



# Nautical News



Newsletter of the Banffshire Maritime and Heritage Association.  
2013 - Issue 6. October 2013. Registered Charity No. SCO40505.



*BF 300 'MINT' as she was in her heyday. (Photographer unknown).*

## **View from the Chair**

Hello, and welcome to our 6<sup>th</sup> annual newsletter. This year we have now printed a 4<sup>th</sup> volume in our popular 'Along the Coast' series of books; this volume stretches from St. Fergus to the Bridge of Don. We have also completed the 4<sup>th</sup> book in our illustrated 'Through the Years' series for Banff, this compliments the Macduff, Fraserburgh, and Whitehills books. The Banff book is actually 4 small volumes all priced at £5.00 each. We intend to print the 1<sup>st</sup>

volume before Christmas 2013. The proceeds from volume 1 will then be used to print volume 2 & so on. We did apply for a grant from Aberdeenshire Council's 'Be Part of the Picture' fund to print these books, but our application was unsuccessful.

During the year we have discussed the possibility of returning the wooden hulled BF300 'MINT', which was built in Banff, back to Banff or Macduff. The boat is currently lying on the shore on the Isle of Mull. The owner of the boat however hasn't

advised whether or not this could be possible.

Sadly since our last newsletter we have seen the loss of our local bookshop Chapter & Verse, this leaves us without a major outlet locally, something we need to address.

Last year members organised a 'Charities Together Christmas Fair' which was held in the BB Hall, Seafield Street, Banff, this was a success and the same will be held again this year on a Saturday early December. During the year we have donated a cup to Banff Academy for the best history student, and in partnership with the Clan Macpherson Association erected a plaque commemorating the hanging of

'James Macpherson the Highland Freebooter' in 1700 outside the Broken Fiddle Cafe.

We sincerely hope you find our newsletter interesting, and if you want to be part of it, come along to the Buchan Street Hall, Macduff the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and join us. We look forward to any new volunteers, especially ones with new ideas and the enthusiasm to bring them to life.

Lastly we give a big thanks to whoever repaired our Peter Anson information panel at the maritime garden, which had been vandalised.

*Stanley Bruce, BSc, I.MarEng, MIMarEST, Chairman.*

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### **BF300 'MINT'.**

We received an e-mail with the following photographs from Douglas Hope advising the Association of the 'Mint' lying on the Isle of Mull. We understand that she was built in Banff and had Portsoy owners, so we discussed the possibility of bringing her back to Banff or Macduff.

After some investigations we found:

- She is not on the receiver of wrecks list.
- Exactly where she is lying.
- Information from the local harbour master regarding her condition.
- Name and address of the man who currently owns her.

We have since written to the owner, but have not had a reply.

The local harbour master told us the boat has been sitting at this location for about 20 years and she does not rise with the tide. This was a disappointing piece of information, because she may be past the point of saving. Alfie Cheyne of ACE Winches kindly offered space in his yard at Towie Barclay for temporary storage of the boat should we become in a position to bring her back.



*'MINT' plus two other boats lying on the Isle of Mull. (Douglas Hope).*



*'MINT' plus two other boats lying on the Isle of Mull. (Douglas Hope).*

## Treasurer's View

This year we have made a small profit of approx. £270, compared with a loss last year. We have endowed erected a plaque to J. Macpherson and annual history prize. The association held a Xmas Sale which was profitable & included other charities, we will make this an annual event.

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

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## Funding

During the last year Sept 2012 to Sept 2013 we received no external financial funding; although we did apply for a grant from the Aberdeenshire Council 'BE PART OF THE PICTURE' fund, which was unsuccessful.

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## Web Historian



[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 you will see on the left-hand side a large column with a big list of page titles of local interest.

## BMHA Website



[www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk](http://www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk)

We hope the new look website helps visitors with its ease on navigation and new features. A lot more content is planned for the site and there are exciting months ahead as we continue to attract record numbers of visitors. The site now has information regarding:

- Banffshire Harbours.
- Boat Builders.
- Net Mendin'.
- Fishing Boats.
- Fishers at War.
- Fishermen.
- Scots Harbour Barometers
- Tales of Catfoss Mick
- Local Fishing Songs.
- Restoration Project.
- Caller Herrin' (1947).
- Presentations.
- Famous Folks
- Peter Anson.
- Following the Herring.
- Vintage Postcards.
- Bothy Ballads.
- Newsletters.
- Shop.

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## Banff Academy Best History Student

From our book sale funds we purchased a cup which was donated to Banff Academy for presentation to the best history student of the year.

## James Macpherson the Highland Freebooter

James Macpherson the Highland Freebooter aged 25 was hanged in Banff 16<sup>th</sup> November 1700. Legend tells us that a reprieve was on its way, but laird Braco put the clock in Banff forward to ensure he was hanged. Macpherson is said to have written a tune titled 'Macpherson's Rant' (Lament or Farewell) while in the Tolbooth, this he played on his fiddle as his last request. After finishing his tune, he asked the crowd if anyone wanted his fiddle, but the crowd were all too scared of laird Braco, so no one asked for it. With no taker's Macpherson broke it over his knee. He was then hanged. His huge two-handed sword is said to have been kept by laird Braco, and it was later said to have been kept in the armoury at Duff House, however today its whereabouts is unknown. We made a replica, of the sword and it is currently on loan to the Clan Macpherson Museum in Newtonmore. 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in association with Clan Macpherson Association (CMA) we erected a plaque on the outside wall of the Broken Fiddle Cafe on the Strait Path. A short ceremony was held and a fine serving of teas / cakes were very much enjoyed inside.



*Stan Bruce (BMHA) and John MacPherson (CMA).*



*Mural painted by John Stewart of Portsoy, inside the Broken Fiddle Cafe, Strait Path, Banff.*



*James Macpherson Plaque. (A. Bruce).*

## **Bodie Fountain**

The Bodie Fountain is now sitting at the bottom of Crook o' Ness Street, however this is not the original location. The fountain has been sited in 4 places now. Its original location is as per the photograph shown. This was at the harbour at the bottom of Duff Street. It was secondly located still at the harbour, but a little further east. Thirdly it was reposition about halfway up Duff Street. It was moved to its 4<sup>th</sup> site at a cost of £15,000. See our very popular publication **MACDUFF THROUGH THE YEARS** for photographs of the fountains 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> locations.



