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HAIL AND FAREWELL- FROM THE CHAIRMAN

At the Annual General Meeting in May I come to the end of my six years as a trustee, five years of which were as Finance & Property Convener and this past year as Chairman. It is daunting to follow in the footsteps of really committed and highly competent predecessors - Tony Hardie (and before him Tim Tynte-Irvine) both of whom were outstanding Finance Conveners - and Elizabeth Williams, Anne Morris and Elma Penny, all of whose commitment as Chairmen suggested that they managed to fit thirty six hours of efficient work into every day.

I cannot pretend to the levels of competence and commitment of folk such as those named above and many others with whom it has been a privilege to work - if I have received any plaudits at all then they are entirely due to my fellow trustees.

As I have said before, the Trust does three main things: firstly, it owns and manages a first rate local museum, secondly, it is deeply involved in planning matters in its efforts to preserve the magical quality of our town and thirdly, it works hard to raise funds to make the first two activities possible.

The Trust Museum is a resounding success thanks to a good committee with strong leadership, a splendid Curator and a small army of volunteers who tackle all sorts of jobs both within the Museum and in its lovely garden. Because it is such a special place, it also receives donations from time to time and there is one mystery benefactor whose generosity it would be nice to be able to acknowledge publicly were anonymity not insisted upon.

On the planning side, David Middleton continues to be an outstanding convener, concentrating on planning policy matters. The pressures on him as he has struggled for month after month with the imperfections of the Fife Structure Plan, the Local Plan, the "Western Expansion", the Abbey Park development etc, etc have been enormous and we all owe him a great debt of gratitude. It is also worth remembering that we can all help him in his struggles on the town's behalf - and here I would like to thank all members who responded to our appeal for submissions supporting the proposed moratorium on HMOs and wrote to Fife Council. In so many cases a few lines from many people can make all the difference between the local voice being heard or not.

Fundraising is, once again, dependent on the efforts of many. All trustees would however join me in stressing the importance of leadership and awarding a "gold star" to Marianne Baird, who has played a major part in organising so many successful events. She would be the first to stress the vital roles played by many - members of her committee, other trustees and members, those who generously open their gardens at the end of June, the University for continuing to allow us use of St John's Garden and so

Continued Overleaf

on, the list is enormous. My most sincere thanks are offered to all who support the Trust and its work in so many ways.

Finally, a few pleas:

Do please try to come to the AGM in the Town Hall on 19th May.

Do please keep Sunday 26th June free so that you can visit the "Hidden Gardens" of St Andrews.

Do please continue to support the Trust and maybe think about getting more involved as a volunteer or a trustee.

John Matthews
Chairman

PLANNING POLICY

Abbey Park

The confused process for this planning application is proceeding in much the same way as before, with the Trust asked to comment on the Strategic Development Framework which clearly does not meet the requirements for such documents. Fife Council must take some responsibility for this state of affairs by failing to provide a firm steer to the developers. We have referred the developers to the SDF for the East Sands which provides a useful model format.

Discussions with conservation architects at Austin Smith Lord, employed as consultants to Knightsbridge at the request of the Trust, have been more fruitful and they have considerably improved the elevations of some of the proposed accommodation blocks and are actively working on others. In the meantime an application for refurbishment of St Nicolas Lodge to provide 14 flats and an additional 28 flats on the part of the site nearest to Greenside Place has been submitted, and will be decided by the North East Fife Area Committee in March. It is expected that the next public stage of the planning process will be a public consultation on the completed SDF.

Feddinch Golf Course

The issue of whether this application, reported on in the last Planning Policy report, was processed properly by the Planning Department was the subject of a Freedom of Information request by the Trust. Responses from the Council's legal officers have averred that the planning process was properly conducted.

However, an internal audit investigation initiated by Councillor Robin Waterston has revealed several serious flaws in the process which will require management action. The most serious finding is that inadequate evidence of the financial bonds required before work started on the site was accepted by planners and that neither the committee which made the planning decision, nor the applicants, were kept properly informed of critical issues as they emerged. The Audit and Standards Committee which considered the internal audit report has ordered that a report on the planning aspects be submitted to the North East Fife Area Committee in May. This is not expected to reveal all the information requested by the Trust which through its FOI request will pursue the missing details.

