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30th October 2017

Annual Report April 1st 2016 – March 31st 2017

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

Changes in our activities

The trustees are becoming more engaged in advisory capacities following our significant contributions to the Stroud Town Centre Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) which several trustees helped to initiate. We were involved in all aspects of the necessary research, community consultation, and in working with the steering group to create a clear vision for the future of the town centre.



A referendum on the Town Centre NDP was held in August 2016 in which 91% of the voters of the Stroud Town parish cast votes to accept the plan. This was formally adopted by Stroud District Council in October 2016.

Stroud town centre's Local Listing Project

Since Autumn 2016, SPT has led a project to define a '*Local Heritage Asset List*' for Stroud's town centre. Initially they've recommended forty-five locally valued buildings, not already formally 'Listed', to ensure their significance is taken into account when planning decisions are made.



The future direction of the Trust

In May 2016 the SPT trustees had a 'forward thinking' meeting as a follow-up to a similar session in 2010. We recognised that during those interim years we had achieved many things, such as:

- the renovation of Brunel Goods Shed, provision of utilities and transfer of the lease to Stroud Valleys Artspace
- the sale of several of our freeholds to the leaseholders
- holding various events in celebration of SPT's 30th anniversary and publishing two books
- initiating and supporting Stroud Town Centre Neighbourhood Development Plan
- advocating for buildings with the local conservation officers
- arranging installation of security cameras for the Medieval Hall in the High Street
- fundraising and supporting regeneration work for Lansdown Hall and Gallery
- installing commemorative wall plaques for various SPT projects.



We envisage further lease sales of SPT properties (two more leases were sold in March 2017) and are considering specific buildings as potential special projects:



- Trustees have located and met with the owner of *Fromehall Mill* (above). It appears that there is little change in the building's condition, but without some remedial work (for instance to guttering) damage to stonework may well increase.
- The *Old Wallbridge Canal Basin* remains under our consideration, and part of its land is for sale. The NDP envisages the original canal basin being opened again

for use as mooring spaces close to the Stroud town centre in combination with housing and business development.

- The *Chapel of Rest* in Stroud's Old Cemetery on Bisley Road was a possible asset transfer from the District Council. The trustees facilitated the Town Council's successful application to the Architectural Heritage Fund to assess development possibilities. However the report advised that this was not a viable option and the building may be offered for sale.

Other areas of our concern

The Old Convent estate at Beeches Green has concerned trustees for many years. It now has new owners and work is being done on the fabric of the building. Several trustees recently met with them and were shown around the building.



Important external relationships

Individual trustees have continued the close relationship with Stroud Town Council. Councillor Camilla Hale is actively involved in discussions concerning asset transfers from Stroud District Council and possible sale of some buildings. One such key building is Stroud Subscription Rooms and decisions are expected by early 2018 on its potential future and any change of ownership.

As the Town Council may be taking over responsibility for several buildings in the parish, SPT has stated that it would consider management of the funded care and maintenance of certain monuments. Possible 'buildings' are the Anti-slavery Arch in Paganhill, the Sims Clock in the town centre, the Park Gardens War Memorial (now listed Grade 2) and the George Holloway statue on Rowcroft.



The trust's involvement with Stroudwater Textile Trust continues, in particular with their project for Longford's Mill (above) near Avening. SPT trustee Hugh Barton joined the Textile Trust's project team for their proposed developments at Longford's Mill under the project name '*Longford's Wool Museum – a Centre for Learning and Practice*'.

In December 2016 the trust supported an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a feasibility study examining the potential for a Stroud-based community group to run the Open Air Pool in Stratford Park. The application was successful and SPT are holding the HLF funds for the community group.

The trustees have recognised that the trust would benefit from additional trustees and are pleased to report we have recruited local Chartered Surveyor, Chris Gill. He has considerable practical experience of local buildings and will provide us with new areas of expertise. There is a proposal at this Annual General Meeting to elect Chris as a trustee.

Rachel Russell is standing down as Company Secretary after many years of excellent support for the trust. She has been very involved in guiding the Local Listing project and with the Neighbourhood Plan in general. She now wants to concentrate on her family commitments and her work for Stonehouse Town Council. We are delighted that she will remain as a trustee.

Camilla Hale and Steve Hurrell are standing for re-election as trustees. Steve has also offered to take on the role of Company Secretary.

Other work

SPT continues to be an active member of the South West Association of Preservation Trusts (SWAPT) where Camilla Hale continues 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 spending and income. Deposit accounts are organised to try to raise some interest on our funds.



The Trustees in 2016 to 2017 are:

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

Solicitors

Hugh Read
of Phoenix Legal Group, Stonehouse

Trust income

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

Bankers

CAF Bank
Shawbrook Bank

Auditors

Simon Fisher
of Shiner Mitchell Fisher & Co Ltd

Financial information

Income	£5338
Expenditure	£1623

Funds

General Fund	£64,547
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The Trust's accounts are available on request.

above: Kendrick Street

SPT contacts:

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Registered Charity: No: 284255

Registered Company: No: 1608981

Registered Office:

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