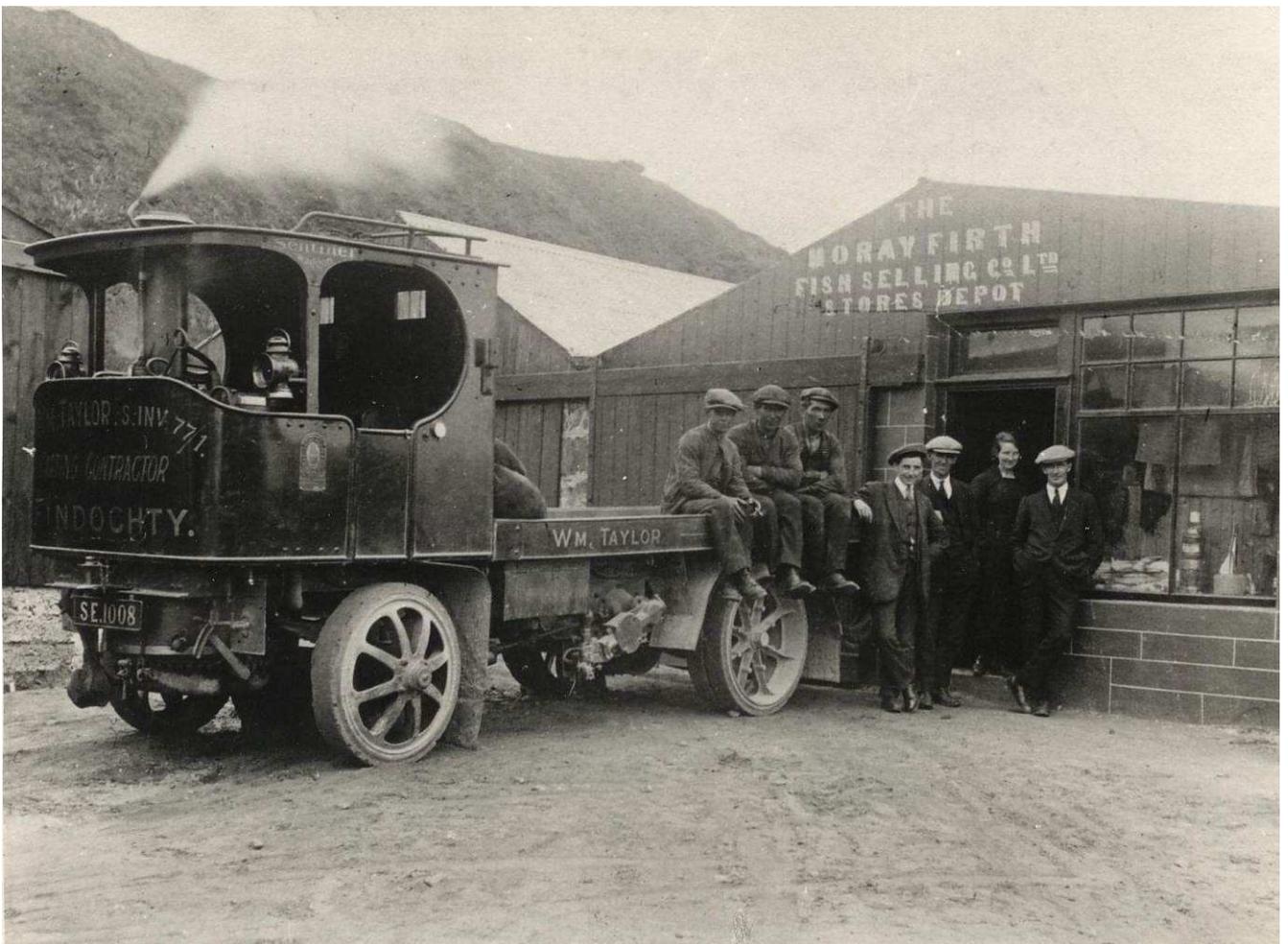
*Bodie Fountain in its original position at Macduff Harbour.*

## **BBC Radio Scotland.**

We have been contacted by BBC Radio Scotland and given assistance regarding a programme they are putting together about women working in the herring fishing, which they intend to present sometime in November 2013. Although we won't be talking on it, it should still be interesting, so keep an eye out for it.

## **2013 Calendar**

For 2013 we thought we would do a calendar with old photographs, thinking this would be of great interest locally. But, to our disappointment we made a loss on it. Feedback is that folk didnae like the black and white photos. On the calendar we made a request for folks to send in any old photos for use in any future calendar. The response to this was also somewhat disappointing, however we did receive two old photos from Alfie Cheyne at ACE Winches, one of which we have included in this newsletter. Thanks for your support Alfie, and it's a well done from us for your awesome new works at Towie Barclay.

