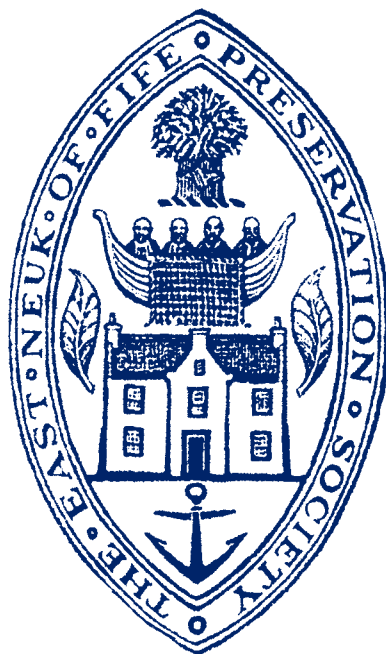


EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY



ANNUAL REPORT YEAR 2023

www.eastneukpreservationsociety.co.uk

A Scottish charity SC051336

CONTENTS	2
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SUBSCRIPTIONS	3
THE EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY	4
CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT	5
PLANNING CONVENOR'S REPORT	6
AREA REPORTS	
ANSTRUTHER	7
COLINSBURGH & KILCONQUHAR	9
ELIE & EARLSFERRY	11
KILRENNY & CELLARDYKE	13
LANDWARD	15
LARGO & LUNDIN LINKS	16
PITTENWEEM	19
ST MONANS & ABERCROMBIE	21
ARTICLES	
SIR ANDREW WOOD TOWER	23
EAST NEUK CHURCH CLOSURES	25
PITTENWEEM PRIORY INTERPRETIVE PANELS	28
SANDFORD HOUSE VISIT	29
SACRED LANDSCAPES WEBSITE	31
FIFE COUNCIL PLANNING UPDATES	32
OBITUARIES	33
TREASURER'S REPORT	35
APPENDIX - PERMITTED RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT	37

A DATE FOR THE DIARY

MEMBERS' VISIT at 2pm on SUNDAY 9 JUNE 2024

You are warmly invited to visit the house and garden of Edward and Cath Baxter on Sunday 9 June at Gilston House, Leven KY8 5QP (on the Upper Largo to Largoward road). Gilston is a grade B listed 19th century mansion with a large garden of mixed borders and mature trees in beautiful parkland, and with a walled garden, Victorian pond with boathouse, and far-reaching views.

You are invited to hear about its history and stroll around the lovely grounds before sharing in light refreshments. Feel free to bring a friend. Proceeds from the event will go to our hosts' chosen charity which is the Fife initiative of the Royal Highland Educational Trust.

Tickets are £10 and are available at the AGM. Tickets can also be reserved by contacting Bill Kennaway, Gyles House, 6 The Gyles, Pittenweem KY10 2NG
william.kennaway@btinternet.com 01333 313172

THE EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY (SCIO)

NOTICE OF 3rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday 13 May 2024 at 7pm
in Kellie Castle**

Agenda

- 1 Welcome and Apologies
- 2 Approval of Minutes of 2 May 2023 (previously circulated)
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Treasurer's report and Approval of Accounts
- 5 Chair's report
- 6 Election of Trustees (the constitution states that trustees shall retire from office at the AGM but shall be eligible for re-election; the current trustees have indicated their willingness to serve again)
- 7 Election of Management Committee (The Chair, Vice-Chair, Hon Treasurer and Hon Secretary have indicated their willingness to continue to serve in their roles)
- 8 Any Other Competent Business

Dr George Kennaway: 'Fiddler Tam' Thomas Erskine, 6th Earl of Kellie, cosmopolitan composer of the Scottish Enlightenment

The AGM proceedings will be followed by a talk with harpsichord accompaniment by Dr Kennaway (unrelated to our Chair) who is a Scottish cellist, musicologist, conductor, teacher, and publisher who has lectured at several UK universities and taught at conservatoires in England, Scotland, Lithuania, France, and Finland. His publications include books on the music of the 18th century and articles on relationships between music and art.

Non -alcoholic refreshments will follow the talk

Annual subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are now due - please pay promptly to save the Treasurer extra work and expense. You can pay now or at the AGM. If paying by post, please make out the cheque to "East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society (SCIO)" and address your letter to the Treasurer: David Jenkins, Carrick, Drumeldrie, Upper Largo KY8 6JD

If paying by bank transfer, ENFPS's account no is 16067868, sort code is 83-24-24, bank name is RBS, Kirkcaldy Branch, account name is East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society (SCIO).

Please contact the Treasurer if you wish to set up a standing order. Annual subscriptions are £20 per person; Joint membership £35; Life membership £300 per person; £525 per couple.

If you pay your subscription annually and are a taxpayer, you can assist the Society by completing a Gift Aid Declaration form which is available from the Treasurer.

THE EAST NEUK OF FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY (SCIO)

ORGANISATION

Honorary President

Dr James Carstairs

Honorary Vice-Presidents

The Right Hon The Earl of Lindsay
John Beaton

Trustees

Dr James Carstairs, John Beaton, Bill Kennaway,
Angus Cameron, David Jenkins, Jane Forbes

Management Committee members

Chair	Bill Kennaway william.kennaway@btinternet.com
Vice-Chair & Planning Convenor	Angus Cameron angus_m_cameron@yahoo.co.uk
Hon Treasurer	David Jenkins dasj@btinternet.com
Hon Secretary	Jane Forbes jtforbes99@gmail.com

Area Representatives

Anstruther	Martin Dibley Paul Capaldi
Elie & Earlsferry	Alastair Graham Margaret Lambie Andrew Nicholson
Kilrenny & Cellardyke	Steven Liscoe
Kilconquhar & Colinsburgh	Stephen Aynsclough Debbie Birrell
Landward	Pat Hughes
Pittenweem	Bill Kennaway Jane Forbes
St Monans	Angus Cameron/ Kim Cameron Kay Bryant
Largo & Lundin Links	Alison Genet

If you wish to contact an area representative, please do so through the Hon Secretary

The East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society (SCIO) is a Scottish
Incorporated Charitable Organisation with charity number SC051336

REPORTS FOR 2023

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Our 2023 year started with our AGM on 1st May, again in Earlsferry Town Hall, which was followed by a lively talk and slideshow on the subject of 'Religious Landscapes of the East Neuk' by St Andrews University Research Fellow, Dr Bess Rhodes. Bess's presentation ranged from the area's 7th century carved stones with Christian symbols to how its monastic settlements and then church buildings formed a focal point for its communities, and looked at how the relationship between faith and place evolved over the centuries.

Thereafter the Society has had a very successful 12 months, with a lot of progress on all fronts.

First of all we are back to our old pre-covid routine of having two members' visits during the year and to two very memorable houses – Carrick House at Drumeldrie and Sandford House Wormit - both blessed with good weather on the day.

