

Minutes of Committee meeting 113  
Small hall, Institute  
Monday 10 March 2025

**PRESENT:**

Simon Taylor (Chair), Alison Chapman (Secretary/Treasurer), Diana Maxwell, Dot Clark, Frank Glynn, David Graham, Ruth Murray, Liz Sutherland.

**Action**

**Apologies**

June Bouaoun, Susan Hunter.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting (20 January 2025) were approved.

Simon Taylor commented that we have advertised via a *Village News* article for a new Treasurer, so that we do not have one person covering two office bearer roles.

**Funding / finance**

Alison Chapman reported that there is currently £1,963 in the bank account. Income since the last meeting is £136 from donations at Steven Blench's talk and £20 for *Listen Up!* book sales at Diana Maxwell's talk to the Glenrothes Probus Club. Expenditure is £319 for GoDaddy WordPress Basic for the next three years, for the ACA website.

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

- *Primary School poetry*

June Bouaoun met with the primary school Head last week, who is keen for the pupils to take part in the competition again this year. The theme is going to be garden related, or village in bloom, or related to the natural world, inspired by the work going on at the moment in the school garden. June and Alison are going to launch the competition at a school assembly after Easter [28 April].

**JB/AC**

- *Aberdour Medieval Singers*

The group continues to meet in person on the second Tuesday of each month in the church hall.

- *Poetry trail and Aberdour interpretation boards*

Simon is going to put together a report on the poetry trail and information boards.

**ST**

Ruth Murray commented that the poem in the walled garden at the castle is difficult to read. We think that the lettering is painted in gold, which perhaps needs to be a darker colour. Something to review when Simon's report is complete.

David Graham commented that the poem in the churchyard is difficult to read; the stone needs a clean and the vegetation around it needs cutting back.

- *ACA website*  
Alison reported that Jose has handed over administration of the website and she and David have been working on it. They have changed the GoDaddy package to a simpler WordPress version and most of the pages are now in place, but there is more information to be added. Thanks again to Jose for all his work on this.

It was suggested that we might add a page on Talks, and, also, that we no longer include the page on famous visitors to the village.

- *Aberdour Local Community Action Plan*  
The Aberdour Residents Association appears to be leading work on the Local Community Action Plan (LCAP). Simon is to email Tom Marshall and Mark Deere for a report on progress to date. **ST**
- *Church Hall war memorial*  
It is important that we do not lose sight of the aim to include on the memorial the missing names that Jose has uncovered. Alison has been in touch with Iain Fleming, Community Council Chair, who is going to find details of the correct person to contact at Fife Council. He does not think it is a matter for the LCAP. **AC**
- *Publication of Rev. Johnstone's history of Aberdour*  
This is on hold until Simon can dedicate more time to it. It is a huge job! **ST**
- *HMS Tarlair*  
The third edition of *Listen Up!* is still with Liz Short for proofreading/editing. **AC/DM**

Diana suggested she gives a talk in Aberdour on HMS Tarlair once the third edition of *Listen Up!* has been printed. It would be good if we had a film to show with it – one was made by students for our 2014 local history exhibition, but, even if we can find it, it may not be suitable.

Alison commented that the first 2025 sighting of the Loch Ness Monster has just happened. The research team has been using hydrophones to search the loch.

- *Aberdour Miscellany*  
This is still in the same position as at the last meeting; it is with Alison. **AC/DM**

Simon read out a synopsis of what is included in the companion volume – *An Anthology of Poetry and Prose Featuring Aberdour and Inchcolm:*

