



THE STEEPLE

Newsletter of The Montrose Society

AUTUMN 2004

ISSUE NO. 9

Committee Members 2004 - 2005

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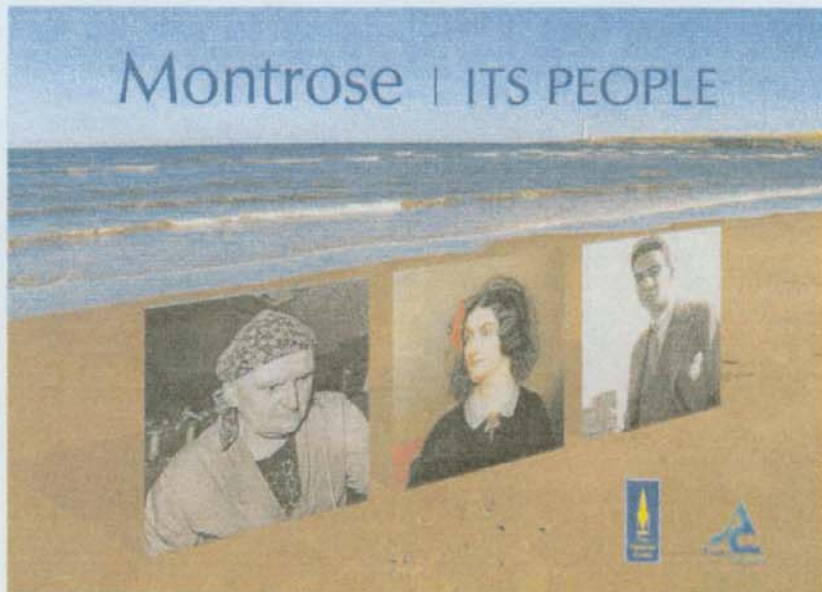
Graham Pert

Billy Strachan

Raymond Sutton

Tony Sutton

John Thomson



MEETINGS

are held in the Legends Suite, George Hotel, Montrose at 7.30pm.

Annual membership is £8.

Visitors £1.50 per evening.

Juniors are free.

Coffee and Tea available.

Meetings are held from September to March. See our programme overleaf.

Do please come along to any/all you are interested in. You will be made very welcome.

Work on the Society's latest publication 'Montrose - Its People' started early in the year and is now nearing completion. Funding from Awards for All, for scanning and printing costs, was obtained in mid-September and it is expected that the book will be on sale in time for Christmas.

As with the J.G. Low Watercolours book Angus Council are contributing some of the cost together with part of the illustrations and text. We are pleased to be working with them again.

The content comprises photographs from the Society archive showing the people of Montrose at school, at work and at play with accompanying captions. Angus Council and in particular, Fiona Scharlau, has made available illustrations of well-known Montrosians and written mini-biographies to accompany these.

This publication complements 'Montrose Past and Present', published two years ago (also funded by Awards for All) and we think that everyone will find something, or someone, of interest in it - the reader may even find himself, or herself.

Consistent with Society policy, 'Montrose - Its People' will be priced very reasonably at £3.90.

"MONTROSE - ITS PEOPLE" will make a very worthwhile and appreciated gift this Christmas. Copies will be on sale at Henry Hogg, Hillside Post Office, the Library and the Museum.

Alan Doe

Letter



MONTROSE BRIDGE MCMXXX - MMIV

Now having ended its relatively short lifespan, our impressive and unusually designed bridge is nothing but a memory. At the time of writing, its designated resting place is on the South Quay where it is destined to be reduced back to sand and stones and used as upfill on some other project.

Montrosians will miss the bridge and equally look forward to a modern "state of the art" replacement.

The contractors, Balfour Beattie, and Angus Council must be admired for the professional and timely efforts they have made towards the replacement bridge to date and one would wonder what name will be given it as the "New Bridge" has now been dismantled.

Farewell dear bridge, your back may be broken, you've done your work, your memory lingers on.

Raymond Sutton

DESTINATION MONTROSE

A video about our town.

The Angus Digital Media Centre at Brechin were commissioned by the Montrose Heritage Trust in 2002 to produce a film showing diverse aspects of the town and the surrounding area. In a fast moving and very entertaining video it shows something of the history of the burgh and the people who live here; the closes and architecture; the harbour, lifeboat and the lighthouse; leisure activities and places to visit. It is beautifully filmed with lovely images of life in this corner of Angus. This video will make an excellent present for anyone with an interest in our town and will be available to buy in mid-November.

