmania in Australia. Judging was carried out by Stanley Bruce, Jean Langham, and Rosemary Sanderson, and we all confirm it was quite a difficult task – much harder than we thought. Stewart Stevenson MSP came to award the prizes on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007; it was a very special occasion with two of the poets reciting their work. The winners were as follows:

### *Adult Category*

**1<sup>st</sup>** James D. Johnston from Portsoy with a Doric poem titled ‘The Fisherman’s Bairn’.

**2<sup>nd</sup>** E.J. Matyjaszek from the Isle of Wight with his poem titled ‘Seascape’.

**3<sup>rd</sup>** James Tawse from Portlethen with his poem titled ‘Fishing Hamlets’.

The prizes and trophies were paid for from the BMHA funds. We were then awarded a ‘Project Support Grant’ from the Banff and Buchan Arts Forum which was used to publish our poetry anthology titled ‘Coasting’.

**Winning Adult Poem**

**The Fisherman's Bairn (Doric)**

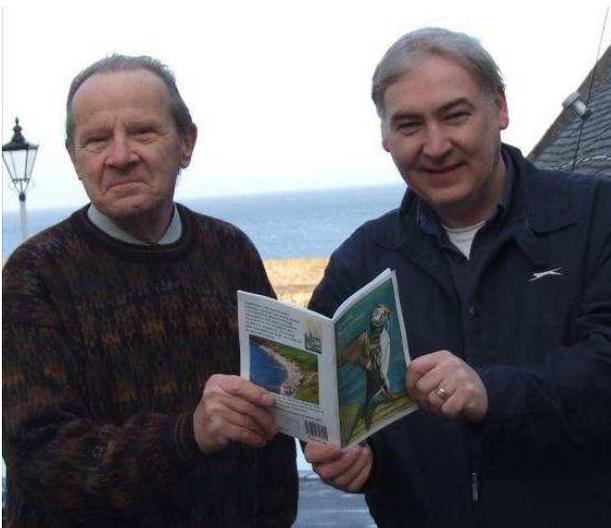
See the yalla meen, mither  
 it shines on ye and' me.  
 Is that the meen ma faither sees,  
 fin he is far at sea?

Hear the nicht win' blaw, mither,  
 that brings the mornin' rain.  
 Does that same win' fill faither's  
 sail  
 tae bring him hame again?

Ah ken he cares for ye mither,  
 an' that ye care fer me;  
 but wha tak's care o' faither,  
 fin he is far at sea?

Hush, lad. There's anither hand,  
 looks ower ye an' me,  
 an' ilka soul in ilka land,  
 an' faither on the sea.

***James D. Johnston, Portsoy.***



***James Johnston and Stanley  
 Bruce with the Coasting  
 Anthology December 2007.  
 (Photo by Andrew Bruce).***

***Under 18's Category***

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Violet MacDonald from Tasmania, Australia with her poem titled 'By The Sea'.  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** Sarah Ord from Banff with her poem titled 'Portrait of Sol'.  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** Violet MacDonald from Tasmania, Australia with her poem titled 'The Sea Man'.

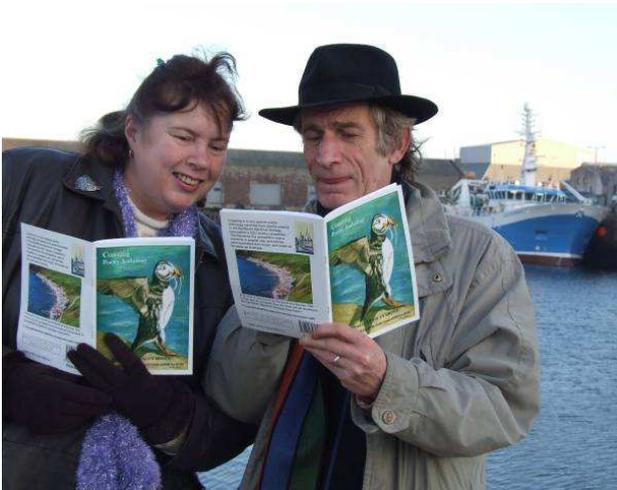
**Winning under 18's Poem**

**By The Sea**

When I was younger I lived by the  
 sea,  
 By the cliffs and the grass and the  
 sand,  
 And I sat on the beach watching  
 waves as they fell,  
 And crashed on the golden brown  
 land.  
 I'd walk on the crumbling sand  
 dunes,  
 And wince as the grass scratched  
 my skin,  
 And I'd search in the clear water  
 rock pools,  
 And watch as the crabs would  
 crawl in.  
 Sometimes when hot I'd go  
 swimming  
 In the waters of navy and green,  
 Then I'd turn and I'd see ripples,  
 In the places in which I had been.  
 When I went home when it got  
 late,  
 I'd wake in the dark of the night,  
 And I'd see through the blinds of  
 my window,

The lighthouse's bright shards of light.  
I used to collect shells and seaweed,  
Which stunk out my mother's wood shelf,  
And I once gave my brother some fish bait,  
Made from molluscs that I'd caught by myself.  
Now I'm older I live in the city,  
In a busy and diligent land,  
But always my favourite thing will remain,  
Watching waves rise and crash on the sand.

*Violet MacDonald age 13  
(Tasmania, Australia)*



*Rosemary Sanderson and John Mackie of BBAF December 2007.*

*(Photo by Stanley Bruce).*

*This photo appeared in the Banffshire Journal.*

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### **Oral Heritage Project**

During August 2007 an application was made to the ATP to purchase video recording equipment in order to facilitate this project and also

make a video of the Banffshire Coast; however the application was turned down with no explanation why. This was very disappointing since the recording of oral heritage had been discussed in the early days of the association prior to the formation of the current committee. This rejection played a part in the eventual closing of the museum – if this application had been successful the museum lease would probably have been extended for another year. Stanley Bruce therefore purchased a small digital voice recorder for use at his work but made it available for BHMA use. The poetry competition prize-giving was our first recording. Rosemary Sanderson then recorded an interview with Helen McKay for our herring lassies project. We should make an effort to record more people in particular the older generations. We could still do with a digital video recorder and this needs to be discussed at future committee meetings.

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### **Seed Swap**

A novel idea by Rosemary Sanderson to encourage locals to visit, and thereby putting the museum at the heart of the community, many locals benefited from the scheme and I'm sure there are quite a lot of local gardens also benefiting in the summer sunshine this year and for many more years.



