



## Contents

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

### BACK IN HARNESS

Chairman's  
Letter .....1

Policy and  
Resource.....2

Planning.....4

Environment..5

Membership,  
Publications &  
Publicity.....7

Museum.....8

Museum  
Development  
.....11

Programme..12

Hidden  
Gardens.....13

G. Christie  
Legacy.....14

David Seeley  
Profile.....15

News in Brief  
.....16

Dates for Your  
Diary.....18

Trustees.....20

There I was, minding my own business, rather like a retired racehorse munching the grass in a sparkling green meadow, when the call came. Actually, the retired horse analogy is not all that accurate, since I was in fact quite busy with a number of charitable activities and was rather reluctant to take on more work. However, my predecessor, Graham Wynd is nothing if not persuasive and persistent and so I find myself back in harness for a second tour as your Chairman.

In the very short time that I have been back as Chairman, it is heartening to see so much that is good and getting better but, on the other hand, ongoing problems, some of which are extremely challenging.

On the positive side, it is splendid to be working with a great team of trustees, volunteers and friends. St Andrews is fortunate to have a substantial group of people who care about the town and are prepared to work to protect and sustain its unique environment and to support a fine museum.

Since I was last a trustee, some five years ago, our Museum has gone from strength to strength and this is thanks to a dedicated team of trustees and volunteers, our excellent Curator and to the more robust financial status of the Trust. In this context, it is good to be free to speak openly about the generosity of Gillian Falconer; during my earlier time as a trustee, Gillian's generosity over many years was treated as confidential and I personally found this rather frustrating – it is, after all, nice to be able to say 'thank you'.

The ongoing problems are, of course, in the area of planning. The saga of the siting of the new Madras College continues and, whilst it is understandable that such a key matter arouses strong feelings, it is disturbing to have seen abusive and personalised comments in the local press. Whilst the current situation has not been discussed at any length since I assumed the Chair, I should make it clear that my personal position is that I have been appalled by the way in which this project has been managed by Fife Council, rather disappointed by the very

low profile adopted by the University and surprised by the outcome of the recent judicial review. I am glad that an appeal against the decision of the review has been lodged.

Again on the planning front, as is noted in the relevant section of this newsletter, an application for planning permission in principle for a major mixed development to the west of the town is being studied. Were this development to go ahead, it is certain that the pressure on the town's infrastructure would be vastly increased and the central conservation area would come under even more pressure. I await the comments of our planning committee with great interest. In more general terms, the continuous flow of planning applications means that the planning committee faces a heavy workload all year round and I am particularly grateful to Bill Borthwick for taking on the convenership.

Everyone who lives in or visits St Andrews must notice that we have little to be proud of in terms of the state of the town centre. Whether it is litter on the pavements, rubbish bags and over-full wheelie bins and the consequent problems with crows and sea gulls, seemingly endless roa dworks, lamp standards that have been damaged and never repaired or poor upkeep by some landlords of rented property, it surprises me that our town remains such a popular holiday destination. I will support any initiative to improve this situation.

Whilst I noted above "the more robust financial status of the Trust", this is largely due to bequests and gifts and our Income & Expenditure Account is operating at a deficit. One way to partially address this problem is to increase membership and I would urge all members to persuade friends and relatives to join.

You will see from the reports included in this newsletter that there is more than enough going on to keep us all very busy.

John F. Matthews  
Chairman

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## **POLICY AND RESOURCE REPORT**

This note covers two meetings of the Policy and Resource Committee. Reports were received from Lead Trustees on their progress in taking forward the Trust's seven agreed Strategic Priorities, most of which will be covered in the reports of other Committees, except possibly the apparently never-ending saga of the garden of Number 1 Greyfriars Garden. As reported in the last Newsletter, steps were being taken to explore with Fife Council the possibility of compulsory purchase by the Council at the expense of the Trust with a view to transfer to the Trust. This does not now appear to be an option, as the Council's legal officers have advised that that stratagem is unlikely to be successful. Thus we appear to be at an impasse. If the owner will not sell and the Council will not intervene, then there is little that the Trust can do, other than hope that sooner or later the owner will agree to sell – or at the very least to

maintain the garden at an appropriate level on an ongoing basis. The garden will probably be tidied up in the near future but solely for the purpose of providing an additional outlet for the Vic during the Open Championship (a commercial usage in a largely residential street which the Trust has opposed).

On a more hopeful front mention was made in the last Newsletter of the two historic doocots which the Trust is assumed by the local community to maintain, though there is some uncertainty with regard to their ownership. The position regarding the Bogward Dooocot – the more important one in my view because it is Grade A listed (probably of early sixteenth century construction); it stands on former Priory land; it is within the modern confines of the town; and it is an excellent example of a rare beehive shaped doocot. It appears that the Trust was on the point of completing its purchase in the mid- 1990s but for some reason, which I cannot fathom from the files, this was not done. I am happy to say that the Board at its last meeting agreed to provide the necessary funding for our lawyers to complete the task now. Hopefully, we shall be able to report in the next *Newsletter* that this has been achieved. The other doocot, at Kenly Green (Grade B listed and of seventeenth century construction), has been put on the back-burner for the time being, until the purchase at Bogward is complete and the deeds of ownership can be investigated.

