

East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society Autumn Newsletter 2017

Upcoming Event

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, 27 March 2018, 7pm at Kellie Castle. Our speaker will be Dr David Jones, leading furniture historian speaking on Mackintosh's Regional Influences.

David Jones is an expert on Scottish furniture and partly retired lecturer in Art History at the University of St Andrews. He is the author of *The Edinburgh Cabinet and Chair Makers' Books of Prices 1805-25 (2000)* and editor of the journal *Regional Furniture*.

If you wish to send comments or questions for discussion at the meeting, please send these to our Chair at julia.sharon@gmail.com. As usual, there will be refreshments after the meeting with a chance to meet fellow Society members.

At this time I note the intent to raise membership to £20 for single membership and £35 for joint membership. Rising postal costs and the anticipated repair to the Society's meeting room are contributing factors to this increase.

Recent Activity

Proposed Golf Course at Dumbarrie Links

Plans were presented to Largo Community Council recently for a Golf Course development at Dumbarrie on land owned by Balcarres Estate. An 18 hole championship course is proposed with club house and ancillary buildings but without any residential or hotel development. The course is being designed by Clive Clark on behalf of a consortium of mainly American golf enthusiasts. The plans are on display for public consultation on Monday Oct 30 at the Old Manor Hotel in Lundin Links between 2.00 and 9.00 pm. At the Community Council scepticism was expressed for the need for another golf course in the area. The developer intends to present the plans to Fife Council for planning approval by the end of November. We strongly encourage members to view the plans in light of any comments they may wish to make once plans have been lodged with Fife Council.

Visit to Balcarres

On 9th September a group of about 30 members were warmly welcomed to Balcarres House by Lord and Lady Balniel. While the weather was slightly uncooperative, we managed to get a quick snap of the group on the front steps before the rain came on. We were conducted through several of the public rooms, with commentary from both our hosts on the art, furniture, renovation undertaken and history of the house. Members were fascinated with art displayed in the house and in particular, the panelled dining room. We would like to thank the Balniels for opening their beautiful home to the Society and mention their donation of the visit's proceedings to the Colinsburgh library project, a worthy local cause.

Visit to Net House & Cardy House – Earlier in the year on 20 May, an interested group of Society members toured Net House and Cardy House. Net House was remodelled from a working net factory to a luxurious guest house by the Rollands, its current owners. We were treated to a presentation by Liz Rolland on the reconstruction project and were allowed full access to Net House. After dashing through the rain, we were given a tour of Cardy House by Liz Rolland, whose family lives in the house. Members much admired the sympathetic restoration of a lovely Victorian home, in particular it was noted how the colour scheme in several rooms was in keeping with the period. The Rolland's donation was made to Maggie's, a local hospice.

Installation of Gas Lamp Plaque

The Society contributed towards the cost of a plaque, marking the last remaining gas lamp post in Colinsburgh. Some members recall the existence of a gas works in Colinsburgh and this former local business will now be given a place in its community's history.



Worth a visit in East Neuk

Fife Railway Heritage Society – a little hidden treasure for you transport and railway buffs. I paid a visit this summer and was given a tour of their most recent restoration project. They have half a mile of track and run steam locomotive rides for enthusiasts. It is too early to mention that Santa is expected to make a visit soon? They are located at the Kirkland Sidings in Leven – see their website for details <http://www.fifeheritagerailway.com/> .

Bowhouse Market – This restored venue has recently opened near St Monans. Society members have commented that it is a great new amenity for the East Neuk with occasional farmers' market weekends showcasing local foods, producers and craftspeople. It includes event space, production space, commercial kitchens, lavatories, car parking. Its next event is the Bowhouse Christmas Food Weekend held on the 9th and 10th December 2017 from 10am to 4pm.

The Committee

I am happy to report we have two new members on the committee. Both of them are actually returning members who have generously agreed to serve again - John Beaton and Lesley Henderson – welcome back to both!

The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday, 4 December. Location to be decided. Our meeting room in St Monans currently requires repair and we are looking for a stone mason to do the work.

Suggestions

We are always happy to hear from members about places they would like to visit or projects they are interested in. Please email our Chair at julia.sharon@gmail.com with the location and if possible, name of the current owner. Our interest is not just limited to houses, any building or location (weather permitting) that you believe may be of interest to members is welcome.

If any member has photographs that might be suitable for publishing in the Annual Report, please contact Margaret Sutherland on margaretoldkirk@gmail.com – we are interested in photos of old buildings etc. in the East Neuk, as well as any taken at our recent events.

We hope to see you at the AGM in March!