*Seed Swap Poster.*

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### Website

It became clear in 2007 that if the Association was to obtain more visitors and have an outlet for selling publications a website was needed – this would open up the world market in particular Scots or Scot descendents overseas. An application was made to the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership (ATP) in November 2007. The application was however, rejected on the basis that we didn't have a business plan; this was very disappointing since many other applicants had received monies without a business plan. However thanks to the 'Web Historian' we have been given space free of charge for our own site which is currently being built by Stanley Bruce. The site will initially

provide information regarding the history of the Banffshire Harbours, the Association books, the herring lassies, and tools used by shipwrights and coopers. Keep an eye on [www.webhistorian.co.uk](http://www.webhistorian.co.uk).

When you enter the site click on 'Sites' at the top, then 'Regional' on the left-hand side, then click on 'Scotland', you will then see the 'Banffshire Maritime Heritage Association' when you open this click on BMHA Publications again on the left and you will see a page with our books which is live with the main site being live hopefully in August or September.

## Web Historian



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### Treasurer's View

During the 2006/2007 financial year we made a small profit of £400. This was entirely due to the sale of our own publications and calendars which raised more than we made on visitor and commercial donations for the year. Our hope is that, when we do finally find a new home for the museum, these commercial sales will allow us to remain afloat financially.

*Jean Langham BSc. B.B.S.*

## Publications

With a view to creating revenue it was decided to publish books. This started in 2007 with Stanley Bruce's 'Along the Coast - Cullen to Pennan' which proved popular with tourist and locals.

### *Along The Coast – Cullen to Pennan*

ISBN 978-0-9547960-4-4, A4 with 36 pages published March 2007.

A grant from the Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership (ATP) of £750 enabled the first print of 200 copies of this book which, during the summer of 2007, sold really well particularly with tourists, with many stating that it is the finest book ever written about the Banffshire coastline.



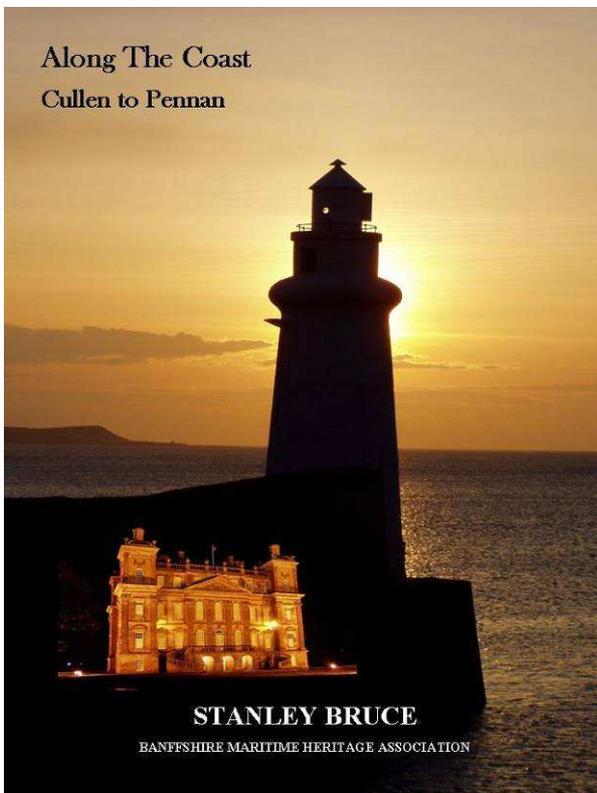
*Nick Dolphin and Rosemary Sanderson as seen in the Banffshire Journal 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007.*

Next Stanley Bruce printed and thermally bound a booklet he had earlier prepared for a presentation in Aberdeen to ex-shipyard workers of Hall Russell.

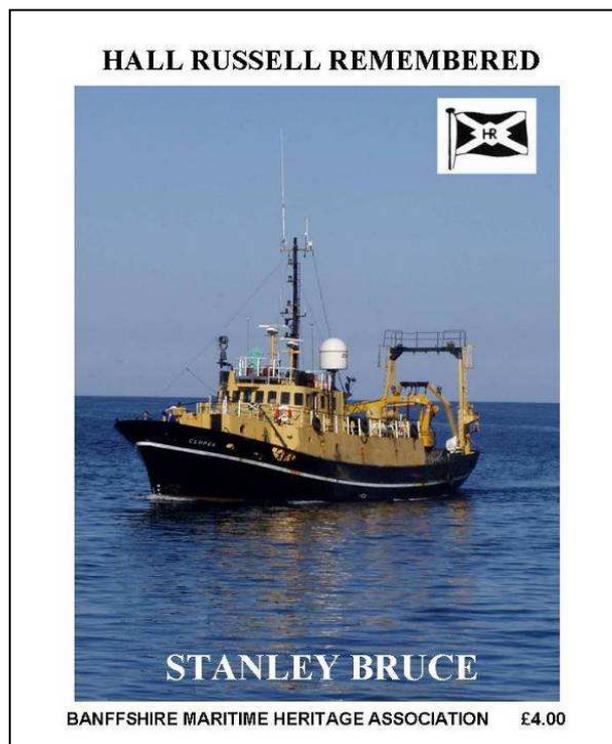
### *Hall Russell Remembered*

No ISBN, A4 with 36 pages.

Funding for this book was as follows – the thermal binders were bought by Stanley Bruce and the printing was carried out at DNV in Aberdeen all free of charge.



*Along The Coast – Cullen to Pennan.*



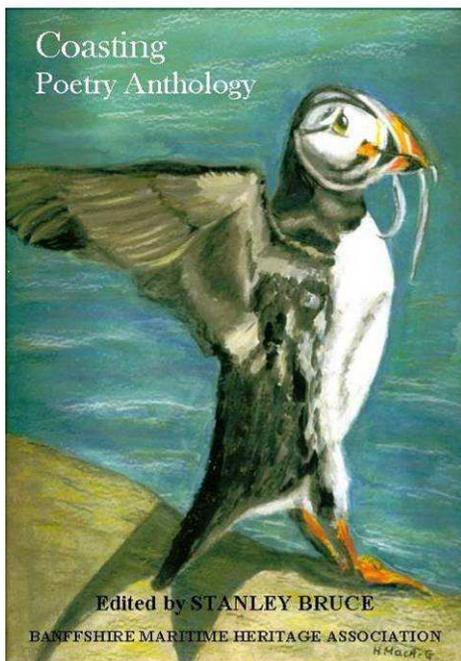
*Hall Russell Remembered.*

Next we published all of the entries from our 2007 poetry competition and gave it the title 'Coasting'. Funding for this book was received as a 'Project Support Grant' from the 'Banff and Buchan Arts Forum' (BBAF) this enabled 600 copies to be printed.

