James Iain Merry

Jim became a Tailor in 1969 and a Bonnetmaker in 1971 and Deacon in 1991.

He was appointed Convener 2004.

Much more than that in the 1980’s he was responsible for the upgrading of the offices at 12/14 Victoria Chambers.

As office space became more difficult to rent out he had the idea of turning the property into student accommodation.

Along with excellent financial advice from the late Donald Stewart they negotiated the loan of money to carry the idea into practice.

He also negotiated the 20 year Lease with Abertay University for the property, which will shortly run out.

Along with Donald and the late Jim Munro he supervised the development and made it what it is today.

He has been in process of advising on working out a new plan for the building.

Sadly some six weeks ago Jim felt unwell and was sent to Ninewells for a scan. The end result is that they found cancer in his pancreas which has spread to his liver and kidneys.

This to a man who was skiing in France only a short two months ago.

The prognosis, as you will know is not good. He has been given a limited time of only two or three short months.

However what he has given to the Trades is immeasurable and should be recognised in some way.

I would move, and Alex Coupar has seconded, that we name the property at 12/14 Victoria Chambers “The James Merry Building” which will give Jim a boost to know just how mach the Trades owe him.

Too often we do not give enough credit to the people who have been responsible for moving the Trades forward until it is too late for them to realise just how much they are appreciated.

In this way the legacy he has given the Trades will be marked by a suitable legacy to our good friend Jim.