

# The St. Andrews Preservation Trust

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Issue No. 2

October 1995.

## ST. NICHOLAS FARM

Recent reports in the Citizen and the Courier convey the same message - the saga is continuing.

In September N.E. Fife's Planning Committee approved an 87 unit development, subject to an adjustment in the height of houses on the higher (southern) end of the site. Chief Executive Donald Abbott was left to negotiate with developers Hall & Tawse, but decided not to exercise his powers, as the changes represented a 'significant revision'.

The revised plans will now be re-advertised and previous objectors consulted, before the plans are brought to a future meeting of the Planning Committee, possibly at a special sitting.

The plans have gone through several revisions during 1995, but this very undesirable development has still not been finalised. The number of 87 units has been agreed despite the Reporter's recommendation, following the Local Plan Inquiry, of 60 units, because the developers say that only with 87 units does the scheme become commercially viable.

After a six weeks' Inquiry into the Local Plan, and after hearing evidence from all interested parties, the Reporter made her Report. Her recommendation on St. Nicholas Farm, sadly, has been ignored by the Council. Surely the commercial aspect of the development must have been taken into account at the time, and her recommendation must have been made

with this in mind. It seems a pity that the figure she suggested has been swept aside.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Trust's Christmas cards will be on sale at the beginning of November from the office at 4 Queens Gardens (tel. 477152) and other outlets. They will also be on sale at the Christmas Card Fair in the Town Hall on 4th November. The two new cards are 'Christmas Roses' by Ada Hill Walker (reprinted by kind permission of Mrs. Anderson), and a watercolour view of the harbour by D. R. Swan. The 1994 card 'St. Salvator's Chapel' will also be on sale. The cards will cost 30p.each.

## ROUTES FOR CYCLISTS

Plans to provide a cycle network throughout Fife were discussed at a consultative meeting held by Fife Regional Council on 6th September. St. Andrews will not be on the route which it is intended should link up a number of towns, but it will have an urban network. It is hoped that Lottery money will provide at least half the estimated cost of £1.4m.

News of better facilities for cyclists will be welcomed by the many bikers in St. Andrews. But it may be a little disquieting to elderly citizens to discover that in some areas, i.e. on the Scores and at the Cathedral end of South Street, pedestrians will be expected to share 'a track' with cyclists. Is this a practical idea?

Comments should be sent to the Director of Engineering, Fife Regional Council, Freeport EH2581, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 5BR.

### TAKE ONE TRUSTEE...

Elizabeth Williams, one of the Trust's two Vice Chairmen, is a lecturer in the French Dept. of the University. She has worked and lived in St. Andrews for nearly 30 years, since moving from her native Lancashire. Her special interests are French, art and architecture.

Elizabeth has recently been researching into the architecture of French monks of the Tironensian order, who built churches in France and Scotland in the 12th century. She spent part of last year's vacation in France, digging at the site of their mother church at Tron.

At home she has a husband (recently retired from his work as a lecturer in the University's German Dept., but still active in research), two sons and two cats. She is a keen gardener and would like to have time to do lots of other things as well.

Her main Trust interests are environmental matters and planning - the Trust's Planning Committee sees all the requests submitted to the District Council for planning permission within the conservation areas, so she has plenty of material to work on. She is also involved in looking after the Trust's woodlands at Lawpark, and would love to have more volunteers to help pull down ivy, prune hedges and control surplus saplings.

### THE PIANO

A beautiful little Benedict piano, which once belonged to a former owner of the house, has been given to the Trust for its Museum at 12 North Street. It belonged to Mr. David Black, a fishing merchant who lived there in the 1870s until he lost the house and all his money in a court case in 1880. The family then moved to Corby, taking the piano with them. Over a century later, it has been generously donated to the Trust by Mr. Black's great-granddaughter, Mrs. Isobel Vida Brown.

We need an experienced tuner to help restore the piano to playable condition - can anybody help?

### CHURCH CRAWLING

On the grey afternoon of 30th September, I joined a fascinating tour round 3 churches. 20 of us, including some very well behaved children, met in St. Leonards Chapel, where the University Chaplain, the Rev. James Walker, gave us a vivid account of the building's history. 'No, not a Leper's Squint; that was angled on the altar' (see Dr. Cant for a possible explanation). 'Yes, the chapel was originally bigger, with a tower to the west of the entrance.'

Next we visited All Saints, where Rector Brian Hardy explained about the building of this elegant church - in an area which was then very poor. Funded by the Younger family, influenced by the Oxford Movement, its main architect was Waterhouse - a descendant of the Waterhouse who built the Natural History Museum?

Then on to the Catholic Church of St. James where the Priest, Father Halloran, gave us a fascinating account of the church built in 1909-10 by the architect Reginald Farlie, who was also responsible for All Saints Rectory. We admired the brightly coloured modern glass windows and elegant marble walls of the church, and also some treasures in the Vestry.

An extremely enjoyable afternoon which I hope will be repeated.

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