### ***Coasting***

ISBN 978-0-9547960-5-1, A5 with 36 pages, published December 2007.

This book contains work of local poets and some from England and as far away as Australia.



### ***Coasting Poetry Anthology.***

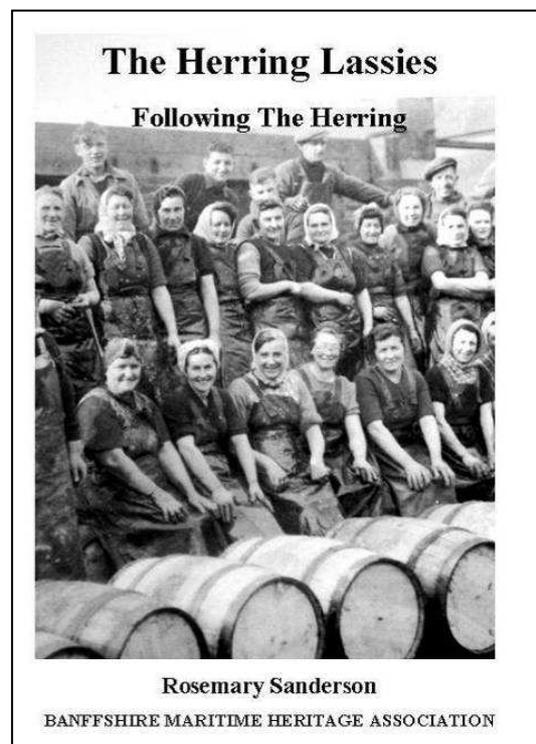
The next publication was 'The Herring Lassies – Following the Herring'. This book was inspired by a talk at Duff House early in 2007, Rosemary Sanderson took a great set of notes which Stanley Bruce typed up in a small booklet and added some of our photogaphs. This gave us a

booklet of around 28 pages – a lot of further research was carried out and Rosemary carried out an interview with a local ex herring lassie Helen McKay of Crovie and Macduff, this along with an interview of herring lassie Margaret Lovie from Whitehills carried out by Isobel Watt of Whitehills gave us a very worthy book of 56 pages.

### ***The Herring Lassies***

ISBN 978-0-9547960-6-8, A5 with 56 pages, published April 2008.

This book is so far our most popular publication, it's a shame it wasn't popular at the November 2007 ATP meeting when a grant to publish it was turned down by the ATP committee.



### ***The Herring Lassies.***

The Banffshire Journal ran an article about the book and the following photograph taken by

Stanley Bruce was published in the newspaper on Helen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, that was really special! Helen's son later got in touch with Stanley and Stanley forward him a digital copy of the photograph – he said he had something special in mind for his mother.



***Rosemary Sanderson and Helen McKay. (20 April 2008).***

The next book we published was a book titled 'Macduff Roll of Honour' originally published in 1919 by Macduff man George Forbes Dickson.



MR GEORGE FORBES DICKSON.

*George F Dickson,  
15.4.1920.*

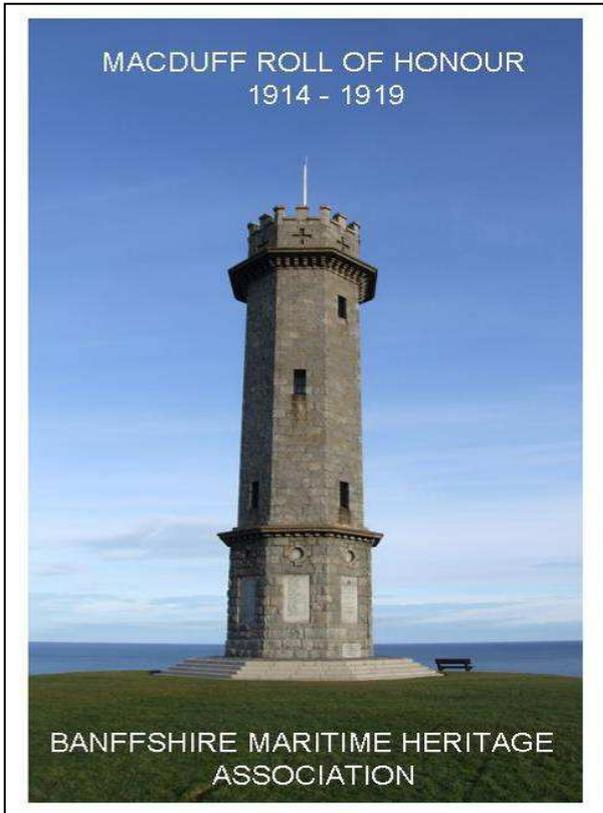
***George Forbes Dickson.***

Roger Lewendon received a loan of the book from Stanley West Macduff and thought it would be a good idea to republish it for the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice. George Dickson had a jewellers shop at 16 Duff St Macduff. George tried to enlist for WW1 but was rejected due to his very small build, so in his shop he kept lists of all the men from Macduff who served in the war, those who were injured, those who died, those who were awarded medals, and those taken prisoner. It was these lists that in 1919 became the 'Macduff Roll of Honour'.

***Macduff Roll of Honour***

ISBN 978-0-9547960-7-5, A5 with 84 pages, published June 2008.

The new book was updated to include 151 names; ten more than the original book. Colour photographs of medals were added and also information on them. A story 'Taken Prisoner' based on the writings of skipper George McKay from Macduff was also added along with several other minor changes. A plea for help with a 'William Lohr' whose name was in the original book but not on the war memorial came to nothing, however Mrs Scott of Old Gamrie Road, Macduff saw the article in the Press and Journal and donated her original copy of the book to the Association.

