



THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER NO. 23

AUTUMN 2001

Hidden Gardens Day 2001

This year's event was blessed with fine weather and a good turnout of visitors to a wide range of very attractive gardens throughout the town. The event was once again a financial success, with a figure of £4900 raised for the benefit of Trust Funds.

Trustees wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of this year's event at the various venues, by making their gardens available to the Trust, through the giving of time, produce, musical skills, assistance to man stalls or wash dishes, or by attending the fine selection of gardens throughout the day with friends or family.

Particular thanks goes to Mrs June Baxter who once again organised and co-ordinated this event on behalf of the Trust.

Environment Committee

The Environment Committee comprises of two Trustees and three co-opted members whose responsibilities cover looking after the Trust's Law Park woodland, the two doocots that are in the Trust's care and the Museum garden.

Much work has been done and considerable expense incurred on the maintenance of the two doocots at Bogward and Kenly Green. The Bogward doocot (which is in the Trust's care) has recently been cleared of vegetation, repointed externally and cleaned out internally.

At Kenly Green (where the doocot is owned by the Trust) repairs have been carried out to both roof and gable walls after considerable delay as a result of 'foot and mouth' access restrictions.

Law Park woodland has received it's normal routine maintenance of grass strimming, hedge trimming and path weeding over the Summer growing period and a final weeding and hedge trimming is currently being carried out in preparation for the winter period. A concentrated effort to remove the accumulated litter from the woodland is planned for the near future.

It is hoped that the anti-litter initiative by Fife Council, backed up by the application of fines, will reduce the

amount of rubbish in the form of bottles, cans, plastic bags, garden refuse, bicycles and even discarded Christmas trees, which are deposited in the woodland during the year.

The Trust employs a tree specialist to survey the wood and remove any dead or potentially dangerous trees or branches. Notwithstanding our caution in this area, during the first week in August, a large oak, which was leaning at a slight angle over the pathway near the bridge, but otherwise appeared healthy, suddenly snapped about fifteen feet above ground level forming a large archway over the bum.

Removal of the fallen tree required some acrobatic work on behalf of the tree specialists who had to be called in. Fortunately no damage was caused to the walkway or to the stone embankment to the burn. Considerable expense was however incurred by the Trust in removing the fallen tree.

The museum garden has been maintained in excellent order over the summer and many expressions of commendation and appreciation have been received from visitors.

A highlight of the year for those who devote much time and attention to this aspect of the Trust's work was the award of 3 place in the annual 'small gardens' competition run by Fife Council.

A new sundial presented by the Humphries family has now been installed, this fits in well in the garden setting and the gift is much appreciated.

Planning

The Planning committee has continued to be very busy with the ongoing review of planning applications. Particular areas of activity have been the Trust's participation in the recent **Departure Hearing** in respect of the proposed off-road driving centre to be constructed at Kinkell Farm.

The hearing was attended by a number of Trustees and formal submissions were made on behalf of both the Trust and the Green Belt Forum. Councillors were obviously concerned at the decision of the Scottish Executive that no EIA (Environmental Impact

Assessment) need be carried out for the proposed development. This decision has been the subject of correspondence between the Trust, the Scottish Minister responsible and our local MSP.

We regret to report that to date no satisfactory explanation for this apparent overturning of requirements has been given and the Planning Committee continues to follow this up with the relevant Scottish Government departments.

Representatives of the Trust provided a precognition and representation at the **Planning Inquiry** into the proposed bingo hall in Market Street (which was held on 16* October 2001).

The committee has recently been reviewing the **proposed changes to planning procedures** as set out in a consultation paper issued by the Scottish Executive. The current proposals have potentially far reaching effects on the Planning process throughout Scotland, and in particular for Fife, which may find itself split between the cities of Edinburgh and Dundee.

As part of our deliberations on this matter, the Committee was recently addressed by a Planning expert on the potential effects of the proposed changes under review.

The Trust's comments on the proposals are to be submitted by the end of October.

Since writing the foregoing, a visit to the Trust's office has revealed a large pile of planning applications in the Planning In-tray.

Amongst the applications to be discussed at the next planning committee meeting are revised submissions for the Kinkell Farm off-road driving and quad bike track application, together with a revised submission in respect of the University's proposed redevelopment of the David Russell Hall site.

More information on these two developments will be included in the next newsletter.

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Reliable sources advise the Trust that a consortium of landowners located to the West of the town, in conjunction with the University of St Andrews and Scottish Enterprise, are about to submit a new planning application.

This application would, we are advised, cover the construction of the long awaited new hospital and health centre, a research facility for the University, some 900 houses and a new link road, on a site or sites to the West of the existing University.

