



Hand to Hand



Hand to Hand



Dear Reader

In this book you will find a record of the art projects undertaken by the lead artist for the new Ellon Academy Campus, Mary Bourne, in collaboration with pupils and staff at the school and members of the local community.

Aberdeenshire Council's policy of involving artists at the early stages of new building projects meant Mary could work with the architects and school both to integrate artworks into the physical environment of the new building, and to tailor their subjects to the character of the locality, capitalizing on local resources already in existence.

Mary wanted to use the artworks for the new school to acknowledge the way informal learning at home and in the community lays the bedrock for formal learning in school, to make visible the importance of links between school and community - now facilitated in the Community Campus. I attended the public sessions for Hand to Hand project, and you can see the story I told about my Hand to Hand object later in this book.

These art projects have helped to give pupils a rounded understanding of the place in which they live: of the importance of the river, of the people and forces that have shaped local history, from early Stone Age, through agriculture and fishery, to migration and great conflicts, to contemporary life. Using the expressive language of the creative arts local people tell their own stories about their place. In doing so the importance of this place and this community to the education and future well-being of the pupils at Ellon Academy becomes clearly visible.

I hope you enjoy the publication.

Councillor Isobel Davidson
Chair of Education, Learning and Leisure Committee

Introduction

This book documents some of the objects we encountered in the course of the **Hand to Hand** project at Ellon Academy, along with their stories that tell not only of the objects, but of the people and places they are important to. The project is part of a programme funded by Aberdeenshire Council, which began when I was appointed Lead Artist for the new Ellon Academy Community Campus in 2011. My brief was to create integrated artworks for the new building (scheduled to open in summer 2015) using “*design solutions that draw on sense of place and are site specific to the communities and culture of the ... school catchment area*”*. The school’s Rector, Tim McKay, was keen for me to involve as many pupils and members of the local community as possible. This book, though principally documenting the **Hand to Hand** project also includes a section on the other projects making up this programme: River of Words, Fingerprint Tiles and lettered paving.

In talking to people at the Academy and in the community, researching and developing the artwork plan for the school, a number of themes began to emerge:

- the relationship between an individual and the community s/he belongs to
- how this community is always in flux as individuals come and go
- the formal learning of the school and how it is complemented, supported and reinforced by the informal learning that happens in the community
- the way this collective community wisdom is held and passed on through personal contact.

Images began to recur: firstly the River Ythan, of central importance to Ellon and its environs, emerged as a symbol for the community, constant, but also constantly changing; then the idea of hands as the mark of the individual within the community and a means of contact between one person and another.

The **Hand to Hand** project encompasses these images and will be manifested both in this book and in an artwork for the new Academy building to be located on the walls around the upper balcony in the teaching block. This artwork will comprise a stainless steel ribbon of river, representing the continuity of the community through time, interspersed with framed photographs of objects that have been handed from person to person down through the years. Exhibited alongside the photographs will be personal accounts of why these objects are significant. The plan is for this to be a rolling process with pupils undertaking a similar interpretation project each year, providing new photos and stories for the artwork.

To collect the photographs I worked with a group of pupils, at least one from each year group at the school, who selected, photographed and recorded stories for the objects. We asked people to bring in objects of a size suitable to be held in the hand, which were precious or significant in some way, though not necessarily valuable in monetary terms. Anyone was welcome to bring an object to be photographed and to tell its story; we ran a public session at the Public Library and an open session at the school, as well as working with the Ellon Editors and Ellon Library Reminiscence Group.

In addition to this we visited Aberdeenshire Museum Archive and worked with the brilliant staff there (to whom huge thanks must go) to select objects from their collection, record their stories and photograph them effectively. Writing good interpretative text is an art in itself and I am very grateful to Flick Ibbotson from the Archive who introduced the pupils to the skill, and to Sheana Brown from the school's English Department who helped the pupils finish their text.



Another visit was made to the Special Collections Centre at Aberdeen University's Sir Duncan Rice Library where we were able to see an exhibition about books, learn how interpretative text had been used, and then look at and handle a number of historic books. There is a current debate as to whether the traditional book will survive the advent of new technology. It was interesting in this context to consider the books as objects, to think about the hands that had made and used them, and about how they were designed to be held and carried. Often books contain stories other than those printed on the page: herbals in which the pages contain pressed plants, telling of the foraging walks of a former owner; an early student's lecture notes with doodles of his lecturers and fellow students in the margins – of international significance, not for the lecture notes, but for what the doodles tell us about life at the University in its early days. The pupils selected one particular book and photographed it with the help of the Unit's digitisation specialist. Huge thanks go to the staff of the Special Collections Centre who took great trouble to tailor the visit to the project, and who found such a fascinating selection of books for us to look at, as well as showing us the amazing facilities used to conserve the books.



The Pupil Group has also been involved in digitally enhancing the photographs in order to focus attention on the objects and the hands holding them. They have considered how best to display the photographs in both the artwork and the book and have discussed the selection of objects to be displayed in the school. In doing this they had to employ the skills of curation, considering aesthetic qualities, the interest of the object's story, a spread in age/character both of the objects and of their owners to build up a picture of the local area. I am very much indebted to Cathy Fraser, Principal Teacher of Creative and Aesthetic Arts, Tonya McAlister, Teacher of Art and Design, and the Art Department at the Academy for hosting and facilitating this process. The high standard of equipment within the Art Department was also a huge benefit in realising the project effectively.

Art is about life in all its multitudinous forms and during the course of this art project pupils have among other things considered the pre-history, history, social history, military history, agriculture, trade, industry, geography, international links and leisure pursuits of the place in which they live. They have employed the skills of observation, composition, design, photographic techniques (camera skills and Photoshop digital editing), concise, accessible written English, communication with other demographic groups (Ellon Editors, Reminiscence Group, University staff) and curation. I hope it has helped to expand and support the work of individual departments in the school, showing how the various disciplines inter-relate and can be applied to a real-world project.



Finally, perhaps I should say the objects shown in this book do not aim to represent Ellon and the North East of Scotland in its entirety and we have not attempted to validate the accuracy of all the stories told. Rather, the aim is to offer glimpses into the lives of the people who have lived here over the millennia, to show the strength of the relationships between those people and, perhaps above all, the power of stories to create a sense of shared identity and bind people together as a community.

Mary Bourne, December 2014

*Aberdeenshire Council commission brief for New Ellon and Mearns Academies.

Lead Artist, Ellon Academy Community Campus:
Mary Bourne

Ellon Academy Art for the New School Group

Abbie Greig
Kerry Smith
Ailsa Westmacott
Iona Macrae
Jamie Weston
Keith Duthie
Amy Cantlay
Hannah Spence
Lauren Astley
Sophie Coxon
Reece Lawrence
Luke Thorley
Oliver Murray
Hannah Halliday
Anneka Madgett



Hand to Hand

Aberdeenshire Museum Service Archive



Brose Bowl

This brose bowl is made of wood with decorative markings on the outside and would have been made by local woodworkers. Brose is a type of porridge, made by pouring boiling water onto oatmeal and maybe a little butter to add flavour. Sometimes the water kept from boiling vegetables like cabbage would be added to make a different flavoured brose. The base of the bowl is almost worn through so it was well used.

Amy Cantlay



Stone age flint hand-axe.

This hand-axe has become separated from its story; it could be local or it could be from Africa. The local flint (from Boddam) is this colour, so there is a strong possibility that it is local. I chose it because, although it looks so rough, it has been made to fit the human hand perfectly. When you hold it you can imagine the other hand millions of years ago that so carefully shaped it so it would be comfortable to use.

Mary Bourne



Carved Stone Ball

This carved stone ball is thought to have been made over 5000 years ago, around the time that Stonehenge was built. It was one of many found in Aberdeenshire; some are rough and some are smooth but all of them have very ornate carvings and fit neatly into a human hand. Currently its use is a mystery; perhaps it was used in spiritual burials or had an important religious purpose?

