

The St. Andrews Preservation Trust

Issue No. 3

March 1996.

ST. NICHOLAS FARM

The final words of this sad story were written on 18 Dec. 1995, when the NE Fife District Council Planning Committee conditionally approved the application for 87 homes at St. Nicholas Farm. A condition was that the developers would sign a Section 50 Agreement which would ensure that the homes remain affordable. This is proving very difficult to draw up legally, as the condition has never been used before in any housing development. Legal minds are still wrestling with the problem.

The Trust wrote to the Regional Council, asking them to call in the application. The Region replied that they had no strategic planning objection to the application, and saw no merit in calling it in. The Trust's Planning Committee is at present assessing its campaign against the St. Nicholas development, and looking at tactics for the future, when the next housing developers make an assault on St. Andrews.

E.F.

NAME DROPPING

What is missing from this fictional address: 12 Eschscholtzia Crescent, St. Andrews. KY16 9LN? It's a 4-letter word - FIFE. FIFE is now omitted from various letterheads and addresses, probably because the Post Office doesn't need it to deliver the post - rather like the early days of science fiction, when astronauts were rocketed off to a grid reference on the moon.

But the Kingdom of Fife isn't just a word the postman doesn't need. It is, I believe, the only Kingdom among the counties of Great Britain. 'St. Andrews KY16 9LN' will not help the geography of children and adults writing to us from south of the border and elsewhere - teachers do not have vast maps of post-codes. If we do not use FIFE, perhaps little grey men somewhere will decide that we

don't need it. Please, dear readers, say it. write it, print it. and let's KEEP it.

P.U.

HITTING THE GARDEN

Penelope Fraser (Tree & Environment Cttee) has recently spent her spare time in the Museum garden, communing with nettles, ivy and stones. She and her assistants are now rewarded by the news that the Hit Squad of the Beechgrove Garden have decided to give some weighty help to the task of converting the area (which has not been built on since at least 1765, so we are following tradition) into a garden for visitors, a community resource to complement the Museum. The present outhouses will be rebuilt to house exhibits.

The Beechgrove Garden's 'before' filming will be in March, the 'after' in August. The Hit Squad, in the persons of Jim McKirdy and Walter Gilmour will help with design, provide some plants, and advise. If you are prepared to help dig, lift, plant, prune, oversee bonfires, trim hedges, etc., please ring the number below.

If you wish to donate money for a garden seat, sundial, part of a path, roofing tile (for the outhouses), please ring and give details. More news in our next issue.

PRESERVATION TRUST OFFICE

TEL. 01334-477152

TAKE ANOTHER TRUSTEE ..

Lindsay Hodge was living a bachelor life in Glasgow when he first visited St. Andrews in 1958. He married Maureen in 1960 and 2 years later came to live in St. Andrews, having accepted a job as Principal Teacher in Mathematics at Madras College. They lived at first in Bridge Street: when Maureen was expecting twins Leslie and Simon they moved

to more space in Madras West House, and later to Horseleys Park.

Lindsay, by then Depute Rector, retired from Madras in 1990, and was presented by parents and friends with a set of goblets engraved with the Madras buildings, the Castle and the Cathedral. He joined the Trust in 1994 and is particularly interested in buildings, being a devoted fan of Robert J. Naismith's book 'The Story of Scotland's Towns'. He loves his cat, Daisy, gardening, reading, walking, and holidays in the South of France. He has two unusual habits - he has been known to stand on his head before his class to demonstrate a mathematical nicety, and he doesn't like golf.

NEWS BITES

For some years the Trustees have been looking for a solution to the problem of long term storage for museum exhibits which are not currently on display in the Museum in North Street. You may know that for the last few years we have stored all these items in Dairsie Church. This has never proved very satisfactory, for a variety of reasons, and when the Museum extension project was abandoned last year we were left with a major headache to solve.

At last we found what we believe is a good solution. We have been fortunate enough to purchase the whole ground floor of the office premises at 4 Queens Gardens, which the Trust presently uses as an office. So we have a permanent office instead of a rented one. We are converting the extra rooms at the back of the building to provide secure storage for our Museum artefacts. The office itself has also been refurbished and repainted.

Do look in to see it when you are passing; Isabel Dominiak will make you very welcome. The rooms for storage at the back are not yet ready, but we hope that everything will be complete by the end of June, ready for us to move out of Dairsie Church during July and August. We will give you a further progress report in the next newsletter.

R.S.M.

ALL LIT UP

Buildings, sensitively floodlit to pick out architectural features, are now a feature of many towns throughout Britain and Europe. With Government and local funding, some

historic buildings in St. Andrews have been lit, some more successfully than others. In South Street, Holy Trinity Church and its steeple have been skilfully illuminated, but the lighting of Madras College leaves the upper part floating in space. Blackfrairs Chapel, with its eerie internal greenish glow, would have given the Friars cause for thought. In North Street, the University Chapel and its tower are splendidly lighted, as is the steeple of St. James's Church on the Scores.

So far the Castle, Cathedral and St. Rule's Tower sleep quietly in their enveloping darkness - a contrast to the scene which confronts the motorist entering St. Andrews from Guardbridge, only to be dazzled by the overpowering lighting of The Royal and Ancient. Happily, this Christmas tree effect is soon to be modified.

LH.

MISSING ELMS

I wonder if other members are also concerned about the non-replacement of trees, lost through Dutch Elm Disease, in the town? The huge and splendid elm in front of Holy Trinity Church Hall was cut down at least two years ago, and further East one of the trees at the corner of Greenside Race has gone. The trees in the streets and gardens of St. Andrews are such a feature of the town; it would be reassuring to know that there was an obligation to replant.

E.J.B.

EVENTS IN 1996

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| 23 May | A.G.M. | 8pm |
| | Town Hall Supper Room | |
| 31 May | Members' Preview of Museum Exhibition (with wine) | 7-9 pm |
| 6 July | Members' Outing to Dairsie Castle & Church Monimail Tower (we hope) Sandford House Hotel (for tea - £4.50). Transport by coach. Numbers limited. Total cost uncertain as yet - provisional bookings welcome. | |
| 28 Sept. | Church crawl? | |

Newsletter Editor - Penny Uprichard
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4 Queens Gardens, St. Andrews, Fife,
tel. 01334-477152