And in addition to our traditional talk at the AGM by a learned speaker, we organised a second event – another Xmas Social Event; again in Pittenweem Coastline Church, following our success there in 2022. The highlight was an amusing talk by Cellardyke member Steve Liscoe on a quirky character of St Andrews' past, followed by mulled wine, mince pies and other festive nibbles.

The Society's new website went fully operational and now means the organisation presents a much more professional public face, while still keeping all the information on the Society's previous visits and projects from the old website. Thanks are due to Colinsburgh rep Stephen Aynscough for his work on this.

And we have now completed the complicated changeovers of our bank account and of the legal title for our St Monans' office to our new legal entity as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation – huge thanks are due to David Jenkins and Angus Cameron respectively for their heroic efforts here.

Our committee has kept up to strength with new members Andrew Nicholson of Elie and Kay Bryant of St Monans, following the retirement of Lesley Henderson and Maureen Clark after many years of very loyal service. Thanks too are due to Paul Capaldi for his time as an Anstruther area rep.

Elsewhere the Society is supporting East Neuk communities affected by church closures through assisting local working groups aiming to secure the buildings as community assets, either by participating in the group as at Pittenweem or by providing financial support at St Monans. And the Society's project for interpretive panels at Pittenweem Priory is progressing well with the bulk of the sponsorship now raised and planning permission and owners' consents obtained.

And finally the icing on the cake – we are back in Kellie Castle for our AGM on 13 May 2024.

PLANNING CONVENOR'S REPORT

Local planning issues

There have been no major planning issues that have caused concern to the Society. However, a number of objections were lodged with Fife Planning in connection with relatively minor issues. These included the unauthorised demolition of part of the boundary wall that defined the edge of the conservation area in Upper Largo, the witch mural on the Larachmhor Tavern in Pittenweem (still not removed despite an enforcement notice being issued) and a proposed extension in West Shore in Pittenweem.

Planning law changes

The Scottish Government (SG) has issued a consultation document on the review of Permitted Development Rights (PDRs) which refer to those forms of development which are granted planning permission by legislation, meaning they can be carried out without an application being required (this topic was reviewed in the 2021 Annual Report). By allowing development to be carried out without the need for planning permission, PDRs save the time and expense associated with making an application and allow the planning authorities to focus resources on more complex and/or strategic cases.

The policies prompting the measures proposed in the consultation document are detailed in the Permitted Rights Development Appendix to this report. The measures are the result of SG's review of current PDRs in order to determine what changes could be made to improve the planning process with specific regard to energy efficiency. Topics addressed in the consultation document cover renewable energy sources including solar panels, air and ground source heat pumps, wind turbines, double glazing and external cladding, and electricity power lines, substations etc.

Of specific interest to the Society are the potential changes in PDRs that are relevant in conservation areas and to listed buildings. The potential conflict between energy saving and building conservation has already been seen with the appearance of UPVC double glazed window units and matching doors in conservation areas and on listed buildings. The legislative change will introduce a new PDR which will enable energy efficient improvements to be made without the need for applications for planning permission.

Another provision of the PDR covers the technology required for smart meter communication, power lines /interconnectors and electricity substations, meaning that these will be exempt from requiring planning permission in conservation areas - it is hoped that this does not mean that there will be a sudden rash of overhead power lines and transformers appearing in the East Neuk.

Further details are provided in the Permitted Rights Development Appendix to this report.

ANSTRUTHER

Ship Tavern 49 Shore Street



The alterations to this grade C listed building at the Harbourhead have been completed and the revitalised tavern is now doing a thriving trade.

The main changes to the building were the opening up of the frontage with bi-fold aluminium doors replacing the windows, while the entrance door was replaced with an aluminium door in similar style to its timber predecessor.

The signage and colour scheme are well-designed and hopefully set a standard for the rest of Shore Street to follow.

The interior has been re-modelled but retains some of the traditional appeal of the old Ship. One nice feature of the bar at the front is being able to see this section of stone spiral staircase that was uncovered during the works.



Boat House 28 Shore Street



Another of the hostelrys on the harbourfront has had a transformation - the grade B listed former Boat House pub/restaurant now has a new look.

The colour scheme was commended by Fife Planners, saying it complemented the neighbouring buildings and improved the overall visual impact of the building and the street scene.

The large sign was the subject of a later planning application but was not deemed worthy of a commendation.

The Ox & Anchor establishment that has replaced the Boat House is a bar/restaurant serving interesting street food - fortunately it is continuing to host live music events although the Boat House's full size snooker table is a thing of the past.

The Cellar, 24 East Green



Billy Boyter's Cellar restaurant has closed after a decade of bringing culinary excellence to the burgh – a real blow to the East Neuk.

The grade C listed building, originally a smokehouse and cooperage and which backs on to the Fisheries Museum, is now up for sale.

It is to be hoped that another restaurant may emerge and that the building's atmospheric interior will be retained, but the Cellar will be a difficult act to follow.

Phone kiosk/ cash machine, harbourfront



The cobbled area at the harbourfront known as the Folly now has this clever new piece of street furniture – a structure combining cash machine and payphone in the shape of the 1920s GPO telephone kiosk – shame it's not painted red, but that might confuse people.

It fulfills the glaring lack of a cash machine at the harbour area, particularly during crowded summer weekends. And it addresses a real communications need because of the non-existent mobile phone reception on Anstruther harbourfront.

Planning

The old Waid Academy building has been put up for sale again after planning permission and LB consent was obtained for a commendable scheme for its conversion into 29 houses and flats and 9 new build terraced houses. It is to be hoped that a new developer will step in to take the scheme forward as the old school building is showing signs of deterioration after 4 years of being unoccupied.

KILCONQUHAR & COLINSBURGH

Kilconquhar witnessed the arrival of the locomotives for the new railway heritage museum at Balbuthie Farm, brought in on enormous flatbed trailers.



The museum's prime exhibit is mainline locomotive 'Union of South Africa' designed by Sir Nigel Gresley.

This locomotive has strong Fife connections, employed from the 1930s on London to Aberdeen expresses then operating on the Lochty Private Railway near Largoward in the 1970s.

Balbuthie owner John Cameron, previously of Lochty, later used the locomotive on steam specials and heritage railways, pioneering the revival of the use of steam locomotives on the UK's main line railways, and the locomotive stayed in service until retiring in 2021.



The other large locomotive now at the museum 'The Great Marquess' has an equally impressive very local connection, as it was for many years owned by the late David 15th Earl of Lindsay of Kilconquhar.

She is a K4 class locomotive built in the 1930s and designed by Sir Nigel Gresley.

The Earl was another important pioneer of main line steam preservation, purchasing the locomotive from a scrapyard in 1962 and completely restoring her as a working steam-engine, after which she operated on main line and heritage railways for many decades.

According to his family, the Earl was as proud of her restoration and return to an operational life as he was of anything else that he achieved in his very successful business career, and the highpoint for him was when The Great Marquess was once again running on the West Highland line, the route for which Gresley originally designed her.