New local Plan for Fife

Fife Council carried out a consultation on how they should manage the new situation where the Fife Local Plans will have to be compliant with the strategic Tayplan and South East Scotland Plan (SESPLAN). The outcome of this is not known, but indications are that the planners are in favour of having only one local plan for the whole of Fife, rather than two relating to each of the strategic plans.

From a local point of view, this seems unwieldy and it will be difficult to separate out local issues

from the massive volume of proposals affecting the whole of Fife. Another proposal is to have a Fife-wide Community Forum to advise the planners on community issues. This also seems unwieldy, and there are serious issues about democratic accountability if, for instance, one "selected" person is to speak for the whole of St Andrews. At a meeting of local (North East Fife) "activists" hosted by Fife Council, the consensus of the community members attending was that the Planning Department should relate to local representative groups rather than one covering the whole of Fife. However, this does not seem a likely outcome at present. While a Fife Wide Forum can be characterized as an arrangement which might provide for the planning officials needs, it is not one which will be recognized as having value for communities which wish to influence plans for their local environments. The Trust will be pressing to have input to the plans directly, and to contribute to local forums which can assist in reconciling local opinion.

Action on HMOs in St Andrews and Holyrood

Trust members have responded well to the Fife Council HMO consultation. Submissions copied to the office show a high degree of support for the Trust's position. When all the submissions are published on the web, the Trust will be carrying out its own analysis of the consultation responses. With the ever increasing number of HMO planning and licensing applications apparently being passed without reference to their culminative impact on the town, a moratorium policy is urgently needed. John Matthews and I met with student representatives to discuss this issue in a meeting mediated by Frank Quinalt. It was an amicable meeting but it cannot be said that there was a meeting of minds. The consultation outcome is expected in May.

Meanwhile at Holyrood, Ted Brocklebank skillfully piloted an amendment to the Housing (Scotland) Bill through the parliament. It received universal support from all members except the two Greens. This amendment will result in Licensing Committees having to consider whether there is overprovision of HMOs when making decisions. Ted, who retires from his role as an MSP in May, used graphic descriptions of the St Andrews situation to convince the Minister and other political parties of the need for this provision which is now law. This may be the first Act of Parliament that the Trust has directly influenced.

David Middleton
Planning Policy Convener

ENVIRONMENT

THE BOASE WOOD

Re-fencing the eastern path and roadside edge now has planning permission and work should start in May. We live in hope that it may be underway before the Trust's AGM. Tribute should be paid to all the work by Ian Christie and John Matthews in helping to bring this about. We are also grateful to St Leonard's School for very effective clearance work by senior pupils as part of their community action programme. We shall soon be designing notice boards to draw attention to the Trust's ownership of, and care for the wood.

SHOP FRONTS

Work is either in progress or about to progress on three shop fronts.

131 South Street (Bibi's cake shop). Weather permitting, work will start soon on gold leaf detailing. So far the temperature has not been high enough for gold leaf to bond with the base coat, but the craftsman involved is confident that work will soon be in progress.

Continued Overleaf

The Watch Shop, Bell Street. The base coat was completed on 19th March and the shop front is now ready for gold leaf detailing. This is to begin immediately after completion of work on 131 South Street.

Butler's, 10 Church Street. Planning permission has just been received. Financial negotiations continue, but point to a positive outcome.

We acknowledge yet again the invaluable support of the Pilgrim Foundation in funding the work on these major assets to St Andrews. We hope later to put together a leaflet for visitors and citizens on St Andrews' pillared shop fronts. Here again the convener wishes to pay tribute to the ongoing work of John Frew and earlier work by Jimmy Macgregor in launching what has been a remarkably successful campaign.

DOOCOTS

Our responsibility for these has slipped from focus recently but we shall be considering the need for adequate security if these are to be re-opened. We also wish to involve anyone with a specific interest in doocots in becoming involved in their maintenance.

NEW VENTURES:

Trees: The Trust has charged the Environment Committee with monitoring trees inside and beyond the St Andrews conservation area and we are to liaise with the University and Botanic Garden on a possible update of booklets on trees in the area. This is clearly a specialist task but the availability of a readable guide for the public is our main aim.

The St Andrews Shoreline: We are already in liaison with the Council Sands Committee which is looking at measures to protect the Eden Estuary and West Sands dunes. Our aim within the Trust is to bring under one umbrella shoreline implications of proposed East Sands developments, threats to the shoreline in the Step Rock area and areas along and beyond the West Sands. Here again we shall work in with the Trust Planning Committee.

