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It is at once daunting and challenging to take over the mantle of chair – daunting because I follow a long line of distinguished predecessors, and challenging, because the Trust has overlapping but diverse interests and functions mainly through the remarkable efforts of a number of dedicated and expert volunteers. Moreover, in today's rapidly changing world, in which we increasingly demand instant gratification, “preservation” is too often seen as an impediment to progress.

This prompted me to re-visit the Trust's mission statement which refers to “*preserving for future generations the buildings, character and history of St Andrews and its immediate surroundings*”. This in turn prompted me to reflect on what is so special about St Andrews – which, as a St Androean born, bred and educated, I took far too much for granted! My work supporting European research took me to many very fine, historic university towns and cities throughout Western Europe. Over twenty-five years' absence made me realize just how special St Andrews is, and determined our choice to retire here. St Andrews is a unique blend: it has a vibrant and seasonally varying population; it benefits socially and culturally from the stimulation provided by world class educational establishments. It possesses a very rich and historic built environment, compactly framed within beautiful land- and sea-scapes and benefits from wonderful natural, clear light – and that is without even mentioning golf! The challenge for the Trust is to chronicle this evolution and to embrace progress - whilst seeking to safeguard this remarkable heritage and environment – no easy task, as I know from my previous role as planning convenor! It makes me wonder how the Trust might respond in future to the vision of swarms of unmanned drones buzzing through the ancient spires, carrying packages for immediate delivery!

Stepping into my new role, it is therefore very reassuring to have the support of many experienced Trustees and volunteers, and also to welcome four new co-opted Trustees – Jane Claydon, Sandy Bremner, Peter Hazelhurst and David Watkinson, all of whom are taking on new roles in our various committees. I also look forward to working with our three vice-chairs: Anne Morris, Derek Barrie and Peter Murray. On the downside, I and my fellow Trustees, will greatly miss Bill Sangster's energy and creativity. Bill is stepping down as a

Trustee after many years of unstinting service. I was privileged to serve with Bill on planning and know him to be a veritable mine of information, and totally focused on delivery.

The Trust was very sorry to lose the services of Samantha Bannerman, our museum curator, at the end of July. Samantha played a vital role in managing and maintaining the museum, its collection, exhibitions and its ongoing accreditation. I echo the museum committee's newsletter tribute and its best wishes for her future career at the Dundee Transport Museum. We are however very fortunate to have recruited Nicola Moss from a very strong field of applicants. I am sure our museum volunteers join me in welcoming Nicola who, as you will read in her introduction, also comes to us from the Blackwatch Museum in Perth.

It is pleasing to report the many very successful social events over the recent months – including Hidden Gardens, the summer reception, autumn fair and putting and golf competitions – details of which are reported elsewhere. It is a testimony to all those involved that fund-raising at these events has largely kept pace with previous years though, as you will read in the Treasurer's report, we still risk running a deficit on "normal trading" in 2016, due to significant expenditure required on property maintenance and uncertainty surrounding the longer term impact of "Brexit" on our income from investments. With that in mind, I eagerly support Derek Barrie's request to think of the Trust's charming products when ordering your calendars and Christmas cards!

We still await, with baited breath, the outcome of the Scottish Government DPEA review of the FIFEPlan and whether the site for a new Madras College at Pipeland will be removed from St Andrews' Green Belt. Following the Court of Session judgment that Fife Council's planning permission in principle was unlawful, there is no case to remove this site from the Green Belt. Much better sites exist, that would have much less impact on the town, its environment, road safety and traffic congestion and, in the case of sites co-located with the University, would also offer much better educational and sporting opportunities. It therefore seems perverse that the Council persists with progressing their Pipeland proposal when they have a clear obligation to objectively assess and compare such alternatives and opportunities. These could be delivered more quickly and cheaply than Pipeland – concerns which are shared by each and every one of us.

The Trust has agreed to take on the role of the Green Belt Forum, which was formally wound up in March 2016. In collaboration with The Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council (STACC), the Trust will take a particular interest in those parts of the Green Belt which form part of the town's landscape setting – liaising as appropriate with other interested community councils and bodies, including the Community Councils for Cameron, Dunino & Boarhills, Guardbridge and Strathkinness. The Trust therefore welcomes STEPAL's initiative to hold a public meeting on 6th October on Green Belts and their vital role in preserving the environment.