The current Earl of Lindsay has been an Honorary Vice-President of the Preservation Society for many years.



Kilconquhar itself and Barnyards continue to benefit from many properties being upgraded.

There is a new house being built in the grounds of an existing property on Meadow Road in Barnyards and there is substantial renovation taking place at an existing property that required significant upgrading on the Main Street in Kilconquhar.

Several houses have been upgraded internally to ensure well-maintained interiors and some properties have benefitted from various types of improved insulation within the constraints placed upon residents by planning.

The water level in Kilconquhar Loch has been noted as higher than normal in recent months due to the heavy and persistent rainfall coupled with inadequate drainage from the sluice gates.

At Colinsburgh, replacement is planned for the town hall's large front window but the work has been delayed because a new contractor had to be brought in when the previous firm pulled out because of rising material costs. Final planning permission has been granted for the 50 new houses behind the petrol station in Colinsburgh.

No provision has been provided to ease the already troublesome road through the village despite the dangerous driving antics, numerous crashes and damage to vehicles. Vehicles including trucks are still driving onto the footpaths, close to the buildings, causing structural damage despite numerous reports to the council and police. Colinsburgh's main road is not fit for purpose and only getting busier as more developments are approved.

Still only 4 of the permitted 14 lodges have been built at Charleton Golf Course; they have proved very popular, however many visitors are wandering along a now busy lane that has no footpath or speed restriction. Work has started on the new clubhouse which will also provide restaurant facilities for the visitors.

ELIE & EARLSFERRY

Both villages have continued to have a high level of planning applications for alterations, extensions and new build developments. However, some recent examples have demonstrated that designs encompassing a trend towards contemporary solutions have been approved, which may affect the overall streetscape where traditional materials prevail. The Society will need to assess future design proposals at the appropriate time for any concerns to be submitted to Case Officers for consideration.

The major housing developments at the Grange, Earlsferry and Wadeslea, Elie submitted by Nairn Estates have been approved with extensive conditions which include site servicing and provision of upgraded facilities for sewage treatment, which will take some time to resolve. Both developments will also require to be submitted for detailed planning approval which will involve detailed scrutiny by affected parties regarding housing mix and other non-residential uses.

The housing development next to the BT Exchange in Elie had also been approved, but for three houses rather than four, due to drainage restrictions.

The future of Elie's Parish Church building remains uncertain following the decision to schedule it for closure and disposal by 2027. The Grade B building dates from 1639 with the tower added in 1726 and with stained glass by Burne-Jones. It is an important landmark in Elie which could be adapted to suit many residential uses and become an important hub for the local community and tourists. Various interested parties are assessing options for adapting the building.

Fife Council are also going to pollard all the trees within Toll Green. Toll Green Hall is now fully functional and used by local community groups.

The general condition of streets, footpaths, public spaces and street signage has deteriorated over the last few years due to a downturn in maintenance by Fife Council.

This may be due to lack of financial resources but does have a bearing on the quality of our surroundings which needs to be addressed with more interaction with local council officials to ensure the repairs and replacements are carried out. Home extensions and conversion of gardens to hard standing are also having a deleterious effect on wildlife in the village, with fewer bees, butterflies and garden birds.



Elie Historical Society now has a project for fully restoring the attractive cast iron fountain in Toll Green, with sourcing of funds from Fife Council and other organisations.

The aim is to completely refurbish its cast iron elements, restore its water supply and put it back into working order.

The cast iron structure is usually referred to as a drinking fountain but was actually constructed as a cow-tailed pump. It was erected in 1869 and is engraved on the base with *George Smith & Co Sun Foundry Glasgow*.

Originally the structure's column supported a six sided glass pane lantern which was capped with a ball and spike finial. The lamp has been replaced with an open sphere and spike finial atop a column with floral relief. Yoke maintenance arms that originally supported the lamp-lighter's ladder are still in evidence. The small trough set into the base of the structure was for the use of dogs.

Acknowledged as the only remaining example of this design in Scotland, it was given a grade C listing in 2012.

Elie Historical Society is to be congratulated for its ambition to return this remarkable structure to something approaching its original condition.

A number of previous restorations have been carried out over the years including one by the Preservation Society many decades ago.

The Society has made a donation towards the Historical Society's project, matching that of the bequest to it from long-time ENFPS member, Stuart Hall.

KILRENNY & CELLARDYKE

The last year has seen an interesting spectrum of planning applications for Cellardyke and Kilrenny with around thirty in total over the last twelve months.

At either end of the spectrum was the commendable proposal to install solar PV panels on a home in Cellardyke that was refused because of the building's Listed status, though not within the Conservation Area (CA) and an approved retrofitting of a currently 'in vogue' Juliet Balcony.

A large number of applications were forthcoming from Kilrenny in this past year and all but one of these from properties within the CA boundary. These ranged from tree maintenance to a two-storey extension to an 18th century cottage.

In previous years the planning list has been swollen by applications from within the Muir "Silverdykes" housing scheme, which for the most part were for extensions to provide greater living space in the new homes. These were outstandingly conspicuous by their complete absence this year, with the only application from within that housing development being one made retrospectively for the erection of a timber outbuilding, and its proposed change of use to that of a 'beauty salon'.

In a similar case of an emergent home-based business - one of the many former shops along the old High Street of Cellardyke, which are now houses - has been granted consent for use as the premises of an Osteopathic Clinic. The building still retains much of its original format as well as its distinctive shop front, features which lend themselves ideally to the repurposing of that part of the building for its new occupation.

Elsewhere in Cellardyke a category of application becoming prevalent is for CLEs, that is a 'Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing)'. These are basically applications for the change of use of a property from a permanent private residence to a holiday rental premises. The increase of former domestic residences becoming "short term lets" is now quite common, within the Conservation Area, as more family homes are sold to absent owners, or property rental groups, and redeveloped for irregular occupation by holidaymakers.

A significant change to the familiar streetscape of Cellardyke, for many, will be the loss of Barnett's bakery and shop on the corner of Rodger and Fowler Streets. With their new business premises having been developed outwith the urban constraint of Cellardyke, the Listed Building at Barnett's old site has received consent for conversion to a two storey house and four flatted dwellings.

The architectural design for the change of use has been laudably sympathetic to the fundamental fabric and façade of the building, by retaining its essential character. However it must be said that the proposed changes will improve the

industrial countenance of the building's street elevation from austere and unattractive to one that expresses a livelier and more active occupancy.

Somewhat less laudable is the (at the time of writing) undecided application, 23/01744/FULL, by Fife Council's Shoreline & Harbours Service proposing a somewhat questionable installation of a semi-permanent net barrier across the mouth of Skinfasthaven at Cellardyke's East End. This has received several objections, not all of them polite, and not least one from NatureScot.

The declared reason behind the net is to stop seaweed entering the harbour and accumulating within it. Though not stated, it seems property owner(s) around the harbour had objected to the smell of seaweed on the shore within the harbour and made a case to have this dealt with by Fife Council, who have responsibility to maintain the harbour for the Common Good.

