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# Annual Report

## April 1st 2017 – March 31st 2018

### Stroud Preservation Trust

is a building preservation trust set up to preserve buildings of particular historical, architectural and constructional interest, in and around Stroud, for the benefit of the local community and the Nation.

Founded in 1982

## Our activities

- The trustees had five meetings during the year as well as organising the AGM in October 2017. The AGM was held in the Garden Pavilion at Stroud's Museum in the Park, where we welcomed speaker Edwina Ball and other guests for a most interesting talk on the developments and funding successes of major historic buildings in Gloucester.
- In 2018 several trustees were able to see some of these benefits for themselves when they attended an Open Day at Gloucester Records Office following its extensive redevelopment funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant.
- We also welcomed Chris Gill as a new Trustee at our meetings early in the year and he was duly elected at the AGM. Steve Hurrell took over the role of Company Secretary from Rachel Russell at the beginning of the year.



## SPT's main areas of focus this year

**Completion of the Local Heritage Asset List:** This entailed the collation and final editing of all the historic details and photographs we'd collected, from forty-five buildings and architectural features in the town centre, working closely with Stroud Town Council's Administration Officer Shelley Dyte. Other assets of interest around the town may be added in future. Before the Local List went 'live' on the Stroud Town Council's website there was a six week consultation when all the selected property owners were written to and their responses acknowledged. Their primary response was one of thanks that their building had been recognised. Rachel Russell has been central to the great success of this project, and she has created guidance notes for other groups to use for their own similar projects.

**Selling our freeholds:** There have been long and extremely protracted discussions about the potential sale of the freeholds of SPT's historic projects at Cainscross, including the Toll House, Vine House, 1 Bridge Street, the SPT owned footpath and the right of access for the two latter properties. Because working with local solicitors proved quite frustrating, we agreed to change our solicitors. However responses have continued to be unusually slow on both sides of the negotiations. Vine House's owners are still negotiating for their own freehold.

**Keeping our eyes on other buildings and offering friendly pressure:**



This year Chris Gill has been able to arrange meetings with various owners and to informally advise on several buildings:

- *Fromehall Mill*, has concerned the Trust for some time, particularly the original mill building (shown above), and also a separate warehouse type building with a tall chimney (pictured below). Following several site visits there has been agreement about what is needed for the buildings, although no remedial work has so far been done.



Other buildings which have been visited include:

- *The Old Convent* – where there was a site visit to meet the new owners.
- the roof leaks at the former *Woolstore* building, originally part of Lodgemore Mill.
- *Glendower* – the former home of poet WH Davies, at an open day visit to the cottage in Watledge, with Tim Harrison.

#### Keeping the Trust up to date:

There has been an extensive update of the trust's website including inputting of news and other information, for which we thank our volunteer and website designer Paul Welch.

#### Supporting the work of Stroud District Council's conservation officers:

SDC's Heritage Strategy consultation period was responded to in detail with SPT trustee input. It is now posted on the SDC website.

#### Supporting the work of Stroud Town Council:

- Throughout their financial year the town council was engaged in complex negotiations and bidding for the purchase of Stroud Subscription Rooms, which was eventually successful. Our trustees have played the part of 'critical friends' with Chris Gill conducting an initial 'look around' the building and then passing on his review which became part of the brief for architects. Camilla Hale was also very closely involved in her capacity as a town councillor.
- As reported at last year's AGM, SPT continued to hold town council grant funds on behalf of the group involved in the ongoing project to develop Stratford Park Lido.
- Hugh Barton helped the council submit a comprehensive response to the proposed National Planning Policy Framework consultation.
- Hugh Barton continues to be involved with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) working group, as does Camilla Hale in her town councillor role.
- A key focus for the town council is the Stroud Station Partnership, as advocated in the NDP, which aims to encourage wide ranging improvements for the whole station area. Steve Hurrell is also a member of the group and continues to be particularly focused on access issues on the station's premises, as well as connections to the

Brunel Goods Shed, both of which are listed buildings.

- Steve Hurrell also continues to be a member of the working group for the town council owned Lansdown Hall and Gallery.



Above: *Lloyds Bank interior, added to the Local Heritage Asset List*

Three trustees, Camilla Hale, Anne Mackintosh and Steve Hurrell attended the Heritage Trust Network's Annual Conference, in autumn 2017. It was held at the Guildhall in Hull, as part of the UK City of Culture 2017 events and it was an excellent conference. There were various reports about ongoing projects around the country and guided tours of local work which provided a fascinating glimpse of the continuing regeneration of the city centre. We found Hull to be a very interesting city and admired the magnificent results of the regeneration work produced for their Year of Culture.

#### Other work

SPT's Chair, Camilla Hale, continues to organise and chair meetings for the network of South West Preservation Trusts.





**Greycroft**, (pictured above) is an unoccupied 15th century cottage in Frampton on Severn. Its deteriorating condition continues to be of concern to the Trust.

### The Trustees in 2017 to 2018 were:

Hugh Barton  
Chris Gill  
Camilla Hale *Chair*  
Tim Harrison  
Steve Hurrell *Company Secretary*  
Anne Mackintosh *Treasurer*  
Rachel Russell

This year Hugh Barton, Anne Mackintosh and Rachel Russell are standing for re-election as trustees.

Steve Hurrell offered to take on the role of Company Secretary, after Rachel Russell resigned from the post at the beginning of the year.

### Solicitors

Leeper Prosser Solicitors  
30 Bath Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2JA

### Bankers

CAF Bank  
Shawbrook Bank

Stroud Preservation Trust's good financial management is maintained by the Treasurer. Financial updates are provided before each meeting of the trustees with an outline of spending and income. Deposit accounts are organised to try to raise some interest on our funds.

### Trust income

SPT's income came from membership fees, donations, lease rentals and bank interest.

### Auditors

Simon Fisher  
of Shiner Mitchell Fisher & Co Ltd

### Financial information

Income	£1,202
Expenditure	£2,189

### Funds

General Fund	£63,560
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The Trust's accounts are available on request.

### SPT contacts

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