

THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST LTD NEWSLETTER

NO 13 - DECEMBER 1998

TRIBUTE TO DAVID NIVEN MBE

David Niven, who died in October was "one of St. Andrews' most noted politicians of the century". He served St. Andrews for more than four decades; elected to the Town Council in 1951, he later served as Provost, and was then Chairman of the North East Fife District Council. Among his many interests, he was an active member of the St. Andrews Preservation Trust and the David Niven Memorial Trust includes a donation to our funds, for which we are most grateful.

A keen photographer, he captured many special events and changes in the town and his unique collection of photographs has been bequeathed to our Museum, some will be displayed in a future Exhibition.

There have been numerous eloquent acknowledgements to him in the press, and the Trust wishes to add our tribute to someone who was held in the highest respect by so many. The Trust has lost a good friend, and St. Andrews has lost an outstanding citizen.

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CHRISTMAS CARDS

Sales of the Trust's cards at the Charity Christmas Cards Day on 31 October raised nearly £500; many thanks to all Members who served on the stall. There are two new cards this year; "The Harbour in the Snow" (small and large sizes) and "St. Andrews from the West Sands" - a sepia view from an old photograph in the Trust Archives -, and produced at no cost to the Trust, thanks to David Joy.

Please spread the news to friends that these attractive cards (and others) are still available at 4 Queen's Gardens, the Museum at 12 North Street and at The National Trust shop.

CANCELLATION OF AUTUMN EXPEDITION: SEPTEMBER 1998

The Autumn Expedition had to be cancelled. Technically the hired minibus required a repair but it has to be noted that only 12 Members of the Trust purchased tickets.

Before we make plans for next year, it would be helpful to know what type of expedition Members would like. May we suggest that you write to 4 Queen's Gardens indicating preferences for:

- full day or half day event
- June or September
- featuring archaeology, architecture, gardens or all three (we had hopefully combined all three in the Crannog Expedition)

and any other suggestions would be gratefully received.

MORE HIDDEN GARDENS

Following the success of the "Hidden Gardens" Day in June, the Convenor of Publicity is organising a similar event for 1999 (probably 26 June). Already there is considerable enthusiasm by other garden owners to participate in such a venture; it augurs well.

MUSEUM

As you may have read in the local papers, the Museum has had its most successful year ever. Up to the end of St. Andrew's Week we have had a record-breaking 7752 visitors, an increase of over 50% on last year. The Museum's income is up by almost the same amount, while our overall expenditure has actually decreased.

A new exhibition was mounted for St. Andrew's Week, showcasing some of the unique photographs the Museum has in its collections. St. Andrews was the birthplace of Scottish

photography and the Museum houses some of the world's oldest photographs. The Museum has now closed for the winter but does remain open by appointment, so if you still wish to see the latest exhibition, **please contact the Curator, Matthew Jarron, on 01334 - 477629** The Museum will re-open in March with an exhibition arranged by the Women in Art Festival Society.

CURRENT TRUST CONCERNS

The Planning and Long Term Planning Committees are keeping up the pressure in relation to a number of issues which are causing concern:

- the proposed Kingask Development: a number of Trustees attended a meeting on 24 November where it emerged that more than 150 objections to the proposed development had been submitted. Members of the public have called for an Environmental Impact Assessment (there already is one!)
- the proposed St. Andrews Gateway Centre: letters of opposition have been numerous from organizations and from individuals, and the planners seem to be reconsidering at least the form and scale of the proposed development
- the Harbour Development: repairs are imperative after the closure of the pier in November because of safety concerns. A Petition, with about 2500 signatures, was handed to Mr. Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, when he visited the town as part of the St. Andrew's Day celebrations.
- the proposed New Hospital: it had been thought that St. Leonard's Fields might be used for a proposed new hospital but an application to build a retirement housing development (the proposers have an option until March 1999, we understand) has been received by File Council.

Do watch the press for further developments on these issues, and where possible, write/voice your concerns.

A NOVEL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Do you have difficulty thinking of a Christmas present for someone? Why not give an **annual membership** to the St. Andrews Preservation Trust? The Membership Convenor informs us that 38 joined the Trust in 1998 bringing our total to almost 500 members; 300 subscribe annually and about 200 have Life or Honorary status. Some recruits from the younger generation would give an interesting viewpoint to our discussions and would also be welcome.

Deeds of Covenant are an excellent method of payment as the Trust can claim back income tax! Forms are available at 4 Queen's Gardens.

AUCTION OF TREASURES AND PROMISES

Have you looked in your loft recently? Please contribute to the enthusiasm already generated for this Auction in March 1999 by donating treasures and/or promises; see enclosed form.

BEQUEST TO THE TRUST

Miss Anna Wilson has left a generous sum to the Trust and we wish to thank her family.

***THE CHAIRMAN AND TRUSTEES
SEND WARM GOOD WISHES
TO ALL MEMBERS FOR
CHRISTMAS
AND NEW YEAR***

Newsletter Editor: W. Gordon

© The St. The Andrews Preservation Trust Limited
4 Queen's Gardens
St. Andrews
Fife KY169TA
Tel. No. 01334-477152