



The Grange Association

Newsletter No. 75

New Year 2003

Recognised Scottish Charity SC025491

Forthcoming Events

Here are some dates you may wish to put in your diary. Details of the events later in 2003 will be in the Spring newsletter.

- Wed 19 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 Heather Robinson will then talk to us about the work of the Living Memory Association, helping to link people to places. As you will know, this relates to our Silver Jubilee Local History Project.
- Wed 26 March* We welcome Ron McBeath, an alpine plants expert with a nursery near Berwick-upon-Tweed, who will talk to us about rock plants that will thrive in the Grange, at just the right time for the flowering season.
- Sat 10 May* Our annual Plant Sale will be held at the Carlton Cricket Club. Come along and stock up on summer bedding plants, indoor plants and additions to the herbaceous border ... and perhaps some rock plants too!
- Sat 7 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. If anyone has suggestions for the gardens' walk, please get in touch.

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 19 February.

Reports of Previous Meetings

Wednesday 16th October: We meandered happily along the Braid Burn guided by Stanley Jamieson, who has a marvellous sense of humour and an incredible knowledge of our south side burn. Most of us learned a great deal more about the burn we thought we knew so well. Hopefully, Stanley will come back to soon to talk to us about the islands of the River Forth.

Wednesday 20th November: After the familiarity of the Braid Burn, our November talk by Duncan Currie showed us the magnificent scenery of the polar regions. Duncan's photographs were awe-inspiring and filled the audience with enthusiasm. We very much hope that he too will return for another talk in the future.

Wednesday 4th December: It is hard to believe that the Christmas evening is now five years old, and a very popular part of our activities. We have so many people to thank: Ed Cuthbert, Julie Reid, Sandra Lamb, Sheila Reid and Nick Keir. Shortbread and wine were followed by carols, conducted by Ed, and virtually everyone stayed on to sing together.

Finally, I cannot end my six-year stint as what this this Newsletter describes as your "Social" [Secretary] without thanking you all for being such a great audience: interested, intelligent and involved. All of us who arrange the outdoor and indoor events know how much you contribute. Thank you!

Betty Paul

Newington Library: Friends Project

Are you a member of our local library? Do you enjoy going there? Newington Library has the third highest borrowing rate in the city—but it offers many more services beyond book-lending. The Council would like to encourage the formation of "Friends of Your Local Library" groups, and Newington has been chosen as the Pilot Project. This is exciting for the staff of the library and, we hope, for the community as well.

On 12th December, the Librarian, Margaret Young, and her staff hosted an open meeting to test local interest in the project. They found real enthusiasm in those attending to make the library more of a focus for the community, for increasing the facilities and services offered, and for making visits more helpful and more fun. Councillor Forrest has volunteered to chair a small Committee in the first instance. Their first task is to devise a short questionnaire on opinions about the library and ideas on its future. Plans will be prepared for an Open Day on a date possibly in mid-March, with activities devised to suit different interests and age groups. Lots of ideas were put forward, but the Committee would welcome more!

The success of this new venture will depend on the degree of community support. The Grange Association remembers with gratitude the tremendous support we had some years ago when the continuance of the library was under threat, so we hope that the same interest will be shown now that our library is in the forefront of this new venture. Please speak to the Librarian and her staff about any ideas you may have, fill in the questionnaire when it appears and support the Open Day. Be a Friend!

Sheila Reid

Association Silver Jubilee and Local History

To help mark this year's jubilee, we are gathering new memories and archive material. The aim is to compile an information resource about life in the Grange, to interest young and old alike.

We are very glad to report that Brian Aldridge is now in place as project coordinator, and we hope to make great strides over the next few months with the collection of material for our book, website and cassette. You need not have lived in the area for a great many years to have interesting things to record! After all, even 2002 is already history. Have you changed the uses of your rooms to suit modern living, changed the layout of your garden, or held a notable family event? Everything is grist to our mill. Often the family gatherings over the festive season spark off memories. Do you remember your first impressions when you came to live in this area? What has changed? Do today's young people find it a good place to grow up?

We look forward to hearing from as many people as possible. Someone would come and talk with you if you do not feel like writing. We hope to produce as varied a piece of work as possible. Thank you to all who have already volunteered, and even produced material. More, please! You can contact Brian on 667 5277.

Sheila Reid and Judith Reeves

Where does your milk come from?

In the 1920s, we lived in Jordan Lane, in the biblical part of Morningside (with Nile Grove to the south, and Canaan Lane to the north). We got our milk from a farm along the lane, where there was a byre, a barn and a dairy—but no fields. The cows were fed on the grass and turnips which we saw being brought along the lane on horse-drawn carts. The cows no doubt remained there until their milk dried up, before being taken back to the country to be mated again, spending a few months in green fields.