Kerry Smith



Butterfly Brooch

This butterfly brooch is a delicate and decorative piece of jewellery which is likely to have been worn by a young woman of some wealth although its ownership is unknown. It relates to the wildlife of Aberdeenshire and reminds us that Ellon was once a small farming village, and that nature and the environment played a very important part in the life of the community.

Abbie Greig



Stone Container

The actual use and purpose of this object is unknown, though it is thought to originate from the bronze age- dating from around 2500-3500 years ago. It was thought to be found by archaeologists around Ellon. The most likely possibility is that it was a crucible for hot metal, or used as a container during ceremonies.

Iona Macrae



Scottish Whale Harpoon

Harpoons

These Inuit and Scottish harpoons tell the story of the close links that existed between the communities of Scotland and Canada.



Inuit Harpoon

This Inuit harpoon is linked to the north-east whaling industry. During the early 19th century over half of Britain's whaling fleet sailed from Peterhead to the Arctic, leaving in spring and not returning till autumn. This harpoon is a small example and the blade is fastened in bone, smooth and well-used. Several would be needed, all fastened to the boats by lengths of rope. Whale products like blubber and bone would have been sold and used in Ellon.

Hannah Spence



Fob Watch

This fob watch is likely to date back to Victorian or Georgian times and would have been worn by a man of wealth, perhaps a merchant or land owner in Aberdeenshire. It is heavy and would have been worn on a chain attached to a gentleman's waistcoat. Its face is ornate and may be made of mother of pearl. It is likely this watch would be passed down the family as a treasured heirloom.

Ailsa Westmacott



Fossil Ammonite

This is a fossil of an ammonite, an extinct animal that lived millions of years ago. The fossils were collected for their scientific value in the study of evolution, and also for their beauty.

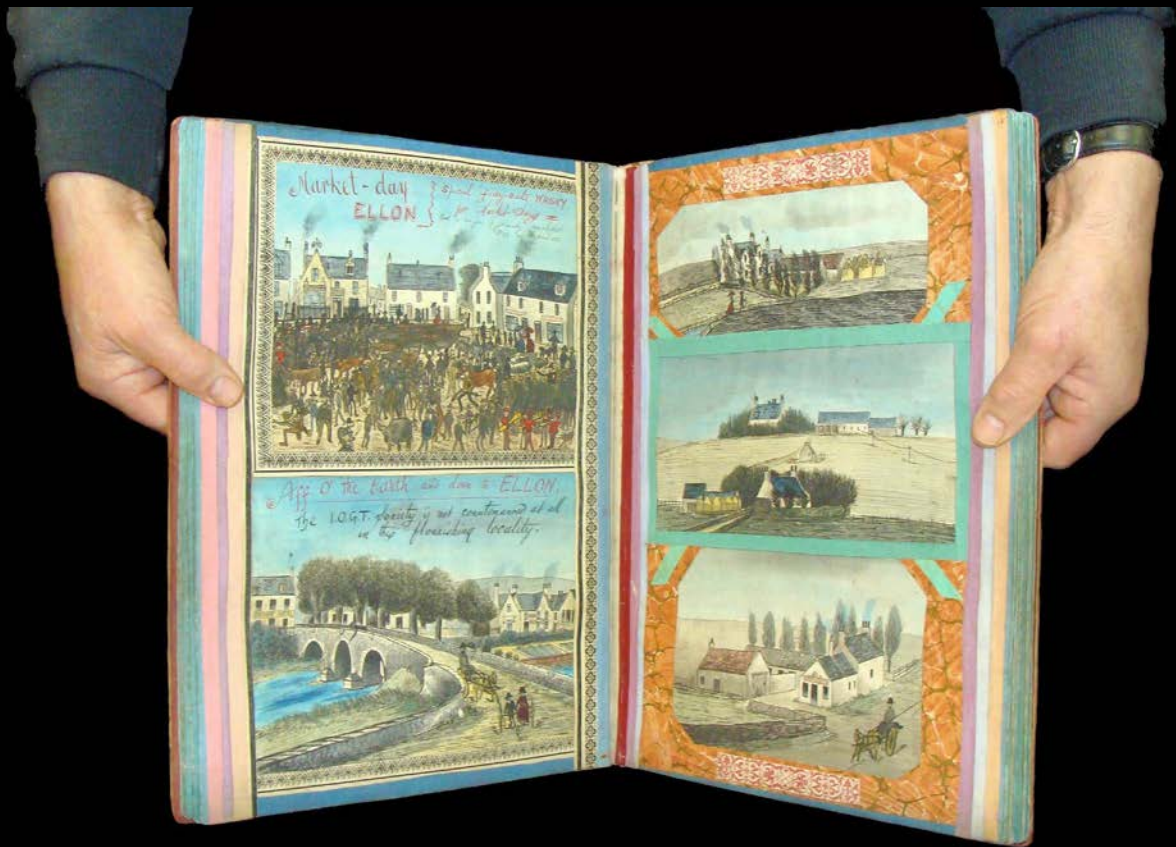
Jamie Weston

Books



The Diary of Patrick Massie of Waulmill of Kinharrachie, Ellon

This diary was kept between 1721-1746. Patrick Massie appears to have been a miller, recording deliveries of grain, as well as commenting on weather, crops and harvest. The diary also contains entries on astrology, palmistry and fortune telling. Pupils selected this book for the project during a visit to Aberdeen University Special Collections Unit, during which they were able to handle a selection of valuable old books, have a tour of the conservation suite and participate in photographing the book itself.



Recollections of Foveran, William Fiddes Smith, 1887;

Reminiscence Folder of Ellon Area with his own Sketches

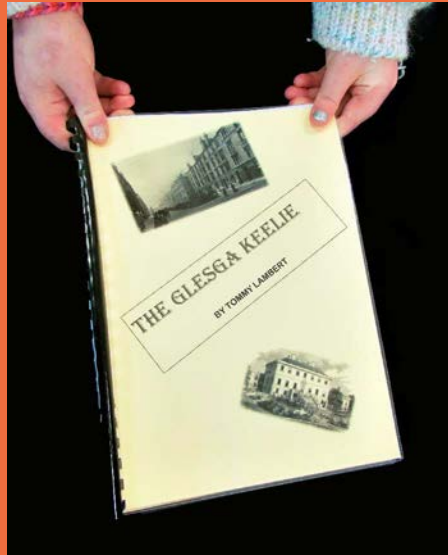
This wonderful, quirky historical document contains a series of sketches of local places by William Fiddes Smith from his years of “dissolute living”. This period ended with Fiddes swearing to become teetotal and wishing to destroy the images. However, in the end he decided not to as the sketches included places he was connected with. The folder was eventually bought by Janet Jones, a local antique dealer, who decided to keep it and asked Bill Kelly of Better Read Books in Ellon to rebind it. He advised against this as it may have damaged the works and instead, with the advice of an Aberdeen University conservator, created a box to keep it safe. Janet Jones is the author of *Portrait of Foveran*.

Bill Kelly, Better Read Books



"A Portrait of the Parish of Foveran"

This 2005 book by Janet Jones features the "Recollections of Foveran" (see previous page).



"The Glesga Keelie"

My memory object is a wee book written by my uncle about his time as an evacuee on the Haddo estate. It is a wonderful story and was a part of my childhood which helped me form a bond with this part of the world, so much so that when my husband and I moved to Ellon almost 40 years ago I felt like I was coming home! The folk at the Resource Centre in Ellon printed and published it last year and it evoked some wonderful memories for a lot of people. His time as an evacuee in this community played a major part in who he is today and he is eternally grateful for that.

