



# The Grange Association

Newsletter No. 76

Spring 2003

<http://www.the-grange.org> Recognised Scottish Charity SC025491

## Forthcoming Events

Here are some dates you may wish to put in your diary. Full details of events later in the year—from October onwards—will be in the Autumn newsletter.

*Saturday 10 May*

We will be holding our Annual Bring and Buy Plant Sale at the Carlton Cricket Ground, Grange Loan between 10.00 and 12 noon. Come along and buy your summer bedding plants—we will have a larger range this year. All donations of indoor and outdoor plants will be gratefully received, and if you would like something collected in advance, please telephone Judith Reeves on 667 5570. Refreshments will be available. All welcome.

*Saturday 7 June*

This is the date of our Annual Gardens Walk. This year, we have been invited to visit several gardens at the west side of the Grange, and the Whitehouse and Grange Bowling Club have kindly invited us for refreshments. All welcome; please meet at the corner of Hope Terrace and Whitehouse Loan at 2.30pm. The Gardens Walk is free to members of the Association, visitors £1. (Please bring your membership card, or join on the day).

Unless otherwise stated, meetings usually 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 speakers in the Autumn season, please get in touch.

*Judith Reeves*

**Silver Jubilee Local History Project.** We are particularly interested in your thoughts, memories, photos and newspaper clippings about life and work in the Grange. Check our website for progress over the next few months: it'll be featuring maps, pictures, written articles, and transcripts of people talking about the area. Special thanks to Brian Aldridge for his skills and help in earlier stages of the project. Now, contact Judith Reeves or Jon Oberlander to contribute material, or to find out more.

**Are you a member of the Grange Association?** Annual subscriptions are payable in mid-February, but it is possible to join or renew membership during the year. Contact our membership secretary, Marion Cantley.



## **Brief minutes of the twenty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Grange Association**

Held in St Catherine's Argyle Church, Grange Road, Edinburgh at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 19 February 2003. (Full minutes are available from the Secretary.)

Some 65 people attended the AGM, including representatives of other associations, local councillors and our speakers, Heather Robertson and Miles Tubb of the Living Memory Association. The minutes of the 23rd AGM were adopted as a correct record. As a matter arising, the possibility of outright donations to Sciennes School and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children had been investigated. Although charities, their objectives and those of the Association were not the same. It had therefore been concluded, with regret, that such donations were not possible within Charity Law.

In a wide-ranging report, Sheila Reid, our Chairman, mentioned the following:

- Our sadness at the death of Ronnie Paul, husband of committee member Betty Paul, and steadfast helper to the Association.
- The work of the South Edinburgh Local Development Committee, which had, amongst many other issues, been questioned over the unsatisfactory standard of clearing leaves from streets last autumn.
- As part of the Council's Conservation Area enhancement proposals seven Turkish hazel trees are to be planted in Grange Road. The Association's Millennium Tree is to be relocated at the west entrance of the Cemetery.
- 'Trees in the Grange', published some years ago, has made a good profit but copies are now to be sold at £1 each and the value of any remaining written off.
- Work on the local history project, made possible by a grant from the Local Development Committee Community Fund, to collect and publish reminiscences from the area is advancing. Contributions to the collection are extremely welcome, via either Judith Reeves or Jon Oberlander.
- Our thanks to Cllr Forrest—who is not seeking re-election—for her unceasing work for her ward and support to the Association. Thanks also to members and of the Association and Committee, particularly Betty Paul for her work on Social Events, and Christina Somerville, who had agreed to take Betty's place.

The President, Dr Derek Lyddon, spoke of the agreement at the previous AGM to set up the Grange Conservation Award for work which enhanced the character of the Conservation Area. He presented the first Award to Alasdair Macdonald, for his sympathetic restoration work at 1 Blackford Road.

The accounts presented by our Honorary Treasurer Marion Cantley were adopted, and thanks to our auditor recorded; no changes to office-bearers or committee membership were required or suggested (see page 8).

The resigning local councillor Moyra Forrest was invited to speak. She noted that during her 13 years representing the ward, she had seen the Association make its case for Conservation Area status, the Council's approval of its designation, and the preparation of the required Character Appraisal—the first of many which now cover a large part of the City. The Council was now beginning on the second of their



obligations for Conservation Areas, namely enhancement schemes. She thanked the Association for their support to herself and her colleagues, particularly in planning matters, and looked forward to her continuing contact in other capacities. As a matter of other business, Mr Mackenzie expressed his disappointment in the drop in membership and suggested it should be noted in the next Newsletter (see page 1).

