



Contents

Chairman's Letter	1
Policy and Resources.....	3
Planning.....	4
Environment..	7
Membership, Publications & Publicity.....	10
Membership & Fundraising.....	11
Museum Committee....	12
Museum Curator.....	14
Duncan Penny.....	16
80th Anniversary	17
Miscellaneous	17
Dates for Your Diary.....	18

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

According to the UK Met Office web-site, 1st March marks the first day of **meteorological** spring and 20th March 2017 marks the first day of **astronomical** spring. By the time this Newsletter reaches you it will be spring by either definition – and St Andrews is especially beautiful at this time. The lengthening days and quality of light make a walk along the Lade Braes especially pleasurable, with swathes of snowdrops, interspersed with aconites, chionodoxa and emerging daffodils. Unfortunately, in some places, the parlous state of the paths makes it risky to avert one's eyes for too long and cyclists often take one by surprise. Whilst protocols are badly needed to assure safe walking and cycling, it is crucial that any measures taken avoid hard features that would destroy the essentially rural character of the Lade Braes.

It is to be hoped that the long-awaited upgrade of the Lade Braes footpaths will be sympathetic to its sylvan setting. Great care will have to be taken to avoid compromising the trees when addressing the uneven surface caused by root-heave and water damage. It is to be hoped too, that measures will be taken to remove the Japanese Knotweed which, if left unchecked, could accidentally be spread - even if it is rare for its seeds to germinate. Walking further out the Lade Braes it is very pleasing to see Boase Wood bursting into life with spring bulbs. We are very grateful that Special Branch has offered once again to take care of general maintenance.

Thankfully the reporter, appointed by Scottish Ministers, dismissed the appeal to build forty dwellings at the New Park Playing Fields (to which the Trust objected), and the semi-rural views from the Lade Braes will continue to be enjoyed by future generations! The reporter further noted that the Council's Greenspace Audit (2010) found that the average amount of greenspace in St Andrews was well below the Fife average – surely an indication that the planning process is not working as it should.

Greenspaces will be impacted further as St Andrews West LLP develops the 88 hectare site to the west of the town with the development of around 1000 new homes, retail facilities, a care home, hotel, university facilities and business park, and of course a replacement for Madras College. The Trust welcomed the public consultations hosted by St Andrews LLP. Our Planning Committee

turned out in force to discuss the many issues and is currently reflecting on these.

It is also pleasing to note that, on 28th February, the Council's Executive Committee declared their preferred option for a site on the western approach to St Andrews for the replacement Madras College. It seems the wheel has turned the full circle and it is deeply regrettable that not more notice was taken of the many representations made by the Trust, the courageous campaign by STEPAL, and many others regarding the benefits of co-location, reduced environmental impacts, safer transport and leaving open the possibility to extend the Community Hospital. Unfortunately the planning process has not served the town well. We hope for better when it comes to St Andrews West and other significant developments in the pipeline, such as Craigtoun North and the East Sands area. The redevelopment of the Madras College South Street buildings will be especially critical to the amenity of the conservation area. I believe there is great opportunity here to enhance the amenity with a wonderful public space.

A crucial factor in all of these developments is managing access and mobility and their links to land-use planning. In my former professional life I was involved in managing research projects on urban mobility. This highlighted the vital importance of developing sustainable urban mobility plans and engaging with *all stakeholders* – especially citizens. St Andrews' transport system is rapidly becoming dysfunctional – especially during the summer. Further development will place intolerable pressure on our historic streets which were never designed for today's motorised traffic. A master plan approach is required – embracing better public transport, safe cycling and walking and much improved Park and Ride. We look forward to further consultation and dialogue with the various stakeholders involved in the new developments.

Winter is most definitely not “off season” for the museum. Our new curator, Nicola Moss, ably assisted by Trustees and volunteers, has been extremely busy preparing for the new season, whilst grappling with renewing our accreditation and preparations for upgrading the museum store at Queen's Gardens. She has drawn up ambitious objectives and interesting exhibitions are planned to mark the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Trust – starting with the Easter exhibition “Artists of St Andrews”. The volunteer research group exhibition at the end of January was a great start to the year with fascinating insights into topics ranging from the old mills, early industries, photographers and an eminent mineralogist. I also very much welcome the initiative by the small group involving Nicola and Annie Birrell, our administrator, and volunteers to look at developing our capabilities in education and learning – a great way to encourage our youngsters to develop a sense of place and understand their heritage. Things are also progressing well in the garden at the museum, which I will not report in detail now, other than to remark that it is shaping up to be one of the best small gardens in the area which, I am sure, will become a great draw for visitors.

