

An award in the previous year was for the refurbishment of the former College of Education building in St Andrews Street where the building was cleaned, the windows renewed, and major improvements carried out internally resulting in the opening of the Sandeman Signature Hotel and Spa thus improving the hotel provision in central Aberdeen.

In considering the developments after such a long delay it has been decided to review any developments in 2020, 2021 and 2022. There is still time to nominate any other projects.



Sandeman Signature Hotel



Ferryhill Heritage Trust



Contributed by Alan Silver – Chair of the Awards Sub-Committee

We welcome contributions from guest writers to our newsletter. Please send them to info@aberdeencivicsociety.org.uk.

www.aberdeencivicsociety.org.uk



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Future Events

The series of talks organised over the period October 2022 to April 2023, are as set out in our programme card which is included with this newsletter. There are two talks organised for the remainder of 2022:

Aberdeen City Masterplan

Fiona Robertson

Engagement Lead for Aberdeen City Council

7:30pm on Wednesday 26 October 2022

The James Hutton Institute

Professor Colin Campbell

Chief Executive

7:30pm on Wednesday 23 November 2022

We look forward to seeing you at the Royal Northern & University Club for these talks.

As a change to our programme this year we are organising an informal supper talk which will take place on Wednesday 22 March 2023, starting at the slightly earlier time of 6:30pm. It will also include the presentation of our awards for 2022. You will see this on the programme card.

Member Survey 2022

As you will be aware, Aberdeen Civic Society sent a survey to members in February 2022. The Executive Committee hoped to discover what you valued and wanted from the Society as we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic. We received thirty-four responses and summarise them here.

ACS has a loyal membership. On average, you have belonged to the Society for twenty-five years and some of you for more than fifty years! About half of respondents joined on the recommendation of a friend and half because of their interest in the activities and advocacy efforts of ACS.

The evening talks are highly valued, with about two thirds of respondents attending regularly. The Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony are less well-attended but enjoyed by those who do come. Many of you said how much you appreciate the Summer Outing and look forward to this resuming post-Covid. Almost all of you are keen to have more visits and outings in the future, especially to places and buildings within Aberdeen.

The survey wanted to understand how members use digital platforms and social media.

While many respondents participated in the Society's committees in the past, only two members volunteered to do so going forward; some of you said that you lacked digital skills and noted these are necessary for the work of the Committee, especially in promoting the Society. However, more than half of respondents are active on social media and welcomed the prospect of talks being available online.

Many respondents suggested that visits and talks should be more closely aligned with the Society's objective of improving the amenity of Aberdeen. Eighty percent of you supported the idea of making connections with similar advocacy groups like the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, for example through shared online talks. Two thirds of respondents were keen for the Society to raise its profile in the city and shire and be more widely engaged in the civic issues of the moment.

Contributed by Julia Strickland – Secretary of Aberdeen Civic Society

Civic Society Awards

After a three-year period while we were constrained by the pandemic a new review of developments in Aberdeen has been started. As our last Awards presentations were in March 2020, they were in appreciation of developments in 2019.

In 2019 our final deliberations resulted in an Award to Ferryhill Heritage Trust for the work carried out on the railway turntable at Ferryhill railway yard next to Duthie Park. The work has enabled the reinstatement of steam railtours to Aberdeen. However, problems have occurred this year as the principal locomotive Tornado in under repair and its return to steam tours has been delayed.

Also receiving an Award was the P&J Live or TEKA the large-scale events centre at Dyce. We are fortunate to have such a centre which can attract major events to Aberdeen such as Sports Personality of the year.