The Trust understands that the Planning consultants involved are an experienced local firm based in Cupar.

Should the information prove to be correct, the addition of some 900 houses would, we estimate, equate to approximately a 20% increase in the population of the town (excluding students), and would therefore raise serious concerns as to the potential impact on the town centre as a result of the inevitable increase in traffic.

No further details are currently available, however we shall keep members advised as the proposals are clarified.

Museum

St Andrew's Week 2001: 24th-30th November 2001

As part of the St Andrew's Week celebrations the Preservation Trust's Museum will be putting on a special exhibition entitled 'Come and see my Etchings'-a collection of prints by Malcolm Patterson.

Malcolm Patterson began his artistic career as an illustrator, contributing to '*Punch*', '*Strand Magazine*' and other leading periodicals.

During the 1914-18 War he was stationed in Malta where he spent much of his time pencil sketching or water colouring.

After demobilisation he joined his family in St. Andrews where his two daughters attended St. Leonard's School and he obtained a part-time position teaching art. He took an interest in engraving and produced a number of exquisite etchings of St. Andrews. The exhibition will also feature portraits in etching and red chalk of local St. Andrews characters of the period.

The Museum will be open 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm Saturday to Thursday and 10.00 am - 5.00 pm on St Andrew's Day.

New Book on Sale

"**Old St. Andrews**" is the title of a new book by Helen Cook, which incorporates a number of black and white photographs drawn from the photographic archives of the Trust. Copies of the book are on sale in the Trust office and the Museum at a cost of **£6.99**.

Helen Cook was born and educated in the town, where she still lives. A librarian by profession, she has a keen interest in the history of the town and has contributed articles on the topic to publications such as the *Scots Magazine*, *Country Life*, *St. Andrews Citizen* and *The Courier*.

Until her retirement, she worked in the library of the University of St. Andrews.

Membership Drive

Latest figures for new members to the Trust, as a result of the membership drive which has been underway for some three months are for some 64 new Annual

members and 26 Life members. All new members are welcomed to the Trust.

We regret to report however that we have lost some 6, of our older members during the last three months.

The winner of the Trust's 'Meal for two at Sands Restaurant' for the introduction of new members, was Trustee Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas who has kindly donated her prize to the newly introduced member Mrs. Audrey Morgan.

New Trustees

Since the publication of the last newsletter the Trust has welcomed four new Trustees who are as follows:

Anthony Jackson: Tony Jackson is an economist by profession and lectures in Town & Country Planning at the University of Dundee. A resident of Peat Inn, he has been professionally involved in the planning process in Fife for many years and his experience and expertise is a welcome addition to the Trust's Planning Committee.

George Gordon: A long-term resident of the town, George Gordon was a sales manager at the Kilconquhar Estate and Country Club until his retirement. Together with his daughter he now runs the ice cream shops at the East and West Sands. George is a member of the Publications, Publicity, Programme and Membership Committee.

Frances Humphries: Frances Humphries was born, brought up and educated in St. Andrews, where her father was the manager of the "Old Picture House" in North Street for some fifty years. A physical education teacher in Dundee until her retirement, her long links with the town will be an asset to the Trust where she has joined the Museum Committee.

Daphne Matthews: Daphne Matthews moved to the St. Andrews area twelve years ago after many years overseas. She lived firstly in Cameron, then in Queen's Terrace before moving recently to West Grange. Active in a number of local organisations and still a participant in the social life of Cameron, she is appreciative of and committed to the town and its surroundings. Daphne is a member of both the Planning and the Events Committees.

Trust Christmas Cards 2001

Printing is currently underway of this year's Trust Christmas Cards which feature a snow scene in the Law Park woodland, and comes from a charming photograph taken by Trustee Ian Christie, and "Market Square" - under snow with students, from a painting by Annabel Kidston.

Also being printed is a set of six notelets featuring a mixture of designs, new and old (See also enclosure with this newsletter).

This year's Christmas Cards and the Notelets will be

available for purchase at the Charities Christmas Card Sale to be held in the Town Hall, St. Andrews between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm on Saturday 27th October 2001.

Cards will also be available from the Trust office during normal office hours Monday to Friday or from the Museum during St Andrews Week (See separate article for Museum Opening times during that week).

The Green Belt Forum

The Forum is in a state of suspended animation - but alive and well. We await news of the final form of Green Belt (boundaries come later) to be incorporated in the Finalised Structure Plan for Fife. Members will recall that the draft for this critical document came to us at the beginning of the year as part of the formal Consultation - with a closing date of 28th March. After earlier reversals, we were grateful to be offered a Green Belt at all, but the Planners gave birth to a curiously deformed creature. It failed to conform to the national guidelines. It had a large and ominous gap in the South West. It would apply only to sites with "inter-visibility", i.e. from which the 'historic core' could be seen and vice versa.