On a different topic, at the request of the Board the Committee gave consideration to the generally poor state of the town centre, noting that the Community Council, the Merchants Association and the St. Andrews Partnership had taken the lead in this matter, with the involvement of the University and the Trust. A trial audit of a section of Market Street has been undertaken with predictably disappointing results and the combined group will now decide how to take the matter further. It goes without saying that it is in every-ones' interests that the town centre presents a clean and crisp appearance.

Despite the size of our capital funds (which generate the bulk of the Trust's recurrent income and so are essential to the Trust's work), it is likely that we shall incur a deficit this financial year. Accordingly, a small Group has been established to investigate ways of generating additional funds. The Group has met twice, is scheduled to meet again and will report to the Committee before the end of the summer. It has based its work largely on the very helpful report produced by an earlier working party, examining all the suggestions made at that time and adding a few more itself. Decisions as to how to bring the Trust's income and expenditure into balance will be taken in the light of the group's work.

Finally, I have to report that this will be my last note on the activities of the Committee, as John Matthews, the new Chairman of the Trust, is taking over the convenership. I have enjoyed my brief stint at the helm but am very happy to hand over to John, who, I am sure, will drive forward the work of the Committee.

Peter J Murray  
Policy and Resources Convener

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## PLANNING REPORT

It is with some trepidation that I take over the role of Planning Applications Committee Convener from John Peacock who has served the Trust so well in this capacity. During his term of office the Trust has had to deal with some very challenging applications, including the new Madras, the West Sands visitors' centre, Rusacks Hotel, as well as developments proposed at the old Police Station, Kinnessburn Bowling Club and a proposal for floating pontoons at the harbour. Some of these are still "work in progress" and some have been resubmitted with amendments.

MacDonald Resorts Ltd has appealed to the Scottish Government in respect of Fife Council's decision to refuse their application to extend Rusacks Hotel. The Trust maintained its objection to this proposal on the grounds of its inappropriate massing and detailing on this internationally important site which, for many, is St Andrews' shop-window to the world. The Trust also objected to the amended proposal for 16 flats at the Old Police Station, largely on the grounds of its dominance in relation to neighbouring developments and the impact it would therefore have on the historic street-scape in the vicinity of St Salvator's Chapel and the Georgian buildings at the old St Katherine's school.

The pace of applications has continued unabated during the period April to early June 2015, with some 62 applications in all categories considered by the committee.

If we are not vigilant, the smaller applications, some domestic, some commercial, could gradually erode and change the character of St Andrews' unique built environment. Therefore the Trust continues to lodge objections in respect of proposals for signage that do not conform to the St Andrews' Design Guidelines. Unfortunately these objections have not always been met with support from the Council. The Trust has also lodged objections in respect of proposals in especially sensitive parts of the central conservation area, including the Scores and Castle Street with mixed success. On a more positive note, our objections to the demolition of single houses at Murrayfield Road and West Acres – to be replaced with over-developed (for the site) and/or out of character houses appear to have gained some resonance with the Council as they have been refused, although the former is the subject of an appeal. The Trust also recorded with satisfaction its support for a new house at Mount-Melville which brought a refreshing modern take on traditional Scottish baronial architecture.

It is difficult with the limited resources and expertise available to our small committee to maintain the vigilance necessary to assess all applications which could potentially diminish St Andrews' heritage and to lodge well-considered representations in the compressed timescale available. The Trust is therefore very appreciative of the continuing co-operation with staff and students of the University of Dundee's School of the Environment. The Committee is especially sorry to lose the assistance of Mohammed Hussein, a postgraduate in town and regional planning who has given freely of his time and contributed valuable advice on planning and policy matters. We wish him well in his new post with Lanarkshire Council. Trustees were also very appreciative of the two master classes on Planning and Policy, and

Development Management, very clearly and ably delivered in late March by Barbara Illsley, Senior Lecturer in Town and Regional Planning, who recently retired from the department.

Looking forward, it is clear that St Andrews' precious heritage is under enormous pressure – partly from the University's need to consolidate its position as a world seat of learning and partly, of course, from developers seeking to profit from the insatiable demand for housing. The drive to exploit each and every green (and brown) space to the fullest possible extent and with scant regard to its wider impact is huge. We have seen this at Abbey Park and Westburn Lane to name but two. Now the Trust is considering its position with respect to the recent PAN for development at the former New Park playing fields, currently designated a Protected Open Space, as well as the Proposal for Planning in Principle for 350 houses, hotel, retail and workspace/office accommodation at Craigtoun North, to which we need to respond by early July. Loss of the New Park open space would be deeply regrettable, not only because it is one of the few remaining green spaces within the town, but also for its impact on the rural character and setting of the Lade Braes. For many, the developments proposed at Craigtoun North will seem totally unnecessary and very unwelcome, the more so because such piecemeal, unconnected development places enormous pressure on an already overstrained transport infrastructure as well as creating the precedent for further development phases without the protection of a Green Belt.

The Madras saga continues but it is now a matter of appeal to the inner house of the Court of Session. It is hoped that the appeal will be successful, for despite all the debate, no positive substantive *planning* argument for siting a school at Pipeland has ever been put forward. Indeed the reverse is true.