The start of the year is also one of the busiest times for our treasurer Ian Lumsdaine. As always, Ian has done a sterling job in preparing the financial report. Our finances are in surplus, although we continue to rely on generous benefactors and investment income to make up the deficit between recurrent income and normal expenditure. Grants too, are likely to become ever harder to win. I expect this trend will continue, especially if inflation starts to

take root, so do please remember the Trust should you desire to review your giving.

Looking forward, 2017 promises to be an eventful year, with important and challenging developments starting to take shape. Hopefully substantial progress will be made towards delivery of a new school. 2017 is also the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Trust. It is also the 20th anniversary of Hidden Gardens. I would like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the founder members, to current and former trustees and the many very loyal and active volunteers who have contributed to our mission to preserve the buildings, character and history of this great Royal Burgh.

Bill Borthwick
Chairman

POLICY AND RESOURCES REPORT

The Policy and Resource Committee (PRC) meets periodically to assess progress with respect to the Trust's Strategic and Action Plans and consider responses to new situations as they develop. Whilst the Trust's stated mission, objectives and priorities are very largely of a continuing nature, the means to deliver them through a series of planned actions are at various stages of completion. The PRC is in the process of reviewing the Action Plan and updating it where appropriate. Progress in many of these actions is discussed elsewhere in the respective committee reports and therefore will not be discussed in detail here.

A matter of ongoing concern is the difficulty of recruiting Trustees and the implications of this constitutionally. The committee agreed to invite Mrs Helen Rorrison, Head of Community Development, Fife Voluntary Action, for advice and to review procedures and policies. Fortunately we seem to be meeting our obligations and the committee very much appreciated Helen's intervention.

The committee have also considered the Treasurer's financial reports which note an ongoing deficit on normal operations. Specific areas of high costs noted include electricity, internet, and property maintenance and these will be examined with a view to making savings where possible. Advice will be obtained from St Andrews Environmental Network and Historic Scotland regarding energy use and efficiency. One option being considered is to install gas central heating at the museum.

Direct Debit has been considered as a good way to manage subscriptions and retain membership. The treasurer had obtained offers and it is considered unlikely that the benefit would outweigh the high cost.

On the buildings front, significant maintenance work is required on the Bogward doocot but this will be postponed until the Trust has title – the terms of the disposition are understood to have been agreed and formalities are being concluded.

Considering environmental matters, the committee again noted concern about 1 Greyfriars Garden but welcomed the positive report from the convenor of the environment committee concerning BID's "Clean and Green" initiative and trial of a "Big Belly" automatic compacting bin.

Options for marking the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Trust in 2017 were considered and will be reported elsewhere.

The Committee also agreed to the formation of a working group, led by Anne Morris, to examine and propose options for a fitting and lasting tribute to Miss Gillian Falconer.

Bill Borthwick,
Convenor, Policy and Resources Committee

PLANNING REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

Since its foundation in 1937, the object of The St. Andrews Preservation Trust has been to secure the preservation of the amenities and historic character of St. Andrews and its neighbourhood.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee meets on a fortnightly basis to critically and constructively review planning applications submitted to Fife Council for the St. Andrews Ward and those relating to the Conservation Area.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

In January and February 2017 there has been 50 planning applications submitted and 48 planning applications determined within the St. Andrews Ward as below:

Applications Registered

Proposal of Application Notice	1
Planning Permission in Principle	2
Full Planning Permission	29
Listed Building Consent	8
Non-Material Variations	3

Tree Conservation Area	2
Tree Protection Orders	2
Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed)	2
Certificate of Lawfulness (existing)	1

Applications Determined

Agricultural Prior Notification – refused	1
Planning Permission in Principle – with conditions	1
Proposal of Application Notice	1
Full Planning Permission – no conditions	12
Full Planning Permission – with conditions	11
Full Planning Permission – withdrawn	3
Full Planning Permission – refused	1
Listed Building Consent - no conditions	3
Listed Building Consent - with conditions	3
Listed Building Consent - withdrawn	1
Advertisement Consent – with conditions	1
Non-Material Variations - no conditions	2
Non-Material Variations - withdrawn	1
Non-Material Variations - refused	1
Planning Permission required	
Tree Conservation Area	3
Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed)	1
Certificate of Lawfulness (existing)	2

Reviewing statics from previous years the trend suggest that the Planning Committee will be reviewing more than 300 planning applications during 2017.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIONS/COMMENTS, ETC.