This has clearly presented FC with a difficult conundrum. Previously such accumulation of weed at Anstruther and Cellardyke was cleared and, to mutual benefit, spread on agricultural land. Unfortunately this is no longer possible due to environmental regulations and the shameful amount of plastic detritus that contaminates the weed. The presence of plastics also blights the alternative disposal options considered by FC which means they will incur a far greater financial liability. A recent weed removal operation for the harbour cost £18,500 which was a significant proportion of the annual harbours' budget and not a financially viable practice for FC to continue. Hence the desperate idea that a net barrier would solve this problem by catching the tens of tons of weed involved and retaining them at the harbour mouth.

A laudable initiative by the Cellardyke Trust is their imaginative use of redundant phone boxes, turning one located at John Street into a children's library and this one at Skinfasthaven made into an exhibition space with an art installation created from plastic flotsam, complete with a mini library alongside.

The phone boxes had been threatened with removal by BT but who were able to donate them to a registered charity such as the Trust – a very useful precedent for other East Neuk burghs to follow.



LANDWARD

Not much has happened for “Landward” these last twelve months regarding planning matters.

However, ENFPS stalwart Pat Hughes thought members would like to know about these interesting old West Drive gate pillars at Charleton with their inscriptions marking the dates when Charleton bought the farms and the initials of the laird at the time, which she photographed during a walk before going on to tend sheep for the rest of the day.



And at Kellie Castle, the Lorimer Society held its Autumn Lecture on Saturday 30th September which included the following presentations:

- ‘Art, Craft & Trade’ – the plasterwork of Hannah and Robert Lorimer. Decorative plaster authority Steven Blench spoke on the plasterwork of both Hannah and Robert Lorimer, looking at Hannah Lorimer's surviving decorative schemes at the House of Falkland. The talk also focused on Robert Lorimer's plasterwork designs and specifications. Steven and Ffion Blench run a Fife-based decorative plastering company and have worked on a variety of prestigious projects at Stirling Castle and Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms. Steven previously worked for the Royal Collection cataloguing decorative artworks at various royal palaces.
- ‘The Cunning Artificer’ - blacksmith James Bennet of Arncroach. Harriet Blakeman explored the life and work of James Bennet, one of the craftsmen from Arncroach employed by Robert Lorimer, who gave form to some of Lorimer's Arts & Crafts designs. Alongside the joiner and furniture maker, William Wheeler, and the embroidering postmistress, Jeannie Skinner, the ‘handicrafts of Arncroach’ enjoyed brief celebrity status. Bennet made some of the ironwork at Kellie Castle, and Lorimer designed major alterations to Bennet's home Lundie House, in Arncroach.

LARGO & LUNDIN LINKS

ENFPS visit to Carrick House Drumeldrie 27 May

About 40 members and guests enjoyed a visit and guided tour of Carrick, the home of ENFPS Treasurer David Jenkins and his wife Pam,



Carrick Villa is located just off the Fife Coastal Path right down on the shore, with glorious views of Dumbarnie Links, Shell Bay and the Forth estuary.

David explained the history of the house and members enjoyed an idyllic sunny afternoon strolling around the garden before sharing in light refreshments on the terrace.

Largo Parish Church

In September the church celebrated its 400th anniversary with a visit from the current Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt. Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, who offered a fascinating insight into Largo's Pictish history and heritage. The Largo Stone at the entrance to the churchyard is particularly significant regarding the area's Pictish history.

There was also a Flower Festival featuring the life of the congregation and Largo community and also other events. Largo Church is one of the fortunate few of the Church of Scotland's historic East Neuk churches that has been spared from closure in its review of the future of its church buildings.

The Twinning of Largo

Largo has now been twinned with a beautiful French town, Villennes-sur-Seine, 19 miles west of Paris. A local contingency, including some of our school children, attended the twinning in the Autumn and were met with a warm welcome with a pipe band parading through the streets and locals waving Scottish flags. Our French compatriots will be making a visit to Largo in May when hopefully we can return such hospitality. A number of events to mark the occasion are in the process of being organised.

Largo Communities Together

Largo Communities Together, a local voluntary organisation, continue to do lots of positive work enhancing community life by working with local groups, and individuals, to support and develop sustainable initiatives.

Among their many projects is the Development of a Local Place Plan, the formation of the Largo Pier Group and Friends of Largo Bay.

The Local Place Plan ‘aims to provide a vivid and holistic picture of Largo’s community assets and aspirations reflecting a collective commitment, collaboration, and community spirit’. With this vision in mind a series of community consultations have been undertaken with a number of workshops exploring Housing and Built Environment – *preserving local character and community housing needs*; Roads and Infrastructure; Active travel – *inter-village connectivity through network of improved pathways*; Environment & Recreation- *safeguarding and enhancing environmental assets*; Cultural, Community & Care. With the Local Place Plan, representing the voice of the community, now completed it is now with Fife Council to consider and can now feed into a Community Action Plan.

Largo Pier

The Pier Group, whose mission it is to repair and restore the Pier to its former glory, has continued its valuable work. Since its formation a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Crusoe Hotel agreeing in principle that the Pier could be taken into community ownership. A major fundraising appeal has been completed and temporary repairs have been undertaken to ensure the Pier does not suffer further from winter storms.

The group has been working with a civil and marine engineer consultant on the design for the renovated Pier. This has taken them through to RIBA Stage 3 and the production of a fully costed proposal, drawings, and other associated materials. They are now in the process of engaging a new consultant design engineer to take them through the next phase. While this will mean a delay in the final go-ahead to proceed with the completion work (estimated Spring 2025) all the work that has been completed so far will allow the new engineers to make rapid progress.

Friends Of Largo Bay

Friends of Largo Bay’s top priority is protecting and conserving our coast. The group has joined Restoration Forth, a national seagrass project and the Coastal Communities Network connecting them to shoreline-related organisations across Scotland and offering advice and support. Under the guidance of local resident Janice Duncan, the group has undertaken an extensive study to monitor the shores, waters and species of Largo Bay.

Supported by NatureScot, this program aims to gather critical data that reflects the area's biodiversity and habitat changes.

A recent discovery by the group, a surprise cluster of seagrass beds in the bay, has added intrigue to the study. Recognised for its vital role in providing habitat for many marine species and its ability to sequester carbon, seagrass is an incredible resource that is a focal point of national restoration efforts.

Restoration Forth have been working to restore seagrass along the Firth of Forth. By building a species library and employing photo stations to monitor habitats, Friends of Largo Bay are working to collect information on the ever-changing environment of Largo Bay. The collected data will guide decision-making on priorities, increase local awareness, and draw on community skills to paint a rich and detailed picture of the biodiversity and value of Largo Bay.

The Friends, along with other members of the community, have already taken part in sea grass planting days with more planned. The group are also involved in The 100 Species Project, a national art project, and head up regular beach cleaning days.

