

North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre Newsletter May 2019

Notes from our Chairman

This will be a slightly shorter newsletter than normal, coming as it does so soon after the one issued in April, but it was important to get some information out to you all about the events coming up over the next few months. The committee has been working hard in developing the programme for next year and I'm sure you agree that we have some really interesting things planned. You will see the full list of events on your new membership cards. It was particularly nice to see some new members join this year. Welcome to you all! I hope we have been successful in our attempts to appeal to a wide audience and included items that will entice everyone to come along and support our activities and encourage even more new members in the future. As has been the habit in the last few years the summer months' events focus on getting out and about to see more of our wonderful country. There will be a visit to the iconic Aberdeen Beach Ballroom, celebrating its 90th birthday this year and two garden visits – the perfect settings for enjoying summer weather. All of these require advance booking so we can advise the hosts of expected numbers. Booking forms are attached – get your reservations in early!

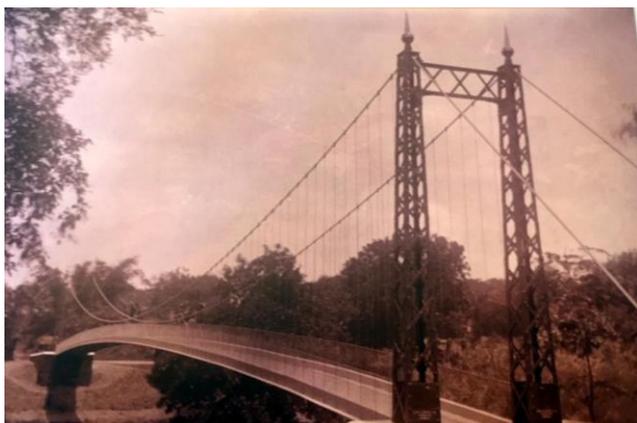
Margaret Alexander

Looking Back – A Review of Recent Events.....

April

AGM The annual AGM for the Members' Centre was held on 17th April 2019. Our Chairman, Margaret Alexander gave a brief overview of the past year's activities and announced that a total of £3200 will be donated to the three local properties - £1000 will be given to Haddo (£200 having already been advanced to Haddo to enable the purchase of two sundials), £1000 to Fyvie for the "Guardians of Fyvie" Appeal and £1000 to Pitmedden. The Committee members and office bearers were re-elected for another year with the exception of Mrs. Irene Findlay, who has decided to step down from the Committee. Irene has been a great contributor to the success of the Members' Centre. Her work is greatly appreciated and she will be much missed. Margaret Alexander announced that she will step down as Chairman next April. In common with many other NTS Members' Centres, including Aberdeen and Angus, the Members' Centre Trust Deed will be revised during 2019. Any proposed changes will be subject to review by members and be the subject of an extraordinary general meeting as necessary. Membership fees will remain at £8 for the remainder of this year but will increase to £10 for the 2020/21 season. Visitor fees for talks will go up to £3. The formal proceedings of the meeting were followed by a talk by Douglas Harper (see below)

River, Railway and Ravine: Foot Suspension bridges for Empire "Well, who would have thought that a talk on



fencing posts and bridges could be that fascinating?" That seemed to be the general mood of our audience following Douglas Harpers' talk about his distinguished forebears. Douglas qualified as a geologist, doctor and surgeon and when he retired set out to research his family history. He is the great grandson of John Harper of Turriff, who with his brother Hugh set up a fencing and gate manufacturing business, establishing a foundry in Aberdeen in 1856. In 1863 John patented a device for tensioning fencing wire, a device that he was later to develop for use in constructing suspension bridges. Several of the great estates in Scotland

were fenced using Harper fencing, some of which is still in use today. In the 1870's Harpers extended the use of their tensioning device to foot bridges and they were commissioned to construct these throughout the UK and Ireland. Most of the suspension bridges of the time used chains (e.g. Menai Bridge) and stability was given by adding weight. Harpers' bridges used wire cable, just like fencing. Tension was used to create a double "arch" – a downward sweeping arch from the cables and a slight upward arch of the span (see picture). This made the bridges very stable and relatively easy to build. Soon Harper bridges were being exported around the globe. Just like flat pack furniture today, all the bridge components, made in Aberdeen, were packed up along with the instructions and sent off to far flung corners of the world to be constructed by local teams, a lot of whom were led by military engineers. Many of these bridges still exist and are in everyday use. In places like Nepal they remain a vital lifeline to people who have no other safe way of crossing gorges and the raging river torrents that criss-cross the country. Nowadays Douglas is busy tracking down and visiting as many of the remaining bridges that he can. I don't think any of us who were at the talk will look at a suspension bridge in the same way again. We'll all be looking out for that double arch and wondering if it is a Harper bridge, made in Aberdeen.