With this in mind it is doubly important that Trust members who share our concerns over these major forthcoming planning applications take up their pens or keyboards and lodge their own personal representation .

Bill Borthwick  
Planning Applications Convener

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## ENVIRONMENT REPORT

*"The Summer looks out from her brazen tower,  
Through the flashing bars of July."*

*Francis Thompson, A Corymbus for Autumn*

Since my April newsletter report I am pleased to say that all the proposals for Boase Wood have been approved by our Keeper of the Woods - Ian Christie and the Board of Trustees. John Henderson provided us with a quote for the refurbishment of the chain boundary fence which was presented at the April meeting. Due to his workload at present, he hopes to have this work completed in the next few weeks. I intend to be present to take photographs and

with the approval of our Press Officer- Derek Barrie, issue a short publicity report. This is an opportunity to highlight the Trust's continuing work in a positive light, along with promotion of the craftsmanship of Henderson Fabrication, our local blacksmith's firm,

At the time of writing, Mark Edward of Special Branch has confirmed that he will be working at Boase Wood in early July. This will involve a general tidy up, trimming the hedge by the boundary fence, and checking the health of our trees. He also hopes to have the artwork for his company's sign forwarded to me. As both firms are extremely busy at the moment, some delay with these projects had been anticipated. However, as reported, the progress of their projected work will be updated in the next Trust newsletter.

In the April issue, I reported the recent death of Anne Boase and our condolences were expressed to the family, both from our outgoing Chairman, Graham Wynd and the Environment Committee. Anne wished to have her ashes scattered in Boase Wood. Her son, Bill Boase, contacted the Trust to inform us that this would take place on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May. Our newly appointed Chairman, John Matthews attended the poignant service. I was also in attendance, along with Ian and Adah Christie. If members pass the wood you will note that a small memorial plaque has been placed adjacent to that of her late husband, John Lindsay Boase. Bill Boase has since been in contact, thanking us as Trust representatives, for our attendance and support. He has offered the family's "Book of Boase" as a historical reference to the Trust and this will be placed in our archives. We look forward to receiving it in due course.

Regarding the proposed Trust Heritage Sign, a planning application has been submitted by the Trust planning committee on behalf of the environment committee. This was necessary, since Boase Wood is within the Hepburn Gardens conservation area. Once approved by Fife Council, I intend to make the necessary enquiries with CMC Associates, as to the design and interpretive writing.

Members will have noticed the changes taking place in Bell Street at the former premises, "Bella Italia". This has now been taken over by the large restaurant chain called "**Tony Macaroni**". Contact has been made with the company and they have been advised of our concern regarding the restored shop front. A meeting, to be held at the Trust office, has been proposed. John Millar (Marinis Property Group) has replied stating that this was "noted". At the time of writing, all that appears to be taking place is the interior refurbishment. At this point, grateful thanks are extended to the new owner of former premises, "Elsbeth's", in Church Street. After consultation with the Trust, Mr Julien Poix agreed to the Trust's request to preserve its unique Victorian shop front, by only changing the premise's name. We hope that Mr Millar will oblige us by doing the same when we meet for a discussion. Hopefully this will take place fairly soon as we are led to believe that their plan is to open for business by the end of June.

Finally on behalf of the Environment Committee and all Trustees, may I extend our sincere thanks to my colleague and former Trustee, Simon Kidd. A real stalwart of this committee, I regret that I was unsuccessful in asking him to stay on board for another term. His keen dedication to our committee and all Trust activities has been invaluable, especially in

supporting me, in my role as convener. His valued help, especially with our submissions to the Scottish Civic Trust has been magnanimous. However, I am delighted to say that he has agreed to become our committee's Advisor, so we are not losing him completely. This is most reassuring, knowing that we can call upon his assistance as and when it is required. Thankyou very much, Simon!

Marysia Denyer  
Environment Convener

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## MEMBERSHIP, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY REPORT

Although we are well through the financial year, there are still a few members who have not paid their 2015 subscriptions. There are a number, we are sure, for whom this is an oversight and this is a final appeal to them to "sign up".. Individual membership costs £18 and joint membership £40. There is also the option of upgrading to life members at £180 for individuals and £400 for joint. Cheques made out to "St Andrews Preservation Trust Ltd." should be sent to Liliias Lawrie, Trust Administrator, St Andrews Preservation Trust Ltd, 4 Queen's Gardens, St Andrews KY16 9TA..

It is now 6 years since membership fees were increased. A recommendation for increases is being made by this committee through Policy and Resources to the Board of Trustees. Their decision will be notified to members in the October edition of this newsletter. Another recommendation will be that subscription fees should be considered annually by Policy and Resources committee. Whether to retain categories of life membership into the future or not is also to be considered.

We continue to get good press coverage, especially from the "Citizen". In particular we are building an excellent working relationship with Maureen Ferrier a reporter on that paper. This coverage is increasingly in the form of features on Trust events or activities. Features have been done of the opening of the research room and the new store together with a pre-event feature on this year's Hidden Gardens of St Andrews. There have also been photo stories on some trust activity, particularly related to the museum and its exhibitions. But there was also an excellent photo of Colin McAllister and others at the unveiling of the Boswell and Johnson plaque. What is slightly annoying is that sometimes press releases are "relegated" to the St Andrews local news section and sometimes more than one release are run together.

