

Minutes of Committee meeting 109  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 22 July 2024, 7.30pm

**PRESENT:**

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Jose Eglinton, David Graham.

**Action**  
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**Apologies**

June Bouaoun, Dot Clark, Frank Glynn, Susan Hunter, Diana Maxwell, Gillian Piper.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (3 June 2024) were approved, with the correction of a misspelling of Jo Dowd's name (Jo Down).

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,343 in the bank account. The change since the last meeting comes from payments of £245 for website domain renewal and £60 for the primary school poetry competition book token prizes.

**Update on projects / ideas and actions arising**

- *Primary School poetry*  
Alison reported that 20 entries were received this year on the theme of 'Scotland,' all of a high standard as usual. She, June Bouaoun, Dot Clark and Susan Hunter met to judge them, and June and Alison attended the primary school awards assembly on 25 June to present the prizes (a £20 book token for the winner, a £10 book token each for four highly commended entries, and the Blake Trophy for Originality).
- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*  
The Singers are meeting again tomorrow night, Tuesday 23 July at 7.30pm in St Fillan's church. It was agreed that it is not necessary to keep this item on the Agenda, we can flag up particular events if and when they take place.
- *Poetry trail*  
Simon Taylor, Alan Reid and Alison are still planning to walk the trail.
- *ACA website*  
Jose Eglinton reported that everything from the last meeting still applies; the set up of the new website and transfer of information is a work in progress, and both sites are currently "live."
- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan (Church Hall war memorial)*  
Following the last meeting, Jo Dowd had forwarded to Simon a copy of the North Queensferry Local Action Plan, which was shared with other ACA members. The next Local Action Plan meeting in Aberdour is on Wednesday 21 August. Simon will attend on behalf of the Cultural Association.

**ST/AC**

- *HMS Tarlair*  
Diana Maxwell and Alison have spoken about updates to *Listen Up!* and are planning to meet soon to go through them. **DM/AC**
- *Aberdour Miscellany*  
Diana and Alison are planning to meet again soon to continue work on the *Miscellany*, after which it will need to be formatted and proof-read. Simon suggested paying someone to do the final formatting and checking. David Graham suggested using the 'read aloud' function in Word, which is a good way of checking for misspellings or wrong words. **DM/AC**

Simon noted that Volume 1 is complete and the plan is to have Volumes 1 and 2 ready for publication at the same time. David suggested we might think about dividing Volume 2 to make it more manageable and to gauge interest.
- *Rambles around Aberdour*  
A digital version is with Frank Glynn, to look at whether it can be listed on Amazon as a digital, print on demand file. **FG**
- *Where are we from?*  
David had shared some Census information following the last meeting. It is fascinating to look at the differences between Aberdour and the rest of Scotland in terms of, for example, number of residents who were born in England. Simon suggested that we combine the Census information with some of the personal stories that were submitted. He and Alison will get together to look at this. **ST/AC**
- *Music and poetry evening*  
We are planning to hold another event on a Saturday in the Autumn. Alison will suggest some dates to Diana, to see whether she and George are available. **AC/DM**
- *Local history exhibition*  
Simon commented that we have a lot of photos from a 2014 exhibition that are ready to be displayed and suggested that we might have a 'walk through' the photos, led by Arthur. Simon and Alison will have a look at this and get in touch with Arthur. **ST/AC**
- *Aberdour walks – Heritage Centre*  
Simon will circulate the final draft of the third self-guided walk, about Aberdour's New Town, as soon as he has finished working on it. He confirmed that the walk will not be available as a hard copy, but will be available as a pdf that can be downloaded and printed. **ST**
- *'New' neolithic standing stone*  
Simon, Alison, Dave Thom and Rhona Donaldson walked to the stone on Sunday 7 July and met June, Ingried Boussaroque and Alan Reid there. Simon is going to write a description of the route, so that others can find their way there independently. **ST**
- *Talk by Steven Blench*  
Before he gives the second part of his talk on Jane Dewar, we would like Steven to repeat the first part, as well as his talk on Hugh Coventry. Simon will discuss this with him. **ST**
- *Aberdour plaques*  
It had been suggested we might add information to existing noticeboards, e.g. at Black Sands, Silver Sands, next to and opposite the station. When they walk around the poetry trail, Simon, Alison and Alan will make an inventory of existing signs. **ST/AC**

Simon is still to contact Fife Coast & Countryside Trust about the new placing of the board at Black Sands.

ST

- *Fife Doors Open Day*

7 Seaside Place, Simon and Alan's house, will be part of Fife's Doors Open Day, across the weekend of 21/22 September. Simon will let David know the opening times, so that David can include them on the St Fillan's website.

ST

Alison reported that she has not yet located the display panels on the Hewitt brothers from the 2014 exhibition, which David would like to use for next year's Open Doors weekend. David asked whether she has digital copies that could be used to print new boards, as he remembered that the old ones were not in a great condition. Alison will check.

AC

For the 2026 Open Doors weekend, David is planning to focus on the anniversary of the restoration of the church. Simon suggested that this might include profiles of people who have donated to the church.

- *Christine Kydd singing workshop*

This is still with Diana, to check dates with Christine for a Saturday workshop in perhaps mid-October, with a concert in the evening, too. Once we have some suggested dates, Alison can check availability of the boat club.

DM/AC

### **Any Other Business**

- *Jose Eglinton*

Jose is resigning from the committee as he is on the Linlithgow Community Council and has a lot of work going on there. He has enjoyed his time with us and is happy to continue working on the ACA website. Simon extended a formal Thank You to Jose for the all the work he has done and for his enthusiasm and commitment to the ACA. We will keep in touch!

- *Teinds barn*

Diana had suggested we contact Historic Environment Scotland about reinstating the Teinds barn on Hawkraig Road as a historic monument. Simon will action this.

ST

- *'Songs of Lady Nairne'*

Simon circulated information about a concert during the Edinburgh Festival – 'Songs of Lady Nairne,' who probably wrote 'The Ballad of Sir Patrick Spens.' It is on Saturday 24 August, 2.00pm and 3.30pm, at St Cecilia's Hall, Niddry Street, Edinburgh EH1 1LG.

- *Group outings*

Jose suggested we might like to visit Lady Haig's Poppy Factory at Warriston in Edinburgh [more information here - <https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/lady-haigs-poppy-factory/tours/factory-tours>].

Alison suggested we might organise another tour of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh [more information here - <https://visit.roe.ac.uk/>].

### **Date and time of next meeting**

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 23 September 2024, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

Steven Blench, June Bouaoun, Ingried Boussaroque, Alison Chapman, Dot Clark, Jose Eglinton, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Susan Hunter, Diana Maxwell, Ruth Murray, Gillian Piper, Simon Taylor, ACA website.