

CRAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

Chairman's Introduction

We were all greatly saddened to learn of the sudden death of our President Paul Wilkinson on 11th August 2011.

Much has been written about his outstanding career and his pioneering work in his chosen field of studying and understanding terrorism. This was duly recognised by his richly deserved award of a CBE in 2009.

As our President he brought a calm intellectual authority to our proceedings. This was always coupled by his very individual and laconic wit and humour. Paul took a very keen interest in Crail and the work of our Society, and his wise counsel will be sorely missed.

We extended our deepest condolences to Sue, his 3 children and their grandchildren.

At the time of writing we are also thinking about Kathleen Main who is in the Victoria Hospital. Kathleen has been the leader and guiding light in all of our efforts in Denburn Wood. We wish her a full and speedy recovery.

Meantime, we are working away on a number of projects and there is further information about some of these in this newsletter.

We have extended the hanging baskets down to the harbour and out to the Anstruther boundary. Many people have expressed their appreciation and delight at this. We also 'sponsored' the frame for the outstanding floral crab at that same entrance to Crail, and have also contributed to the floral fund.

Work has been done in Denburn Wood to repair part of the stone wall at the burn, and also to clear the channel. The helpers group continue to clear and tidy up on the first Saturday of each month. Do join them if you can at 10am. New metal gates are also on order for the main entrance to the Wood.

David Jerdan (Chairman)

CPS Planning Policy

With an increasing number of potential developments within and around Crail it was felt that the Preservation Society should have a written Planning Policy which will:

- Provide a checklist for judging the merits of any potential development
- Allow responses to potential development to be based on criteria which has been agreed by the committee of CPS
- Set out CPS's position regarding potential development and allow developers to have prior knowledge of how CPS is likely to respond

The following is the agreed CPS Planning Policy:

Planning Policy

Crail Preservation Society (CPS) will support new developments which improve or maintain the historical character and ambience of Crail and vigorously oppose any developments which do not.

CPS prefer that any new developments are contained within the existing boundaries of Crail, however, where the approved Local Plan has identified housing or other development out with the existing boundaries any proposals for these areas will be reviewed by CPS on the basis of the following criteria:

- *Will it enhance or maintain the historical character of Crail*
- *Will it detract from the historical character or ambience of Crail*
- *Will it be a benefit to Crail*
- *Is it an example of good design in architecture and/or urban planning*

- Will it create a nuisance eg noise, increased traffic, smell etc
- Is it large scale development

CPS is particularly opposed to one off large scale housing developments and would prefer to see phased smaller scale development carried out over a long number of years to better reflect natural growth and expansion.

CPS will oppose development changes which seek to revise previously approved planning applications where this is for purely commercial gain and/or reduces quality.

CPS recognises that growth is essential to the long term health and viability of the community but it must be closely controlled and monitored and be in a form acceptable to the residents of Crail.

Checking Planning Applications

Any member of the Preservation Society who wishes to check planning applications for Crail can do this via the internet on the Fife Council web site.

- Log on to the internet and type **fifedirect planning applications online** into your search engine.
- A number of headings will come up. Click on the heading **simple search**
- The following page will appear:

The screenshot shows the Fife Council website's public access page. At the top left is the Fife Council logo with the URL fifedirect.org.uk. At the top right is the text "Public Access DC | BS". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Search", "My Profile", "Login", and "Register". The main heading is "Planning » Simple Search". Below the heading is a search instruction: "Search for Planning Applications, Appeals and Enforcements by keyword, application reference, postcode or by a single line of an address." There are five tabs: "Simple", "Advanced", "Weekly/Monthly Lists", "Property", and "Map". The "Simple" tab is selected. Under "Search for:", there are two radio buttons: "Applications" (selected) and "Appeals". Below this is a text input field with the placeholder "Enter a keyword, reference number, postcode or single line of an address." and a "Search" button. At the bottom right of the page is the "an idox solution" logo.

- Type **Crail** into the search box and then click on the Search button. This will open up a page with a list of all planning applications for Crail arranged in date received order, with the most recent at the top.
- Click on the application you wish to view and a page will open which allows you to check the details, the comments and the drawings for the application as well as other relevant information.

HD

Crail Preservation Society Web Site

Take a look at your web site, www.crailpreservationsociety.co.uk . The home page contains a link to view the planning applications, as described above, the Planning Policy and forthcoming events such as the dates for your diary (see the end of the Newsletter).

Crail Doocot (A-Listed Building)

The Committee has been aware for some time that the Doocot, which is in the Society's care, is in need of a comprehensive restoration. Accordingly, steps are being taken to get experienced advice from Simpson & Brown, Architects, Edinburgh, well known for their extensive specialised knowledge of historical buildings

and this firm will assist with grant applications to meet a substantial portion of the costs. Advice has also been taken from the North East Fife Preservation Society who have already restored two doocots west of Cupar with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Council. It is also felt that comprehensive information about Doocots in general, their origin and use should be made available and would not only be of interest to the general public but could form the basis for an educational programme for schools, linked with other buildings of historic interest in the East Neuk. This aspect is also being investigated.

