

Annual Report

for the year

April 1st 2015 to March 31st 2016

Stroud Preservation Trust

was established in 1982
in order 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

This has been another active year for the Stroud Preservation Trust (SPT), with extensive involvement in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan for Stroud town centre, and work related to both SPT and other buildings.

Neighbourhood Development Plan for Stroud town centre



High Street, Stroud

Stroud town centre

Several trustees have been very involved in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) with three trustees being members of the Neighbourhood Plan steering group. Other trustees helped with evidence gathering, research on policy issues and assisting at several consultation events.

A draft of the Stroud Town Centre NDP went to public consultation in October 2015, after which a revised draft was submitted to Stroud District Council. The submission draft went to independent public examination in March 2015.

Although much of the Town Centre is within one of three Conservation Areas, research for the NDP showed loss of

character and detail due to disrepair or insensitive alterations. The NDP includes a policy on Conservation Areas and another that allows for Stroud Town Council to set up and hold a list of non-designated heritage assets, structures of local value which are not protected by the national statutory list.

The historic environment of Stroud should also benefit from many other policies within the NDP which aim to keep the town centre thriving, both economically and socially, and offer approaches to the development of areas such as Cheapside and Beeches Green.

SPT provided a formal response to the consultation on the draft NDP.

Brunel Goods Shed

The Trust has been custodian of the Goods Shed for more than a quarter of a century since signing a 40 year lease for the building with British Rail in 1985. On November 18th 2014, Stroud Valleys Artspace (SVA), were assigned the remainder of the Preservation Trust's lease which expires in 2026.

SPT continued with some work related to the Goods Shed this year, organising and paying for guttering to be painted. Some details related to the assignment of the lease were followed up, including an overpayment of rent to Network Rail (which ensured formal recognition from the Charities Commission that the transfer to SVA was not a loss of an asset), and liaison with the Land Registry.

SVA continues to make the Goods Shed an atmospheric venue for all kinds of artistic and cultural events.



Other SPT buildings

The Medieval Hall, 32-34 High Street, Stroud, and SPT's first project, was part of a discussion about open spaces in the town, partly prompted by the emerging NDP but also by a proposal to fence in the garden area. SPT as the freeholder stays neutral in this matter. It is our preference that the garden remains open, but it is the leaseholder's responsibility to make such decisions about their own land. The garden belongs to the Medieval Hall and with the current owner it will remain open. However a future owner may not hold to this position.



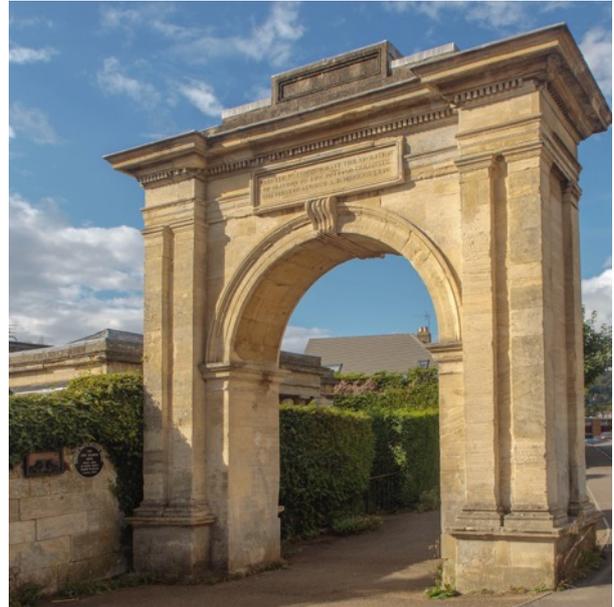
Plaques by the Anti-Slavery Arch, Pagan Hill, Stroud

Plaques were mounted on three SPT buildings – the Anti-Slavery Arch, Arundel Mill and the Toll House. All SPT projects now have plaques. Thank you to DM Foundries of Thrupp who made them.

SPT continues to hold several freeholds which require regular work to collect the ground rent. All leaseholders were written to once more to try to encourage them to buy their leases from us. Two are interested in negotiating a sale.

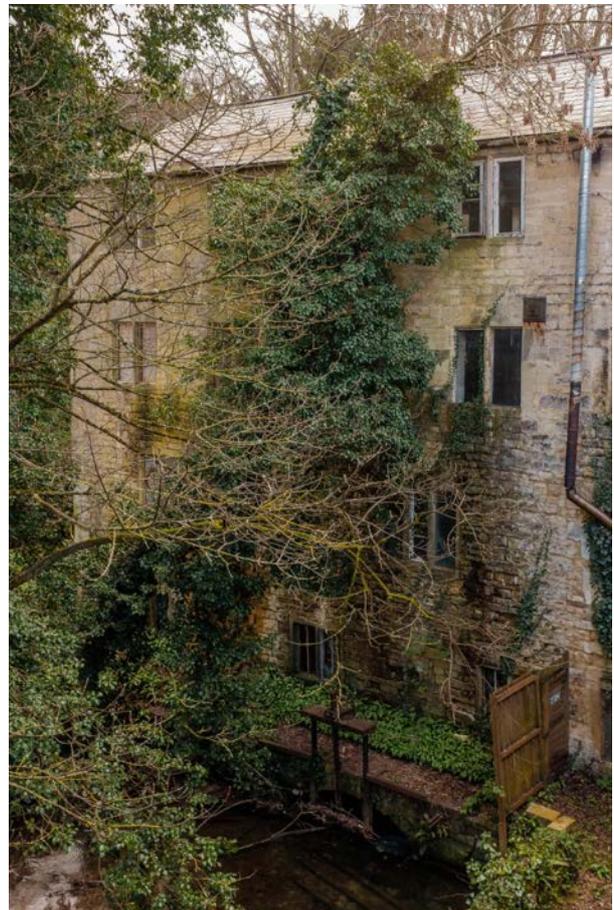
Buildings at risk in and around Stroud

General work has included liaising with Stroud District Council planning and conservation staff, seeking information on Conservation Areas and action on various buildings at risk. SPT increasingly acts as a pressure group including: meeting with



The Anti-Slavery Arch, Pagan Hill, Stroud

Network Rail to discuss the condition of the viaduct and the station; pursuing enquiries about the serious disrepair at the Old Convent and supporting a new group in Cirencester wanting to take on the Old Station building there.



Disrepair at Fromehall Mill, Stroud

Other work

SPT continues to be an active member of the South West Association of Preservation Trusts (SWAPT) where Camilla Hale has been elected as Chair.

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 spend and income. Deposit accounts are organised to try to raise some interest on our funds.

The Trustees in 2015 to 2016 are:

Hugh Barton	
Camilla Hale	<i>Chair</i>
Tim Harrison	
Steve Hurrell	
Anne Mackintosh	<i>Treasurer</i>
Rachel Russell	<i>Company Secretary</i>

Trust income

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

Bankers

CAF Bank

Solicitors

Hugh Read of Phoenix Legal Group, Stonehouse

Auditors

Simon Fisher,
Shiner Mitchell Fisher & Co Ltd

Financial information

Income	£2431
Expenditure	£2573

Funds

General Fund	£60,832
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The Trust's accounts are available on request

SPT contacts:

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Registered Company: No: 1608981

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Steve Hurrell