We always seek to keep our members informed and improve the service to them. If you can think of any way in which this newsletter might be improved please let me know: [derekbarrie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:derekbarrie@hotmail.co.uk). A recommendation is to be heard by the Board to reduce the number of copies of the newsletter to three a year. This does not mean fewer deliveries as there would be a Year Book/AGM distribution in April as well as three newsletters.

Derek Barrie  
Membership, Publications and Publicity Convener

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## MUSEUM REPORT

### COMPOSITION OF THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE

At the first Meeting of the 2015–2016 Committee, held in June 2015, the composition of the Committee was re-established. It was felt that as there are many various and time-consuming tasks and responsibilities associated with the day-to-day management of the Museum each member of the Committee should continue to assist the Curator in the specific area matched to their 'specialist field'.

The Composition of the Committee is as follows:-

|   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Vice-Convener of Museum Committee :         | Roy Chapman        |
| Museum Development Committee Adviser :      | Andrew Johnson     |
| Learning and Activities Co-ordinator :      | Lesley Barrie      |
| Volunteers' Co-ordinator :                  | Kate Ekanger       |
| Museum Shop Adviser :                       | Gillian Falconer   |
| I.T. & Security Adviser :                   | Arlen Pardoe       |
| Photographic Archivist & Minute Secretary : | Pat Harvey         |
| Museum Mentor:                              | Emma Jane Wells.   |
| Convener :                                  | Anne J.M. Morris   |
| Curator :                                   | Samantha Bannerman |
| Trainee:                                    | Francesca Purvis   |

### MUSEUM GALLERIES SCOTLAND : THE HERITAGE HORIZONS TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMME

The Meeting at the Museum, held on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April, with the representative of Museum Galleries Scotland, Ailsa MacFarlane, went well. She was very pleased with the activities the Trainee, Francesca Purvis, was undertaking which have included:- adding records to AdLib, keeping a Diary and Log Book up-to date, assisting with visiting Groups, designing and creating activities for Children and helping to maintain the Cottage Shop.

Francesca attends both the Museum Committee Meetings and the Museum Development Committee Meetings.

She attended further MGS Training Courses on the 19<sup>th</sup> May and the 28<sup>th</sup> May and collections based training courses in Edinburgh on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> June with Museum Galleries Scotland and at the National Museum of Scotland.

Francesca has been successful in her grant application to the Art Fund's Jonathan Ruffer Curatorial Grant Scheme to fund a two day photography course which is to be held in July.



**PRESERVATION TRUST MUSEUM: BUDGET TO 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

The Curator and the Convener continue to receive monthly 'returns' from the Treasurer Ian Lumsdaine, with his comments. Along with copy of the trading figures to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015 he advised that the Government has continued the £2000 National Insurance 'holiday' into the new Tax Year, part of which pertains to the Curator's salary.

The Museum's charges for the reproduction of photographs and the method of charging for the use of photographs in publications have been reviewed and implemented.

Ian's guidance in these matters is appreciated very much indeed as is the time and expertise he gives to supporting the Curator and the Convener with their management of the Museum Budget.

**MUSEUM GARDEN AND RE-DEVELOPMENT**

The Grand Opening held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April went well - with no rain! An enjoyable Summer Celebration Reception was held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June in the Museum Garden, for Trustees and Volunteers, to thank them for their contribution and support during the development of the Research Room and the Garden Store.

It is to be hoped that Members will have already visited the Garden to admire the notable developments which will enhance visitor experience and draw in many more visitors.

Andrew's Committee are already planning the next phase - the design and establishment of a Sensory Garden.

**EVENTS IN THE MUSEUM**

The Easter Exhibition : *Preserving our Past* which showcased the Trust's most recent acquisitions opened on 28<sup>th</sup> March and closed on the 26<sup>th</sup> April. There were 858 visitors during that period..

*Festival of Museums 2015 – Troubled Waters : 15-17<sup>th</sup> May* - This weekend event was well attended. Tours of the Ladyhead took place on Friday night and Saturday afternoon with captivating story-telling and folk-singing taking place on Saturday afternoon. There were many visitors from abroad taking videos and photographs of the performances. Joan Clark, Fishwife, (aka Marysia Denyer) did a splendid job of 'reeling-in' visitors to the exhibition!

The Exhibition, entitled *The Intimacy Issue*, and arranged by the members of the student Photo Magazine, *Stereoscope*, was held between the 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> May with 103 people attending the Exhibition Launch. The event was partly sponsored by the University's Art History Department and in return for hosting the Exhibition the Museum received advertising space in the student magazine. The new document 'Agreement for the Use of Museum Space by External Bodies' devised by the Curator was signed by the exhibition's co-ordinator.

Summer Exhibition – *‘Furs, feathers, frills & florals: four decades of fashion : 1919 -1959.* This excellent Exhibition opened on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The Curator is to be congratulated on an exhibition which features the contrasting fashions designed during four decades of social, political and economic extremes - from recession and utility fashion to haute couture - well worth a visit!

