



LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

HEADING TOWARDS THE AGM

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Fresh off the presses as I write this piece are the Reporter's conclusions following her Examination in Public of the Local Plan. It's a mixed bag so far as the Preservation Trust is concerned, but we do draw some significant grains of comfort from it. The Council's adoption of the Reporter's findings is, we are told, now just a procedural formality.

Most heartening is the Reporter's affirmation of the importance of the southern hillside to the landscape setting of St Andrews. She requires it to be incorporated in the Green Belt, including the so called industrial site next to the hospital. It has taken 17 years of shilly-shallying but we are now within a whisker of having the Green Belt in place – not quite the Green Belt envisaged all those years ago, but a Green Belt all the same. It is also good to see the Reporter's endorsement of the hard won HMO moratorium, requiring it to be formalised as official Council policy. All of this, however, is overshadowed by the adverse news, as David Middleton reports, regarding the infamous Western Extension. Our last hope here is Penny Uprichard's battle in the Supreme Court. Penny told me that she received a most encouraging response to the appeal I made in the last Newsletter for contributions to her legal costs. She now has sufficient funds to take her case to the next stage.

At the time of the last Newsletter we had just submitted our response to the Council's consultation on its preferred option of locating the new Madras College at Kilrymont. You will now know that the majority of respondents, including ourselves, voted against this option, and that the Council has decided to defer further consideration until after the Council elections in May. We think that this is a satisfactory outcome and will allow a more complete review of the possibilities for the excellent new school we would all like to see.

The work of the Trust moves on apace as you will see from the enclosed reports. Meanwhile, the AGM on 10th May is rushing towards us. I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join us, when, in addition to the normal business, there will be a farewell talk by Professor Ian Carradice. Ian is retiring from the University this year and stepping down from the post of Curatorial Adviser, which he has held for over 20 years.

Also at the AGM, we shall be electing new Trustees. I should be delighted to hear from any of you if you would be interested in serving as a Trustee, or if you know of another member whom you think would make a suitable Trustee. There are up to five vacancies this year and we are anxious to find prospective Trustees with interests in planning, architecture, history, museum operations or who are prepared to offer hands-on help with the Museum garden, Boase Wood, event organisation, publicity and so on. Do please get in touch with me via the Trust office. If you're not sure, please don't hesitate to ask!

Graham Wynd
Chairman

PLANNING POLICY REPORT

In this edition the report of David Middleton, Planning Policy Convener, is in the form of a press release which he submitted to the “Courier” and the “Citizen” regarding the St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan.

Report of the Examination in Public – St Andrews and East Fife Local Plan

St Andrews Preservation Trust spokesman David Middleton has expressed disappointment that the Local Plan Examination in Public has not only confirmed the most damaging aspects of the Council’s proposals, but increased the impact on the sensitive landscape setting of the town in the west. By extending the size of the Strategic Land Allocation at Langlands/Northbank (the Western Extension) there is now a serious possibility of eventual coalescence with the Strathkinness settlement.

The Trust considers this quite unnecessary as the removal of the Madras School replacement from this site reduced the need for land and the site already had more than sufficient space for the proposed 1090 houses, science park, business park and primary school. Mr Middleton stressed that the Trust was keen to see more badly needed affordable homes in the town, but the plans would result in only about 17 affordable houses being built each year and even that number could be reduced in the present financial climate. The scheme relies on housing cross-funding the University development, which appears unlikely to get off the ground in the present economic climate.

The Government Reporters seem to have endorsed the Fife Council and Scottish Government view that making St Andrews “an economic driver for the whole of Fife” is more important than protecting what they themselves describe as “the nationally and internationally important landscape setting of St Andrews.”

The Trust has noted that as a result of a Council Landscape Designation Exercise, St Andrews has been stripped of most of its protective landscape designations.

Mr Middleton pointed out that it had emerged during the one-day hearing on the Plan in St Andrews that Langlands/Northbank had been deliberately excluded from the landscape designation assessment, presumably because to recognise its importance would have been a barrier to the Council’s plans.

While the Green Belt, now established after ten years of pressure from the Trust and other town organisations, is now in place, the Trust has fears that the policies for the Green Belt are too lax to ensure that unsuitable development cannot take place within it. Already private member residential accommodation for a golf course yet to be built at Feddinch, is being taken forward with apparent support from Council Planners.

The Trust does, however, welcome the removal from the plan of industrial/business land next to the Community Hospital and East of Craigtoun Road, which will increase the area of Green Belt on the Southern Hillside. The cost of this however is an increase in the size of the Western Extension.