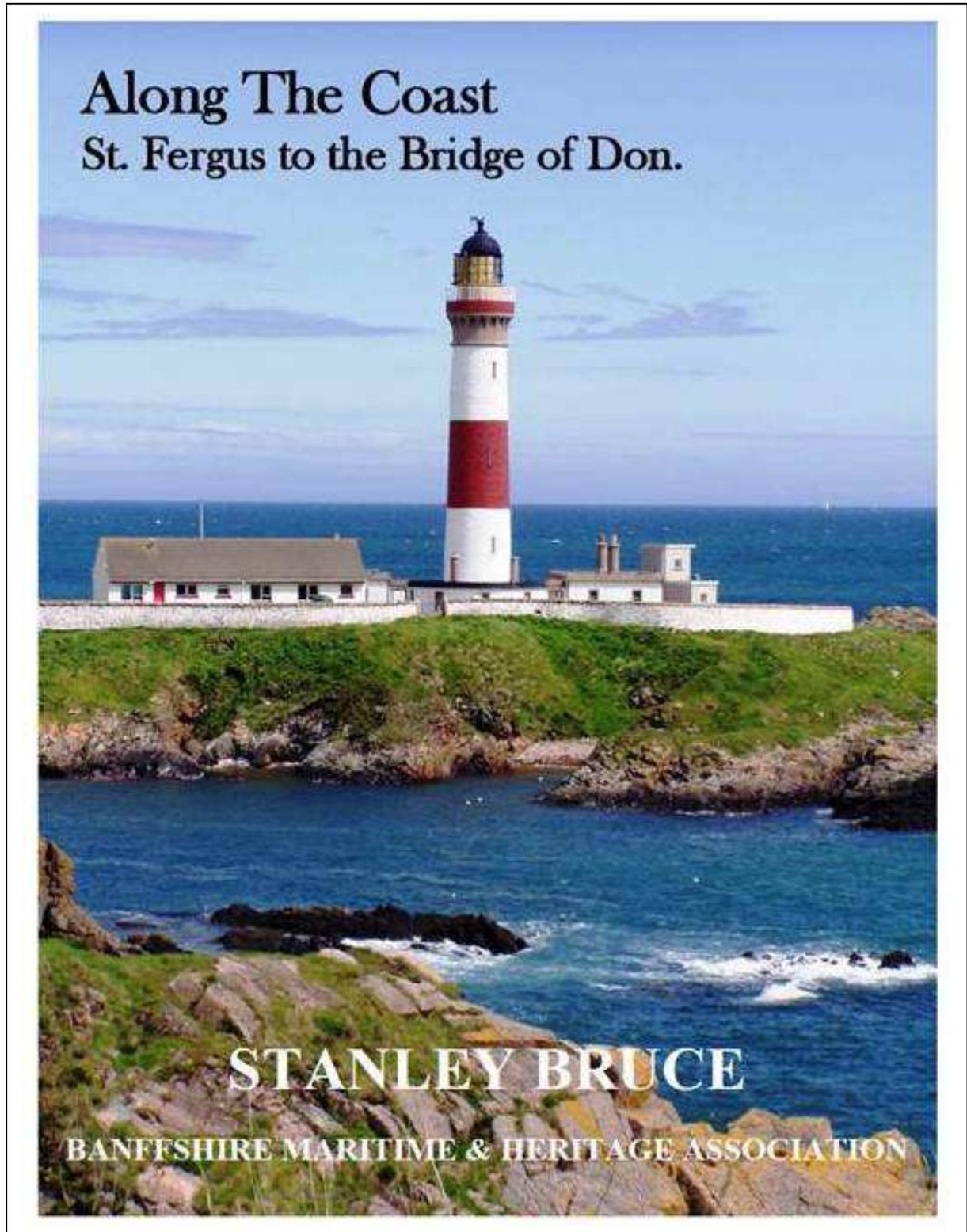


*Steam driven lorry at the Moray Firth Fish Selling Co. Ltd.  
(Photo courtesy of Alfie Cheyne, ACE Winches).*

**New Publication.**

***Along The Coast – St. Fergus to the Bridge of Don.***

Along the Coast from St. Fergus to the Bridge of Don is the fourth book of this very popular series; and once again we have a guide to the heritage of the most interesting places. All of the beautiful spots and interesting places, collected in the finest book ever produced for this stretch of Scotland's northeast coast. ISBN 978-1-907234-10-1. A5 with 64 colour pages. Cost £6.00.



## BANFF THROUGH THE YEARS

We have completed our research into the history of Banff, and will soon be publishing four volumes priced at £5.00 each as follows:

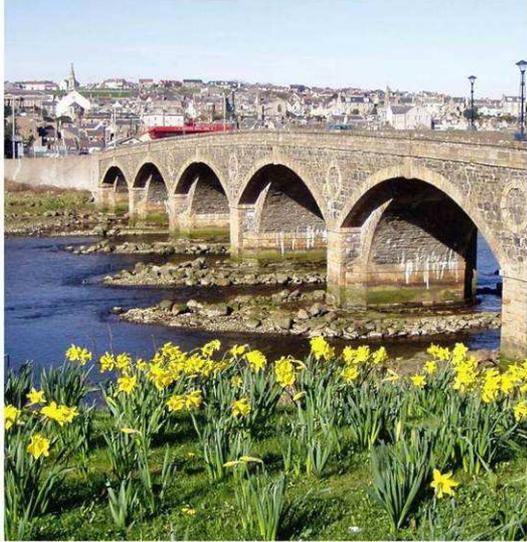
**Banff Through the Years**  
An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh.  
Volume 1 – Up to 1699.



**STANLEY BRUCE**  
BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

ISBN 978-1-907234-12-5.

**Banff Through the Years**  
An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh.  
Volume 2 – 18<sup>th</sup> Century.



**STANLEY BRUCE**  
BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

ISBN 978-1-907234-13-2.

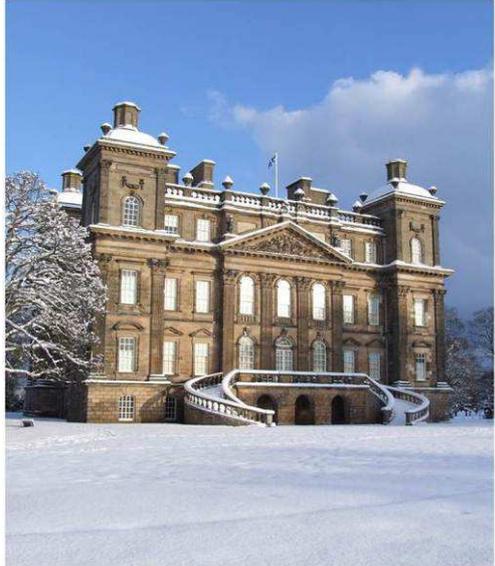
**Banff Through the Years**  
An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh.  
Volume 3 – 19<sup>th</sup> Century.



**STANLEY BRUCE**  
BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

ISBN 978-1-907234-14-9.

**Banff Through the Years**  
An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh.  
Volume 4 – 20<sup>th</sup> Century.



