



## Spring 2024 Newsletter.

As the days are getting longer there is the promise of a few days at least of sunshine!

In January we officially launched Ian Baldie's new book about the secret radar station at RAF North Cairn in Stranraer Library. A slide show with photos from his book was running at the side and the launch was well attended. The book is one of 18 of our publications still in print.



Each week in the Free Press a photo from the Nelson-MacDonald collection is published and I continue to write a little piece to go along with it. If any of our members have old photographs that may be of interest to a wider audience I would be more than happy to take a copy of the photo and return these to you. The collection does indeed concentrate mostly on the Rhins, and it would be lovely to add more from the Machars and South Ayrshire. In addition, if there are local photographs from the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s it is surprising the changes that have happened over these decades when looking back.

Once again we are sponsors of the Spring Festival at Wigtown which runs from the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May. There are a wide variety of talks, walks and other events on the programme, including the Inaugural Jack Hunter Spring Memorial Lecture with myself and Elaine Barton. It is a ticketed but free event and can be booked through the following link:

<https://tickets.wigtownbookfestival.com/sales/whats-on/events/wigtown-spring-weekend/the-jack-hunter-spring-memoria>



The signs have been custom made for Lady Stewart Park, marking the park as part of the Town Trail, as well as replacing a long missing street type sign that was in place many years ago. We gained permission from the local council to put the signs up and Russell Henry & Son Welding and Fabrication very generously donated their labour to put the signs in situ. We hope to have an official unveiling very soon.



We were approached by history teacher Michael Lane for funding towards the War Graves trip by pupils of Stranraer Academy. A shortfall because of rising costs meant the trip was in danger of being cancelled. We granted £300 toward this cost. The pupils visit the graves of local men as well as finding names of local men on large memorials across the Western Front. They also lay a wreath at the Menin Gate.

Committee members of the Trust are again invited to attend Stranraer Academy's awards ceremonies in June. Later in the year be awarding a bursary for a pupil from Stranraer Academy and/or Douglas Ewart who has accepted their offer at a university for studying History or a combined degree which includes History. In addition, we plan to give copies of



## STRANRAER AND DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY TRUST

Place Names of the Wigtownshire Moors and Machars by John MacQueen to senior pupils of Douglas Ewart High School.

Elaine and Tom represented the Trust at the Kirkmaiden History Group at The Ship Inn, Drummore and were delighted to receive a generous cheque from owner Wendy Bird. The Ship has hosted the Kirkmaiden History Group meetings on a regular basis and Elaine has given a talk there.



We are delighted to tell you we are proof reading another publication which will be ready later this year. We're keeping it well under wraps until it is launched as it's a very exciting and interesting story! Keep your eye out for updates on our Facebook page.

And finally, our AGM is in the Millenium Centre in the Ailsa and Antrim Room on Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm, and we would be very pleased to see you there.

Thank you for your ongoing support

*Julia MacDonald*