



The Grange Association

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

Newsletter No 81

New Year 2005

Recognised Scottish Charity SCO25491

Forthcoming Events

Wed 23 February 2005 Annual General Meeting. An opportunity to come and join; new members welcome. Paul McAuley has kindly agreed to be our AGM speaker. Having just returned from the USA looking at the work of Scottish sculptors there, and given his work as Assistant Keeper of Conservation (Monuments) in Edinburgh, we are assured of a fascinating evening.

Wed 23 March Alan Victor is a world-wide traveller. His audio visual presentation 'Alps from the Top' is unique, following the flora and fauna from the tops of mountains, down past the snow and tree lines to the valley floor. How does he manage to film such scenery? ... come and find out.

Sat 7 May Our plant sale will this year be held as usual, but the venue has yet to be confirmed. Come along and buy your summer bedding plants—we will again have a large range this year. All donations of indoor and outdoor plants will be gratefully received, and we can collect items in advance.

Sat 11 June Our annual garden walk returns to June. More details later.

Unless otherwise stated, 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 future speakers or events, please get in touch.

Christina Somerville and Judith Reeves

Stop Press: The Health Trust advises us that work will begin on the new Prosthetics building at the Astley Ainslie on 31st January. Contractors will be on site Monday to Thursday, 0800—1800, with "occasional weekend working". Contractors will gain access to the site from South Oswald Road, where the gate will be closed to patients, visitors and staff until at least May 2006.

Don't forget to vote! The Transport Edinburgh postal referendum takes place from 7 to 21 February. If approved in the referendum, congestion charging will begin in 2006. More details: <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/transportedinburgh/>

Are you a member of the Association? Annual Subscriptions are payable in mid-February. To join or renew by post, please complete the form on page 5. You can also join or renew at the AGM. If you're not sure whether you have current membership, please check with Marion Cantley.

The Carlton Cricket Club

The Grange Association would like to offer the Carlton Cricket Club its warmest congratulations on the completion of its new pavilion, and our best wishes for a successful season to come. The Club is a real asset to our area, with the opportunities it gives to enjoy the beautiful grounds and social activities. Membership details—non-playing as well as playing—can be had from the Club secretary. Hugh Parker, President of the Club, writes:

As those of you who attended our recent Open Day will know, our new pavilion is now completed and the Grange Private Nursery is now resident in the new building. The committee is anxious that this excellent facility, which is located in an attractive 4.5 acre site, is put to full use especially during the winter months. Organisations or individuals wishing to hire the pavilion for functions in the evenings or during weekends are invited to contact the Club Social Convenor, Mrs Ann McConnell (0131-667 5490), for further details.

The club is indebted to many donors, both club members and local residents and organisations, who contributed to the ongoing Pavilion Appeal Fund, and to Viridor-Credits Scotland which awarded Carlton C.C. a substantial and much appreciated grant.

100 desirable trees

To mark the Millenium, Alastair Scott wrote and produced an elegant (and self-explanatory) guide entitled "100 Desirable Trees to plant in the gardens of The Grange, Edinburgh for the Millenium (or later)". More recently, to make up for the fact that the book sold out and is now out of print, Alastair kindly passed to me the electronic source of the text, and I formed the plan of uploading this onto our website. In fact, to my surprise and chagrin, I realised in November that I have had this plan for almost two years! So I finally placed the text on the website: you can browse it online by following a link from our homepage; and you can also download a copy for printing, from <http://www.grangeassociation.org/product/100.pdf>

In a pleasing twist of fate, just a few days after I had finished converting the text for the website, a cache of copies of "100 Desirable Trees" was uncovered. So we are pleased to announce that, as well as being accessible via the web, there are once more printed copies available for sale, via the Chair of the Association. Enjoy!

Jon Oberlander

Matters arising ...

In the last Newsletter, we carried an article on the Enviromental Task Force. We've been told that if you want to contact the Task Force, your first contact should always be the Senior Task Force Manager, Ron Dymond. His mobile is 0779 633 7029; his email is ron.dymond@edinburgh.gov.uk. He can address all issues relating to 'open space management' including parks, litter, road defects, fly-tipping and graffiti. In the same issue, we erroneously listed a proposal to form a driveway for a property in Blackford Avenue in the Approved section of the list of planning decisions. It should have been included in the Refused section. Our apologies for this error.

Reminiscences: We did not want to live in the Grange!

We did not want to live in the Grange. Indeed, I clearly remember the tears on the first morning there, in 1933, when my two sisters and I were put out into the garden to play. Where were our playmates from the tenement where we had lived before? I would rather have gone to Livingstone Place where we had cousins. They played peevers, cleeks, skipping, and parabolas in the street. We had come to the Grange because there was a vacant plot of land there which was considered to be within walking distance of our father's place of work. He built two bungalows on the plot and our family moved into one of them. Gradually, our garden became, in turn, a school, a hospital, a swimming pool, a tennis court, a dolls' house, and even, a jungle and a heathen temple, about which we had learned at our missionary minded Sunday School at Fountainhall Road Church. All this was, of course, without planning permission, The garden soon became more populated as we made the acquaintance of children round about. A Marchmont lass passed by and saw the fun. We have been friends ever since.

I suppose "next door" is always important to children but our "next door" was extra special. Stables had been converted into garages, but a tack room still remained complete with halters and harnesses: I can smell them yet. We girls used to visit the neighbours who lived in the flats above the garages and from the back window we could see a pond with penguins strutting about. This would have been in the south east corner of the grounds of West Grange House which, at that time, was owned by the Findlays of the Scotsman. I also remember our neighbours' car which I think was S 32. It was a "sit-up-high" model with a starting handle and a collapsible roof. From the other flat, coloratura singing floated across our garden. Nearby, Grange House was being demolished. We children used to explore the ruins looking for relics. What delinquents!

