



NEWSLETTER
OF THE
ST. ANDREWS
PRESERVATION
TRUST

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**Commemorative plaques -
Dr Andrew Bell**

The Trust has learned that File Council Education Department have agreed to fund the installation of commemorative plaques recognising the significant achievements of Dr Andrew Bell at both Madras College in South Street and al Bell Baxter in Cupar. This initiative was instigated and it is hoped that installation of the plaques can be achieved by the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Dr Andrew Bells birth in March 1753

New Curator at Trust Museum

As members may be aware the Trust has a new curator at the Museum in North Street.

Lesley-Anne Lettice is extremely well qualified for this post, she is an Honours graduate of the University of Dundee (Modern History and English Literature), holds an MLitt in Medieval History from the University of St. Andrews and recently completed a postgraduate diploma in Museum and Gallery Studies also at the University of St. Andrews. Lesley lists her other interests as reading, socialising, visiting places of historical interest/ museums/galleries in addition to enjoying aerobics.

Lesley took up her new position in early November and was immediately thrown into preparations for her first place in early December. A busy initiation indeed in our little Museum! Lesley is thoroughly enjoying her work and looks forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

exhibitions. After only three weeks in the post, she curated the St. Andrews Week exhibition of prints by Jurek Putter, *The Golden Age of St. Andrews, 1460-1560*. This was an extremely successful week, and the presence of Mr. Putter himself on several afternoons holding impromptu workshops, drawing and talking about his work methods, created great enthusiasm on the part of the visitors. In addition, Mr. Putter generously gifted the Trust an entire set of the prints shown in the exhibition; these will be on sale at various points in the future.

No sooner had Lesley taken down this exhibition than she was assisting the University's An History Students with their own exhibition, which took



Lesley-Anne Lettice, Museum Curator

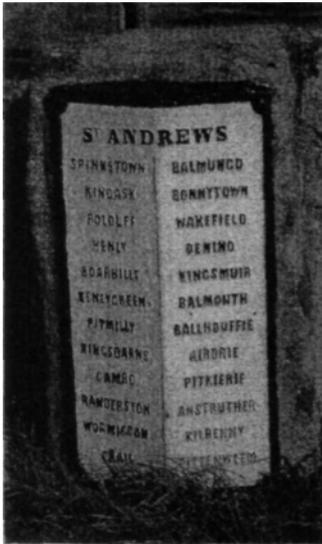
place in early December. A busy initiation indeed in our little Museum!

Lesley is thoroughly enjoying her work and is looking forward to the challenges of the year ahead.

Subscription Reminder

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions for the year 2003 are now due and can be paid at the Trust Office. If you don't pay by Direct Debit and would like to do so, please contact the office. Our thanks to all members who have adjusted their Standing Orders to reflect the revised subscriptions for 2003.

Milestones and Waymarkers



Would you like to help with this database? Please contact the office.

At a recent meeting of Trustees, those present were advised that the Trust had been informed that Fife Council had received funding from Historic Scotland to undertake a survey and possibly a repair of milestones and waymarkers in Fife.

The East Area Transportation Services Office of Fife Council however has, in conjunction with other services being provided in the Region, prepared a database of over four hundred milestones and waymarkers in the East Fife region. This is an extremely large number, and confirms what we had long suspected -that this part of the country is particularly rich in milestones.

This database gives the locations and basic condition of the milestones and waymarkers and, in some cases includes photographic records. In the case of milestones, the database identifies whether or not they continue to exist or are missing (theft of milestones has been acknowledged as a problem).

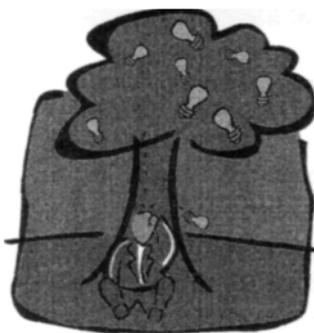
The Trust has discussed the possibility of obtaining the assistance of students on conservation courses at the University of Dundee to prepare supplementary information on the milestones. This would be a way of extending the coverage initiated by the Council (in particular within the area covered by St. Andrews Preservation Trust, that is, from Tentsmuir to Kingsbarns). Preliminary discussion has been held with representatives of Dundee University to explore this initiative further, and they have indicated that it may be possible to undertake such a project as part of a student's coursework or as a Summer vacation project.

The Trust will explore further me

possible sources of funding for such a project.

