



NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

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From the Chairman

This has been another excellent summer for the Trust. Both the Museum and the Hidden Gardens Day attracted even more visitors than previously, so we offer our congratulations to the Committees and all those who helped, and to Lesley for her careful research and attractive displays in the summer exhibition. The volunteer groups are throwing themselves enthusiastically into their various jobs: it is most encouraging to see people enjoying themselves while at the same time helping the Trust in its work. Congratulations also to the Publications Committee for producing two more lovely designs for this year's Christmas cards, ready in record time and already selling well; and to this same committee for arranging the programme of events, a time-consuming task. On a personal note, let me thank Ian Christie for so ably taking over the running of the Trust during my enforced absence this summer.

In the last Newsletter, we promised that an account of this year's Annual General Meeting would be included in this issue. The 2003 AGM was attended by more Members than ever, a most encouraging development. The Chairman extended warmest thanks to all who had helped the Trust over the last year. Three new Vice-Presidents had been created in recognition of exceptional services to the Trust: Mrs June Baxter, Miss Gillian Falconer and Mr Robert Murray. All the committees were very active, with more events, a very high level of activity at the Museum, and the publication of a new history of the Trust, *Saving St Andrews*, which was launched at the AGM. The volunteer system at the Museum was now working more cohesively and giving greater satisfaction to everyone taking part in the various groups. With membership at over 600, the Trust could be seen as one of the most thriving organisations in the town, thanks largely to the unstinting efforts of all involved. The meeting continued with an illustrated lecture on 'The Furniture Designs of Sir Robert Lorimer', delivered in a lively and engaging fashion by William Lorimer, a grandson of Sir Robert. The local connections of both architect and lecturer made this an enthralling subject.

A question from the floor regarding the Trust's involvement with other local bodies and groups was promised a reply, which we now give.

The Trust receives invitations from an increasing number of organisations to attend meetings or respond to consultations. This is a compliment, since it suggests that our opinions are worth hearing. And it is natural that our members should expect to see a Trust representative at many of these meetings. However, this represents a considerable commitment for Trustees, especially the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen and members of the Planning Committee. Our legal adviser, Mr McFarlane, has advised that the parameters of the Trust's activities should perhaps be set out on a more formal basis.

Clearly, the majority of meetings relating to planning matters are directly connected with the Trust's primary aim, and it is in our interest to attend them. For example, in the near future we expect to be attending meetings on the new Local Plan; and sometimes we are approached by the architect responsible for a new scheme before this reaches the planning application stage. We are consulted by, and initiate meetings with - amongst others - Fife Council's East Area Development Service, the Links Trust, and the University. We have also been involved with Scottish Enterprise Fife's plans to improve parts of St Andrews town centre as well as Fife Council's Traffic Strategy and Accessibility consultations and the new community hospital, and were on the various discussion groups set up by the Tourism Management Initiative. We have links with the Tourist Board, and a continuing input into the Green Belt Forum. The Trust sends two representatives to the Standing Council of East Fife Preservation Societies, an invaluable contact with members of like-minded organisations.



On the museum side, we have connections with a large number of Scottish museum associations whose meetings are mostly attended by our Curator. These meetings are a vital source of contact for a flourishing museum such as the Trust's.

In addition to these regular commitments, the Trust is often invited to send a representative to public-relations events, such as the St Andrews Day reception, Town/Gown events, etc. We are more than happy to participate in such events because they foster a spirit of co-operation and raise the profile of the Trust, even though they may be outside a strict definition of the Trust's activities.

Financially, the Trust contributes, when requested, to a number of local causes, e.g., the Harbour Fund, the Madras College piers restoration, and the St Andrews in Bloom fund. The instances given above are representative rather than comprehensive; but it should be clear that the Trust, through its Trustees, has a heavy involvement with local bodies. When new organisations spring up, with 'the interests of St Andrews' at heart, our members will not, we hope, take it amiss if we decide now and again to draw the line at active participation.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

Trust membership currently stands at 632 in a town with a resident population of some 14,000. The more members we have, the greater our credibility when arguing our case with planners and developers. **Please do all you can to recruit friends and family.**

Members are not only helping the work of the Trust but also have the opportunity to join in the many social and fundraising events held throughout the year. For further information and an application form, please call or visit the Trust office. And please bring a guest who might wish to become a member to our Coffee Morning on 17th January, see page 3.

Preservation Trust Golf Day

Trustees past and present, their spouses and Trust volunteers played in the inaugural Preservation Trust Golf Day over the Strathtyrum Course at the end of October. This was a 'test' to see if there is interest for a full Members Golf Day next year and the answer seems to be 'yes!'

Glorious sunshine greeted the golfers and the elegant Trust trophy featuring a Tom Morris driver head (kindly donated by Museum Convener Frances Humphries) was won by Museum Volunteer Gill Hands. It was presented by the Chairman. The current thinking is to repeat the event for all interested members, possibly over the Eden Course a couple of days before the 2004 AGM in May. More details in the next newsletter.



THE TRUST OFFICE, 4 QUEEN'S GARDENS

After much thought, we have decided that, in order to give our Administrative Assistant, Mrs Dominiak, periods of the morning when she is assured of being able to work uninterrupted, the Office will be open to the public from 10:30 - 12:30 only. We hope this will not cause inconvenience.

