



THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER NO 26

SUMMER 2002

From the Chairman

I feel very honoured to have been elected Chairman of what has become a much-respected organisation and also a force for good in the town. It is my intention to continue the work, initiated by my immediate predecessors, of showing people that conservation is a positive issue that can bring pleasure to many. To the visitor; the pleasure of seeing a town which still has a strong identity largely because so much of it is relatively unspoiled; and to the resident, the pleasure of living in a place with as much charm as St. Andrews.

While we take a justified pride in our old buildings, I believe there is also room in the town for well-designed contemporary architecture (and notice I say well designed!)

The Trust has, as you all know, a variety of strings to its bow. In planning we try to ensure that what deserves to be maintained for posterity is respected; but we also go further in engaging in dialogue with local planners and organisations (Fife Council, the University, Fife NHS Trust for example) putting forward ideas and views for them to consider. This is something we shall build on.

The Museum goes from strength to strength, and through its collections and exhibitions plays a real role in ensuring that citizens of St. Andrews are aware of their own place in the social history of the town.

Our work in the Museum garden and the Lawpark Woodland is a further much appreciated contribution to the amenities of St. Andrews.

The new Pride of Place Awards will hopefully enable us to involve a greater number of townspeople and schoolchildren in our work.

We are currently raising the Trust's profile through more energetic fund-raising and more events, and are delighted at the response from you, our members.

We are always looking for new members, since the more people we represent, the stronger we can make the case when it comes to speaking up in public. Please therefore do your best to encourage friends and family to join us. Members do not have to be active participants- simply by being members you are making a positive contribution to the wellbeing of St. Andrews.

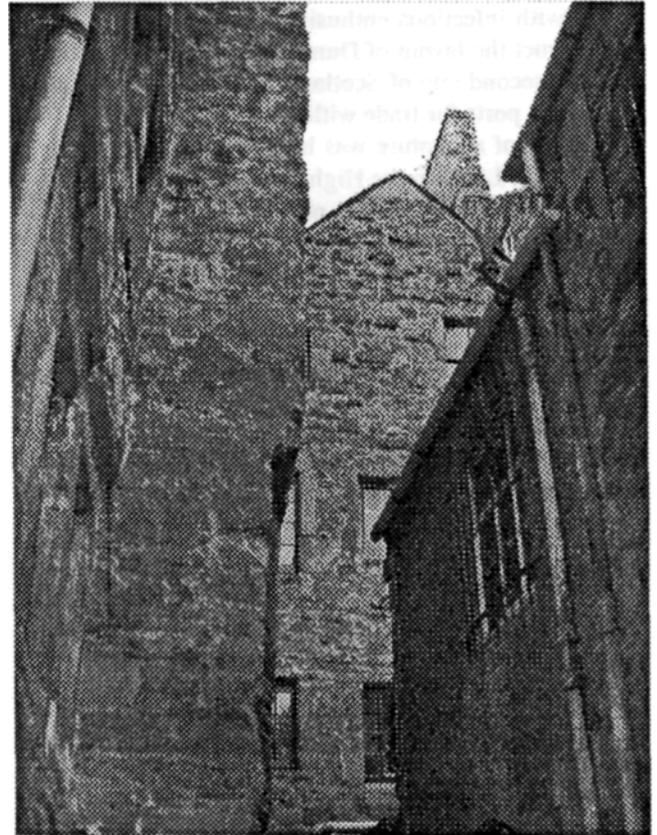
I believe the Trust has proved its worth in the life of St. Andrews, giving time and energy to its work is extremely rewarding.

I have inherited from Dorothea Morrison a stalwart body of Trustees who share this view and I look forward enthusiastically

to working with them.

I hope to see many of you on the Hidden Gardens Day. Let us pray for a fine day!

Elizabeth Williams



Gardyne's Land Dundee

A Visit to Old Dundee

A group of about 20 members of the St. Andrews Preservation Trust enjoyed a fascinating glimpse into Dundee's past greatness recently when they

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A Visit to Old Dundee (cont'd)

were conducted round surviving parts of the old town by Professor Charles MacKean, of Dundee University's Department of Town & Regional Planning. Despite intermittent downpours of considerable ferocity, the group went along the Nethergate through unpromising entrances and down dark ponds and closes to inspect evidence of building work going back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Our guide pointed out the dignified facades of terraced houses built by merchants who traded with the Baltic and the new streets (South Tay Street and Reform Street) formed in the 18th century to take goods directly to the docks, which came much closer into the town than today.

