



THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER NO 20

WINTER 2000/2001

New Year Greetings 2001

The Chairman and Trustees take this opportunity of wishing all members a healthy and successful year ahead.

Finance

The combination of a relatively good performance from our investments and a very successful "Hidden Gardens of St. Andrews" fundraising event resulted in the Trust containing its expenditure within income. When all the work of the committees is considered and, after taking into account the running of our museum, I believe this to be highly commendable. The present narrow margin that exists between income and expenditure however suggests that in the year 2001 the Trustees will have to give considerable thought to our subscription income. Relative to our investment income this is modest and I believe that one of the ways to secure the future of the Trust will rest with improvement here.

These comments should not hide a sense of achievement to which Trust members are entitled in the past year. Details of this work will be set out in due course within the content of the Annual Report.

The Finance Convenor, on behalf of the Chairman and Trustees wishes to thank all members who have returned their Gift Aid forms. Those who have yet to return these forms are kindly requested to do so as soon as possible as this helps our "finances. In the event the forms previously sent to you have been mislaid, further forms are available from the Trust office, or may be downloaded from the Trust's website.

P A Hardie
Finance and Property Convenor

Please note,
2001 Annual Subscriptions are now due

Museum

At the end of October the contract of our Curator, Matthew Jarron came to an end.

This post has always been considered as a 'first post' for a limited period and is usually filled by a new graduate from the

University. Initial experience is therefore gained in a small unit.

Matthew served three years as curator and during that time the Museum thrived both in its internal organisation and in the face it presented to the public.

The Trustees are very grateful to Matthew for his outstanding stewardship and wish him every good fortune in his future career.

The schools exhibition attracted over 1600 visitors in September with a consequent rise in revenue. The curator visited schools prior to the exhibition and encouraged visits from schoolchildren in addition to conducting walking tours to the schools of yesteryear.

The publishing each week in the 'Citizen' of a photograph from the Trust's collection and the articles describing the Museum's activities have all helped to remind local citizens of the Trust and have raised our profile. Visitor numbers to the Museum have greatly increased this past year and have set new records.

It was exciting to be able to welcome townspeople, some of whom, although knowing of the existence of the Museum, had never previously visited it. Visitors have flocked to see "Railways and St. Andrews"; "St. Andrews in 1900"; "Hotels in St. Andrews" and so on.

During St. Andrews week, our new curator presented her first exhibition "Unseen St. Andrews" featuring photographs of Willie Kilpatrick and Andrew Cowie. The Museum is now closed for the season (unless opened by special arrangement) and has received a fresh coat of paint ready for the new season. Behind closed doors the curator and her volunteers are busy planning, and pulling the 'house' in order. The Trustees wish to thank our 'volunteers' most warmly for giving of their time and hope that they in turn have enjoyed their experience this year in the museum.

The Museum will re-open in Spring 2001 when the Trust looks forward to providing exhibitions and displays to meet your interest and hopes for your continuing support and assistance with new exhibitions planned for the year ahead (see Dates for Your Diary).

J L Hodge Museum Convenor

New curator for the Preservation Trust Museum

As members will be aware from the last Newsletter, the Trust's museum has had a new curator with effect from 1st November 2000.

Susan Keracher, the new curator, is a St. Andrean, educated at Madras College and at St. Andrews University where she studied for and received an MA (Hons) in Art History before taking a Post Graduate degree in Museum and Gallery Studies, graduating from this latter course in May 2000. As curator at the Fife Folk Museum in Ceres last summer she organised an exhibition covering the activities on Fife farms during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. This exhibition utilised, amongst other material, photographs from the Trust's extensive photograph library with which she was familiar, having been a volunteer in the cataloguing of the collection. Susan's first task on commencing her work as curator was the finalisation of the exhibition covering local photographers which was presented during St. Andrews Week.

Preservation Trust goes 'online'

In order to utilise the latest technology in advertising the work of the Trust to as large an international audience as possible, the Trust has engaged assistance in the establishment of a website.

the initial webpages (which are subject to ongoing development) can be viewed at <http://www.standrewspreservationtrust.co.uk> and will be linked to other relevant St. Andrews sites.

With immediate effect the Trust can also be contacted by e-mail at trust@standrewspreservationtrust.co.uk

Planning Issues

The major planning issue arising since the last newsletter has been the **Scooniehill Public Inquiry** which was undertaken in the Burgh Chambers over the period 21st -28th November. Precognitions were submitted by representatives of both the Trust and the Green Bell Forum, and the inquiry was attended by representatives of the Trustees.

The Reporter's final decision as to whether or not to uphold the rejection of Planning Approval for this proposed development is not expected until at least early February 2001.

"Tourism and Transport Vision"

Members may have noted the article, by reporter Anita Rogan, in the 5th January edition of the 'Citizen' on this topic. This 'Vision' has been considered by one of the four committees which make up the Tourism Management Forum and is likely

to go out to public consultation later this year. The 'Vision' was circulated to a committee of fourteen members drawn from representatives of Fife Council, Fife Enterprise, the St. Andrews Merchants Association, The Preservation Trust, Community Council and others.