The Planning Committee has commented on and objected to a variety of planning applications since the beginning of 2017; the most noteworthy being:

- Planning Application16/04015/FULL - Installation of replacement balustrade (retrospective) and Change of Use from public footpath to outside seating area at The Glass House, 80 North Street.

- Planning Application16/4149/FULL and 16/4150/LBC - Planning Application and

Listed Building Consent for internal and external alterations including single storey extension to rear, alterations to window and door, installation of window, alterations to wall to form gate and steps at 4 Louden's Close.

- Planning Application 16/04244/FULL - Erection of rear extension at the Albany Hotel, 56 - 58 North Street.
- 17/00292/FULL - Change of HMO from 4 to 6 persons at Flat 5, Hepburn Hall, 74 Hepburn Gardens.
- 17/00097/FULL – Part Change of Use of garden ground and erection of Nursery School storage shed at 44 South Street.

OTHER

- **12/01376/FULL – Refurbishment of the Student Association Building, St. Andrews Student Union at St. Mary's Place**

The Planning Committee made representation to Fife Council and to the University of St Andrews concerning the University's non-compliance with Planning Consent 12/01376/FULL – Refurbishment of the Student Association Building, St. Andrews Student Union at St. Mary's Place regarding the positioning and screening of mechanical plant and ductwork etc. on the elevations and roofs of the Union.

- **Redeveloped Gatty Marine Laboratory - Woodburn Place**

The Trust is in contact with the University of St Andrews on behalf of the Trust, the St Andrews Sailing Club and the Confederation of St Andrews Residents Associations concerning the suitability and adequacy of the parking proposals for the new Oceans Institute at East Sands.

- **Public Consultation Event for Potential Planning Application for the University of St Andrews' Proposed Music Centre on Land Adjacent to the Bute Building, Queens Terrace**

Members of the Planning Committee attended the public consultation at the Byre Theatre on Thursday, 25th January.

Contact has been made with JLL (the University's Planning Consultants) notifying them of the Planning Committee's support for the project as currently described. The subsequent planning application will be further reviewed and assessed when it is going through the planning process.

- **Public Consultation Event for Proposed Planning Application for St Andrews West**

The Planning Committee attended the public consultation at The Rufflets Hotel on Wednesday, 22nd February. The Trust will be giving St Andrews West significant attention over the coming months and years.

- **Public Consultation Event for Proposed Planning Application to Develop Student Accommodation on the gap sites at Agnes Blackadder Hall (ABH), North Haugh, and University Hall (UH), Kennedy Gardens.**

Members of the Planning Committee attended the public consultation at Agnes Blackadder Hall, North Haugh on Thursday, 2nd March. The planning application will be reviewed and assessed when it is going through the planning process.

Sandy Bremner
Planning Convener

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

*“Spring is the time of the year,
when it is summer in the sun
and winter in the shade.”*

Charles Dickens - Great Expectations

Since our committee's last newsletter report in January, here are several updates regarding our delegated areas of responsibility. Our first meeting of 2017 took place on Wednesday 18th January. For your reference, our committee details are listed below.

Convener	Marysia Denyer
Vice Convener	Douglas Telfer
Members	Bill Borthwick
	Dr David Watkinson
	Dave Seeley
	Ian Christie
Advisor	Simon Kidd

BOASE WOOD

The woodland is the remit of Ian Christie and I. In January the wheels were set in motion for a

tree re-inspection and arboricultural report to be carried out by Langton Tree Specialists. This took place on Wednesday February 8th. The timing of this survey could have not been better as I received a phone call on the 27th February from Mark Edward of Special Branch. I am delighted to report that following this communication and his email, our links with Special Branch are to continue. Following the advice in the survey report, Special Branch began important maintenance and remedial work in Boase Wood on Monday 6th March. He hopes to provide a team of two men for two days, every three months to work their way through the survey's requirements and suggestions. Mark has informed me that he intends to report back on a regular basis after each of their visits. This will keep our lines of communication open and transparent.