**STANLEY BRUCE**  
BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

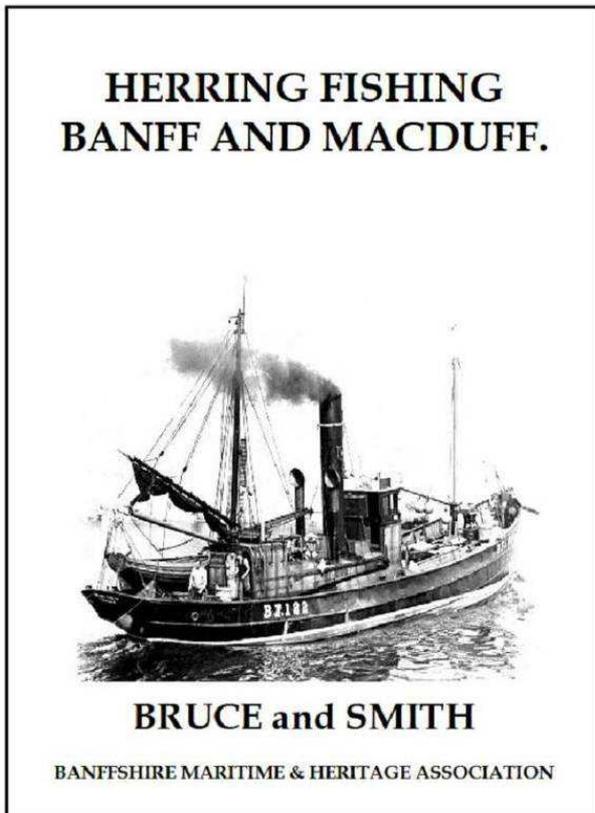
ISBN 978-1-907234-15-6.

## Publications

Our books are available direct from us by contacting us at [banffshiremaritime@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:banffshiremaritime@yahoo.co.uk) or through our website. We do intend to sell them soon on Amazon. Our 'Along the Coast' series of books have their own digital editions which can be downloaded from Amazon for your Kindle for only £1.50 per copy.

### *Herring Fishing – Banff and Macduff.*

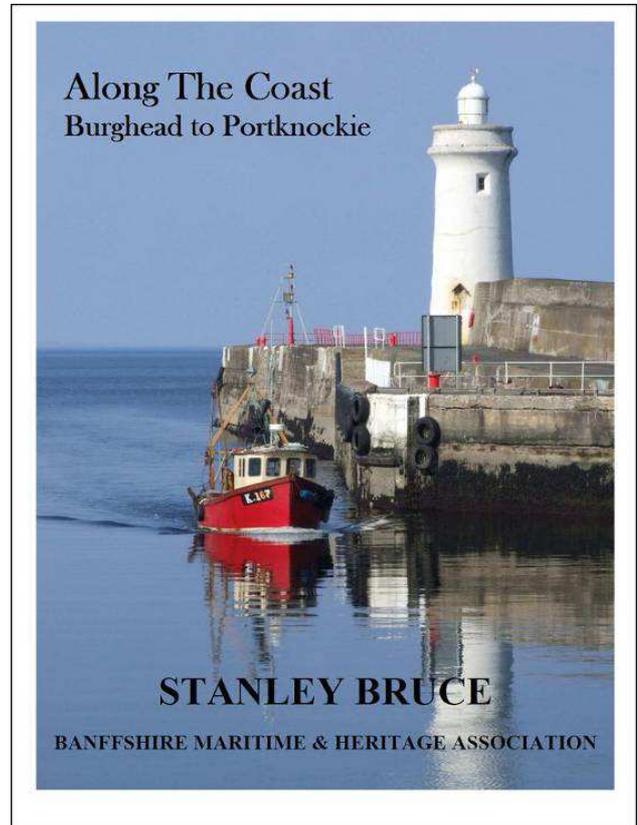
ISBN 978-1-907234-06-4, A5 with 76 pages, published 2011. This book contains photos never seen before and information extracted from the local fisheries officer's late 19<sup>th</sup> century book.



*Herring Fishing – Banff and Macduff.*

### *Along the Coast – Burghead to Portknockie.*

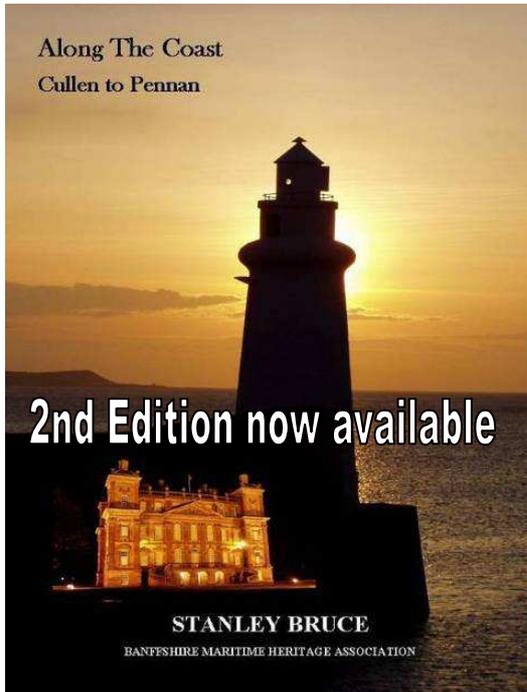
ISBN 978-1-907234-09-5, A5 with 60 colour pages, published 2010. This is our 3<sup>rd</sup> volume of this popular series.



*Along the Coast – Burghead to Portknockie.*

### *Along The Coast – Cullen to Pennan (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).*

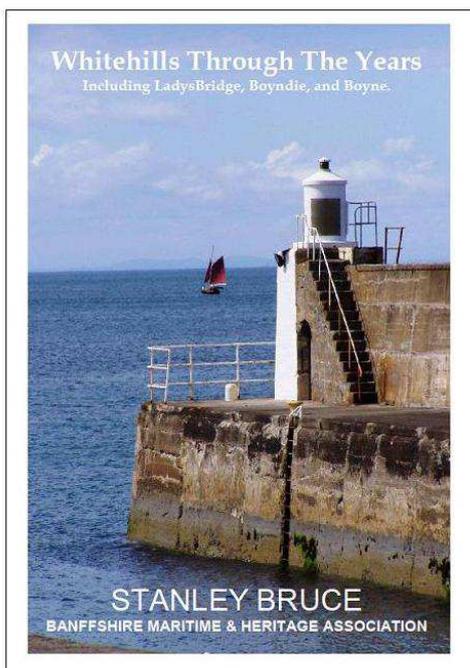
ISBN 978-1-907234-08-8, A5 with 60 colour pages, published 2010, and first published 2007, price £6.00. A reader stated that “*This is the finest book ever written about the Banffshire coastline*”. The first edition is now **sold out**. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition is now available.