Derek Watson's excellent presentation at our AGM in May informed us of the huge challenge to maintain the University as a world leading educational establishment. Expansion and upgrading is continuously needed, as is more residential accommodation for the growing

The St Andrews Preservation Trust

ANNUAL LECTURE
Rachel Hart will give an illustrated talk on
‘The Treasures of the University Library’

On

Thursday 20th October 2016
In St Leonards Music School, The Pends

Wine and canapés 6.30pm

Lecture 7.15pm

Tickets £10

from the Trust Office 4 Queen’s Gardens
open 9.00 to 12.30 Monday to Friday

student population and a move towards greater energy independence to safeguard against future energy shortages. Our planning committee will no doubt be busy as new plans are brought forward for the Gatty, new developments at Albany Park, a residential development west of Grange Road and other sensitive sites. Whilst we welcome high quality and innovative designs in the right setting – such as the new Scottish Oceans Institute – we are increasingly aware of potential negative impacts such as access, traffic congestion and road safety which all too often are not fully assimilated. At certain times of the day and year St Andrews’ traffic system is frankly dysfunctional and verging on dangerous. The town is in urgent need of more integrated planning for sustainable transport.

I am very pleased and grateful to note that our Environmental Committee has secured an undertaking from Special Branch to continue to maintain Boase Wood. This is most welcome when one considers the parlous state of parts of the Lade Braes. May I also urge you to respond to Marysia Denyer’s appeal for nominations for The Scottish Civic Trust Awards for 2017.

I can also commend Veronica Whyment’s article on her oral history archive project. I very much look forward to reading /listening to some of the fascinating contributions. I am sure this will prove to be a very important and rich, searchable resource in future. I therefore very much encourage those of you with long memories of St Andrews past to contact Veronica to breathe life into our precious built heritage.

As autumn is already upon us and the nights draw in, may I refer you to our varied

programme of events which promise to be both interesting and exciting!

Bill Borthwick,
Chairman

ENVIRONMENT REPORT

*“Listen! the wind is rising,
and the air is wild with leaves.
We have had our summer evenings,
now for October eves. .”*

Humbert Wolfe

I decided to begin October's newsletter report by acknowledging and thanking our former Trustee and great colleague, Bill Sangster. The committee are sorry to lose him as a member. During his term of office he has proved to be our mentor on many issues that the Trust has had to deal with, guided by his wide knowledge of council matters. We wish Bill a happy retirement, with returning good health, allowing him the freedom to follow his many and varied leisure activities.

At our first full Board meeting with our new Chairman, Bill Borthwick, it was suggested that each committee should appoint a Vice Convener. My colleague, Douglas Telfer has kindly agreed to take on this role.

With the appointment of several new Trustees since our AGM in May, I am delighted to report that Dr C David Watkinson has joined our group. He has expressed his interest in supporting Simon Kidd on the Gordon Christie Plaques sub-committee. A committee meeting is scheduled to take place before the end of September. This will allow David to meet fellow members of the committee and at which our individual remits can be delegated.

Grateful thanks go to Dr Peter Murray. He has been busy researching the deeds and legal status regarding our ownership of the Bogward doocot. Once this work is finalised, the environment committee will take responsibility for monitoring its condition under the terms of health, safety and maintenance.

In July I had a pleasant meeting with Mark Edward of Special Branch. I am delighted to report that his “pro bono” service in Boase Wood will continue for the foreseeable future. However, he has requested additional funding for three days work with his team in late autumn. He intends to thin out all the self seeded and low value trees. This is following the advice the Trust was given in Martin Langton's tree survey report which was conducted in 2014. An estimate of the cost has been requested and this will be discussed at the September

board meeting. There are ample funds left in the Boase wood restricted fund, so there should not be a problem with allowing the work to go ahead. Ian Christie has pointed out that with Mark's generosity, he has already saved the Trust a substantial amount with the woodland's maintenance costs.

Regarding the proposed Heritage sign, following Development Central's advice I have photographed the signs at St Mary's Quad and written down all the measurements that appear to be required. However the Fife Direct website has proved to be a bit of a personal nightmare for me, dealing with the E Planning portal. Therefore I am hoping that one of the planning committee members can support and /or advise me with this long awaited submission to Fife Council.

May I take this opportunity to ask for members assistance? The Scottish Civic Trust will be notifying us of their 2017 Awards before the end of this year. Our committee would be grateful for suggestions regarding nominations for the "My Place Award". We did not enter this category for 2016 but chose instead to nominate Bill Sangster for a Civic Champion Award. Can you please send your suggestions directly to me at polonica132@googlemail.com This will avoid giving our Administrator any additional work. Many thanks in advance .

Marysia Denyer
Environment Convener

MEMBERSHIP, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

A serious attempt is about to be embarked upon to recruit new members and to assess benefits that go with membership. A paper by trustee Annie Long was discussed at a recent special meeting to which all trustees were invited. At the following meeting a plan of action was adopted and a membership task force appointed. It has authority to make recommendations affecting any aspect of membership. A members' survey is being prepared to go out with the January 2017 newsletter .