Sam Taylor
Convener

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

We now have our accounts for 2010. These, together with my commentary, are included in the 2010 Yearbook.

Our results in 2010 - both income and expenditure - were remarkably similar to the previous year's. Once again, we continue to balance on the edge of break-even and, this year, on our main activities, we squeezed out a very small surplus (compared with a modest deficit last year).

We keep a tight rein on expenditure and it is hard to see how we could significantly reduce costs without impairing the Trust's core activities. Indeed, as time goes by, our costs are likely to increase. For example: we expend more and more of our energy on challenging unwelcome or unsuitable development applications. These are becoming more complex and it is possible that we may eventually need to obtain professional help. We are fortunate that, of our various properties, only Boase Wood has required substantial expenditure in the past few years, but we cannot expect our luck to hold. (Thanks to the generous response to the appeal in 2009, Boase Wood is now adequately funded for the medium term.) Energy costs continue to rise. And so on.

So we have to turn our attention to ways in which we can improve our income. This year's 20%

increase in membership subscriptions will help, but we need to remember that subscriptions account for only 14% of our income. Fund-raising events (such as Hidden Gardens, the Autumn Fair, the annual quiz, auctions, concerts) gave us 18% of income. Our largest element of income, at 32%, is from our investments - how much we depend on the endowment of those who have given so handsomely in the past!

So, in the coming months, we'll be applying ourselves to finding new ways of making money - without, of course, departing from the aims and ethos of the Trust. How do we enlarge our membership? Can we create new categories of member? What additional lucrative events could we organise? Can we encourage more of our loyal members to contribute to our endowments? Can we realise more from the Museum? Could we hire out the Museum and its garden for private parties? Could we market a range of tasteful branded Trust merchandise?

We are sure that many of you will have your own ideas and we invite you to pass them on to us, the more the merrier, however embryonic or well-formed, light-hearted or serious, they are. We look forward to being deluged! And we'll be extremely grateful for every one of them.

Please use the enclosed Fundraising Appeal flyer or, if you prefer, write to the Trust office by letter or email or leave a phone message there. Thank you.

Graham Wynd
Convener

PROGRAMME, MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING

On *Thursday, February 24th* the Trust's annual **Quiz Night** took place at the New Golf Club. Twenty-two teams of four racked their brains to answer the incredible mixture of bizarre, challenging and occasionally easier questions which had been set by Frances Humphries, assisted by Derek Barrie. Anne Morris and Ian Christie ably kept track of the scores and although the usual team won, they had to work hard to keep ahead! Winners or losers, everyone agreed that it had been a highly enjoyable occasion and there was a lot of laughter mixed in with the competitive spirit! It also proved to be a successful start to the fundraising efforts for this year, with just over £400 raised during the evening.

A **members' visit to The McManus Gallery and Museum in Dundee** has been arranged for *Wednesday, May 4th*. Just over a year ago The McManus re-opened after a major refurbishment and make-over, so if you haven't been there for a while or perhaps never been there, now is your chance. We will be given a special guided tour by the museum guides, starting at 2.00 pm. Since Dundee is so near to St Andrews and the bus service is particularly good, it was decided not to arrange an expensive bus to take members there but to just meet up at the museum itself. There is also an excellent cafe there for those who might like to have lunch beforehand or tea afterwards! An invitation slip for those members who would like to come on this visit is included with this Newsletter.

More about the **Hidden Gardens Day** on *Sunday, June 26th*, is given elsewhere in this Newsletter so all that is needed here is to remind everyone to put the date in their diaries and come along to what promises to be yet another splendid day out, whatever the weather, full of entertainment and beautiful gardens to view.

Other future events to look out for later in the summer will be the **Members' Summer Reception** on *Friday, July 29th* and the **Golf & Putting Competitions** on *29th & 31st August*. More dates to mark in the diary!

Marianne Baird
Convener

PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

In an attempt to ensure a measure of consistency in relation to the production and distribution of the Newsletters, the P&P committee have, in consultation with Janette, decided to produce the Newsletter four times per year, January-April-July-October. This timescale should allow all Conveners and event organisers an opportunity to convey important information and event reports to the members.

In an attempt to improve the current means of Newsletter production and to encourage support for the Trust, Janette and I met recently with John Burns the Sales and Marketing Manager for West Port Print and Design.

