

# CRAIL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

### Denburn

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, we had a good turnout at Denburn with Audrey, Anna, Margaret, David, Victor, and Jim, and a beautiful morning too.

Kathleen Main was able to come along and gave some invaluable advice as to which jobs needed attention. It was wonderful to see her in the Den again.

Kathleen has plans for wild flower seeds to be sown to attract insects, which will look very attractive and colourful.

We were also joined by three boys who were playing in the Den and offered their assistance in picking up litter and raking debris out of the burn, and were rewarded for their hard work with chocolate biscuits. Many thanks to Aaron, Shaunlee and Lewis.

Denburn is looking lovely with the bluebells still in flower and a huge variety of other woodland plants just coming out. The new gates, with the name picked out in gold look very impressive.

Deirdre Munro, the Ranger, came along with her team of junior Rangers earlier this year to clear a fallen tree out of the burn, and they also cleared a large area of dead undergrowth, so many thanks to them. There is a large branch which has fallen into the adjacent tree opposite the rope swing. The branch looks a bit unstable and we have contacted Deirdre for assistance. Due to re-organisation, she is unable to help at the moment until future responsibilities have been sorted out. Victor has arranged for someone to take the branch down, for which many thanks.

There is also a broken bench which needs replacing.

The group of volunteers meet at the Den on the first Saturday of each month at 10.00am for a couple of hours. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided and it is a really enjoyable morning. More volunteers are needed to keep Denburn in shape, and a place for everyone to enjoy, so if you can spare the time you would be most welcome.

There is also a good quantity of fallen branches which were broken off in the gales earlier in the year and anyone who could collect and use the wood would be welcome to take it. If you are interested, please contact David Jerdan ([david@thejerdangallery.com](mailto:david@thejerdangallery.com)) or Helen Byres ([helenbyres@hotmail.com](mailto:helenbyres@hotmail.com))



## **Hanging Baskets**

The hanging baskets, which this year are going to be extended to the Anstruther entrance to Crail and down to the harbour, are scheduled to be hung at the beginning of June.

## **Wild Flower Meadow**

The small corner of the field at Roome Bay Avenue, seeded as a wild flower meadow, was recently weed killed causing some concern. This was undertaken as an improvement programme. A wild flower meadow requires careful managing and the very thuggish grasses present in the field were beginning to dominate again, only a few varieties surviving. Crail-in-Bloom was offered free seeds by RHS Britain in Bloom for their Wild about Wildflowers campaign. The mixture contains Corncockle, Cornflower, Corn Marigold, Corn Poppy and Corn Chamomile. Kate Eggo set about eliminating the thugs and will shortly rotovate the area prior to re-seeding it. The aim is to encourage wild life, particularly pollinating insects. If the area needs more work, i.e. re-planting next year, then that will be done by 'Crail in Bloom' if the Preservation Society agrees.

## **Planning**

### **St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan – Crail**

At the AGM it was reported that the Local Plan was in the last stages of final approval.

The Scottish Ministers appointed Ms Karen Heywood BSc (Hons) MPhil MRTPI, to carry out the examination of the St Andrews & East Fife Local Plan and the examination, which started on 10th June 2011, is now complete and the report has been issued.

Many individuals and groups submitted comments on the Crail Local Plan proposals in regard to such matters as:

- Impact on social character
- Impact on historic heritage and character
- Impact on local services and infrastructure
- Density
- Landscape setting
- Flooding and drainage
- Housing occupancy and affordable housing
- Access road linking St Andrews Road and Balcomie Road

### **Unfortunately the Reporter concluded that there should be no modifications to the Crail Local Plan in respect of these submissions.**

This has to be seen as a setback for Crail residents and community groups who want to have a say in how the village is to be developed. Although it may seem futile, especially in light of the Local Plan outcome, please continue to comment on new planning applications and lobby local councillors where necessary.

This Local Plan will be used to shape the development of Crail for the next 10 years and we can expect many controversial proposals in the future.