Silverburn Flax Mills

Phase 2 of the transformation of Silverburn's flax mill has got underway after almost 11 years of planning, with £3.5 million of funding now secured from the National Lottery. In partnership with Fife Council, Fife Employment Access Trust (FEAT) started on the regeneration work in August, aimed at bringing a new lease of life to the semi-derelict mill.

Expected to take over two years to complete, the current space will be transformed into a visitor centre and community hub, with a café/restaurant, backpackers' hostel, artist studios, shop, flexible/community spaces and offices for staff. The renovated building will also celebrate the rich industrial, social and natural heritage and history of Silverburn Park and the mill through displays and exhibition space.

Silverburn was originally donated by the Tullis Russell family to Leven Town Council in 1973 and was used as a residential centre and crafts workshops, and later as a mini-farm with domestic and exotic animals. FEAT took over in 2019 and by September 2020 had completed phase 1 of their redevelopment plan by opening Silverburn's Cottage Window Café and the very successful Silverburn Park Campsite.

Lundin Links Hotel

At the time of writing we are not aware of any further development as to the future of this site, which remains an untidy blot in the centre of the village.

PITTENWEEM

Sea wall collapse



Late October's Storm Babet caused the collapse of the stone sea wall behind properties on Abbey Road, threatening the grade A listed properties at The Gyles and other listed buildings on Abbey Wall Road.

For about a month Fife Council declined to accept responsibility despite the serious risk of complete collapse of the buildings affected if a further storm ensued. However, following concerns raised by the Preservation Society and local councillors, Fife Council Chief Executive Ken Gourlay intervened to authorise emergency stabilisation works under the powers the Council has under the Coast Protection Act.

The stabilisation works were a major exercise, with poured concrete providing the base for enormous precast concrete blocks forming a retaining wall.

The blocks were craned in as were the huge bags of gravel used for backfilling. This retaining wall is designed to be faced with a stone wall required as the old stone wall was in the conservation area and will have to be re-instated.

Planning matters

Work has started on the Campion Homes/ Kingdom Housing Association development of 29 houses north of the main road off Station Court, all affordable housing, well-designed and landscaped with a varied mix of property types. This is a welcome start to tackling the shortage of housing for local people in the East Neuk.

The scheme that received planning permission for 36 dwellinghouses north of the main road has fallen through because of the collapse of the development company. This is to be regretted because it included an attractive crescent of well-designed modern houses and made good use of the existing listed farm buildings at the entrance of the site, while at the same time removing the derelict former garage on the main road. There are hopes the scheme may be revived by another developer.



Grade A listed No 18 East Shore has been re-roofed using new handmade Sandtoft Greenwood pantiles as recommended by Fife Council Built Heritage Adviser. Their dull finish means they do not look too new and they do not have the slightly shiny look of pre-weathered tiles, hence are a solution to renewing pantiled roofs, as it is now difficult to obtain sufficient quantities of good condition old pantiles.

Scottish Water

Work has now started on Scottish Water's major sewage outfall works which extend along the whole frontage from East Shore to West Shore. A major benefit of the scheme is that the existing sewage pipes that disfigure the foreshore will be removed.

Larachmhor mural

Last year the Preservation Society alerted Fife Council Planners to this unauthorised work to the Grade B listed Larachmhor Tavern at the harbour.



The owner made a retrospective planning application to obtain planning consent for the mural, but this was turned down after numerous local objections, and Fife Council issued an enforcement notice to require the mural to be removed.

An appeal has now been made against the enforcement notice, albeit by 'Weem Witch' author Leonard Low rather than by the owner; despite this irregularity the Council is considering the appeal.

All this has generated quite a furore in the press and social media with articles in *The Times*, *Telegraph* and *Guardian* and even a Change.org petition against the removal of the mural. And the 'Witches of Scotland' campaign is now involved, with spokesperson Zoe Venditozzi complaining in the press about failure to remove the mural, saying 'it's about time to move beyond the trope of the old crone with the warty nose'.

Inadvertently the Society's action has created free publicity for the Larachmhor and renewed notoriety for Pittenweem's terrible witch persecution past.

ST MONANS & ABERCROMBIE

The emphasis on ‘amenity’ seems to have been a theme for the planning applications that have been made this year.



The reroofing project of 1 West Shore with two catslide dormers and a velux rooflight was completed early in the year to give more space, affording light and amenity for the owners who wish to be resident and work here. Sandtoft New Arcadia pantiles were used for their ‘pre-weathered’ appearance which has the effect that the new roof looks more of a piece with the older roofs nearby.

Similar work on 1 Midshore across the road is currently underway, though the additional request for photovoltaic panels on the tops of the catslides was rejected as not being in keeping for a listed building in a Conservation Area.

The owners had also argued that they plan to live and work in the village more permanently and required the improved amenity afforded by their plans. It is certainly welcome that older houses are being renovated with constant and more eco-friendly use in mind, installing insulation and other conservation-permitted improvements.



The new estate by Lochay Homes has been completed and the affordable housing is now occupied.

The allotments on the site are also finished, each one having a shed and water supply, and they rapidly found keen owners. - altogether a pleasing addition to the village.

Additionally, there is a service building and a large polytunnel providing a gardening resource for the community.



ENFPS members might also be interested in news about two other much-loved historic structures in St Monans, the tidal pool and the windmill which was the subject of a major restoration by the Preservation Society in the 1970s.

Many locals were pleased to see the windmill open (briefly!) during the St Monans Art Festival in early September as a display space for “Immerse”, an exhibition by local artist Joanna van den Berg.

The result of a two-year project exploring our relationship with water, the exhibition was deservedly popular with over 600 visitors and, for many festival visitors, also offered their first chance to see inside the building which has been closed for some time.

Given the level of interest, it has been suggested that OnFife might look at arrangements for opening the mill on an occasional basis in the future. “Immerse” looked at the increase in popularity of cold-water swimming, particularly in the St Monans tidal pool below the windmill.

Since its Covid Lockdown re-birth, thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Jones and local volunteers, the pool now has a loyal following of local swimmers.

This was evidenced by the number who turned out for the Ne'erday Dook and those who got behind an on-line appeal for funds to repair the damage caused by Storm Babet last October. A "Just Giving" page set up by Jennifer in November attracted 143 supporters, between them contributing £2,835, or an amazing 354% of the target amount set to make the necessary repairs.

Supporters recognise that the pool cannot last forever, but hope to extend the life of this valuable local amenity for a little longer. The East Neuk of Fife is lucky to have several tidal pools still in use and they are an important part of the local history and landscape.

SIR ANDREW WOOD TOWER, UPPER LARGO

Previous Annual Reports had commented on the derelict state of the Tower, so in late 2022 the Society contacted Largo Estate to enquire if there were anything it could do to assist the Estate in stabilising this historic structure in order to arrest its deterioration.



The Tower is the remaining fragment of Wood's medieval residence and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The Society has a particular interest in the Tower, as in the late 1970s it led the project for the Tower's restoration which led to the external shell being fully restored in 1982.