Evelyn Capper



"Ellon Through Our Eyes"

The Ellon Editors learned a lot about Ellon through working for 10 years with the local Community News, as well as on their own Newsletter. It was also the 20th Anniversary of the Ellon Resource Centre where they are based, so they decided to produce their own book about Ellon: *Ellon Through Our Eyes*. Members of the group all have their own roles, for example Tanya is Sports Editor and Peter works on the farming section because he was brought up on a farm in the Newburgh area. Pamela worked on the history of the Ellon schools for the book. It was good to find a way of showing some of the Editors' pictures too; Mark is the Graphics Editor.

Ellon Editors

Ellon Reminiscence Group



Butter Clappers for shaping butter into balls and ½ lbs. or 1 lbs.

They are probably early 18th Century and have always been around Ellon. I heired them from my Mother-in-Law when I got married. We got them when we moved into the farm when they moved out. They are important to me because I used to make butter and I used them a lot.

Elma Duncan





**Victorian coin or medal.
Victorian groat.
Pepys coin, found in Ellon.**

Gladys Webster





Brownie enrolment badge.

Ellon Brownies originally started in October 1950. We were enrolled in June 1951 by Lady Diana Buchan, who was County Commissioner at the time. This is my badge from that date. It is of sentimental value and started off my association with the Guide movement - as a Brownie, Guide, Guider, Commissioner and camp trainer until 2006 when I was 65 years old. I am still involved as a member of the Trefoil Guild.

Norma Stuart



Presentation pocket watch and chain with an 1887 Queen Victoria shilling on the fob, dating from some time in the 1880s.

It belonged to my great grandfather, Evander Campbell, who was a farm worker and lived with his family at the old Toll House around 1910/11. He was born in 1867 and died in 1941. The “chain” is woven from the hair of his wife. It was handed on to his son, John Campbell, who was my grandfather. He gave it to me, as he knew I was interested in old things.

Norma Stuart



My Great Grandfather's pocket watch.

Made in Chester in 1876, I inherited it after my parents died. From it I discovered my Great Grandfather lived in Glasgow, as the watchmaker's repair slips, kept in the casing, were from Glasgow. It must have been bought in Glasgow and then moved up to Ellon when my grandparents went into service in Ellon at Kinharrachie House as chauffeur/gardener and cook/housekeeper. It is part of my family history I previously knew nothing about.

Madeline Somerville

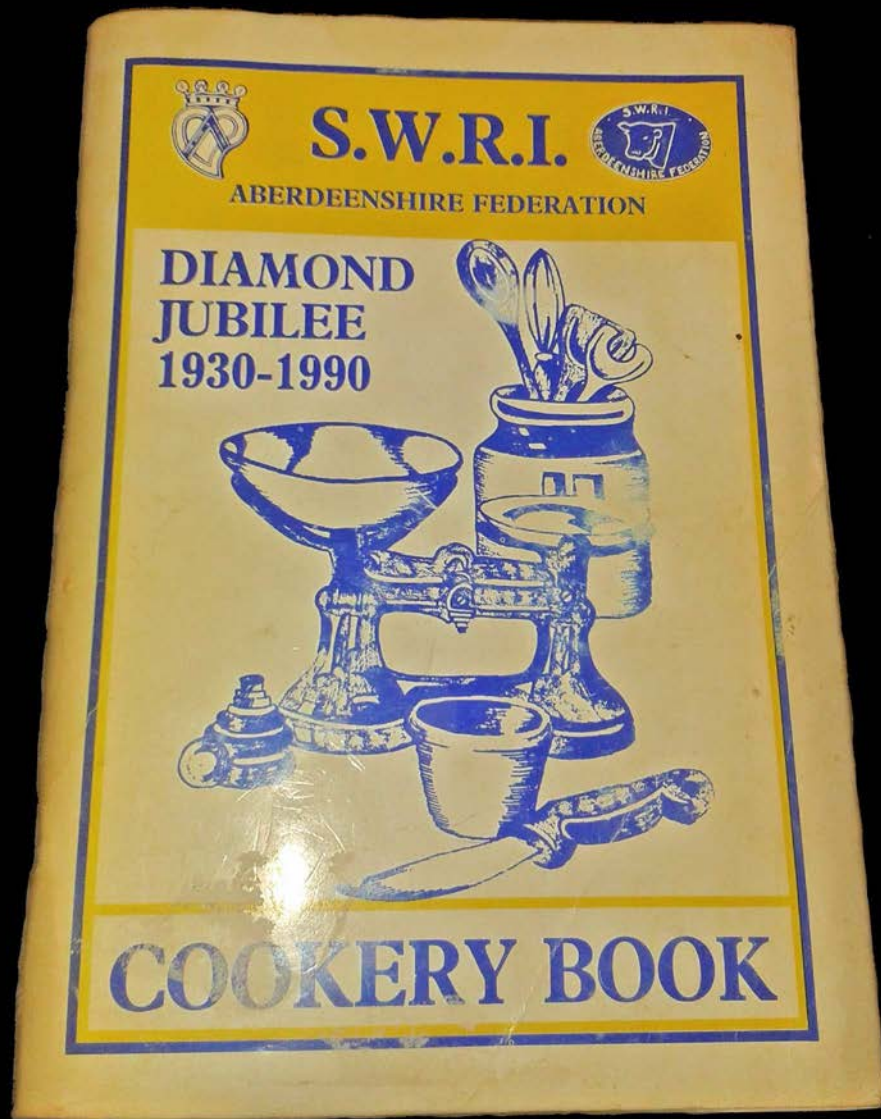




A heart-shaped pebble

For me it dates from 1987, the year my parents died. I had been at the cemetery, tidying their grave and amongst the stones I turned over I found this heart pebble. It has sentimental memory of loved ones – maybe a sign from them!!