To view the Report go to [www.fifedirect.org.uk/examinationreport](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/examinationreport). The following page will open:



Type 'St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan Examination Report' into the search box. This will take you to another page which will give you access to the report. Or type 'StAEFLP Examination Report' into Google and you may find a direct link to download the report.

The report is over 700 pages, the contents page indicates which pages are of particular relevance to Crail, 139 - 171, but it is also worth doing a search for 'Crail', 'turbine' or 'airfield' etc. these locate items out with those pages that might be of interest.

## Miramar

Over 30 objections, including one by the CPS, were lodged to the Planning Application for Miramar, which was submitted shortly before Christmas. As of 21/5/12 its status was still 'pending decision'.

## Parking Signs

David Jerdan wrote a strong letter of protest to our Councillors at the appearance of the unwanted parking signs in the Conservation Areas of Marketgate and Nethergate. These have just added to the awful proliferation of signs that are blighting our lovely village.



## The Priory Doocot

Final proposals for the restoration of the Doocot have been prepared and, after informal discussion with the Fife Council Planning Department, have been submitted for Listed Building Consent.

The Architect's proposals for a new access path and drainage on the north side, which would allow disabled access, have been deferred for the moment in view of the marketing for sale of Mrs. Wilkinson's house, the field surrounding the Doocot being in ownership of that property. It is hoped that an approach in due course to the new owner might still allow these further improvements to be included at a later stage.

Costing of the proposals and applications for Grant aid will now be processed with the help of the Architects and progress on this front will be reported to the AGM.



Handsome gold lettering on Denburn gates

## The History Group

The past year has been quite challenging for our group, for various reasons including the temporary loss of Kathleen's leadership whilst she was so ill, but we are now back on track looking forward to a full and stimulating year ahead.

Following the successful launch of The Crail Scrapbook at the Jerdan Gallery we organized seven talks relating to the History of Crail, and its relationship to the wider world and memories of life in Crail. All our talks were very well attended. Our final talk for this session will be from Mary Heal recounting her wartime experiences on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, in the British Legion Hall at 7.30pm, entry by donation.

We are about to publish the programme for 2012-13 which will include talks on Archaeology, Fishing, and wrecks off the Fife Coast.

Our groups are also continuing with their research into Crail Casualties of the 1st World War and a continuation of the Crail Survey of streets and those who lived there in the past.

We propose to formalize the membership of the group in September at the beginning of our 2012-13 lecture programme.

Professor Christopher Smout, Historiographer Royal in Scotland, has agreed to be our Honorary President.

We would like to express our thanks to the Crail Preservation Society for their support, and the initial seed money, which enabled the group to start up, and due to the success of the book, has been repaid.

Sylvia Shepherd  
Secretary Crail History Group



## Your Committee (Since AGM 20 Feb 2012)

President	Jonathan Armitage		Jeni Auchinleck
Chairman	David Jerdan		Derek White
Vice - Chairman	Dennis Gowans		Paul Hutchison
Secretary	Alan Dunlop		Helen Byers
Treasurer	Iain Inglis	Co-opted Member	Hugh Dykes
Members	Dr. Jack Jarvis		
	Anna Brannan	Hon Vice Presidents	Bill Dorward
	Donald Mathieson		David Mann
	Ian Ramsay		Kathleen Main

We are delighted that Kathleen Main has returned to Crail all be it with a wheelchair. David Jerdan had arranged to send flowers from the Society on her return. We wish her a continuing recovery.

## Membership

Thanks to all members who have supported the Society by paying their subscriptions already.

Some members have asked to receive Newsletters by email. This time, if you are in Crail, you will all receive a paper copy as it is easier to do a mail drop to everyone in Crail than to miss out a few who get it by email. We hope that this edition will prompt new members. 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.

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## Dates For Your Diary

### Fund Raising for the Society

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August Golden Oldies Disco (60s and 70s music) Crail Community Hall, 7.30 -11pm