

# CRAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2012

### **Around Crail**

#### **Action on Signage!**

We made strong representations to Fife Council following the erection of the large and unnecessary parking signs that were erected in Marketgate and Nethergate. We also raised objections about the proliferation of other advisory signs for road changes that had been made a long time ago, housing developments that were completed years ago, and illegal signs erected by a few local businesses.

Following a meeting on site with representatives from Fife Council Transportation Services, a number of these signs have now been removed and we have had assurances that they will rethink the car parking signage.

On a more positive and creative note we have instigated a plan to replace the signs depicting the street names within the conservation area with uniform new signs. We presently have a hotch potch of different signs in various colours and state of repair, with some missing altogether. This reflects very poorly on Crail.

CPS will fund 25% of the cost, Crail Community Trust 25% and Fife Council 50%. We do not have a date when this will be done, but an assurance that it will be!

### **Miramar**

A proposal to replace Miramar by 15 flats was a planning application which many members felt strongly about. The applications to demolish Miramar and to erect 15 flats have both been refused.

### **Denburn News Letter**

We have a new Countryside Ranger who will help us look after Denburn Wood, Lyn Strachan, who has taken over responsibility from Deirdre Munroe. Lyn is a very experienced Ranger whose area of responsibility now includes Crail.

Kathleen Main and I met Lyn with Deirdre at the Den at the beginning of September, and she is arranging to give us an up to date assessment on the condition of the trees and advice on any work that needs to be done.

This may prove to be very timely after the high winds this week!

There are plans for bug boxes to help attract insects and we hope to involve the school gardening club with this project.

We need some more warm bodies to join our little band of volunteers at Denburn. We meet on the first Saturday of each month, weather permitting, at 10.00am, for a couple of hours. No great expertise is required, we do some planting, some weeding, some chopping back and tidying up litter. If you enjoy walking in Denburn, please think about joining us.

You'll get a cup of tea or coffee and chocolate biscuits as a reward for your endeavours. It doesn't get better than that! You can just turn up, or you can call Helen Byres on 451345.

## **Crail in Bloom**

Crail has been awarded a Silver Gilt award from Beautiful Fife this year and entered the Beautiful Scotland competition for the first time and was awarded a Silver. Many thanks must go to all involved, from planting, watering and deadheading the tubs, the businesses who made such lovely displays, and all the effort put into making Crail such an attractive village.

There will be a fundraising Coffee Morning in November see Dates for Your Diary

## **The Priory Doocot**

Plans for this restoration have been delayed a little pending talks with Mrs Sue Wilkinson regarding the conveyance of a small piece of land to allow a much improved access to be formed as a part of the project. Mrs Wilkinson has now kindly agreed to this and the legal process is in hand. Ian Ramsay prepared the necessary deed plan to avoid further professional fees. Once this has been finalised, an amended application for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent will be submitted and grant applications processed.

Meantime, David Jerdan and Ian Ramsay paid a visit to the Doocot at the East Lothian village of Athelstaneford which was restored a few years ago in connection with the Scottish Flag Centre, both of which are located in the grounds of the Athelstaneford Church. The Doocot has been used to install a most impressive audio visual display which illustrates the story of the Scottish Flag, with the Doocot being opened in the mornings and closed in the evenings on a daily basis by a local volunteer throughout the year. The Doocot is of course unattended during the day and the audio visual display starts operation with the closing of the door by visitors entering the Doocot. This is a good illustration of what might be done with the Priory Doocot for the public interest and as an education facility for the schools. Preliminary contact has been made with the Crail Primary School in this regard.

## **Days Open Days**

On 2<sup>nd</sup> September the Doocot was again opened as part of the Days Open Days in the East of Fife. We had 73 adults and 6 children viewing it. So many people see the outside but have no idea of what the interior is like or for what purpose it was build - they are always very pleased to get the opportunity to see inside. The number of adults was similar to last year but the number of children was significantly down. The guides between 11am and 4pm were Anna Brannan, Ian Ramsay and Jonathan Armitage. Donations amounted to £24.90.

## **Crail History Society**

Our first meeting of the 2012-13 season began with a fascinating talk by Professor Christopher Smout on Paisley shawls, in which he has had an interest for many years. He brought along a number of his acquisitions for us to handle. People were invited to bring along any shawls they had and some beautiful examples were shown, inherited from grandmothers and great grandmothers.

We have a further six talks arranged including one on the History and Archaeology of a medieval wooden house on Papa Stour, Shetland, and others concerning the fishing, archaeology and wrecks of the shoreline of Fife.

The next talk on 30<sup>th</sup> October will be by Commander Hobbs entitled "The World's First Landing On An Aircraft Carrier". Anyone who heard his previous talk on Crail Airfield will know that we are in for a treat.

In July we made a trip to Glamis Castle by coach, which was well supported, and we will be organizing another in June 2013, the venue yet to be arranged.

Kathleen Main gave the vote of thanks to our speaker and it was good to see her back, and able to take an active role in the activities of the Society.

A copy of the 2012-13 programme will be available in the Library.

Sylvia Shepherd, Secretary

## **Other Societies**

This year St Andrews Preservation Trust is celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the celebrations they held a lecture on 4<sup>th</sup> September "Shop Fronts of St Andrews - 1820 -1940" by John Frew, a book launch, an exhibition of photographs from the Trust Collection and a reception with buffet and drinks.

Cupar & North Fife Preservation Society are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On 4<sup>th</sup> October they are holding a fundraising dinner at Craigsanquhar House Hotel, by Cupar. The Guest Speaker will be our local MP, the Rt. Hon. Sir Menzies Campbell, and the programme will also include a display of the winning entries in their Architectural & Conservation Awards 2011, organised by Dr Robert Steedman, and a fund-raising auction.

We wish to extend our congratulations to both organisations for their valuable work in the east of Fife over an extended period. And, we wish them all the best for the future.

## **Fund Raising for the Society**

The Golden Oldies Disco held in Crail Community Hall on 18<sup>th</sup> September was attended by 70 enthusiastic members and friends who danced the night away, and probably had sore legs and ringing in their ears the next morning. Troubleshooter Discos from Kirkcaldy provided the music (sound levels have surely risen in the last 40 years: *editor*). Funds were improved by £430 net. Thanks to all who attended.

**The Crail Preservation Society Cheese and Wine Party** will be held in the Town Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 26th October 2012.

This is one of our main fundraising events to help defray the cost of the hanging baskets in the village. Contributions of cheese and nibbles, and raffle prizes are, as usual, very welcome. It is these contributions which make it so special every year.

I hope that you will be able to come along and bring friends with you.

Tickets priced £10 each are now available from the Jerdan Gallery.

## **Dates For Your Diary**

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| Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> October   | Cheese & Wine Evening, 7.30pm at the Town Hall  |
| Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October  | Crail History Society, talk "World's first landing on an Aircraft Carrier", by Commander Hobbs, 7.30pm in the British Legion Hall |
| Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November | Crail in Bloom Coffee Morning, 10am to 12noon in the British Legion Hall  |

If any one wishes to submit an item, or to suggest an idea for an item, for the next Newsletter in the Spring of 2013, please get in touch with the editor.

Editor: Jonathan Armitage, Ravenscraig, Roome Bay Avenue, Crail, KY10 3TR

[newsletters@crailpreservationsociety.co.uk](mailto:newsletters@crailpreservationsociety.co.uk)

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