

THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST LTD

NEWSLETTER No 15 - JUNE 1999

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the Trust, the Chairman would like to apologise to several Members who went to the Town Hall on 20 May expecting to attend an AGM. At the time, she managed to contact a few to voice her regrets but was unable to speak personally to others.

Due to circumstances out with the Trust's control, the date of the AGM had to be changed from 20 May (as announced in the March newsletter) to the finalised date, 14 June. Unfortunately the mail with the formal Notice of the meeting along with relevant papers did not arrive at the homes of some Members in time to prevent some confusion. The inconvenience caused to these few Members is very much regretted.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on Monday 14 June, in the Town Hall. Mrs Dorothea Morrison inducted the meeting and among other things, thanked Trustees and Members for their unfailing support and their very hard work during the first year of her term of Office as Chairman. She particularly thanked the retiring Convenor of the Finance Committee, Mr T. Tynte-Irvine, for his excellent work in husbanding the funds of the Trust so effectively during his seven-year term of office. Mr A. Hardie was welcomed as his newly-elected replacement

Mr W M Jack has given valuable service to the Trust in his capacity as Inspector of Buildings with Historic Scotland and has accepted the invitation to become an Honorary Member.

The Chairman reminded Members that Fife Council had arranged a meeting to consider

written objectives / representations to golf developments in the environs of St Andrews (details about these developments are included in a letter from the Convenor of the Planning Committee mailed with the AGM papers) on Tuesday 17 June at 2pm in the Town Hall. Members were urged to attend and give their support. The Chairman emphasised, however, that the Trust, while objecting to aspects of these particular developments, is also engaged in many positive activities associated with the conservation of our heritage in St Andrews.

On completion of the AGM business, Dr S O'Reilly addressed the meeting of the topic "Innovation Conservation - Amenity Societies and the Planning Debate".

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

The Museum continues its record-breaking success, with over 600 people visiting the Hotels exhibition "Every Home Comfort" over the Easter weekend. The text panels have now been re-displayed in the beautiful Museum Garden, and those of you who missed them at Easter are urged to take a look over the summer.

The Museum has now re-opened for the summer with a new exhibition "End of the Line". With a wealth of rare photographs, documents and objects, it explores the history of the railway that once ran from Leuchars to St Andrews and round the Fife coast. The exhibition has already been a huge success, and one of the most popular attractions is a video edited by Curator Matthew Jarron, featuring film footage of the line including St Andrews station and many other fascinating sights. The Museum is open every afternoon, 2-5pm, right through the summer, so please visit.

As if he didn't have enough to keep him busy, Matthew has also recently given lectures to the University Archaeological Society and the Cupar Heritage Arts & Leisure Society. He has been welcomed several groups to the Museum including members of the American National Trust for Historic Preservation. As always, we desperately need volunteers to help out at the Museum, particularly at weekends, so if you ever have an afternoon to spare, please give Matthew a call on 01334 477629.

FROM THE PLANNING CONVENOR

The Trust is still concerned primarily with the large-scale developments with threaten to overwhelm the outskirts of the town at Kingask (for which the second application is even larger than the first!), Scooniehill, Feddinch and Kinkell. As you will know, these applications are all to be decided in Glenrothes rather than Cupar, the obvious reason for this being that since the local Planning Committee in Cupar rejected the first Kingask application in February, Fife Council wants to make sure that as many of these large developments as possible go ahead. *They* see only jobs; *we* see only the destruction of the beautiful and world-famous setting of our town. What will happen to these golf courses and hotels the day the game of golf disappears from the world of fashionable sport?

Another concern is the proposal by the Muir Group to build a hotel at Kinkell Braes. This would cut across the whole concept of Green Belt protection, which has been demanded by local people and backed by the 32 organisations comprising the Green Belt Forum. If you do not want the skyline of St Andrews to be ruined as you enter from the coast route from the east (the A917), Members are urged to write to Mr Jim Birrell, Area Planning Officer (East), Fife Council, St Catherine's Street, Cupar, KY15 4FA.

The Convenor wishes to thank all members who have already written letters to the Planning Department supporting the Trust's objections to any / all of the above proposals.

MORE HIDDEN GARDENS 27 JUNE 1999, 11am - 6pm

Following last year's very successful "Hidden Gardens" event, the Trust, in collaboration with Scotland's Garden Scheme has organised "More Hidden Gardens". There is a composite fee of £3 to view 11 gardens (children free of charge) and teas and coffees will be served at the SAPT Museum, 12 North Street, and at 46 South Street.

Prior to the event, tickets (including a map indicating the site of each garden) can be purchased at the Museum and the National Trust Shop, 146 South Street. On Sunday 27 June tickets can be bought at both these addresses.

If any Members of the Trust would be willing to help with organisational details, please phone Mrs June Baxter (01334 474995) or Mrs Dorothea Morrison (01334473365).

GOOD WISHES

As you may know, the Trust's indispensable Administrative Assistant is currently on sick leave following surgery; she is making an excellent recovery and the Trustees send good wishes - we are missing her enormously!