



News Release

July 2018

CUPAR BURGH CHAMBERS OPEN FOR HOLIDAY BOOKINGS



Fife Historic Buildings Trust is delighted to announce Cupar Burgh Chambers open for Holiday Bookings. It has been a long journey to get to the completed stage but we are all thrilled with the end result. Furniture and furnishings are in place and we now have some beautiful professional photographs of the self-catering apartment. Our first guests arrived in July and enjoyed their stay, giving us a Highly Recommended review and commenting on the space and period features. The fundraising for this building began in 2010, working with Fife Council who own the building, and it is incredible to see the difference in the property from when the project first began. Cupar Burgh Chambers is owned by Fife Council but from July

2018 Fife Historic Buildings Trust will take over the management of the building. Fife Historic Buildings Trust would like to say a big thank you to everyone that has been involved in the process.

Building Work Interior & Exterior

We worked with an amazing team to restore the building, led by Cupar-based Arc Architects working with Hardies Property & Construction Consultants quantity surveyor, David Narro Associates structural engineer and Harley Haddow services engineer. The main contractor was John Smart & Son (Kirkcaldy) Ltd working with a range of specialist sub-contractors including F A Sweeney stonemasons, Kenneth Soutar Plumbing and Heating Ltd, D. Blake & Co Ltd roofing, Scan Building Services ventilation, Makein & McNab electrical, Sandy Allan Ltd & P Johnson & Co blacksmiths, HE Weir & Son clock restoration, Images Stained Glass, Lonsdale & Dutch, James Normand & Son joiner, George Nicolson (Decorators Ltd), DNA Flooring Ltd, G Tosh Plaster & tiling, Floorcare Restorations and MAR Scaffolding.

Furniture & Furnishings

Once the building was restored, we wanted to furnish the apartment to create a stunning interior in the Georgian style, but with all mod cons for our guests. Many thanks to local resident and nationally respected Scottish furniture historian David Jones who has passed on a lot of interesting facts and knowledge, as well as sourcing a lot of the furniture within the apartment. We had wanted to honour the Georgian period in which this property had been built in, David was instrumental in getting so many lovely pieces together. He also employed his network of Fife craftspeople to provide finishing touches – e.g. Ladybank joiner Leo Norris, Colinsburgh based furniture restorer and upholsterer Deborah Wheelhouse and East Neuk based picture framer Jeni Deards. Jeni created some fantastic frames for the local interest prints that we have within the apartment, including prints from National Galleries Scotland of work by famed artist David Wilkie who was born nearby - the work she did was incredible and she even helped to hang everything! For the beautiful curtains, we used Linda from Ambiance Interiors at Gateside Mills. There was a lot of care and thought put forward from Linda to what would work best in the apartment for the purpose as well as to blend in with the colour schemes. There are also many purchases within the apartment from Maisie & Mac, the beautiful gifts, art and contemporary craft shop below Cupar Burgh Chambers. Make sure you pop in for a visit when staying. And in the main room, we have a display put together by Cupar Heritage Trust showcasing highlights from their archive to give our guests a fascinating insight into the history of the Burgh Chambers building and surrounding streets.

We cannot finish without mentioning the fantastic FHBT team including housekeepers and volunteers who dedicated many hours to getting the apartment looking spectacular for the first guests arriving.

Holiday Apartment Process

Cupar Burgh Chambers is available to book directly either by email or online as well as through various booking portals. The portals we use are Homeaway, Holidaylettings, Embrace Scotland and AirBnB. The apartment also appears on Visit Scotland as well as Welcome to Fife. Directly, we can take bookings up until 2022. We would love to welcome you to the apartment soon – contact us now to book your break.

Funders

Of course none of this would have been possible without the help and support of our incredible funders for the project. Thank you to all those involved; Historic Environment Scotland, Heritage Lottery Fund and Fife Council via the Cupar CARS/THI scheme.

Historic Environment Scotland Visit

On Friday 15th June 2018, Fife Historic Buildings Trust welcomed Historic Environment Scotland into Cupar Burgh Chambers for an exciting announcement. The morning started off with a private tour around Cupar for Historic Environment Scotland and Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism & External Affairs and HES Chief Executive Alex Paterson looking at the successful CARS projects completed. It was then back to Cupar Burgh Chambers where it was announced Historic Environment Scotland will be investing £10 million into Scottish Communities, as part of their 8th round of Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS). In 2018, HES celebrates 10 years since the first CARS projects were established. CARS has a proven track record of delivering results and seven rounds of the programme have made significant impacts to Scottish towns and villages. Cupar has benefitted from this investment, with the five-year Cupar CARS/THI scheme, managed by Fife Council, in partnership with Fife Historic Buildings Trust, investing over £7million in the historic properties and streets of Cupar. Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund have made awards totalling £1.5million to establish the Cupar CARS/THI programme, which runs from April 2014 to March 2019. Cupar has a superb architectural heritage, reflected in its many listed buildings and large Conservation Area. These historic buildings need regular care and attention and the Building Repair Grant Scheme is designed to help property owners and tenants with full repairing leases to repair and conserve the historic fabric and traditional appearance of their buildings.

Cupar Burgh Chambers was a formally disused building placed on the buildings at risk register. With the restoration now complete it will serve as a holiday apartment bringing people from across the world to Cupar. Fife Historic Buildings Trust already own and manage two successful holiday lets, Kinghorn Town Hall and John McDouall Stuart View in Dysart. The team have worked very hard to restore the property and keep as many Georgian features as possible. The Holiday apartment consists of two bedrooms each with ensuite on the second floor. On the first floor

there is a spectacular Living/Dining room with kitchenette. There is a large bay window with superb views across Crossgate. Guests will have all the amenities that they would require making it a home from home for all of the family. Sleeping up to 7 guests, it is a great place for both friends and family to come and stay.



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