N.B. Additional activities taking place during the Summer Exhibition include *Fashion Gallery Talks* on 3<sup>rd</sup> July & 7<sup>th</sup> August at 2:15 p.m. in the Museum.

‘The Citizen’ continues to give regular coverage to promote Museum Events and the Curator makes excellent use of social media and ‘What’s On’ Listings.

## **ENQUIRIES**

The Curator has drawn up a document on how enquiries to the Museum staff are to be dealt with in future and the process which is to be followed to access archival material i.e. a booking must be made. Available days and times are listed on the booking form.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

St Andrews Girls’ Brigade is to work with the Curator to put on an exhibition in the Museum for one week during the October Holidays. They have an archive of scrapbooks and photographs which they want to organize into a display on the history of their group with the Curator’s assistance. They have advised that at the end of the exhibition they would like to donate the archive to the Museum.

## **REMOVAL OF PARTITION**

The partition wall has been removed and the area cleared. The upper Gallery has been restored to its previous dimensions and the stone fireplace is once more in view providing a much-improved space for exhibition displays.

The attic space has been cleaned up by the Curator and Volunteer Lesley Barrie to make room for a new, and much safer, loft ladder to be fitted.

An excellent wall-mounted TV Monitor has been purchased by the Curator and set-up by Arlen Pardoe.

The funding for this was taken from the Jacqueline Falconer Fund. This is proving to be of enormous benefit as video/film content relating to an exhibition can be run continuously.

It had been suggested that a catalogue of the books held in the Museum’s Library would be of great benefit and Arlen has offered to undertake this task.

## **RECENT DONATIONS**

5 small wood engravings by Alison McKenzie have been donated by Trust member Mrs Berit Owen. A sizeable donation of items relating to Robertson’s the Chemist Shop, which was in

Market Street, from the estate of the Revd P.B. Robertson, the late widow of Charles Robertson who practised as a chemist in St Andrews.

## **MUSEUM SHOP**

Thanks are due to those who have donated items for the Cottage Shop. Members are reminded that there is an excellent selection of Prints, Books, Postcards and Notelets available, along with a selection of items which would all make unique Birthday and Christmas presents as well as supplementing the Museum Funds!

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The Co-ordinator of the Volunteers, Kate Ekanger, is currently setting up a rota for the Volunteers who will be on duty in the Museum and Garden on Hidden Gardens' Day on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June.

A coat stand and a new laminator have been purchased from the Volunteers' Fund.

Following the appeal in the April Newsletter the Museum now has a new volunteer gardener, Felicity Chancellor.

Recruitment of Volunteers is on-going throughout the year and if you feel you would like to join the team please contact the Curator. She would be very happy to hear from you!

## **VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM**

The 4<sup>th</sup> St Andrews Brownies visited the Museum which assisted them in obtaining their 'culture' badge. They also enjoyed Francesca's Treasure Hunt in the garden and a donation was made to Museum Funds.

The Curator welcomed 19 members of the Friends of Dundee City Archive who visited the Museum and Garden on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of April.

An aim for 2015 is to record an increase in the number of Visitors to the Museum. Please help us achieve this by bringing family and friends along to view the fascinating Summer Exhibition and linger in the pleasant surroundings of the Garden.

You will be guaranteed a very warm welcome and an enjoyable and interesting visit!

Anne Morris  
Museum Convener

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## **MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

## **RESEARCH ROOM**

The Curator, volunteers and visitors continue to benefit from the new facility. Having

consulted with our Curator and committee members, it is our intention to apply to the Scottish Heritage Angels Awards for consideration in the following categories:

### **CATEGORY 2: CARING AND PROTECTING**

Volunteer-led involvement in saving/restoring heritage sites and buildings

### **CATEGORY 3: SHARING AND CELEBRATING**

Volunteer-led projects promoting local history, architecture and archaeology

The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards are supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation. They were established in 2014. The first such awards in Scotland, the programme supports the delivery of the new Historic Environment Strategy, [Our Place in Time](#), with its strong emphasis on community participation in heritage. The Awards recognise the work of voluntary groups and individuals in protecting and celebrating our built heritage.

If you would like more information about the awards please look at their website at:

<http://www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk>

The Falconry and gardens continue to be the source of great enjoyment for our visitors.

### **MUSEUM INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT**

The installation of a loft ladder, part of the proposed kitchen development, has been completed. Those accessing items from the loft can do so more safely now.

Our painter, Nickie Lawson, has been asked to quote for the repainting of the ground floor ceiling which has started to flake badly.

Andrew Johnson  
Museum Development Convener

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## **PROGRAMME COMMITTEE**

In April, members converged on the Fife Folk Museum, Ceres to be greeted by Wynne Harley, Chairman of The Fife Folk Museum Trust, for a tour of their exhibits, a mix of permanent and annual presentations (see <http://www.fifefolkmuseum.org/trust.htm> for more information). Opened almost 50 years ago, the display rooms have been extended many times and now occupy two buildings either side of the High Street. The latest expansion (2014) extends facilities for receiving visitors, hosts Hatters & Co Tearoom and Eatery, where we were sustained from the menu of freshly prepared home-cooking, and highlights a scenic location on the banks of the Ceres Burn with a range of agricultural implements on view in the garden. The Trustees are seeking funds to recruit a full-time curator to manage the collections - we wish them success and welcome opportunities for co-operation between our staff. We were blessed with glorious spring weather for two fascinating guided walks around the village, led

by Dr Paula Martin, to appreciate the former importance of the village in serving the community, to observe many of the architectural quirks retained on cottages and public buildings, and to hear stories of past local worthies still remembered today.