The outcome of the meeting is that we will in future have the Newsletter printed by West Port who will produce it on a good quality paper already folded, the latter will save considerable time for the 'Letter Stuffing Team'.

In addition, West Port has agreed to provide the Trust free of charge, with a modern printed display stand which has a value of over £200. The purpose of the stand is to help promote the Trust at our own and invited events. If we are to make best use of it, the colour, content and impact are very important, to this end and having discussed the matter first with Lesley Barrie, I have asked Jenn our Museum Curator if, when time allows, she would exercise her artistic bent and put together a proposal that will catch the public's attention.

We have decided to produce a Fund Raising Appeal flyer for inclusion with the April Newsletter, inviting members to indicate the level and type of support they could give, it is hoped that based upon the feed back, we can create lists of members who are willing to support future events and activities in a number of ways and to make suggestions as to future fund raising events.

Finally, the Hidden Gardens Team has been busy with the arrangements which are now almost in place, the Gardens have been chosen and we intend to capitalise on the space at St John's to provide a varied and interesting 'Garden' themed offering to the visitors. Marysia would be grateful for items for her 'Rainbow' stall, donations care of the office please, bulk items can be collected. Donations would also be appreciated for our Raffle Stall.

Andrew Johnson
Convener.

MUSEUM REPORT

Arriving outside the museum you will immediately notice that this year 'spring cleaning' started early at 12 North Street. Our front gate, which was looking a bit shabby, has been repainted for us. The stone tubs to the left of the front door have also had a face lift. They have been re-filled with plants which will tolerate shade and a north facing aspect.

Inside the museum there are further improvements. The exhibition gallery on the first floor has been repainted which has greatly improved its appearance. Safety treads have been fitted on the narrow stairs leading to the 'minstrels' gallery'. Lastly, windows throughout the museum have been fitted with UV solar filters. These should reduce light levels which were very high and damaging to objects on display. The museum was fortunate to get a grant from Museum, Galleries Scotland to cover part of the cost of the solar filters. Our curator continues to monitor light levels throughout the museum but especially the chemist's shop where levels were extremely high.

At the end of January the museum opened for a weekend of 'Scrapbooks and Photographs'. A coffee morning which was well-attended was held on the Saturday. Almost two hundred people visited the museum over the course of the weekend. Visitors, many of them local, generally spent a long time looking through the scrapbooks and albums delighted to find a photo or article about themselves or someone they knew.

As I write this the StAnza Poetry Festival is using the museum as a venue. We have an exhibit in the garden inspired by the poetry of Sorley McLean, an audio visual installation on the ground floor and an exhibition of the work of the Roncadora Press from Dumfries in the upstairs gallery.

Planning and research for the Easter exhibition are also well underway. It is entitled 'St Andrews Bairns' and is a celebration of children and childhood in St Andrews I hope you found time to visit the museum and enjoy the variety of objects and images which Jennifer our curator chose to illustrate the theme. I'm sure you found yourself saying: " I had one of those when I was wee"!!

The summer exhibition, inspired by the royal wedding, is entitled 'Here comes the Bride' and explores weddings and marriage customs. It will run from the end of May till the beginning of October.

Lesley Barrie
Convener

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4 th May	MEMBERS' VISIT The McManus Gallery and Museum, Dundee - 2 pm
Thursday 19 th May	Annual General Meeting Supper Room, Town Hall, Queen's Gardens - 7 pm
Friday 27 th May to Sunday 2 nd October	Summer Exhibition - "Here Comes the Bride" Trust Museum - 2 pm to 5 pm daily
Sunday 26 th June	Hidden Gardens Day 11 am to 5 pm
Friday 29 th July	Summer Reception Trust Museum - 6.30 pm
Monday 29 th August	Golf Championship Strathtyrum Course
Wednesday 31 st August	Putting Competition Himalayas Putting Green - 5 pm (meet at 4.45 pm)
October	Charities Christmas Card Sale - date to be advised
Saturday 26 th November to Sunday 4 th December	St Andrews Week Exhibition and Art and Craft Fair Trust Museum - 2 pm to 5 pm daily
December	Winter Reception - date to be advised

HIDDEN GARDENS DAY

SUNDAY 26 JUNE 2011

See enclosed flyer for full details

CONVENERS 2010/2011

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