PRESS COVERAGE

We continue to get reasonable coverage in the "Citizen" and, to a lesser extent in the "Courier." Recent press coverage has included the annual putting competition, the museum's new permanent exhibition on blacksmithing in the town and the role of the Trust in fighting to keep the Green Belt intact. The Citizen carried a feature about Samantha her contribution to the trust and her new appointment to a curatorial post in the Dundee Transport Museum. She has also been applauded by the editor of "St Andrews in FOCUS", Flora Selwyn for her regular contributions to the magazine.

PUBLICATIONS : CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC.

The experiment of having Christmas cards, calendars, notelets and other publications for sale at the AGM, Hidden Gardens, and Autumn Fair was a very limited success. Very few people's attention was attracted to buying cards etc well in advance of Christmas. We hope to do very much better at the Rotary annual Christmas card sale in St Andrews Town Hall from 10 to 3 on Saturday 29th October.

THE YEAR BOOK

It is hoped that the article by the first Murray Medal winner, Dr Sally Foster will be published in the Year Book. Since its inception in 1937 the trust has published an "historical note" in its Year Book. The Murray Medal winning article is about the St Andrews sarcophagus.

Derek Barrie
Membership, Publications and Publicity Convener

TREASURER'S REPORT

The budget approved by the Trustees for 2016 showed a small surplus. One of the main reasons for this was income from the appeal to life members to top up their original subscription and also income from the significant legacy received at the end of 2015.

I am pleased to say that donations from life members and the related Gift Aid has exceeded the amount anticipated and the Trust is very grateful to these members. Income from annual and life membership is slightly down on budget. Income from the main fundraising event, Hidden Gardens, is in line with budget but other sources of income are mostly down. The net effect on income is a shortfall of £1,000. It is too early to predict the long term effect that the Brexit vote will have on our principal source of income of dividend and interest from our portfolio as it is only when the companies in which we have invested decide on their dividends will we know the effect in the next few years. At the moment our brokers are advising us to wait and see and not to change our holdings

I am pleased to report that we have received further legacy income of £5,000 during the year and we have been advised that we are beneficiaries in one other estate which has still to be finalised. This is a very welcome source of income

Expenditure is being kept within budget apart from repair costs which we have had to incur on most of our properties, particularly The Burgher Kirk in South Street. I do allow a provision for help to the planning committee from outside sources, but so far nothing has been required other than a donation to STEPAL which the chairman has already reported.

Many members and visitors will have enjoyed the significant changes which have taken place in the museum garden and buildings. All this work regrettably comes at a cost and last year we capitalised some of the costs but more capital expenditure has been incurred this year up to the opening of the new Research Room and Falconry in April this year. The effect of these additional buildings has meant that our rateable values have increased and under Fife Council policies we are no longer eligible for the full 100% rates relief on all our properties.

Our new administrator, Annie, started in January and has settled in well to all the accounts procedures and administration of the office.

We are always seeking outside funding by way of grants to offset our expenditure, but I do anticipate that we could finish up with an excess of expenditure over income on normal trading by the year end, mainly due to the high property maintenance costs incurred.

Ian Lumsdaine
Treasurer

MUSEUM REPORT

SAMANTHA BANNERMAN'S NEW POST

The most important item of News from the Museum is that Samantha Bannerman, the Museum Curator, has been appointed to an exciting post at the Museum of Transport in Dundee. This is a new post within the Transport Museum and initially along with its day-to-day management Samantha will be responsible for the development and preparation of the Museum with regard to it becoming an Accredited Museum. Her new post title is Museum Manager.

Her final day in post at the Trust Museum was the 27th July 2016.

Samantha's contribution to the developments within the Trust Museum has been outstanding and her unique talents in creating popular and excellent Exhibitions, her skills in marketing the Museum and her knowledge of funding sources and associated links has ensured that the Museum has gone from strength to strength under her scrupulous care and management. She was a very popular and extremely capable Curator with vision and verve who in addition provided excellent advice and guidance since she took up the post in January 2013.

The members of the Museum Committee and the Volunteers held a 'Coffee, Cake & Farewell Party' for Samantha on the 21st July at which time we all learned more about this forthcoming, exciting new step in her career path.

All of the Volunteers and the members of the Museum Committee will miss her enormously but we are sure that all Trust Members join us in wishing Samantha “Good Luck!” & “All the Best for a Very Successful Future.”

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Following the Trust’s AGM held in May and at the Committee meeting held on the 9th June the new members of the Committee, Peter Murray, Veronica Whymant and Dave Seeley were welcomed on board.

The composition of the Museum Committee is now as follows:- **Vice-Convenor** – Dr Peter Murray : **Learning and Activities Co-ordinator** - Lesley Barrie: **Volunteers’ Co-ordinator** – Kate Ekanger : **Photographic Archivist** - Pat Harvey : **Oral Archivist** - Veronica Whymant : **Museum Development Advisor** – Andrew Johnson : **IT & Security Advisor** – Arlen Pardoe : **Property Maintenance** – Dave Seeley : **Museum Mentor** – Emma Jane Wells : **Convenor** – Anne Morris.

