

NUCLEUS Newspapers

THE NUCLEAR AND CAITHNESS ARCHIVES



At Nucleus, we look after lots of old documents that tell us about the history of Caithness. One of the most popular and useful sources that people like to look at when they are researching are old newspapers.

Old newspapers can give us a fantastic insight into the past. As well as reporting on local news and events in great detail, newspapers printed family notices which give us information about births, deaths and marriages, which is very helpful if you are researching your family tree.

They also had adverts for local businesses, which can tell us what sort of shops and trades existed in Caithness in the past, and what sort of jobs people did.

We can also use them to find out what Caithness people thought about what was going on in the world at the time, and how events like World War One and Two affected Caithness.

We have a big collection of John o' Groat Journals dating from 1836 to 2009. Come and see them when we are open again! In the meantime you can search for articles at <https://www.ambaile.org.uk/>



The John o' Groat Journal was founded in 1836. Up until then, Caithness people were dependent on national newspapers for their news. A local paper did not only keep them informed about news from all over the world, but also local news and information. The 'Groat' as it has become known reported on matters that were important to Caithness like the herring fishery and farming, and invited readers to send in letters and poetry. When it began, it was published every month, then every fortnight. By June the following year, it was published every week, and continues to be printed every Friday.

The first newspapers were handwritten single sheets. They began in Venice in Italy in 1566 and gave readers information on wars and politics in Italy and Europe.

The first printed newspapers began in Germany in 1609. By the end of the century, newspapers were popular in big cities.

By the 1830s, high speed printing presses could print thousands of newspapers quickly and cheaply, making them widely available to the public.

Activity: find out how the invention of the printing press changed the world!

We also have copies of a newspaper called the Northern Ensign at Nucleus. It was printed in Wick and covered Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, Orkney and Shetland. The copies we have date from 1850–1922.



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NUCLEUS *Make your own Newspaper*

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Think of a name for your newspaper- design a logo or use your favourite font. Make it stand out so people will want to buy your newspaper!

Very important: Remember to write a date on your newspaper!

Write a story for your newspaper. It could be something that has happened to you or someone you know, or something from your imagination

- Think of a catchy title

Remember to include

- Who was involved?
- What happened?
- Where the event took place
- When it happened
- Interview someone- how were they involved? What did they have to say?
- To finish your story you could write about what the people involved are doing now, or what might happen in the future

Think about what else you could include in your newspaper.

How about some jokes?

Design your own comic strip

You could make up a wordsearch or quiz

Write a review of your favourite book

Write a review of a TV programme

An interview with a family member



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