

Minutes of Committee meeting 111
Small hall, Institute
Monday 4 November 2024, 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, June Bouaoun, David Graham.

Action**Apologies**

Dot Clark, Susan Hunter.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting (23 September 2024) were approved.

Funding / finance

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £2,478 in the bank account. Income since the last meeting is £10 for *Listen Up!* book sales and £210 for the Christine Kydd singing workshop. Expenditure is £35 for Scottish Local History Forum annual membership and £50 for the boat club booking for Christine's singing workshop on Saturday 23 November and the words and music event that evening.

Update on projects / ideas and actions arising

- *Primary School poetry*
Nothing new to report. Action kept "live" ready for next year's competition.
- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*
Simon Taylor reported at the last meeting that Ingrid Boussaroque is, unfortunately, unable to continue to lead the group, thanks to increasing work commitments and travel. The Singers met on Tuesday 15 October to discuss the way forward – and, also, sing together. There was a lot of enthusiasm for continuing the group in some way or other. Alison thought it would be difficult to continue without someone to lead us and there was general agreement with this. However, there was also agreement that we should try and carry on with the group on our own regardless. It was decided that we would ask around to see if there is someone in the early music scene who might be interested in taking us on, and that we would continue to meet monthly (second Tuesday of each month) at the Church Hall and use the great resources that Ingrid has given us. The next meetings will be on Tuesday 12 November 2024, Tuesday 14 January and Tuesday 11 February 2025. At some point, we would like to invite Ingrid to a concert – date to be confirmed.

ST

Everyone expressed huge gratitude to Ingrid for being such an amazing teacher and choir-leader and for sharing with us her immense knowledge of medieval music. We are so lucky, and privileged, to have her in the village. The fact that the group is so keen to continue is testimony to her excellent leadership.

- *Poetry trail*
Simon, Alan Reid and Alison are planning to walk the trail on Thursday 14 November, setting off from 7 Seaside Place at 2pm. June hopes to join in, too. All welcome!

ST/AC

The trail walkers will also be looking at existing signs, to add to the Aberdour inventory.

- *ACA website*
Alison reported that Jose has been in touch and, for various reasons, has been unable to work on the website for the last couple of months. It was agreed that we would review the situation in February.
 - *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan (Church Hall war memorial)*
The first meeting of the community forum was held on Wednesday 9 October in the Institute. Simon has received a copy of the minutes and will circulate them. ST
 - *HMS Tarlair*
The third edition of *Listen Up!* is ready to be published and is with Liz Short for proofreading. The second edition was published by Bell & Bain (via Liz Short and Birlinn books) and Alison has contact details for them. We would like to record, formally, a huge Thank You to Liz for all her help with this. AC
- Diana is giving a talk for the National Trust at the Aberdour Golf Club on 11 March in the evening. It would be good if we could get the third edition published in time for that.
- *Aberdour Miscellany*
This is still with Alison for checking/formatting, and Diana has now given her some old copies of the *Village News* that might have content worth including. Since the last meeting, this has taken a back seat to *Listen Up!* AC/DM
 - *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?*
Simon had suggested that we combine the Census information David provided with some of the personal stories that were submitted. He and Alison are still to get together to look at this. ST/AC
 - *Music and poetry evening*
The next music and poetry evening will be on Saturday 23 November, 7.30pm in the boat club, and has been advertised via Facebook, the ACA mailing list, and posters in the village. Alison will remind people at Sing It nearer the time. AC
 - *Local history exhibition*
Simon had suggested at the last meeting that we use the photos from the 2014 local history exhibition for a 'walk through' led by Arthur. It was agreed that it would be good if we could link this with the launch of the *Aberdour Miscellany*, so we will combine the two items in future. AC
 - *Aberdour walks – Heritage Centre*
Thanks to Bill Rennie the 'Walk to the Beach' and 'Place-names' walk leaflets have been reprinted. The Library should have copies but if they have run out they will contact him for more. It was suggested that some of the leaflets could be put in the phone box by the station. If anyone has other ideas, let Simon know. ALL
 - *'New' neolithic standing stone*
Simon had asked David whether he might help with putting together a map to guide people to the stone. David has put together a route based on core paths and it was suggested that Simon and David, and any others who are interested, might get ST/DG

together to walk the route. Once its accessibility has been established, it would be good to put something about it in the *Village News*. Simon thanked David for his work on this.

