



The Grange Association

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

Newsletter No 82

Spring 2005

Recognised Scottish Charity SCO25491

Forthcoming Events

- Sat 7 May 10.00–12.00** Our Bring and Buy Plant Sale will be at Marchmont St Giles Church this year. Come early for the best selection of interesting plants handed in by kind green-fingered people and for a wonderful range of summer bedding plants. Teas will be available, and we will be making a donation to the fund for the new church hall. If you're able to donate plants we'd much appreciate receiving them the previous evening (or any time during the previous week), and can collect if you're unable to bring them. Please phone 667 5570 to arrange for a collection.
- Sat 11 June 2.30** Gardens Walk: This year you're invited to a slightly different event—an informative circular tour of the interesting and historic Astley Ainslie grounds, followed by refreshments in the new Carlton Cricket Club. We will start outside the Astley Grange Nursery gate, at 133 Grange Loan (the north east gate), and end up at the refurbished Carlton Cricket Club on Grange Loan for refreshments and bar. Grange Association members free (small donation for Cricket Club refreshments welcomed), non-members and visitors £1, or you can join that afternoon.
- Wed 12 Oct** David Donald has travelled to places as diverse as Antarctica and Kenya, but tonight he is taking us to Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra. With his enthusiasm for and knowledge of these places we will be transported into another world.
- Wed 16 Nov** Jim Pryde was closely involved in one of the most complex transportation exercises undertaken in recent years—Concorde's final journey from Heathrow, by road and sea to the National Museum of Scotland premises at the Museum of Flight, East Fortune. This is a fascinating story, and we are assured of an interesting and amusing evening.
- Wed 7 Dec** The Christmas Party will be held as in previous years at the German Church in Chalmers Crescent at 7.30pm. Come and enjoy an evening with friends old and new, stories, songs, wine and shortbread.

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

Brief Minutes of the twenty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Grange Association

Held in St Catherine's Argyle Church Hall, Grange Road, Edinburgh at 7.30pm on Wednesday 23 February 2005. (Full minutes available from the Secretary.)

On a snowy February night, some 50 people attended the AGM, including representatives of other associations, local councillors and our speaker, Paul McAuley, Assistant Keeper of Conservation (Monuments) in Edinburgh. The minutes of the 25th AGM were adopted as a correct record. There were no matters arising.

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

- Members of the committee had visited the Scottish Parliament building at the invitation of Mike Pringle and had been impressed by the structure and quotations inscribed on the outside of the building
- Scottish Life had selected the Grange Association as one of its nominated charities and was donating £250. Any suggestions from members as to how to use this gift would be of interest.
- The Carlton Cricket Club was to be congratulated on their new pavilion. The Club is keen that the premises be used by others in the community.
- Crime reports for our area were now being received on a regular basis, and were available for perusal from committee member David McCardel.
- Committee members had attended Local Development Committee meetings throughout the year, and many topics of interest had been addressed.
- The Association had also contributed to Environmental Forum meetings. Ruth Munro had volunteered to be a local environmental warden and held a 'clean-up' box to address graffiti and litter problems.
- The Fire Brigade was offering free safety checks to members of the public, as well as free batteries for smoke alarms (call 0800 169 0320).
- Planning matters had been to the fore in the Association's discussions, particularly concerning those properties where the planning requirements had apparently been flouted, and major changes to original applications proceeded with without proper consultation with, or notification of, neighbours and other interested parties. Members' vigilance and teamwork were essential in pursuance of planning matters.
- Committee members Judith Reeves and Christina Somerville had completed their terms of office, and the Chair expressed the Association's gratitude for their sterling works on the Association's behalf. The Chair also expressed her huge appreciation for the contribution made by Graham Dickson during his tenure as Secretary of the organisation. His wise counsel and unstinting efforts had been of incalculable help to the Association.

The accounts presented by our Honorary Treasurer Marion Cantley were adopted, and thanks to our auditor recorded; Doreen Allerton, Caroline McInnes, and Gordon Liddle joined the committee. There was a brief discussion of traffic calming, in the light of the City's vote against congestion charging. Following the AGM, Paul McAuley gave an excellent illustrated talk on the monuments of Edinburgh—and on work on conserving monuments (with Scottish connections) in the United States.

