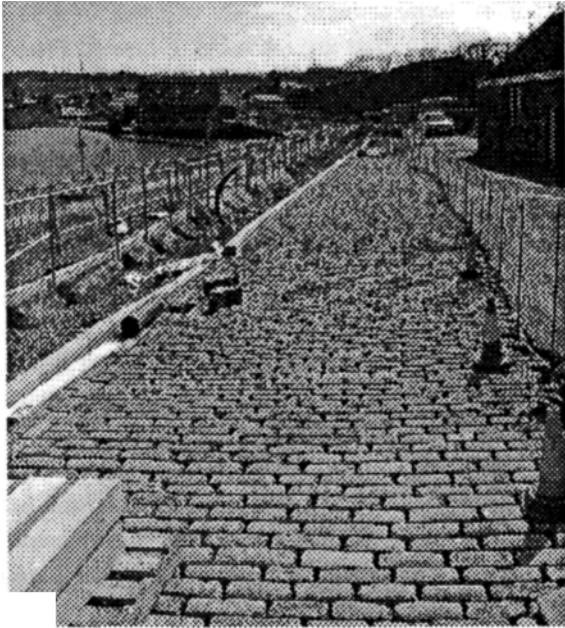




## THE ST. ANDREWS PRESERVATION TRUST

### NEWSLETTER NO 25

SPRING 2002



Granite Setts being laid at the Harbour

### St. Andrews Harbour

The £1 Million redevelopment of the Town's historic harbour is progressing well and this Autumn should again see the once familiar sight of red-gowned students on their traditional Pier walk following the re-opening of the North Pier which was declared unsafe and closed in 1997.

Funding from the National Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and the Fife Environmental Trust together with local fund-raising activities have seen substantial improvements to this working harbour whilst still retaining its essential character.

Still to be completed by the end of the year is a new bridge, (with the Harbour Trust seeking to take over bridge ownership and control from Fife Council) together with an improved and relocated Cafe.

Long-term plans include looking at the viability of creating a permanent marina in the inner harbour. Fourteen fishermen still work from the harbour to earn their living.

The Preservation Trust has been represented on the Harbour Trust by outgoing chairperson Dorothea Morrison who will shortly be handing over this responsibility to Trustee Ian McIver when she stands down as the Trusts Chairman in May.

### Members' Events

Two further events have taken place since the Winter Newsletter. In February, the Trust welcomed members with a glass of wine and savouries to a special showing of the work of the East Neuk artist Karen Edward at the Museum. The exhibition included drawings, paintings and multi-media works developing the legend of the St Andrews Silkie. Her work was much admired and appreciated by the 79 people who attended the evening. March found members at a different venue, The Byre Theatre. Some 34 members participated in a fascinating tour of the Byre expertly led by Colin Veitch, Front of House Manager, and Heather Mitchell, Education Office. The tour appropriately began on stage, progressing to the many mysteries which lie behind the scenes, then on to the dressing rooms, a delight when compared to yesteryear, the Green Room and finally to the Control Centre. For a few of those present it brought back memories of the old Byre; "I once played for the Byre", remarked one lady, while for another the memory was the more recent one of her appearance in "Brigadoon". One significant fact emerged from the tour. The Byre never sleeps - well, hardly ever! Long after the show is over work goes on keeping the show on the road and preparing for the next. The afternoon concluded with tea and scones for some and an early supper for others.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

## **Forthcoming events.**

There are still a few places left for the guided walk in Dundee with Professor Charles McKean **on Wednesday, 22nd May**. A return slip was included with the Winter Newsletter. On **Sunday, 7th July** we look forward to the Hidden Gardens and on **Friday, 2nd August** there will be an evening reception in the garden of the Museum (inside the Museum if it sadly turns out to be wet). The evening will include Scottish music, strawberries and a glass of Pimms. The number is limited to 80 and tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis.

