



Members Newsletter

Spring 2021



The Museum and Gardens will re-open on **Saturday 15th May**. Opening hours will be 12noon – 4 pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Alongside the permanent displays there will be a special exhibition entitled *Fringed with Gold* – an exhibition exploring the coast of St. Andrews

Message from the Chair

As I write this, the days are lengthening and signs of Spring are beginning to appear – these give us hope for better things just around the corner.

So it is with the Preservation Trust too; whilst restrictions remain in place, our activities are still limited, plans are going ahead for some of our regular summer events, in the hope that this year we may be able to hold them, albeit with Covid safety precautions in place. You will find details of Hidden Gardens and the re-opening of the Museum elsewhere in this newsletter, and our Museum Curator Sam, and her team of volunteers, are full of ideas to bring visitors back – safely!



One casualty of the Covid restrictions was the 2020 AGM, and the Charity Trustees have decided this year to hold the Annual General Meeting online – whilst not ideal, it is the only practical solution in the current circumstances. Details can be found later in the newsletter, and further information will be sent to you in the mail with the usual AGM papers. In the meantime, please note the date for your diary – the 2021 AGM will take place, virtually, on **Thursday 27 May**.

Alongside this newsletter you will find the second of two articles about former St. Andrews provosts, intended to replace the 2020 Annual Lecture. This time, Jane Claydon has written about Jessie Moir, and my thanks go to her for producing this fascinating booklet for us. Jane has also recorded a talk about Jessie, with some very interesting photos, and this will be made available via the Trust's website and YouTube channel. You will be able to access the talk in early April.

On a more sombre note, many of you will be aware of the recent death of Derek Barrie. Derek was a 'well-kent' figure in St. Andrews, being involved in many aspects of life here, including the Preservation Trust; we remember with gratitude all that he did over many years. Our sincere condolences go to his widow, Lesley, and all who knew him well – he will be much missed.

Finally, I would like to let you know that our Administrator, Annie Birrell, has decided that the time has come for her to venture into pastures new. During her 5 years with the Trust Annie has done invaluable work to bring us into the 21st century, and I would like to thank her for all that she has accomplished. On your behalf, I wish her well with her plans for the future.

Sandy Bremner

Chair, St Andrews Preservation Trust

Museum Garden

This last year has been difficult for everyone and sadly our museum and its gardens have had far fewer visitors than it would have liked. The gardens are a wonderful and peaceful haven hidden from public view behind the house that is our museum on one side and high walls on the other three sides.



Originally this was a piece of public land for use by the dwellings surrounding it, and may have had crops of vegetables growing there or chickens and other animals roaming around. It might even have had washing lines full of washing blowing in the wind – who knows. To look at it now, none of that seems possible.



When most of you perhaps have visited this garden, it will have been full of plants and shrubs in bloom giving an abundance of colour and scented roses. Herbs such as Rosemary and Lavender are usually lush bushes you can run your hand through and then smell the aroma which the leaves have deposited thereon. There are sun traps and sheltered corners such as in the

D’Arcy Thomson Garden where you can sit and read, another section full of different grasses and bamboo and other textured plants for running your hands through, and then the lawn at the back with fruit trees and shrub borders. I remember my first summer in St Andrews back in 2019 when we had a craft fair on the lawns and on another occasion, we had afternoon teas where folks came and sat and enjoyed homemade cakes and biscuits and chatted over a cup of tea. None of that was possible in 2020



and no one knows what will be possible in 2021 and no one has been able to explain that to our lovely garden.



Our wonderful team of volunteer gardeners have however, been visiting all during lockdown and lovingly tended the garden, weeding, pruning, lawn-mowing and hopefully enjoying being able to have a space to go to that is a haven of calm and tranquillity; somewhere to empty minds of the worries some people may have had and maybe a chance to see a friend behind a mask. I went up the other day for a

little tranquillity and somewhere to think, and all was silent – the house and garden were quiet and sleeping - or maybe just resting.



These are some photographs I took whilst there and I wanted to show this side of the garden that you would not normally see. There were also one or two fun things I found as I walked around – bug houses, a mirror on a wall hidden behind a climbing plant. I have no idea of the names of plants except the commonly known ones like the Christmas Rose I spotted, or at least that is what my mother always called them. See if you know what or where they are.