GORDON CHRISTIE PLAQUES BEQUEST

This sub-committee is the remit of Simon Kidd and David Watkinson. The two plaques receiving attention at present are for Adam Ferguson and John Hardie Wilson. They are also considering a request from Trust member, France Humphries. She would like to see a plaque erected in memory of the women who were condemned to death as witches. Another request recently received was submitted by Michael Buchanan. He referred to the Buchanan plaque that had existed at the entrance to the Buchanan building circa 1964. Unfortunately this had been "lost" when a disabled access was incorporated to the entrance. We hope to provide members with a progress report in the next newsletter.

GREGORY'S PILLAR

This is the remit of our Chairman, Bill Borthwick. A meeting with Eric Priest and St Andrews University is to be arranged to decide on the next steps.

BOGWARD DOOCOT

Dave Seeley as our Property Convener has been attending to this building. A new door has been fitted, making it safe and secure. Watson and Sons will start re-pointing work later this month, once there are no longer risks of a late frost.

SHOP FRONTS

The commercial premises in Church Street known as "The Continental Pantry" are at present up for let. As a result, I have been in contact with the agents. They are now fully aware of the Trust's concern over the future of the shop front's restored Victorian cast iron pillars. Shepherd's have been provided with the contact details for the Trust office, along with my own personal details. I have been assured that once the property is let, we will be informed. It is imperative that we use a proactive approach to establish a good rapport with the new owners. By doing so, we hope to safeguard these unique, ornate cast iron pillars for posterity.

PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

These take place every four years, with the last event being held in 2013. A sub-committee was formed to plan our 2017 Awards. The members of this group are Anne Morris, Claire Tynte-Irvine, Simon Kidd, Derek Barrie and myself. At the time of writing, three meetings have taken place. The most recent was held on Tuesday 7th March. As this year is the Trust's 80th Anniversary, there are a number of events being held in celebration. Therefore it was decided that the Awards would take place at the AGM on the 11th May, following business and in place of a speaker. There will be two Awards categories which are as follows - "**Pride of Place**" Award and "**Old Stones, New Life**". This latter category, suggested by Trustee, Claire Tynte-Irvine has been introduced to highlight new amenities and initiatives in the town. The panel will select one winner from each category, with the option of recognising, if they choose, a third nomination from either category with a "**Special Mention**". The judging panel will be chaired by Dr Robert Steedman O.B.E and accompanied by Dr John Frew, Elizabeth Williams, along with Trust Chairman, Dr William Borthwick.

MUSEUM GARDEN

As the New Year began, I was approached by Trustee, Anne Morris and asked if I would help in co-ordinating the work taking place in the museum garden. She was aware of my love of gardening and also my involvement with several gardening groups within the town. Andrew Johnson is the key player in the development of the sensory garden and the southern border restoration. However he very kindly said that along with his wife Liz, they would maintain the Scottish rose bed area developed by our dearly beloved benefactor, the late Gillian Falconer. They would also maintain the herb area and the D'Arcy Thompson garden. However the front garden, the back door area, herbaceous border and rockery required the attention of a small gardening squad. Along with my colleague, Felicity Chancellor, we have worked tirelessly, with enthusiasm and zest throughout February to improve and revitalise these remaining four areas of the museum garden. When you next visit the museum you will see the results of our labours which we hope will delight you all. If any local Trust members are free to help us on a Thursday afternoon between 2.00 – 4.00pm then please contact me. My email address is polonica132@googlemail.com otherwise phone me on **01334 476623**.

Finally, at our January committee meeting we had a very informative presentation from David Angus, Project Manager of the "Clean and Green" team which is supported by the St Andrews Environmental Network. David's Powerpoint presentation was forwarded to all Trustees so that they could be made aware of his team's initiatives for the conservation area. At present they are piloting a "Big Belly Bin", close to Sainsbury in Market Street. This new style of bin will help to reduce the numbers of unsightly refuse bins, cluttering the town centre. Our committee were more than willing to give "Clean and Green" our support, as was the Board of Trustees. In return, "Clean and Green" are willing to assist The St Andrews Preservation Trust with any future objectives.