Thanks to Professor MacKean's knowledge, conveyed with infectious enthusiasm, it was possible to reconstruct the layout of Dundee in the days when it was the second city of Scotland and one of the most important ports for trade with the Baltic. The sense of adventure was heightened by a visit to **Gardyne's Land** in the High Street, a block of tenement houses going back in part to the 16th century, which has been purchased by the Tayside Building Preservation Trust, an organisation set up for the purpose of restoring the building and making it suitable for community use.

The Trust, headed by Neil Grieve, is hoping to raise the £3.8 million in funds necessary to carry out the very extensive work required, not only to make the building habitable again, but also to establish its very complicated history.

The buildings, which are in remarkably sound condition, (largely due to the roofs having been maintained in a watertight condition over the years), are a treasure trove of architectural features and structural problems to delight the heart of any historian or building conservationist. Amongst interesting features are substantial timber beams as part of the supporting structure. These timber members indicate, from the jointing methodology adopted in some locations, links with Dundee's considerable former expertise in the construction of timber seagoing vessels.

The St. Andrews Preservation Trust wishes Mr. Grieve well in this hugely important undertaking which will help to put the social and architectural history of Dundee back in the centre of Scotland's map where it belongs.



Trust members at the DCA after the Dundee visit

Litter in St. Andrews

Members will be heartened to know that one of our members has received a letter from the Chief Executive of Fife Tourist Board indicating that " Fife Council is about to appoint a 'Town Centre Assistant (based in the Tourist Board's offices in Market Street) whose job will include litter management and monitoring. He/She will be empowered to take immediate action where such problems manifest themselves. Other issues such as A-boards obstructing pavements and trees in the Kinness Burn , could also be tackled by this new person".

The Chief Executive is optimistic that (his appointment will prove effective in cleaning up the town centre.

Anyone who has concerns over areas in the town which could be addressed by this new appointee is asked to forward information, (including dated photographs, if possible) to the Trust office, from where we shall co-ordinate a follow up with the 'Town Centre Assistant'

100 Club

Membership of the 100 Club is now complete and the initial Prize Draw took place on Friday 24th May at the preview for the Museum Summer Exhibition. Two lucky winners received prizes of **£80** for first and **£50** for second. The second prize draw for 2002 will take place in August with £80 and £50 being the first and second prizes on the next two occasions.

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Planning Committee

Members of the Planning Committee were invited to attend a recent meeting addressed by representatives of Fife NHS Trust and RPS Consultants who have been retained to look at possible sites for the proposed new hospital and Health Centre to serve St. Andrews.

Our representatives were informed of findings in the preliminary stage of the Consultancy exercise, which will now continue to the further detailed assessment of potential sites and their respective advantages and disadvantages. Fife NHS Trust has confirmed that the Trust will be asked to comment on their proposals as the study of sites progresses. A final site selection is not anticipated in the near future.

The Green Belt Forum

The issue of a Green Belt for St. Andrews is going through a quiet phase. We are still awaiting the final decision of the Scottish Executive on Fife Council's Revised Structure Plan and in particular the proposals for the St. Andrews Green Belt, which were substantially modified by the Executive. We welcomed these modifications but drew attention to an ambiguity in the wording, which we hope to see corrected as part of the final verdict. This was expected "...in early June at the latest".

There have mercifully been no planning applications for developments in the hinterland (that could cause serious concern) but this may change dramatically in the near future.

We understand that the Links Trust is actively considering plans for yet another golfing development. Any such application is likely to be controversial. From its early days in 1997, the Forum has seen itself as a campaigning or 'pressure' group, with the enthusiasm and informality that this implies. But now there seems certain to be a Green Belt of some description. The setting of its boundaries (as part of the Local Plan Consultation) will keep us very busy. We shall also need to monitor the area once agreed. It was therefore felt that a more formal constitution should be adopted. We have had several meetings and enlisted legal aid and we now have a draft that is likely to be approved by the Committee at its next meeting. It will then be circulated to all our member organisations for their agreement.