You will see there were one or two places where things were starting to awaken, and I even found a rose bud! Mostly, everything was still cut back and there were empty patches, but this is part of the garden's lifecycle because like us, it needs to sleep and like me it is slow to rise. The D'Arcy Thompson area had a small ray of sun peeping through and the wonderful roses planted in his wife's memory were bare and pruned back to sticks and thorns except for the rose bud. But slowly we will see more blooms and the team will no doubt come up with planting schemes and ideas for the area where the huge hedge has been removed. I look forward to that as the team always seem to plant from the heart and that means it will look joyous again as the summer comes around. I particularly look forward returning to the small walled area immediately behind the back door of the house as it is my favourite place in the garden.



Karen Petersen

Volunteer Coordinator, St. Andrews Preservation Trust Museum

Hidden Gardens 2021



The Trustees, especially the members of the Hidden Gardens Committee, are all keeping their fingers crossed that the popular open gardens day will be able to take place this year, having been cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Plans are going ahead in the meantime, with the hope that the current restrictions will be eased sufficiently to allow gardens to be open on **Sunday 27 June 2021**.

Car parking will be available at the car park of the Boys Brigade Hall in Kinnessburn Road. As well as interesting gardens to see, visitors will have the opportunity to buy plants, browse market and craft stalls, and enjoy exhibitions in All Saints Church Hall and the Preservation Trust Museum. At each garden there will be information available about the house to which it is attached.

Of course, these plans are being made so that everything is in place if Covid restrictions allow us to run this event, but there is still the possibility that it will need to be cancelled once again, so look out for updated information.

Annual General Meeting 2021

It seems unlikely that Covid restrictions will be eased sufficiently by May to allow the AGM to proceed in its usual format, and, for this reason, the Charity Trustees have decided to hold a virtual meeting this year. This means that, whilst not being able to come together in person, Members will be able to hear the usual reports, ask questions or offer comments just as they normally would; the difference will be that this will all take place online. The date for this virtual AGM is **Thursday 27th May 2021**.

You may already have experience of joining lectures or webinars online, and the format we intend to use will be remarkably similar. We are fortunate that Open Virtual Worlds, who are affiliated with the University of St Andrews, has agreed to host the AGM for the Trust.

Joining instructions will be sent out in April with the Calling Notice, 2019 AGM Minutes and Annual Report & Yearbook. You will be invited to apply for an online entry ticket - this is a requirement of the system but you will not be asked for any financial details or to make a payment. On receipt of your free ticket confirmation via email, you will receive details on how to access the meeting on a specific date and time.

You should also be aware that, in this format, you will be able to see and hear the speakers, but you will not see any other members and the speakers will not be able to see or hear you. If you wish to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, you will find a 'Q&A' tab at the bottom of your screen. When you click on this button, a small pop-up block will appear in which you can type your question before sending or submitting it to the organisers. Questions will be addressed at suitable intervals during the meeting. Alternatively, questions can be submitted in advance by letter or email to the Trust's Administrator, using the contact details below, no later than Thursday 20th May 2021.

Clearly, a virtual AGM will never satisfactorily replace a conventional meeting, but in the current circumstances there really is no other option.

If you have any questions on either of the topics above, please email trust@stapt.org.uk

What's it called now?

Here are the names of some of the thoroughfares of 19th century St Andrews. Do you know what they are called today? Answers on page 7.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Kirk Wynd | 7. Cow Wynd |
| 2. Eastburn Wynd | 8. Dyers Brae |
| 3. Windmill Path | 9. Baxters Wynd |
| 4. Foul Waste | 10. Bow Bridge |
| 5. South Bridge | 11. Dickemans Wynd |
| 6. Heuksters Wynd | 12. Well Wynd |

4 Queen's Gardens

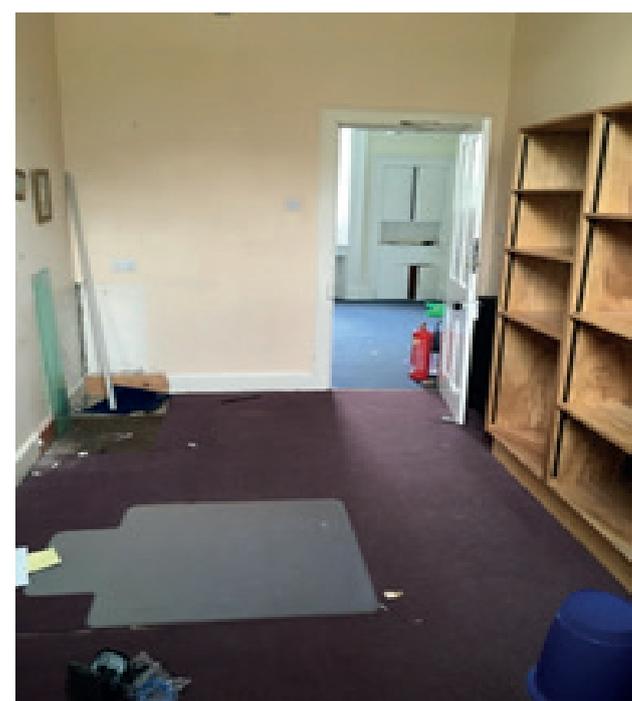
Many of you will be aware that work has been taking place recently on the Trust's property at 4 Queens Gardens, but what has been going on and why? Here is a bit of history about the Trust's involvement with the property together with an update on future plans.

