

**Minutes of the 22nd Meeting of the Baron Courts of
Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun held at Victoria Terrace,
Musselburgh, Mid Lothian on March 16th and 2nd April 2001**

Present: Baron Sergeand
Jane Bonnar
Mike Cross (*16th March only*)
Much Hon Baron of Prestoungrange*
Much Hon Baron of Dolphinstoun*
** by email/ teleconference*

Apologies: Lady Prestoungrange
Baron Bailie and Procurator Fiscal

1. Minutes of the 21st Meeting of the Court held on 16th February 2001 at Victoria Terrace, Musselburgh

Confirmed: 1.1 That the Minutes were correct record after amendment to Report that: the Rollo bottle collection had *not* been photographed but would shortly be exhibited in the Heritage Museum.

Agreed: 1.1 That at a later date it might be appropriate to seek to have the bottles captured for the WebSite, when the microbrewery project was advanced further.

2. Matters Arising:

Repairs to the Foreshore Access at Redburn Road

Reported: 2.1 (Minute 01/21/2.1) That the steps are now in place and are due to be painted on 14th May 2001.

Agreed: 2.1 That the suggestion of a bench to be placed at the top of the steps, with a good perspective on the first of the murals on the Sea Wall, was a good one, and that Jane Bonnar should invite a tender to supply with the Festival logo incorporated; but that the work could not yet be commissioned.

Project 2000 Booklets

Noted: 2.2(a) (Minute 01/21/2.2) That Jane Bonnar was progressing booklets as follows:

#11 - *Social & Economic Effects of the Closure of Prestoungrange* – due from the author on 31 May 2001

#12 - *Agricultural Improvements at Dolphinstoun* - due from the author on 23rd March Booklet 12 –

#13 – *The Prestoungrange Ceiling* - due from the author on 31 May 2001

#14 - *Fowler's Beers* - not yet commissioned but consultations with former employees in progress. The secret recipe for the beers would add curiosity to the title.

Reported: 2.2(a) (Minute 01/21/2.3) That #10 *The Geology of Prestoungrange* was now well over the deadline of 28th February, and causing embarrassment, and that the Baron of Dolphinstoun was seeking early progress.

2.2(b) That a factitious children's story, set at the start of the 2nd WW and dealing with a refugee Jewish boy from Danzig, had been contributed under the title *Safe Haven* – which would require illustrations by the Baron of Dolphinstoun.

Agreed: 2.2(a) That *Safe Haven* should be published in a quite different format from the Booklet Series, and that the story's context should be dealt with in an editorial Foreword.

Noted: 2.2(b) That Jane Bonnar had advertised in the Local History Society Newsletter for authors and topics for the series.

Reported: 2.2(c) That five of the Tutors Guides were now complete and Jane Bonnar and Mat Boffin were ensuring the Guides are put onto the WebSite as quickly as possible so that the tutors can evaluate them.

Reaffirmed: 2.1(a) That the Booklet Series must retain the integrity it has already achieved, and that at the next meeting a Review of all future possible titles be undertaken, possibly to include inter alia a treatment of the Brickworks.

2.2(b) That sufficient funding for 20 Booklets had been made available excluding *Safe Haven*.

Architectural Drawings for Beehive Kiln

Reported: 2.3 (Minute 01/21/2.3) That Chris Bonnar had not had a response from the Senior Planning Officer, Paul Zochowski, concerning approval of the plans for the rebuilding of the Beehive Kiln. Jane Bonnar would progress chase this.

Launch of Burke's Landed Gentry: Scotland Volume 2001

2.4(a) (Minute 01/21/2.4) That Jane Bonnar had spoken to the

Museum Service of the Council, Prestonpans Historical Society, The Heritage Society and The Scottish Tartans Society concerning bookings for the marquee with the following results to date: The Museum Service wishes to take two of the days; The Heritage Society usually hire their own marquee in the town for one day each year but are considering using the gratis facility at Prestoungrange this time; and the The Historical Society has decided at their meeting on 21st March to take up the offer. No bookings have yet been made by the Scottish Tartans Society, but *Burke's Landed Gentry* have formally committed to August 1st with Dinner that evening at Wintoun House hosted by the Baron Courts.

2.4(b) That planning permission was not required for the marquee, as it would not be sited on private land.

Noted:

2.4(a) That a telephone line would be required in the marquee. Jane Bonnar has found BT willing to establish lines to the marquee so will be communicating the options to Mike Cross.