Terence Lee
Chairman.

Hidden Gardens of St. Andrews Sunday 7th July 2002 11am until 5pm

During this year's event, there will be four gardens at the West end of the town together with seven gardens in the town itself. The Gardens are as follows;

West End

- 1.0 **12 Hollowhill (Mr and Mrs R Philip)-Parking Coffee Teas**
- 2.0 **Bearwood, 124 Hepburn Gardens (Air Marshall Sir Peter and Lady Bairsto)-house built in the early 1990's**
- 3.0 **Law Park (Mr and Mrs S Fleming)-House dating from the 17th Century**
- 4.0 **6 Balnacarron Avenue (Mr and Mrs G Anderson) Town**
- 5.0 **Garden Cottage, 3 Thistle Lane South (Mrs B Mackenzie)**
- 6.0 **St. John's House, 67-69 South Street (Department of Medieval History in the University of St. Andrews)-house originally 15th Century Morning Coffee, Teas, Bouncy Castle, Plants, Bygones**
- 7.0 **46 South Street (Mrs E J Baxter-) 18th Century house on earlier foundations, Doocot, Rose Garden Morning Coffee Plants**
- 8.0 **15 South Castle Street (Mr and Mrs Routledge) one of the houses scheduled for demolition in the 1960's**
- 9.0 **12 North Street (The Preservation Trust Museum) original fisherman's cottage dating to the 16th Century Morning Coffee, Teas, Plants**
- 10.0 **36 North Street (Mrs A Fisher) One of a group of 17th and 18th Century houses.**
- 11.0 **5 Greyfriars Gardens (Mr and Mrs Wynd) This Street was laid out in the 19th Century**

Tickets for the event, priced at £3 for Adults. Children-free are available **in advance** from the Trust Museum together with the National Trust Shop in North Street. On the day of the event tickets will be available at 12 Hollowhill; 3 Thistle Lane; St. John's, the Trust Museum and the Pottery Shop in Church Square.

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Hidden Gardens 2002-Donations for Stalls

Amongst stalls to be set up at the Museum are those for books and potted plants. If you have unwanted **books or extra plants** you are able and willing to donate for these stalls please deliver the donations to the Museum between 2 and 5pm on any day.

Alternatively, to have the items collected, contact **Francis Humphries (Tel No 01334-474904)**.

St John's Garden will this year feature a Bygones (glassware and China) stall, if you have unwanted items which would be suitable for this stall contact **Bridget Mason (Tel No 01334-473193)**

Also at **St. John's Garden** there will be a general Bric-a-Brac stall.

Items for this stall should be directed to **Pat Anthony (Tel No 01334-479326)**

Summer Raffle 2002

The raffle in aid of Museum funds is now underway. Books of tickets have been issued to members and are selling well, Further books are available, if required, from the Trust office.

Tickets are also being sold both in the Museum and the Trust office. The raffle tickets will continue to be sold until September with the draw to take place in the Museum on Saturday 21st September 2002. 1st prize is a framed print by Michael Rothenstein which is on display in the Museum

Summer Reception - 2nd August 2002

Spaces are still available for this even), which will take place in the Museum Garden, or in the Museum, if the weather is inclement.

Members have priority on available places, however places will be made available to members guests and then to the general public if members do not take up the full complement of spaces available. If you haven't reserved your place, please contact the office without delay.

Office Bearers 2002-2003

Chairman	Mrs Elizabeth Williams	(474297)
Vice-Chairman	Mr I M Christie	(473989)
Convenors		
Environment	Mr I M Christie	(473989)
Finance & Property	Mr P A Hardie	(473052)
Museum	Miss F M C Humphries	(474904)
Publications, Publicity, Programme & Membership Planning	Mr K Roberts Vacant	(477922)

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Museum

The popular **summer exhibition "The Fab Fifties"** continues at the Museum. The displays, which consist of images and objects from the 1950s, promise to transport you back to the time when Elvis rocked the airwaves and Marilyn Monroe was thrilling audiences at the 'Pictures'. **Open daily 2-5 p.m.**

Films in the Fifties

Matthew Jarron will give a special presentation on films made in the 1950s as part of the summer exhibition "The Fab Fifties". **30th July at 6.30 p.m.**