

ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER NO 5 - JANUARY 1997

DOES ST. ANDREWS NEED A PRESERVATION TRUST?

As we approach the 21st century some sixty years after the formation of the Trust this would seem to be a relevant question. The original task of saving the small houses in the town is no longer necessary but he need to retain the character and amenities of the town is as important today as it was 60 years ago. With a membership of 455 in a town with a population of 14,000 there would not appear to be a great deal of interest. Why? A great many people have the image of ladies in hats looking after the interests of a small sector of the town. The image of hats in St. Andrews is certainly true, even woolly ones, but more to do with the cold east wind than a class uniform. Indeed beneath the hats there are no clones, rather a diverse group of people with the interests of the entire town at heart. There are those in the town who think that we are fighting a losing battle, there are those who feel that modernising the town would do it no harm but the saddest realisation is that the majority of people in town just don't care. They live and work in the town with eyes that just do not see the beauty of the buildings and the land and seascape around them. An encouraging fact is that many of the thousands who visit us each year, visitors from this

country and abroad do see St. Andrews in all its splendour. What the trust must try to do is to transfer some of this enthusiasm of the visitors to the local population. If you have any suggestion on how we might achieve this, do let us know.

During 1997 the Trust hopes to foster more awareness in several ways. This and the next two newsletters deal with the positive aspects of our work. In this issue we look at the Long Term Planning Committee. In the March newsletter we will look at the work done by the Planning Committee and in May we look at what the Museum and the Tree and Environment Committees do.

Two forthcoming events

should also help put the Trust in the spotlight. **On 20th February, 1997** Mrs. E.J. Garland from the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland will give a talk on Green Belt Status. We hope to have a large turnout on this evening.

On Saturday, 19th April 1997

a Coffee Morning/Publicity Event will be held in the Victory Memorial Hall. We shall be offering a cup of coffee, some home-baking and the opportunity of hearing from Trustees and discussing with them why we need a Preservation Trust. This event

will include a presentation from each committee on the work carried out by them.

It is hoped that our Coffee Morning will be a success and if any member can help with baking or coffee serving please contact Dorothea Morrison on 473365.

LONG TERM PLANNING

Some of the most important work done by the Preservation Trust is that of the Planning Committee. In the Spring of 1996 the Trust split the Planning Committee into two sections. The original Planning Committee and a new Long Term Planning Committee. The volume of work necessary to check and act on current planning applications is now so great that our Chairman, Bob Murray, felt that it was too much to ask one Committee to look both at these and also at long-term problems the Trust can see arising over future development in the town. The attraction to developers of building in the south of the town is seen as a real threat, as is the tactic of 'eating away' at the edges of green-field sites. With this in mind the new Committee has met with Mrs. Ruth Day, a Town Planning Consultant, and Mrs. Lesley Martin from Fife Planning Department has addressed a full Trustees' meeting. These meetings have helped Trustees to grasp just how complex and technical Planning Regulations

have now become. It is important that Trustees become familiar with national and local government policy documents on planning, as representations by the Trust can then be made much more precise, relevant and effective. Meetings have also taken place with the Community Council with whom it is intended to work as closely as possible.

TRUST MUSEUM **"SET IN STONE"**

The Museum 1997 Exhibition. This year's exhibition will look at how St. Andrews has developed and changed over the centuries. Part of the display will be devoted to a 60th anniversary retrospective of the Preservation Trust, our past work and our plans for the future. Do you have any special memories of your time as a member, or any objects associated with the early days of the Trust? Was there some event that sparked your interest in St. Andrews and its buildings? If you can contribute any information, Emily Cook at the Museum, 12 North Street, (477629) would love to hear from you.

When the thought of rolling Easter eggs palls and you are in search of entertainment for family and friends, a welcome awaits at the St. Andrews Preservation Trust Museum.

The 1997 exhibition opens over the Easter weekend and will provide a fascinating look at how the built environment of St. Andrews has been created over the past 700 years.

Part of "Animal, Vegetable or Mineral", a Fife wide series of exhibitions on the environment, the exhibition will also look at the work of St. Andrews Preservation Trust over the past 60 years.

Museum open 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st March, 2 - 5 p.m. daily.

DATES FOR YOUR **DIARY**

Thursday, 20th February, 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall. "The Landscape Setting of St. Andrews: finite resource or disposable asset". Mrs. E.J. Garland, the Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland. As the title suggests this is a talk not to be missed. We are sure that the subject will provide stimulus for much discussion and to help this along a glass of wine will be provided after the talk. This meeting is open to everyone. **Please do come and bring your friends.** **Admission is free.**

Musical Evening, Sunday 2nd March, in St. Salvator's Chapel

E. Jones, Harp, Tickets £7.50 per person from the Office in aid of Trust funds.

Saturday, 19th April, 10a.m. to 12 noon Victory Memorial Hall.

Coffee with a difference. A promotion of the work carried out by the Preservation Trust and the necessity for such a Trust. Please support us by looking in to the Hall that morning and finding out more about the work of the Trust.

J.L. HUNTER **SCOTT**

It was with sadness that the Trust learned of the death of J.L. Hunter Scott on 12th January 1997. Hunter had been a member of the Trust since 1965 and a Trustee from 1986 - 1992. During this time he was Museum Convener and a member of the Finance and Property Committee.

Hunter and his brother Michael were architects with the firm of Gillespie & Scott and nephews of James Scott who restored the Trust's museum at 12 North Street in the 1930s. Chairman, Bob Murray, has, on behalf of the Trust, sent a letter of condolence to Sheila, his wife, and family.

MEMBERSHIP

The Trust is always ready to welcome new members. If each present member could recruit just one new member this would greatly increase our funds. Please think about this. Any non member receiving this newsletter is invited to join us.

Contact the office at
**4 Queen's Gardens,
St. Andrews, KY16 9TA.
Tel. 477152 (10.00 a.m. - 12 noon).**