*Along The Coast – Cullen to Pennan.*

***Whitehills Through the Years.***

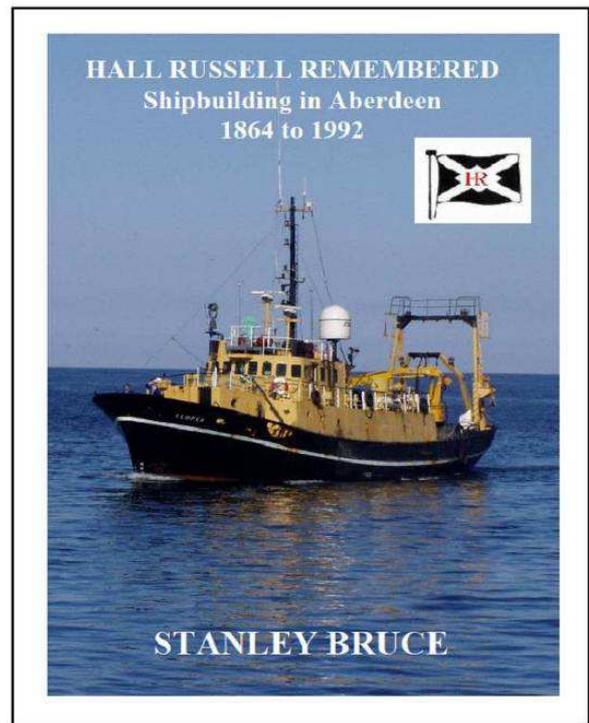
ISBN 978-1-907234-04-0, A5 with 88 pages, published July 2010. This book is the 3<sup>rd</sup> volume in this series, following the success of the Macduff and Fraserburgh books. For such a small village, Whitehills sure has a rich history. Price £6.00.



*Whitehills Through the Years.*

***Hall Russell Remembered – Shipbuilding in Aberdeen 1864 to 1992. (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition).***

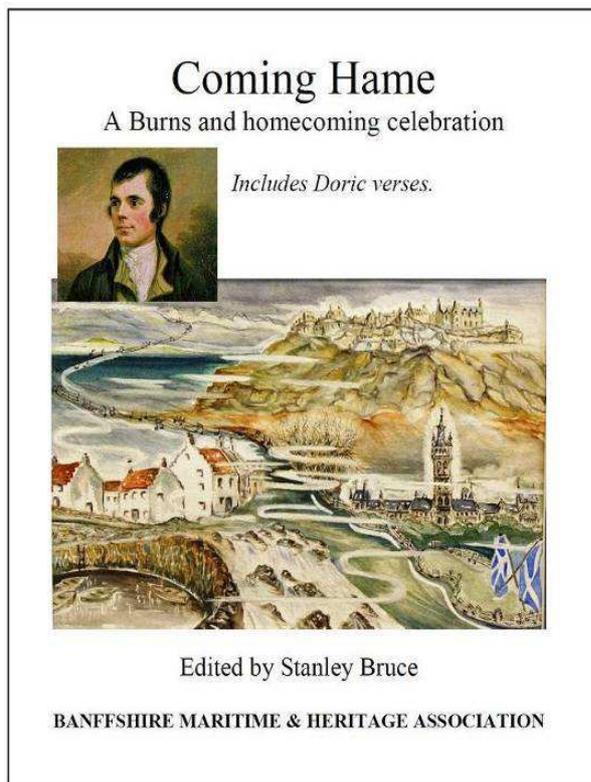
ISBN 978-1-907234-022-6, A5 with 56 pages, published 2009. This book is fully illustrated and has a good selection of the 1,000 ships built by Hall Russell. Price £5.00.



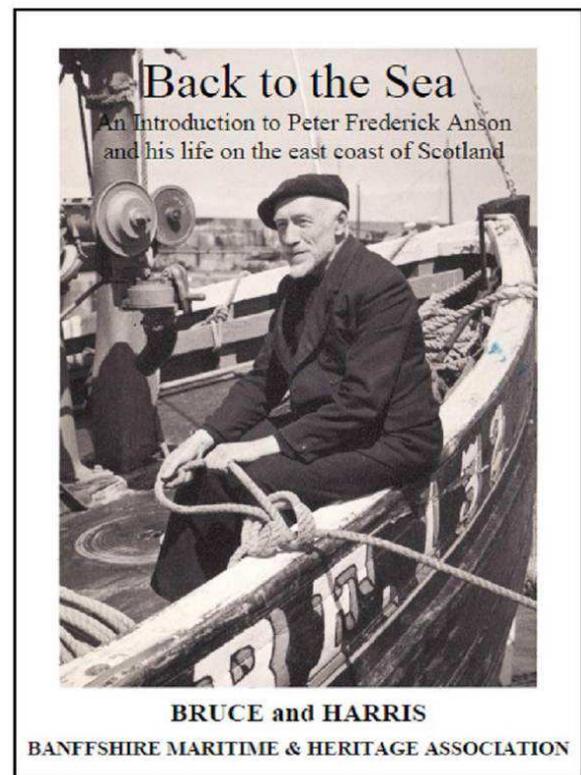
*Hall Russell Remembered.*

***Coming Home.***

ISBN 978-1-907234-01-9 A5 with 52 pages. This is our 2<sup>nd</sup> poetry anthology, but this one has a difference it includes our 2009 poetry competition poems complimented with the best of our 2009 painting competition entries, with the winning painting on the cover. Price £5.00.



*Coming Hame.*



*Back to the Sea.*

***Back to the Sea – An introduction to Peter Frederick Anson and his life in the east coast of Scotland.***

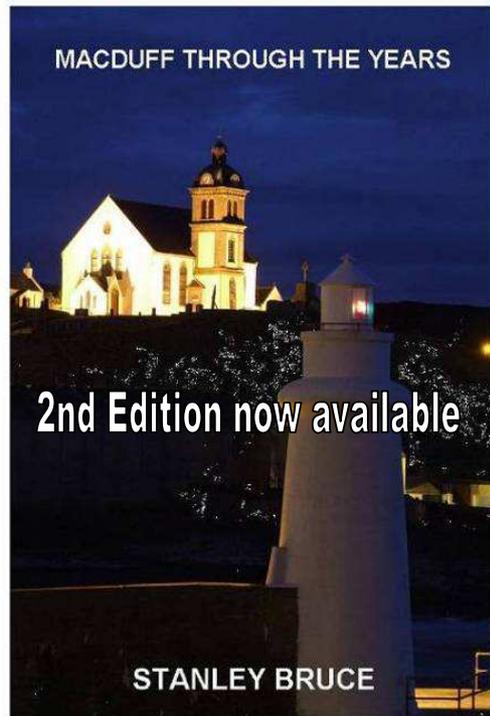
ISBN 978-1-907234-00-2, A5 with 60 pages, fully illustrated with some colour, published June 2009, price £6.00. This book gives you an insight into the life of marine artist and writer Peter Anson (1889 to 1975). Peter spent a large part of his life on the Scottish east coast, including twenty years in Banffshire. Many of the older locals remember him, but he is relatively unknown to the younger generations, this book serves to correct this and make Peter known to a much wider audience.