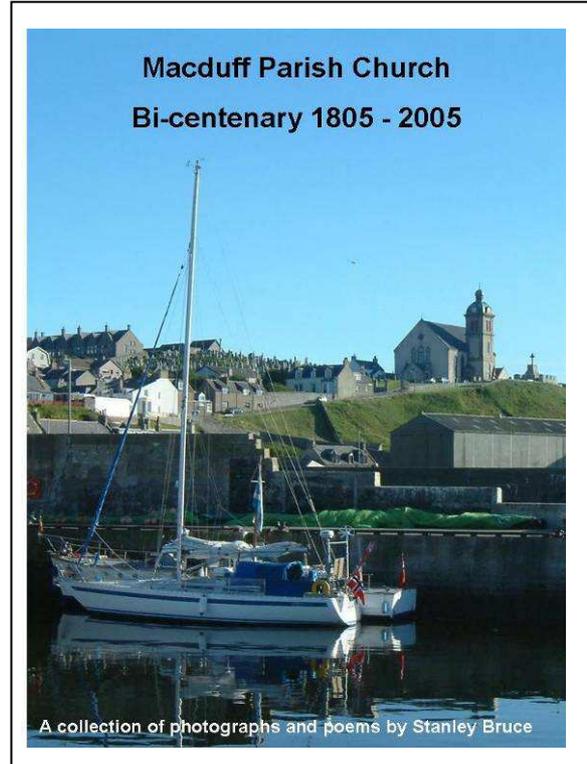


***Macduff Roll of Honour***

Another book of which we had a limited number of copies for sale was originally written by Stanley Bruce in 2005 and published on the internet at [www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com). Stanley however prepared an improved second edition which had additional photos and a new poem titled 'Thinking of You' dedicated to Margaret and the late John Mitchell from Macduff. Like 'Hall Russell Remembered' this was bound by Stanley and printed free of charge by DNV in Aberdeen.

***Macduff Parish Church Bi-centenary***

No ISBN, A4 with 28 pages.

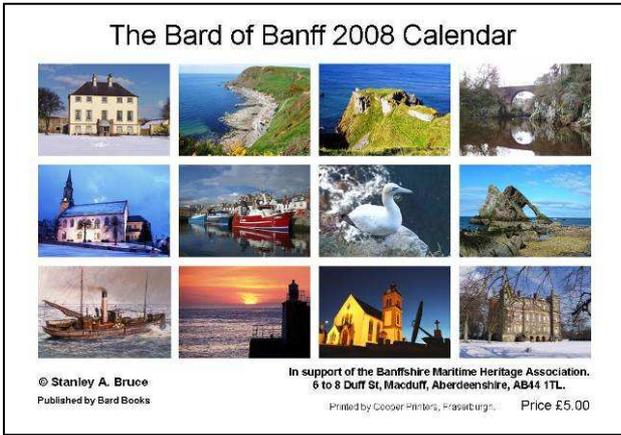


***Macduff Parish Church Bi-centenary 1805 - 2005.***

Last but certainly not least we had the 'Bard of Banff 2008 calendar' which was put together by Stanley Bruce using some of his vast collection of photographs of the Banffshire Coast, each page accompanied with a verse of his own poetry made this a very special calendar indeed. The month of March had a painting of a steam drifter by local professional marine artist Robert Andrew from Aberchirder. The calendar was sold out, and raised a considerable sum for the Association. James Gatt from Macduff reported that he sent one to his cousin in Canada and she absolutely loved it and couldn't put it down. Look out for the 2009 calendar nearer the end of the year.

degree in this subject and we hope he can come up with something special.

**Banff Silversmiths** – Banff had in the 19<sup>th</sup> century several silversmiths, however only a small leaflet available at Banff Museum has been written about them.



***Bard of Banff 2008 Calendar.***

Copies of all of our books can be bought at Chapter and Verse, 41 Low Street, Banff, AB45 1AU, tel 01261 812400, or by contacting Stanley Bruce on 07770 780232.

**Possible Future Publications**

***Banffshire Harbours*** – At the request of the ‘Banff Preservation and Heritage Society’ Stanley Bruce wrote nine pages about the herring fishing in Banff for their publication ‘The Book of Banff’ which is to be published later in 2008. It would be great for the Association to publish a small more affordable book around what Stanley Bruce has written, possibly extending the content on Banff and adding Macduff and possibly the other Banffshire Harbours.

***Antiquities of the NE and the Picts*** – In the North east we have a wealth of stone circles, Pictish symbol stones, cairns and various other items of antiquity. An affordable locally produced booklet could be another project. Neil Raffan a committee member has a



***Silver spoon by George Elder, Banff circa 1819.***

**Banffshire** – Several information panels were developed for the 2006 and 2007 exhibitions these could possibly be put together to form another book.

Rosemary Sanderson is currently researching another book about women at home, at work and during the war years. We look forward to hearing more about it and seeing it in print. We can sell these books locally and make some money, but the greater prize is to reach a wider audience and have these distributed worldwide. To do this we need a reputable distributor or have the titles taken up by a worldwide recognised publisher. ‘Along the Coast’ and ‘The Herring Lassies’ are two titles which could be worldwide sellers particularly in America and Australia.

### **Premises**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2007 the committee made a visit to the unused Bretheran Church Hall in Macduff. The church needed quite a lot of work and was much bigger than we needed and it was thought that it would be too costly for us to sustain. We then visited the Pavilion at Banff Castle but the floor was deemed unsafe, so we decided to manage without premises for a while. All the exhibits were either returned to their owners or put in storage at Macduff Shipyards. It was such a shame seeing the shop boarded up again but we really had no other option. Banff Castle Pavilion

After having 6 to 8 Duff Street, Macduff for 2006 and 2007 we were aware of how much it costs to run our own premises, 6 to 8 Duff St was costing approximately £5,000 p.a. and due to the limited local support and the limited number of visitors to the area this proved to be unsustainable long term without some other means of funding.

Stanley Bruce and Nick Dolphin attended a meeting at the Banff Springs where the 'Trinity and Alvah Church' on Banff's High Street was discussed. A trust may be formed, which may bring this building back to life. Stanley Bruce declared an interest and suggested an 'Open Day' so members of community groups

could have a look inside to see if it could be suitable for their use. Premises such as this could work for us if shared with other groups. This could include commercial uses such as a library, tourist information, offices for rent or some small shops and a cafe. It is such a fine looking building that it deserves a new life.



*Photo of the Trinity and Alvah Church, High Street, Banff.*

There are three other possible locations which have been discussed for our museum all in Banff.

One of the good things about opening up 6 to 8 Duff Street Macduff was that when the boards were removed from the windows it seemed to revitalise the bottom of the street. It would be great to do the same for the 'Trinity and Alvah Church'.