A reminder that the Summer Reception with buffet and drinks for members and guests to enjoy is on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July from 6.30 pm in the Museum Garden, an oasis of calm following the excesses of hosting The Open Championship. Invitations accompanied April's newsletter - if you have not replied, please contact Liliias at the Trust Office to confirm attendance. The rewards of investments in the extended grounds, led by Andrew Johnson and his team, will be on display - Research Room, garden store, reconditioned and recently commissioned cast-iron features, freshly planted borders - together with plans for a new sensory garden.

Flyers are enclosed for the annual Golf and Putting Competitions to be competed for on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August, respectively. The latter challenge will conclude with refreshments and presentation of prizes in the clubhouse at the 'Himalayas', courtesy of the St Andrews Ladies Putting Club.

In September, our members have been invited on a guided tour of the expanded and redesigned British Golf Museum. At the time of drafting these notes, curatorial staff are fully committed to preparing new exhibits and meeting their targets for re-opening to have confirmed the plans. Hopefully (!), the schedule and details for our visit will be reported on a separate flyer.

The Trust's fourth Annual Lecture will be held on Friday, 2 October in the Town Hall. This year, it will be delivered by Dr Michael Turnbull on the subject of Saint Andrew. A former school teacher and further education lecturer, and, lately, Visiting Fellow at The University of Edinburgh after graduating PhD in Ecclesiastical History, he is the author of several books of Scottish interest, most recently "*Saint Andrew: Myth, Legend and Reality*" (2014, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed). The illustrated lecture begins at 7 pm, followed by a reception with buffet at 8 pm - see the invitation and reply-slip.

Simon Kidd  
Co-opted member Programme Committee

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## HIDDEN GARDENS DAY REPORT 2015

This annual event is only made possible by the help, support and contribution of so many people, in particular the gardeners without whom there would be no event, our thanks to them all.

We are most grateful to Thorntons Law LLP our main sponsors, and AllanHill Fruit Farm for the most delicious strawberries which were on sale at 46 South Street, the home of June Baxter. Thanks also to Allan Niven for his invaluable help transporting the tables and chairs for St John's.

As in previous years we invited garden related local craftspeople and others to be present, along with our own stalls at St.John's. Musical entertainment was provided by Billy Anderson much to the delight of the visitors. The Fife Horn Union was also in attendance, this time at the Museum. Regular Steve Spackman entertained at 46 South Street, our thanks also to Stephen.

As ever, the catering at St John's, which this year was under the direction of Daphne Matthews, was superb. Our thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who gave so willingly of their time to help, and the bakers whose contributions were remarked upon. Thanks also to Liz Johnson, her delicious freshly filled rolls sold out very quickly.

Yet again, the Museum and Garden proved a most popular and profitable venue for our visitors. Thanks are due to Kate and the many volunteers who made it all possible. We are most grateful to Jill Cameron who again produced all the goods on her work stall and who has made a generous donation to the Trust.

We are likewise grateful to Gillian Falconer ably assisted by Elizabeth Williams and Lynette Johnston, they had a wonderful array of plants and garden related books for sale. The Cake and Candy ladies were kept busy as were team who provided much welcome refreshments.

Our grateful thanks must also go to Samantha Bannerman, our museum curator and Francesca, who helped both before and on the day and Derek Barrie for his excellent promotion of the event.

In ending this report I would like to thank all who helped in whatever way, our committee secretary Lesley Barrie, Simon Kidd and Derek Barrie for managing the money and of our administrator, Liliias Lawrie for master minding the 'Back Office' and for her help on the day.

***The final takings from the event will amount to over £6,000 almost identical to what was achieved in 2014.***

This is my last year as Chair of the Hidden Gardens Committee and Convenor of Fundraising. Secretary Lesley Barrie is also stepping down, Lesley has been an invaluable aid to me over the last five years and a great asset to the committee. Irene Bennett has agreed to take over as my successor so we may rest assured that all will be in good order.

Andrew Johnson  
Hidden Gardens Convener

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## GORDON CHRISTIE LEGACY

Most members know that former trustee and very active member of the Trust, Gordon Christie, gave a generous legacy to it. The money left to the Trust in his will was to provide plaques commemorating people with strong connections with the town.

In the April newsletter we reported on the two most recent plaques erected: to the golfer, whose victories included the Open, Jock Hutchison and the pioneer photographer Thomas Rodger. Rodger's plaque is on the wall of New York Cottage on Bridge Street. The Hutchison plaque marks his birthplace at 30 North Street. Since the April newsletter was distributed a further plaque has been erected at the site of the Glass Inn on 29 South Sytreet, where Boswell and Johnson lodged on their visit to St Andrews.