Suggestions mooted for further consideration include the following:

1. The closure of Double Dykes Road in a Westbound direction (ie(away from town) to provide a cycle lane and possible short term parking
2. Cycling to be permitted in the Lade Braes (currently cycling is not permitted)
3. The pedestrianisation of Market Street on Thursdays during 'Summer'
4. Residents' Parking to be extended to the East end of North Street
5. The installation of 'parallel', rather than 'diagonal' parking (thus considerably reducing the number of parking spaces available).
6. The development of a 'coach strategy' (there currently is none, and no allocated coach parking area)
7. Revision of the existing parking structure to discourage long stay commuter parking.
8. The implementation of pedestrian priority measures in some or all of Market Street, Church Street and South Street, West of Queens Gardens (these measures consist of wider footpaths, more pedestrian crossing points, lower speed limits, restrictions on vehicle access at prescribed times of day/or week /or season and environmental improvements.
9. Support the reproduction of a St. Andrews rail link.
10. Introduce car-free agreements for willing town-centre residents (these envisage access to a pool of vehicles in exchange for agreeing not to own a car)

Trust members who wish to comment on any of the foregoing (which cover only some of the points put forward, are asked to put their comments in writing and forward them to the Trust office in Queens Gardens such that the Trust representatives on (he respective committee can raise any point made at the next opportunity.

P Uprichard
Trust Representative

Greenbelt

At the beginning of last year, the Council's Strategic Development Committee presented a Consultative Written Statement which expressed their first thoughts on a replacement for the Fife Structure Plan.

It stated that "...serious consideration had been given to Green Belt in the preparation of a draft Structure Plan, but it was concluded to be unnecessary anywhere in Fife".

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Also that "...existing policies have been effective in preventing inappropriate development..."

(This seemed an extravagant claim in the light of the Kingask saga). St. Andrews was judged to be less needful of a Green Belt than the other two candidates, i.e. Dunfermline and Glenrothes.

There followed an intensive consultative exercise in the Spring of 2000, during which both the Preservation Trust and the Green Belt Forum vigorously opposed this extraordinary judgement. A public meeting was held in April and 10,000 leaflets were distributed in the town and surrounding areas inviting residents to petition the Council with their views.

In the Autumn Newsletter, we were delighted to be able to announce a volte-face. We shall probably never know what prompted this turnaround, but the Council officials claimed it was in response to representations by the people. However, the euphoria was short lived. The planning 'road to Damascus' experience turned out to be strictly limited. The Green Belt would apply only *to the North and South* of the town.

Since then our local councillors have been working hard to close the gap and the good news is that the situation has improved considerably. However, there remains a lacuna in the thinking of the Strategic Development Committee. We understand that the Finalised Draft Structure Plan (due for publication on 31st. January) will specify a Green Belt to the North, Northwest, West, South and Southeast of the town. It takes a bit of working out to realise that there is no mention of the Southwest.

A less devious way of expressing this would have been to announce that the Green Belt will extend around the town *except for a gap in the Southwest*. Perhaps it is just a question whether our cup is half full or half empty ? Or perhaps, at the risk of revealing an excusable streak of paranoia, the Council is not thinking of a continuous belt at all - but a scattered collection of barriers ?. This suspicion is reinforced by the assertion, by one of the Council officials, that their primary object is "...to protect the landscape views, inwards and outwards of the town". A worthy, but limited objective.

But let us put such dark thoughts aside and try to be constructive. The Southwest is the direction out towards Craigtoun Park which has been widely acknowledged as the area where some development, if it became inevitable after 2006, would be least objectionable. (Sorry, but it's also the direction of Feddinch, yet another huge housing and hotel complex lurking in the wings and pretending to be a golf course).

We understand that the map will show the proposed Green Belt only as 'green triangles'. These are not wedges of land

but only *map symbols*. But it is not clear, yet, exactly what they will indicate. The *detailed* boundaries will not be drawn in until the St. Andrews Area Local Plan is considered - but they will be constrained by the principles laid down in the Structure Plan.. Hence, we may find it necessary to take advantage of the Consultation on the final version, when objections can be sent to the Scottish Ministers Members are alerted that their precious letter-writing skills may yet be needed - again !

There are three points that are worth making at this stage.

1. Preservation of the superb landscape views is the top priority but residents are also concerned about the extra traffic and the overloading of the mediaeval centre that would result from over-development.
2. It is not good planning practice to concentrate on specific 'views' - there is a need to preserve the *general landscape quality*, including in the Southwest!
3. We are repeatedly reminded (although we know it already) - that a Green Belt is not a complete embargo. It only creates a "presumption against development". So why not designate an area to cope with foreseeable development (probably in the South West) and modify the boundary later if a special case can be established. This is what David Tyldesley, distinguished landscape adviser to Fife Council and to the Trust, recommended.

To us, given the layout of St. Andrews, our Green Belt should be continuous - it should have no gaps through which a coach and horses might be driven. The developers are probably harnessing up already ! *A gap creates a presumption in favour of development.*

Terence Lee.
13.1.01

Dates for your Diary

Museum-Spring Exhibition 2001

23rd-25th February

2nd-4th March

9th-11th March

Museum-Easter Exhibition 2001

12th-17th April

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

24th May

Museum-Summer Exhibition 2001

26th May-7th October

Hidden Gardens 2001

1st July (Confirmed)

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Executive Committee 2000-2001

Chairman: Mrs D M M Morrison
(01334-473365)

Vice-Chairman: Prof. T R Lee
(01334-478030)

Vice-Chairman: Mr I M Christie
(01334-473989)

Convenors:

Environment: Mr I M Christie

Finance & Property: Mr P A Hardie
(01334-473052)

Green Bell Forum: Prof. T R Lee

Museum: Mr J L Hodge
(01334-473729)

Planning: Mrs E Thomas
(01334-476431)

Publications, Publicity & Programme: Mrs E J Baxter
(01334-474995)

©The St. Andrews Preservation Trust Limited
Registered Office:
4 Queens Gardens
St. Andrews
Fife KY16 9TA
Tel: 01334-477152
Fax: 01334-478409
E-mail: trust@standrewspreservationtrust.co.uk
Web Page : <http://www.standrewsprservationtrust.co.uk>

Museum:
12 North Street
St. Andrews
Fife KY16 9PW
Tel: 01334-477629