*6-8 Duff Street 8<sup>th</sup> October 2006.*

**Aims of the Association as per our Constitution**

- (1) To preserve and display artefacts and items of interest relating to the maritime heritage in the Banffshire coastal area.
- (2) To promote and raise awareness of the importance of our maritime heritage through exhibitions, events, lectures, demonstrations, and other relevant avenues.
- (3) To provide information, training or education relating to the maritime environment and heritage of the area.
- (4) To perpetuate the skills and craftsmanship of traditional boat building in theory and practice by practical demonstrations and education.
- (5) To preserve the practical skills of rope and net repair through demonstration and education.

**Current Committee Members**

Stanley Bruce	Chairman
Isobel Smollet	Vice-Chair
Jean Langham	Treasurer
Liam Sparke	Committee
Nick Dolphin	Committee
Roger Lewendon	Committee
Rosemary Sanderson	Committee
Neil Raffan	Committee

Currently we don't have a Secretary and it would be great to have this position filled, so if you're interested please get in touch.

*Early in 2008 we said goodbye to Denis Toner who served on the committee for approximately one year.*

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**Involvement with other Community Groups**

Of course our committee members are also volunteers in many other community groups and organisations as follows:

***Aberdeenshire Towns Partnership*** - Isobel Smollet & Nick Dolphin.

***Banff & Buchan Arts Forum*** – Stanley Bruce.

***Banff & Macduff Community Council*** – Isobel Smollet.

***Banff Castle*** – Isobel Smollet.

***Banff Museum*** – Rosemary Sanderson.

***Banff Preservation & Heritage Society*** – Stanley Bruce & Nick Dolphin.

***Cats Protection*** – Jean Langham.

***Community Safety Group*** – Nick Dolphin.

***Enable*** – Liam Sparke & Nick Dolphin.

***Methodist Church*** – Liam Sparke & Nick Dolphin.

***North Sea Yacht Race Shore Activities*** – Stanley Bruce.

***Portsoy Boat Festival*** – Liam Sparke.

***Red Cross*** – Roger Lewendon & Jean Langham.

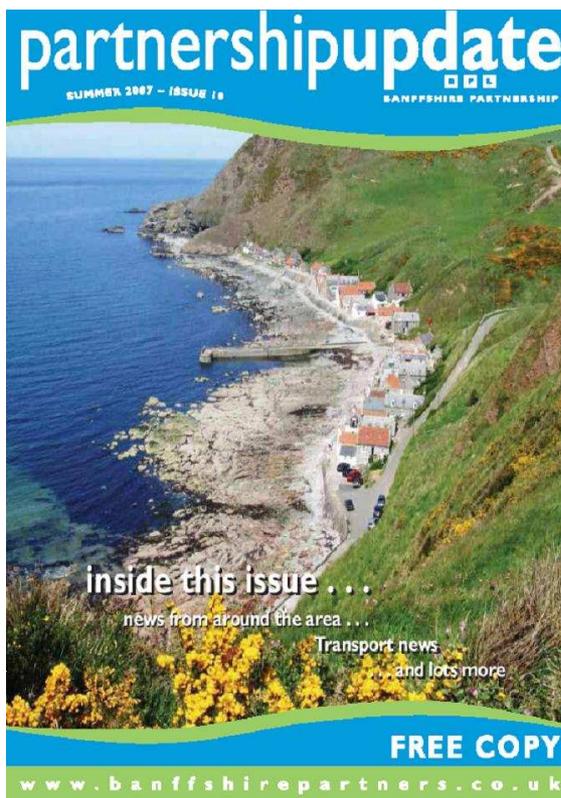
***Tenants and Residents Association*** – Jean Langham.

## Supporting Other Community Groups

The following community groups not mentioned earlier received support from the BMHA during 2007 as follows:

### *Banffshire Partnership Ltd*

BMHA info provided by Chairman Stanley Bruce to the Banffshire Partnership was included in a full page in their 'Summer 2007 Newsletter – issue 10'. The cover photograph by Stanley Bruce is one of the photographs we used for one of our postcards.



*BPL Summer 2007 Newsletter.*

### *Banffshire Coast / ATP*

Assistance was given to Allinhouse of Macduff by providing them with old and new photographs which were used for the new banners erected at Macduff Harbour.



*Macduff Harbour banners.*

### **Banff Methodist Church 2007 Art Exhibition**

Back in July 2007 Liam Sparke took a table at the Art Exhibition and sold framed photographs and books. It was at this exhibition where Stanley Bruce bought the Puffin painting which became the cover of our 'Coasting' poetry anthology.

Between December 2007 and July 2008 we made an effort to attend and support other community groups. This is something we couldn't do over the past two years due to our commitments with 6 to 8 Duff Street. In order to do this we purchased a gazebo and a folding sales table. The events we attended are as follows:

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**Volunteer Fair**

Held in the Banff Springs, Banff 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007. This event was organised basically as an effort to gain more volunteers for community groups from the public. Stanley Bruce and Rosemary Sanderson attended in the morning, and Jean Langham, Roger Lewendon, and Liam Sparke attended in the afternoon. Stanley Bruce prepared a revised version of the 'Herring Lassies' slideshow. The event was poorly attended by the public; however a lot of networking was going on between members of the community groups.



***Jean Langham and Rosemary Sanderson at the Volunteer Fair.***

**ATP Fair**

Held in St Mary's Church Hall, Banff 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The event was organised by the ATP to showcase all community groups who had received money from the Strategy Group. Most groups attended with the exception of Banffshire Coast which was very noticeable because they had been given a large display unit at the centre of the hall. We took shifts with Stanley Bruce and Michelle Bruce there in the morning, and Jean Langham, Roger Lewendon and Rosemary Sanderson in the afternoon. The attendance by the public was again poor and we only managed to sell four books.



***Jean Langham and Rosemary Sanderson at the ATP Fair.***

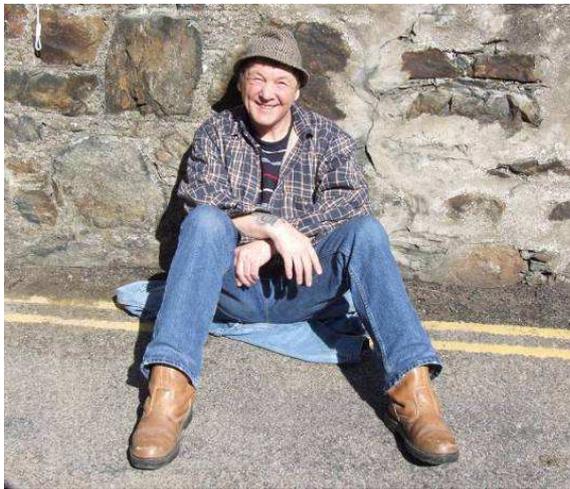
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**Visit Scotland Exhibition.**

Held 16 & 17 April 2008 at the AECC, Aberdeen. It was attended by Liam Sparke and Nick Dolphin who participated with members of the Portsoy Traditional Boat Festival. Liam demonstrated some of his net making skills.