Grange Cemetery

At a meeting on 16th March in Marchmont St Giles Church Hall, officials from the City's Environmental Health Department presented their proposals for inspection of Grange Cemetery, starting at the end of March 2005. The Health and Safety Executive requires local authorities to inspect cemeteries and graveyards, to discover if any monuments or headstones are in a dangerous state. There have been 21 serious injuries in the past 5 years in the UK from toppling headstones; some of these have been to children, and fatalities have occurred. Injuries can occur when a visitor, having left flowers at the graveside, attempts to pull themselves up using the headstone as an aid, and the stone then topples. Grange Cemetery is in a better state than most of the 39 sites in the Council's area, and is the last to be inspected, but it is likely that some stones will prove to be unstable and will require to be laid flat. City-wide, of the 51,684 memorial stones inspected, 7,952 have been laid flat, and a further 10,151 will be re-inspected after a year.

Attempts have been made by the Council to contact grave owners to notify them of the inspection, but many addresses appear to be out of date. Local advertisements and posters on the Cemetery gates have also been used to alert the community of the inspection. Initially a visual inspection will take place; following this, a preset 'topple test' meter is used to apply a standard force to headstones. Any instability discovered will result in one of three courses of action: (i) dangerous stones will be laid flat immediately; (ii) less unstable stones will be re-examined after 1 year; and (iii) others will be reviewed after 5 years. The stones which are deemed to be dangerous will be lowered by a gantry so that the inscription is visible from the foot of the grave; unfortunately no funding is available to place other stones which have already toppled forward in such a position.

The Council plans: a 5 year rolling review of all memorials; a Memorial Registration Scheme for better practice; and a review of management rules in cemeteries. Should funding become available, it is hoped that re-erection of headstones could take place for those whose owners cannot be traced, but in the short term re-erection seems unlikely. New guidelines on standards for erection of memorial stones have been compiled, and only approved firms will be allowed to install stones. These firms should provide a guarantee of their work for 30 to 50 years and so will require some form of insurance. It is hoped that these measures will ensure that new memorial stones will not give rise to the risks caused by some earlier stones.

Andrew Bell

News from the Environmental Forums

The Association's area straddles three council wards, and so plays a part in two Forums: Sciennes, Newington and Prestonfield (wards 48-50); and Merchiston, Morningside and Grange, and Marchmont (wards 45-47). Since January, a lengthy process of consultation has been going on to identify development priorities for 2005. Wards 48-50 ordered their priorities as: roads and pavements; anti-social behaviour; litter; recycling; pavement weeds and leaves; street furniture and clutter; and parks and greenspace. Wards 45-47 selected: roads, safety and parking; HMOs; anti-social behaviour; maintenance of gullies, lights and overgrown plants; recycling; greenspace and soft landscaping; and youth facilities. It is hoped that we will be moving on from specification to action. In the meantime, to report a fault in pavement, roads or lighting, phone 'Clarence' on 0800 232323.

Sheila Reid

Planning Developments End August 2004 to End March 2005

The Association among other community groups continues to be consulted on planning matters at local and national scale. The most serious issues in the past months have been the trend towards amendment of designs between initial submission and planning decision, and extensive work being carried out in advance of any decision by the planning authority. The Association has taken these matters up vigorously with the Head of Planning, the Planning Enforcement Section, local Councillors and the Cockburn Association.

Significant Applications

*Whitehouse Loan/Newbattle Terrace: site now for re-sale with planning consent for 14 flats.

*75 South Oswald Road: consent granted for new flats, but no start on site

*91 South Oswald Road: consent granted for new flats, site clearance only

*58-62 St Alban's Road: site sold with planning consent, further consents granted for modifications to mews cottages and coach house. GA has protested strongly throughout, at both designs and procedures.

Astley Ainslie Hospital: work on the new Prosthetics building has begun.

Applications And Decisions From 23 August 2004 To 25 March 2005

All are 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.

Granted

Alteration and/or extension to dwelling house at:

40 Dick Place (as amended), 32 Grange Crescent, 22A Findhorn Place, 26 Grange Crescent (as amended), 3 Glenisla Gardens (as amended), 1 GF S. Oswald Road, 9 Dick Place, 60 Canaan Lane, *5 Sciennes Gardens, 43 Grange Road

Conservatories at: 19 Strathearn Road, 12 West Relugas Road

Others:

18 Lauder Road Replace existing timber windows with black aluminium/timber windows (phase 2)

*2 Oswald Road Lockup garage/studio, landscaping, increased access gate

3 Eden Terrace Change windows to french doors and form deck and steps to common garden

56 Sciennes Convert flat to office use (class 4)

13 Grange Crescent New dormer windows to front and rear, new extension to existing garage

2 Lauder Road Change of use from children's hospital annex to form 8 residential flats with extensions, new residential house, access and 14 car parking spaces

