

THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST LTD

NEWSLETTER NO 16 - SEPTEMBER 1999

INTRODUCING THE NEW CONVENOR OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY

The Trust is privileged to have secured the services of Mr. P.A. Hardie to look after Finance and Property. Prior to his retiral two years ago, he was Commissioner for the Lothian estates and Factor for Lord Lothian and Lord Ancram, a post he held for 14 years. The Lothian estate, situated near Jedburgh, covers 20,000 acres and has 40 farms so he didn't have much time for dull moments!!

He was brought up in Cumberland and schooled at Malvern, but had relations in Dumfries, and started his career as an apprentice Factor on the Annandale estates in Dumfries - a career which has financial management as one of its core responsibilities. After qualifying as a chartered surveyor he served his national service in the Royal Navy which he thoroughly enjoyed, indeed, he subsequently retained his connection for 21 years as a member of the Royal Naval Reserve. Among other things, this involved him in a number of sorties to the Mediterranean and the ports around the North Sea; latterly, he commanded the Tay Division of the RNR.

Following national service, he founded an estate management business with R.C. Thomson & Murdoch, C.A., in Dundee and followed that with a 5-year period as Senior Land Agent for the Nature Conservancy in Scotland which allowed him to have a fascinating insight into areas such as the Hebridean islands and Orkney and Shetland: and to indulge his interest in wild life. This was followed by some years in private practice, again as an agent and factor, in the east of Scotland, until he was asked to manage the Lothian estates at Jedburgh and Dalkeith.

Tony married Irene in 1960, and has a son and two daughters, one of whom lives in Australia. He and his wife thoroughly enjoy the company of their six grandchildren - he admits he "spoils" them! His hobbies include gardening, fishing, golfing and reading, especially biographies and history.

We wish him a successful and pleasurable term of office as Convenor.

MORE HIDDEN GARDENS OF ST. ANDREWS : SUNDAY JUNE 26th 1999

In spite of a less than perfect day more than 800 people visited the 11 gardens open to the public this year. Teas were served at the Preservation Trust Museum and at 46 South Street, and Mr. and Mrs. Routledge once more agreed to open their enchanting

garden in South Castle Street, so as well as these three, there were eight new gardens to visit. The University kindly agreed to open Deans Court, Matthew Jarron (the curator of the Preservation Trust Museum) had compiled a short history of this fascinating building and it was on sale for the modest sum of 40p. The Trust member who was on duty there in the morning was able to add the interesting information that Deans Court was used as a House by St. Leonards School for some years earlier in this century.

Visitors were again extremely appreciative of the gardens, and delighted to have the opportunity to explore more of our unique town. The event raised nearly £3,000 for Scotland's Gardens Scheme of which 40% goes to the Preservation Trust.

ABOUT PLANNING

So the Kingask development is to go ahead, showing that despite all the well reasoned arguments put forward at July's Departure Hearing in the Town Hall (which was attended by well over 200 people) by our Community Council, ourselves, local residents and national bodies. Councillors had largely made up their minds beforehand - or had had their minds made up for them! It is small consolation to objectors that our arguments were so clearly better thought out and better presented than those of the developers. But it has not all been in vain: ensuing allegations by certain councillors of a possible skewing of the planning process and manipulating of official reports have led to the setting up of an independent inquiry into procedures within Fife Council, and we should be proud of our own record in pointing out irregularities and dubious interpretations in the planning officials' case. In doing this, and in objecting to proposals which we genuinely believe are inappropriate, we are all contributing to the democratic process of local government. And even if we feel that in this instance that democratic process went wrong, we must not be discouraged from continuing to participate in it.

This is a rather roundabout way of thanking everyone who supported us over Kingask by writing to the Planning Manager in Cupar and to the Secretary of State in Edinburgh. We appreciate your support very much, and it also strengthens our own case. Let us take heart from the fact that the Scooniehill application was turned down because it was considered premature in the light of the forthcoming consideration of a Green Belt for St Andrews, which will be part of the Fife Structure Plan review. Could

this mean that someone is taking our Green Belt campaign seriously?

THE MUSEUM POWERHOUSE !

The Railway Exhibition continues to prove popular, with our visitor numbers exceeding even last year's record-breaking figures. Last month the Curator led a guided walk along part of the line, and gave an illustrated lecture in the Museum entitled "Steam on the Screen" - both were a great success and were much enjoyed by all who attended.

The biggest success, though, was the 1959 film of St. Andrews shown in July - even with two showings we still had to turn dozens of people away, so further screenings were arranged for Doors Open Day on September 12th.

The development of the Museum garden is continuing - we recently won 3rd prize in the "Fife in Bloom" competition, and were presented with two splendid Greek pots for the front garden by the St. Andrews Pottery Shop. Meanwhile (thanks to a grant from the Scottish Museums Council) the Victorian wash-house is nearing completion, and should be open to the public by the time you read this Newsletter.

If you still haven't visited the Museum this summer, please come along soon - **we close on 26th September** and will have a new exhibition when we **re-open for St. Andrew's Week in November**.

On Saturday 18th September, the Museum will be hosting a **Mystery Photo Day**. We have dozens of unidentified photographs waiting to be catalogued, so why not come along and help put a few names to faces? We will be open 2 - 5 p.m. as usual and admission is free.

WHAT'S IN A DOOCOT?

One of the Trust's lesser-known activities is looking after the doocots at Bogward and Kenly Green. Next month the Museum will be hosting a special guided walk along the Lade Braes, ending in a rare chance to see inside the Bogward doocot - a beautiful 16th century "beehive" construction. The tour will be on **Wednesday 20th October**, and will begin inside the **Museum at 2 p.m.** There is no need to book in advance - just turn up and enjoy the walk!

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Museum's simple but charming walled garden continues to delight visitors; it is a pleasure just to sit there and enjoy the tranquillity. But to keep the garden this way constant attention is needed. In this connection, we are most grateful to Michael Wolfe

who, throughout the spring and summer, has kept a well manicured lawn.

Our woodland in the Lade Braes is now beginning to clothe itself in autumn colouring. Hedges have been cut, trees felled, branches overhanging the road trimmed back and so the work goes on.

In both the garden and the woodland, the assistance of volunteers is always needed, and Members who are willing to help should contact the Trust's Office, 4 Queen's Gardens. St. Andrews - (Telephone No. 01334 477152) leaving name and telephone number.

WHO TO CONTACT 1999-2000

Listed below are the names and telephone numbers of Trustees in post for the current session; Committee Convenors are detailed in brackets.

Trustees will be happy to hear from you on anything related to the Trust's work.

Mrs. Dorothea Morrison	(Chairman)	473365
Bryan J. Angood	(Membership)	839736
Mrs. E.J. Baxter		474995
Edward Brocklebank	(Publicity)	475596
Ian M. Christie		473989
Miss Gillian L.C. Falconer	(Museum)	472422
Douglas P. Hamilton		850748
P. Anthony Hardie	(Finance & Property)	473052
J. Lindsay Hodge	(Environment)	473729
David Joy		475133
Terence R. Lee	(Green Belt Forum)	478030
Iain B. McIver		473281
Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas		476431
Miss Penelope M. Uprichard		474174
Mrs. Elizabeth Williams	(Planning)	474297

CHRISTMAS CARDS

As in recent years, there will be a sale of Charity Christmas cards in the **Town Hall, Queen's Gardens, St. Andrews**, and the Trust's cards are always popular. Do come along and help to support our funds on **Saturday 30th October 1999 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Members

Have you paid your subscription for 1999?

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