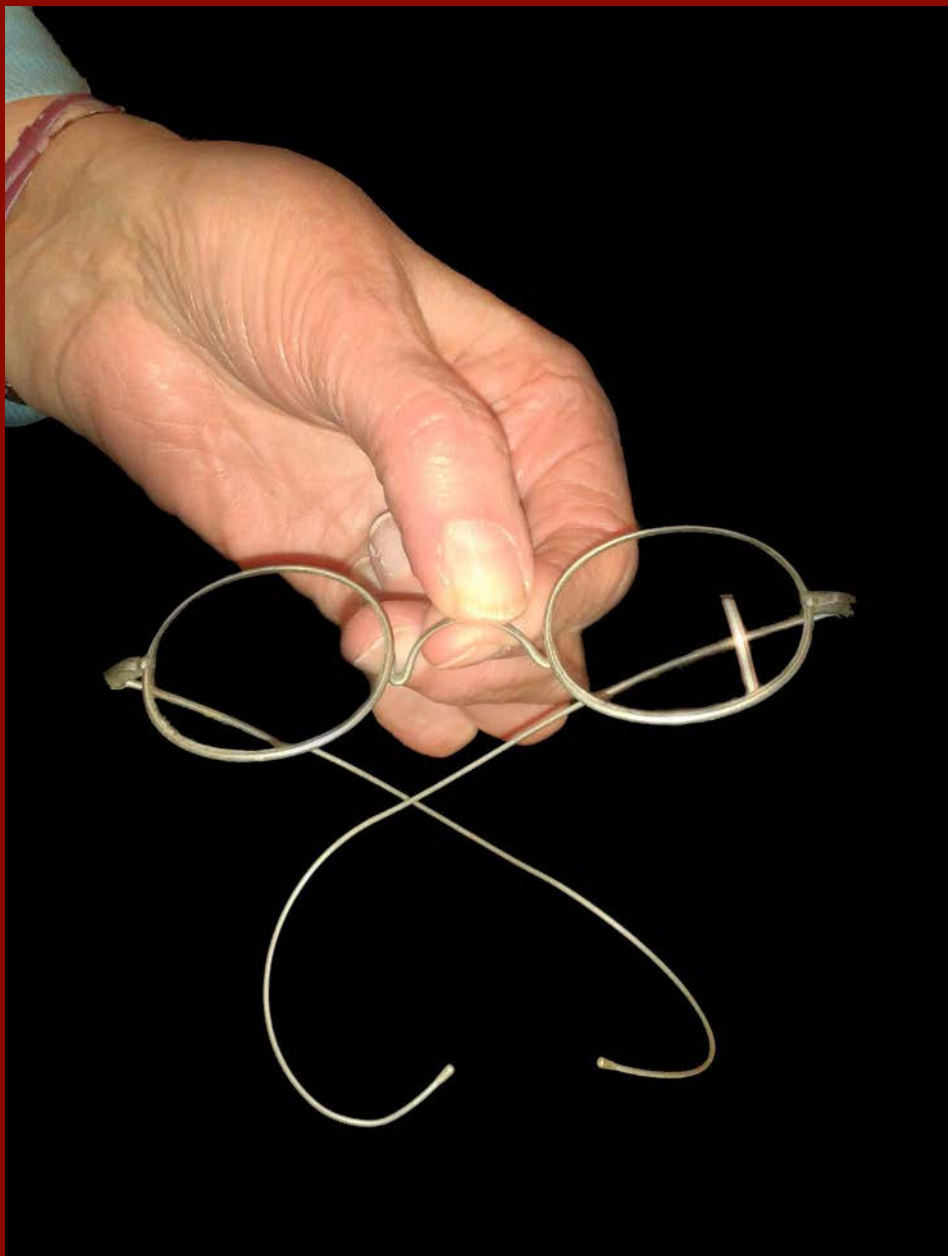
Madeline Somerville



**SWRI Diamond Jubilee Cookery Book 1930-1990,
Aberdeenshire Edition**

I got it in 1990. The Federation collects recipes from SWRI members and produces a book now and again. SWRI were selling them for funds. I have used it a lot and like the recipes.

Elma Duncan



A pair of spectacles from early nineteen hundreds.

These belonged to my Great Grandmother.

Nancy Bruce



I've never heard its name – it's for darning, especially a man's sock.

It's always been in the house; it's really old. It just stays in the workbox, nice to look at, like a mushroom.

Reminiscence Group Member

Public Session, Ellon Library



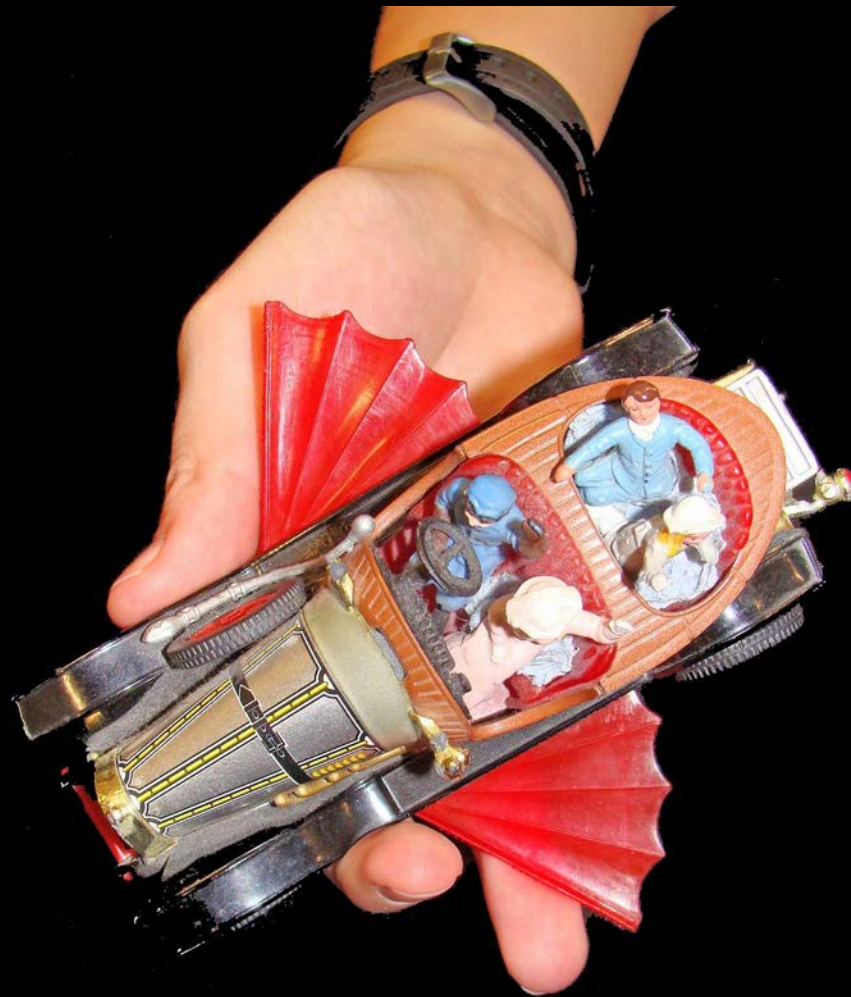
Public Session at Ellon Public Library



**Eggcup made of animal horn, with a lead weight in the bottom.
Early 1900s or maybe earlier.**

Possibly this came from Slains – Little Collieston Croft, which is now the Forvie Centre. My great grandfather had his egg every day using this eggcup. Chips can be seen in the side where he cracked the egg open. He also had a horn egg spoon. It has sentimental value – memories of a lovely old man who died in 1954, aged 90 years.

Norma Stuart



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

This is a vintage toy of the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car. It came in an old original box. It has working wings and the four characters from the film sitting inside. I loved the story when I was small, mainly because Caractacus Potts was an inventor and the car went everywhere with me. Now it sits in my bedroom and I imagine myself flying off in it as I drop off to sleep.

Rory Brown



Souvenir bracelet of Ellon.

This bracelet was given to Mrs Slessor by her uncle who bought it new for her in Ellon in 1956. Although she lived in Niagara Falls, Mrs Slessor's family came from Peterhead and she came to the area for a 5 month family holiday in 1950. She then returned in 1956 when the Scottish clan in Niagara chartered a flight to Scotland. Since then she has made regular trips to the area, and in 1991 married a local man and has been living in Pitmedden ever since.

Mrs Slessor



A fleam for bleeding horses, probably used 1860s – 1930s.

It was given to me by an old, retired farmer many years ago. It was used for taking blood from horses with conditions such as laminitis. It would have been used by local veterinary surgeons. I'm a retired veterinary surgeon and interested in old veterinary instruments.

Kenneth Gill



Gent's gold pocket watch, approximately 70 years old.

This belonged to my grandfather, George Clubb, one-time hotelier of the New Inn, Market Street, Ellon. It is of sentimental value.

Frances Watson



Moneybank from 1953.

Gladys Webster



Best Kept Horse and Harness medal, 1894

My grandfather worked a croft near Slains; it is important to me for its connection to the past. I don't know where it came from originally, but would like to!