## **Banff Marina Gala Day**

Held Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 – for this event we purchased a gazebo and a folding sales table. Stanley Bruce, Liam Sparke, Rosemary Sanderson, and Andrew Bruce were at our stall. We launched the ‘Herring Lassies’ book and Rosemary was on hand to sign copies. A total of 60 books were sold with the majority of these being the ‘Herring Lassies’ – the event was a considerable success for the Association.



*Liam Sparke having a break at Banff Marina Gala.*

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## **COAST Festival**

COAST festival of the arts was held in Banff and Macduff 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008 we discussed putting on some sort of display and ‘Banff Sailing Club’ offered their premises, but we decided against it. Stanley Bruce stepped in at Hudson’s Fringe Café organised by Banff and Buchan Arts Forum at the last minute when one of the entertainers didn’t turn up, Stanley

recited the winning poem ‘The Fisherman’s Bairn’ from our 2007 poetry competition and another six of his own poems including two from the Herring Lassies book.

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## **Portsoy Scottish Traditional Boat Festival**

Held 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008, we booked a stall and had a sales table for our books and a tom bola organised by Roger Lewendon. On the Saturday Stanley Bruce, Roger Lewendon and Andrew Bruce attended and it was a very nice day. Alex Salmond officially opened the ‘Salmon Bothy’ even though it wasn’t officially open – It was disappointing not to see inside it.



*Portsoy Salmon Bothy.*

The site we were given was a particularly poor one away from all the crowds; however we did manage to make some money. On the Sunday the weather was extremely poor and Roger Lewendon and Rosemary Sanderson gave up and went home at 12.00 noon. The weather was so poor the organisers were letting

people in for free. Should we consider going back next year we should first request the position of the stand before we part with our money.



*Roger and his tom bola at the Portsoy Boat Festival.*

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### **North Sea Yacht Race**

Our Maritime Exhibition for 2008 was timed to coincide with the 2008 yacht race (the 25<sup>th</sup> race). Stanley Bruce attended the NSYR shore-side events committee meetings. Only ten yachts entered the race this year due to the changes in the certification of sailors, many yachtsmen haven't fulfilled the new requirements so weren't in a position to enter the race. It was touch and go for a while whether the event would actually take place. Invitations to stall holders were sent out as for the preceding year; however fewer stall holders supported the event than last year perhaps because they didn't think many yachts were going to show. After the event the Banffshire Journal reported that "It

is disappointing that an international yachting event has found itself in such a dire situation". The article goes on to say "The Macduff event was a complete mystery to keen yachtsmen as near as Buckie." This yachtsman was obviously not one of the Banffshire Journal readers because there was quite a large advertisement about the race in the Banffie. The article also read "And it wasn't just on the water that things were quiet; shore-side, the atmosphere also had a distinctly subdued feel compared to previous years". However the article never mentioned that funding for this year was only £2,000 approx, previously the Yacht Race has had up to £12,000, so it's no wonder the shore side activities were less than before. And as far as I can remember the sum of £12,000 approx was provided to bring the race back to life for 2007 and many years in the future, however it may have been more a case of 'take the money and run'. To my mind it was a very special moment when the yachts sailed out of the harbour one after the other with the silver band playing. Another wonderful sight was the fifie sailing drifter built in 1890 the 'Isabella Fortuna' sailing out of the harbour – yet there was no mention of her in the Banffie.

## 2008 Exhibition

Our 2008 exhibition was held in Macduff Town Hall from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with the 25<sup>th</sup> North Sea Yacht Race. We organised a tea room and Liam Sparke, Jean Langham, Rosemary Sanderson, Roger Lewendon, and Nick Dolphin all attended a food hygiene course at the Banff and Buchan College Macduff centre, with all five of them passing the course. We had four themes for the exhibition and these were:

- 1) The Herring Lassies,
- 2) Macduff Roll of Honour for WW1,
- 3) Yacht art competition, and
- 4) Proposed Peter Anson Sculpture.



***2008 Maritime Exhibition Tea Room.***

Our exhibition and tea room including our sales table proved to be very popular with approximately 300 visitors, this number would have been even greater had the visitors known in advance about Rosemary Sanderson's wonderful home bakes which were selling like hot cakes – excuse the pun!



***2008 Exhibition Tea Room.***

*The Herring Lassies* display consisted of several old postcards and photographs of fishwives at work all along the coast of the UK. At the end of the exhibition these were given to Rosemary Sanderson for use in the Banff Museum.

*The Macduff Roll of Honour* book was launched and the display consisted of several WW1 photographs and information on the Macduff War Memorial. A large photograph of Stanley Bruce and Liam Sparke holding the original book and the new edition was in the Press and Journal 27<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

*The Yacht Art Competition* winning entries were on display and on the evening of Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June the children were all given their prizes and certificates by local professional marine artist Robert Andrew, and the winners were:



## Association Leaflets

With all of these events Stanley Bruce has become a dab-hand at putting together leaflets, producing three recently:

- 1) Volunteer Fair,
- 2) Macduff Roll of Honour, and
- 3) 2008 Exhibition.

The Herring Lassies volunteered and played their part in making the British herring fishery the finest in the world. Come and join us and together we can preserve what they and the fishermen did for future generations.




**BANFFSHIRE MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

The men of Macduff played their part in WW1 with 150 of them losing their lives. 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008 is 90 years since the armistice and we intend to republish a book written by George Forbes Dickson, and we need your help.




**BANFFSHIRE MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

Come along and see us and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee at the Macduff Town Hall during the 'North Sea Yacht Race'. We look forward to seeing you. Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> June to Sun 29<sup>th</sup> June.




**BANFFSHIRE MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION**

## Postcards

New for 2008 is our collection of sixteen 6x4 Banffshire postcards, the idea of postcards was discussed by the committee in 2007 but we

ran out of time getting them printed. This year we got a great deal from the printer meaning that we could sell these for 30p each. Many of these photographs appeared in our 2008 calendar. These are the cheapest postcards to be bought locally and a visitor remarked "They're much more colourful than the cards in the shops – it looks like the shops have been selling the same ones for years". The postcard shown below featuring a gannet at Troup Head was used with Stanley Bruce's permission by the Banffshire Journal in June 2008 on an article about the RSPB and Troup Head.



