

THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST LTD

NEWSLETTER NO 12 - SEPTEMBER 1998

PROFILE OF OUR CHAIRMAN

We are privileged to have Dorothea Morrison as our Chairman and it is interesting for Members to know something about her background.

Although born in Edinburgh, she moved to Glasgow with her parents and younger brother when she was quite young. At school, she favoured classics and arts subjects and was a prominent member of the school's Debating Society which won several awards. This capacity for effective debate was very much encouraged at home where discussions about current affairs were common and the family were expected to qualify their statements with factual evidence.

Unlike most teenage girls in her peer group, she did not aspire to becoming a "career woman"; she wanted to be a successful housewife! This did not prove difficult for someone so attractive, indeed she had already met at school the man who was to become her husband.

She and her husband, Norman, had a son (now a Quantity Surveyor) and a daughter (now a Senior Development Officer at Scottish Homes) and both are married.

But to backtrack, chronologically, once her children were well established at school, Dorothea became a member of various committees. For example, she chaired the Parent-Teacher Association; she was a keen supporter of the Scout Group and was on the Executive; and she also became a member of the Glasgow Parliamentary Debating Society - a renowned stamping ground for some well-known, current politicians.

When her daughter and son were older, however, she did become a "career woman". She accepted an appointment on the staff of a Driving School, and having taken it "out of the red" by means of competent administration, she then purchased the School and managed it. After 15 years, she sold it at a profit as an established concern, and retired from the business world.

Her husband has also retired. He had a fascinating career with Scottish Television, and for example, was Programme Director for successful hits such as "Highway" (featuring Harry Secombe) and "Take the High Road" during the first 10 years of its popularity. He has also directed innumerable current affairs programmes. In retirement, he has been able to devote more time to gardening, and the Morrisons' garden was one of the 14 which featured in the recent, very successful "Hidden Gardens" event organised by St. Andrews Preservation Trust.

Dorothea and Norman purchased their home in St. Andrews 16 years ago and moved here permanently five years ago. She decided to become a Member of St. Andrews Preservation Trust, was quickly snapped up as a Co-opted Trustee and then became a Trustee. She made a considerable contribution to various committees before being elected unanimously, as Chairman in June 1998. We wish her well during her term of office at the St. Andrews Preservation Trust.

THE HIDDEN GARDENS

We were most fortunate in choosing one of the very few fine Sundays for the first "Hidden Gardens of St. Andrews" Open Day on Sunday 28th June. More than 1,300 people bought tickets and at least some of them were proud of the fact that they had visited all fourteen gardens! I think that all the garden owners found the visitors most appreciative - some had come from as far away as Glasgow, but a large number were local people who had lived here for years but who had had no idea that such gardens existed. The event was organised through Scotland's Gardens Scheme, so that the Trust's share of the proceeds is something over £2,000. We had hoped to encourage people to explore the lesser known wynds and closes, to see and appreciate some of the houses which the Trust had been instrumental in preserving, so it is most encouraging that it was all so successful. With the thought that one should always build on success we are planning a "More Hidden Gardens" Day next year, so if any members would be interested in opening their garden would they please contact either Dorothea Morrison, or myself, and we will come to see them.

June Baxter.

AUTUMN EXPEDITION: THE CRANNOG
TUESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER, 1998

The proposed expedition is to the reconstructed Crannog on Loch Tay. The bus (£7.00 per person) will leave the **Argyle Street Car Park at 9.30 a.m.**, and will return by **6 p.m.**

We will stop in Dunkeld for a **Coffee Break** (45 minutes), and then continue up the river Tay to Grantully, where we will have a brief stop to **visit St. Mary's Church** (painted ceiling) The Crannog is situated on the south side of Loch Tay, with a hotel. The Croft na Caber where we can have **lunch (£9.00 for two courses)**. There is, alternatively, a sandwich bar on the Loch side, or members could take their own picnic.

Visit to the Crannog which takes about a half an hour costs **£2.80** (it is well worth it. I visited it earlier this summer).

We will then visit **Bolfracks Garden** (J.D. Hutchison, Esq.) on the road between Kenmore and Aberfeldy, which is open to the public under Scotland's Gardens Scheme (entrance £2.00). This is a lovely garden, specialising in rhododendrons, shrubs and shrub roses, with good autumn colour.

We will then return via the Sma' Glen, stopping for a picnic tea en route.

By **TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER** please:

- let Isabel (at the Trust's office) know if you wish to join us and send a cheque for £7.00 (the cost of a 35-seater bus is £7.00 per person) made out to **St. Andrews Preservation Trust**.
- let Isabel know if you wish to book lunch (the hotel **MUST** know the numbers in advance).

Other costs (coffee, the Crannog, Bolfracks Garden) can be met on the day according to individual choice.

June Baxter

CHRISTMAS CARDS 1998

The Charity Christmas Card Sale will be held on **SATURDAY 31 OCTOBER 1998** in the Town Hall; times to be published.

A new St. Andrews Preservation Trust card will be available featuring an old photograph from our Archives; its preparation is being organised by David Joy and it is planned to be the first of a series from the Archives. A smaller card (the design currently being finalised) will probably also be available. In addition, the larger version of last year's popular card featuring the Cathedral will be on the St. Andrews Preservation Trust stall.

MUSEUM

The Museum, with its current Exhibition "Jam Jars and Movie Stars - the story of Cinema in St. Andrews" has proved immensely popular, indeed visitor numbers for July arc up 33% on July 1997. The showing of "The Postgraduate" (a silent comedy film made in 1997 by the Curator and other postgraduate students) was well attended and there will be another opportunity to view it on "Open Doors Day". The Curator also gave a lecture on "Silent Cinema" in the Museum on 31 August and there will be a repeat performance on **3 SEPTEMBER at 7 p.m.**

Interestingly, the Museum was used as a discussion centre for two groups of American architects who were studying conservation and architectural history; an excellent PR exercise and also an opportune source of financial income!!

On Fife "**Doors Open Day**", **13 SEPTEMBER**, the Museum will be open from 10.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m., in addition, two guided tours have been organised:

a.m. The Lade Braes

p.m. The Old Town

and the film "The Postgraduate" can be seen at 4.30p.m.

The Museum will close on 3 OCTOBER but will be open during **ST. ANDREWS WEEK 25-30 NOVEMBER** as part of a larger festival in the town to celebrate the very best of Scottish culture and cuisine.

IF ANY MEMBHR WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP AT "THE ABOVE EVENTS, THE CURATOR, MATTHEW JARRON WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HEAR FROM YOU AT 477629.

GREEN BELT

The proposed development for a golf course, a hotel and chalets at Kingask is causing anxiety to the St. Andrews Preservation Trust and The Green Belt Forum. For example, it is being suggested that the hotel be built at the highest point of the site and be clearly visible from St. Andrews. This would be unacceptable and quite contrary to the Green Belt ethos. We may need another publicity campaign to counter the Kingask proposals.

Elizabeth Williams

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