Marysia Denyer
Environment Convener

MEMBERSHIP, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY REPORT

PRESS COVERAGE

A photograph taken by Peter Adamson of the Research Group at its exhibition appeared in the Citizen as did an account of key items discussed at the January meeting of the Trust in the community news section.

ANNUAL LECTURE

Professor Robert Crawford has agreed to deliver the lecture on the topic “literary St Andrews” The date is Thursday 26th October 2017 at 6.30 pm. A sub committee from the committee will take responsibility for organising this event along the same lines as in 2016 and in the same venue; St Leonards Music School.

GRAND RAFFLE

The sub committee dealing with this major fund raising event has met and arrangements are in hand.

STOCK TAKING: CHRISTMAS CARDS, NOTELETS AND PUBLICATIONS.

The committee was pleasantly surprised at the volume of cards sold. An especially good seller were cards intended to be sold as notelets. They were much sought after as blank Christmas cards in which you wrote your own message.. Committee members would have 30 minutes before this committee’s March meeting to look at previous years’ cards with a view to selecting one as a 2017 card.

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES

The membership sub committee has met to analyse the questionnaires returned by members. The sub committee also prepared a report for the Board of Trustees. The annual collection of subscriptions is being carried out by the administrator with assistance from Simon Kidd. Appropriate reminder letters are being sent out to members with subscriptions in arrears.

YEAR BOOK

The procedures for compiling the Year Book are well underway and a request for reports gone to committee conveners. Conveners were reminded that their reports for the Year Book are for the period 1st January to 31st December 2016. The history note included in the Year Book was the essay which won the first Murray Prize in 2015. The Murray Prize will be offered for competition every second year and was initiated by former trustee Dr Peter Murray.

NEWSLETTER

The January edition was stuffed by and local copies delivered by Simon Kidd to whom we are indebted. Two fliers (membership survey and museum programme) were included.

80TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

The Committee discussed the idea of such a publication and would put a detailed proposal to the Board on 28th March. If this were agreed a concrete proposal would come to the March meeting. If approved by the Board then implementation would commence with the publication to be produced towards the end of the year.

Derek Barrie
Membership, Publications and Publicity Convener

MEMBERSHIP AND FUNDRAISING REPORT

Plans are well under way for the twentieth Hidden Gardens event to be held on Sunday 25 June. We hope this landmark event will be as well supported as usual. Quite a few of the gardens which will be open were open on the first occasion in 1998, which shows commendable loyalty on the part of these supporters!

As usual help will be required on the day to make this event successful. If you can offer an hour or two of your time we would be delighted to hear from you! Contact Annie Birrell in the office on 01334 477152 or e mail trust@standrewspreservationtrust.org.uk

Thanks to those of you who completed the membership questionnaire. This will be reported on in more detail in due course and a plan of action will be drawn up and followed through.

I have recently taken over the convenership of this revamped committee from Irene Bennett and would like to thank Irene for all her hard work! I am pleased to say that she remains a member of the committee.

Peter Haselhurst
Membership and Fundraising Convener.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE REPORT

CURATOR'S REPORT

Previously the Museum Report included a résumé of the Curator's Report to the Museum Committee.

It was agreed that this style of reporting does not provide detailed enough information for Members nor did a summary reflect the Curator's plans, preparations and future developments alongside the wide - ranging duties she has already undertaken.

Consequently, Nicola has been invited to provide a 'column' to accompany the Museum Committee Report in this and future editions of the Newsletter which we know will be of great interest to the readers.

ACCREDITATION

Trustees received copies of a number of documents, for study and comment, which were thereafter approved at the February Board Meeting. The minuted approval is a vital part of the Accreditation Process.

I know that Members would wish to applaud Nicola's excellent work in drawing up this necessary and very comprehensive documentation.

EVENTS IN THE MUSEUM

The 2017 Research Group Exhibition opened with the Annual Museum Coffee Morning being held on the 28th January 2017 and with the Exhibition Preview being held on the 27th January. Alison Cran, Pat Harvey, Frances Humphries and May Watt are to be congratulated on their very interesting displays.