Following the Annual General Meeting, Miles Tubb and Heather Robertson gave a presentation about The Living Memory Association, displaying a vivid sample of the many images of Edinburgh life which they have collected and collated, and discussing how reminiscence about everyday objects can help young and old alike.

### **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme**

Although the arrangements for the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) are not part of the remit of the Grange Association, I think it will be useful to draw up a list of the local co-ordinators/convenors and the areas/streets for which they are responsible. I have very little information apart from details of the East Grange NWS, which covers the roads bounded by (but not including) Grange Road, Findhorn Place, Grange Loan and Kilgraston Road. There, the Area co-ordinator is: David McCardel, 24 Dick Place, EH9 2JJ, 667 7426, or e-mail: mccardel@mac.com). If you are a street convenor in any other NWS or if there is no scheme operating in your street and you would be prepared to assist me in setting up a group, I would be grateful if you would contact me at the address given on the back page or e-mail me at angelamcfee@hotmail.com. The work involved in the scheme is not onerous but it is a very useful contribution to life in your immediate neighbourhood.

*Angela McFee*

### **Sport in the centre of our Community**

Did you know that within walking distance of your home, there is a unique sporting and social facility? Some 130 years ago, a group of far-sighted businessmen who were interested in the game of lawn bowls acquired ground in Hope Terrace. To this day, Whitehouse and Grange Bowling Club enjoys an enviable reputation among bowlers, whilst the beauty and tranquility of its special home is cherished by its members.

Membership of the Club is available for experienced players, beginners, and 'house' members. It could be that as an experienced bowler, you have recently moved to this area and are keeping on a connection with your former bowling club. But if the travel is becoming a nuisance, you will be most welcome with us. Or perhaps you have played bowls on holiday, or just on the odd occasion in the past. If you would like to start playing more regularly, qualified Scottish Bowls coaches will give training and assistance to make you feel at home. On the other hand, if you do not wish to play, but you would like to use the facilities of the Garden and the Clubhouse as an area of relaxation, then we would be pleased to see you as a House Member.

Bowls is a game where true sportsmanship prevails, and whilst the object is to win, the purpose of the game is to enjoy oneself. You can be assured of a warm welcome and a good deal of enjoyment at Whitehouse and Grange. For more information, contact John Donne (447 2947), Bob Tait (667 2721), or Raymond McCluskey (667 3317), or visit our website: [www.wgbc.f2s.com](http://www.wgbc.f2s.com)

*Bob Tait*



## Planning Developments, Mid-August 2002 to End-March 2003

The Association among other community groups continues to be consulted on planning matters at local and national scale. If you would like to know more about this, please contact Graham Dickson.

### Significant Applications

**\*St Peter's RC School:** Revised scheme with main building moved east, somewhat less aggressive form, improved access but still problems with public recreation space. Planning Committee granted consent 19.3.03, but Council has to notify Secretary of State of its intention to develop on its own land.

**\*9 Whitehouse Terrace:** A modest lodge in stone and slate. Alistair Scott advised us on the proposal to remove six trees and plant four limes on the line of the present avenue, a piece of long term management of the tree cover so characteristic of the Grange. The Planning Department's refusal of consent was largely to preserve the existing trees.

**\*7 Whitehouse Terrace:** An uncompromisingly contemporary extension to a large stone villa, matching the original in scale and quality.

**\*31b Dick Place:** A controversial new entrance enclosure.

**\*2 Oswald Road:** A Grade B listed building situated on a prominent site at the corner of Oswald Road and Kilgraston Road. The original proposal was to build two garages with accommodation above in the style of a 'coachhouse', together with alterations to the fenestration and accesses, and a significant enlargement to an existing side extension. After the closing date, the architects amended the Application to delete the coachhouse and to modify or delete the alterations to the rear façade and the side extension. Whether these alterations met the points made by the objectors is, we accept, a matter of judgment. However, we regret that the Planning Department did not re-notify objectors as expected in this controversial case, and that the Planning Committee decided not to make a site visit. Permission to the amended proposals has been granted.

**1a Kilgraston Road:** Marchmont St Giles Church, like many others, finds it necessary to extend and upgrade facilities to meet community needs and increasingly stringent regulations. New accommodation is to wrap round the east end of the church largely behind the existing cemetery wall. Above this, pre-patinated copper cladding is kept as low and as simple as possible to minimise the effect on the church.

**15 Sciennes Gardens:** The garden room extension to this stone villa, now complete, has just received a Saltire Society Award.

### Applications and Decision from Mid-August 2002 to End-March 2003

All considered by Planning Group; \* indicates comments made by Grange Association Committee. Note that the category *Withdrawn* usually means only that an application is being reconsidered to avoid its being refused: most are later re-submitted in a revised, somewhat less contentious form.



