

THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST LTD

NEWSLETTER NO 14 - MARCH 1999

THE AUCTION OF THE YEAR

The first major fund-raising event of 1999 is the **AUCTION OF TREASURES AND PROMISES** to be held on **Saturday, 13 March** at the **Victory Memorial Hall** from 2-4 **p.m.** And we are so fortunate to have Mrs. Sandra Urie as the Auctioneer. Already, many of you have generously donated jewellery, china, crystal, antiques, works of art, promises and so on but the Committee would be delighted to accept any late "treasures" even during the week prior to the event.

A catalogue of items will be on sale for a modest 50 pence and they can all be inspected at the **Preview** on the morning of **Saturday 13 March from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** So don't miss the chance to bid for some really exciting bargains!

Please support the Auction, now that the Kingask developers are threatening to Appeal we need every penny to boost our proposed campaign of objection to the project.

MORE HIDDEN GARDENS: ANOTHER FUND-RAISING EVENT

Following the success of the "Hidden Gardens" event last year, a "**More Hidden Gardens**" day is scheduled for **Sunday, 27 June from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.** Twelve, privately-owned gardens, mostly in the centre of St. Andrews, can be enjoyed at leisure. Coffees and teas can be purchased at two of the gardens - the Museum at 12 North Street, and the garden of Mrs. June Baxter at 46 South Street - and at both venues, there will be a plant stall. **Tickets priced at £3 per person will be available from 1 June 1999 at the Museum and at the National Trust Shop in 146 South Street.**

GATEWAY CENTRE

Media coverage has presented the pros and cons of this projected development. The Trust objected not only to the scale of the proposed building but to the siting of such an inappropriate structure at the entrance to St. Andrews. Despite many letters from Members supporting the Trust's objections, planning permission was granted by the Fife Council's East Area Development Committee at a meeting in February.

THE KINGASK SAGA

The developers' plans were rejected by the Fife Council's East Area Development Committee, but the developers now threaten to lodge an Appeal (Courier 27 February). On 2 March a further planning application was put before Fife Council. This application includes plans for 2 golf courses, a clubhouse and spa in addition to the 208 bedroom hotel and conference facility. The Convenor of the St. Andrews Preservation Trust's Planning Committee, Elizabeth Williams, wishes to thank all Members who sent letters of objection to Fife Council; the support was very much appreciated. But it may be requested again!

Trustee, Miss P. Uprichard, has been following the Kingask saga keenly and we have enclosed her personal account of the story so far. We have also enclosed, compliments of Miss Uprichard, an excellent article written by Jim Crumley for "the Courier".

HEALTHIER FINANCES

The Finance Report for the year ending 1998 indicated that income had exceeded expenditure, making it possible to cancel

some of the deficit which had accrued over the last few years - but there's no room for complacency! The Trust's activities in protecting the heritage of St. Andrews cats up cash reserves, and any campaign to counter the proposed Appeal by the Kingask developers would be costly.

IT'S ALL GO AT THE MUSEUM

What with painting and filming, the Museum has had a busy winter! In January it was chosen as a location by a Californian film company making an advertisement for Buick cars. Half of North Street was closed off and the museum was turned upside down during the filming, but it brought in funds and has already proved excellent publicity.

The next major operation was the re-painting of the ground floor, which involved the removal of every single object and fitting - no small task! The Museum Committee proved worthy of the task, however, and all is now more or less back to normal (but whiter!). The Curator, Matthew Jarron, has taken this opportunity to change many of the permanent displays; the brewing and dentistry sections have been updated and new displays can be seen on such diverse topics as the Post Office, Annabel Kidston, the Fire Brigade and Dr. Dorothy Douglas, St. Andrews' first female GP

The Museum opens specially on 5-15 March with an exhibition organised by the University's Women in Art Festival Society Entitled **Timeless Tides**, it showcases the work of three contemporary Scottish artists. This is the first time the Museum has hosted someone else's exhibition, and is well worth a look.

The Easter exhibition, **Every Home Comfort**, looks at Hotels in St. Andrews. The Curator is still looking for information, photos, objects, so if anybody has anything that might be of interest, *please* get in touch as soon as

possible! The exhibition runs from **2-5 April**. As always, admission is FREE.

With the approach of Spring, the garden needs attention: volunteers would be so welcome and should contact **Gillian Falconer (472422)** or **Lindsay Hodge (473729)** to arrange mutually suitable time/activities.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 20 May at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall, finishing with a chat over a glass of wine! The Trustees look forward to welcoming a large turnout of Members. Arrangements for a speaker are about to be finalised.

TRIBUTE TO MR. TOM McKECHNIE

It is with much regret that we record the death of Tom McKechnie. To many, he was a well-known figure in St. Andrews and when he sold off his pharmacy in 1977, most of the fittings went to the St. Andrews Preservation Trust Museum for "The Chemist's Shop", an exhibit which always attracts a great deal of interest from visitors, old and young. The Trust wishes to add its condolences to the many other tributes already offered to the family.

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