Pat Harvey has handed over her copies of the Minutes of the Museum Committee Meetings which date from August 2000 to December 2014 and January 2015 to the present. The Curator’s Reports, along with notes on the Russell Album and the Seabox Society are also included. It was agreed that all of these will make a valuable addition to the files in the Research Room.

Pat was warmly thanked for the many years she has taken the Minutes which were always so comprehensive and meticulous.

Veronica has very kindly agreed to take on the onerous task of Minute –taker as Pat’s successor.

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE GARDEN AND THE MUSEUM

In June Andrew Johnson advised the Committee that £4000 had been awarded from the St Andrews Community Trust following his written application for funding for the Sensory Garden Project.

He also advised that The Falconry interior has been completed with new shelving etc.

The exterior of the Museum has been painted and looks splendid. The remaining funds in the Falconer Fund are to be used to meet the costs of this work and we are extremely grateful to Miss Gillian Falconer for her continued generosity. The ceiling of the lower room in the Museum will be painted once the Museum is closed to the public for the winter as will the work required to the electrical wiring in the loft. The Museum front door stonework is being checked out to see if further remedial work is required.

The Museum Garden was entered into two annual garden competitions.

The first group of Judges visited the Garden in the afternoon of Wednesday the 22nd July with the second group visiting on the 3rd August. The garden was given a special 'sprucing - up' on the afternoon of the 21st, after the Volunteers' and the Museum Committee's farewell party for Sam.

Andrew Johnson has since reported that he had received an e-mail stating that two of the judges had been very impressed with their visit on the 22nd July.

Due to the work on the interior paths allowing wheelchair use, on the 26th June a sign was displayed for the first time at the Hidden Gardens Day about access for the disabled and it was noted that this was gained successfully on the day.

PUBLIC SURVEILLANCE LICENCE

The Museum Mentor, Emma Jane Wells, sought further advice from the University's Security Manager about this matter and he confirmed that the Preservation Trust does not require a licence because the CCTV is only used for security purposes and is an unmanned monitor.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Prior to the Curator's departure she and Pat Harvey met on two occasions to evaluate the Archive. An unaccessioned box of slides which is of no interest to the Museum will be offered to the University and George Dickens has very kindly agreed to view further boxes of slides to ascertain their relevance.

COMPUTER IN THE MUSEUM

Thanks are due to Arlen Pardoe who has upgraded the Museum computer to Windows 10 and he reported that all is working well.

EVENTS IN THE MUSEUM

The on-going Summer Exhibition *Sticks & Stones, Bats and Balls: Sport in St Andrews* which ends on the 2nd October is proving to be a great favourite with visitors and locals. The photo albums are attracting much attention from those admiring their youthful athletic images!!

Jane Claydon's associated talk entitled *St Leonards First in the Field*, held on the 1st June was extremely well attended and was a very informative and very well-presented event.

Dave Seeley had written an article, on Sport in St Andrews, for *The Citizen* which was not published. The Curator has offered the article to Flora Selwyn, accompanied by photographs, for possible inclusion in a future issue of *St Andrews in Focus*.

The new Blacksmith display/permanent exhibition was opened on the evening of the Summer Reception. In particular, the video is an excellent addition to a very attractive and informative resource in the Museum Garden Buildings. Well worth a visit.

After the Exhibition the video will be copied on to a CD for preservation purposes.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

TRAINING

Samantha Bannerman and Anne Morris attended the FMF Management Development Programme Feedback and Celebration event held in the Kirkcaldy Galleries on Wednesday the 24th August at which time Samantha gave an excellent presentation on what impact the Training Days had had on her management practice and future planning.

RECENT DONATIONS

- * A painting of St Andrews by Ada Hill Walker donated by Frances Humphries
- * Three WW2 identity cards which belonged to members of the Murray family

VOLUNTEERS

Veronica Whyment has agreed to take on the task of organising the Volunteers' Winter Talks which will take place in the Museum between October 2016 and March 2017.

An End – of - Season Party for Volunteers is arranged for 28th September 2016.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CURATOR

The Trust had received 22 Applications for the Curator's Post. A short list was drawn up and Interviews were held on the 3rd August in the Museum. The successful candidate was Nicola Moss.

Nicola very kindly agreed to pen a few lines of introduction for this edition of the Newsletter & I know that all members join us in a hearty 'Congratulations!' to Nicola and also with our very best wishes for a happy and fulfilling time as the new Curator.

