



Number: 80

2022

Dear Friend

Greetings and thank you for your continued support during these very strange times. I hope that you have not succumbed to the virus, as so many have in all its various manifestations, or that if you have, you are now getting back to full health again. At least the days are becoming longer if not necessarily much warmer as yet!

There is not a lot to report. The Committee of the Friends met face-to-face in March for the first time in over two years! Happily we are now able to open on our normal day and usual time each month without prior booking. The Festival dates are in place and this year we are still opening for a two-hour slot but starting half an hour earlier than in previous years (10.30am to 12.30pm) as we found that visitor numbers tailed off towards lunchtime.

We are combining with **the Sacred Arts Festival** for two special events when there will be a talk on "*The place of sacred art historically and how that changed over time, with reference to CAC*", followed by a tour of the murals by our guides. Details of the events and how to book tickets (£8) will be found in the entry for the Sacred Arts Festival in the Festival Fringe brochure.

Sadly we will not be opening for Doors Open Day this year as the organisers, the Cockburn Association, have decided that financial constraints have made this normally annual event impossible, for this year at least.

We have decided to be cautious and not arrange an outing this year. We therefore hope to organise an outing to Fife next year to visit Kellie castle, The Fisheries Museum and Anstruther for fish and chips.

It only remains for me to wish you well and to hope that we may see you at one of our forth-coming Open Days. With kindest regards.

Morag Austin, Convener

Kate Love

It is with deep regret that we mark the passing of Kate on 1 August 2021. Kate had had a disabling stroke in 2010 which affected her mobility, but she remained positive and interested in life, her family and friends and in the lives of carers over the next 12 years.

Kate was one of the founder members of the Friends of Mansfield Traquair.



She joined the Committee in 1994, became Membership Secretary in 1998 and took over as Convener in 2002 continuing until 2009, when she stood down, and was granted Honorary Life Membership in 2010.

In the early days she was involved in bringing the dilapidated state of the building to public notice, having it open on Doors Open Days and working with other members to raise funds to acquire the building so it could be restored and the murals saved. With Virginia Holt, she organised the regular opening of the Mansfield Traquair Centre to the public, helping to recruit volunteers and researching information for guided tours of the building. The reception after Kate's funeral appropriately was held at Mansfield Traquair.



I first met Kate in about 1968 in the laundrette opposite the Mansfield Place Church. She started chatting and a friendship of over 50 years began.

Kate was a stimulating and exciting friend, her interests extended over multiple areas including acting, the theatre, literature, art, enamelling, embroidery, dressmaking, travel and Formula 1 motor racing.

She had a genius for friendship, and was open and ready to engage with almost anyone she came in contact with. She offered practical help as well as stimulating conversation, she was always aware of what was going on and took me along to many events that would otherwise have passed me by. I specially remember a lovely day at a sale in the Bernat Klein Studios near Selkirk trying on lovely jerseys and encouraging each other and the other customers to buy the ones we thought suited them best.

It was Kate who first took me to see the inside of the Mansfield Place Church, and introduced me to the friends of the Mansfield Traquair Centre – just one of the many things I shall always be grateful for as well as the gift of her friendship for so many years. **Elsbeth Third**

Museum Selection (www.museumselection.co.uk) has reintroduced for sale the umbrella based on Phoebe's design for the Willowwood piano in the Royal Scottish Museum. At the time of writing, it was still in stock at a cost of £24.99.



New Noticeboard

A new noticeboard will shortly be in place outside Mansfield Traquair showing all our Open Days. Our thanks to Paul Wilson from SCVO for organising this.

MANSFIELD · TRAQUAIR

Phoebe Anna Traquair Murals



Friends of Mansfield Traquair Centre
Open Days Dates
E: fomt@mansfieldtraquair.org.uk
W: www.mansfieldtraquair.org.uk/fomt

OPEN DAYS

-Entrance is Free but we welcome donations towards the upkeep of the building and the beautiful murals within. Walk round at your leisure or take a guided tour.

2022 Open Days

1pm - 4pm
8 May / 12 June / 10 July
11 Sept / 9 Oct / 13 Nov / 11 Dec

AUGUST 2022 FRINGE

10.30am - 12.30pm
Friday 29th and Sunday 29th
Monday 8th to Thursday 11th
Monday 15th to Friday 19th
Sunday 21st to Friday 26th

2023 Open Days

1pm - 4pm
8 Jan / 12 Feb / March
9 April / 6 May / 13 June / 19 July

Heritage Partners

E: manfield@heritageportfolio.co.uk
T: 0195 123 985
W: mansfieldtraquair.co.uk

SCIO

Third Sector Hub
E: scio@scio.scot
W: www.scio.scot

Updated Website

The existing Trust website has been completely re-designed and is now being constructed. The new Friends section will allow online joining and payment, booking of tours or talks and a **Donate** page has also been added. This update has been financed by a generous testamentary bequest from Dorothy Goate, one of the last surviving members of the Mansfield Place Church congregation.

Update on the Sick Childrens Hospital development

A year ago we were waiting to learn the outcome of listed building consent application number **21/00331/LBC**, lodged by Downing for external work to the Mortuary Chapel and stabilisation work to the murals to allow Downing to go ahead and start demolition work without properly resolving the future of the mortuary chapel building or the murals. Consent was granted on 21 May 2021. There were three conditions relating to stonework repairs, the care and protection of the murals before, during and after building works and that prior to works starting 'the applicant must submit for approval by the authority a Demolition Method Statement which provides a strategy for the hand-demolition of structures adjoining the mortuary chapel building and provides details of a strategy to ensure that ongoing monitoring of the construction process is undertaken by a suitably qualified specialist wall paintings/ murals conservator'.

Scottish Wall Paintings Conservators were on site in June 2021 and their report, showing the ceiling and the protective facing paper applied to the murals, and pre-construction photographs are on the Council's planning portal together with the Demolition Method Statement which was eventually lodged in January 2022.

In the middle of August 2021 Historic Churches Scotland Trustees learned that Downing had placed the Sick Kids Site on the market. It was advertised for sale through Rydens and Knight Frank, either as a whole, or in lots: <https://www.ryden.co.uk/commercial-property/edinburgh/11451/11451>. Ryden's representative advised that Downing were retaining ownership of the Mortuary Chapel. Requests for a meeting with Downing via Ryden's representative to discuss the future of the mortuary chapel building at one time looked promising but the meeting 'in the New Year' has not happened.

Demolition work has proceeded across the site, the chapel is now separate from other hospital buildings and work is underway on the affordable housing on the Sylvan Place side of the site, and on the student housing.

Following the precedent set by the Scottish Civic Trust in relation to the Egyptian Halls in Glasgow, an idea has been floated that development funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund be sought to establish a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) to bring together interested parties from community, arts and other sectors including the two trusts which commissioned the 2021 Options Appraisal, Historic Churches Scotland and the Mansfield Traquair Trust, and the Friends of Mansfield Traquair to provide a clear group with a remit to engage with Downing as owners of the Mortuary Chapel building.

Jocelyn Cunliffe, Trustee and Friend