*Gannet at Troup Head.*

## The Banffshire Show

The show on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2008 was attended by Stanley Bruce, Roger Lewendon, Liam Sparke, Rosemary Sanderson, and Nick Dolphin. The gazebo was erected, books and postcards were sold, and a bottle stall was organised by Roger. The single malt whisky was won by a young disabled lad whose grandfather looked delighted.

People in the group from left to right:

Andrew Bruce (Banff), Liam Sparke (Banff), Filipe Alves (Maderia, Portugal), Helen Mitcheson (Whitley Bay), Marina Costa (Milan, Italy), Dale Edmondson (Gardenstown), Andres Fahlaman (Sweden), Annette McAllister (Banff), Angus McAllister on the pipes (Banff), David McAllister (Banff).



***Andrew Bruce, Nick Dolphin, and Roger Lewendon at the Banffshire Show.***

### **Piper Alpha**

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July Stanley Bruce, Liam Sparke and Andrew Bruce joined Angus McAllister, Annette Cassidy, David McAllister and a group from the ‘Cetacean Research and Rescue’ at Banff Harbour. The group gathered at the suggestion of Angus McAllister who wanted to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Piper Alpha disaster and he played his pipes in the Bay of Banff while Annette dropped twenty roses into the sea one for each year lapsed.



***Piper Alpha group at Banff Harbour.  
(Photos by S.Bruce).***

Two inflatable boats the ‘Orca II’ and the ‘Ketos’ sailed from Banff Harbour at 11.00am and returned at 12.30pm.



***Angus on the pipes on the Orca II.***



***Roses being dropped into the sea.***

## **Peter Anson Sculpture**

Peter Frederick Anson (1889 – 1975). Peter lived in Macduff from 1944 to 1958 he was a marine artist and writer of thirty-five books. Several other local towns have contemporary steel sculptures so it's time Macduff had one and what better a cause than this. Banff and Macduff Community Council are in agreement with the proposal subject to Aberdeenshire Council giving planning permission for its erection. The anchor in the artist's impression was donated by DNV Aberdeen and is currently temporarily sited in Duff Street Macduff.

Currently the steel bars have been donated by RDM Turriff, the herrings which are inside the net (not shown in the picture) have already been donated by Kelman Engineering Turriff, the drifter and top plate drawings have been given to Aberdeen Specialist Welding and Fabrication Services who have agreed to cut them for free. Alfred Cheyne Engineering has agreed to provide a welder to assist Stanley Bruce in welding the sculpture together. Galvanising costs have been discussed with Banff and Buchan Arts Forum however an application for funding is still to be submitted to them. So we look forward to see this idea coming to life hopefully sometime later this year.



***Proposed Peter Anson Sculpture,  
Union Road, Macduff.  
Artist's impression by Margaret  
MacKenzie, Aberdeen.***

## **Presentations**

***8<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – The Workers Education Association (WEA).***

Stanley Bruce and Rosemary Sanderson gave a presentation on the 'Herring Lassies – Following the Herring' at Banff Castle which was very well attended and received.

***2<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 – Banff and District Probus Club.***

Stanley Bruce gave a presentation on 'The Great North East Corner – The Coastline from Cullen to Collieston', at the Banff Springs Hotel which was also very well attended and received.

## ***Net Mending***

We talked about net mending during 2007 but our demonstration / course never got established. This should still be pursued in the future.

### **The Future**

The future of the association is financially assured in the short term and with revenue now being created we are currently financially stable. However a container and lofts full of artefacts is not satisfactory and efforts need to be made once again to have our own premises. From a financial point of view it would make sense to purchase our own premises thereby negating the need to pay rent. However if somewhere was to be found where the rent was very reasonable it could still be an option. Having premises means outlay and 6 to 8 Duff St cost approx £5,000 pa to run, items such as insurance at approx £1,200 would still need to be paid unless a cheaper option was found. I've heard of organisations getting together and buying insurance as a group, and this needs to be explored. That leaves rates, electric and general running costs all which need paid and without financial assistance from Aberdeenshire Council then it may not be achievable in the long term. Having our own premises also means extra commitment from the committee and questions will be asked such as "What happens if it all goes wrong?"

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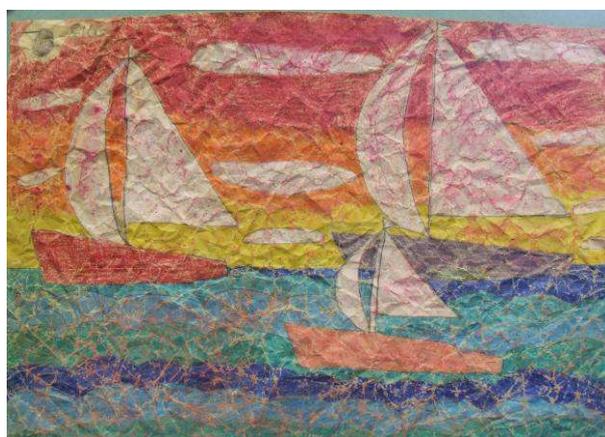
### **Charitable Status**

Currently we are run by volunteers as a charity but we aren't registered

as one, there are some advantages in being registered such as we would be in a better position to obtain funding since some organisations only give funding to registered charities. The registration form is a difficult one, however it's time to make an effort in getting it filled-in and submitted.

### **Business Plan**

At an ATP meeting in 2007 we were asked for our 'Business Plan', and because we didn't have a documented plan we were denied funding. This was very disappointing since most of the applications which had received funding to date had done so without having a business plan. We may have been denied the funding with our without a business plan, however a business plan for the year ahead and the next five years would have shown the group what we were trying to achieve. Therefore some sort of plan needs to be put together even if it's in a simple form in the first instance.



*Ellis Elrick P5 King Edward Primary – winning picture.*

## BMHA Annual Visit

It was suggested by Liam Sparke that the Association should organise an annual day trip, this could be to another fishing heritage centre or museum, or somewhere else, and any ideas are welcome.