An 'Induction Programme' has been prepared for Nicola as she takes up her new post on the 8th September and in addition Samantha has prepared detailed hand-over notes regarding the auditing and de/accessioning of items in the store. She will provide similar notes for AdLib as well as itemised details pertaining to the day-to-day management of the Museum. To assist

with the implementation of these Samantha is visiting the Museum on Monday 12th September to provide a personal hand-over.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

Anne Morris
Museum Convener

NICOLA MOSS PROFILE

It's with great excitement that I find myself as curator of the St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum. I find it fascinating that I've found myself working in St Andrews being one of the few (but steady number) of museum graduates who didn't study at St Andrews University!

I actually began my career with an undergraduate in Fine Art and volunteering experience in galleries. However, the 'volunteering bug' soon kicked in and I found myself gaining even more voluntary experience! All of this was certainly worthwhile and in 2013, I was employed as a Visitor Assistant with The McManus in Dundee. However, I soon found myself volunteering once again, this time to assist with the collections of The Black Watch Castle and Museum. I absolutely adored this role and was fortunate enough to successfully apply for the Collections Assistant role, nearly a year later.

At this time I decided to pursue a masters in Museum Studies and so I applied to the University of Leicester - and spent the next two years studying furiously! I'm very pleased to say that I graduated earlier this year on a very chilly Leicester morning!

I hope that my rather chequered background will allow me to bring an array of experience to the St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum and that I in return will gain some insight into the history and culture that has made St Andrews into what it is today.

Nicola Moss
Museum Curator

FUNDRAISING AND PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The Summer Reception was held in the museum garden on Friday 15 July. The weather was kind and about 70 members and friends enjoyed excellent catering by Rachel Birrell of Springfield, who is our administrator's mother. There was an opportunity for guests to view the interesting new exhibition on blacksmithing. A presentation was made by Chairman, Bill Borthwick, to Sam Bannerman, the Museum Curator, who left at the end of July to take up a new post in Dundee. Anne Morris presented Sam with a bouquet.

Howard Greenwell organised the Trust's golf championship on the Strathtyrum Course on Monday 22 August. The men's champion was John Ireland and the women's champion was Sheena Storie. The putting competition, organised by Derek Barrie, was held on the Himalayas, courtesy of St Andrews Ladies Putting Club, on Wednesday 24 August. 25 people took part and the winner was Isabell MacArthur. After the prizegiving a buffet supper was enjoyed in the club shelter.

The Autumn Fair, which takes place every second year, was held in the museum on Sunday 4 September. The attendance was noticeably smaller this year although it was a beautiful day. This may be due to the fact it was held on a Sunday, rather than a Saturday. It was disappointing for the stall conveners who had worked hard to set up attractive and interesting stalls. The final figure is not available at the time of writing but it is hoped we will have raised in the region of £1,000.

The next event is the Ghost Tour with Richard Falconer on Friday 14 October. Members and friends who have not yet applied should contact Annie, in the office, as soon as possible; the cost is adult £10 and child (under 16) £7, payable on the night. The tour begins at 7.30 pm at the MEETING POINT in Church Square.

Included in the Newsletter are flyers for the Winter Reception on Friday 9 December in the museum this year and an application for next year's Hidden Gardens of St Andrews which will be the 20th anniversary.

Irene Bennett
Fundraising and Programme Convener

THE ORAL HISTORY OF ST ANDREWS

For those of you who are unaware of my role in the Preservation Trust, I have been transcribing the Trust's collection of oral recordings after returning to live in St. Andrews four years ago. Following the Trust's 2016 AGM, I accepted the position of Minute Secretary for the Museum Committee (having had the privilege of undertaking the same task for the Board of

Trustees since 2013). Now that I have seemingly become someone slightly more 'official' in the Museum, it was decided that my growing involvement in St. Andrews' oral history should be recognised by granting me the rather grand title of Oral Archivist! Somewhat uncomfortable with the title, I feel I should explain how I have come to be given such an honour.

My first forays into oral history began whilst a History student at the University of St. Andrews when I was presented with a shoebox of cassettes containing interviews conducted by David W. Lyle in the 1980s and asked if I wanted to transcribe them. Within a very short time I was utterly hooked and thus commenced my discovery of St. Andrews' past. After leaving the university and entering into the world of archives, I wondered if my love of oral history would diminish but I kept being drawn back to various transcription projects, the most significant of which turned out to be five years work towards co-editing the first of two volumes based on oral histories in Cumbria. It has been - and continues to be - a great experience and Anthea Boulton and I were delighted with the publication of **'Telling it Like it Was: Dent, Sedbergh and District in Living Memory'** in September last year! Should anyone be interested in purchasing a copy (£14.95) of what is a fascinating snapshot of life in that area then please do get in touch with me...01334 208642.