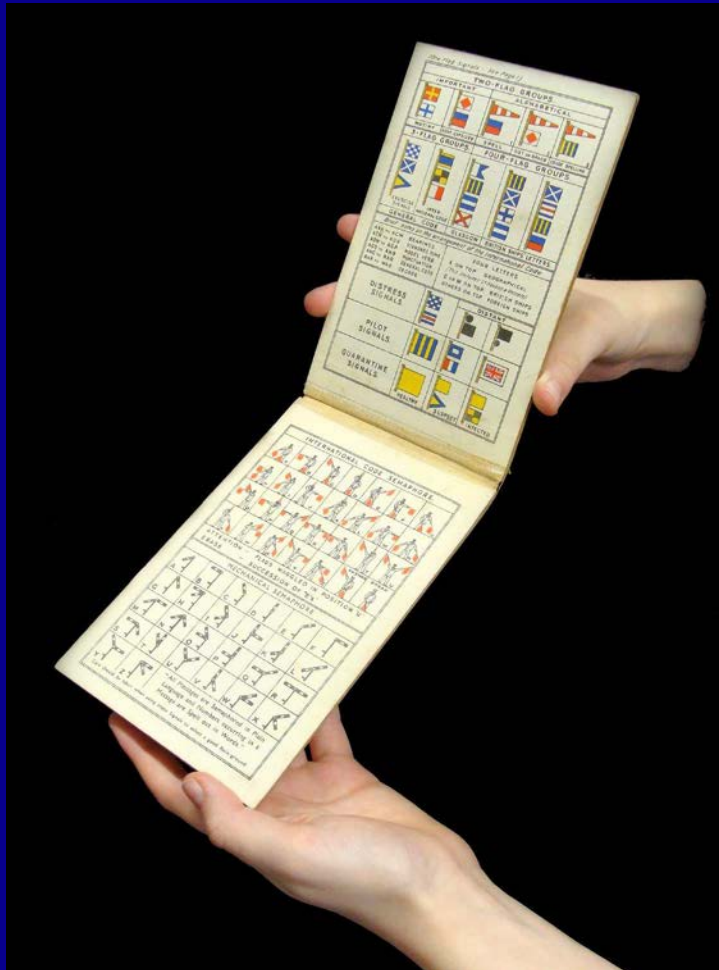
Bob Duncan



Pearl, emerald and ruby mourning ring with hair in a compartment at the back, 1880-1900.

It has passed through the family, which lived around New Deer, most recently through my Aunt who was midwife at Ellon Hospital in the late 50s and early 60s. It is important to me as it has passed through my family, and I am interested in family history.

Councillor Isobel Davidson



"Brown's Signal Reminder"

This book is called "Brown's Signal Reminder" and I bought it with my pocket money when I was ten at a second hand book sale in the Black Isle. It was printed in 1960 and it cost me 50p but on the front it says it cost two shillings and sixpence originally. It is full of diagrams of international Morse code, little figures of men doing semaphore and pictures of shipping signal flags. I bought it because I like codes, secret messaging and finding out the meanings behind signals. It also has my surname in the title as if it was meant to belong to me.

Rory Brown

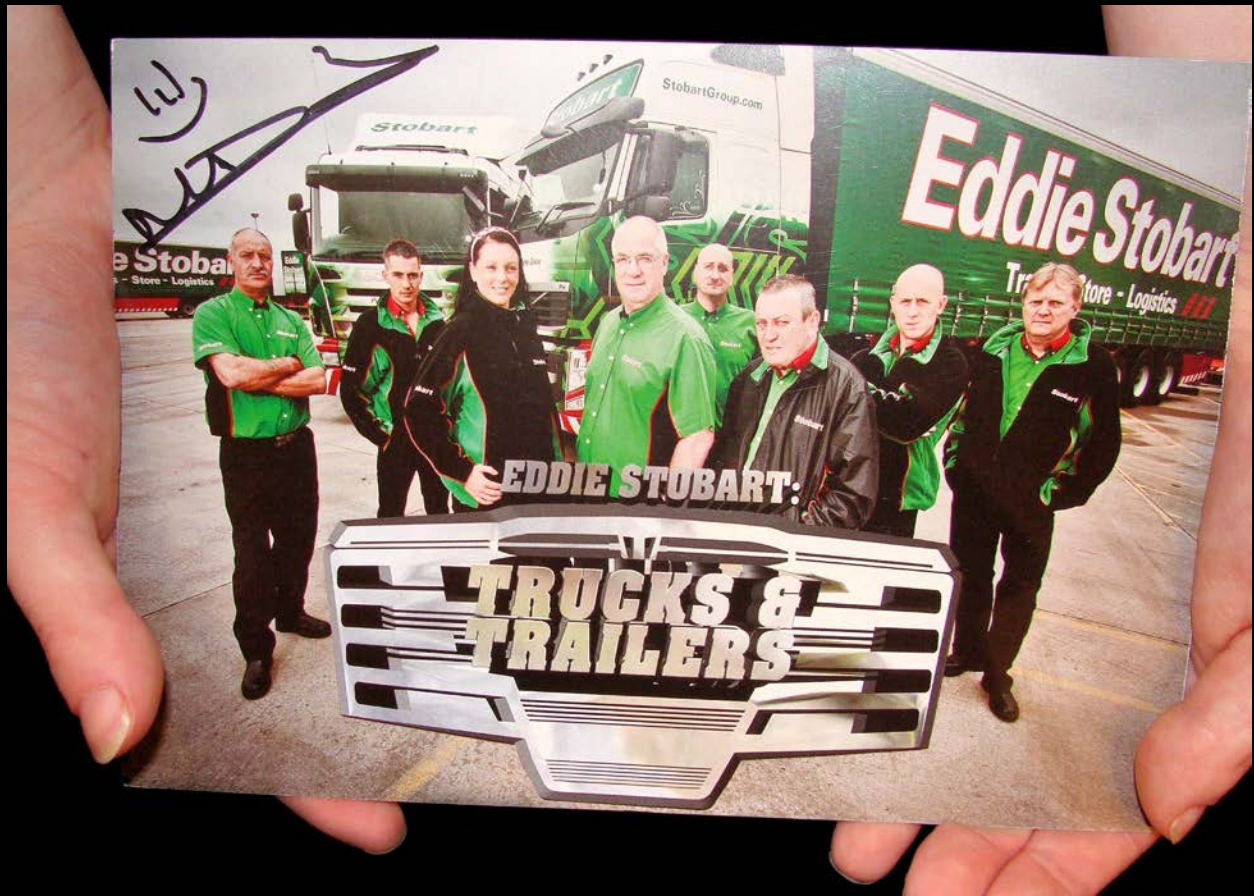
Ellon Editors



Necklace

It is a necklace and I like wearing it and it's really nice to put it on and to look at it. It was my Granny's; she gave it to my Mum to give to me. My Granny wore it for a long time. I wore it on my 30th birthday! It reminds me of my Granny and about the good times I had with her, and it reminds me of my family. I miss her. She lived in Tarves and then she moved to Ellon.

Wendy Cruikshank



An autograph from 2012 of an Eddie Stobart driver, Mark Dixon, from the Truck 'n' Trailers series on Channel 5.

I am a fan of Eddie Stobart and a member of their fan club. I wrote a letter to the fan club and they sent me an autograph. It came from Carlisle, but was sent to me in Ellon. They wrote it for me and I am a big fan – it's a nice memory I will always have. Makes me smile!

Fiona Jones



Motorbike

I have chosen a motorbike as I used to have one years ago and I still find bikes very interesting. In my spare time I look up bikes on the computer.

Peter Murray



Small cameo brooch

This brooch was left to me by my Granny. My Dad remembers it from when he was a boy so it is quite old. It probably came from Glasgow or East Kilbride. My Granny wore it all the time on her jacket. It used to belong to her Mum. I sometimes wear it as well. When I wear it I have very happy memories of her.

Sarah Doak



**Pomander (an air freshener), probably from the 1930s or 1940s,
possibly from Edinburgh.**

My Granny kept this in her china cabinet, which was full of beautiful things. She let me look through her china and spent time chatting with me. The smell is still there 55 years later! The smell takes me straight back to Granny's lounge, sitting on the floor with her, looking through the cabinet together.

Kate Robb



JLS necklace.

My Mum's friend, Kate, gave it to me as a gift last year because I am a big fan of JLS.

