

CRAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

October 2015

The Priory Doocot

The application for Grant Aid for the proposed works on the Doocot has proved to be a long saga. Our third! application to Historic Scotland was submitted at the end of September and an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund is to be submitted during October. The HLF application for example contains 20 pages plus a considerable quantity of supporting documentation, all requiring detailed information. The HLF recommendation is not to exceed 8,000 words! - with a great deal of effort, we have managed 2,500 words.

We are fortunate in having Simpson & Brown as our Architects as they are so experienced and knowledgeable about historic buildings, providing valuable back up.

The work will comprise the removal of the cement harling which retains moisture, thereby causing damage to the stonework, with replacement by lime based harling covered with several coats of lime wash, repair of the timber flight holes at the roof level, repair of the stone nesting boxes inside and the replacement of the long gone former internal (potence) ladder which swivels round 360 degrees to give access to the nesting boxes, together with a new wooden floor. Suitable low key internal lighting will be installed along with explanatory boards, for both children and adults. We are looking at the possibility of providing the small electrical requirement from solar panels

Externally, a new (level, wider and safer) access path will be formed from the public footpath on the upper side of the Doocot and an inner glass door provided for all hours viewing. This door will have automatic timed locking/unlocking which will allow public access at chosen day times all year round. Suitable external signage, and explanatory information will also be in position.

We are in discussion with local Primary schools about a suitable educational project for the children and this has been welcomed. We are also considering a more widely based educational project for secondary schools which would look at the issues of historic buildings conservation. Messrs. Simpson & Brown are widely known experts in this field and are very keen to help in this respect, indeed, they have already provided us with draft templates for both primary and secondary stages.

Tenders for the works are in hand and we will be ready to go subject to a positive outcome with the grant applications. The great success of the Grand Raffle has played an important part in assuring the grant aiding bodies of our own ability to provide a substantial input for the project, a very essential part of any Grant Aid application.



Cyclamen currently in flower in Denburn Photo by Eira Ihalainen

Ian Ramsay

Doocot Raffle

We held a major raffle, in the first half of this year, to raise funds to help towards the restoration and renovation of the Doocot. The Grand Draw took place during Crail Festival on 25th July.

We are very fortunate to have donated some fabulous prizes

- 1) A week in a luxury villa in Majorca for 2 with flights from Edinburgh.
- 2) Iceland Air Flights for 2 to Iceland with 3 nights B & B accommodation.
- 3) Golf for 4 at Crail and Blairgowrie.
- 4) A painting by Philip Raskin.
- 5) Membership of the Fairmont Spa for 6 months.
- 6) 2 Tickets to the Barbara Dickson/Rab Noakes concert.
- 7) A splendid food hamper.
- 8) A case of quality wine.
- 9) Hamper of 250 mixed 'as new' golf balls.
- 10) 2 Dress circle tickets for Scottish Opera.

It was most pleasing to see that the majority of the prizes were won by people living locally and well over £4,000 was raised.

A splendid sum and thanks to all who supported us and congratulations to the lucky winners!

David Jerdan

Denburn Report

The Denburn Diggers have been busy most of the year, although defeated a bit more by the weather and a coincidence of dates, for instance the first Saturday in August when the Festival was still on.

It has proved impossible to reschedule the dates; it seems to be first Saturday or nothing.

As always huge thanks are due to the trusty band, and it has been delightful to welcome Anna & Jim Brannan back after Anna's illness.

We always have a litter collection, and would like to thank the public who dump bags of general waste (maybe from caravans?) over the wall which runs along the road into the flowerbed below. Of particular delight are the bags of dog waste similarly dumped over the wall, for which we thank all the contributors.

On a happier note, Eira Ihalaien had the idea of establishing proper compost bins, a set of 3, to process the huge amount of material down there. Thanks to Eira and Victor Reynolds we now have the materials to build the bins and next year could have good amounts of usable compost.

The little memorial tree which was unfortunately planted in an inappropriate setting has been moved and is thriving in its new home.

As always, we meet at 10.00am on the first Saturday of each month and would be glad to welcome any new recruits. Tea, coffee & chocolate biscuits are served and a good chat enjoyed. Try it, you might like it!

