



## Spring 2023 Newsletter.

The Trust has been kept busy over the winter months. We had another successful sale over the festive season, and our Facebook page continues to grow with around one thousand followers!

The carved stones from McCulloch Place are to be placed temporarily in Stranraer Museum store until refurbishment of the museum is complete.

The Trust has placed a bench in memory of Donnie Nelson MBE, on the grassy area between Foreland Place and Broadstone Road. The bench is facing to the mouth of the loch, towards the Broadstone, and the old bombing wall at Braidfell can be seen across the loch. These places were very dear to Donnie. His sons Bruce and Laurence, and grandson Andrew will attend the official unveiling on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.



We are delighted to be a sponsor of the Wigtown Spring Festival this year, and amongst other events I will be paying tribute to Donnie through photographs and stories. Donnie amassed a vast collection of photographs and postcards, as well as writing the 'Peep at the Past' column for the *Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press* for many years. The collection continues to grow and it was Donnie's wish that these photographs and stories could be shared. The Nelson-MacDonald collection continues in collaboration with the Free Press each week providing the photographs and stories in the Way We Were feature.

The event is in the County Buildings in Wigtown on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm. Although this event is free it is ticketed and can be booked here:

<https://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/programme/event/428572847/> or go to the Wigtown Book Festival website.

Our Chair, Elaine Barton will be speaking on the *Princess Victoria* at the Wigtown Book Festival in September, details will be well advertised nearer the time. Elaine also spoke at one of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorative events in the Millennium Centre, and a wreath was placed on behalf of the Trust at the memorial in Agnew Park. Along with others, Elaine took part in the excellent commemoration video filmed by local videographer Scarlett Visuals. Still photographs for the film were provided from the Nelson-MacDonald Collection. The long and short version can be viewed on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqNN33244Zg>



## STRANRAER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY TRUST



Although we have not published any books this year, we have been considering a few very well researched projects and hope to announce book launches in the coming months. Keep your eyes peeled for further exciting announcements!

We have 18 publications still in print, which can be purchased with your membership discount directly from our website.



Art students from Stranraer Campus of Dumfries and Galloway College took Stranraer Town Trail as their theme to create sculptures. The Trust donated an art set to the value of £50 to the top student of the class and a further £100 will be donated to the College to go towards a trophy which will be held at a Celebration of Learning Event in June. A selection of our publications was also given to each student. The College has expressed their delight and gratitude for our support, particularly when they have been using our local history as inspiration.

We are delighted to have been approached by Stranraer Academy and asked to be involved in their end of term prize giving events taking place in June. The school may have someone this year who meets the criteria for our bursary if they are going off to study history at university, potentially Douglas Ewart may have someone too.



## STRANRAER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY TRUST

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Photographs from the Nelson-MacDonald Collection have been provided to Rhins of Galloway Coast Path, which is expected to be completed later this year. We have been providing information and photographs to a number of people researching local history throughout the winter months.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm pm in the Millennium Centre and it would be lovely to see you there.

Thank you for your ongoing support

*Julia MacDonald*