We used to take our metal pitcher to the Patersons' farm twice a day. If we were early, we might see the milk, fresh from the cow, flowing down the cooler. They must have had no other system of refrigeration, and the milk was certainly not pasteurised. The bottled milk from St Cuthbert's Co-op probably was, but many people stubbornly preferred milk from the "farm". Much later, I discovered that it was one of a number of "dry dairies" which had been supplying milk to Edinburgh since before the days of refrigeration and rapid transport. Ours continued until 1932. Was there a dry dairy in the Grange? Perhaps it became a garage, like the one in Jordan Lane!

Dorothy L. Forrester

Information Service

From time to time, we receive information sheets from departments of the Council on subjects of interest to the community at large. These include: recycling, possible help with energy efficiency in the home, the Warmburgh Heating Plan, and so on. It is difficult to disseminate this information as widely and as quickly as we would like. I am, therefore, asking the Librarian at Newington to find space for these leaflets on the noticeboard, where everyone can see the information easily. You may have noticed that the minutes and papers from the latest meeting of the Local Area Development Committee are on view in the Library. Anyone in the area is most welcome to attend the open meetings of this Committee of the Council.

Sheila Reid

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 Ratcliffe 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 25 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, Autumn and New Year 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 Ruth Munro, 668 4783.
- 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 2003 is £5 per household or business, with a £2.50 concession for over-60 households and student households. (The household system appears fair, and so far it has worked well.)
- 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 2003.
- Please note that all memberships are due for renewal.
- There is a £1 charge to attend meetings, if you are *not* a member.
- You can now arrange regular annual payment by Standing Order. To do so, please complete the form on page 6, and send it to your bank, as well as completing and returning to us the Membership Form on page 5.

Special credits

The production and distribution of the Newsletter to every house in the area is one of the most important activities undertaken by the Committee. So we are very grateful to Angela McFee who, for the past five years, has organised the distribution. She has coped marvellously with this task three times a year, rapidly counting out the pile of printing into bundles for our much-prized army of distributors. Now Ruth Munro has inherited this task, and Angela, in addition to her planning work, has turned her attention to Neighbourhood Watch, liaison with the police, and the Crime Prevention Panel. Our warmest thanks to Angela for a job well done, and to Ruth who has taken it over so wholeheartedly.

The Committee—and, we are sure, all those who attend the talks—would like to take this opportunity to record our deep appreciation for Betty Paul's six years of devoted work on our social events. She has been amazingly successful in finding interesting subjects and speakers for our meetings, fixed up dates and venues, and coped with the provision of the vital cup of tea! All this with great good humour, and we've had two for the price of one, because her husband Ronnie has been an unfailing help in all sorts of ways, including dishwashing expertise. Thank you for everything, Betty, and please go on having good ideas for us.

Sheila Reid

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 2003.

OR

I/We would like to join/renew membership of The Grange Association until further notice, and am/are sending my/our bank the Standing Order Form.

Annual 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

Note: However you choose to pay, if you are a tax payer and sign the declaration on the reverse, your subscription is worth a further 28% to the Association. (If you signed that declaration last year, you don't need to do it again.)

To: The Manager

Bank
 &
 Address
 Postcode

Please pay to The Bank of Scotland
 51 South Clerk Street
 Edinburgh EH8 9PP (Branch Sort Code 80-02-73)

for credit of the account of the Grange Association (account number 00352857)
 the sum of (in words)

.....

1st payment on: 1st February 2003 and annually thereafter until further notice
 and please debit my account, number

.....

Date Signed

Name

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.

Trees

In January 2002 the Planning Department of the City of Edinburgh Council printed their Tree Protection Planning Charter. Subtracting the Introduction, the Contents and a list of Contacts, there are six pages of text on A4, set out with generous margins.

Copies are available free, from a wall-rack in the public reception area of the Planning Office, at the junction of Cockburn and Market Streets. It is a useful summary of the Acts and Regulations bearing on privately owned trees in the city and of "how the Council carries out its duties to protect trees". I will not attempt to summarise the text. Instead I will recommend that all owners of large or significant trees in the Grange obtain their own copy and here only comment on what seem to me a few of its most interesting aspects.

There are "currently 147 TPOs in Edinburgh; 27 cover individual trees and the remainder are in the categories of Groups, Woodland and Areas". I do not think you would guess the figures from reading the text, over half of which is devoted to TPOs. I happen to think they are probably about right. In my view, TPOs should mainly be confined to clusters of trees well away from buildings and only be brought into play in respect of individual trees when they are of incontrovertible and significant value to the public. With the Grange at least it seems to me quite clear that the future treescape can safely be left to the common sense and aesthetic needs of the owners. During our time in Dalrymple Crescent, for example, three biggish trees have been removed from front gardens because they were no longer fulfilling the wishes of their owners while at least a dozen new trees have been planted. Trying to use a TPO to hang on to a tree in the wrong place leads, all too often, to tears before bedtime.

