



Winter 2023 Newsletter.

The Trust have been busy in the intervening months since our last newsletter, so we have plenty to update you on!

We were sponsors of the Spring Festival at Wigtown this year and a large crowd attended Wigtown County Buildings when I gave a tribute to Donnie Nelson through local photographs and stories. That particular event was sponsored by the Old Bank Bookshop, and we were very grateful for the opportunity to share these stories.

Committee members of the Trust were invited to attend Stranraer Academy's awards ceremonies. We were pleased to award the top history student from each year a £50 prize and present them with a range of our publications.

In addition our bursary award this year went to Brianna Hamilton of Stranraer Academy who has gone to study a combined degree in History and English at the University of Glasgow. Brianna expressed delight at being awarded a cheque.



Kirkcolm Community Trust is planning on setting up its own history group and our Chair, Elaine, has been invited a couple of times to give talks on local history. Their group has requested funding towards recording equipment for taking oral histories from some of their residents and we have granted them £150 towards this.



STRANRAER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY TRUST

In June at the AGM we welcomed a new committee member John Ross. Office bearers were re-elected once again.

Stranraer Oyster Festival brought many visitors to the town, and again Elaine gave an entertaining talk to an enthusiastic crowd receiving a large round of applause.



Committee members Tom Stevenson and Andrea Simpson represented the Trust at the official opening of the Harbour Master's Heritage Centre, at the Gateway to Galloway, (old harbour master's building) at the West Pier.



Several hundred photographic slides from Wigtownshire ranging from the late 1960s to the early 1990s have been added to the Nelson-MacDonald Collection and will be scanned in over the coming months. There are a number of 8mm films too and it is likely we will have them converted digitally over time.

St Joseph's Primary School is participating in a WW2 project, part of which will be a mural on one of the walls at the school. Elaine went along to talk about the area during the war and presented the pupils with a range of our books about that time. The late Donnie Nelson was a former pupil at the school and author of more than a few books for the Trust. We are sure



STRANRAER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY TRUST

he would have been delighted at the thought of his memories of that time being preserved and shared with current pupils. The school requested funding towards the mural and the Trust has granted them £250 towards this.

We were a sponsor of the 25th Anniversary of the Wigtown Book Festival in September, which coincided with the Trust's own 25th Anniversary. Our Chair, Elaine Barton, spoke on the *Princess Victoria* to a sold-out audience in Wigtown County Buildings. The event was also live streamed to those who couldn't be there in person. The *Princess Victoria* was one of the first three books published by the Trust and was written by Jack Hunter, one of the Trust's founding members who was also involved with the Festival from the early days.



We are delighted to tell you the book *RAF North Cairn* by Ian Baldie is currently at the printers and should be ready in time for Christmas, so keep your eyes peeled on our website, and Facebook page for the launch. We hope to have a special offer lined up for you when you purchase your copy!

Thank you for your ongoing support

Julia MacDonald