Charlotte MacDonald



Photo of my first rabbits.

It is from a long time ago and is precious because the white rabbit was my first ever pet. I love Snowy.

Tanya Cooper

Ellon Academy Sessions

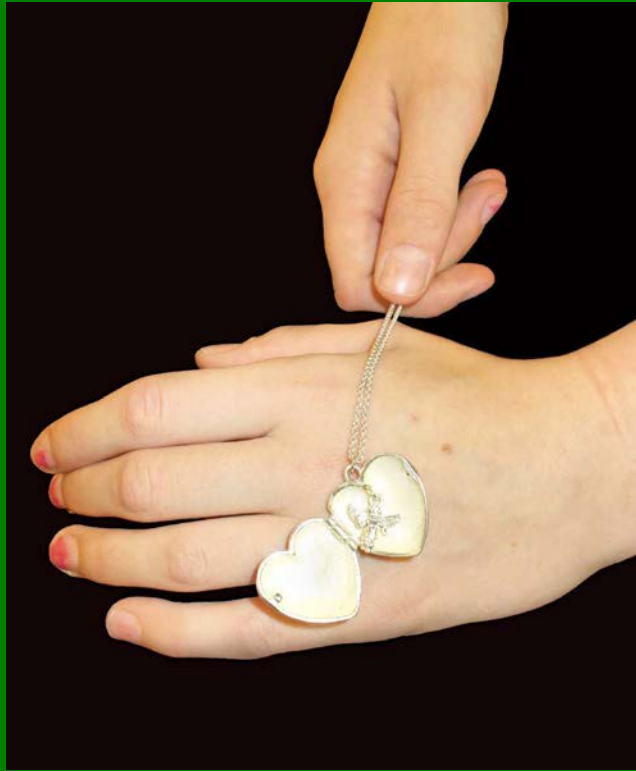


An old mortise key for a bespoke lock, perhaps a trophy cabinet.

50 – 100 years old.

Found by Sarah Kyle in the basement of the old academy, it is a handcrafted, unique key, made for a specific lock. A lot of skill and time went into making it. It is irreplaceable and could not be replicated today. It is part of the history of the old academy.

Brian Mathers, Janitor at Ellon Academy for 30 years



**A locket with a guardian angel in the middle to make all
your dreams come true.**

My Mum gave it to me for my birthday on 8th April 2009, the year she died.
It has travelled with me everywhere since I got it. I live in Ellon and I've
lived here for 10 years.

Mathilda Ripley



Sharpies

Sharpies are for colouring in and they're bright. I like Sharpies because I love art.

Nickita Connel



Dux Medallion

This Dux medallion was awarded to my mother, Rosemary Lakin (maiden name) at Hilton Secondary School in Aberdeen for being top of her year group. It is dated 1958 and bears the Bon Accord coat of arms. She received this in recognition of her hard work and for being good academically when she was aged 14 years, in 3rd year of secondary school. She is now 71 years old and has always been very proud of her achievement. After this she left school and studied secretarial studies; she could have gone to Aberdeen Academy, but chose a vocational path. It relates to Ellon in that the medal has been given to me for safe-keeping and I now teach here – Hilton Academy has now closed down.

Mrs. Tonya McAlister



A snow globe of Blackpool Tower.

I was going to England for a holiday, I think it was 2012. We got flooded out of the caravan site, so we decided to go to Blackpool. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me, and I LOVE BLACKPOOL!

Sarah Donald



Joseph Taylor's (1895 – 1983) WW1 War Medals

These medals were awarded to soldiers who engaged in National Service during WW1. My great grandfather, Joseph Taylor was one such. He received these medals in September 1918 after serving for 3 years and 27 days following enlisting in Aberdeen. He served in the Gordon Highlander Regiment, ultimately gaining the rank of Lance Corporal. He and his family lived in Ellon and his descendants have attended Ellon Academy ever since.

Keith Duthie

Other Projects

River of Words

The life of Elton is in the river, river of gold.

~ glistening ~ sparkly water ~ splashing, rushing ~ energy ~ bringer of life ~ past, present and future ~ slishy, sloshy water ~ the peaceful sound as water trickles over rocks ~ the glistening water rushing ~ The Ythan. Bringer of life. Past, present and the future ~ the town hugs the river ~ step by footstep, ripple by wave, we flow through Ellon together ~ I don't talk about my river. I think about it, I think about it all the time ~ I saw a dog in the river chasing a fish ~ in the summer the river sounds calm and makes me happy ~ protected by the quiet woods ~ what keeps Ellon apart also keeps it together ~ ripples spread, turn and shimmer ~ water flows through Ythan's veins, irrigating a community ~ the rough and the smooth Ythan; our lives ~ flooding my Granny's house! ~ ducks doing handstands in the water ~ a whirlpool of words in the water ~ coursing waves, thundering over slick sheets of rock ~ darting, dancing, lilted to the music of the waves ~ softly, swiftly singing in the summer's breeze ~ water tickling your dangling feet in the summer warmth ~ fireworks sparkling on the water ~ herons looking for fish ~ a beautiful trapped trolley ~ I love eating icecream beside the river ~ dragonflies fly above the surface of the water ~ day after day, walk after walk, flowing through our lives ~ the cold rushing water flows under the quiet old bridge ~ weedy, muddy, deep, 'nuf said ~ anxiety of the freezing, moving, intriguing and pulling water ~ uncontrollably flowing like long hair in the wind ~ the reflection of the sun from the Ythan gleams ~ ducks make ripples as the silent Ythan flows by ~ secrets at the bottom, hidden in the dark... ~ I stare at my reflection in the flowing water ~ rapid currents, shivery waves ~ eternal force, uncontrollable and fierce in its extremes ~ when the sun hits the river, it sparkles with diamonds ~ silver shimmers ~ waiting for the fish, not the cold ~ in the shadow of the trees, the river flows gracefully ~ twisting and turning, pumping through Ellon, anointing stook fields ~ kingfishers swooped ~ something new at every turn ~ whistling of birds, soft wind blowing ~ respect the flow ~ mirror-like ~ the glass river flows smoothly ~ rushing current and rippling water ~ as the rain came down the river filled up ~ river of gold ~ blue shimmering water ~ rushes and ripples ~ freezing ~ priceless pearls lie beneath the surface ~ swans hiss and spit at us ~ the river winds like a slithering serpent ~ the duckweed floats and flows under the water, unseen by most eyes ~ winter frost covered the ground like a blanket of stars ~ the river is the heart of Ellon ~ swallows swooping down towards the river ~ bridge over eternal life ~ oil and workers flow away, leaving Ythan flow unchanged ~ the rafts went by with screams of joy ~ the life of Ellon is in the river ~ the river flows every second, every day ~ the trees around change season by season ~ Ellon, like time and the Ythan, does not stand still ~ a diamond studded, opal serpent ~ the paths as rough as the water ~ the river flows through Ellon linking everyone together as a community ~ the river flows fiercely, a torrent of excitement and fear ~ snow started to fall, the river began to freeze ~ dark, desolate, wet and dreary ~ the bitterness froze me ~ rapids roar ~ colder than cold ~ drip, drop, splash ~ never the same ~ shimmering mythical river ~ I saw lovely ripples gliding down the river ~ the ducks float down with their young ones behind them ~ the boat rippled in the water ~ crashing currents carve the river's path ~ the river is like a long adventurous journey ~ flowing, gentle, wavy water ~ ice-cream giving you a shiver, looking at ripples on the river ~ throw a stick and make a wish ~ the moonlight shimmers on a cold winter night ~ watching the queen of birds elegantly flowing along ~ the water waves hello as I pass by ~ fit ye gannae dee fan ye fa' in the Ythan? ~ the river shines like mud on wellies ~ waddle along robo-ducks ~ tried to feed swans chocolate as didn't have bread ~ muddy puddles squelch ~ inverted ducks ~ crumbs crumbling, leaving a trail ~ wet dogs bark ~ it's a rollercoaster ride ~ heart and soul of Ellon ~