A positive response was received from the Estate which is owned by the Maitland-Makgill-Crichton family, and a meeting was held on site with Alexandra Crichton and Kathryn Becket, manager of the Estate's Walled Garden.

Bill Kennaway and Alison Genet attended for the Society as well as conservation architect Stephen Newsom, who kindly volunteered his time.

The site around the Tower was extremely overgrown to such an extent that some fairly extensive chainsaw work by Kathryn was needed to clear a path to get close to it.

We were able to access the interior but were only able to make a cursory inspection from ground level.



The main items identified and remedial actions agreed were as follows:

- ivy encroachment –fortunately this has not yet affected the roof structure. The Estate agreed to undertake its removal with live roots cut to discourage regrowth as an urgent priority.
- roof structure and coverings – these date from the 1980s restoration and appear to be in relatively good order, with a limited number of slipped slates. The weathervane (recorded in a photo on the projects page of the Preservation Society website) has fallen off, leaving an unsatisfactory hole at the apex of the turreted roof. There were a small number of slipped or missing slates, and their continuing replacement was recommended to ensure the roof remains watertight.
- Windows : numerous missing panes of glass have allowed smaller birds to enter and ivy to grow through, but the metal grills facing the windows internally that were far-sightedly fitted in the 1980 restoration have prevented pigeon infestation. The Estate agreed to replace the broken panes.
- walls: the harling dates from the 1980s restoration and may owe its white finish to the crushed seashells used in the top coat. The harling is in reasonable condition except for a small area of damage at the basement door.
- interior: there are no floors, but the timber book cases/pigeon roosts at the top floor level are in good condition and there is a lot of surviving lime plaster. The timber lintels to fireplaces and window openings are affected by woodworm, and this should be monitored.

Overall, our conclusion was that the building is not under immediate threat and would be stabilised if the recommended actions are followed. The Estate has advised that work has started at the Tower and will continue over the summer.

We advised that there is potential for enlisting grant support for a restoration limited to the exterior of the Tower, but for the grant application to be successful it would need to be part of a scheme to tidy up the surrounding area and stabilise the vulnerable wall structures of the Walled Orchard in the vicinity of the Tower so as to allow reasonably close viewing of the Tower by the public. The Estate has advised that it is planning to improve the access so it can potentially apply for funding.

In the longer term the site has exciting potential, with its Walled Garden and Walled Orchard, nearby cottages and derelict steading that could be imaginatively developed, and the Tower could be part of this.

EAST NEUK CHURCH CLOSURES

Fife Presbytery's Mission Plan and Historic Churches Working Group

Fife Presbytery published its Mission Plan document in 2022 which set out a programme for retention or disposal for its church properties; it subsequently set up an Historic Churches Working Group (HCWG) with Revd Dr Donald MacEwan as convenor to advise communities on historic churches facing disposal.

Donald spoke on the subject at the ENFPS's AGM in May 2023, and he now convenes a Historic Churches Support Group in the Presbytery.

HCWG held a number of meetings with congregations and community groups aimed at exploring the issues involved and the possibilities for transfer to community ownership.

Its remit was limited to the grade A listed churches scheduled for closure, i.e. St Monans and Pittenweem, so it did not extend to other listed churches to close such as Elie and Carnbee.

The Mission Plan also stated that historic East Neuk churches of Crail and Largo were to be retained beyond 2027, but all such plans remain under annual review by the national church.

The June 2023 interim report issued by HCWG usefully clarifies the Church of Scotland General Trustees' policy in this matter, i.e. that they 'would be happy to enter into a period of exclusivity with a locally-interested community group exhibiting a formal constitution, a business plan with an appropriate fundraising element and agreement that any off-market price subsequently agreed should be predicated on an independent valuation. They would expect a trust to be functional within two years'.

This clarification from the Church of Scotland is a welcome sign of its good intent towards the burghs affected and for their hopes of keeping their historic church buildings in beneficial community use.

Pittenweem Parish Church and Pittenweem Church Hall

The Mission Plan scheduled both the grade A listed church and the grade B listed Church Hall for disposal by December 2027. The Mission Plan states that Pittenweem is to become a part of the new East Neuk Parish (East) along with those of Anstruther & Cellardyke and Crail, and conversations about the future pattern of ministry have begun with a new facilitator.



After amalgamation of the parishes, church services at Pittenweem would cease and the church building would be disposed of, which could be to community ownership or failing that to auction. The church hall would also be disposed of.

The main interest of the church building is its Reformation era external fabric and its three post WW2 stained glass windows by William Wilson, Scotland's foremost stained glass artist of the time.

A preliminary working group of congregation and community council members including an ENFPS representative was set up in summer 2023 with meetings held in August and September. This eventually led to a public meeting on 1 February 2024 aimed at acquiring the church building for use as a community asset.

There was sufficient support at the meeting to establish a sizeable list of supporters, and a new working group was set up comprising members of the community, congregation, and with ENFPS representation, chaired by councillor Sean Dillon.

The first step for the working group will be to raise funds for a feasibility study/business plan to examine options for community use of the building.

Pending the working group setting itself up as a legal entity with constitution, bank account etc, the funding application will have to be made by another body – Fife Historic Buildings Trust may be able to do this; alternatively ENFPS has advised that if necessary it would be prepared to step in to make the funding applications on behalf of the working group.

St Monans Parish Church

Also scheduled for disposal by December 2027, this iconic grade A listed church building no longer hosts services which are now held in the Church Hall, itself a grade B listed building which is scheduled by Fife Presbytery for retention beyond the 5 years. St Monans Church was linked by sharing a minister to Kilconquhar and Elie through East Neuk Trinity Church but that linkage has been dissolved.

A small working group made up of congregation and community council members was set up with a view to taking over stewardship of the Kirk. Called St Monans Auld Kirk Enterprise (SMAKE) this group held its first meeting in June 2023 and had an Open Weekend in the Kirk in September, aimed at getting the community's views on what should happen to their Kirk.

SMAKE initially drew up a Visioning Document to give themselves a roadmap of where they were heading. Through the agency of Fife Historic Buildings Trust (FHBT), SMAKE secured the significant funding needed to produce a very thorough Initial Economic Assessment report which examined options for future use of the Kirk and the financial implications thereof.

The report's findings were that a wedding venue combined with café would be the most viable option. Advice from FHBT's Deborah Kent has been very helpful and it is hoped that the Trust can guide the project to sources of further funds.

The Church of Scotland appears to be more than keen on a speedy resolution of transfer of ownership but needs to provide Structural Condition Reports to enable SMAKE to assess the feasibility of the project.

SMAKE have recently made the decision to become a Company Limited by Guarantee and are getting the Articles drawn up so as to be in a position to take on ownership of the Kirk.

Once SMAKE are constituted with a bank account etc, ENFPS has agreed to contribute £5000 from its reserves towards their campaign.