My slightly presumptuous plug over, now to the Trust's oral histories, numbering around ninety in total, still continue to delight me as I slowly make my way through their transcription. To date I have transcribed around two-thirds of the collection. Such wonderful people lived in St. Andrews in times gone by, some of whose names may still elicit fond memories in the minds of the town's oldest residents today - the lively Gourlay sisters, Mary and Nan, who describe the lives of the fishing families so vividly; an instructive and interesting picture of the working life of Stravithie Mill by Mr McCreadie; Dr. John Gilchrist's account of his duties as the Provost of St. Andrews and his involvement in projects such as the Tom Morris Drive shopping precinct, the creation of St. Andrews Museum in Kinburn Park and the long-running saga of the East Sands Leisure Centre; and, not to forget of course, the extremely detailed and often entertaining memories of Mr Gordon Christie! This is just a tiny taste of what the oral archive has to offer. Many more stories and accounts are present and each time I begin transcribing a new recording, I am filled with anticipation as to what I might uncover! As a historian and with an insatiable desire for finding out about St. Andrews' history, I find it such an enjoyable and fulfilling pastime. Yes, I do encounter difficulties deciphering some of the broader accents (although I hope I might be improving!) and the poor quality of a number of the recordings results in unintelligible parts which is frustrating but then I don't want my task to become too straightforward, do I?

The reason behind my slow progress in the Museum is because a very exciting development has occurred in my life and for that of the Trust. Last year, with the Trustees' support, I enrolled on a brand new Oral History module provided by the Centre for Archive and Information Studies, a Department of the University of Dundee. It ran for 9 weeks and was certainly a challenge! Within the scope of the module I was made aware of ethical and legal issues surrounding oral history; given the opportunity to delve into the myriad complexities of preservation and transcription; faced with the somewhat daunting task of sourcing an interviewee and recording them and, finally, presenting the whole to my tutor by way of an Evaluation

Report and Executive Summary, the likes of which I had never previously heard. There were many a despairing early morning hour during those weeks but I reached the end with the additional bonus of achieving a mark with which I was satisfied. Now what to do with my newly-acquired knowledge? The answer had been there from the start and was the incentive for enrolling in the module in the first place - I was going to set up my own oral history project in St. Andrews and conduct it under the auspices of the St. Andrews Preservation Trust. During my transcribing journey of the Trust's oral archive and as I became more involved in the work of the Museum and the Trust, I realised what a wealth of memories and experiences were to be discovered from the next generation after the cessation of the recordings. The majority of them were recorded between the late 1970s and early 1990s and tend to cover life in the first half of the 20th century. Here was my opportunity to go some way in quenching my insatiable thirst for St. Andrews' history whilst also fulfilling an urgent need to orally capture the recollections of those who had lived in the area pre and post the 1940s.

For further preparation and guidance, I became a member of the Fife Oral History Network where I represent the St. Andrews Preservation Trust and through that network I had the opportunity to attend training days run by the Scottish Oral History Centre at Strathclyde University and to experience firsthand "Speaking of...Dunfermline", an excellent oral history project managed by New Dunfermline Museum and Art Gallery's Research and Activities Assistant, Katy Firth. For these opportunities I express my appreciation to both bodies concerned. Much procrastination and even more courage was required before I eventually began my own project in February of this year. And what an enriching and social time I have had so far - as have, I hope, my interviewees!! To date I have interviewed 12 people and have learnt so much more about St. Andrews already. It has been fantastic and as long as people realise the importance of recording such valuable content and are willing to be interviewed (albeit sometimes with a little reluctance) I have no plans to stop. Thus far people have regaled me with childhood antics in the 1930s and '40s; described the effect of war on St. Andrews by means of coastal defence, rationing and even bombing; recounted their local working lives in areas such as textiles, teaching, architecture and farming and (always a personal favourite) reminisced about the many superb worthies who used to be seen around the town. It is often the case that interviewees think they have nothing of importance worth imparting; that their lives have been nothing special and why would I be interested in them. This is a misconception that I cannot emphasise too strongly. The way of life in St. Andrews has changed dramatically during the last seventy years and those of my generation (born early 1980s) find it difficult to imagine life without today's technology and consumerism.

As I continue to collect the memories of the people of St. Andrews, I am beginning to contemplate what I wish to do with the material. Naturally, as long as Copyright is assigned to the Trust by the interviewee, the recordings and their subsequent transcripts will be utilised as aids for researchers and to give a further primary element to exhibitions whenever possible. Oral testimonies can help bring additional colour and life to an otherwise somewhat factual document or provide evidence to back up secondary sources. I hope, in time, to produce a booklet showcasing a selection of the fascinating snippets and longer accounts that interviewees have recounted so that a wider audience can experience the town as it once was - or be assisted in recalling their own memories of St. Andrews and the surrounding area. Personally,

however, it is the oral element that is paramount and it is my greatest wish that those voices reminiscing about the past are kept in the present and not forgotten. Consequently, my long-term aim is to be able to upload the oral testimonies onto the internet so that relatives and researchers, school children and students from all over the world can enjoy listening to those who once resided in St. Andrews.

