



THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST
NEWSLETTER No 19
AUTUMN 2000

Hidden Gardens: A successful 'Hidden Gardens 2000' raised some £4300 for the Trust's Funds. The Chairman and Trustees wish to extend their thanks to all who made their gardens available for this event, or who assisted by giving of their time to man stalls, serve teas and coffees, or provide music in the various venues. This is the Trust's main Fund raising event of the year and funds raised will be used to continue the running of the Trust's activities.

Planning Issues: The major issues arising since the last newsletter have been as follows:

Scooniehill Planning Appeal: A pre-inquiry meeting was held on 29th August to set out the time scale and procedures to be followed at the forthcoming **Public Inquiry**. This meeting was attended by representatives of the Trust. The start date for the inquiry has been set for 21st November 2000 and it is anticipated that three to four days will be required to hear the arguments from the various parties involved. The inquiry will be held in the Town Hall, with all documentation relating to the submissions by the various parties to be available for inspection in the Public Library.

A Trust representative will be speaking at the inquiry and, as it is open to the public, we hope that some of you will be able to come along to support us.

Hepburn Hall: The Trust understands that revised submissions are to be made by the developer in connection with this proposal and further details are awaited for comment as appropriate.

Bank of Scotland: Plans were submitted to demolish the existing building and rebuild the whole corner of this important site. The Trust expressed its reservations. This application has now been withdrawn.

John Knox Road: An application for planning permission has been submitted to Fife Council for a 90 bed nursing home and 18 special needs flats on this site adjacent to the Safeway filling station. The Trust is concerned that the height of the

first phase of this development exceeds the 50 metre contour line which was stipulated in the St. Andrews Local Plan as not to be exceeded and that the proposed development is not single storey as also stipulated in the Plan. The second phase of the development (for some 54 houses) would also, it is proposed, be constructed above the 50 metre contour and thus spoil the view of the southern uplands from the town. It is clear that the development as currently proposed conflicts with the existing guidelines for this area.

St. Leonard's Fields: A planning application for the extension of the existing house and its conversion into flats together with the construction of four villas to the South of the existing house has been submitted.

Green Belt Proposals: The Trust is delighted to note that Fife Council appears to have responded to public pressure and has now stated that the long awaited Fife Structure Plan draft presented to the Strategic Development committee on 4th October contained proposals for the designation of a green belt to the North and South of St. Andrews in addition to the South and South West of Dunfermline. Fife Council's Head of Planning is quoted as saying "Fife Council fully recognises the national and international importance of the historic cores of St. Andrews and Dunfermline." The final draft of the Structure plan should be available for public inspection in the main council offices and libraries from 19th October, and will be presented for final approval to the Strategic Development committee on 27th November.

The creation of green belts does not however preclude development within their areas in perpetuity, but does create a strong presumption against development.

We would like to thank all our members who wrote supporting this.

Museum : The Summer season has come to an end and the Museum's Schools Exhibition "The Best Years of your life?"

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

was taken down at the end of September. It has proved to be one of the most popular subjects we have had with over 8000 visitors during the four months exhibition. Many thanks to all those who brought in their old photographs and shared memories of school days gone by.

The Museum remained open until 8th October however, hosting a special exhibition as part of this year's StAnza Poetry Festival entitled "Between the Lines". It featured fascinating work by printmakers Eleanor Symms and Alan Chapman in response to poetry and in collaboration with poets. The StAnza Festival has become a nationally important event, so it is quite an honour for the Museum to be asked to take part

It is intended in this, and subsequent editions of this newsletter, to draw to the readers' attention some of the less well-known aspects of the Museum's collections. We begin in this edition by looking at photographs. As you may no doubt be aware, St. Andrews was a pioneering centre of early photography and it is not surprising that we have some of the earliest photographs ever taken within our archives Victorian and Edwardian St. Andrews is well represented by the work of Adamson. Rodger. Fairweather, Downie and Patrick, but our collections encompass much more than that. During St. Andrew's week last year we highlighted some of David Niven's huge collection of slides and prints taken from the 1950's right up to the 1990's; this year George Cowie will be one of our subjects. His work as a press photographer is well known, but in his spare time he took stunning slides of the town, as did his son Andrew. The best of these will be on show in November. Meanwhile our collections have been brought right up to date with photographs of the newest parts of St. Andrews at the end of the 20th Century captured on film for Museum visitors of the 21st Century and beyond!

The Trust this month loses the services of Matthew Jarron our Museum Curator. Matthew has proved to be an excellent curator and has prepared a series of interesting and well-received exhibitions during his time with us.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to thank Matthew for all his hard work over the past two years and to wish him every success in his future career.

The new Museum Curator, with effect from 1st November, will be Susan Keracher.

Gift Aid Declaration:

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter from the Finance Convener in respect of Gift Aid Declarations which will enable the Trust to raise more funds through tax refunds from the Inland Revenue. If you are a taxpayer please complete and return the enclosed pro forma. Your assistance is very much appreciated.

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 28th October: **Charities Christmas Card Sale** 9.30 a.m to 4 p.m.

Sunday 29th October: **Plant Sale at the Museum, including bric a brac and books.** 10.30 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Coffee will be served.**

Contributions for the Plant Sale in the form of plants, books or bric a brac can be handed in to the Museum on Friday 27th October. Contact Mr. J.L. Hodge for hours of opening on that day.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2000-2001

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