Elie Parish Church & Toll Green Hall

The Mission Plan scheduled the grade B listed Elie Church building to be sold or otherwise disposed of by December 2027, and the Kirk Session are taking steps to ensure that they work towards this. The congregation remains part of East Neuk Trinity Parish Church that includes Elie and Kilconquhar churches. The recently restored Toft Green Hall has been retained by the Trinity Parish.

Carnbee Parish Church

Also scheduled for disposal by December 2027, this beautiful little church dates from 1793, and has Lorimer-designed interior furnishings and heraldic arms of 1st Earl of Kellie and Bethune of Kilconquhar. No information is forthcoming about its future.

PITTENWEEM PRIORY – INTERPRETIVE PANELS

The Society has made good progress with its project for interpretive panels at Pittenweem Priory, with all necessary planning and site owner consents obtained, and with the text content for the interpretive panels now drafted.

Our funding target to complete the scheme is £21,000, with £13,000 raised against this to date including £2,000 from our reserves – this is ambitious but we are aiming for the same standard of illustrated interpretive panels that Historic Environment Scotland and National Trust for Scotland provide at their sites, and we believe the historical importance of the Priory warrants this.



The text and illustrations on the panels will explain the Priory's religious, political and social history from its origins as a shore base for the early monastery on May Island through to its later role as a religious house and a seat for important national figures who were the churchmen and post-reformation noblemen owners. There is therefore an impressive narrative to be passed on to visitors.

VISIT TO SANDFORD HOUSE NEWPORT-ON-TAY

About 30 members of the Society enjoyed a conducted tour of the house led by our hosts Ralph Webster and Evelyn Hardie.



Sandford House is an outstanding example of an Arts & Crafts house, one of only two in Scotland designed by the celebrated architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott.

The house was built for the Valentine family in the early 1900s, Harden

J Valentine being a very successful Dundee photographic publisher notable for his firm's holiday postcards.

Originally built with half-timbered walls and a thatched roof, the building suffered a major fire in 1910 and was re-built with harled walls and clay rosemary roof tiles, again to Baillie Scott's design.

Following its change of use to a hotel in the 1960s a large third wing was added, to a tactful design by conservation architects Robert Hurd & Partners. A similarly tactful approach has been taken by Ralph and Evelyn in their recent conversion of two of the wings into self-contained Airbnb apartments.



Our hosts gave us a fascinating account of their hands-on restoration of the building from a near derelict state and entertained us with stories from the house's past.



This included being the rest and recreation base for the aircrew of a WW2 Norwegian flying boat squadron that was based on the Tay at Wormit.

Notable features of the house include a minstrel's gallery in the main hall and an Arts & Crafts tiled wishing well in the courtyard.



An interesting discovery during the restoration was that the external walls are of cavity brick construction, perhaps explaining why the house has avoided the dampness problems that have plagued other Arts & Crafts properties of the period.

A number of our members had fond memories of the house in its days as the Sandford Country House Hotel.

Our tour ended with the traditional ENFPS drinks and exquisite nibbles in the house's spacious kitchen/dining room overlooking the Tay.

A donation of the proceeds of ticket sales was made to our hosts' chosen charity, the RNLI.

SACRED LANDSCAPES PROJECT – DR BESS RHODES

Many members of the Society attended the launch of the website of the University of St Andrews’ “Sacred Landscapes” project, held at Parliament Hall on South Street on 27th February.



The website presents the history of current and former places of worship in Fife through an interactive map with photographs and much more.

A key figure in this venture is Dr Bess Rhodes, pictured here at the presentation: members will remember the informative and entertaining talk she gave on her research for the project to the Society’s AGM last year.

The launch of this website comes at a crucial time as many of our local Church of Scotland churches face uncertain futures.

The research undertaken for the project has highlighted the vulnerability of church buildings once they cease to fulfil a religious function. The research has also revealed what a small proportion of disused religious sites remain as public spaces. Of churches in coastal Fife closed in the 20th century only 22% are now used for commercial or community purposes. Thus far only 16% of churches closed in the 21st century are filling commercial or community functions, and at least two churches in coastal Fife have already been demolished

The Sacred Landscape team wish to support more detailed consideration of the future of Scotland’s places of worship, informed by past experience of changes to religious sites. The website gives the example of Kirkcaldy’s medieval Old Parish Church where a local trust has taken ownership and are supporting a mix of uses including hosting concerts, supporting community events, serving as a heritage centre and providing a venue for some religious services.

Do visit www.sacredlandscapes.org and discover Fife’s fascinating religious history and how more than a thousand years are reflected in our land and buildings.

FIFE COUNCIL PLANNING DEPT – WEEKLY UPDATES

The most significant development for ENFPS area representatives in consulting and commenting on Planning Applications in the future has been the loss from Fife Council Planning Services of their dependable distribution of the “Weekly Update of Planning Applications” which had been provided to many individuals and organisations who were previously advised of, or consulted, for comment on current applications. This simple service of publishing a compilation of the previous week’s applications has now been lost to both private and professional consultees. The reason given was the euphemism that the software being used to provide the facility is “no longer supported”.

This meant that this service has been lost both for internal and external distribution of the lists by Fife Council’s Planning Services. The last distribution of the lists was made in November 2023 and although nothing has been hidden or lost with regard to public accessibility or consultation of planning applications since then, area representatives now have to be proactive in referring to any new applications. All the information contained within the weekly updates is still available online, but not in such a visually convenient format as the greatly missed ‘lists’.

The loss of the Weekly Updates is a particular blow to the Preservation Society as it means that Steve Liscoe our Cellardyke area representative is no longer able to perform the invaluable service of distributing the Update information to his fellow area representatives. This was of great assistance to our area representatives in monitoring of planning applications affecting their location, and will make this more of a challenge in future.

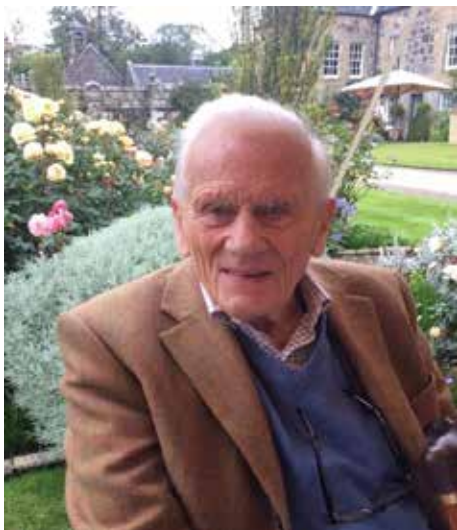
Our thanks are due to Steve for his diligence and perseverance in providing this service over many years.

OBITUARIES

The Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, KT, GCVO (1927 – 2023)

As Lord Balniel, Robin Crawford had a distinguished political career, serving as a Member of Parliament from 1955 to 1974 representing Hertford and then Welwyn and Hatfield and Minister of Defence from 1970 to 1972. He was Lord Chamberlain to HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother from 1992 until her death in 2002 and was active in many aspects of Scottish life.