## Approved

### *Alteration and/or extension to dwelling house at:*

\*7 Whitehouse Terrace, 16 Cumin Place, 6b Backford Road, 7  
Lauder Road, 18 Seton Place (variation of consent), 34 Grange  
Road, 28 Fountainhall Road, 12 Tantallon Place, \*2+4 Seton Place,  
1 Grange Terrace, 204 Grange Loan, 35 Fountainhall Road, 22  
Blackford Avenue, \*2 Oswald Road, 58 Sciennes, 8 Grange Loan  
Gardens, \*21 Hatton Place, 19 Seton Place, 36 Lauder Road  
15 West Relugas Road, 44 Findhorn Place, 19 Seton Place

### *Conservatories at:*

#### *Others:*

- \*55 Dick Place New garage, convert existing garage to garden room, and internal alterations
- /1 202 Grange Loan Replace two sheds with one new one
- \*2f 2 Palmerston Rd Install domestic stairlift for disabled person
- \*/1 4 Blackford Ave Replace existing aluminium windows with uPVC
- 11 Dick Place Internal and external alterations, external deck and steps
- 143 Grange Loan Proposed conservatories/day rooms, Astley Ainslie Hospital
- 8 Whitehouse Terr Removal of relatively modern conservatory to rear of property
- 22 Lauder Road Erection of fences to divide garden between upper and lower villas
- \*9 Kilgraston Road Extension of consent for nursery (with stringent conditions)
- 10a Dick Place Replace 7'x5' garden shed with 12'x10' shed for additional storage and DIY
- S Oswald Road Installation of replacement windows in existing openings
- 7 St Albans Road Use for office for organisation of conferences and other events (use class 4)
- 64 Ratcliffe Terrace (In retrospect) Change of use to hot food takeaway
- 4 Dick Place Replacement of cast iron railings
- 15 Findhorn Place Single garage
- 42 Grange Loan Replacement of greenhouse
- \*31b Dick Place Remove existing concrete stair to upper villa, add 2 storey garden room extension including internal stair; replace existing gate with new sliding gate
- 4 Grange Loan Gdns Erection of summerhouse
- 10 Sciennes Road Fire escape upgrading
- /2 119 Grange Loan Replace existing windows and doors
- 17 St Catherines Pl Form new french doors from 2 small windows to rear of premises
- 160 Causewayside Alteration and extension to form offices and retail class 2 use
- /1 25 Oswald Road Erect summerhouse in SE corner of garden
- 56 Ratcliffe Terrace Change of use from shop to dental technician
- 3 Findhorn Place Alter hard surface to front garden
- \*54 Canaan Lane Installation of emergency generator
- 19 Strathearn Road Installation of handrail to ramped entrance to Post Office public counter
- \*25 Falcon Gardens St Peter's RC School (revised scheme, notified to Secretary of State)



### Refused

- \*59-67 Ratchliffe Terr 2 commercial units, 2 mews houses, 14 flats  
\*91 South Oswald Rd Erection of 12 private residential flats (between Barnado's and the railway)  
250 Causewayside (Refused and enforced) Retrospective change of use to tyre and wheel depot  
\*5 Mansionhouse Rd Alterations to boundary wall to increase driveway width  
Gf 34 Mansionh'se Rd Alterations and extensions to dwelling  
13 Blackford Road Extend upper floor on to roof terrace  
\*25 Mansionhouse Rd Erection of carport to side of house  
\*16 Grange Terrace Erect conservatory  
18 Mansionhouse Rd Alterations and extensions to dwelling house  
7 St Catherines Pl Alter front garden and driveway  
\*9 Whitehouse Terr Erection of lodge house and replacement of various trees  
\*160-162 Whitehouse Loan/35/39 Newbattle Terrace  
Residential development, 24 flats and parking

### Withdrawn

- 12 Hope Terrace Installation of 3-sector antenna, dish in GRP chimney shrouds, and cabinet  
1 Canaan Lane Erection of satellite dish on pole on concrete base  
\*2/12 Palmerston Rd Garden summer house

