

span Gothic arch rises to 12metres above the water with a gentle incline to the centre. The voussoirs and spandrels are in sandstone, but abutments, approaches and parapets are in granite, clearly come from later periods. It has a rock foundation on either side with buttresses downstream and upstream on the approaches. There are slightly corbelled parapets with iron ties on top and a strong but very irregular protruding string course.

Balgownie is thought to be the oldest bridge in Scotland. It is reputed to have been built by Robert the Bruce (d.1329) or by Bishop Cheyne (d.1328) or by both contributing at different times.



The present structure is certainly pre-16th century in style. However, it would have been a spectacularly innovative build in the early 14th century, because of its size of span; this is enormous compared to Gothic arches of the period.

Morrison's Suspension Bridge The Shakkin' Briggie



The bridge was built in 1837 for the Rev. George Morrison whose parishioners at Banchory Devenick lived on the north bank but needed to travel to church on the south bank. It gained its name from its propensity to shake whenever a pedestrian crossed.

Suspension footbridge on pylons rising from unfluted cast-iron Greek Doric columns on ashlar piers. The decking and balustrading were wooden. The bridge's total length is 305ft, whilst its main span measures 185ft.

Contributed by Alan Silver



ABERDEEN
CIVIC SOCIETY

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Future Events

The series of talks organised over the period February 2023 to April 2023, are as set out in our programme card. There are two evening meetings arranged for the remainder of 2023 session:

Annual Supper at Royal Northern and University Club

Our next meeting this year is an informal supper talk which will take place on Wednesday 22 March 2023, starting at the slightly earlier time of 6:30pm with supper at 7pm.

Included will be the presentation of our awards for 2022 followed by a talk on Scottish Milestones by Bruce Keith author of Bridgescapes

A separate form is attached for you to book your attendance.

Annual General Meeting

Speaker to be arranged
7:30pm on Wednesday 26 April 2023

We look forward to seeing you at the Royal Northern & University Club for these talks.

We welcome contributions from guest writers to our newsletter. Please send them to info@aberdeencivicsociety.org.uk.

Do You Remember Your Aberdeen ?

Just to test your memory or perhaps a historical view of Aberdeen:

The following pictures show several of the important old buildings of Aberdeen. Can you identify them?



The Historic Bridges of Aberdeen

Bridge of Don



Alexander Hay in 1605 created a fund known as the Bridge of Don Fund, which financed bridges in the north-east of Scotland. In 1825 the fund having accumulated a value of over £20,000, the patrons of the fund, the town council, sought an Act of Parliament to permit construction of a new bridge.

The original design by John Gibb and John Smith was modified by Thomas Telford, and construction work started in 1827. The bridge has five spans of dressed granite, and rounded cutwaters that carry up to road level to form pedestrian refuges. The spans are 75 feet (23 m), with a rise of 25 feet (7.6 m).

It was widened in 1958-59 to 66 feet (20 m) by the construction of a new adjacent bridge.

It became listed as a Category B listed building in 1967.

Balgownie Bridge

The Brig o' Balgownie was known as the Bridge of Don until 1827 when a new larger bridge was constructed downstream. Before that, for about five hundred years, the old bridge had been the only way north out of the city. The 22-metre