Should any Trust member be interested in helping compile an updated database of these items within the area round St. Andrews, would they please advise the Trust office of their interest.

Environment Students' Donation



We are pleased to report that no damage has occurred to the doocots during the winter nor has there been any significant damage to trees in the woodland, thus avoiding any major expense during the last year. A considerable improvement has been effected by the Council in the Lade Braes, including painting of bridges, benches and railings, although further painting is required before the summer. The worst part of the path has been tarmaced, approximately half of the total length, which is a big improvement. Some fallen trees have been cut up and, we are promised, further paint work and tidying up of trees will continue to be done. We have written to the Council expressing an appreciation of what has been done. We are again indebted to the Tree & Frog Society of the University for a major dean up of the wood and surrounding areas. The Woodland Management plan has been completed and will be published in the Trust's Year Book due out in May.

Trustees were delighted to be told that the University's Music Society would be donating the proceeds of the raffle, held at its Christmas Concert, to the Trust. A lively audience in the Younger Hall enjoyed the well-attended concert.

The concert, which was given free, has now established itself as a tradition with mince pies, refreshments and general conviviality—so look out for it this December.

Bill Calderhead, the Society's Fund-raising Convener, said that in choosing a local charity, the students wished to give something back to the town in which they study. He expressed the Society's thanks to the dozen or so local businesses which had generously contributed items for the raffle. On behalf of the Trust, Elizabeth Williams expressed everyone's thanks and said that it was a good example of town-gown cooperation. The very welcome cheque for £126 will be earmarked for use in the refurbishment of the Chemist Shop in the Trust Museum in North Street

Friends of Museum

An open meeting was held on 9th October to discuss the proposal that a Friends of the Museum group be formed. Lively discussion ensued and it was agreed that a steering committee be formed to look at the pros and cons of the proposal and to decide how best to proceed.

The steering committee felt that in a sense our museum is unique in that it belongs to the Trust and its members, as distinct from a public facility run by the local Council, educational facility or national body. As such, it was difficult to

see what advantages/incentives could be given to a supporters group which were not already in place.

In conclusion, it was decided not to proceed with a more formal supporters group at this stage, but to afford more recognition and involvement for our excellent volunteer group, without whose enthusiastic support the museum would struggle to survive.

Miss Anne Morris, a member of the museum committee, has agreed to oversee this.



The Preservation Trust's Museum in North Street

Craft Fair at the Museum - A New Venture

A **Craft Fair** will be held in the Museum on **Saturday 6th September 2003** from 11a.m till 4 p.m. This is one of a number of proposed events, which we feel will make the Museum a more interesting place to visit for locals and visitors of all ages. To carry out these new ideas, we shall need your help. Do you have a hidden talent for crafts? Do you know someone who has, and would welcome the opportunity to sell or promote his or her work? We will be delighted to receive any types of craft work or art - paintings,

photography, woodwork, embroidery and canvas work, patchwork, pottery, weaving etc.

This is a new venture for the Trust, and we are announcing it early to give everyone plenty of time to prepare donations.

If you can assist please let us know - there is a form enclosed with this Newsletter. Please fill this in and return it to the Trust office so that we can gauge the level of interest for such an event.

Help make this event a real Success . . .

. . . LET'S GET WEAVING!

Museum Report

The exhibition of prints by Jurek Putter during St Andrews Week was a great success with 266 visitors over the 5 days.

The exhibition put on by students from the Art History Society at St Andrews University also proved a great attraction with over 176 visitors to the event. It is hoped that this exhibition will become an annual event since a number of students who visited the exhibition expressed an interest in becoming involved in future events of this type.

The Museum Committee hopes to further strengthen existing ties with the University and the community at large by encouraging individuals and groups to see the museum as a possible venue for events of this type.

Visitor figures for the year are down slightly:

Visitor figures for 2002 - 9147 Visitor figures for 2001 - 9630

WANTED:
Paintings
Photography
Embroidery
Patchwork
Pottery etc

CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Museum committee announce the setting up of a Children's Corner in the museum to attract our junior visitors. This will supplement the work carried out earlier, providing questionnaires for children visiting the museum to encourage them to seek out answers to the questions posed whilst viewing the Museum's exhibits. We are most fortunate to have the services of one of the volunteers, Irene Bennett, a recently retired head teacher, to plan and organise this new feature.