Helen Byres

I don't know if anyone's counted birds and butterflies there before but at least this year Denburn is one of the thousands of datapoints in the Big Garden Birdwatch and also the Big Butterfly Count. In late July-early August almost 585,000 individual butterflies and moths were counted nationwide, but none of them in Denburn despite sunny weather. But spotting 0 butterflies is important information too. (I did manage to wrangle one small white and one common blue out of Victoria Park, though.) Big Garden Birdwatch in the winter was busier with all the usual suspects like dunnocks, wrens, great tits, blue tits, coal tits, robins, chaffinches, wood pigeons and blackbirds that made up the numbers of over 8.5 million birds recorded all over UK in one weekend.

Eira Ihalaien

Denburn Community Orchard

Crail in Bloom and Crail Preservation Society have started planting the Community Orchard in the top left hand corner of Denburn Field. So far we have planted 6 apple trees :-

"Ashmead's Kernel, Cambusnethan Pippin, Chivers Delight, Discovery, Scotch Bridget and Tower of Glamis."

We plan to plant 6 more apple trees this autumn and are in the process of raising funds for this extension and wondered if anyone would like to donate a tree and the surround fence to protect them from the sheep! Donations could be in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an occasion a birth or anniversary. The cost of tree and protection fence is £50.00 If any one would like to donate please contact Jeni Auchinleck, 2 Castle Street, Crail. 01333 450538.

Jeni Auchinleck

Beautiful Fife 2015 Winners

Your Society puts a lot of effort into filling the streets of Crail with hanging baskets. Many others also contribute to success. This year Crail was awarded a Gold Medal - that is worth celebrating.

More information about the awards can found by Googling "Beautiful Fife Towns and Villages".

Jonathan Armitage

Making a lasting contribution to Crail.....

As a new Treasurer, not having taken on such a task before, I have been learning a lot about the finances of small charities, the Preservation Society in particular. One of the lessons for me is the importance of legacies, the gifts left in their Wills by those who support the Society. Legacies, even small ones, can make a significant difference to the Preservation Society and what it is able to achieve. Broadly speaking, membership subscriptions cover day-to-day expenses and some small projects; legacies give the Society solidity and the reserves to tackle bigger projects - like the refurbishment of our landmark Doocot (though that also requires external funding).

Not everyone is aware that the Crail Preservation Society is a registered Scottish Charity (number: SC016960) and, therefore, that gifts made to it in a Will are tax free and reduce the inheritance tax burden (if there is one) on the estate from which the gift is made.

A gift can be:

- a sum of money
- a share of the estate or
- a specific item - like property, shares or personal items

It is important, of course, to consult a solicitor in preparing a Will. Most of us aim to look after the needs of family and friends in such a document and many, having provided for that priority, then consider whether to leave a gift to one or more charities. There are many deserving charities out there, of course. If you care about Crail, you might wish to include the Crail Preservation Society in that list of charities under consideration. In that way, you can make a lasting contribution to Crail.

The Crail Preservation Society seeks to preserve the architecture and historical character of the Royal Burgh of Crail. It also supports and works with the Museum. Legacies help it to achieve that - now and in the future.

Derek White

Crail Wine Club

Crail Wine Club was founded earlier this year with the objective of furthering the appreciation and enjoyment of wine, and also supports the objectives of Crail Preservation Society. The Wine club is however, completely separate from CPS.

We meet on the last Friday of each month in the Legion Hall and to date we have had a variety of interesting and enjoyable evenings. These have included wines of Portugal, blind tasting of supermarket favourites, wines of the Loire, fine wines from Tuscany, Tom Cannavan on the wines of southwest France, and barbeque wines.

The remainder of this year will feature unknown or lesser known Spanish wines in October and Champagne with Vince Fisaro of Luvians in November. The year will conclude with a special Christmas dinner with matching wines.

We have 48 members to date and membership is £10 per annum plus each event charges a fee to cover costs that is normally £10 per head.

We welcome new members and guests.

If you are interested in joining please contact either

David Jerdan 74 Bow Butts, Crail 01333 450797 david.jerdan@gmail.com or

Robin Sim 9 Denburn Place, Crail 07816 663569 robin.sim@btinternet.com

David Jerdan

Dates for your diary

Friday 23 October We are holding a Cheese and Wine party in the Town Hall at 7.30pm to raise funds to help run the Society.

There will be a variety of delicious cheeses with complementary wines and there will also be a splendid raffle.

Tickets priced £10 are available from Green's in the High Street or

David Jerdan, 74 Bow Butts (450797 or david.jerdan@gmail.com) or

any committee member

Monday 8 February 2016 Annual General Meeting at 7,30pm in the Town Hall