



The Grange Association

Newsletter No. 72

New Year 2002

Recognised Scottish Charity SC025491

Forthcoming Events

Here are some dates you may wish to put in your diary. Full details of the later events will be in the Spring newsletter.

- Wed 20 February* This is the date of the Annual General Meeting, at which the Chair gives her resumé of Association matters and our Treasurer presents the accounts. We are delighted that Richard Griffiths, Director of the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust will then talk to us about our changing city and its status as a world heritage site.
- Wed 20 March* We welcome back Graeme Cruickshank, who gave us that interesting talk about Scottish pottery in 1998. This time his subject is "The Edinburgh International Festival of 1886" (apparently called "the show in the Meadows" by the locals)—Graeme is currently writing a book on the subject.
- Sat 4 May* Our annual Plant Sale will be held at the Carlton Cricket Club. Judith Reeves has taken charge of the sale and coffee morning, now that Jean Duff has completed her period of service on the Committee.
- Sat 15 June* This is the proposed date of the Grange walk. Details of this will be given in the Spring newsletter.

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place at 7.30pm in St Catherine's—Argyle Church Hall, Grange Road. Tea, coffee, and biscuits are served after the meeting.

Judith Reeves and Betty Paul

Are you a member of the Grange Association? Annual Subscriptions are payable by mid-February. To join or renew membership by post, please complete the form on page 5. It is also possible to join or renew membership at the Annual General Meeting, on 20 February.

Lieutenant Colonel J. F. Logan — An appreciation

Hamish Logan, Vice-chairman of the Association, died late last year, and will be greatly missed. Hamish joined the Committee of the Grange Association in 1997 and soon became the Vice-chairman. He brought to the work which he undertook for the members not only his meticulous attention to detail but his own brand of willing, cheerful service and friendliness. He gave unfailing support to the Chairman, whom he always greeted punctiliously and smilingly with "Good evening, Ma'am!". With his clear, practical thinking, he could sometimes shorten our high-minded but somewhat diffuse discussions, and bring us back down to earth.

Hamish was interested in security and did a power of work for Neighbourhood Watch, and in support of the successive community policemen who have served our area. Traffic, transport and parking were also very much his interests. Hamish also undertook the distribution of the Association's Newsletter to a large local area and built up a substantial network of helpers who will long remember his unfailing courtesy and friendship.

But it was not just in the day-to-day work of the Association that Hamish excelled. He was our chief wine buyer for our social occasions and some of us were privileged to enjoy special tastings of the wine that he proposed that we might choose. Our November Committee meeting was held in Hamish's home at his invitation. So an abiding memory remembrance will be of his presiding over the tasting of the wine chosen for our Christmas Evening, so that we could enjoy a look at some of his beautiful pictures before getting down to business—with Hamish taking the minutes.

Our local Councillor and our local policeman both used the same words on hearing about Hamish: "He really served the community". All of us feel now a sense of grievous loss, but also immense gratitude for having been privileged to walk for a while with a man of great charm, courtesy, total integrity and a real gift for friendship.

Sheila Reid

Community Liaison

A new organisation has recently been set up in our area, called 'The Friends of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links'. This arose from regular meetings between members of the Community Council and representatives of the City Council Parks Department to discuss the condition of the Meadows and to voice concern about its maintenance and development. A steering group was set up to coordinate all the various users of the Meadows, and it met in the Bowling Club Pavilion, now taken over by the Croquet Club. It was agreed there was sufficient interest and common purpose to set up the Friends. Subscription is £2 and the first meeting was a walk round the Meadows, led by the Parks Department, where the opportunity was taken to discuss tree replacement policy. A further meeting and talk was held in November in the Archers' Hall; the next meeting will be in the Barclay Church at 7.00pm on 19th February 2002. All welcome.

Dorothy Ryle

Reports of Previous Meetings

Wed 17 October We had a good audience—in spite of appalling rain—for Katie Jackson's talk about the work of the John Muir Trust. John Muir may have left Scotland long ago but he certainly inspires great interest now. Katie talked with great enthusiasm about the work of the Trust in Ben Nevis and other areas the Trust manages, and showed us her magnificent slides. Inevitably, she was asked about the controversial plans for John Muir's old home in Dunbar, but she explained that this was dealt with quite separately from the work of the Trust.

Wed 14 November Angela Chisholm, convenor of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens took us on a magic journey round the Botanics and the gardens of Dawyck, Ben More and Logan, which are associated with the Botanical Gardens. There were many questions in the lively discussion that followed, and no doubt a number of members will be paying their first visits to these gardens this summer.