Four of StAnza's contributors exhibited in the Museum and Garden between the 2nd and the 5th March 2017 with the following subject titles:- The Remedies : The Corbenic Poetry Path : Step Forward : Flying Heich.

FUTURE EVENTS

Please note these are as detailed in the 'Dates for your Diary' item in this Newsletter.

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE GARDEN AND THE MUSEUM

Marysia Denyer has enlisted a team of Volunteers to re-design and maintain the Museum Garden and create a Garden Plan. Andrew Johnson invited Mr Bob Mitchell to visit the Museum

Garden to seek his expert advice on how to develop, in particular, the Rock Garden. It was interesting that Bob noted that he could see 'the Gillian Falconer influence' in the Rockery. He prepared a very comprehensive & useful Report for the Gardening Team.

Bob Bilson has agreed to create a list of plants which he feels would be suitable in the Garden. He will liaise with Hugh Lawrie in choosing plants which flower during the Museum's open season.

If you have not recently had the opportunity to visit the garden I would encourage you to do so as the transformation by Marysia Denyer, Felicity Chancellor and Andrew Johnson to both the front and the back garden is outstanding.

We are extremely grateful to Andrew Johnson who has prepared the Southern Border and selected and graded the stone – a Herculean task – ready for the stone waller and his trainees to create a stone seat in that area.

VOLUNTEERS

Foreign Language Museum Guides have been prepared by the transcribers recommended by Emma Jane Wells the Museum Mentor. Once these are printed Volunteers will be able to hand out leaflets in French : Spanish : German : Italian : Polish & Chinese.

Volunteers' Talks : The Winter Programme of Talks continued with the following :-

Alan Tricker and Brenda Hunter gave a very entertaining talk on their Theatre Company *Red Wine Productions* in January.

Emma Jane Wells, the Museum Mentor, gave an excellent and informative talk on MUSA to a very appreciative audience, on 8th February 2017.

The final talk of the season was on *The Lammas Market* was given by Alan Sturrock in March.

ORAL ARCHIVE

Veronica Whyment continues to attend the Training Days run by the National Library of Scotland. The most recent one was held in Glasgow with 'demystifying copyright' as the Topic.

Veronica also continues with her interviews.

APPEAL: ITEMS FOR THE COTTAGE SHOP

As we approach the Exhibitions Season we shall be re-stocking the Cottage Shop. If you have any unwanted items stored in the loft or garage we would be delighted to receive them!

Thank you in anticipation.

Anne Morris
Museum Committee Convener

MUSEUM CURATOR'S REPORT

For this and future newsletters the main museum report will be that of the curator to give members a clearer insight into the huge volume of work that goes on within the museum on a regular basis. The Convener of the Museum Committee will now report separately on the work of that committee.

ACCREDITATION

We were given our deadline for our Accreditation renewal earlier this year. Although this was initially for the end of June, the date has been put back to the beginning of October. This is mainly due to many museums in the sector struggling with the current three year renewal and the dates between applications are likely to be expanded further over the coming years. The application is currently going well and we are on track for having this completed on time. Trustees have approved our Collections Development, Environmental, Social Media and Volunteer Policies.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MUSEUM SECTOR

Museums Galleries Scotland have recently announced changes to their funding in an effort to make the system easier for all. The two main grants are now the Small Project Fund (under £5000) and Museum Development Fund (between £5000 and £40000). Unfortunately, these changes also mean that less funding is available for some specific projects such as Festival of Museums now only being funded by 50%

Collections Trust are expected to update SPECTRUM standards in 2017, having been last updated in 2011. (SPECTRUM is the standard which museums follow for effective collections management procedures to ensure accredited status.) The date of this release, could affect our accreditation renewal however Museums Galleries Scotland are aware of this date and will work with any affected museum.

The Scottish government recently proposed to cut funding for the country's national collections by 4.5% for 2017-18. It's the second year in a row that the cultural collections budget has faced cuts, having fallen from a total of £85.9m in 2015-16 to 77m in 2017-18.

EDUCATION

A small group of volunteers along with myself and our Administrator have been looking into

improving what the Museum offers in Education and Learning. Members of the group have been able to shadow school workshops in Perth which we hope will bring in new ideas.