2 Lauder Road Alterations to entrance driveway layout, replacement of entrance gates, install new ball finials at gates, form new carport (partially in retrospect)

- 54 Grange Loan New garage
- 119 Flat 1 Grange Loan Replace existing windows/doors in white PVC (retrospective)
- *58-62 St Alban's Road Revisions to mews cottages, rear single storey element now timber clad, dormer pitches amended, hip to roof RHS mews
- *58-62 St Alban's Road Addition of entrance porch, revision of window/door positions, rooflight added to approved villa conversion, and subdivision into two flats
- *58-62 St Albans Road Revision to coach house: timber clad staircase extension to side of existing building, new dormer to roof
- *14 Kilgraston Road Alter dwelling house including erection of new bow window with balcony (as amended)
- 4a Sciennes Gardens Tool shed in the back garden between the orange blossom bush and external walls of the house
- 10 Wyvern Park Conversion of part garage to dressing room and bathroom, new window in place of garage door, new ramped path to front door with low brick wall
- Pitsligo Road/Newbattle Terrace corner:
Sales board/contact details for new development
- 25/25A Dalrymple Cres Replace existing steel carport with timber carport, resurface existing driveway
- 8 Falcon Road Make permanent number of infants to 59
- 114 Causewayside Alter shopfront windows and stallriser
- 31 Lauder Road Modification of approved scheme for revised conservatory and garage
- *1B Kilgraston Road Alter internal roof valley to form study extension, install new rooflights and porthole window on street elevation
- 51 Fountainhall Road Removal of single garage and erection of double garage (in retrospect)
- 5 Blackford Road Alter previous grant of permission (alterations + extension of existing dwelling)
- 3 Lauder Road Alterations/subdivision of existing dwelling to create garden flat (scheme 2)
- 56 Canaan Lane Extend car park
- 158-162 Causewayside Installation of ATM, plant box and signage (Tesco)
- 1 West Relugas Road New roof dormers front and rear, raise chimney, remove extg Velux rooflight
- 60 Canaan Lane form new dormer window, external sliding door & rooflight; form new external door opening and fit fully glazed door

Refused

- *1a Palmerston Road Proposed alterations and extensions
- *1+1A St Alban's Road Roof garden over existing bedroom extension (retrospective, and enforced)
- *Land at S. Oswald Rd New 3-storey dwelling
- *133 Grange Loan (Astley Ainslie) Erection of temporary office building for 5 years period (scheme 1)

12 Jordan Lane	Alter wall to frontage (raise existing stone wall to 1.7m above pavement)
*15 Findhorn Place	Erect frameless glazed roof terrace barrier on first floor at rear (and enforced)
*21 Blackford Road	Garden building, ancillary to existing dwelling house
30A St Alban's Road	Certificate of lawful use for House in Multiple Occupation (submission 1)
9A Strathearn Road	New dormer windows and alterations to existing rooflights
*3 Mortonhall Road	Erect new garden room extension and minor alterations to existing house

Withdrawn

*6 Palmerston Road	Extend dwelling
3 Lauder Road	Sub-division of existing villa to create garden flat (scheme 1)
92 Newbattle Terrace	Extension to house

Pending

*20-24 S Oswald Road	Demolition of existing bungalows, construction of 11 apartments
33 St Alban's Road	Alterations and conservatory extension
59-87 Ratcliffe Terrace	13 flats, 2 mews houses, 2 commercial units , related parking + landscaping
*15 Sciennes Gardens	Single garage with WC, new garage entrance in existing wall
32 Lauder Road	Erect conservatory
9 Whitehouse Terrace	Alter and extend dwelling, demolish and erect garage
92 Newbattle Terrace	Extend house (scheme 2)
20 West Relugas Road	Ground floor extension and loft conversion
20 West Relugas Road	Form run-in in front garden
30A St Alban's Road	Certificate of lawful use for House in Multiple Occupation for 6 tenants (submission 2)
26 Grange Road	Rebuild extg garage with same frontage, extend to rear to create utility room
14 Mortonhall Road	Form new window opening
13 St Catherine's Place	Remove extg external store, form extension to rear, widen vehicular access
47 Grange Loan	Certificate of lawfulness for installation of double glazing
9 Whitehouse Terrace	Alterations to roof and internal layout of existing (attached) outhouse
133 Grange Loan	(Astley Ainslie) Erection of temporary office building for 5 years period (scheme 2)
2 Lauder Road	Variations to proposed new house, alterations to garden flat windows, rooflight

