



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND THE TRUSTEES

Since the last Newsletter, much has been going on in the Trust. The beautifully researched and presented exhibition for St Andrews' Week, 'A Sense of Place', was much appreciated by all who saw it, recalling many aspects of the recent and not so recent past. An interesting student exhibition coincided with the evening of Christmas Cheer in early December, with its delightful musical interlude.

In January we held a Coffee Morning to attract new members, another success with sales and a number of new members making it a very worthwhile morning. This was followed by another 'first', a 9-day exhibition of art and craft by Trust members. It was most revealing to see what we all get up to in our 'leisure' moments; some works were on sale, and this has given another boost to our fund-raising. It is very good to be able to use the Museum through the winter, in between the big exhibitions. By extending its use in different ways we are helping our members feel they belong to the Trust. So very many thanks to everyone who contributed, and especially to those of you who allowed your work to be sold, and to all the volunteers who arranged and manned the exhibition.

The tree-planting initiative which we started under our Pride of Place scheme is getting under way - slowly! are talking to the University, Madras College and St Leonards School about suitable sites, but we would still encourage individuals to plant a tree. Do contact us if you have a site where the tree would be visible to the public.

The new arrangement for opening the Office between 10.30 and 12.30 only is working very well, and enables Mrs Dominiak to use her time much better. Thank you all for your cooperation, which we hope does not cause any inconvenience.

As we reported in the last Newsletter, the Trust aims to play as big a role as possible in the consultations leading to the next Development Plan. In December, Trustees had an informative exchange of ideas with Bill Lindsay, who heads the revision of the Local Plan. Some of the ideas we put to him look likely to be followed up, but we need to keep applying the pressure for sympathetic improvements in the town.

Some of you will be wondering why the Trust did not lodge an objection to the Links Trust's application for a 7th golf course which has caused a certain amount of controversy in the town, and we would like to explain how we reached this decision.

The Trust's policy on golf course developments has always been in accordance with the National Planning Guidelines set out by government. These state that a golf course is an acceptable use of land in the countryside, even within the Green Belt, *provided that* it does not come with proposals for 'associated development' which on their own would be unacceptable in the countryside. This was the thinking that led us to oppose so vigorously the Kingask development - golf courses with a 240-bed hotel, spa, conference facilities and plenty more - to the point of contributing handsomely to the Judicial Review appeal which arose from it. We treated the Scooniehill application for golf courses with accommodation for 160 club members, etc, in the same way, with the Trust speaking at both the Departure Hearing and the Public Inquiry, and we have taken the same approach to the recent Feddinch application for a golf course with a clubhouse providing accommodation for 160 club members. The Trust spoke against this application at the Departure Hearing in January.

Trustees treated the Links Trust seventh golf course application in exactly the same way, and decided that on planning grounds they had little cause for objection. Very little will be seen from the town of the clubhouse, car park or the course itself. And let us not forget that - besides the difference in the scale of development between the Links Trust proposal and these other purely commercial enterprises - the 7th golf course would be open to all who wish to play, in the best tradition of Scottish golf, while it is proposed that Feddinch would be so exclusive that only club members (mostly from overseas, therefore resident on site) would be able to play the course. And what would this do for local golf or trade?

And do go and look at the snowdrops in Lawpark Woodland before they fade: they are better than ever this year!

## RAISING FUNDS FOR THE TRUST

The Hidden Gardens Day- initiated by June Baxter and continued by Daphne Matthews - remains the biggest fundraiser for the Trust. It is laudable that this event not only raises a considerable amount of money for the Trust, but more significantly, raises the public profile of the Trust.

However, following some very successful additional fund-raising activities - organised over the past two years by Frances Humphries, Convener of the Trust's Museum Committee - the Chairman and the Trustees have agreed that it would be appropriate to establish a 'task force' to assist Frances in her endeavours.

The fundraising group has already met twice this year and a calendar of events has been drafted. The proposed programme of events includes an Autumn Fair - to be held in September 2004. It may be that this particular fundraiser will become an annual event.

As an initial venture in the campaign to raise funds - one which offers the members of the Trust the opportunity to participate - there is a 'Find the Treasure' sheet enclosed with this newsletter. Please encourage your friends and family to take part in the chance to find the lucky map reference and unearth the treasure.

## EVENTS

### **Morning visit to Queen Mary's House\***

[by kind permission of the Headmaster of St Leonards]

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2004 10 am - 12 noon**

### **Visit to House of Falkland\***

[by kind permission of Ninian Crichton Stuart and Falkland Heritage Trust]

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2004 5 pm**

\* See separate sheets with acceptance slips

## GOLF COMPETITION

As promised in the last Newsletter, here is some information about the St. Andrews Preservation Trust Golf Competition. The competition itself is open to all members who hold a handicap. The event will be held on Monday 24 May 2004 on the Strathyrum Course. The winner will be presented with the trophy at the AGM on Thursday 27 May 2004. Information on how to enter will be posted out with the AGM papers.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

**Date of AGM has been changed  
The AGM will now take place on  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 7 pm**

**Speaker: Mr James Simpson of  
Simpson & Brown Architects  
of Edinburgh  
will speak on restoring buildings**

## MUSEUM NEWS

The Easter exhibition for 2004 is *The People's War - St Andrews and the Home Front 1939-45*. Using familiar objects, photographs, newspaper cuttings and text, this exhibition aims to provide a flavour of what life was like for civilians during a time of shortages, blackouts and the ever-present threat of invasion.

The exhibition will look at a number of issues including civilian defence units, rationing and Utility furniture and fashions, leisure and entertainment during wartime and the emergence of the post-war Welfare State. On display will be everything from gas masks and ration books to land girls' breeches and a Polish soldier's uniform.

If anyone can donate or loan items to the Museum for this exhibition please contact the curator Lesley-Anne Lettice on 01334 477629.

Exhibition open 3 - 18 April 2004.



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approximately four times a year by  
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