In the meantime, some limited temporary repairs have been undertaken to ensure continued safety for members of the public who view the Doocot during Doors Open Days and such like.

JVR

PS. The Doocot was again open again this year on 4th September, for Doors Open Days, 77 adults and 15 children came to have a look. Some had passed it many times and were delighted to have the chance to see inside and its 700 nesting boxes.

JA

Harbour

Last year your Committee thought that the Harbour was in desperate need of, at the very least, a good tidy up. A list of easily completed jobs was identified and a list sent to Fife Council.

The rubble brick trough in the barking shed has been largely demolished along with various other bits of useless brickwork on the pier. The siren and the broken flag-pole have gone and the old gas pipe and redundant electrics have also been removed. The rusted life-line by the barometer housing has been removed and the barometer housing tidied prior to repainting and glazing (the barometer is in the Crail Museum; editor). There is much clearing of rubbish to do, but a good start has been made. The future of the crane lies in the hands of Historic Scotland, who are aware of its poor state. Once the area is clear of detritus we should be in a better position to judge what the next move might be.



The poor state of the crane and booms.

CPS have initiated discussions with the Curator of the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther to see whether an exhibit or model could be developed and placed in the barking shed. The exhibit would educate visitors on the uses of this previously essential part of the harbour infrastructure.

AD/DG

The Association for the Preservation of Rural Scotland

Formed in 1926, the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS) works to protect Scotland's world renowned landscape and the amenity of the countryside. It is Scotland's longest established independent environmental organisation. (One of its first acts was to set up the National Trust for Scotland.)

The CPS is an Affiliated Member of the APRS and Jonathan Armitage is on its Council. Recently APRS has been concerned about the number of wind turbines and their siting. It is a small organisation and so it cannot become involved in planning applications except for significant developments but can provide

guidance and contacts to its members to help them participate in the planning process. There have been a number of applications in the east of Fife for from one to six wind turbines of various sizes. In particular, an application by West Coast Energy to install capacity of 12.5MW consisting of five 102-metre high turbines at the Lingo site spurred the Cameron Community Council to invite the APRS Director, John Mayhew, to speak at a meeting (17 August, which JA attended) on Policy and Planning - the general principles - rather than the specific pros and cons of the proposed Lingo wind turbines. After the meeting an exit poll showed 83% against the application. The talk was considered to be of sufficient interest that he was asked to speak at Kingsbarns Community Council on the same topic shortly after.

APRS policy is not to oppose all wind turbine/farm developments but to recognise that they can provide part of the energy mix but that there are places appropriate for their siting and places that are not. Fundamental to understanding the number of proposals is the Scottish Government's policy of a 'green energy' revolution; this with high feed-in tariffs is driving the number of planning applications. John Mayhew was critical of government for not giving guidance on land that was suitable for wind farm development and landscapes that should be protected. As it is, it is up to the local authorities to determine the applications, but government policy will not be ignored. An important aspect now is to consider the cumulative effect of the many wind turbines being proposed in close proximity to each other. There are also large wind farms proposed for a location off the Forth, and visible from Crail. John Mayhew said that government had provided better guidance regarding which marine areas were more and which were less suitable.

The website www.eftag.info has a map showing the size and the planning status, including those applications which have been withdrawn, of all the wind turbines either existing or planned in East Fife. The two planning proposals closest to Crail are at Barnsmuir and Kirkmay farms.

Visit the APRS website at <http://www.ruralscotland.btck.co.uk/> for more information. Its influence would be enhanced by an increase in membership. If you support its objects you might consider joining.

JA

Dates for your Diary

We have 2 fundraising events this autumn.

Friday 21st October Pete Woods of Luvians will be conducting a Wine Tasting in the Town Hall on, starting at 7pm. This is always an informative and most enjoyable evening.

Saturday 26th November We are also holding a Ceilidh in the Community Hall on at 7.30pm.

Please put these dates in your diary and come along if you can. Friends and guests are most welcome.

Tickets will be available nearer the time of the events from the Jerdan Gallery and Committee Members.

History Group Lectures: All in the British Legion Hall at 7.30pm, entry by donation

Tuesday 27th September Prof Smout, "Crail and the wider world - the middle ages to the Napoleonic Wars"

Tuesday 25th October Jim Allan "May Island"

Tuesday 29th November Meeting to review progress of research groups

Tuesday 31st January Shirley McKay "Making up the past - researching the Hew Cullen story"

Tuesday 27th March David Simpson "Growing up in Crail"; **AGM**

Tuesday 24th April George Findley "Medieval town planning in Crail"

Tuesday 29th May Mary Heal "Wartime experiences"

Tuesday 26th June Outing to be arranged

Membership

Some members who asked will, for the first time, be receiving this Newsletter by email (with luck). If you wish to change your status, either to receive or stop receiving then please contact the Editor. Your email address will not be passed on.

Editor: Jonathan Armitage, Ravenscraig, Roome Bay Avenue, Crail
newsletters@crailpreservationsociety.co.uk