If reading this has stirred something within you and you would like to record your memories of St. Andrews and the surrounding area then please do contact me either through the Preservation Trust's Administrator, Annie Birrell, or e-mail me directly whymantstaportalhistory@gmail.com. I will be delighted to hear from you!

Veronica Whymant
Oral Archivist

TRUSTEE PROFILE - ANNIE LONG

I studied Art History and English Literature at Stirling University before going to work for Phillips the Fine Art Auctioneers at 64 George Street Edinburgh. I was there for three years learning about dealing in Scottish artefacts before leaving to work for the National Trust for Scotland in Charlotte Square. In various roles, I have worked for the NTS ever since. My role now is as a Head of Department within the Commercial Division which exists to create funds to support the conservation work we do for the built and natural heritage in Scotland. I have particular responsibility for the Trust Cruise, which takes members and friends round the islands and coastlines of Scotland, looking at our conservation projects there, helping the public fall in love with and support these remote locations. We also go further afield, looking at places of cultural and conservation interest in all of northern Europe, always leaving and returning to a Scottish port.

I often go ahead of the trip to research the ports of call, and sometimes go on the cruise itself, depending on my other commitments – no wonder I have stayed so long! Being able to support communities on Canna and Fair Isle, raise the funds to repair bridges and footpaths, employ stone masons, blacksmiths and book binders always feels like worthwhile and interesting work. The other part of my work is to run the NTS holiday cottages which operate like any other tourist business, with all profits again going back to the charity. The great interest in this area of our business is the sensitive restoration of historic buildings to give them useful contemporary purpose, without damaging their historic integrity.

I hope my experience of working for a membership organisation which conserves and protects our heritage will make me of some use to The St Andrews Preservation Trust which has many of the same aims and issues, wonderful buildings and natural places. I'm looking forward to trying to help.

My family and I moved from Edinburgh to East Fife in 2011, and to St Andrews in 2013, when my husband Phil came to work for the V and A at Dundee. Phil and I have two boys, Hector (14) and Alexander (12), and we all agree that St Andrews is a great place to live. We have fallen in love!

Annie Long
Trustee

NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITION- BLACKSMITHING IN ST ANDREWS

It is just over 50 years since Ruth Walker and Edwina Proudfoot wrote an article on Ed Harvey's iron works in St Andrews in Greenside Place. The article appeared in the Trust's 1990 Year Book. This new exhibition is in the museum garden at 12 North Street and is situated in what was previously a shed, now replaced by a new one.

The art of blacksmithing goes back over 3,000 years and reached maximum production levels after World War II. The eventual decline in the importance of blacksmiths and the number of smithies came with the introduction of mild steel in place of wrought iron.

The exhibition has two display boards which describe succinctly the history of blacksmithing, particularly in Ed Harvey's works in St Andrews. The exhibition displays were started as a project for an intern who had a placement in the museum. It was completed by the recent curator, Samantha Bannerman.

The displays include tools used in the Greenside works. Among them are an anvil and hammer and tongs. But they also have less serious items such as an iron "gird and cleek," known about and played with by generations of children. Information included also points out that blacksmithing has had an effect on our language with phrases such as "go at it hammer and tongs" "strike while the iron is hot" and "too many irons in the fire."

Ed Harvey has left a legacy of wrought iron gates, railings etc throughout St Andrews as shown by a map in the exhibition. He was involved in blacksmithing most of his working life and ran the Greenside Iron Works from its inception till his retirement in 1974.

The highlight of the exhibition is a video relating to Ed Harvey's smithy. It includes brief shots of both Ed Harvey and John Henderson of "Henderson Fabrications" which can claim to be the successor to Greenside But primarily it features Lenny Cerajewski, Ed Harvey's foreman for many years who gives a detailed account of his life and times as a blacksmith.

The exhibition is to be a permanent feature of the museum which is currently open daily from 2-5. Copies of the Walker/Proudfoot article mentioned at the start of this report are available at the exhibition.

THE GREEN BELT FORUM

A number of years ago the St Andrews Preservation Trust was instrumental in setting up the St Andrews Green Belt Forum. As members know the Trust strongly advocated a Green Belt to protect the town from unsuitable development. With the relatively recent establishment of a Green Belt along the lines of what was proposed by the Forum, the need for its continuing in existence was questioned as it had apparently achieved its prime objective. The Forum slipped into abeyance and was inactive. However, because of recent developments, the future of the Green Belt has again become a live issue. Fife Council is seeking to alter the Green Belt. This would result in the Green Belt no longer including the site the Council prefers for a new school to replace both the Madras College South Street and Kilrymont buildings. This is a cynical move by the council to remove one of the main obstacles to building the new Madras at Pipeland.