<http://www.harperbridges.com/index.aspx?id=54>

Looking Forward - What's Coming Up for the Members' Centre.....

June

Did you ever dance the night away at Aberdeen's Beach Ballroom? Perhaps you have fond memories of concerts and shows (or even a little romance) held in this iconic venue? Well, come along and help celebrate its 90th birthday. We'll meet at the Ballroom at 2:30 pm, where we will be welcomed by the Ballroom Manager who will introduce us to some of the history of this stunning Art Deco building and share stories of the artists who have appeared there. After spending time exploring the special 90th birthday exhibition we will enjoy afternoon tea. So join us for this treat of nostalgia. Cost is £10 per person (includes refreshments). Booking form attached.



July

It's high summer and what better way to spend a summer's day than strolling around a beautiful garden? Our trip on 12th July is to Drumrossie Mansion House at Inch. The property, which can be traced back to the Crusades, is surrounded by three acres of landscaped lawns, formal walled garden, veg and greenhouse area and a newly planted orchard. There are 27 acres of wooded walks, paddocks and a large wildlife pond. Vegetables are grown in raised beds. The walled garden is laid out in lawns of a very high standard, with herbaceous borders and fruit trees on the south-facing wall. There is a large collection of hostas and alstroemerias, as well as herbaceous plants, heathers and azaleas, a productive vegetable garden, plant-raising area and polytunnel for early veg and flowers, a large glasshouse for tomatoes and a sunken greenhouse, which provides over-wintering heat for tender plants. A main feature is the well, which in days gone by provided the water supply to the house. The gardens are included in Scotland's Garden Scheme but aren't open until 14th July – so we are getting a sneak preview! Meet at 2pm at Drumrossie House. Cost is £8 per person including refreshments.

August

We'll be heading to another lovely garden setting this month. On Friday 9th August the venue is Carestown Steading Garden, Deskford, Cullen. Meet at the Steading at 2 pm. Cost for garden entry is £5 per person. Refreshments are not included, but there are plenty of good cafes and restaurants in nearby Cullen. It should make for a lovely day out. A selection is given below but you may well know others.

<http://www.rockpool-cullen.co.uk>

<http://cullenbayhotel.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/DeskfordGardenGalleries>



What else is on

For more details , booking etc. check out properties on the NTS website or on their Facebook pages

Haddo House	Fyvie Castle
<p>13th July – Bugs Day 24th July – Mini beasts and Marvellous Moths (children’s walk) 27th July – Tea on the Terrace 28th July – Affa Fine Artisan Afternoon 11th August – Family Fun Day 15th August – Bat Evening (adult) 29th August – Handlebards present “The Tempest” 31st August – Bat Breakfast</p>	<p>1 Jun – An Evening of Magic with Garry Seagraves 16 June – Princess and Superhero Party 23 June – German Ladies Choir with Banff Pipe Band 18 July – Three Inch Fools present “Much Ado about Nothing” 23rd July - Outdoor Concert – Summer of ’62 with the Jersey Notes 25th July – Zoolab 6th August – Birds of Fyvie Loch 11th August – Tea Dance at Fyvie 23rd August – Summer Garden Walk</p>
Pitmedden Garden	
<p>9th June – Evening Garden Walk 5th July – David Walliam’s Gangsta Granny 6th July – Tales of the Herb Garden 11th July – Mini Beasts Monsters – children’s walk 14th July – Evening Garden Walk 18th July – Mr. Magnolia 23rd July – Festival Players present “Much Ado about Nothing” 2nd August – Swinging 60s Concert 3rd August – Dan Hadfield as Gary Barlow 9th August – Abbamania 10th August – Little Mix Magic 11th August – Evening Garden Walk 14th August – Wuthering Heights 14th August – Pitmedden’s Pollinators (children’s walk) 16th August - Frankenstein</p>	

What’s on a little further afield....

Crathes Castle	Drum Castle
<p>15th June – Outdoor Cinema – Shrek 16th June – Tree Spirits – Outdoor Sculpture Session 4th July – David Walliams’ Gangsta Granny 9th July – Furry Scurry: Children’s Rodent Walk 16th July – Mini Beasts and Marvellous Moths 19th July – Wind in the Willows 2nd August – A Midsummer Night’s Dream 13th August – Woodland Crafts Children’s Event 15th August – Wuthering Heights</p>	<p>7th June – Jo Barker and Sarah Brennan: In Conversation 5th July – Whiskey Tasting 17th July – Bats and Moths at Drum 24th July – Illyria – The Tempest 28th July – Jaguar Classic Car Show 4th August - MG Classic Car Show 11th August – Little Mix Magic 13th August – Illyria – Frankenstein 18th August - Moth Morning</p>
Castle Fraser	
<p>15th June – Steam and Vintage Fair 22nd June – 17th August – A series of 2 day Drystone Dyking Courses 10th July – Pond Dipping 13th July – Mr. Magnolia 16th July – Comedy of Errors 28th July – Dragonflies and Damselies 31st July – Pond Dipping 17th August – Dig the Past at Castle Fraser 23rd August – Family Bat Evening</p>	

Ever wonder where the money goes?