EXHIBITIONS 2017

We opened the year with our Research Group exhibition which was well attended with 244 visitors. Our Research group did another wonderful job on providing research on a variety of topic including- Professor Matthew Forster Heddle MD - Scotland's Greatest Mineralogist, Photographs by George Cowie and William Patrick - Professional and Amateur, Early Industries of St Andrews, The Mills of St Andrews.

Our StAnza exhibition was also well attended with a number of visitors coming to hear from the artist and poet for a talk on the closing day.

Preparations are also well underway for our Easter Exhibition 'Artists of St Andrews', which draws together 80 artworks from the Trust's collection in order to celebrate the 80th year of the Trust, as well as our Summer exhibition 'The Polish Connection, which explores the lives of those Poles who have formed a connection with the Town of St Andrews.

GRANTS

We were successful in our grant application for Festival of Museums which means we can move forward in planning our event 'Our Victorian Childhood!'. We hope to bring in lots of families during the day and encourage visitors to come to the Museum over the summer.

MUSEUM GUIDE

The Museum Guide has recently been updated to reflect the changes in our displays over the last few years. We are also in the process of translating these into different languages to ensure that we are able to reach out to an even wider audience.

SHOP

I've made a few changes to the shop layout to try and make it easier for visitors to browse and I've included some more items from local makers. Myself and one of our volunteers are attending training to see if there's anything we can do to improve the shop further.

STORES

I'm currently speaking to several storage companies regarding improvements within the store. Hopefully we can move forward with this soon to create a better environment for our collections.

TRAINING

In addition to the retail training mentioned above, I have also attended a webinar on PR and hope to attend a training course over the next few months on Volunteer Management

VOLUNTEERS

I've contacted a number of our volunteers recently to update their emergency contact forms – and I'd like to say thank you to all who sent these back. I now hope to update these on a rolling basis every three years. The Museum always needs new volunteers and I'd like to ask if any of our members are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please do get in touch.

FURTHER INFORMATION

I hoped to achieve a number of objectives this year which have already been shared with Trustees and Committee Members. These include ensuring Accreditation for the Museum; developing a more suitable storage environment for our collections; continue to deliver exhibitions and events; increase our participation on social media; develop the Museums retail offering; attend volunteer management training; create better environmental conditions in the Museum; improve the information we hold on Adlib and; develop our educational offerings.

To keep up-to-date with Museum Matters between Newsletters please click onto our website - www.standrewspreservationtrust.co.uk/museum

Alternatively why not contact the Curator to be included on the Museum's monthly e-mail mail out; send your request to curator@standrewspreservationtrust.org.uk

Nicola Moss
Museum Curator

DUNCAN PENNY

We are sorry to have to intimate the death at home after a long illness of Duncan, husband of former Trust Chairman Elma Penny. Duncan gave great support to Elma in her period as Chairman. Our sympathy goes to Elma and her family

Duncan and Elma moved from Bearsden to St Andrews when Duncan retired from being Headmaster of Vale of Leven Academy. They played a full part in many St Andrews activities and especially through the Preservation Trust.

80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS GET UNDERWAY

Most readers will now know that the Trust is celebrating the 80th Anniversary of its establishment. A meeting to discuss setting up the Trust was held in December 1937 followed in 1938, by the formal foundation of the Trust. More information about the early years of the Trust can be found in a new booklet by Nicola Moss, curator of the museum. The booklet accompanies the Easter Exhibition which opened on Saturday the 25th March and runs till the 23rd of April.

The booklet is on sale in the museum and costs £2

This exhibition is entitled “Artists of St Andrews” and comprises 80 artworks from the Trust collection selected by trustees and volunteers. The 80 exhibits reflect the eightieth anniversary and are primarily made up of paintings, prints, etchings and other art forms. Each exhibit is accompanied by a short paragraph giving reasons why each was chosen.

The exhibition is open daily from 2pm to 5pm and admission is free

MISCELLANEOUS

SENSORY GARDEN

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter Elmwood students are making good progress in creating a sensory garden at the museum hoped the garden will be completed by Hidden Gardens. Day Sunday 26th June 201

THE PRIDE OF PLACE AWARDS

Presented by the Trust and held every four years, the Pride of Place Awards will be made at the end of the Trust AGM on Thursday 11th May. The Judging Panel was headed by the Honorary President of the Trust, Dr Robert Steadman.