- Introduction: Simon Taylor
- *Macbeth*, a play by William Shakespeare
- 'Sir Alan de Mortimer', a poem by David Vedder
- *Mortimer's Deep*, extract from a historical novel by Simon Taylor
- 'The White Lady of Otterstone' by Captain Vere Hussey Bogle
- 'Sir Patrick Spens', a poem by anonymous
- *The Salt Farmer*, extract from a historical novel by Frank Glynn
- *The Hermit of Inchcolm: A Romance of the 17th Century: Also A Tour to Inchcolm: Being an Historical and Descriptive Account of the Island*, by anonymous with the pseudonym "Prince Charles Edward"
- Thomas Carlyle's links to Aberdour, an essay by Ronnie Kerr
- 1880s – *George Dalton*, a serialised novel by David Pae (partly summarised)
- 1908 – The Fife Pageant

**ST/AC**

Frank Glynn commented that there is a Mills & Boon novel that includes action at the Aberdour Hotel. Unfortunately, he doesn't know which one it is.

- *Rambles around Aberdour*  
 Frank is struggling with the formatting required by Amazon. He is going to have one more go and if he is not able to get it to work, he will hand it back to ACA. We are very grateful to Frank for all his work on this. **FG**
- *Where are we from?*  
 Dot Clark volunteered to look in the library for the documents gathered by a group set up around 20 years ago to work on something similar to the local action plan. **DC**
- *Music and poetry evening*  
 The next words and music event is planned for Saturday 24 May. Alison is still awaiting final confirmation from the boat club, but it is available that night. Alison has included details in the ACA piece for the next *Village News*. **AC**
- Alison is going to contact Alison Tollick to advise that we feel an afternoon format, with tea and biscuits, would not be suitable for the type of event we hold in the boat club, and to ask whether she might, with her early music forum hat on, think about organising a kind of “interactive” afternoon session, bringing a group together and playing music for them. **AC**
- *'New' neolithic standing stone*  
 Simon has not been able to track down the copy of the *Village News* in which (according to Andy Carnduff) the stone was mentioned, around twenty years ago. He is going to contact John Burrell to see whether he might be able to help. **ST**
- *Talk by Steven Blench*  
 Steven's talk on Hugh Coventry went very well and we hope that once he has moved and has more time, he will come back to speak for us again.
- *Teinds barn*  
 Simon reported that Andy Carnduff has advised that the barn is scheduled and, therefore, protected.
- *Names of places in the village*  
 Simon volunteered to compile information on how names of various places in the village came about (e.g. the Heath Robinson steps, Jacob's Ladder, the Sailor's/Sailors' Well, the Ballast Bank), but will not start this until later in the year. **ST**
- *ACA constitution*  
 Alison and Simon have been reviewing this and will send it to Diana for her thoughts. Any changes to the constitution must be made at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or an Extraordinary Meeting (EGM). Rather than waiting until our next AGM, in January 2026, it was suggested that we approve it at an EGM, perhaps combining it with another ACA lunch. **ST/AC**
- *Skiff building*  
 It was agreed that this is not something for ACA to get involved in.
- *George Thomson's fiddle – Frank Glynn*  
 Frank is to give a talk on George Thomson's fiddle on Monday 26 May in the Institute [the hall is now booked], and will send Alison information for advertising it. Alison **FG/AC**

will look into borrowing a projector, as well as a mic and speaker, and will also contact The Drinks Cabinet to see whether they might run a bar on the night.

### **Any Other Business**

- *Storytelling*

Alison reported that she and June had attended a recent storytelling event at Pittencrieff House in Dunfermline and, afterwards, Alison had contacted Beverley Bryant, one of the storytellers, to see whether we might be able to host a similar event in Aberdour, and what sort of costs would be involved. Beverley has replied with the following information:

“We have recommended booking rates:

1 hour: £120 plus travel

Half day (2hours): £165

However, there are lots of ways to go about this. A box office split might work. And two performers wouldn't necessarily mean double. There's also a small grant for a project called Story Ripple depending on the time of year the event takes place.”

Alison suggested that she and June look into this.

**AC**

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

Our next meeting will be held on:

Monday 28 April 2025, 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, Liz Sutherland, Simon Taylor, ACA website.