Our previous Newsletter had some information about how our last year's donations had been put to use at Haddo and Fyvie. If you have visited Pitmedden recently the sharp sighted among you may well have spotted the result of our donation to that property – a shining new bench. It is located in a prime location in the lower garden and is sure to be enjoyed by visitors for many years to come. Thank you for supporting our efforts so we can continue to provide amenities like this for all to enjoy.

News from around the Trust

Following the success of the "For the Love of Scotland" campaign in 2018, the NTS launched the second phase campaign at the beginning of May. This includes a re-worked TV advert, as well as outdoor and digital advertising, encouraging people to discover all the many things they love about Scotland at NTS locations.

The Trust would love for all Members' Centres and Friends' Groups to get involved with the campaign. Here are a number of ways you can do so:

- Advert - Please share The NTS advert on your social media channels or websites. Click the link [here](#) to download the advert and upload to your website or social media.
- Wall of Love – The Trust are building a 'Wall of Love', which features pictures of members and visitors. So if you're near a Trust property, don't forget to have your photo taken with one of the 'Love' signs and send it in, telling the Trust what you love about Scotland.
- If you're on social media, please share and like the social media posts, tagging [@N T S](#) on Twitter and [@nationaltrustforscotland](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Use the hashtag: #fortheloveofscotland and tell the world what you do day in day out for the love of Scotland.
- Spread the word – please tell your friends and family about the campaign and ask them what they love about Scotland, and encourage them to 'share the love' on their own social media channels.

Thank You! As always we would like to thank Mackies of Scotland for their help with the postage of our Newsletters.

NE Aberdeenshire Members' Centre the National Trust for Scotland

Tuesday 11th June 2019

Visit to Aberdeen Beach Ballroom

starting at 2.30 pm, includes afternoon tea. Cost £10 per person

From:

.....

Tel.

email address

I would like tickets for the visit to the Beach Ballroom on Tuesday 11th June 2019

I enclose £..... In payment for these tickets

(Cheques should be made payable to: North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre the National Trust for Scotland)

I am happy to take my car and another.....passengers

I would like assistance with the travel to the Beach Ballroom

Please delete as required

Please return to:

Dr HP Shaw 2 Aulton of Fochel Steadings, Oldmeldrum, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. AB51 0AT

Tel: 01651 851411

Email: stephen.shaw74@alumni.imperial.ac.uk

before Tuesday 4th June 2019 enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for return of the tickets.

NE Aberdeenshire Members' Centre the National Trust for Scotland

Friday 12th July 2019

Visit to Drumrossie Mansion House Gardens, Inch.

starting at 2 pm, includes refreshments. Cost £8 per person

From:

.....

Tel.

email address

I would like tickets for the visit to Drumrossie Mansion House Gardens on Friday 12th July 2019

I enclose £..... In payment for these tickets

(Cheques should be made payable to: North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre the National Trust for Scotland)

I am happy to take my car and another.....passengers

I would like assistance with the travel to Drumrossie Mansion House Gardens.

Please delete as required

Please return to:

Mr A McCartney, Quarryknowe, Oldmeldrum, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. AB51 0AD

Telephone: 01651 873473

Email: a.mccartney642@btinternet.com

before Friday 5th July 2019 enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for return of the tickets and directions to Drumrossie

NE Aberdeenshire Members' Centre the National Trust for Scotland

Friday 9 th August 2019

Visit to Carestown Steading Garden, Deskford, Buckie.

starting at 2 pm

Cost £5 per person

From:

.....

Tel.

email address

I would like tickets for the visit to Carestown Steading Garden on Friday 9 August 2019

I enclose £..... In payment for these tickets

(Cheques should be made payable to: North East Aberdeenshire Members' Centre the National Trust for Scotland)

I am happy to take my car and another.....passengers

I would like assistance with the travel to Carestown

Please delete as required

Please return to:

Dr A Flett, Easter Crichtie Cottage, St Katherine's, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire. AB51 8SR

Tel: 01651 891620

Email: amflett@hotmail.com

before Friday 2nd August 2019 enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for return of the tickets and directions to Carestown Steading.