Two further plaques are planned by the sub-committee chaired by former trustee, Colin McAllister. The first Botanic Garden in St. Andrews dates from 1889, when Dr. John Wilson laid out beds for plants for university teaching and research purposes, in a quarter of an acre of walled garden just south of St. Mary's College in South Street. 1960 saw the move to the present site at Bassaguard. (The name is derived from Gaelic, "farm of priests".) It is high time that Wilson's contribution to the history of the Botanic Garden was better publicised.

Adam Ferguson FRSE also known as Ferguson of Raith was a Scottish philosopher and historian of the Scottish Enlightenment, often referred to as "the father of sociology. Ferguson was sympathetic to traditional societies, such as the Highlands, for producing courage and loyalty. He studied at the University and lived to the remarkable (for its time) age of 93. Further details plus revealing the sites for these plaques will be included in further newsletters..

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## TRUSTEE PROFILE - DAVID SEELEY

We occasionally include in this newsletter a profile of a trustee. The following from David Seeley was first published in "Museum Times", the newsletter for volunteers.

I was born in Abbey Street in 1947 during one of the worst winters on record. I attended all the local schools until 1962 when I started an apprenticeship with Black and Fulton: slaters, roughcasters and chimney sweeps. In May 1963 I began a new apprenticeship with the Scottish Gas Board from 1963 to 1968. I served out my apprenticeship, attending day release classes at Lauder Technical College, Dunfermline, where I gained my final City and Guilds:- gas fitting. During my apprenticeship in St Andrews one of my more pleasant jobs was attending to the many gas lit street lamps and emergency lights still in operation, plus there were a fair number of houses and flats including the Byre Theatre that depended upon gas lighting. With my basket of mantles and globes I was the last of the leeries.

In 1969 I transferred to North Eastern Gas in York. I loved the city and loved football. On Wednesday evenings I played for York City reserves, our away games allowing me the pleasure of playing in many of England's old stadiums. On a Saturday I played for Easingwold Town and on Sunday I played with the Gas Board- our [pitch was on the Knavesmire in the middle of York race course. In 1972 I returned to my old job in St Andrews and played for Newburgh FC winning the Fife Junior League in 1972 and again in 1975. My other junior teams included Dundee Elmwood, Broughty Athletic and St Andrews FC. Football was good to me. I made so many friends especially in North Yorkshire and also

met my wife, Carine, at a football dinner and dance in Abernethy.

In 1980 I started my own business – Gaswatch – I was doing very well until I had an accident with an hospital radiator and finished up in hospital hanging upside down on a pulley in a bizarre attempt to fix a rotated disc in my back. For several years I was incapacitated. To pass the time, I enrolled at Fife College, Kirkcaldy, where I attained several “highers” which enabled me entrance to St Andrews University, as their first part time mature student I studied Arabic culture and mediaeval history and captained the fist eleven football team, winning a “colour” along the way.

In 1993 I presented an essay to the Cross Trust and received a cheque for £1,000 to study in Jordan I was sent to the British School of Archaeology and History in Amman. I was arrested on my first day there and put in a holding cell until they could verify my identity. You could feel the tension. The first gulf war had not long ended and the refugee camps were full. The police and the army were everywhere, especially in the Jordan valley The patron of our school was Prince Hassan, brother of King Hussein. His picture was on our school pass which meant we could explore the country at will. We drove our Landrover and Toyota pick-up trucks the length and breadth of Jordan, visiting places such as Petra, Jerash, Irbid, Aqaba, the Dead Sea, Wadi Rum and the desert palaces.

Out in the field I was a “dig bum”, searching for pottery. We had Palestinian helpers who invited me back to their refugee camp where we drank tea. I spoke about Scotland and showed them photos of my sons wearing kilts and asked the young ones if they had any questions. Two hands went up. One asked me if the Loch Ness Monster really did exist and the other asked me if I thought Manchester United would win the league. I was also guest at a Palestine wedding where they celebrated by firing their automatic rifles into the night sky. They were very affectionate and emotional people, simply superb.

After my graduation in 1994 I started up in business as a gas engineer, contracting to property agencies and the University. Due to the nature of my job, I have probably worked in 70% of properties in the town doing emergency call-outs, mandatory repairs and the changing and upgrading of gas meters. I got back into football and played for local teams until I was 64, when I reluctantly hung up my boots.

Since retiring I spend my time trying to improve my golf, going to the gym and restoring my Alpha Romeo Spider. I love Scotland and St Andrews – I have a great interest in politics, art history and church history. I am sorely tempted to return to academia. Most of all I am grateful to the Del Ferro Institute in Amsterdam for helping me cure a dreadful stammer that blighted my life for nearly 50 years, and to my family including two beautiful grandsons for putting up with me.

David Seeley  
Trustee

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### MARTHA STEEDMAN

The Service of Celebration for the life of Martha Steedman, née Hamilton, wife of our Honorary President, will take place at 2:00 pm, 24 July 2015, in Holy Trinity Church, South Street, St Andrews. The service will be followed by a reception at the Younger Hall on North Street. It is hoped that many of you will be able to attend.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Readers will note the absence of a Treasurer's Report in this newsletter. This reflects the lack of information at this time of year for a detailed report. The Treasurer now reports to the Board of Trustees via the Policy and Resources Committee. Some financial information which would previously have appeared in a treasurer's report can now be found in the P & R report submitted by Vice-Chairman, Dr Peter Murray.

### POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chairman, John Matthews has taken over the chairmanship of this committee. Our thanks go to Dr Peter Murray who, as vice-chairman has presided over this committee since its inception and becoming fully established

### JUNE BAXTER MBE

Our congratulations go to June Baxter on being awarded an MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List. Though this award is primarily for June's lifetime of work for the National Trust for Scotland, she was a trustee and indeed the trust Hidden Gardens Day, now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, was her idea. She has served continuously on the sub-committee organising the event and her magnificent garden at 46 South Street features every year as one of the 12 gardens to be visited.

### MADRAS

The reconstituted Board of Trustees has expressed its unanimous opposition to Pipeland as the site for the new Madras College. It applauds the efforts being made by STEPAL to prevent Fife Council's decision to build the school at Pipeland in the teeth of widespread local opposition.

A petition has been drawn up by residents who live in the St Andrews Community Hospital's catchment area. It calls on Fife Council to abandon plans for a new school at Pipeland farm for a whole raft of reasons. The Board of Trustees fully back this petition. A copy is included with newsletters delivered to Trust members who are served by the Community Hospital.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Trust's AGM was held on its usual May date in the Supper Room of the Town Hall. The well attended meeting heard a detailed report of the Trust's activities from Graham Wynd who was standing down after four busy years as Chairman. His successor was to be John Matthews returning to the post having previously been finance and property convenor and then chairman for one year.

The business part of the meeting was followed by a highly informative talk by James Hearsam, recently appointed as the new Garden Director of the St Andrews Botanic Garden. He outlined the plans for the garden of the new Botanic Garden. Trust.

## HEPBURN GARDENS AND THE YEAR BOOK

The article in the 2014 Year Book by former Chairman, Elizabeth Williams on the development of Hepburn Gardens has been very well received. Indeed there have been requests for off-prints of the article. These can now be made available and can be purchased for £3 by contacting trustee Derek Barrie [derekabarrie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:derekabarrie@hotmail.co.uk).

Every year the trust publishes an article, usually by a member, in the Year Book. Any member interested in writing such an article should contact Derek Barrie as above.

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October** - 2 pm to 5 pm daily  
*Summer Exhibition - Furs, feathers, frills & florals: Four decades of fashion: 1919-1959*

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET  
Admission Free

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July** - 6.30 pm  
*Members' Summer Reception*  
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Charge: £7.50

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August** - 2:15 pm  
*Fashion Gallery Talk*  
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August**  
*Members' Golf Championship*  
STRATHTYRUM COURSE

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August***Members' Putting Competition*

'HIMALAYAS' PUTTING GREEN

5pm 'shot-gun' start (meet at 4.45pm prompt)

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August - 1 pm to 4 pm***Vintage Garden Tea Party - Miss Battenberg's Travelling Tea Room*

Arrive promptly to ensure a slice of cake! (charges apply)

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September***British Golf Museum Visit for Members*

GOLF PLACE - Full details in a flyer accompanying the newsletter

**To Be Confirmed: September - 7 pm***Annual Trust Quiz Night*

THE NEW GOLF CLUB, GIBSON PLACE - Tickets: £24 per team of four

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October - 7 pm***Preservation Trust Lecture*

Our fourth annual talk: Dr Michael Turnbull - "Saint Andrew: Myth, Legend and Reality"

TOWN HALL, QUEEN'S GARDENS - Charge: £10

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October - 10 am - 3 pm***Charities' Christmas Card Sale*

TOWN HALL, QUEEN'S GARDENS

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November to Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December - 1 pm to 4 pm daily***Arts and Crafts Exhibition*

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET

Admission Free

**To Be Confirmed: December - 7 pm***Members' Winter Reception*

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH HALL

**TRUSTEES 2015/2016****Chairman****Mr John F Matthews OBE****Vice Chairmen**Dr William Borthwick  
Dr Peter J Murray

Mr Andrew W Johnson

**Other elected Trustees**Dr Derek A. Barrie  
Miss Irene Bennett  
Mr Roy de Courcy Chapman  
Mrs Marysia E. Denyer  
Mrs Annie LongMiss Anne J.M. Morris OBE  
Mr William Sangster  
Mr David Seeley  
Mr Douglas Telfer**Co-opted Trustees**

None

**Treasurer**

Mr Ian Lumsdaine

**COMMITTEE CONVENERS 2015/2016**Environment  
Fundraising  
Membership, Publications and Publicity  
Museum  
Planning Applications  
Policy and Resources  
ProgrammeMrs M. Denyer  
Ms I. Bennett  
Dr D.A. Barrie  
Ms. A. Morris OBE  
Dr W. Borthwick  
Mr. J.F. Matthews OBE  
Vacant**Trustees and Conveners can be contacted through the Trust Office at  
4 Queen's Gardens. Telephone 01334 477152.***This Newsletter is published four times a year by**The St Andrews  
Preservation Trust Ltd.  
Layout: Howard Greenwell,  
Editor: Derek Barrie**4 Queen's Gardens,  
St Andrews,  
Fife KY16 9TA**Telephone: 01334 477152**trust@standrepspreservationtrust.org.uk  
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