Planning Issues



"WE ARE PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE DEVELOPER COINCIDES LARGELY WITH OUR OWN"



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In our last Newsletter of October 2002 we reported on the alarming planning proposal for "the Western expansion of St Andrews" - plans for 1,000 houses and other vaguely promised services, to be built over a period of 30 years. We would like to update you on this extremely important issue which would drastically alter the town and community of St Andrews.

Because of the size of this application — which, by the way, has not yet been submitted — an Environmental Impact Assessment (E.I.A.) is required under recent European legislation. This has to be submitted at the same time as the planning application and has to provide a great deal more detail than was previously necessary at the Outline Planning Permission stage. In order to get the E.I.A. right, it is preceded by a *Scoping Brief* in which the developer sets out the areas of concern which he believes need to be addressed (such as, the impact on roads, on wildlife and the environment etc.), and in which he also details methods he will use to establish such impact.

In November, the Trust was sent a copy of the *Scoping Brief* and members of the Planning Committee spent a great deal of time assessing it. We were helped very significantly by Trustee Tony Jackson, who helped us formulate a meaningful answer to Fife Council. We are pleased to report that the Council's response to the developer coincides largely with our own. In other words, not enough detail was provided on significant matters such as the impact on the local economy, noise and air quality, sustainability, countryside access, health and education issues, and other matters. Alternative sites must also be considered as a "fundamental requirement". Of equal importance as an issue is the relationship of such a development to the designation of a Green Belt for the town, as promised in the new Fife Structure Plan; and planning officials have gone as far as to say that they consider the proposal "premature and prejudicial" to the Green Belt discussion and to the forthcoming review of the Local Plan.

In other words, the project is for the moment in abeyance as the developer prepares a more detailed application. The Trust has been congratulated by a planning official on making a very useful contribution to what is essentially a new departure in the planning process. The development won't go away, however. So have your pens at the ready... A further set of applications relating to the sale of land on the South side of Abbey Walk by St Leonards School, is causing concern. We have already seen — and objected to - an application for 30 flats in two large blocks at St Nicholas, and to another for 2 and 3 storey blocks of flats at Greenside Place. Now we have a 3rd application for development at St Leonards Fields, on the site which we have all been hoping will be used to build our long—promised new hospital. Oh dear! Why has Fife Healthcare Trust been dragging its feet all these years? We must try to ensure that this site is kept available for the hospital, otherwise there will be no alternative to using a Greenfield site on the edge of town, which nobody wants. And who wants 6-bedroom houses today (which is what is planned)? We contend that these three applications should be considered strategically, all together, since together they will have a huge impact on the heavily congested Abbey Walk. If you have strong views on this matter, write to Fife Council's Planning Service, County Buildings, St Catherine Street, Cupar, Fife KY15 4TA. There is still time. Finally, on a more cheerful note, Planning Committee member Tony Jackson has recently been elected the new Chairman of the St Andrews Green Belt Forum, as a successor to Professor Terry Lee. We must thank Professor Lee for his work over the years and offer our congratulations to Tony: he will be ably supported by a larger Committee drawn from many local organisations, and by the new Secretary, Bob Murray, a past Chairman of the Trust and the first Chairman of the Green Belt Forum. The next two years should see the drawing up - at last - of the Green Belt boundaries, so we wish the Forum good luck and plenty of resolve!

Pride of Place Awards

The St. Andrews Preservation Trust has presented the first awards in its Pride of Place scheme. A former resident returned to the town a couple of years ago and was disturbed to find that it looked rather shabby with badly neglected wrought iron fencing and gutters and down pipes rusting; some even sprouting impromptu roof gardens. St. Andrews displayed such a distinct air of neglect that he asked the Preservation Trust whether it felt able to tackle some of the problems, if assisted by some funding. After much discussion the Trust agreed to set up the PRIDE OF PLACE AWARD SCHEME with the aim of encouraging local residents, businesses and property owners to take pride in their environment and thus improve the general appearance of the town. The main aim is to see that St. Andrews is once again worthy of the Best Kept Town Award. It seems ironic that the Jewel in Fife's Crown has been losing out to Cupar in recent years. With over £50million per annum earned through tourism and the Tourist Board's desire to see the town as a World Class Destination it would seem worthwhile to engage in some healthy competition with other towns. The first initiative of the Award Scheme was to write to all local schools inviting them to take part in a competition '**Your town is worth looking after**'. Madras College and St. Leonards came up with their ideas on how to reduce litter in the town which they have collected from various trouble spots.