2.4(b) That this arrangement might not be suitable for *Burke's Landed Gentry* or The Scottish Tartans Society, and Mike Cross was mandated to check the needs, together with any staging required.

2.4(c) That *Burke's Landed Gentry* would require a Stand at the Edinburgh Book Festival and associated facilities, and was ready to sponsor a Speaker slot.

Structure of the Launch Day: August 1st 2001

2.5 (a) The times for the Launch Day have been suggested as follows:

11am Press Launch

12am Opening Remarks (*Gordon, Baron of Prestoungrange*)

12am – 4pm 'Market Place' with Whiskey Tasting, Scottish Country Dancing, Clay Pigeon Shooting under the themes of Genealogy, Heraldry, Scottish History and Culture.

4pm – Closing

2.5(b) Proposed Speakers during the course of the day were to be drawn from the three Authors of articles in the Foreword of the BLGS Publication; Peter Dewar – Editor of BLG-S; Jane Bonnar on *Why Are We Meeting at Prestoungrange?*

Confirmed:

2.5 That Mike Cross was wholly in control of the Launch Budget, but that on the ground catering arrangements would be left to Jane Bonnar using A-Z Catering as appropriate.

Agreed:

2.5 That an Invitation List be compiled as speedily as possible bearing in mind the intention is to invite all Names in the Volume with

the opportunity *inter alia* to collect their copy rather than have it posted to them; Mike Cross taking responsibility here and mailings to go out before May 1st.

Initiatives at the Heritage Museum

Agreed: 2.6 (Minute 01/21/3.1) That the Baron of Prestoungrange should follow through with the Provost and Ms Margaret O'Connor for their progress report on the mural project to be painted on the Bathhouse, in the context of his series of Visits to 29 Palms, Chemainus and Katikati.

Noted: 2.6 That an e-mail had been received by Jane Bonnar from Peter Gray to say that he was not aware of any progress on the Bathhouse project. Jane Bonnar had tried to arrange a meeting with Peter Gray but it had not been possible.

Advancing the Mural Project on the Sea Wall and In Town

Reported: 2.7(a) Minute 01/20/4.1) That Chris Bonnar and Mr Smith had held an on-site meeting at the foreshore to discuss the appropriate wind/water-tight coating for the sea wall. Mr Smith took measurements and is preparing a quote.

2.7(b) (Minute 02/21/2.6c) That part of the wall between the Heritage Museum and the Musselburgh boundary could be owned by the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club. It is on the boundary of the Old Monastery site, which is now stables. Jessie King at the Council is investigating the ownership of the wall. Whether privately owned or by RMGC, there should not be a problem with using it as a mural site.

2.7(c) (Minute 02/21/2.6b) That Lesley Smith, the Council's Arts Project Officer, had sent a list of possible mural artists to Jane Bonnar, but it was not thought that March was the right time to invite tenders/expressions of interest from artists and that the beginning of April would be more appropriate.

2.7(d) That Jane Bonnar had interviewed a reputable mural artist, Kate Hunter, whose previous projects include Channel 4, BBC and various theatres in the area. Jane will be sending her a 'photo album' of maritime images to work from, but she seems keen and is available June/July 2001.

Confirmed: 2.7 That the initial themes for the murals would be Morrison's Haven – Maritime for the Sea Wall and Pottery in the Town, but that all interested artists would have to be screened and rough sketches made before any go ahead could be given as had proven so effective overseas.

- Agreed:** 2.7(a) That the pattern globally of identifying living family/ relatives with each mural had worked extremely well, and the use of photographs provided by local folk, and that the Baron Courts should emulate that.
- 2.7(b) That the initiative must now seek to involve a much wider grouping in the community than the Council personnel and the Baron Courts, and under Jane Bonar's leadership a Mission Statement & Modus Operandi leaflet of the highest quality must be produced, for circulation in the Town.
- 2.7(c) That the relationship with the Prestonpans History Society should be strengthened in every possible manner to provide a bedrock for such expanded involvement.
- 2.7(d) That as soon as the budget for preparing the Sea Wall had been established, an Invitation for Expressions of Interest should be issued to artists at large.

- Reported:** 2.7(e) That as soon as possible after their return from their global visits, the two Barons would capture their experiences and learnings for the forthcoming program at Prestonpans.