Tony Sutton

The Montrose Society gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship from RGIT Montrose in the printing of this newsletter

WILLIAM DORWARD - Philanthropist

In the eighteenth century a maze of closes lay south of the Steeple. Here, in a little house with an outside stair, William Dorward was born in the year 1765. His father was a packman and, in later years, William and his brother John followed in their father's footsteps. A packman travelled round the countryside selling soft goods to the farm people. From an old poem I found that they bartered goods and were also moneylenders. A packman with ambition could move into a shop in town and a history book tells of Robert Dorward paying 500 guineas for a building at 210 High Street. The upper stories had been the town house of Erskine of Dun so it was a palatial abode. In the shop on the ground floor William and his brother John sold "winceys and worsteds" to the sailors and fishermen.

This business expanded and on its foundation William Dorward built his wealth. A gravestone at the Auld Kirk shows that John died in Aberdeen but William lived in the house and retained the shop until his death in April, 1848. Through the years he was involved in the boom time of the whaling industry and he was a financier with fingers in many pies. Large amounts of money were lent on bond with £4000 going to a titled lady on surety of 200 acres of land. His money was invested in Feu Duties in Dundee and also in Tolls. Property in Montrose was purchased, particularly in Hospital Close where he grew up.

William never married and his wealth was amassed to enable him to help the needy. Vast amounts of money were given away during his lifetime, then, in his seventies, he began to put his affairs in order. Minutes of a meeting in February, 1838 show his Declaration to give £2000 for the erection of Dorward House along with an endowment of £8000. With a further gift and the residue of his estate, this endowment reached £26,000. He looked after the needy during his lifetime and prepared for this to continue after his death.

Helen Watson



Montrose Society

Programme of Meetings 2004/2005

September 16, 2004 - **Montrose Territorials of World War I** by Graham King.

October 21, 2004 - **Merchants' Houses of Montrose** by Simon Green, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland.

November 18, 2004 - **Edward Baird - Portrait of a Young Scotsman** by Dr Jonathan Blackwood, Art Historian, Duncan of Jordanstone Art College.

December 9, 2004 - **Characters and Montrosians** by Rev. Tom Long.

January 20, 2005 - **More Montrose Memories** by John Macpherson.

February 17, 2005 - **The Montrose Coaster Company** by John Aitken.

March 17, 2005 - **Montrose Video Screening and ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

May 20, 2005 - **Awards and Commendations Evening** in The Old and St. Andrews Kirk Hall, Montrose.

The Montrose Society was founded in 1956. Its stated aim is to provide a forum for those interested in the town of Montrose and its immediate area, and who want to know more about its history, its people, and the events which have shaped its character and will influence its future.

An important part of the Society's work is the preparation and publishing of research into local history, covering areas such as cultural and social history and townscape.

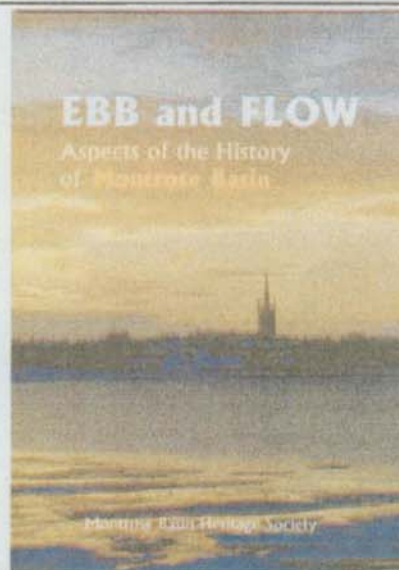
The Society seeks to encourage the highest quality design and preservation standards within the built environment by maintaining a "watching brief" on new development.

The Society runs an annual awards and commendations programme. The Society is registered with the Scottish Civic Trust and membership is open to anyone.

IMPROVING THE IMAGE

The Montrose Partnership are looking at ways of keeping closes tidy, eliminating the scourge of chewing gum on the pavements and generally improving the image of the town. If we are to attract new businesses and more visitors to the area we have to make the town as attractive as possible. A range of projects are being considered such as inviting the schools to participate in designing a slogan and poster for the campaign as a way of involving the children; commissioning a Montrose Rose from Cockers of Aberdeen, and working with the Horticultural Society to organise an annual gardens competition. Any other suggestions would be most welcome!

Tony Sutton



'Ebb and Flow' was recently written by Montrose Basin Heritage Society and launched at the House of Dun by Prof. Tom Devine; well known author of books on Scottish history. It gives a picture of life throughout the centuries in the Parishes surrounding Montrose Basin.
Duncan Macdonald

Farrago

*It's not a shop...
It's an Experience*

Unusual Distinctive Interesting Different!!

Gifts,
Occasional Furniture,
Interior Design Pieces,
Antique
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Mirrors, Lamps,
China, Glass,
Garden Ornaments,
Artificial Flowers,
Miscellany, Etc.
*All at surprisingly
reasonable prices!*
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(Opposite The Old Church
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