Endorsement by the Reporters of a strict policy to prevent building on protected open space, such as that at the East Sands, is also welcomed, as is support for the successful case fought by the Trust to prevent a hotel being built which would have obliterated the iconic view from the Kinkell Braes approach to the town.

The Trust regards it as unfortunate that land is not to be safeguarded for a rail or light rail link to Leuchars.

The new planning system introduced in 2006 was heralded as a new opportunity for the public to influence their council's development plans. Sadly the promised openness, transparency and commitment to listen to the voice of the community has not been realised. The Local Plan Reporters had to accept all decisions, such as a twenty percent increase in the permanent population of the town already made in the Fife Structure Plan. This plan received no public examination as it was deemed unnecessary. The local plan in 1996 was subject to a six week public inquiry at which every important issue was examined in depth. The St Andrews element of the current local plan had a one day hearing session in St Andrews with the subjects chosen by the Reporter.

Fife Council is obliged to accept the decisions of the Reporter unless very exceptional circumstances apply. However, this is not necessarily the last word on this subject. Penny Uprichard's legal challenge to the Scottish Ministers asserting that the government failed to take landscape considerations properly into account in supporting the Western Extension, is now due to be heard in the UK Supreme Court. It is known that only cases where there is a valid point of law to be debated can reach this most senior court in the land.

Citizens who challenge environmental decisions are entitled by international treaty to have affordable access to justice. This has not been experienced so far in Penny Uprichard's case and Scottish justice will also be on trial at the Supreme Court. The Trust has supported and continues to give support to Penny Uprichard's legal challenge.

David Middleton
Planning Policy Convener

ENVIRONMENT

The Committee has been involved in promoting further developments in our Shop Front Restoration project, under the energetic control of John Frew and Jimmy Macgregor. This already embraces sensitive sections of Church Street, Bell Street and South Street and we are negotiating restoration of further premises prior to publishing a leaflet on the remarkable extent of these ornamental reminders of 19th century Glasgow foundries and shop front design.

The Committee has also nominated Maries Cassells and the Pilgrim Foundation for a National Civic Award, in recognition of their major role in preserving the unique past of St Andrews in ways that enhance it for the future.

Winter storms have created problems for us with roofs of doocots and these have been seen to. After the renewal of fencing on two sides of the Boase Wood, we are now finally replacing signs which were no longer applicable, using the new Trust house-style to bring the Trust into the forefront as active custodians of the town. We are also involved with the West Sands Committee of the Council in ensuring sustainable survival of the dunes which protect both beach and golfing in the town.

Sam Taylor
Environment Convener

FINANCE AND PROPERTY

The first months of the year are taken up with the preparation and finalisation of the Annual Accounts to the previous 31 December. In conjunction with Ian Palfrey of Henderson Black we have reached the happy position of the Accounts being finalised and being sent to the printers for incorporation into the Annual Report of the Trustees. I must thank Ian most sincerely for all his help and guidance in this large task, as the accounting requirements to enable a charity to maintain the charitable status get more complex every year.

The end figure for the year is a surplus of £2,919 mainly thanks to the legacy and donations received during the year, restricted to expenditure on the museum facility. After taking into account the realised gains and unrealised losses on our investments, we have a positive net movement in funds of £3,317, giving us total funds at 31 December 2012 of £683,177 which includes the properties owned by the Trust.

The first months of the year also involve the office in receiving the annual and life subscriptions for 2012. I am pleased to say that many members have already renewed their membership, many by standing order through their bank, but inevitably there are some who have not yet renewed. If you have already renewed, many thanks. If you have not yet renewed

then can I please ask you to do so as soon as possible as the subscription income is vital to the annual finances and work of the Trust?

I am pleased to report that the Trust has received an unrestricted legacy of £3,000 in February. In recording this may I suggest to members that they do consider that this is something that could be added to the terms of their wills for the future benefit of the Trust?

There was small damage to a tree in Boase Wood and also to the Doocot at Kenly Green during the high winds and both of these needed attention. Otherwise the properties remain in satisfactory condition.

Ian Lumsdaine
Finance and Property Convener

FUNDRAISING

ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT

I am pleased to report that the annual quiz night was a great success due in no small way to the efforts of the 'Quiz Team'. Our question setter, Frances Humphries, came up with some amazing questions which both stretched and amused the participants. Twenty teams took part this year with four, most pleasingly, from the University. The winners for a seventh year were the 'Mashie Niblicks'. Our thanks go to those members who contributed prizes for the raffle which raised the sum of £167 and to the New Golf Club Secretary and his staff for making us all so welcome.