His father was a founding member of the Society, and Robin Crawford was also involved with the work of the Society from its beginnings in 1961. In 1988 he took on the role of Chairman and served in that position for ten years before retiring and becoming Honorary President in 1998 – a position he held for twenty years.



When asked about his time as Chairman he highlighted four projects with which he was especially pleased to have been associated.

These were the armorial stones initiated by General David Alexander; the Fife milestones and waymarkers by Alec Darwood and supported originally by Lord Crawford and now maintained by Fife Council.

He was particularly interested in the unique Arncroach milestone which has hands on it.

The restoration of the windmill engine at the St Monans salt pans and the restoration of Kilrenny doocot were other favourite projects.

Lord and Lady Crawford were generous and hospitable hosts to members of the Society at Balcarres on a number of occasions.

David Pirie, RIBA, FRIAS, FCI Arb (1941 – 2023)

David was born in Leven and educated at George Watson's College, Edinburgh, and then studied at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, graduating in 1964 with a Diploma in Architecture. He joined the Hurd Rolland architectural practice in 1964, became a partner in 1971, and spent his whole working life with them. During this time he worked on a wide range of projects including the restoration and reuse of many historic properties amongst which were King's Wark Leith, Dalry House Edinburgh, Cramond Tower, 1-2 Midshore St Monans and the Net House in Lower Largo.



David was elected to the committee of the Preservation Society in 1985 as a representative for Largo and Lundin Links and as Chairman in 1999.

In that role he oversaw a number of important projects including the erection of the date stone at the Fisheries Museum, Anstruther, the resurrection of the Standing Council of all the Preservation Societies and Trusts in East Fife and the awards to buildings of excellence in the East Neuk where his architectural background was of especial help.

At the end of his time as Chairman, David was elected an Honorary Vice-President of the Society and thereafter took an on-going interest in our work and especially in Largo and Lundin Links where he and Irene lived for many years.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year ended December 31 2023

The Society's apparent wealth needs some explanation.

Firstly, M&G receipts continue to be withheld pending the formal establishment of the St Monans Auld Kirk Enterprise which the donor has confirmed they wish to continue to support. Secondly, considerable funds have been donated for the Pittenweem Priory Interpretive Panels project and are being held in the account until needed. Thirdly, in the process of transferring title of 5 Station Road into the name of the newly constituted Society it was felt advisable to reassess the value of the property which was still valued at the original purchase price.

Once all these factors are taken into account the Society's financial position remains secure however. The only point to note is the extortionate standing charge from Scottish Power which we are having great difficulty renegotiating and currently stands at £76 per month. The old bank account ending in 8195 has now been closed, so all subscriptions should be paid into the active account ending in 7868.

East Neuk of Fife Preservation Society

Statement of Receipts & Payments

Year Ended 31st December 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Receipts	£	£
Bank Interest	285	33
Members subscriptions	1,695	1,643
Tax recovery on subscriptions	395	344
Donations	11,256	1,082
Outings	1,111	1,346
M&G	2,565	2,490
	17,307	6,938
Payments		
Printing	773	756
Admin	551	150
Website		84
Insurance	277	225
Heat & Light	529	335
AGM, Visit and Reception expenses	520	841
Donations	500	130
St Monans Church payments		
Pittenweem Boards Project	1,769	
	4,921	2,521
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u><u>12,386</u></u>	<u><u>4,417</u></u>

TREASURER'S REPORT (Contd)

Statement of Balances as at 31 December 2023

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fixed Assets		
Heritable Property	30,000	10,000
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	40,906	28,518
Net Assets	<u>70,906</u>	<u>38,518</u>
Reserves		
Balance B/Fwd	38,518	34,101
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	12,386	4,417
Revaluation of 5 Station Road	20,000	
Total Reserves	<u>70,904</u>	<u>38,518</u>

Registered Charity No: SC 051336

APPENDIX - PERMITTED RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Scottish Government's policies that address the need for sustainability and the consequences of the energy and climate crisis include the Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan (January 2023) which sets out actions to be taken to deliver a net zero energy system; a Heat in Buildings Strategy (October 2021) which addresses steps to be taken to decarbonise Scotland's buildings with the intention of achieving zero emissions heating and cooling systems by 2045; and the Cleaner Air for Scotland strategy (July 2021) which should improve air quality.

It is proposed that solar panels could be attached to dwellinghouses and to flats which are located in conservation areas, subject to solar panels not being permitted:

- On a principal elevation or a side elevation where that side elevation fronts a road;
- If any part of the solar panel protrudes more than 1 metre from the outer surface of the wall or roof;
- Within the curtilage of a listed building.

There is a proposal to introduce a new class of PDR for the installation of wind turbines mounted on the wall or roof of a dwellinghouse. Fortunately, this right will not apply within conservation areas or to listed buildings.

Currently, replacing the windows of domestic buildings which are located in a conservation area will generally require an application for planning permission – unless the replacements are exact replicas of that being replaced and the external appearance of the building is not materially affected. For properties within conservation areas it is proposed that PDRs for the replacement of windows of buildings will be introduced subject to specific limitations.

These will state that for windows situated on the front elevation of the building, or side elevation fronting a road, the PDR would only apply if the replacement window matches the existing window with respect to its opening mechanism, the dimensions and colour of its frame and astragals, and the number, orientation and colour of panes.

Currently it is usually required that replacement doors and windows in conservation areas are made of the same material (e.g. existing wood frames must be replaced with wood). It is proposed that materials will not be specifically referred to in the PDR. The reason is that this could significantly reduce flexibility to install materials which are more thermally efficient and/or more sympathetic in design terms. Irrespective of whether planning permission is required or not, consent must be obtained where the building in question is

listed. In addition, the PDR relating to windows will not apply in World Heritage Sites (for example, Edinburgh's New Town).

A further aspect of energy conservation is the addition of external cladding. There is currently a "one metre bubble" provision for domestic alterations that allows installation of external cladding without seeking planning permission. However, these PDRs do not apply in conservation areas. Given the potentially substantial impact that installation of external cladding could have on a building's visual appearance, and the impact this could have on the character of an area, it is not intended that external cladding could be carried out under PDR in a conservation area and this will continue to require a planning application.

The review of PDRs also recognises that the electricity network will need to be significantly upgraded and expanded in the coming years to support renewable energy generation and to meet the demand for electricity associated with transition to low carbon technologies. Under PDRs it is proposed to include the technology required for smart meter communication, power lines / interconnectors and electricity substations.

In order to modify the current legislation (which is the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Scotland) Order 1992), it is required that a statutory instrument is laid in the Scottish Parliament to put in place the new PDRs. It is anticipated that this will happen in March, 2024. It will be interesting to see the precise wording that is adopted and how this changes the requirements for planning applications for alterations to be made within conservation areas and to listed buildings. A link to the consultation document is given below:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-government-review-permitted-development-rights-phase-3-consultation/>





William Wilson, St Monance 1937
'Copper Etching Plate'