

# ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

## NEWSLETTER NO 6 - APRIL 1997

### TRUST TO CAMPAIGN FOR GREEN BELT STATUS FOR ST. ANDREWS

It is imperative that St. Andrews **should** seek Green Belt status. This was the decision reached by Trustees at a special Trustees' meeting held shortly after a public lecture given by Mrs. Elizabeth Garland, Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland. The Trust was heartened by the large turnout, on a very wet February evening, of both members and the public. The topic Mrs. Garland had chosen was THE LANDSCAPE SETTING OF ST. ANDREWS: FINITE RESOURCE OR DISPOSABLE ASSET. She spoke of the great importance of a rural setting for towns and cities. Both Glasgow and Edinburgh enjoy such a setting. Mrs. Garland also spoke of the distinctive landscape of St. Andrews being a finite resource which could easily be eroded by creeping development and urged St. Andrews to set about acquiring Green Belt status without delay. The Trustees have accepted this and have decided that we must now begin to campaign actively. The idea for Green Belt is not a new one, it has been under discussion for the last two years with a great deal of ground-work already undertaken by former Chairman, Mrs. Edwina Proudfoot, and former Planning Convener, Mrs. Jenny Hopgood. It is up to Fife Council to adopt Green Belt. We must present a good case for doing so. The strategy on how best to proceed is being formulated and professional advice has already been sought.

Members will be kept informed of the progress made, Trustees feel that development in St. Andrews has reached crisis point. We must constantly be vigilant regarding planning proposals and be aware of the long lasting damage to the town if creeping urbanisation cannot be contained. The problems which face St. Andrews are perhaps unique and certainly complex. We have a prestigious university, world famous golf courses, the town is a popular place for day visitors and holiday makers, all within a historic city. We must address the needs of the local people and try to solve the problem of providing homes local people can afford to buy in places that they will want to live.

### COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

The site for the new community hospital is a current concern for Trustees. There is no opposition to the building of a hospital but where it will be built is of crucial importance. Perth and Kinross N.H.S. Trust

have indicated that they are looking for a seven acre green field site. This may seem an ideal proposition but St. Andrews does not have seven acres of green field which could be developed without spoiling the landscape setting. The Preservation Trust supports the Community Council decision that the only site presently suitable is that of St. Leonards Fields and the present Cottage Hospital. This site is not without problems but they may be fewer than those created if the hospital is built on a vulnerable site.

### COFFEE MORNING

Members should note that the Trust's **Coffee Morning** has been moved from **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April** until **Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May**, as before in the **Victory Memorial Hall**. It was decided to postpone our event as Inasmuch and Cruse are both holding a coffee morning on 19<sup>th</sup> April and we are sure members will want to give them their support.

We look forward to a large turnout on 10<sup>th</sup> May for what looks like being an interesting morning. Trust committees are busy preparing presentations for the occasion and the results of a photographic competition should be on display.

Help is still needed from members who may wish to bake or serve coffee.

Contact: Office; Dorothea Morrison; Anne Rose.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**A.G.M. Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 7.30 p.m.**

**Town Hall Supper Room.**

**Dr. Norman H. Reid**, Keeper of Manuscripts and Muniments at St. Andrews University Library will give an illustrated talk entitled "**The Photographic Collections in St. Andrews University Library**". Mrs. Christine Wolfe has written an article for the Year Book on "Mosaics in St. Andrews".

**The Museum** will be open for the summer **on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> May and a preview** for members of this year's exhibition will be held on **Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May** at 6 p.m.

**A Photographic Competition** organised by the St. Andrews Photographic Society will be open also to non-members. Subjects "**Views in or out of St. Andrews**" or "**St. Andrews in Snow**". Further information from the Trust Office.

## **SCOTLAND'S GARDENS SCHEME**

**On Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> June 1997, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m three gardens in St. Andrews will be open to the public. Miss Penny Uprichard, St. Andrews Preservation Trust Trustee, Littleridge, Hepburn Gardens, (at the fork with Buchanan Gardens).**

Tea will be served and there will be stalls including a plant stall and a Preservation Trust stall.

Dogs on lead permitted.

**Mr. and Mrs. H. Turner, 166 South Street.**

**Mrs. F.A. Sloan, 30 Hepburn Gardens.**

Admission £2.00 gains entry to the three gardens, accompanying children free. 40% of proceeds to the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for children.

HELP! The savings made by delivering Newsletters by hand is quite considerable over the year but quite time consuming for the editor who delivers the bulk personally. This is an interesting task as members live in all corners of the town and some in very well hidden places! If any members would like to help deliver just a few copies please contact Dorothea Morrison.

The last Newsletter brought comments from three of our members and notice is being taken of each.

The first comment was regarding the fact that FIFE had been omitted from the address given for the Trust. This was an oversight for which we apologise. It is not Trust policy.

The second comment was regarding the statement made by the editor that there is apathy in the town. This statement was made without the backing of a survey. With several contentious matters presently of importance to the Trust, i.e. the site for the community hospital and the continual threat of development around the town, a survey of what local people actually think would be extremely useful but a huge undertaking. Should we attempt this, help would be sought from members.

The third suggestion was from one of our newer members, also new to town and interested in the history of both the buildings in the town and the work carried out by the Trust. The idea is for the local paper to perhaps run a series of articles on this subject. The Trust already has several publications which may be adapted and further consideration will be given.

## **LIGHTS IN THE CATHEDRAL**

Trustees have wondered whether any of our members have wandered through the Cathedral recently. Some weeks ago a battalion of black light boxes took up position as though prepared for battle, sitting alongside the gravestones. This tranquil resting place of so many

former St. Andreans looks as if an invasion had taken place. Spectacular the floodlighting may prove to be, discreet the lighting boxes are not.

## **PLANNING**

The promised article on planning can be found in the annual Year Book rather than this Newsletter. Planning was considered too large a subject to condense into a one column article. Our Planning Convener, Eddie Fraser, is hoping that the Trust might sponsor an evening class next winter on Town Planning. Members interested should contact the office or speak to one of the Trustees at the A.G.M. in May.

## **TAKE YET ANOTHER TRUSTEE**

### **DOUGLAS P. HAMILTON**

Douglas was elected as a Trustee of The St. Andrews Preservation Trust in May 1996. Born in St. Andrews he was educated at Madras College and is a graduate of St. Andrews University. This background and his long service as a Councillor, first as a Town Councillor in Tayport and then with North East Fife District Council make him a very valuable Trustee. Douglas was Vice-Chairman and then Chairman of Planning from 1984 until the reorganisation of Local Government in 1996. Planning is one of the most important aspects of the work carried out by the Trust and Douglas brings great expertise and insight into the complex workings of town planning.

The Trust has been very lucky in persuading him to become a Trustee as his life was already rather full. He is an elder of Hope Park Church, President of the St. Andrew Society, President of St. Andrews Probus Club, Vice-President of St. Andrews Rose Society and an Assessor to the University Court. A past President of North Fife Rotary Club, he bases his life on the Rotary motto "Service above self. Those who know Douglas know this to be true. In his "spare" time he is a keen gardener and golfer. He has previously won the Best Kept Garden in Tayport and in 1992 was appointed a Trustee on the St. Andrews Links Trust. Even in this full life he also loves music and has an interest in tennis and bowling. If he ever draws breath I'm sure it isn't to say that he is bored!

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