### Pending

- \*58-62 St Albans Rd Demolition of added structures, conversion of 3 existing villas to 5 dwellings, erection of 2 terraces of 3 cottages each at rear  
\*10 Cumin Place New window and glazed roof to existing lean-to  
\*3 Hope Terrace Erection of single garage and alterations to garden wall  
1-2 Strathearn Road New fencing to boundary  
\*23 Hope Terrace Amendment to garage design (previous consent), alterations to kitchen  
1a Kilgraston Road Alterations and extensions to church/halls (Marchmont St Giles)  
49 Fountainhall Rd Install french doors  
/1 25 Oswald Road Original cedar summerhouse with glazing all round  
\*2/12 Palmerston Rd Garden summer house (revised)  
Bf 129 Grange Loan Extend existing flat  
26 Dick Place Alterations to house  
6 Lauder Road Form external door with steps and install two Velux rooflights  
34 Lauder Road Erection of garage

*Graham Dickson*

### Scotlands Garden Scheme: 20 Blackford Road

As part of the Scheme, our garden will be open on Sunday June 1st 2003 from 2pm to 5pm. This Victorian walled garden of approximately one third of an acre is the result of 25 years of trial-and-error gardening and includes mature trees, yew and box hedging, shrub and herbaceous borders. There will be a plant stall and tea with biscuits. 40% of the proceeds will go to the nominated charity—The Brooke Hospital for Animals—who provide free veterinary care to working horses and donkeys in Egypt, India and Pakistan. Entrance is £2.00, children are free. *John and Tricia Wood*



## Library Open Afternoon: an old friend in a new light

It was certainly unusual to be going to the library on a Saturday afternoon and to find the austere gates festooned with balloons! We were welcomed in from the bright March sunshine by the Librarian, Margaret Young and our Councillor, Moyra Forrest. Inside, a buzz of activity, and the garden door opening onto the raised patio with memorial benches for browsers. It was the first time I've ever been out there, and I did spot some scope for a volunteer weeder or two in the large flower bed. Local celebrity authors, Alanna Knight and Ian Rankin, talked about what libraries have meant for them. Devotees of the Central Library and the Fife Library Service, they've furnished details in their novels by recalling assiduous reading of back numbers of newspapers held in libraries. They also advised us to look carefully at library sales tables: early copies of their novels can prove real money spinners.

Refreshments were supplemented by quizzes, and visitors were encouraged to learn how to use the catalogues and surf the web—and there is a promise of further sessions on web basics soon. We also had the opportunity to make suggestions for other services the library could help organise, such as Book Groups. In particular, we discussed the Council's proposal for Newington to pilot a Friends scheme, focussing on what the goals could be, and who should help! Warm thanks to all who made the afternoon work; with more advance publicity, the next event should be an even bigger draw!

*Sheila Reid*

## Nature notes: St Valentine's Day 2003

From my kitchen window in Glenisla Gardens, I could see an interesting drama unfolding. On the opposite side of the road, under the spreading chestnut tree, there is a steep grass bank. Two squirrels were wrestling, down the bank and onto the road, plump grey balls of fur in a tight embrace. This was no fight over food or territory, there was no biting or scratching, it was merely foreplay to what all wild creatures like to do on a warm spring morning. Next day three squirrels appeared, and I assumed it was the same female, this time with two suitors. There was a spectacular display of acrobatics high in the tree: a long furry, grey streak snaking its way up to the uppermost branches. This time the female was putting up some serious resistance: the chase lasted for about ten minutes, but as she began to flag, the males took turns to mate with her.

The squirrel population in the area is fairly high; the chestnut trees provide guaranteed winter fodder, as do our cherished crocus bulbs. Foxes and dogs kill a few squirrels and the occasional brave cat makes a half-hearted stalk on the unwary nutkin burying his cache. Many gardeners in the area have to weed out chestnut saplings which result from nuts planted in the autumn and left unclaimed: we have replanted many of these on Blackford Hill and surrounding area.

*Tom Breheny*

**Editor's Note:** Tom has also spotted a green woodpecker again; after last Autumn's issue, Christine Armstrong wrote: "I was interested to read of the sighting of a green woodpecker in your area this summer. I myself have had 3 sightings this year. Spring: Craigmillar Park Golf Course; Summer: Bonaly Park; and Autumn: Holyrood Park. I don't know what the size of their territory is, but it seems unlikely that these were all the same bird!"



## The Grange Association Committee 2003

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, Crime Prevention
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
Judith Reeves 125d Grange Loan EH9	667 5570	Gardens, Social
Dorothy Ryle 33 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	667 1444	Community Liaison
Christina Somerville 111 St Albans Road EH9	667 9797	Social, Web Site
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Alistair Scott 26 Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NX	667 9577	Tree Advice

We're pleased to note that although Alistair is no longer on the Committee, and has no plans to write any more tree pieces for the Newsletter, he is very happy to continue to offer advice on trees!

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Copy date: 29/03/03. 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 Award

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 warmly welcome recommendations.

### Website:

<http://www.the-grange.org>

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