David had asked in the library about Mary Williams' walk information and they had no record of it. It was noted that her articles were in the *Village News* post-lockdown. David is going to ask Robin Smith (editor of the *News*) if he has details.

DG

- *Talk by Steven Blench*

Simon reported that Steven would be happy to repeat his talk on Hugh Coventry in January or February. Alison will check whether the Institute is available on Monday 27 January or Monday 17 February 2025, and Simon will check with Steven. We will need a projector and mic. ***Date has now been set for Monday 27 January, 7.30pm in the Institute.***

AC

ST

It was suggested that we let Hugh Coventry's family know when the talk is going to take place. David commented that Bill Henderson has contact details for them.

- *Aberdour plaques*

Simon has started making an inventory of existing signs, with more to be included when he, Alison and others walk around the poetry trail.

ST

Simon has been in touch with Fife Coast & Countryside Trust about the new placing of the board at Black Sands and will report back once he hears from them.

ST

- *Fife Doors Open Day*

It was suggested that it would be good to include a piece in the next *Village News* about the weekend and the places in Aberdour that were open as part of it – St Fillan's and 7 Seaside Place (the lapidarium). Alison will put Alan Reid and David in touch with each other to bring together the information.

AC/DG

- *Christine Kydd singing workshop*

This is to be held on Saturday 23 November, 11am to 4pm in the boat club (11am-1pm and 2pm-4pm with an hour for lunch), at a cost of £30 per person. The workshop has been advertised via Facebook (ACA page, the Aberdour Noticeboard, Dalgety Bay Billboard and Burntisland News), the ACA mailing list, Medieval Singers group, Sing It, and through individuals. Alison reported that 13 people have signed up so far and eight of those have already paid. She has chased up the others.

- *Teinds barn*

Simon is still to contact Historic Environment Scotland about reinstating the Teinds barn on Hawkcraig Road as a historic monument.

ST

- *Group Outing*

Alison reported that the Royal Observatory no longer allows group visits. It hosts, instead, 'Winter Nights at Royal Observatory Edinburgh' – Tuesday nights up until the end of November, starting up again in February. These run for an hour from 6.30-7.30pm and 8.00-9.00pm, details here – <https://visit.roe.ac.uk/public-events/>

If anyone has other ideas for a group outing, please let Alison know.

ALL

Any Other Business

- *Village News*

The deadline for the next *News* is 18 November. Alison will include an update on the Medieval Singers, *Listen Up!* third edition, Aberdour Miscellany and Steven's talk. Alison will send a draft article to Simon and Diana.

AC

- *Names of places in the village*

Diana commented that there had been a conversation on Facebook about the name of the steps up to Hawkcraig Point from where Ladies Walk meets Dougal's Road. These were known (as reported in *Listen Up!*) as the Heath Robinson steps. The ones nearer the harbour are known as Jacob's Ladder, and at the bottom of Donkey Brae is the Sailor's Well (or is it Sailors' Well?). The banking between the harbour and the Black Sands, in front of the houses, is called the Ballast Bank. None of these names is recorded officially anywhere. We wondered whether signs might be put up? It would be a shame for these old names to be lost. All thoughts on how to record them would be welcomed.

ALL

- *ACA lunch*

It was decided that instead of arranging a lunch before Christmas, we would hold it on Wednesday 15 January in the Aberdour Hotel. Please let Alison know if you would like to join us.

ALL

Date and time of next meeting

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 20 January 2025, 7.30pm – small hall, Institute.

Minutes copied to:

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