Wed 5 December The Grange Christmas evening, held in the German Church in Chalmers Crescent now seems to have become an established part of four social calendar. We saw many new faces, and our Chairman reports that she received numerous compliments about the evening. But an occasion like this depends on the talents of the many generous people who entertained us. So thank you, Anne and Kathy, Julia, Nick, Margaret and Ida—and thanks also to Annemarie Hammond, Sam and Laura, with whom it all began over four years ago. We hope we will see them all again next year—and you too!

Finally, we welcome suggestions for speakers who could give talks on topics of specifically local interest—like natural history, famous (or infamous) characters, or significant sites in the area, like the Cemetery. Please phone 667 1240 if you can help.

Betty Paul

Reminiscences

Over the years, the Newsletter has carried a very interesting series of articles detailing memories of local people, places and properties. The success of this series is due in large part to the work of Elsa Hendry, whose research as Reminiscences Editor has involved interviewing numerous residents, and collating information from diverse sources.

Next year, the Association will be celebrating its twenty-fifth year, and it has been suggested that one way of marking this anniversary would be to collect together in a small book all of the existing reminiscence articles, and perhaps to gather even more memories, local history, and archive material from current residents.

Please let us know what you think of this idea—and if you have interesting recollections of the life of the Grange which have not already been included in the Newsletter, please contact our Elsa Hendry, our Reminiscences Editor, or Judith Reeves or Jon Oberlander, who are studying the feasibility of publishing the collection.

Judith Reeves

What is the Grange Association?

- A local community association, having charitable status, covering the area known as the Grange, from Hatton Place in the north to Relugas Place in the south, and from Whitehouse Loan in the west to Ratchliffe Terrace in the east.
- The Association is run by a committee of 12, plus others co-opted for their particular expertise.
- The committee represents your views, particularly on planning matters and other local concerns.
- The Association will be 24 years old this year.

What does the Association do for you?

- It considers all planning applications affecting the area and, where appropriate, comments to the local authority.
- It was largely instrumental in having the Grange declared a Conservation Area in 1983, and an Outstanding Conservation Area in 1996, and assisting the Council in adopting a statutory character statement in 1998.
- It liaises with the appropriate authorities over matters concerning traffic.
- It is active in issues concerning tree management in the area.
- It organises talks, walks, visits and other social events on matters likely to be of interest in the Grange.
- It compiles and distributes the Newsletter each Spring and Autumn to all of the 3,000 households in the area covered by the Association.

What can you do?

- Join the Association by completing the Membership Form opposite. The more households we represent through membership (currently around 15%), the greater our voice in the matters that concern us all.
- *Volunteer for election to the committee*—contact the Chair, Sheila Reid, 667 4876.
- Volunteer to be one of the 64 distributors of the Newsletter—contact Angela McFee, 667 4043.
- Join in the activities advertised in the Newsletter.
- Raise any matters and bring forward ideas for meetings and articles with committee members—listed in each Newsletter, and on our website.

How much?

- The annual subscription for 2002 is £5 per household or business, with a £2.50 concession for over-60 households and student households.
- Donations are always welcome, to help fund the production of the Newsletter and expenses incurred when arranging public meetings.
- You can apply for membership at any time, but it would help us enormously if you could apply by 15 February 2002.
- Please note that all memberships are due for renewal.
- There is a £1 charge to attend meetings, if you are not a member.

Grange Conservation Award

The Association is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of our area. Given the way the planning process works, the Association spends considerable practical effort on preventing change for the *worse*—rather than, as we would prefer—on encouraging change for the *better*. But enhancement is just as important as preservation.

The Committee recently agreed that from time to time, the Association should formally recognise an outstanding contribution to improving the quality of the area by a resident, by granting a Grange Conservation Award. Awards would not be on an annual or regular basis, but as and when a good example was recommended to the Association's Committee, and a majority of the Committee voted in favour of making an award.

From now on, the Newsletter will regularly ask for recommendations. The award itself will be a small plaque depicting our Grange Wyvern, and should be suitable for display either indoors or out. Types of "enhancement" which might warrant an award include—but are by no means limited to: restoration of high quality gates or railings; high quality repair of stonework; new building in character with the area; or tree planting and landscaping of front gardens.

We therefore warmly welcome recommendations for awards, and look forward to being able to grant the first in 2002!

Derek Lyddon

To: The Treasurer, The Grange Association
59 Fountainhall Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2LH

I/We would like to join/renew membership of The Grange Association for 2002.

Subscription Rates:

Household Membership: £5

Senior Citizen/Student Membership: £2.50

I/We enclose £

(Please make cheques payable to The Grange Association, and enclose an SAE for your membership card.)