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## Thanks

As the Chairman of the Association I'd like to thank the following people / companies for their help over the last year and a bit:

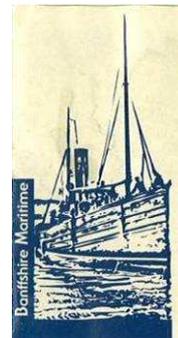
- ◆ All of our committee members and volunteers especially Rory Winter.
- ◆ Princes Trust Team 2.
- ◆ DNV Energy, Aberdeen.
- ◆ Shell UK.
- ◆ Banff and Buchan Arts Forum.
- ◆ RDM Turriff.
- ◆ Kelman Engineering, Turriff.
- ◆ Stewart Stevenson MSP.
- ◆ Robert Andrew – Marine Artist.
- ◆ Stanley West, Macduff.
- ◆ Mrs Scott, Old Gamrie Rd, Macduff.
- ◆ Chris Earl, Macduff.
- ◆ Henry Hollins, Macduff.
- ◆ Andrew Wilson, Macduff.
- ◆ Helen McKay, Macduff.
- ◆ Isobel Watt, Whitehills.
- ◆ All of our poets and artists.
- ◆ Alfred Cheyne Engineering.
- ◆ Press and Journal.
- ◆ Banffshire Journal.
- ◆ Macduff Shipyards.
- ◆ Gordon Stephen at [www.webhistorian.co.uk](http://www.webhistorian.co.uk)
- ◆ Margaret Mackenzie, Aberdeen.

- ◆ Aberdeen Specialist Welding and Fabrication Services, Dyce.
  - ◆ James Gatt, Macduff.
  - ◆ Andrew Bruce, Banff.
  - ◆ Alastair McIntyre at [www.electricscotland.com](http://www.electricscotland.com)
  - ◆ Chapter and Verse, Bookshop, Low St, Banff.
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## To Close

So that's our first ever issue of the 'Nautical News' I do hope you enjoyed it as much as I did reminiscing as I put it together. It was great to reflect on the last year and four months; we made the news on several occasions of which I'm sure the local journalists are all very grateful.

A' the best,  
*Stanley Bruce,*  
*BSc; I. Eng, MIMarEST.*  
*Chairman.*



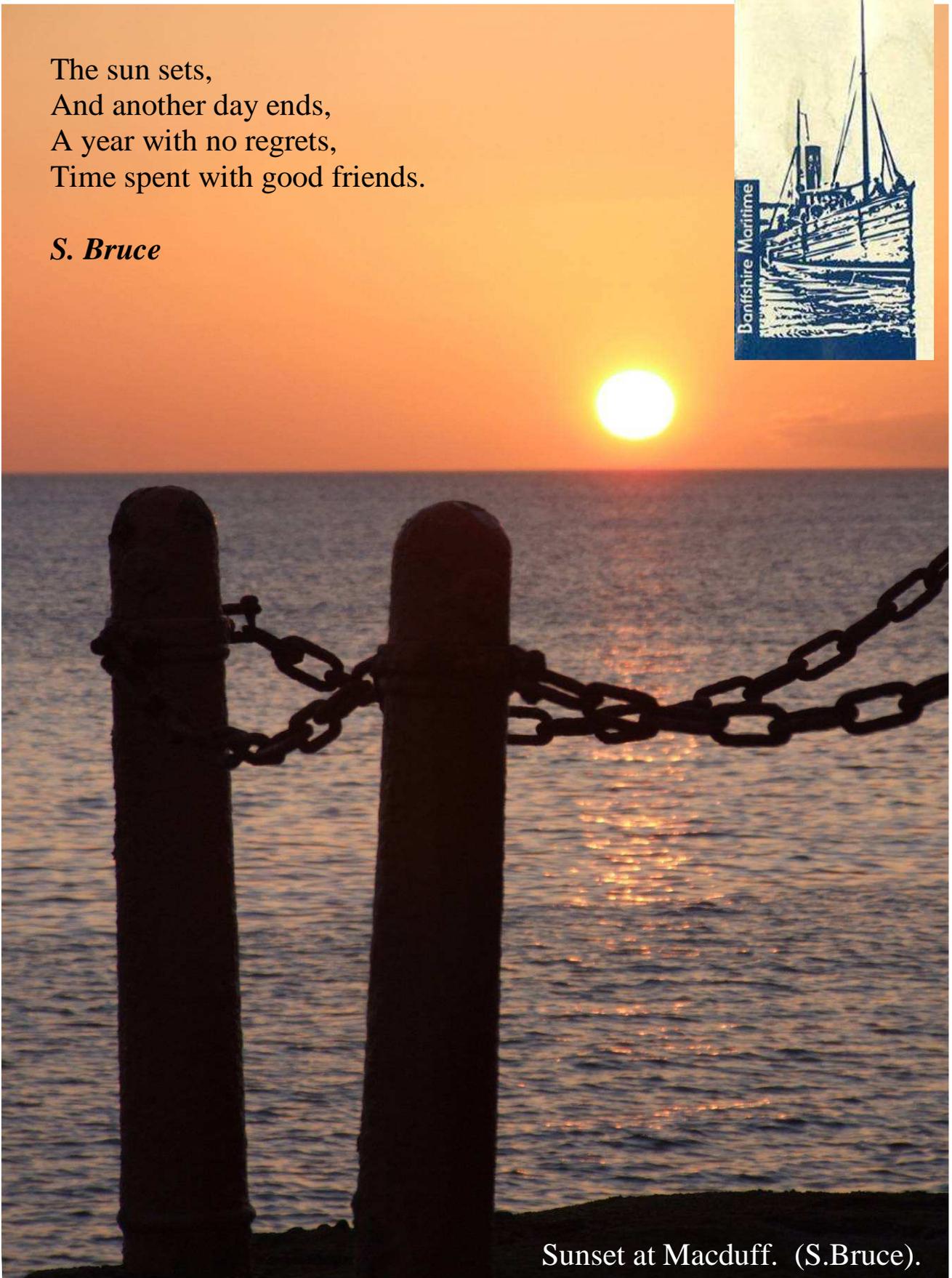
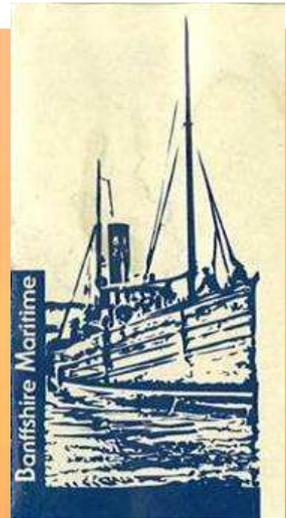
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The sun sets,  
And another day ends,  
A year with no regrets,  
Time spent with good friends.

*S. Bruce*



Sunset at Macduff. (S.Bruce).

**BANFFSHIRE MARITIME HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.**

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