3. Cockenzie Centre

- Noted:** 3.1 That Unit #6 at the Cockenzie Centre would be rented with effect from 1st April 2001, and that renovation works were already progressing well.
- 3.2 That Duncan Paisley had requested three flag poles be erected outside the Cockenzie Centre, and although their purpose was not yet clear Mike Shaw had sought planning consent, which Jane Bonnar will be following up with Paul Zochowski.

- Agreed:** 3.1 Without being churlish howsoever, and without any opposition to the idea of flag poles, that there *was no basis*, nor would there be, on which Duncan Paisley can be involved in the management of the premises at Cockenzie, or incur costs there except on the part of the Scottish Tartans Society, and on no account should members of the Baron Courts accept instructions from Duncan Paisley, nor should Mike Shaw; and accordingly the Baron Sergeant should quite specifically make this clear to Mike Shaw in writing immediately. The Scottish Tartans Society will have a formal basis on which it can have its own staffs at the premises going about their discrete business but all relationships with the landlord shall be wholly through the Baron Courts or IRDC represented by the Baron Sergeant and Jane Bonnar from time to time acting on her behalf.

- 3.2 That in response to the enquiry from Mike Shaw, the names to

be necessarily shown on the outside board were as follows:

- **Baron Courts of Prestoungrange & Dolphinstoun**
- **Scottish Tartans Society: *Hall of Records***
- **Internet Research & Development Centre**
- ***Burke's Landed Gentry of Scotland***
- **Prestonpans Local History Society (*precise title tbc*)**

3.3 If these constituted an excessive request, then a share of the expense should be borne by the Baron Courts.

4. Receptionist/ Administrator at Cockenzie Centre

Reported: 4.1 That an advertisement had been placed in the *East Lothian Courier* for a Receptionist/Administrator to be employed by the Baron Courts. Interviews will take place week commencing 23rd April with a short list prepared of individuals able to take up post from 1st June 2001.

Confirmed: 4.1 That the person finally selected would be chosen by Jane Bonnar, but that the detailed Job Specification, Remuneration Plan and Short List must all be approved by the Baron Courts prior to any formal offer being made.

5. The Prestonpans Local History Society

Reported 5.1 That Jane Bonnar had most lately heard back from Jim Forster, Chairman of the Prestonpans Local History Society, and that he had confirmed the following:

(a) The Society agree in principle to their publication featuring on the Baron Courts' WebSite, but would like to discuss arrangements further with the Baron Courts.

(b) The Society is delighted to take up the offer of 'space' at the Cockenzie Centre.

(c) The Society have booked a day at the marquee and intend setting up an exhibition at Prestoungrange in August.

Agreed: 5.1 That this was excellent news and congratulated Jane Bonnar on managing the initiative with the Society thus far.

6. Virtual, Reproduction & Millennium Collection Pottery

Reported: 6.1 That the photography for the Virtual Pottery Exhibition was now complete and Jane Bonnar and Matt Boffin were ensuring it is finalised on the site as quickly as possible.

- Agreed:** 6.1 That at the forthcoming April meeting of the Baron Courts:
- The selection of items where Reproduction will be commissioned; and
 - The Expressions of Interest Tender Document for the 'New Millennium Prestoungrange Pottery Collection'

should both be tabled by Jane Bonnar for debate.

6.2 By the August marquee exhibition dates progress will be reported, and some initial reproductions attempted.

7. Request for Donation to Harlawhill Day Centre Bus

Reported: 7.1 That Jane Bonnar had been asked if the Baron Courts would like to make a donation to the Harlawhill Day Centre's new bus. The Harlawhill Day Centre is primarily for ex-miners. The requested donation is £500 minimum. In return the name of Baron Courts of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun would be painted on the side of the bus.

Agreed: 7.1 That a donation of Sterling 1000 be made towards the new bus, and that we ask that the Badge of the Baron Courts be displayed as well as our name, in the correct colour ways.

8. Forthcoming Meetings

Confirmed: 8.1 That Baron of Dolphinstoun and Baron Sergeant will visit Scotland week commencing 23rd April 2001, to progress all work at the Cockenzie Centre and under all other elements in these Minutes.

8.2 That the Courts will meet at Winton House on May 25th and July 31st 2001.

8.3 That the Clan and Household will meet at Wintoun House for Dinner on the evening of August 1st 2001 after the *Burke's Landed Gentry* Launch activities.