2003/2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND MUSEUM EXHIBITIONS

**All events and exhibitions at the Museum,
12 North Street, St Andrews unless stated otherwise**

2003

NOVEMBER Monday 24th to Sunday 30th 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Admission Free
St Andrews Week Exhibition: "A Sense of Place - Discovering St Andrews"

DECEMBER Saturday 6th to Friday 12th 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Admission Free
Student Art Exhibition (in association with the University of St Andrews Art History Society)

DECEMBER Saturday 6th 7.30pm. Admission £5
"Christmas Cheer at the Museum", including a musical interlude.

2004

JANUARY Saturday 17th 10.00 am to 12 noon. Admission Free
Coffee Morning - to encourage new members.
Join us for coffee and biscuits at the Museum and bring a guest.

FEBRUARY Saturday 7th - Sunday 15th 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Admission Free
Arts & Crafts Exhibition and Sale of members' own work.

MARCH Friday 26th 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.
A Morning Visit to Queen Mary's House (By kind invitation of the Headmaster of St Leonards)
Venue: Queen Mary's House (meeting place to be arranged).

MAY Friday 28th 5.00 pm at Falkland (Detailed arrangements later)
Visit to Falkland House

MAY Thursday 20th 7.00pm
Annual General Meeting Town Hall Supper Room

JUNE Sunday 27th 11.00 am to 5.00 pm.
Hidden Gardens of St Andrews

JULY Friday 30th 6.30pm.
Summer Reception at the Museum.

Museum Report - Lesley-Anne Lettice (Curator)

This has been a very successful year for the Museum. Despite the unusually sunny weather, which tends to deter visitors from coming indoors, over 10 000 people have visited the Museum to date.

'St Andrews by the Northern Sea', looking at the history of the harbour and the fishing community, was a very popular Summer Exhibition. A large number of visitors expressed surprise at discovering that St Andrews had once been a thriving port while many local people with fishing connections were thrilled to see photographs of family members in the exhibition. A film lecture on the subject of ports, quays and harbours by former curator, Matthew Jarron, on 25th October provided an appropriate finale to a very successful run.

The Autumn Fair held in September, attracted almost 700 visitors and generated over £2700. Thanks to all our volunteers for their help, not least to the museum guides who provide an essential service without which the Museum could not function.

There has been a major addition to the Museum's permanent exhibitions in the form of an outdoor privy, recently restored with the aid of funding from the Kate Kennedy Club and Fife Community Council. A double-sealer, the privy has already proved popular with visitors, bringing a smile to many a face. The 'official opening', performed by local MSP Ted Brocklebank, which took place on 3rd October, was a great success.

Plans for future events and projects are already underway and we hope to see a few hundred more visitors coming through the doors before the end of the year. Still to come is the St Andrews Week Exhibition, 'A Sense of Place - Discovering St Andrews' (24-30 November inclusive), and an exhibition of student art (6-12 December inclusive).

TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVE

This autumn, the Trust is launching a tree-planting campaign which it will be able to fund in part thanks to the generosity of a bequest - the Pride of Place Fund - which was made to improve the appearance of St Andrews.

Trees are living things: they add to the beauty of our environment and, just as important, they provide a powerful antidote to the effects of air pollution. To appreciate the impact they can make on the street scene, you only have to look at the ancient holm oak in St Mary's quad, the weeping ash outside Hope Park Church, or the alder near the University Chapel.

The Trust is therefore encouraging individuals and organisations to plant a tree this winter. The Pride of Place Fund will make a contribution to the purchase cost of a tree provided it is planted on ground where it will be visible to the public. While preference will be given in the first instance to sites in the town centre, any site within the town boundaries of St Andrews will be given serious consideration.

Help to make our town healthier and more beautiful by joining in our tree-planting campaign. Contact the Trust Office at 4 Queen's Gardens, weekdays between 10.30 and 12.30, or ring 477152 for further details. Closing date for applications: 30 November 2003.

PLANNING THE FUTURE OF ST ANDREWS: HAVE YOUR SAY

As you know, we are at the start of very important consultations about the next Fife Structure Plan and East Fife Local Plan (this replaces the existing St Andrews and Area Local Plan). The Structure Plan will set out an overall strategy for the shape of Fife for the next 20 years, and the Local Plan will focus on issues relevant to East Fife (including, among many other issues, the boundaries of the St Andrews Green Belt).

The Trustees will be holding meetings with the officials responsible for the framing of the new Plans, and the Trust's Planning Committee will be responding to consultations on different aspects of the Plans.

We would like to hear the views of members of the Trust on what should be in the Local Plan. Please tell us what questions you would like the planners to answer. For example:

- Do you think St Andrews should be allowed to grow any bigger?
- Is there a need for any more houses in the town?
- What do you think would most improve the appearance of the town?
- What should be done to regulate traffic?
- Would you like to see more public amenities?

Please let us have your comments on these questions and any other questions that you would like us to put to the planners. We will report on progress in the next Newsletter. Your comments should be sent to The Planning Committee, The St Andrews Preservation Trust, 4 Queen's Gardens, St Andrews. KY16 9TA or by email to ajk@st-and.ac.uk

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