Needless to say, we campaigned vigorously, alongside the Preservation Trust, for a more *normal* Green Belt. It is hard to think of any environment more suited to a continuous encircling belt, allowing for foreseeable but controlled expansion.

We originally expected that if the Executive were to share our misgivings there would be the form of Inquiry known as an 'Examination in Public'. We now understand that this is ruled out and instead they will suggest '*modifications*' and Fife Council (and hopefully ourselves) will be asked to respond to these. The final decision will rest with the (Planning) Ministers. It was expected about now but is 'delayed'. However, it is rumoured that a list of the modifications may be published in advance - probably in November.

So we wait patiently... But one thing is certain, there will have to be considerable activity when the word comes through and as we prepare for the Green Belt principle to be made manifest in the Local Plan for St. Andrews.

So why the delays? The planning machinery cannot cope, it seems, with the onerous evaluation and consultation procedures of Structure Plans and Local Plans covering every settlement in Scotland and it is not surprising that a revision of the procedures is 'out for consultation' in a document entitled 'Review of Strategic Planning'. This paper was discussed by the Forum Committee at its meeting on 10th October and a formal submission will be made.

It seems likely that Structure Plans will be devised in

the future only for the four major cities and their regions. Other settlements will have only Local Plans. The principal 'unknown' is whether St. Andrews will be considered part of the region dependent on Dundee (or even Edinburgh) or will it stand alone?

Other business at this meeting was the detailed Report prepared by our Secretary following a meeting on 16th August with David Oldham, a planning consultant and formerly a member of the Edinburgh Green Belt Trust. This was a useful meeting.

It highlighted for us the major distinction between the 'lobbying' and 'management' functions of a Green Belt supporting organisation. If we get a suitable Green Belt we should be promoting and co-ordinating community involvement and liaison with landowners etc. Action can begin any time but obviously the main drive will depend on what kind of Belt is in the production line Also on whatever major new initiatives (e.g. the site for a hospital) are pending.

Dates for your Diary

Christmas Card Sale: Saturday 27th October 2001

Members' Evening: Wednesday 21st November 2001

St. Andrew's Week Exhibition: 24th - 30th November 2001

Members' Evening: Wednesday 12th December 2001

New Members' Evening: January 2002 - (date to be confirmed).

Christmas Presents

Are you looking for that difficult to get present? Have you considered giving a gift of an Annual or Life membership of the Trust?

This may be the answer for a St. Andrew now living far from home, but wanting to retain a tangible link with the town, or for a good friend or family member with an interest in the town, but who just hasn't got round to taking membership for themselves!

Application Forms are available from the Trust office, the Museum, or any Trustee.

Members' Evenings

A members' evening will be held in the home of Mrs. June Baxter at **No. 46 South Street on Wednesday 21st November 2001 at 8.30 pm.** The guest speaker on this occasion will be **Dr. John Frew** of the Department of Art History of the University of St. Andrews who will say a few words on the **history of No 46 South Street and some of the adjacent properties.** Mrs. Baxter has kindly agreed that those attending may be allowed access

to see some of the architectural features of the property.

A glass of wine will be available for all participants who will be restricted to sixty in total Members will be given priority on a first come first served basis The cost of this event will be £7.50 and tickets will be available from the Trust office during normal office hours

A Members' Evening will be held in the Trust's Museum in North Street on Wednesday 12th December 2001 at 7.00 pm when the speaker will be Mrs. Christine Wolfe and the subject of her talk "Miss Janet Low and the early days of the Preservation Trust". Numbers on this occasion will be limited to twenty-five (all seated).

A glass of wine will be available for all participants; members will be given priority on first come first served basis. The cost of this event will be £7.50 and tickets will be available from the Trust office during normal office hours.

An informal New Members' evening will be held in the Museum in January 2002 (date to be confirmed) to which all new members will be invited to hear of the activities of the Trust's various committees and to meet the Trustees (further details will be provided in the next newsletter due in January 2002).

Executive Committee 2001-2002

Chairman Mrs D M M Morrison (473365)

Vice-Chairmen Prof T Lee (478030)
Mr I M Christie (473989)

Convenors

Environment Mr I M Christie (473989)
Executive Mrs D M M Morrison (473365)
Finance & Property Mr P A Hardie (473052)
Green Belt Forum Prof T Lee (478030)
Museum Mrs BJ Mason (473193)
Publications, Publicity,
Programme
& Membership Mr K Roberts (477922)
Planning Mrs E Thomas (476431)

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Members

Have you paid your subscription for 2001?

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