

# Alford Heritage Museum

*Preserving the rich heritage of Alford and Donside for future generations.*



## A letter to our supporters

Alford and Donside Heritage Association - April 2022

With the date for our 2022 open season now well in sight we would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the Museum, share some highlights from 2021, and unveil some of the exciting new programmes that will be on offer throughout 2022.

2021 was an unprecedented year for all, and Alford Heritage Museum was no exception. Having been closed for such a long period and adjusting to new ways of operating during Covid-19, it was impossible to make expectations for the season when we reopened in July 2021. However, we learned to adapt and find ways to grow in this new landscape by building connections within the community, expanding our outdoor event offerings, and strengthening a diverse team of talented volunteers.

For additional information on any items contained in the newsletter please feel free to contact us via the following methods

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**Alford Heritage Museum's 2022**  
**Public Open Hours will be**  
**Thursday - Sunday 12-4 PM**  
**April 7th - October 31st**



## 2021 Event Highlights

In July 2021 Alford Heritage Museum opened to the public after a 20 month hiatus due largely to the Covid-19 pandemic. To thank our members and the community for their continued support free entry to the museum was on offer for the whole month of July.

On July 31st we held the Alford Community Expo which was a free, primarily outdoor event featuring local businesses and community groups. The day was very successful and we were able to welcome hundreds of visitors to both the outdoor event and into the heritage museum once again.

In September 2021 we were delighted to host our first school visit in over two years, welcoming 22 P 5-7 pupils from Towie Primary School into the museum for a tour and activities themed around the Victorians.

September 2021 also saw the return of the very popular annual tractor run which saw 28 tractors in a wide range of types make their way from Alford to Lumsden for lunch and a live raffle draw and then back again for the afternoon.



Alford Heritage Museum Annual Tractor Run Sept. 2021

### Alford Heritage Museum gains A listed status | Historic Environment Scotland

A former cattle mart in Aberdeenshire has been recognised for its special historic interest

"Alford Heritage Museum has been awarded Category A listed status by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in recognition of its special historic interest as a rare surviving example of an early 20th century livestock auction mart, and an important piece of Aberdeenshire's rural and agricultural heritage.

Opening in 1905, the Alford Auction Mart was built for and operated by Aberdeen cattle salesmen Reith and Anderson, the largest cattle firm in Aberdeenshire at that time. As regulations changed and livestock sales centralised in the years following the Second World War, small, rural livestock marts declined and the Alford Auction Mart closed in 1986 after 80 years of near-continuous operation.

The site remains today as a largely complete and very rare example of a pre-1914 livestock mart of timber construction in Scotland, and is open to the public as a museum which aims to preserve the rural heritage of the north-east of Scotland."

You can read the full story on the Historic Environment Scotland website

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/alford-heritage-museum-gains-a-listed-status>

# What's New For 2022



Alford Heritage Museum



In 2021 Alford Heritage Museum changed its charitable organisation status to become an SCIO which has led to a few small changes in our membership offers.

Our previous paid membership programme is changing, but only in name, and you can now renew your subscription to be a Friend of Alford Heritage Museum.

An annual subscription to our Friends group offers you the opportunity to join a group of other museum supporters. There are both individual and family packages available. Friends of the Museum receive complimentary entry, access to special events, and regular updates on new programmes and exhibits

As part of our new constitution as an SCIO we now offer Community Membership. Community Membership is FREE for anyone residing within Alford Academy Catchment Zone. Members are able to vote on Museum matters and attend our annual AGM. Having Community Members allows the Alford and Donside Heritage Association to document community support for the Museum. Community Membership does not offer free entry or discounts, but Community Members are also able to become Friends of the Museum if desired.



History Detectives Display for School Visit Sept. 2021

Over the winter period while the museum has been closed to the public our volunteer team has been very busy developing new programmes to engage the wider community.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Alford Co-op we have been able to begin a reminiscence loan box programme which is available for booking to be used off-site by community groups, care facilities, and childcare providers. Details of the loan box contents and how to make a booking are on our website.



Our volunteers have also developed a sub-committee focused on educational programming for children and schools which will be hosting Museum Minis storytelling sessions starting with an Easter session on Saturday, April 16th for pre-school ages. Pre-booking will be essential for these sessions and details will be released to our website and social media accounts.

From May to August we will be offering behind the scenes looks into the museum collection guided by one of our very knowledgeable Trustees, Sue Taylor. These Secrets of the Museum sessions will be outside of regular museum open hours on the last Thursday of each month to allow exclusive access to attendees. Advanced booking will be available through our website via Art Tickets and discounts will be available for Friends of the Museum.

We are very excited to announce Alford Heritage Museum will be a venue for North East Open Studios in September! We will be hosting local artist Annie Emslie of My Highland Bothy during regular museum open hours (Thurs - Sun 12-4 PM) between September 10th and 18th, 2022.

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# Alford Heritage Museum 2022 Event Schedule

- APRIL

Heritage Museum Reopens for 2022 - Thursday April 7th 12-4 PM

Opening Weekend Spring Market - Saturday April 9th 12-4 PM

Museum Minis Easter Storytelling Session - Saturday April 16th 10-11 AM\*

- MAY

Car Boot Sale - May 14th 10 AM - 12 Noon

Museum Minis Storytelling and Crafts - Friday May 13th 10-11 AM\*

Friday May 20th 10-11 AM\*

Friday July 27th 10-11 AM\*

Secrets of the Museum - Thursday May 26th 11 AM - 12:30 PM\*

Friends and Supporters Evening - Friday May 27th 7-9 PM\*

- JUNE

Museum Minis Storytelling and Crafts - Friday June 3rd 10-11 AM\*

Secrets of the Museum - Thursday June 30th 11 AM - 12:30 PM\*

- JULY

Alford Heritage Museum Summer Fair - Saturday July 2nd 12-4 PM

Museum Minis Storytelling and Crafts - Friday July 15th 10-11 AM\*

Friday July 22nd 10-11 AM\*

Friday July 29th 10-11 AM\*

Night at the Museum Fundraising Event - Friday July 22nd 7 PM\*

Secrets of the Museum - Thursday July 28th 11 AM - 12:30 PM\*

- AUGUST

Museum Minis Storytelling and Crafts - Friday August 5th 10-11 AM\*

- SEPTEMBER

NEOS residence by Annie Emslie of My Highland Bothy - September 10th-11th +  
September 15th-18th

Doors Open Days - Saturday and Sunday September 17th - 18th

- OCTOBER

Alford Heritage Museum Harvest Festival - October 15th 12-4 PM

Final public open day of 2022 - October 31st 12-4 PM

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**Our 2022 Events Calendar will continue to be updated with additional opportunities throughout the year. For the most up to date information please check the events calendar on the Alford Heritage Museum website.**

**Events with a \* will have advanced online ticket booking through the Alford Heritage Museum website via Art Tickets.**