

# FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF CAMPERDOWN HOUSE NEWSLETTER . SIXTEENTH EDITION . SEPTEMBER 2015

## **CAMPERDOWN TEAROOM WOWS DUNDEE !**

The Dundee and Angus College initiative to open a vintage tearoom at Camperdown House over the summer proved a huge success. The tearoom, which was staffed by 12 hospitality students and 8 staff, ran for six weeks from 27th June until 9th August and was virtually fully-booked throughout.

It appears the public have a real appetite for an authentic bygone experience – afternoon tea served in luxurious surroundings by staff in 19<sup>th</sup> century outfits. Feedback was extremely good and social media was abuzz with compliments. The comment cards distributed to clients were all returned with positive remarks. D&A College staff are keen to build on the success of this venture and discussions are underway with Dundee City Council and Leisure and Culture Dundee.





Captions. 1. Hospitality student at the launch / 2. Hospitality lecturers, Gosia Markowska, left, and Gemma McKenzie

Stewart Murdoch, Director of Leisure & Communities, gave us this statement. “Dundee City Council and the Board of Leisure & Culture Dundee were delighted at the success of the pop-up tearoom delivered by Dundee and Angus College over the summer. Demand for places was overwhelming and we were told that places could easily have been sold twice over.

“Given the clear indication of public interest, and the successful model of providing work, practical training experience, increased access to the Admiral Duncan legacy and the city's architectural heritage, all of those involved in the project would like to see it continue.

“It is too early to make any firm commitments for 2016, but meetings have already taken place to review the experience of this year's event and to clarify what would have to happen for the initiative to move from being a pilot to something which becomes a more established part of the city's cultural and heritage experience.”



## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our latest newsletter. Our leading article on the front page describes a huge success at Camperdown House. Six weeks of vintage style tea parties for the public were sold out very quickly after being announced. This is an exciting time for those that have been involved since 1995, but the recent announcement that the City of Dundee has advertised Camperdown House for leasing to outside investors will make us all wonder what the City really want to do with it.

The possible uses listed in the online DTZ brochure on the house include: Boutique hotel, High quality restaurant and cafe, Commercial gallery, Heritage room, Special events venue e.g. weddings, General events venue e.g. conferences, and Visitors centre.

The house was purchased in 1946 by the City for the people of Dundee in honour of their most famous son, Admiral Adam Duncan. A boutique hotel would be the least acceptable option for us as this would prevent visits by ordinary Dundee people. Watch this space! You might like to send your comments to the Chief Executive, [david.martin@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:david.martin@dundeecity.gov.uk)

Finally, you will see in the obituaries that Philippa Crawford, founder of this organisation, sadly died on 29 May this year just months short of her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. She instigated the first meeting which led to the Ginger Group and then the Friends of Camperdown House. Without her determination and persistence this would never have happened.

**James Crawford**

[[jamescrawford@aol.com](mailto:jamescrawford@aol.com)]



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## JOINING THE FRIENDS

The annual subscription is £10 for Individuals  
and £15 for Family Membership.

Please make cheques payable to:

‘ADMIRAL DUNCAN CAMPERDOWN TRUST’

and send to James Crawford, Naughton, Wormit, Fife, DD6 8RN.

## OCTOBER MEETING 2015

By the kind invitation of Lord Provost Bob Duncan, our Annual Party will once again take place in Dundee's City Chambers on **Friday 23rd October**.

We are delighted that our Guest Speaker will be the distinguished architectural historian, **Simon Green**, who works at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The RCAHMS houses an immaculate set of Burn's original drawings for the house.

His intriguing title is '**The Scottish Blenheim? Camperdown House and its architect William Burn.**'

[Caption] The glass dome over the central hall.



## VISCOUNTESS DUNCAN

Thanks to the efforts of Dr Andrew Orr, the Friends have purchased a charming stipple engraving of the third Viscountess Duncan, Juliana Cavendish Duncan-Haldane (née Philips). This has been gifted to Dundee Art Galleries and Museums.

A society beauty, she was a lady in waiting to Queen Victoria. This portrait was engraved by William Henry Egleton, after Frank Stone, and published in February 1841.

Juliana was married to Admiral Duncan's grandson, Adam, becoming the second and last Countess Camperdown and mother of the two brothers who became the Third and Fourth Earls ... after whom the line sadly came to an end.



## NEWS FROM HMS DUNCAN

Having sailed at the beginning of March, **HMS Duncan** is now six months into her nine month deployment to the Arabian Gulf. Since leaving Portsmouth, crossing the Mediterranean and sailing through the Suez Canal, Duncan has been on patrol working alongside British, American and Arabian Gulf state navies.



The majority of our time has been spent escorting the **USS Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier** equipped with surveillance and strike aircraft that have been on active operations over the Middle East, conducting strikes against ISIL.

Between these patrols we have visited Muscat,

Bahrain, Fujairah and Dubai and although the Ship's Company have had the chance for some down time, we are all looking forward to returning to Portsmouth in December. [ Caption below ] HMS Duncan on the far right.



## **FRIENDS REMEMBERED**

**PHILIPPA MARIE CRAWFORD**  
3 September 1915 - 29 May 2015

She was one of seven children born into a military family. In the 1930's she trained at the Woman's League of Health and Beauty in Portland Place and taught health, exercise and dancing. War years saw her in the FANY's and the ATS. Her whole life was given to service: SWRI, Education Committee, Fife Marriage Guidance Council, Fife Preservation Society, Girl Guides, Community Council, 1229 Committee, and founder of Friends of Camperdown House. She was a Dame of the Order of St John.



Philippa's original "Ginger Group" on 12th October 1997 - the Camperdown Bi-Centenary.  
From left: Mrs Elizabeth Picton, Cdr. John Picton, Mrs Parker Jervis, James Crawford, Philippa, Cdr. Gavin Wemyss and Mrs Henny King.

**WILLIAM RITCHIE, DUNDEE SOLICITOR**  
1924 - 2015