***Along the Coast – Pennan to St. Fergus.***

ISBN 978 0-9547960-9-9, A5 with 48 pages, published May 2009, price £5.00. This is the second book in our 'Along the Coast' series and guides you along this stretch of coast, giving you historical information along the way. You will find out about our local heritage – things you would miss without the book. **Now SOLD OUT.** We intend to reprint this book sometime in the future.



*Along the Coast – Penman to St. Fergus.*



*Macduff Through The Years.*

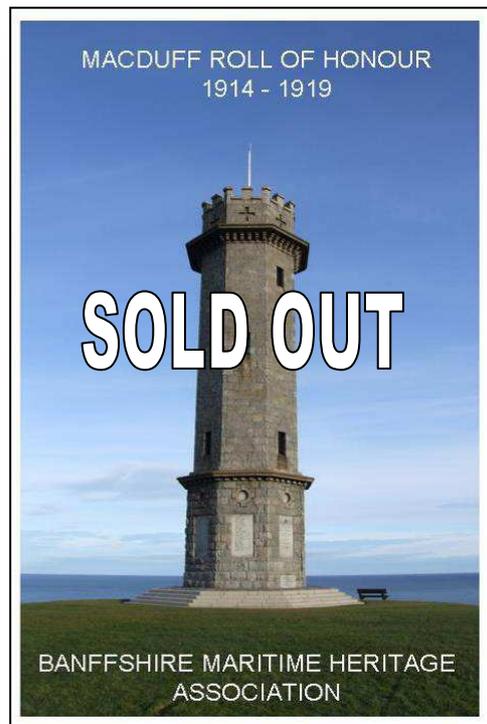
***Macduff Through The Years.***

ISBN 978-0-9547960-8-2, A5 with 76 pages, published October 2008, price £6.00. This wonderful book tells the history of Macduff on a timeline. Described as a ‘Potted History’ by the Press and Journal, and that is exactly what it is a straight to the point historical view of the town, a must for every visitor or local.

***Macduff Roll of Honour.***

ISBN 978-0-9547960-7-5, A5 with 84 pages, published June 2008, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, price £6.00. **SOLD OUT.**

We have discovered why William Lohr, who was in Forbes’ WW1 Roll of Honour for Macduff is not on the War Memorial. Reason is he died in an accident in India before he had enlisted in the Indian Army. He is buried in Doune Cemetery.

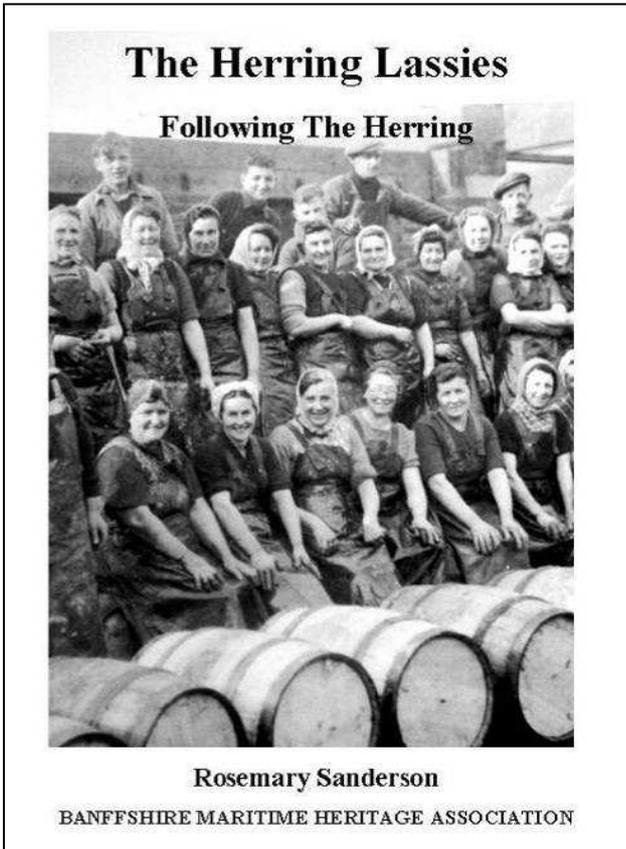


*Macduff Roll of Honour 1914 -1919.*

Painted by Hazel Gerrard-MacAngus from Keith, Banffshire.

***The Herring Lassies.***

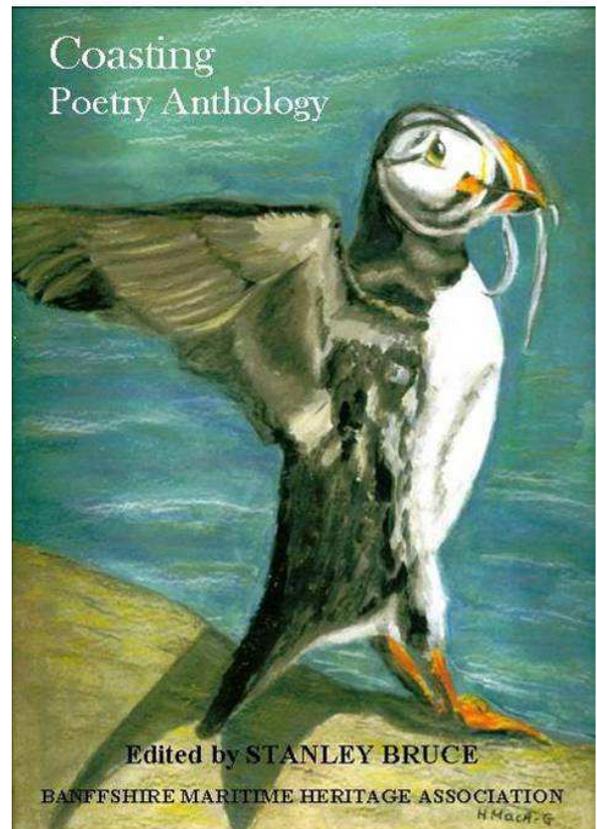
ISBN 978-0-9547960-6-8, A5 with 56 pages, published 2008, price £5.00. This book is to date our **most popular publication**, and was reprinted in 2010 and 2011.