Nature Notes: Waxwings in the Grange (and other animals)

Over the winter, these beautiful annual visitors arrived from Scandinavia again, to feed on an abundant choice of berries in the area. My first sighting was in early November. I watched a flock of about a hundred birds that had made their headquarters in a small leafless sycamore tree. They appeared to re-leaf the bare twigs with their colourful presence, evenly spaced throughout the tree. It was a still day and the sound of falling guano on the dry leaves below was clearly audible, like soft rain.

The birds were feeding on the dark red berries of two heavily laden hawthorn shrubs only a few yards away. The feeding pattern of the group was structured, half a dozen birds at a time flitted down from the sycamore tree, onto the hawthorns, where they took between three and six berries each before flying back up on to their perches on the "roost tree". These relay flights gave me a great opportunity to observe the bird's very fine plumage at close quarters. They flapped past my head within a few feet, showing a golden bar on the underside of their tails. Occasionally a solitary bird would fly up above the tree, like a lark ascending, and take a look around. I couldn't figure out if it was looking for the next food source or keeping watch for raptors. I did see a sparrow hawk some years ago stoop from a great height into a rowan tree where thrushes were feeding on the berries: the hawk was unsuccessful on that occasion.

On the 2nd January, I had the good fortune to see a kingfisher in the Hermitage at Blackford. It was upstream from the high wooden bridge. The bird was relatively tame and flitted from perch to perch on thin branches overhanging the Braid burn. The water was fast flowing and not ideal for diving purposes. I've never noticed minnows in the burn, although there are plenty of brown trout, some of them quite large. There have also been several sightings of kingfishers on the Water of Leith this winter. As well as fish, kingfishers eat insects and water creatures, including tadpoles in the spring. They are unlikely to starve, unless we get a prolonged hard winter with a big freeze.

But not so far from the Hermitage, the field at Midmar has become a dog's toilet. This once pleasant summer grazing area has become a dumping ground for inconsiderate dog owners who do not pick up their pet's mess. Some owners, who do pick up and bag the mess, walk to the nearest bush and dump the bag. This unwanted litter doesn't add to the amenity of the area, which some of us have worked very hard to maintain, keeping the developers at bay. As a dog owner myself, this idiotic practice embarrasses me. It gets us all a bad name. Perhaps a sign on both gates would help with the problem.

On the 17th January, I watched a tiny goldcrest in a holly tree at the Hermitage. At times, the distance between us was no more than twelve inches. This smallest of our British birds can be very difficult to observe as it flits from leaf to leaf with hardly a pause. Fortunately its distinctive appearance makes it very easy to identify.

Tom Breheny

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
Andrew Bell 17 Hatton Place EH9 1UB	662 4354	Hon Secretary, Planning
Doreen Allerton 62 Fountainhall Road	0780 3356200	
Graham Dickson 5 Glenisla Gardens EH9 2HR	667 2738	Planning
John Duffus 43 Mansionhouse Road EH9 2JD	667 3682	Planning
Gordon Liddle		
Derek Lyddon 31 Blackford Road EH9 2DT	667 2266	Honorary President
David McCardel 24 Dick Place EH9	667 7426	Neighbourhood Watch, Planning
Caroline McInnes 127a Grange Loan	667 5641	
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
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.

We welcome three new members to the Committee, and hope they enjoy their period of service. We are greatly relieved that Graham Dickson has agreed to be co-opted for planning; everyone in the area owes him a debt of gratitude for his years of service. We are happy and fortunate that Andrew Bell has agreed to take over as Secretary.

Copy date: 1/4/05. You are welcome to quote from this newsletter, but please acknowledge the source. The information herein is as accurate as we can make it, but we do accept articles in good faith without necessarily being able to verify the contents. Our sincere apologies for the error in the Standing Order printed in the last newsletter, and the additional work this caused.

Traffic Calming In our last Newsletter, we suggested that the time might be right to consider whether more traffic calming might be preferable to more traffic. So far, comments are in favour of calming, by 3:1. We are interested in hearing more views on this topic: contact the editor by email or paper mail. We will provide a fuller report on this topic in the Autumn Newsletter.

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