As one of the founder members, the Preservation Trust has disbanded the Forum and seeks to campaign with all concerned local bodies to defeat the council's move and to maintain the integrity of the Green Belt. It is simply astonishing that having achieved the establishment of the long awaited Green Belt, Fife Council's administration's first move is to seek to alter it for appears to be narrow party political reasons.

The Trust therefore warmly welcomes the initiative being taken by STEPAL (St Andrews Environmental Protection Association Limited) in also opposing Fife Council; STEPAL, which was set up to protect the local environment, recently organised a meeting in Hope Park and Martyrs church hall. The meeting was attended by local MSP, Willie Rennie.

NEWS IN BRIEF

TRUSTEES

In addition to Peter Haselhurst, mentioned in the July newsletter, 3 more trustees have been co-opted – Jane Claydon, Sandy Bremner and David Watkinson. In subsequent editions we hope to carry profiles of the new trustees.

In this edition we feature Annie Long who has just completed her first year as a trustee. We are keen to appoint additional trustees. If you are interested in becoming a trustee or wish more information please contact Bill Borthwick through the office on 01334 477 152

PLANNING

You will note that there is no planning report in this edition. The new convener Sandy Bremner is settling in and will get into a reporting routine in due course.

BILL SANGSTER

We are sorry to have to report the resignation on health grounds of Bill Sangster as a trustee. Tributes to Bill and his work for the trust are included in the Chairman's and Environment convener's report.

GHOST TOUR

Do not forget Richard Falconer's tour on Friday 14th October at 7.30 pm leaving from Church Square near the Doll's House. To book places on the tour contact Annie, the Trust administrator, by telephone: 01334 477 152

Cost £10 payable on the night of the tour.

AUTUMN FAIR

Many thanks to members who contributed in any way to the recent Autumn Fair. Members will be pleased to know that takings amounted to over £1,350. The Fair is held every two years.

80TH AND 20TH ANNIVERSARIES

Trustees are looking at appropriate ways to mark the 80th anniversary of the Trust and the 20th St Andrews Hidden Gardens Day in 2017. Preliminary thought is being given to an exhibition featuring trust paintings and also holding a major raffle. Work has also started regarding Hidden Gardens through the efforts of Simon Kidd and the interest of Irene Bennett. There are gardens which opened on the first occasion which will be open next year. There will also still be new gardens opening for the first time.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

It has been agreed that there should be four editions of the newsletter in 2017. They should be distributed in January, April, June and September.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 8th October - 10 am to 4 pm

Autumn Harvest Day - Preservation Trust stall

BOTANIC GARDEN, ST ANDREWS

Saturday 8th to Sunday 16th October - 2 pm to 5 pm daily
Display of recent work by the Volunteers' Research Group
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Friday 14th October - 7.30 pm
Ghost Walk with Richard Falconer - Charge: £10

Thursday 20th October - 6.30 pm
Preservation Trust Lecture
Rachel Hart - "*Treasures of the University Library*"
University of St Andrews' Muniments Archivist and Deputy Head of Special Collections
ST LEONARDS SCHOOL MUSIC CENTRE - Charge: £10

Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd October - 2 pm to 5 pm daily
St Andrews Voices
Jonathan Harvey - *Sound Installation - Mortuos Plango, Vivos Voco*
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Saturday 29th October - 10 am to 3 pm
Charities' Christmas Card Sale
TOWN HALL, QUEEN'S GARDENS

Saturday 26th November to Sunday 4th December - 1 pm to 4 pm daily
Arts and Crafts Exhibition
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Friday 9th December - 6.30pm
Members' Winter Reception
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - see enclosed flyer

Saturday 28th January to Sunday 5th February - 2 pm to 5 pm daily
Display of recent work by the Volunteers' Research Group
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

Wednesday 1st March to Sunday 5th March
STANZA: Scotland's International Poetry Festival
TRUST MUSEUM, 12 NORTH STREET - Admission Free

TRUSTEES 2016/2017

Chairman

Dr William Borthwick

Vice Chairman

Miss Anne J.M. Morris OBE

Dr Derek A. Barrie

Dr Peter J Murray

Other elected Trustees

Miss Irene Bennett

Mr David Seeley

Mr Douglas Telfer

Mrs Marysia E. Denyer

Mrs Annie Long

Co-opted Trustees

Mr Alexander G Bremner

Mr Peter Haselhurst

Miss P Jane Claydon

Dr C David Watkinson

Honorary Treasurer

Mr Ian Lumsdaine

COMMITTEE CONVENERS 2016/2017

Environment

Fundraising

Membership, Publications and Publicity

Museum

Planning Applications

Programme

Mrs M. Denyer

Miss I. Bennett

Dr D.A. Barrie

Miss. A. Morris OBE

Mr Sandy Bremner

Miss I. Bennett

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

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