

# Annual Report to Historic Scotland

April 2014 – March 2015

# Chairman's introduction

**2013 – 2014** has seen a tremendous change in the Trust's activities. At the start of this financial year we were sorry to receive the resignation of both the then chairman, Phil Cleghorn and vice chairman, Jim Panton. Both Trustees had served on the Board for 7 years and played an important part in building the Trust to its present secure position.

We would all extend our sincere thanks to both for their commitment and support of the work of the Trust over these years. We will report on our current Board later in the report.

Sonya Linskaill, one of our managers took a 6 month sabbatical during this period resulting in the Trust taking on Lindsay Lennie as a consultant to cover her post. Lindsay's contribution has proved valuable to the Trust and as a result we have extended her consultancy. She remains with the Trust to date.

Work continued on the development of the King Street Funding Initiative and the pilot Traditional Buildings Health Check Scheme. Managers and Trustees were delighted to have been awarded by Historic Scotland the project management of this prestigious pilot over the next 5 years.

Finally the Trust offices have moved! After many years of residing with Stirling Council, and a big thank you to SC for its support in kind, the Trust has taken up new offices at Stirling Business Centre. These offices will provide the Trust with the space and facilities to assist with its growth over the next period particularly with the arrival of our new staff to assist with the TBHCS.

With the continued support of Historic Scotland and Stirling Council, our new trustees and staff I am confident that the Trust can continue to focus on its agenda to contribute to the economic resilience and sustainability of Stirling City Centre and look forward to our continued delivery of our key projects through 2014 -15.

**David Black**  
**Chairman Stirling City Heritage Trust**

# Board of Trustees and Staff

## Board of Trustees 2013 -14

Following resignation of our present Chairman and Vice chairman in March 2013, David Black who has served on the Board for 6 years took over role of Chairman with Cllr Jim Thomson taking on the role of Vice chair.

The Trust embarked on a 'new trustee' recruitment and was delighted at the interest and calibre of applicants. In September 2013 three new trustees were appointed to the Board.

### Existing Trustees

**David Black** (Chair) is an IT professional and freelance broadcaster who has lived and worked in Stirling since 1989. His passion and dedication to Stirling's heritage is demonstrated by his involvement in a number of groups including the Mercat Cross and City Centre Community Council and Stirling District Tourism Ltd.

**Councillor Jim Thomson** (Vice Chair) has been a Councillor for the Castle Ward since 2007, representing Town Centre, Top of the Town, Raploch, Causewayhead, Cornton and Cambuskenneth. Born in Stirling he is very proud to be a Son of the Rock. He spent his formative years in and around the natural and historic surroundings of Stirling Castle and surrounding areas.

**Councillor Christine Simpson** represents the ward of Stirling West comprising Cambusbarron, Cultenhove, St Ninians, Carron Valley and King's Park which has many sites and buildings of major historic interest. Councillor Simpson is also a Trustee of Cowane's Hospital in Stirling.

**Mary Taylor** lives in a listed building in Stirling, previously restored with the help of the Trust. She joined the Board of SCHAT to bring a consumer perspective to the work of the Trust. With a professional background in housing, she also brings understanding of issues around maintenance, repair and conservation. She has served previously on the Mercat Cross and City Centre Community Council.

### New Trustees

**Caron Moodie** is a chartered surveyor who has lived and worked in Stirling since 1999. She works on property development projects on behalf of Stirling Development Agency Ltd and brings an understanding of commercial property to the Board. She has a keen interest in the conservation of the City's historic buildings.

**Gordon Edwards** is a local Chartered Structural Engineer who has lived and worked in Stirling since 1989. He has worked on a variety of domestic projects throughout the Stirling area including structural alterations and maintenance of historic buildings.

**Andy McEwan** is Stirling born and bred and is a Chartered Surveyor with 35 years' experience. He has a passion for Stirling's history and in particular its built heritage. He has spoken at many local events and brings enthusiasm and a solid building knowledge to the work of the Trust.

## Trust Staff 2013 – 14

Sonya Linskaill, manager

Jane Nelson, manager

Lindsay Lennie, consultant

# King Street Funding Initiative

The King Street Funding Initiative involves external repairs and conservation work to buildings located in King Street to aid in the economic regeneration of the street. The total fund is currently over £600,000 including £540,000 from Historic Scotland, £50,000 from Stirling Council and the additional under spend of @£45,000 from the King Street Pilot FES.

The Pollock Hammond Partnership, who had previously worked on the King Street Pilot FES have been appointed as architects for this project.