CAR PARKING CHARGES

Are now imposed for parking from 1pm to 5 pm on Sundays. Members coming into the town especially for Hidden Gardens Day, 26th June should remember this when parking.

LADE BRAES

It was reported recently that £50,000 is to be spent on improving the condition of this popular walk. The money will be taken from the St Andrews common good fund. Some years ago the Trust produced a booklet about the Lade Braes which is still one of its best sellers. The Board

has agreed to publish a revised edition to go with the improvements.

80TH AND 20TH

The Preservation Trust celebrates its 80th anniversary later this year. It was in December 1937 that the first meeting was held. A number of events are being held to celebrate the anniversary and details will be made known to members in the next newsletter. Another landmark will be upon us sooner when the 20th Hidden Gardens of St Andrews Day will be held on 26th June.

VALEDICTORY

This is the last newsletter I will edit. I stand down from the Board having served as a trustee for the maximum permissible period. After 7 years it is a good point for a revamp and a more technologically up-to-date approach. I wish my successor, whoever he or she might be, well. I would also express thanks to the following who were all involved in some way or another with the production and distribution of newsletters. Simon Kidd, Howard Greenwell, Annie Birrell and Fiona McEwan of West Port print and design

Derek Barrie
Newsletter Editor

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 25th March to Sunday 23rd April - 2 pm to 5 pm daily

Artists of St Andrews -

This exhibition of 80 artworks selected from their own collection to celebrate the Trust's 80th year.

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Thursday 11th May - 7 pm

Annual General Meeting

TOWN HALL, QUEEN'S GARDENS

To be followed by:

2017 Pride of Place Awards Presentation

TOWN HALL, QUEEN'S GARDENS

Saturday 20th May - 11 am to 4 pm

Festival of Museums: Our Victorian Childhood!

Explore what your childhood might have been like in Victorian times - join us for a fun day of activities and crafts.

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Saturday 27th May to Sunday 1st October - 2 pm to 5 pm daily

The Polish Connection

For centuries, St Andrews has become home to many Polish citizens. Through objects and paintings you can explore the lives of Poles with connections to the town.

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Sunday 25th June - 11 am to 5 pm

Hidden Gardens Day

The opportunity to visit rarely seen gardens of St Andrews.

Admission Charge: Adults £6; Children Free

Thursday 26th October - 6.30 pm

Preservation Trust Lecture

This year's lecture will be delivered by Professor Robert Crawford on the subject of "Literary St. Andrews"

ST LEONARDS SCHOOL MUSIC CENTRE - Charge: £10

Saturday 28th October - 6 pm to 8 pm

Museums at Night

Join us for an evening of thrills and chills and see if you can solve our murder mystery!

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Saturday 25th November to Sunday 3rd December - 1 pm to 4 pm daily

Arts and Crafts Exhibition

Our Annual Exhibition of the work of local Artists.

TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

TRUSTEES 2016/2017

Chairman	Dr William Borthwick
Vice Chairman	Dr Derek A. Barrie Miss Anne J.M. Morris OBE
Other elected Trustees	
Miss Irene Bennett	Mrs Marysia E. Denyer
Mr David Seeley	Mr Douglas Telfer
Co-opted Trustees	
Mr Alexander G Bremner	Miss P Jane Claydon
Mr Peter Haselhurst	Mr John Sharp
Mrs Claire Tynte Irvine	Dr C David Watkinson
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Ian Lumsdaine

COMMITTEE CONVENERS 2016/2017

Environment	Mrs M. Denyer
Fundraising	Mr Peter Haselhurst
Membership, Publications and Publicity	Dr D.A. Barrie
Museum	Miss. A. Morris OBE
Planning Applications	Mr Sandy Bremner
Programme	To Be Announced

**Trustees and Conveners can be contacted through the Trust Office at
4 Queen's Gardens. Telephone 01334 477152.**

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Layout: Howard Greenwell,
Editor: Derek Barrie*

*4 Queen's Gardens,
St Andrews,
Fife KY16 9TA*

Telephone: 01334 477152

*trust@standrenspreservationtrust.org.uk
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