*The Herring Lassies – Following the Herring.*

***Coasting.***

ISBN 978-0-9547960-5-1, A5 with 36 pages, published 2007, price £3.99. This book contains work of local poets, and others from England, and as far away as Australia. The publication of this book was supported by the Banff and Buchan Arts Forum. Many people have bought the book simply for the beautiful painting of the puffin on the front cover



*Coasting Poetry Anthology.*

***Macduff Parish Church Bicentenary 1805 to 2005.***

No ISBN, A4 with 28 colour pages, price £4.00. All printed copies are **sold out.**

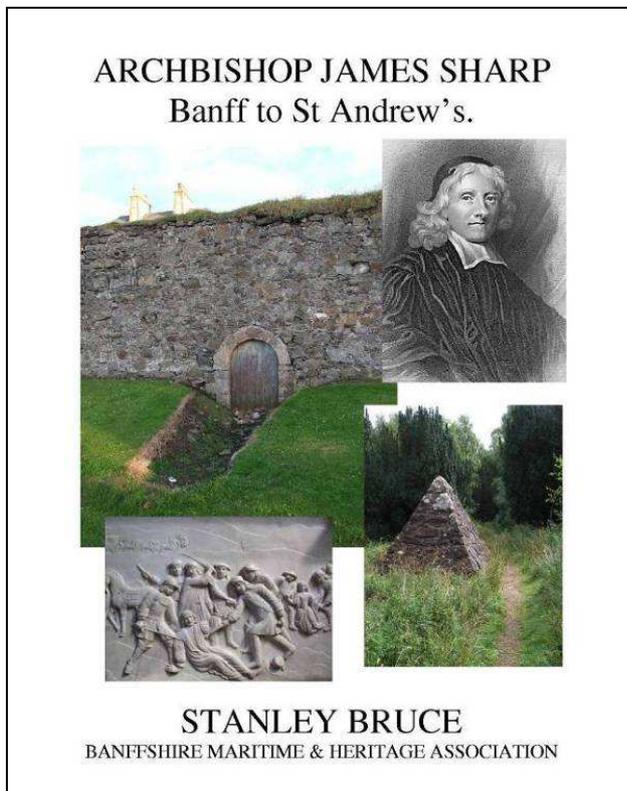
All of our books are considered rare by collectors due to the relatively small prints compared to the large publishers, and many of them sell second-hand for around £20 each. So, when you buy one of our books you not only learn about our local heritage, it's also an investment!

### Future Publications

In our first newsletter back in 2008, we listed some possible future publications, many of which have since been published. Here in this issue we list the publications which we have commenced to write, and show where possible our proposed titles and covers (*Which may change*).

#### 1) *Archbishop James Sharp - Banff to St. Andrew's.*

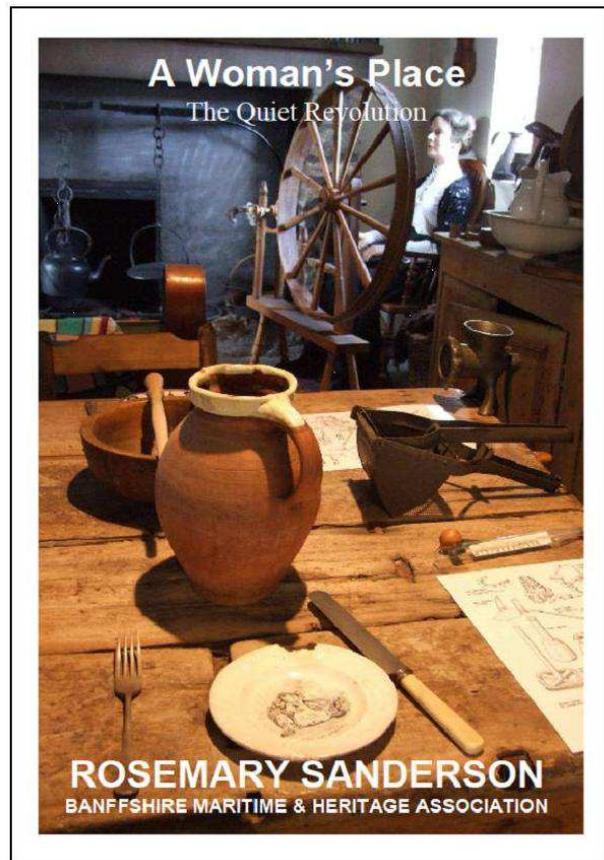
Archbishop James Sharp was born in Banff Castle in 1618, and in this book we intend to show his family links with Banff, and St. Andrew's where he was ordained as an archbishop, and then brutally murdered in 1679. This book will cost approximately £5 or £6.



*Archbishop James Sharp – Banff to St. Andrew's.*

#### 2) *A Woman's Place – A Quiet Revolution.*

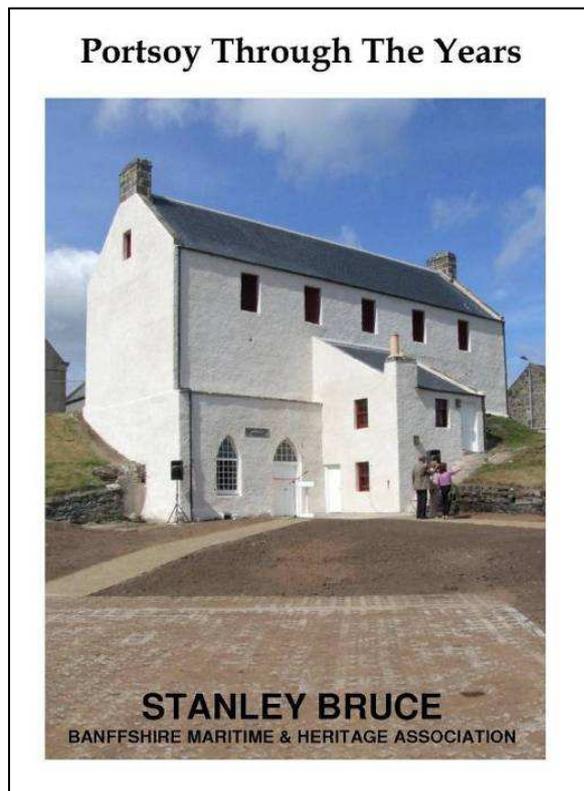
Rosemary Sanderson has written the manuscript for another book about women at home and at work between 1850 and 1950. We look forward to seeing this book in print. It may be a big A4 book with over 100 pages, or we may split into smaller volumes.



