

THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST LTD

NEWSLETTER NO 17 - APRIL 2000

EDITORIAL FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Some members may have wondered why the Trust has not produced a Newsletter for some time. The answer is quite simply that having lost our very able Editor, Dr. Win Gordon, when she moved from the area, we have not yet found a successor.

With so main things happening within the Trust and the town it was felt necessary to update members and I have temporarily resumed my role as Editor

The long awaited Fife Structure Plan Consultative Draft has been published and the consultation period will last until the end of April. Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, Trust Planning Convener and also Secretary to the Green Belt Forum has outlined the current position regarding Green Belt in the enclosed letter. I do hope that you will all give us your support. All those who care about the town are faced with wealthy developers who care only about healthy profits and a local authority who listens eagerly to all those who wish to exploit the town but suddenly becomes deaf when local voices cry out as they desperately attempt to preserve this most significant of historical mediaeval cities.

TIMOTHY TYNTE-IRVINE

Finance Convener 1993-1999

Trustees were deeply saddened by the death of Timothy Tynnte-Irvine in February this year.

During his time as Finance Convener Timothy laid the foundations for running the Trust's finance efficiently and within its means. He kept a firm reign on expenses but did so with the utmost kindness and a twinkle in his eye.

Timothy's deep Christian faith was reflected in all he did. He was always ready to offer advice and use his wisdom to deal with the various problems which inevitably arise but never once said he was too busy. His dedication to the Trust and care for Trustees made him a firm favourite.

Timothy was one half of a couple who were always ready to show real kindness and care for others and our thoughts are with his wife Anne and son James

HONORARY PRESIDENT AND HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Trustees are delighted to announce that Lord Mackay of Clashfern has agreed to become our Honorary President and Dr. John Frew and Professor J.F. Allen have accepted our invitation to be Honorary Vice- Presidents.

KINGASK JUDICIAL REVIEW

Judge Bonomy's Judgement, all 74 pages of it, pronounced that, after six days in the Court of Session, the petitioners had lost their case because of "delay" and the "disruptive effect" the late challenge would have had on "good administration".

"Delay" meant that it took too long to get legal advice and - principally - to fund-raise. The petitioners went ahead with the Review as soon as possible, having raised £50,000. including a most generous donation from the Preservation Trust. They may have to meet expenses of £110,000 - £115,000; their current funds total £88,000. It is extremely rare for objectors to raise an action of this sort in the courts, especially against those with very large purses.

The consolation of the Judicial Review is that so many people are now aware of what has been going on about huge developments in St. Andrews - the relentless pushing through of applications and the limited information made available to residents. There is a lot of support for our efforts, including that from the national bodies who have consistently opposed Kingask.

Fife Council has approved Gateway, the Gatty extension, Kingask and others. It plans to rule out a Green Belt, despite the promises of the Strategic Study.

P.M.U.

SCOONIEHILL

The question of Scooniehill is expected to come up in May. It is a huge site, as large as the footprint of St. Andrews. Why does the traffic estimate for Scooniehill not include information about the Kingask traffic - estimated in 1999 to be up to 1,000 vehicle journeys a day, later estimated at 450? P.M.U.

MUSEUM

The Museum has had a successful start to the year with the student art exhibition *Circa*, which was visited by nearly 700 people - an excellent way of raising our profile among the normally elusive student population! Meanwhile the curator has been working with one of the students on this year's Museums & Galleries course to produce an illustrated book based on the popular 1998 exhibition *A Journey Through the Lade Braes*. It is on sale in the Museum and Trust Office now and has so far been in great demand!

To mark the year 2000, Matthew has created a special *fin-de-siecle* Easter exhibition entitled *St. Andrews 1900*. Using literally hundreds of unique photographs, objects and newspaper cuttings, the exhibition looks at every aspect of life in the town exactly one hundred years ago. There will be material from local shops, societies and masonic lodges, as well as a fascinating look at the St. Andrews involved in the Boer War and the Boxer Rebellion. One of the many highlights will be the Boys Brigade Time Capsule, buried in the foundations of the Boys Brigade Hall (which opened in 1900) and dug up just a few months ago - its contents will now be on public display for the first time.

The exhibition will be open **20 - 25 April, 11am - 5pm**, but the curator is already hard at work on the summer display, which will look at Schools in St. Andrews, both past and present. This is a subject which many of you will be able to help with, so if you have any interesting objects or photos, or would like to jot down a few memories of your schooldays, please contact Matthew Jarron at the Museum on (01334) 477629. M.J.

THE HIDDEN GARDENS

The event is planned for **Sunday 30th July** from **11am until 5pm**, and this year all the proceeds will go to the Preservation Trust.

There will be possibly 12 gardens open, most of which were open in either 1998 or 1999, but Mr. and

Mrs. Lang have kindly agreed to open No. 12 Greyfriars Garden, and Anne Lightwood has suggested opening her courtyard and pottery in South Street where young potters will be working, and selling their wares (a percentage to the Trust). The miniaturist, Wendy Sabine, who also has a studio in the courtyard, will be open as well.

We are planning to have both stalls and music in some of the gardens, and would be most grateful for donations from members for the stalls - and help on the day if possible. We are hoping to attract a lot of holiday people, and to make as much money as possible out of the day, as this is our only fundraising event this year.

The Stalls

Dorothea Morrison, Baidland, 19 Lade Braes
Cake and Candy tel. 473365
Pat Anthony, 74 South Street tel. 479326
Bric a Brac
Penny Uprichard at 46 South Street tel. 474995
Hats
Christine Wolfe
at The Preservation Trust Museum tel. 477629
Gardening and Cookery Books

Please telephone the above (or Isabel at the Trust's office).

There will also be plant stalls at 46 South Street and the Museum garden, and teas will be served at these two places and at 19 Lade Braes.

Tickets will be sold beforehand (£3 as before) at the National Trust Shop, and at the Preservation Trust Museum, and on the day at several gardens as well.

E.J.B.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Members

Have you paid your subscription for 2000?

STOP PRESS

The University has just submitted a planning application to build on the garden behind the 15th c. St. John's House, South Street, St. Andrews (entrance from the narrow end of Market Street). If you feel strongly, as we do, that this should not be permitted, please write by **14th APRIL** to Mr. Birrell, Planning Department, County Buildings, Cupar, KY15 4TA

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