Eligible works for grant funding include:

- Masonry repairs
- Roof repairs
- Guttering
- Window repairs
- Shop front conservation, repairs and, where appropriate, renewal

After considerable research in to the street and an invitation to all building owners and tenants to participate in the scheme the following buildings became our priority in terms of need for repair and where all or most owners have indicated a willingness to be part of the scheme:

- 2 King Street
- 14-18 King Street
- 26 -34 King Street Stirling Arcade
- 36-38 King Street
- 44 King Street
- 3-15 King Street
- 61 King Street Cape Bar

Following general meetings with owners SCHAT commissioned fabric repair surveys to be carried out on each of the buildings, with exception of 3 - 15 King Street where the owner has commissioned his own professionals, by PHP to allow them to develop a schedule of repairs and associated costs. As it was difficult to fully assess the repairs needed from ground level, it was decided to bring in a high level access cherry picker to allow a survey of the roofs and gutters. This also allowed us to remove vegetation growing in gutters and stonework and so improve the appearance of the street.

We have now presented the reports with associated costs to all owners and are waiting for confirmation from those owners who wish to progress to detailed design and tender stages.

This has to date been a challenging project dealing with a number of properties some with multiple ownership and a mix of both business and residential properties. And with most buildings having some level of severe repair issues. However the hope is that all identified properties will come forward and their subsequent repair we feel will make an enormous difference to this important street in the heart of Stirling City Centre.

# Traditional Buildings Health Check Scheme

Following the scoping study commissioned by Historic Scotland in 2012 on a proactive maintenance scheme for traditional buildings in Scotland, SHT were delighted to have been awarded the contract to deliver the 5 year pilot in early 2013. The pilot is funded by Historic Scotland and Construction Skills Scotland.

The Scheme is being run in Stirling to support and encourage owners in looking after their traditional buildings and help them take a more proactive approach to maintenance. The service is available to all traditional property ownership types within the Stirling City boundary. It offers expert impartial advice, access to specific information on the membership pages of the website and access to a periodic, affordable and comprehensive building fabric inspection from which a detailed condition report is provided

The first year of this project which has concentrated on the development of the scheme has run from April 2013 to present with an official launch of the scheme hoped for later in 2014.

We have worked closely over the year with Historic Scotland and CITB to develop marketing, legals, resources, finance and operations. A TBHCS brand has been established and the website should be ready to go live shortly. We have carried out a number of small marketing events including a very successful informal evening launch at the Smith in the summer with a more proactive marketing drive being presently developed to take forward later in 2014.

The culmination of this year's work on the project has taken us up to interview and appointment of the inspectors and project administrator for the scheme. This is a tremendous achievement and we are looking forward to the new team getting the scheme off the ground and building a successful membership.



# Outreach

## Stirling War Memorial, Corn Exchange Road

The Stirling War Memorial commemorates the men of Stirling who died during World War I and II. The memorial is a stone obelisk topped with bronze lions set in a hard landscaped area with a balustraded wall. It is Listed Category B and was designed in 1922 by Stirling architect GR Davidson.

A number of repair issues had been identified, notably to the coping stones and balustrade boundary wall and the monument itself needing re-pointing. There was also evidence of previous inappropriate repairs including cement pointing. The proposed repairs would enhance the Memorial and ensure its long-term survival.

### Grant funding

As part of the commemorations of the outbreak of World War I in 1914, grants were made available to renovate war memorials. The CMRF is a £1million fund available from April 2014-March 2018 managed by the War Memorials Trust. The grant offered is up to 75% of eligible works up to a maximum of £30,000. In addition, the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust (CSET) and the Stirling Common Good Fund were identified as potentially suitable for the remaining 25% of funding.

Following tenders and submissions of grant applications, we secured £29,853 through the CMRF. We are awaiting the outcome of applications to CSET (£4000) and Stirling Common Good Fund (£5951) and expect to hear in April or May 2014.

We hope, subject to confirmation of grants, to start work in July or August 2014 for completion in advance of the WWI commemorations in November 2014.

The local primary school has been contacted to see if they would be interested in being involved in an outreach project. The Stirling Branch of the Royal British Legion has also been advised of the intention to repair the Memorial and are supportive of the project.



Stirling War Memorial prior to repair and conservation works

# Company Information

Stirling City Heritage Trust is an independent organisation that seeks to work in partnership in order to promote and encourage the protection and sustainability of the architectural heritage of Stirling City and in doing so support the economic resilience and regeneration of the city centre.

The Trust achieves this objective by carrying out and promoting research, providing advice, distributing information, co-operating with other organisations and by awarding grants to repair and restore properties.

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## Supported in 2013 -14 by:

Historic Scotland  
Stirling Council