COMMUNITY | Love eating ice-cream beside the river
river, meanders Swallows swooping down towards the River
g, dancing, tilting to the music of the waves Ripples spread
icked a ball into the river and it floated away Ducks doing handstand
water, drip! | Inverted snow started to fall, the Desolate
g leaving a trail of excitement and ripples herons |
g down the river Wet
d river, drop! | I saw a dog in the river, I was soaking
ater waves hello as I pass by splash! The river flows fiercely
n by season The boat rippled in
d every day | The river flows through Ellon linking ev
DON'T TALK ABOUT MY RIVER! I THINK ABOUT IT, I THINK ABOUT IT

my heart doesn't seem cold any more, but the river does ~ when the Ythan bursts its banks I hate getting my feet wet! ~ I am very happy when it's time to go home ~ don't go fishing because the only thing you will catch is a cold ~ floating down the river in an inflatable raft ~ powerfully surging over rocks ~ watching ducks swim ~ big rocks shaped as potatoes, the weeds like long thin bananas ~ I fell in the river when I was 3! ~ water flowing rapidly ~ the river makes me do the Harlem Shake! ~ the river glistens like twinkling stars in the night sky ~ a peaceful heron flying through the salty air ~ never-ending river ~ an everlasting force of nature ~ never quiet, never still, always going for better or worse ~ never-ending rollercoaster ~ the water flows like a raven soars through the sky ~ the river shines like a diamond ~ shying beneath the trees flows the heart of Ellon ~ during life never stop dreaming, no-one can take away your dreams ~ LOL I'm drowning ~ just keep swimming ~ the River Ythan is as calm as the library ~ smooth as a baby's bottom ~ the Ythan is the oldest and most loyal friend Ellon has ~ small bits of bridge fell into the river ~ the sky is blue, the ducks are out, I'm jumping around the river bank ~ eating ice-cream beside the river ~ the crystal water gently running with peaceful sounds of wildlife ~ the fish swim down the river bank while the kids are out and feeding the ducks ~ as the fish swim calmly down the river the water bubbles ~ watching the water flow, calm and peaceful ~ the brown Ythan flows quickly as it can ~ river so elegantly gliding through the town, bonding us together ~ as the Ythan flows along the road that's how it goes ~ the Ythan filled with otters, steeped in history ~ peaceful river flowing gently through Ellon, make happiness for everyone ~ the beating heart of Ellon ~ flow through life, like ripples flow through the river ~ sunny reflection on the flowing current ~ the Ythan an image of peace ~ listen carefully and you will hear it flowing ~ ducks floating on the water, paddling against the current ~ roaring rapids rush and rage ~ I almost got pushed in the water ~ hungry heron fishing for food ~ flow like a river as it flows freely and happily ~ let your dreams flow ~ as holy as the church above ~ the journey of a river is a never-ending miracle ~ the Ythan is worth more than it looks ~ eccentric wildlife can always be seen ~ I spotted a baby duckling ~ don't feed the ducks, they bite ~ the fish forgot to forget ~ walking by the silent Ythan is beautiful, relaxing and peaceful ~ pure river runs clear, like bells a-peeling ~ walking over the bridge, above the water, every day, every weather ~ old barrels in the old shed ~ ducks bobbing ~ loud noisy ducks ~ quack as I walk past ~ as cold as ice ~ I saw a duck swim across the sparkling water ~ the river makes you shiver when you fall in ~ looking down at the river, falls off towards death ~ the water is so cold, even in summer ~ ice cold water ripples in the summer day ~ happy summer days, relaxing with friends ~ try skimming stones ~ the sun mirrored off the water glistening peacefully ~ floods awry fan it rains ~ the river grows as the rain falls ~ as it gets cold, the river freezes ~ as the river begins to freeze, everyone stops and stares at trees ~ venturing on the river when the ice looks "safe" enough ~ I went to catch a fish, instead I caught a cold ~ as the river was flowing it suddenly started snowing ~ the river was as cold as the winter weather ~ I thought the river would freeze over in the cold ~ I walked across the beautiful bridge ~ the river of Ythan holds all the secrets of Ellon ~ majestic ~ the Ythan flows like a magical poem ~ the fast fish swam rapidly in the river ~ as the river flowed, so did the fish ~ the river flows down; the fish go up ~ otters bobbing out of the water ~ the river is full of baby animals ~ down the Ythan water flows as the otter cubs grow ~ the river flows effortlessly without a pause ~ peaceful road of majesty ~ the boat rippled in the water ~ just go with the flow ~ flying down the river on the dinghy so fast ~ as the river flies by, so do the birds ~ glistening glass-like water as the sun shines down on Ellon ~

~ the otter tackled the waves like the champion of champions ~ reflection bouncing off water ~ kicked a ball into the water and it floated away ~ when I fell in the river, I was soaking wet ~ cold rushing through my veins like water dancing down the channel ~ as you go into the river the world seems to stop ~ memories swam through my head ~ flying ducks in the moonlight cast shadows on the water ~ when words fail, let the music of the river speak ~ green water flowing like the gentle wind in the air ~ fast-flowing, slow-going ~ menacing in the pitch black darkness ~ river winds around the town, disappearing into the dark horizon ~ the sound of ducks flying high in the sky ~ quack ~ fish swim above the river bed, searching for buried treasure ~ otters hide in the reeds, hiding from prying eyes ~ splish, splash, voles taking a bath ~ splashing and splashing I made my way to the riverside ~ as the water splashes off the rocks the river moves rapidly around the town ~ our dreams have no limitation, let yourself flow free ~ take a slow leisurely walk through the shady trees ~ the river of words is full of birds ~ the trees shade the passers-by in the summer sun ~ eating ice-cream ~ in summer the river shines brightly in my eyes ~ the shiny fish swimming in the sun ~ ducklings swimming in summer ~ feisty herons maul the fish ~ rocky rocks slowing down the fast water; ducks squashed together ~ gentle flow ~ along the river, peacefully wildlife floats ~ as cool as an autumn breeze ~ ripples in the flowing water ~ flowing any way it wants ~ astonished I watch a magical fish leap out of the river ~ the noise of the river flowing majestically ~ the light glistening off the beautiful magical water ~ drifting smoothly through enchantments ~ herons catching fish ~ feeling the wind blow towards your face ~ the fish jumped in the cold water ~ throwing stones, hearing the splash, the bonnie River Ythan ~ ducks paddling through the cold currents of raging fury ~ a river is like your mind, it can take you anywhere ~ birds landing on the ground scrounging a crumb ~ water burst its banks ~ peaceful willows blow calmly through the beautiful, tranquil Ythan River ~ swans guide their young down the river ~ trout swim beneath the water's edge ~ dragonflies fly above the surface ~ the reflection of the sun ~ ducks bobbing, kids playing, dogs splashing, fish jumping, geese squawling ~ swans huddle together ~ perishing cold ~ having a hot drink, watching the ducks paddle past ~ the sun strikes the river, making a piece of art ~ words floating on the peaceful river ~ the Ythan's banks and bridges define this pleasant place ~ without the river, Ellon would have no heart ~ old scout hut where have you gone? Happy days ~ ripples of cold wet dampness ~ peaceful waves full of imagination ~ ducks flying when the tide comes in, the lovely taste of soft sausage rolls from Costys ~ culture vanishes as the sun sets ~ it's only water, nothing dramatic ~ peaceful gurgling of the Ythan, lovely walkways, magical scenery. Harmony ~ the birds flew away as I walked along the river ~ a peaceful current of cold wet waves ~ dancing waves full of enthusiasm ~ Senior Girls Sports Champion 1961 ~ on a sunny day the urge to jump in overwhelms you ~ a world of water ~ the traditional flow of the Ythan River makes Ellon perhaps wider known ~ ducks float like fluffy clouds on the water ~ the water raced over the rocks ~ each wave a tsunami of cold numbing-ness ~ the familiar flow allows progress ~ another world underneath ours ~ daintily flowing along ~ as cold as it gets in winter, the warmer it gets in summer ~ the water ripples gently as the wind blows ~ flowing water really fast crashing thundering continuing on its journey ~ crystal clear waves splashing about ~ flow freely, believe ~ paddle your boat down the river, if you see an otter don't forget to scream ~ there are fish in the river Ythan ~ fish making ripples ~ glistening clear blue calm water flows through the riverside town of Ellon ~ the ducks swim quietly along the peaceful river ~ dirty, ducks ~ mysterious waves winding into the horizon ~ a twisting slide of water ~