When we ventured forth from the garden into our new surroundings, the scene must have been quite rural in the thirties. I remember bats and owls in the beech trees at the Carlton Cricket Ground, birds' nests in the gardens, grassy footpaths where there are now pavements. And the tall elms trees at the back of Grange Terrace, which later fell victim to Dutch Elm disease. There was even the occasional flock of sheep driven along Grange Loan.

It would be the pre-war years too, that I remember women coming to the door begging for clothes, and sometimes men looking for food. I wonder if anyone else remembers the jokey conductor on the number 9 bus who shouted at us, "All debtors get off here" when we reached our stop, or Jimmy the scavy who used to lean on his brush to talk to our father. In those days every inch of pavement was swept by hand! Visitors to the district used to stop in Grange Loan to ask about the Youngers' water tank at number 91. One couple thought it must be an ancient temple!

Betty Findlay, via Dorothy Ryle

See also page 7 ...

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.

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 2005 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 13 February 2005.
- 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.

Membership of the Association ... and the Committee

The Committee send you our warmest greetings for the New Year and we hope that your resolutions include filling out the membership form for the Association, as well as the Gift Aid declaration, and sending it to the Treasurer very soon. If you have not been a member before, please do join us this time. The more committed public support we have, the better, as we work to implement the aims of our constitution. Your continued backing is a very encouragement to us. We look forward to welcoming as many as possible of you to the AGM, and the talk afterwards.

Thus year, we will be looking to elect some new people to the Committee, and we earnestly hope that some members will be willing to put their names forward. The work is very varied, always interesting, and a continual learning process for us all. Even as we push the work forward, good friendships are made: our monthly meetings are informal and enjoyable. If you think you might be interested, and would like to know more about it, please speak to one of the current Committee members, or to me. We do not usually ask for any great prior knowledge or expertise—just an interest and concern for our beautiful area, and a readiness to learn and to help. This year, however, we really would appreciate assistance from anyone with particular experience or interest in the planning system. Please do consider it seriously: We need you!

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 2005.
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

Membership form

To: The Manager

Bank
&
Address

..... Postcode

Please pay to The Bank of Scotland
51 South Clerk Street
Edinburgh EH8 9PP 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.

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.

The Number 9 Bus

Betty Findlay writes: I think there should be something on the Scots language among the reminiscences, so here is a poem by my uncle John Oliver of Moray House! The poem is dated "Candlemas 1948", so it will be 57 years old come February!

O there's some that like to fare
to the bus' abune Traquair,
And they carena though they walk for
weary miles;
And there's some that think it grand,
Wi' a cromak in their hand,
To be steppin by Loch Rannoch to the
Isles.

But I dinna muckle care
For your bus' abune Traquair,
And bein taiglet i' the Isles I couldna
thole;
But the bus that I think fine
Is the bus marked "Number 9"
That stravaigs atween Greenbank and
Muttonhole.

I'll hae nane o' your Traquair
When, for juist a threepenny fare,
Ye can sit and gang stravaigin at your
ease
rae farthest sooth tae north,
Frae the Pentlands tae the Forth,
And see as mony ferlies as ye please.

O it's bliss beyond compare
When ye've sprauchled up the stair,
And ye've settled doon a' ready for the
ride,
And ye proodly contemplate,
Frae your high, uplifted seat,
The hooses on the road by Morningside.

Then ye swing roon east-awa,
And alang by Charterha',
And the whins on Blackford Hill are
lookin graun;
And ye'll maybe, gin ye try,
Get a glint as ye gang by
O' the bairns feeding deuks aside the
pond.

Nesit ye turn roond wi' a jerk
At the Reid Memorial Kirk,
And gan pechin up the hill to reach the
Grange;
Then ye birl doon to Hope Park,
Where the yound vets are thrang at wark,
Learmin hoo to cure distemper and the
mange.

Then by shabby Causeyside
And Buccleuch Street ye maun ride,
(There's a place there that they ca' the
Archers' Ha')
Then by Greyfriars Kirk it fase,
And, of course, your hat ye raise
As ye pass the heid o' Candemaker Raw.

Noo doon the Mound ye flee
(At the fute ye stop a wee),
And syne across the Dean Brig ye hae
fared;

Then ye turn doon Orchard Brae,
And ye think "We've gane astray,
And we "land in Macabeus's back-yaird."

But there's nae need to be feared,
For the driver is weel leared,
And fine he kens the way to reach his
goal;
And in juist eight minutes mair
Ye'll be hirplin doon the stair,
And I hope ye'll be made up wi'
Mutton-Hole.

The Grange Association Committee 2004/5

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	Minute Secretary, Planning
John Duffus 43 Mansionhouse Road EH9 2JD	667 3682	
Derek Lyddon 31 Blackford Road EH9 2DT	667 2266	Honorary President
David McCardel 24 Dick Place EH9	667 7426	Planning, Neighbourhood Watch
Ruth Munro 18 St Catherine's Place EH9 1NU	668 4783	Newsletter Distribution, Social
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

Alistair Scott 26 Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NX 667 9577 Tree Advice

Alistair is no longer on the Committee, but, he is very happy to continue to offer advice on trees.

Copy date: 31/12/04. 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.

Traffic Calming Much of our area has been 'traffic-calmed' for a number of years; the area around Sciennes School has been calmed more recently. But other parts remain untouched, and are not considered a priority by the Council. But if congestion charging comes into force (see p1), the inner cordon will run part of the way along Melville Drive. This is likely to affect traffic patterns within our area. So perhaps the time is right to consider whether more traffic calming might be preferable to more traffic. We are interested in hearing your views on this topic: contact the editor by email or paper mail.

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

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