The lower apartment at 4 Queens Gardens came into the realm of the Trust's knowledge in 1992 when it was rented from the architects, Gillespie and Scott. In 1995, it was bought to store the Trust's growing historic Artefacts and Collections and as an office space for the then Administrator, Isobel Dominiak.

The Trust then undertook, in 1995, to convert the property into an office, meeting room, print room and store - prior to this our artefacts were stored at Dairsie.

By 2018 it had become very obvious that the property was no longer fit for purpose, for a whole series of reasons; the store was not allowing proper access for artefacts, and the office and toilet were not of appropriate quality. The lack of adequate maintenance over the previous 20 years, particularly of the ground floor and the rear store, as well as the condition of the overall fabric of the whole building, all highlighted the fact that something had to be done to improve this Trust asset.

In the latter half of 2018 the Trust's Board of Directors agreed a plan to find an alternative store and convert the ground floor at 4 Queens Gardens into two flats.



Firstly a new store, with a long lease, was found at Cameron and the move of Trust collections was completed by 16 March 2020, just prior to the first period of Covid lockdown which was announced on 23 March! The store has a 'state of the art' racking system and air conditioning, and is a facility of which the Trust can now be very proud.

Secondly, planning and building warrants were applied for, and granted, and tenders for the conversion work at 4 Queens Gardens were sought and approved. A site start was due in early April 2020.

While all this was going on, communication with our upstairs neighbour in Queens Gardens was also opened, in an attempt to get the common repairs done to the overall building. Roof, chimneys, gutters and pointing were all badly needing attention. This work was very amicably undertaken and completed by the end of 2020.

Interior of 4 Queen's Gardens prior to refurbishment 2020/21



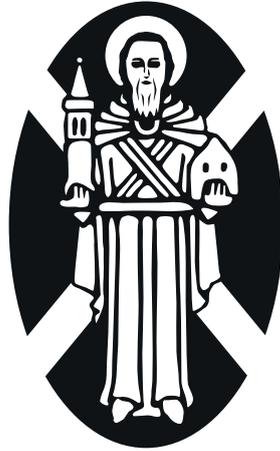
Work on the conversion to two flats was allowed to start mid July 2020 and will be completed by the end of March 2021. Both flats are main door ground floor apartments and each will have a small outside courtyard space at the rear. When completed, Flat 1 will be a pleasant one-bedroomed apartment, and Flat 2 will provide very nice two-bedroomed accommodation. Each flat has a fully fitted kitchen, shower room, central heating, is highly insulated and very nicely presented – the finishing touches are under completion as this is being written.

By developing and letting these flats, the Trust is creating a source for regular income – this is crucial if it is to sustain its ongoing work and the Museum. These properties will also increase the value of the Trust’s assets, and it is hoped that they will continue to benefit the Trust for many years to come.

Iain Wilson
Property Convener

What’s it called now? Answers

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| 1. | Church Street | 7. | Alfred Place/Alexandra Place |
| 2. | Abbey Street | 8. | Greenside Place |
| 3. | City Road | 9. | Bakers Lane |
| 4. | Union Street | 10. | Shore Bridge |
| 5. | Maggie Murray’s Bridge | 11. | Gregory’s Lane |
| 6. | South Castle Street | 12. | Bridge Street |



ST ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

Preserving the Past | Planning for the Future



12 NORTH STREET | ST ANDREWS | KY16 9PW
trust@stapt.org.uk | 01334 477629 | museum@stapt.org.uk
www.standrewspreservationtrust.com

Editor: Mrs Bo Fraser, Communications Convenor

Published and printed by St Andrews Preservation Trust Ltd