The Pride of Place Committee, made up of environmentally aware residents, decided to give first prize (£500) to Madras and second (£200) to St. Leonards. These cheques have now been presented to both schools. The committee is delighted to learn that both schools are hatching new ideas for next year's competition. It is also hoped that other local schools will come up with ideas of their own. Trying to get the point across that dropping litter, chewing gum and pizza boxes is not socially acceptable could allow some of the Council's limited resources to be used in other places. It would be nice to see the flower beds at the entrance to Argyle Street car park tidied up with either new rose bushes or shrubs planted. If funds were made available an upgrading of the public toilets would be greatly appreciated by local residents and visitors alike.

In the coming years the committee would like to see iron railings restored and will perhaps be able to offer some funding towards repairs. We would like to tackle the problem of wheelie bins in front gardens and pavements and try to come up with a solution as to how they might be hidden. Workable suggestions from the public would be gratefully accepted. It would be nice to see more absentee landlords joining in the spirit of the awards by ensuring that gardens are tidy and windows painted. **This is our town, let's be proud to live in it.**

Office Bearers 2002-2003

Chairman: Mrs. E. Williams (474297)
Vice-Chairmen: Mr. I.M. Christie (473989) and
 Mr. Ken Roberts (477922)
Finance & Property Convener: Mr. P.A. Hardie (473052)
Environment Convener: Mr. I.M. Christie (473989)
Museum Convener: Miss F.M.C. Humphries (474904)
**Publications, Publicity, Programme
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 Curator Lesley-Anne Lettice*



100 CLUB

To all who supported this year's 100 Club a Urge Thank you from the Trustees
 £500 was raised by this effort to assist Museum Projects
 Congratulations to the following who have been winners throughout this year.

1st Draw

Prof Christian: £80
 Miss Ann Kettle: £50

2nd Draw

Mrs Linda Beck: £80
 Miss Margaret Finlay: £50

3rd Draw

Mr Jerry Coulter £80
 Mrs Joy Steele: £50

4th Draw

Mrs J S Doig: £80
 Mrs A Connelly: £50

Please note that a new 100 Club is about to get under way. Would you consider joining or rejoining ?
 Further details from the Trust office.

2003 Calendar of Events & Museum Exhibitions

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*'Hidden
Gardens'
is, by far, the
biggest fund
raising event on
the Trust
Calendar*

WANTED: HIDDEN GARDENS

(Sunday 29th June 2003)

If your garden is either unusual, interesting or attractive, and you would like it included in the programme, please get in touch.

SIZE DOES NOT
MATTER!

Please call for more details (without obligation).

01334 477152

MARCH Saturday 15th to Sunday 23rd

The StAnza Poetry Festival which includes an Exhibition of special books by Jean Johnstone

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Times: Daily 2pm to 5pm (Sat 10am to 5pm) Admission Free - see also StAnza Festival programme.

APRIL Saturday 5th to Sunday 20th

Easter Exhibition — "Sum and Substance, Men of St. Andrews" a look at the lives and deeds of some of the 'weel-kent faces' of the city's recent past.

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Times: Daily 2pm to 5pm Admission Free

MAY Thursday 1st

Visit to the Gardens of Wemyss Castle

Meeting Point: To be decided

Time: 2pm

MAY Thursday 22nd

Annual General Meeting (Speaker: Mr. William Lorimer)

Venue: Town Hall Supper Room

Time: 7pm

MAY Saturday 31st to SEPTEMBER Sunday 28th

Summer Exhibition "St. Andrews by the Northern Sea"

A look at the long and eventful history of St. Andrews Harbour and its environs.

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Times: Daily 2pm to 5pm Admission Free

JUNE Sunday 29th

The HIDDEN GARDENS of St. Andrews An opportunity to visit rarely seen parts of the town.

Times: 11am to 5pm (Tickets and maps available in due course)

AUGUST Friday 1st

Evening Reception at the Museum

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Time: 6.30pm

SEPTEMBER Saturday 6th

A Craft Fair - Sale of Art and Craft work

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Times: 11am to 4pm

NOVEMBER Tuesday 23rd to Sunday 30th

St. Andrews Week Exhibition Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Times: Daily 2pm to 5pm Admission Free

DECEMBER Saturday 6th to Friday 12th

Student Art Exhibition

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews

Times: Daily 2pm to 5pm Admission Free

DECEMBER Saturday 6th

"Christmas Cheer"

Venue: The Museum, 12 North Street, St. Andrews.

Time: 7.30pm