## **What's happening at the Museum?**

The Easter exhibition "At Home with the Victorians" was a resounding success, with the Museum welcoming more than 700 visitors over six days.

The exhibition was devised to give visitors a glimpse of domestic life during the second half of the nineteenth century. It also provided an opportunity to display objects from the collection, some of which fascinated both the young and old. Included in the array of items was an electric shock machine - believed by many at the time to be beneficial for a variety of conditions from neuralgia to toothache.

Skirt lifters, also known as 'pages' proved a lively talking point. These were operated by a cord suspended from the waist, and when pulled would lift the hem of the skirt clear of dirty streets. One of the costumes to feature in the display was a silk day dress, consisting of full skirt, overskirt and jacket, dating c. 1880. Worn over corsets and bustle, the tight fitting jacket would have restricted movement and one can only imagine that the use of skirt lifters would have proved most convenient!

And now for something completely different...

The summer exhibition will feature objects, images and memories from the 1950s. So far there has been a super response to our earlier appeal for 50s memorabilia - but we need more. Check your bottom drawers, lofts and back cupboards and if you want to share a fifties moment then please phone Susan at the Museum on 01334 - 477629

## **Vandalism? in the Town Centre and its surrounding area**

Members will be conscious of the changes, which have recently taken place in the Town Centre, in the name of 'improvements.'

We refer of course to the excessive use of liberal quantities of bright red surfacing materials used to create Cycleways in the town centre and surrounding streets. This, coupled with the broad white lines painted on pavements along the Scores does nothing to improve the visual aspects of the centre of our historic city. It remains to be seen, if cyclists will use these 'improvements' that are intended to benefit them.

The Trust took part in the Public Enquiry held last year to address objections to these Cycleways, unfortunately the results of our failure to persuade the relevant authorities in this case are only too plain to see!

On the brighter side we have been advised that certain of the recently executed 'improvements' are for a trial period of eighteen months only (e.g. Grcyfriars Gardens, The Scores) whilst other areas (e.g. Abbey Street, John Knox Road are permanent.

The areas, which are designated, as on 'trial' will be monitored over the trial period and a decision made at a future date as to whether or not they will become permanent. The costs involved are obviously significant and we must question whether or not this signifies the best use of public monies.

We would stress that we have no objection to cyclists and would positively encourage the greater use of bicycles to ease the chronic traffic problems we face in the centre of town.

We also appreciate the need to provide as safe an environment as possible to encourage the greater use of such less polluting forms of transport. Surely however, as suggested by this past week's correspondent to the Citizen, the choice of an alternative colour would have been preferable (or is this a National Standard colour for Cycleways?)

## **Planning**

On the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> April, representatives of the Planning Committee met with Dr. Bell to be updated on the latest position regarding the proposed, and long awaited, new St. Andrews hospital.

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

ject, the steps which need to be taken to progress the project to the next stage and to identify a preferred site. From the information provided to us, it appears likely that the short-listing of sites will be completed within the next four months with a view to being able to appoint a contractor for the project by the end of 2002.

### Hidden Gardens Of St Andrews

This event, being the largest and most popular event of the Trust's calendar, deserves a special second mention. Finding twelve beautiful gardens in St Andrews is not a problem. However, finding twelve beautiful gardens whose owners are prepared to open their gardens to the public for a day is no mean feat.

Once again, June Baxter has found twelve gardens with gracious hosts. Some are in the centre of St Andrews, others near Hallow Hill.

The names and locations of all will appear in a leaflet to be published later.

Tea will also be available at two gardens, including that of St John's which the University has once again kindly given us permission to use.

So, make a note for your diaries. **Sunday, 7th July, 11am to 5pm**

We look forward to seeing you there!

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual Members. Have you paid your subscription for 2002?

Due to computer difficulties a few of our more recent members may have received a letter advising that their subscription does not appear to have been paid. If you joined the Trust between 27<sup>th</sup> May and 31st December 2001 you do not have a subscription due until 2003. If in doubt please contact the office

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