HIDDEN GARDENS SUNDAY JUNE 24th

The work continues in respect of the organisation of this important fundraising event, the selection of new and interesting participants is almost complete, and these, along with some well known favourites, will ensure that the visitors have a splendid day. There will be much to entertain them both at the Museum and at St John's. All of last year's entertainers and stall holders have confirmed their participation again this year, in addition to which we will have some new ones.

As well as the usual publicity and promotion of the event, we are delighted that, for approximately a month beforehand, the event will be promoted in the windows of J & G Innes and the Citizen Office, two of the most prominent business windows in Town. Our thanks for this innovative and most welcome step go to Membership, Publications and Publicity Convener Derek Barrie.

After much discussion, the committee have decided to increase the ticket price this year to £6. This still represents great value for entry to this prestigious event.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Murray Donald Drummond Cook has kindly agreed to continue their sponsorship of the event for a further three years.

HIDDEN GARDENS APPEAL

I am making an appeal to you all for some help and support. We need some help at St John's Garden by way of cake bakers and refreshment servers. The latter would be asked to take a three hour slot (10.00 am to 1.00 pm/1.00 pm to 4.00 pm) for which they will be entitled to a free entry ticket to view the gardens. Ticket sellers are also required on the same basis.

Marysia Denyer would appreciate donations for her bric-a-brac stall which this year will have a 'Flower Power' theme. This would include anything floral so I leave it to your imagination. Pat Anthony is appealing for wedding hats to sell on her Bangles, Baubles and Beads stand. A good opportunity to re-cycle or perhaps re-stock? The donation of Raffle prizes would also be appreciated.

All donations via the office please and offers of help to Liz Johnson 461199 or lizmjohnson7@aol.com

Andrew Johnson
Fundraising Convener

MEMBERSHIP, PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLICITY

A 'thank you' goes to all members who have renewed their subscriptions and correspondingly a reminder to those of you who have still to do so. Membership subscriptions remain unchanged from 2011 but there are still a few of you who have yet to change your standing orders to take account of the increase agreed back at the 2010 AGM. The new membership leaflet being prepared by Jennifer Reid, the Museum Curator, Anne Morris and me is nearing completion and we hope to have it available for the AGM on 10th May. The three of us will then turn our attention to a new leaflet directed at businesses in an effort to increase the number of corporate members. We are always grateful when members remember the Trust in their wills and we have benefited from a number of such legacies in recent years. We are now planning a specific campaign to encourage supporters to help us in this way.

We again continue to secure a good level of press coverage, especially in the "Citizen." We have restarted our previous procedure of reporting on each month's Trustees' meeting in the "Town News" of the "Citizen" covering the main issues discussed. The "Courier" carried a good photo from our January research project display and coffee morning in the museum.

We have also had coverage in both the "Citizen" and the "Courier" of the submission made

by the Trust to Fife Council in its recent consultation on its proposal to remodel the Kilrymont building to form a single site Madras College. The actual press release was sent out to members with the February newsletter. Further press coverage was given to the Trust's reaction to the results of the consultation, welcoming the rejection of the council's proposals and wishing other sites to be considered. Further developments are awaited with interest and will be commented on in due course.

We are indebted to West Port Print and Design who have donated a roller banner (commonly known as a 'pop-up') to display the presence of the Trust at events. Most of the work on this project and creating the preliminary design was undertaken, as an addition to her usual duties, by the museum curator, Jennifer Reid. The banner will have its public debut at the AGM in the Town Hall on 10th May.

It will not be long before we are heavily involved in preparations for our major fund raising event "The Hidden Gardens of St Andrews" which takes place on the last Sunday in June. We will step up publicity measures to try to boost numbers attending and we would encourage you to come. We have already arranged two additional pieces of publicity. J & G Innes Ltd will devote a window display to the event. Likewise for about a month leading up to the event a further display will be mounted in the Citizen Office window in Greyfriars Garden.

Finally we have a number of publications in stock which we would like to sell and accrue revenue. We will therefore have them on sale at the AGM – there will be some real bargains.

Derek Barrie
Membership, Publication and Publicity Convener

MUSEUM REPORT

The Museum Committee has continued its usual multi-tasking over a period of administrative flux. We have been fortunate in having a highly professional Curator to accommodate this bustle and steer us into an era of computerised access to our collections. After major efforts by the Curator, Marjorie Dickens and Lesley Barrie, our growing town archive is increasingly accessible, electronically on screen. Our photographic collection is both growing and coming under increasing demands from local and national businesses, from writers, academics and historians. Increasing dependence on advanced data management has led to the decision to upgrade the gallery computer. Problems of storage of our collections are now seriously exercising the Trust.