*Proposed cover for 'A Woman's Place'.*

#### 3) *Portsoy Through the Years.*

We hope to publish another volume in this series following the success of *Macduff*, *Fraserburgh*, and *Whitehills*, and hopefully **Banff**. This book will be of a similar size to the Macduff book and will cost £6.00. Currently 75% written.



*Portsoy Through the Years.*

All the proceeds from the sale of these books go to the BMHA.

### **Banff Roll of Honour**

To stand alongside our Macduff Roll of Honour we have commenced putting together a WW1 and WW2 Roll of Honour for Banff, so if you have any old photographs or information relating to Banff during the wars please get in touch. Any information or photographs will be copied and the originals returned. We hope to publish this in 2014 to coincide with 100 years since WW1 was declared.

*Contact details are at the rear.*

### **In The News**

On [www.webhistorian.co.uk](http://www.webhistorian.co.uk) we have established our own news page, which

BMHA Nautical News 2013 -6 covers local heritage and maritime news. We also have a separate page titled 'BMHA in the News', this is newspaper clippings in chronological order concerning the BMHA or our members, mainly from the Press & Journal and the Banffshire Journal. See [www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk](http://www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk) also for news.

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

To advance and preserve the maritime & local heritage of the Banffshire Coast area.

In furtherance thereof but not exclusively:

- (1) To preserve, display and collect artefacts and items of interest relating to the maritime heritage in the Banffshire Coastal area.
- (2) To promote, advance, preserve, and raise awareness of the importance of our maritime heritage of the Banffshire Coast area 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 practical demonstration and education.
- (5) To preserve the practical skills of rope and net repair through demonstrations and education.

## 2012-2013 Committee Members

Stanley Bruce - Chair  
 Liam Sparke - Vice-Chair  
 Malcolm Smith - Deputy Vice-Chair  
 Rosemary Sanderson - Secretary  
 Jean Langham - Treasurer  
 Nick Dolphin - Committee  
 Roger Lewendon - Committee  
 Andrew Bruce - Committee

Our constitution allows for a maximum of 15 members on the committee, so we have room for some more, so if you are interested in joining us please get in touch.

### Involvement with other Local Community Groups

Our committee members are also volunteers in many other local community groups and organisations as follows:

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

**Cats Protection** – Jean Langham, Roger Lewendon, and Rosemary Sanderson.

**Community Safety Group** – Nick Dolphin.

**Credit Union** – Jean Langham and Roger Lewendon.

**Friends of Pitsligo Castle** – Stanley Bruce, and Andrew Bruce.

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

**Portgordon Community Harbour Group** – Malcolm Smith.

**Portgordon Heritage Group** – Malcolm Smith.

## Community Presentations

Since 2006 we have given 21 talks / presentations to local northeast groups from Portgordon to Peterhead.

**Talk No. 21** - February 2013 - Fintry WRI – The Herring Lassies – Following the Herring (Stan Bruce).

**Talk No. 20** – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012 - Birkenhills WRI - The Herring Lassies – Following the Herring (Stan Bruce).



*Gutting herring, Peterhead.*

If you would like us to give you a talk using our laptop and projector, please get in touch. *Contact details are at the rear.*

Talk numbers 22 and 23 are both already booked by the Cairnbanno and Auchnagat WRI's for Oct 2013 and Feb 2014 respectively.

A full list of all talks given can be seen on our Community Presentations section of [www.webhistorian.co.uk](http://www.webhistorian.co.uk).

### Committee Meetings

Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at The Buchan Street Club, Macduff 7-8pm. (January is usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday). If you are interested please feel free to come along and join us.

### **Business Plan**

The association's business plan shows the way forward for a sustainable Association, in premises, which are owned by the Association.

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### **Constitution**

Our current constitution is dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2009 and is Revision 4, as submitted to the office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR).

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### **Charitable Status**

18<sup>th</sup> May 2009 we officially became a registered charity with registration number SCO40505.

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### **Membership**

Membership of the Association is now **free**. All members will receive a free copy of our annual newsletter. A membership form can be found at the back of this newsletter, or can be downloaded from our website.

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### **The Future**

Our library of books is growing again. We could still do with more members on our committee & our general membership still needs to grow.

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### **BMHA Annual Outing**

No annual outing was held this year.

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### **Thanks**

On behalf of the BMHA, I'd like to thank the following people / companies for their help over the last year:

- ◆ DNV, Aberdeen.
- ◆ Alfred Cheyne Engineering.
- ◆ Drew Davidson in Dumbarton.
- ◆ Gordon Stephen at  
[www.webhistorian.co.uk](http://www.webhistorian.co.uk)

- ◆ The Banffshire Journal.
  - ◆ Angus McAllister, Banff.
  - ◆ Whitehills Post Office.
- 

### **Contact**

Stan Bruce 07770 780232.  
Jean Langham 01261 818298.  
[banffshiremaritime@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:banffshiremaritime@yahoo.co.uk)

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### **To Close**

We have managed to publish one book in print and 4 electronically in the past year, and 'Banff Through the Years' will be our 4<sup>th</sup> book in this series coming soon. Our best history student cup I hope will be presented for many years to come.

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



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Maritime & Heritage Association.**

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## **Banff Through the Years**

An Illustrated History of the Royal Burgh.

Volume 1 – Up to 1699.



**STANLEY BRUCE**

BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

**COMING SOON**

**BANFFSHIRE MARITIME & HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.**

[www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk](http://www.banffshiremaritime.org.uk)

**Registered Charity No. 40505.**

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