The Charter states that to be considered for a TPO "Trees must be in a sound condition, have a significant life expectancy and should not be ... dangerous". Fair enough. It then adds a curious sentence. It reads, "The TPO must be enforceable, ie there should not exist circumstances which would prejudice the existence of the tree". The examples given are clear, "where a large tree is located in a small garden or where trees overhang a road", but I am puzzled to see how these "prejudice the existence of the tree". Perhaps someone reading this can throw light on the matter?

The Charter restates the Council's Tree Protection Policy in respect to developments. I do not think I need do more than quote. "This requires that development be kept 20m away from the bole of a protected tree or 10m from the canopy edge, whichever is the greater. This is intended to prevent trees being compromised by the proximity of development including the laying of services or perceptions of nuisance".

Alistair Scott

Editor's Note: This is Alastair Scott's final article about trees for the Newsletter. We are extremely grateful to him for sharing his expertise and enthusiasm with us over the years, and wish him very well. As part of the upgrading of our website over the year ahead, we hope to collect together and re-present some of his wise words on the trees which contribute so much to the look and feel of our area.

The Grange Association Committee 2002

Sheila Reid 108 Findhorn Place EH9 2PB	667 4876	Chairperson
Marion Cantley 59 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH	667 8074	Hon Treasurer
Graham Dickson 5 Glenisla Gardens EH9 2HR	667 2738	Honorary Secretary, Planning
Andrew Bell 17 Hatton Place EH9 1UB	662 4354	Planning
John Duffus 43 Mansionhouse Road EH9 2JD	667 3682	
Derek Lyddon 31 Blackford Road EH9 2DT	667 2266	Honorary President Planning
Angela McFee 23 Mortonhall Rd EH9 2HS	667 4043	Planning, South Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel
Ruth Munro 18 St Catherine's Place EH9 1NU	668 4783	Newsletter Distribution
Jon Oberlander 22a Findhorn Place EH9 2JP	667 9551	Vice-Chair Newsletter Editor
Betty Paul 18a Dick Place EH9 2JL	667 1240	Social
Judith Reeves 125d Grange Loan EH9	667 5570	Gardens
Dorothy Ryle 33 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	667 1444	Community Liaison
Christina Somerville 111 St Albans Road EH9	667 9797	Social, Web Site

Copy date: 24/12/02. You are welcome to quote from this newsletter, but please acknowledge the source. The information in this newsletter is as accurate as we can make it, but we do accept articles in good faith without necessarily being able to verify the contents.

Grange Conservation Awards

The awards recognise outstanding contributions to improving the quality of the area by residents. 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 will make the first award at the AGM, and we warmly welcome further recommendations.

New website address:
<http://www.the-grange.org>

Contact us at:
christina.somerville@ed.ac.uk
j.oberlander@ed.ac.uk

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SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR 2003

As you may be aware, there is a pilot Friends of Libraries running from Newington Library. An enthusiastic group met in December to suggest ideas, think about how the library engages with people and plan some future events. We would welcome your comments and suggestions.

We would really appreciate YOUR help, and wonder if you would take the trouble to fill in the attached questionnaire. This will help to shape the direction of the 'Friends' group to make it relevant to local community needs and hopes.

Thanks to the initial work of some Friends, we are delighted to announce that there will be an Open Day in Newington Library on Saturday 15 March from 10.30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with activities for all age groups. Local writers including Ian Rankin and Alanna Knight have promised to join us.

Councillor Moyra Forrest, Chair of Friends of Newington Library
Margaret Young, Team Leader, Newington Library

A Friends Group would

- promote the use of the resources already there
- support and enhance the library
- encourage the provision of new resources
- arrange social, literary and promotional events
- raise awareness of the library's position as a focal centre in the community

Would you be interested in a Friends Group (please tick)

- to promote greater and more varied use of the library.....***
- to initiate book and discussion groups.....***
- to arrange literary and other events.....***
- to develop more activities for children.....***
- to expand the facilities for minority groups.....***

We would welcome comments and suggestions.....

Please return this questionnaire to the library or to Mayfield
Salisbury Church (FAO Marjory Grant) by 14th February.
Or post it to Newington Library, Fountainhall Road, EH9 2LN

Do photocopy this questionnaire and pass it to friends!

Add your name, address, telephone number and email, if you wish