With all this, the programme of exhibitions for this season is advancing. The April exhibition (April 7-22) on "Lights, Camera, Action" marks a new relationship with the University's Film Department and the later exhibition "Wheels" will showcase transport over the years. Community involvement also extends to schools as Canongate mounts an exhibition

involving the Museum. The StAnza poetry festival will again be using our museum.

Volunteers are the oxygen of the Museum and the committee has organised a lively programme of talks headed by those of John di Folco and Ian Carradice. Added to these, there has been a highly successful exhibition of the work of Museum Research Groups under Frances Humphries. The shop is being reinvigorated thanks to Anne Morris and Gillian Falconer. Plans for the garden and its role in Hidden Gardens are well advanced thanks to Derek Bayne and Andrew Johnson. Anyone passing the front of the building should always spare a minute to admire the tasteful displays in the stone flags and troughs.

We are looking forward to a new University Mentor to succeed Professor Ian Carradice who has given so many years of invaluable help and advice. Our Museum sign is being replaced with a much improved, Trust house-style version in time for the new season. Finally, under the guise of “Forward Planning”, the Curator has drafted a professional and definitive document on our mission and procedures: a document all would do well to read. Over a difficult year impressive progress has been made by the Trust’s Museum and the Curator, volunteers and Committee should all take credit.

Sam Taylor
Acting Museum Convener

MUSEUM TIMES

Volunteers who help in the Trust Museum receive a regular newsletter called “Museum Times”. Over 30 issues have so far been produced. Some of the articles contributed deserve a wider audience in the Trust and we intend occasionally reproducing them in the members’ newsletter.

In this edition the article taken from the January 2011 “Museum Times” is by former Trustee, Betty Bushnell and is entitled **25 Years in the Museum**

Or probably nearer 27, I think. When I joined the Preservation Trust, soon after I retired, exhibitions only took place in the summer – and for a shorter time. Also there was no “real” curator – just a few volunteers and the convener.

A few years later, I became a Trustee and more conversant with the thinking and working of the Board of Trustees. In those days, planning did not take up too much of the Trust’s time, but nevertheless was deemed very important; there was much less demand for new houses to be built and, as the student body was only about half of its present size, there were fewer blocks of flats and houses turned into flats. The Trust had been largely concerned with buying old property, restoring it and either reselling or letting it out to bring in revenue. The museum was a very minor part of the Trust’s work. Many Trustees thought that the Trust should not be maintaining the museum at all; it would become too much of a drain on resources, but they

had been gifted 12 North Street, already restored by James Scott, and also possessed numbers of artefacts donated by St Andreans.

Because there was virtually no storage space at 12 North Street and the Trust at the time did not have an office space in Queen's Gardens, most of the museum possessions were stored in the redundant church at Dairsie. It was rented from the Church of Scotland at a peppercorn rent but for which the Trust paid a very high insurance premium; it was a listed building.

After a year or two surviving on those Trustees in favour of the museum and a few volunteers, a part-time curator – amateur or partially trained – was appointed. Out of necessity this was an older person with other means; the last of these, if memory serves me right, was Beryl Neale.

Eventually the Trustees consented to pay a more adequate – but essentially small – remuneration. An attempt was made at the time to charge for entry, but had to be abandoned when families were seen to turn away when confronted with a charge.

When North East Fife District Council proposed opening a museum in Kinburn it was felt that St Andrews could not maintain two museums and the Trustees offered to transfer at least some of our stock to Kinburn. But, largely due to the unhelpfulness of their first curator, our overtures were spurned and it was made clear that they did not want our stock!

I remember we interviewed three candidates for the first full-time trained curator; the one appointed was Ruth Neave who went on after two years to Dundee and so began the present system.

The enjoyable Christmas parties for volunteers were begun, I think, in their present form by Emily Davies, the curator, and her mother – although for many years we had had a small gathering of members at Christmas entertained usually by a little choir of St Andrews school children.

Under the chairmanship of Edwina Proudfoot it was decided to aspire to becoming a “real” museum and Ian Carradice (not yet a professor) was persuaded to join the committee to advise on preparing to achieve registration.

It was not until 2003 that the “Museum Times” came into being along with an army of volunteers who devoted themselves to various tasks connected with the museum. This was the brainchild of Frances Humphries.

Instead of the white elephant of the 1980s (in some people's eyes at any rate) the museum has now become an essential “public face” of the Trust without, I think, being a liability interfering with the other, perhaps more essential works of the Trust.

What an interesting 25 (or is it 27) years!

