

ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

NEWSLETTER NO 7 - JUNE 1997

Welcome to Newsletter No 7

I interviewed Prof. Terence Lee for this issue and hope that readers find it as interesting as I did. Terence became a co-opted Trustee in 1996 and was elected this year. As the Trust proceeds with the campaign for Green Belt Protection it is a great advantage to be able to call upon the expertise that Terence has to offer. Douglas Hamilton, featured in the last Newsletter, has also been able to give Trustees the benefit of a wealth of knowledge gained in his role as a councillor and planning convener with the former North East Fife District Council.

COFFEE WITH TRUSTEES on Saturday, 10th May, went very well. Many thanks must go to Clive Burhouse and his daughter Claire for all their assistance on the day. It was such a pleasure for Trustees to meet so many interesting people. Everyone who came along enjoyed the presentations prepared by each committee. There was a great deal of interest in the campaign for Green Belt. This is quite heartening as a tremendous amount of work lies ahead. In the next Newsletter our Chairman, Bob Murray, will be able to give a more detailed account of the work that has been carried out behind the scenes. We now have car stickers in support of Green Belt available from the office. We hope to see many of these around the town and in other parts of the country. We want people to think St. Andrews, think Green Belt.

A.G.M. on 22nd May was well attended. Dr. Norman Reid, Keeper of Manuscripts and Muniments, at St. Andrews University gave a talk on the history of photography, the large collection that is held within the university and the problems and solutions of holding such a collection.

MUSEUM PREVIEW 30th May The current exhibition 'Set in Stone' was put in place for the Easter opening of the Museum. Many members took the opportunity to view this excellent exhibition then, giving a quieter than usual Members Preview. For those who did come

along on that lovely summers evening it was most enjoyable with much time spent in the garden. Members were able to see the progress that has been made. There is still lots to do and volunteers are never turned away. The A.G.M. and Museum Preview both gave Trustees time to chat with members over a glass of wine and we hope this creates a pleasant atmosphere and occasion to hear from members their thoughts and ideas for the Trust.

60th ANNIVERSARY As many of you may be aware The St. Andrews Preservation Trust is almost 60 years old. To celebrate this Trustees are hosting a **Members' Garden Party on Saturday, 19th July**. Mrs. Pirie has kindly offered the Trust the use of her garden for this event, the late Mr. Pirie was one of the early members of the Preservation Trust. An invitation is extended to all members and those arriving by car will be expected to park in Hepburn Gardens. An invitation for all **members** is enclosed with this Newsletter and we would request a reply as early as possible to allow for catering. Members wishing to bring a friend should contact the office.

The Party will be cancelled if the weather is inclement and a message to this effect will be left on the office answering machine. Please check if in doubt.

Another recognition of the Trust's 60 years can be seen in a **floral display in Kinburn** over the summer.

Stop Press: Stop Press: Stop Press:

" that which was lost has been found..... "

Through the good offices of Dr. Frank Quinault, the University Hebdomadar, the Wishart Plaque which was "removed" from its plinth near the Castle in June 1993 has been returned to the Trust. The plaque is in good condition, but at some time it was used as a Raisin Receipt as there are some Latin verses written in felt pen on the back!

Anyone wishing to know more about the twelve plaques put up in St. Andrews by Professor J.F. Allen and The St. Andrews Preservation Trust can buy a small booklet, price £1.50, in the Trust Office, the Trust Museum or the University Library. The returned plaque can be seen at 4 Queen's Gardens during office hours. Christine Wolfe '97.

THE EDITOR CHATS TO A NEW TRUSTEE

PROFESSOR TERENCE R. LEE

Terence Lee told me he is a psychologist and originally came to St. Andrews as a Lecturer in 1956. He was later appointed Head of Psychology at the University of Surrey, where he was also a Pro Vice Chancellor. On retirement, he came back to St. Andrews and now directs a small research unit in the School of Psychology entitled '**Environmental** Psychology & Policy'.

The Preservation Trust is both dedicated to the *environment* and concerned with *policy*, so this sounded like a good match. I asked him to explain what environmental psychology is! "Not easy", he said, "but let's try".

People and their institutions continually *modify* the environments they occupy to suit their own purposes. But at the same time, the environments are remorselessly *shaping* the people and their institutions. Environmental psychologists are interested in this interaction, but most particularly the latter part of it. The *theory* is about how people's minds are used to perceive, store information in memory and react to their different environments. The *practice* is about whether, and if so how, we can change environments (e.g. through architecture and planning) to improve people's lives. The *method* is science.

Terence said that most of his research, over the years, had been related and funded by government departments. I asked him for some examples, to get a better idea.

His PhD, in Cambridge, was about the design of neighbourhoods in new towns and whether neighbourhood life still matters to people. He then moved to Devon to study the effects on

rural living of the closure of small village schools. In Dundee, he was involved in an experimental Educational Priority area, and the big question whether the effects of deprivation at home could be compensated by improving schools and particularly by providing pre-schools. Then, in London, he turned to the planning problem of the effects of major new roads cutting through urban areas, and whether they cause the 'social severance' of communities.

He has been involved in a range of work evaluating whether museums, visitor centres and exhibitions are effective in communicating knowledge and particularly, in changing attitudes. He was asked to evaluate the effectiveness of 'public participation' when it was first introduced into the planning process.

Another major planning concept has been "*environmental impact analysis*" and he has done studies on public attitudes towards proposals for major new coalmines, for nuclear power stations and, more recently, for windmills (aerogenerators). He recently conducted a major study in the South West of England on public attitudes to radon for the DoE. He has worked on public preferences for forestry landscapes for the Forestry Commission and was part of a consortium that developed methods used by the Countryside Commission to produce a New Map of England, based on its distinctive landscapes. Last year he was reviewing research on the social and psychological consequences of Chernobyl on the Tenth Anniversary and currently he is working for Scottish Nuclear on employees' perceptions of safety at Hunterston 'B' and Torness.

He obviously believes that the secret of retirement is to stay active, doing what you enjoy.

Just a reminder that subscriptions for 1997 are now due.

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