Name(s)

Address

Postcode Tel

Email

If you are a tax payer and sign the declaration on the reverse, your subscription is worth a further 28% to the Association.

Recycling cardboard

It's not just at Christmas that people need to dispose of substantial amounts of paper and cardboard. Unfortunately, the City of Edinburgh Council does not offer a kerbside recycling scheme at the moment, but this could change—we certainly hope so! Meanwhile, paper banks accept ordinary paper, but no cardboard.

However, owners of businesses who need to dispose of a sizeable amount of cardboard refuse may be eligible for help from a charity, the Lothian and Edinburgh Environmental Partnership (LEEP). Amongst other things, LEEP produce a useful publication, *Too Good To Waste* (available via <http://www.leep.org/>, as well as on paper!), but most relevantly, they will in certain circumstances make regular free collections—contact their Recycling Officer on 468 8671. On top of this, Edinburgh Recycling, a LEEP organisation, offers regular, free collections of paper, cardboard and aluminium drinks cans to businesses and offices. To find out more, get in touch with Edinburgh Recycling via the number above.

It's worth noting that LEEP are also willing to accept cardboard from individuals, if it is delivered to them at their HQ at 36 Newhaven Road, EH6 5PY. However, if you have a compost heap, then there is one other possibility: add cardboard to help aerate the compost. So long as you scrunch up the cardboard (rather than leaving it in sheets), and add small amounts regularly (rather than large amounts occasionally), this can really improve the quality of your compost.

Angela McFee

Gift Aid Declaration

Name of Charity: The Grange Association (Scottish Charity No SC025491)
(Please use CAPITALS)

I (Name)

of (Address)

..... Postcode

would like The Grange Association to treat all donations I have made since 6 April 2000 and all donations I make from the date of this declaration, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid Donations.

Date Signed

1. You may cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Association.
2. Signatories of this declaration must pay income tax at least equal to the tax that the Association reclaims on your donations in the tax year (currently 28p for each £1 you give—i.e. paying 22p in the £1 income tax).
3. You can cancel this declaration if your circumstances change.
4. Please notify the Association of any change of address.

Planning control and unauthorised development

From time to time a neighbour or passer-by has told a member of the Committee of some new work, or a change of use, and has asked whether it has been granted planning permission. In such cases we have usually recommended a direct question to City Development Planning. The Council as Planning Authority has a duty to investigate breaches of planning control and has powers to remedy such breaches.

The Council has a Planning Charter for enforcement, which "... outlines the procedures and standards of service that can be expected when enquiries are made about unauthorised development ... The aim of the charter is to ensure that adopted procedures are fair and reasonable, interested parties are kept informed and aware of what is required, and that any outcome is commensurate with the breach of control."

"The Council relies to a large extent on members of the public bringing breaches of planning control to its attention. Breaches can take a number of forms:

- Work being carried out without the benefit of planning permission
- An unauthorised change of use
- Non-compliance with conditions imposed by a planning consent
- Departures from the approved plans of a planning consent

"Where someone considers that a possible breach of planning control has taken place they should contact the Enforcement Section of the City Development/Planning Function. Enquiries can be made by telephone or in person, but should also be confirmed in writing ... Often the person making the enquiry or complaint will wish it to be treated as confidential. This should be made clear at the outset. Whilst enquiries can be treated in this manner, the success of any subsequent enforcement action may be limited if they cannot be used in evidence ..."

The Principal Planner in the Enforcement Section at present is Arthur Smith, and his telephone number is 0131 529 3526. Our experience shows that action is more likely to follow a letter rather than a mere telephone call.

See also our leaflet "Planning permission: a first checklist for house holders" distributed with our Autumn 2001 Newsletter.

Graham Dickson

Places of Entertainment in Edinburgh: Southside

Places of Entertainment in Edinburgh is a series of information booklets based on research by the late George Baird, who had a life-long interest in the emergence of 'houses of entertainment'. As he was nearing the completion of the history in early 1964, he fell ill and was unable to complete his work. His son, also George Baird, is now making the text available in cdrom and bound photo-copy format. Residents of the Grange might be interested in the volume devoted to the Southside—a copy is available to view at the desk at Newington Library. Potential purchasers can contact George Baird, 33 Willowbrae Avenue, Edinburgh, EH8 7HE and email gfbaird.tx1@btinternet.com

The Grange Association Committee 2001

Sheila Reid 108 Findhorn Place EH9 2PB	667 4876	Chairperson
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<http://www.grange-assoc.co.uk>

Contact us at:

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or

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Editor's Note: Since this issue of the Newsletter should be distributed in January, the Spring issue will appear in April rather than March. The copy deadline will be 16 March.

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