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

On Wednesday 28th March, a fully-subscribed party of 40 Trust members were received at St Mary's College for a tour of the college building and gardens. After an initial welcome, the group separated into two led by Rachel Hart, Special Collections and Matt Sheard, Museum Collections Unit of the University. They offered expert insight to the history of St Mary's and portraits of former Principals, the furniture, objects and other features on display in the formal rooms, on the stairwells and even inside an old dormitory or 'study-bedroom' retained from centuries past. We were able to explore behind the gates to view the Principal's lawn and the 'Long Walk'. Sadly, the latter, site of the original Botanic Garden until it was relocated to the Canongate fifty years ago, has not been maintained of late. A project to restore these grounds and re-open it for public access is one which the College would like to see supported from funds raised during the 600th anniversary campaign. I am sure all our members would endorse this and seek to encourage breathing new life into one of the vital lungs of open, green space at the heart of St Andrews.

MUSA, The Scores (the University's Museum) has on public display treasures from the collections. However, with over 112,000 artefacts on their records many are held in store at the former Crawford Arts Centre, North Street. Our museum volunteers had the opportunity of a guided inspection of this depository, recently; MUSA are keen to invite our members on tours. Inevitably, these visits will be arranged for small numbers each time. Rather than ask you to apply for a specific date - and be disappointed - please indicate if you are interested and we will contact you as and when dates and places are available; see the enclosed note giving further information.

Planning for the summer months is progressing well. We are in discussion with the Director of the World Saxophone Congress, a prestigious international festival staged every three years, which is to convene at St Andrews from 10th to 15th July, with the aim of hosting groups of saxophonists in the Museum Garden. Information will be posted on their website www.wscxvi.com.

Also in July, the annual Summer Reception will be held in the garden (fates willing ... or indoors, if not) of the Trust Museum on Tuesday, 24th July at 6.30pm - please note the change of weekday to avoid competing with sporting affairs elsewhere in the country! Later in the season are the Golf and Putting Competitions on Monday 27th and Wednesday 29th August, respectively. Details of how to apply for both will be publicised in the next newsletter.

Finally, the Programme Committee is always appreciative of suggestions from members for future outings or events. We would be grateful to hear any ideas you have! Please email (trust@standrewspreservationtrust.org.uk) or write to the Trust Office with your proposals or requests and we will be delighted to consider them.

Simon Kidd
Programme Convener

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**Saturday 7th to Sunday 22nd April**

Easter Exhibition - "Lights, Camera, Action ..."

A short history of cinema and film in St Andrews; this exhibition is a collaboration with the University of St Andrews Film Studies Department

Trust Museum, 12 North Street

Daily 2 pm to 5 pm

Admission Free

Thursday 10th May

Annual General Meeting

Guest speaker: Prof. Ian Carradice, Director of University Museum Collections and Curatorial Adviser to the Trust

Supper Room, Town Hall, Queen's Gardens

7 pm

Saturday 26th May to Sunday 30th September

Summer Exhibition - "Wheels"

The story of motoring in St Andrews from the earliest garages, clubs and motor races

Trust Museum, 12 North Street

Daily 2 pm to 5 pm

Admission Free

Sunday 24th June

Hidden Gardens Day

An opportunity to visit rarely seen gardens of St Andrews

11am to 5pm

Admission Charge £6/adult, Children Free

Tuesday 24th July

Members' Summer Reception

Trust Museum, 12 North Street

6.30 pm

Monday 27th August

Members' Golf Championship

Strathtyrum Course

Wednesday 29st August

Members' Putting Competition

'Himalayas' Putting Green

5pm 'shot-gun' start (meet at 4.45pm prompt)

September (date to be confirmed)

Preservation Trust Lecture

The inaugural talk of a new annual series: Dr John Frew - Shop Fronts in St Andrews c.1800-1950

Town Hall, Queen's Gardens

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (Continued)**September (date to be confirmed)***Members' visit to John Henderson Fabrication*

Scooniehill Farm, Largo Road

Saturday 24th November to Sunday 2nd December*Arts and Crafts Exhibition*An exhibition and sale of work by members and volunteers from the St Andrews Preservation Trust
Trust Museum, 12 North Street

Daily 2 pm to 5 pm

Admission Free

CONVENERS 2011/2012

Chairman	Mr D.G. Wynd
Vice Chairman	Mr A.W. Johnson
Vice Chairman	Professor S.S.B. Taylor
Environment	Professor S.S.B. Taylor
Finance and Property	Mr I.S. Lumsdaine
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Museum	Mrs E.M.T. Penny
Planning Applications	Mrs M.Z. Humfrey
Planning Policy	Mr D.N. Middleton
Programme	Mr S. A. Kidd

Conveners can be contacted through the Trust Office at 4 Queen's Gardens, telephone 01334 477152.



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