we return, we leave, you remain, forever weave ~ a sparkling thread in a tapestry of land and lives ~ the river flows, as the wind blows ~ go with the flow ~ ducks swimming peacefully and calmly ~ the water sparkles while the sun shines ~ swans sail silently as ducks take flight ~ a river never has a smooth day ~ cascading cacophony ~ some days you just have to create your own sunshine ~ dirty, ugly, muddy, water and chickens ~ a river always makes a noise, but you don't have to! ~ the river is calm on a summer's day ~ peaceful river view ~ the water is wavy when the wind blows ~ oh look at these ducklings I see; I hope they don't end up in the sea ~ the words of a river flow along with pride ~ forever flowing ~ the river will surprise you as much as Ellon itself ~ feeding the baby ducks in summer ~ plants grow endlessly ~ Mother Mallard and her ducklings gliding down the Ythan serene ~ peace ~ watching otters eating fish and then playing together, how magical ~ the flow of the water is very calm ~ wet icy water ~ the water is so cold like winter ~ I lost my Dad's i phone 4s in the Ythan ~ I saw a man swimming in the Ythan ~ an innocent ice-cream floated down the river ~ river flowing past memories of Boatie Tam ~ watching fireworks on the banks on the night of the Christmas lights switch on ~ the cold was as bitter as if eating a sour lemon ~ when I was fishing I caught my knee!! ~ my dog tried to eat a duck, now it's legless ~ otters ducking, diving, up and down, up and down they go ~ the river slithers like a snake ~ it's full of wildlife and the river swims ~ fast flowing ~ when the river floods it splashes past then the mud sets in ~ the river flows down through the bridge, splashing ~ the Ythan bridge, what a masterpiece ~ peering at the water, knowing it's peering back at me ~ the river trickles gently ~ it flows through Ellon and far beyond ~ express river trolleys for free, one way only, no refunds ~ it flows to Newburgh and far beyond ~ the sight of the mysterious waves winding into the horizon ~ when the water's flowing just keep going ~ freedom, freedom, freedom ~ be like a river and flow ~ the clear shining water glistening with the sun's light ~ the river calms as you calm ~ may happiness always ignite random imagination ~ the river's like a mirror reflecting the sun ~ ducks float along the top of the water ~ my dog swam after ducks ~ when rain comes the river floods ~ a violent battle between water and earth ~ feisty river flows through Ellon ~ the Ythan holds a life of its own ~ it's not the people that flood the river, but the river that floods the people ~ the river is gushing and we will be rushing ~ have courage and swim like a fish ~ just keep swimming to success ~ have faith in yourself ~ paddle to success ~ if you can't swim in the pool, don't swim in the river ~ the river flows with excellence ~ I saw an otter that looked like Harry Potter ~ the summer brings thriving ducks ~ the lovely ducks get fed food on the banks ~ our duck, lost at night or noon, soon found two weeks later swimming with a crew ~ the water flows slowly, down it goes ~ our life's journey ebbs and flows through time and space ~ dark reflection of dreams smoothly dancing on the flow of water ~ glistening clear blue water flows under the stone bridge ~ fish jump in and out of the water as I go by Splash ~ otter, what an amazing beast, on its belly eating fish ~ I saw a trolley in the Ythan! ~ the ducks swimming and splashing around getting fed yummy bread ~ under the summer sun the fish gulp bubbles joyfully ~ Ellon: tranquil, comfy library, fast flowing river, jam-packed events ~ link together, combine as one ~ the water that runs through the river is like the blood that runs through our veins ~ The Ythan, my river, meanders.

Ellon hugs the river



Fingerprint Tiles:

Project conception and management:

David Cordiner, Art
Teacher, with the
Pupil Art Group,
Ellon Academy

Specialist support:

Morag McGee,
Ceramicist

Technical Support:

Sarah Kyle,
Technical Assistant,
Ellon Academy



Pupils and staff at Ellon Academy were all invited to make a ceramic tile based on their own fingerprint pattern and birth date. The finished tiles will be installed in panels at the Pupils' Entrance. Together the tiles resemble the contours of a map, a guide to the landscape of a community, each grid square representing a single individual.

Lettered paving

Concept and design: Mary Bourne

Words chosen in consultation with local people, School and Council staff and the Pupil Art Group.

Pupils' entrance: *Path to the Future*

Words chosen to make visible the inner thoughts and feelings of pupils as they move towards the challenges of their adult lives.

hopes

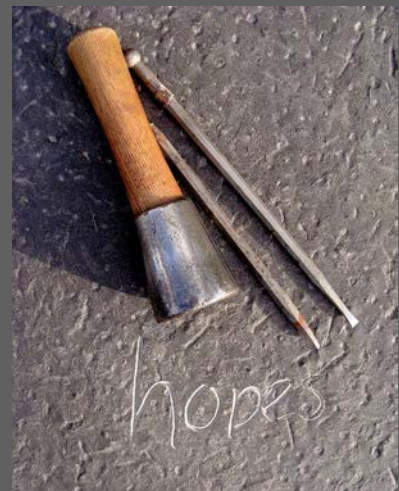
wishes

dreams

hopes

wishes

dreams

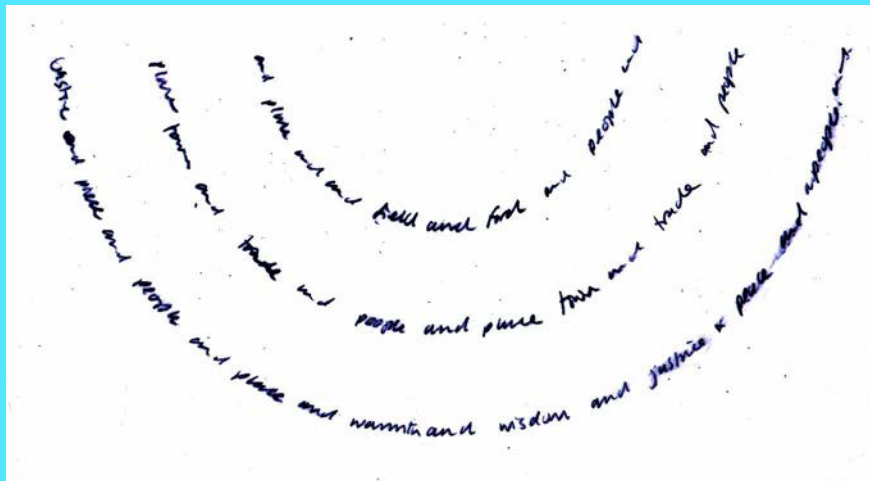




Main/Community Entrance: *Community Pool*

Couplets describing the qualities that define the Ellon as a place and a community.

*field and ford
justice and peace
town and trade
warmth and wisdom
people and place*



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Art projects for the New Ellon
Academy Community Campus