



The Grange Association

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

Newsletter No 84

New Year 2006

Recognised Scottish Charity SCO25491

Forthcoming Events

- Wed 22 Feb 2006** Annual General Meeting. An opportunity to come and join: new members welcome. The formal business of the AGM will be followed, as usual, with a presentation. This year, we welcome Dr Rosalind K Marshall, historian and author, who will give an illustrated talk on St Giles' Cathedral and its stained glass windows.
- Wed 22 March** Aileen Fox, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, will be talking about the RSPB's activities in Scotland.
- Sat 6 May** We were to hold the plant sale on this date, but note that the Cockburn Association will be holding a "Parks and Gardens Open Day" on this date, an outdoor cousin to the highly successful Doors Open Days. To quote the Cockburn: "The importance of green space for recreation, health and biodiversity will be highlighted and we want to attract participating venues from the Pentlands to the smallest of home gardens."
- Sat 13 May** We now plan to hold our plant sale the following week—the venue has yet to be confirmed. It's *just* possible we may have to change the date, so watch out for the Spring Newsletter for further information. And then 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.

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

Are you a member of the Association?

Annual Subscriptions are payable in mid-February. If you're not sure whether you have current membership, please check with Marion Cantley.

Following the unexpected death of our Chair, Sheila Reid, during the summer, the Association has sadly lost one of its expert advisors, Alistair Scott. An appreciation of his work is on page 2. At the AGM, the Committee will formally present its proposal for a memorial for Sheila. The suggestion is that the Association dedicate a bench to Sheila, sited in the garden of the Newington Library—another institution which she enthusiastically supported.

Alastair Scott: An Appreciation

We are sad to note the death, just before Christmas, of Alistair Scott, the Grange's "Tree Man". In the frontmatter to "Trees of the Grange", one of his several useful books, Alistair records of himself that he "was born in 1933. He spent a lot of time as a boy in Jedburgh, climbing trees and wandering about the countryside. Between forestry studies and Edinburgh University, he worked on Deeside (clearing the 1953 windblow), in the backwoods of Norway and on the Dalkeith Estate. A career with the Forestry Commission took him to Dorset, Worcester, Devon, the New Forest, Moray, Wales and Costorphine where he was Director, Private Forestry and Environment, retiring in 1993." Alistair lived in the Grange from 1988 onwards, and contributed in numerous ways to the conservation of our area, as a very active member of the Association and its Committee. Amongst other things, he edited this very Newsletter. But most importantly, he helped many people come to understand the importance of beautiful trees in making the Grange what it is today. And he was always happy to advise residents how to plan and plant trees for future generations to enjoy: his view was that the Grange needs 200 new trees planted every year to maintain and improve the treescape. Alastair's encyclopaedic knowledge, whimsical good humour, and easy charm will be missed, but his influence lives on in all the right trees which have planted in the right places—thanks to him.

Jon Oberlander and Judith Reeves

Staying warm this winter

Now that the weather is finally turning colder, readers may be interested in information available from Edinburgh's "Warmburgh Advice Team". Their commonsense suggestions include: check that your central heating system and its controls are in good working order; ensure that your home is properly insulated; consider investing in A-rated domestic appliances and low energy lightbulbs; and shop around for a cheaper fuel supplier. The Advice Team can provide more specific tips, and (perhaps even more helpful) information about the grants that are available for improving your energy efficiency. You can call the Advice Team free on 0800 512 012, or drop into their weekly surgery at the Advice Place (85–87 South Bridge), from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Fridays. Or check out the links at <http://www.leep.org.uk>

Letters to the Editor: Traffic Calming

In the last Newsletter, we discussed traffic calming, and how thinking is moving on from classic road humps, towards (potentially more expensive) measures like speed tables, road narrowing, landscaping, and so on. (However, readers may have noticed new humps in recent projects in nearby areas, including Greenhill, and Mayfield.) Here, we include edited excerpts from email we received, after the last Newsletter.

Malcolm Slessor and Jane King write: We are very much opposed to 'bumps' (is someone in cahoots with suspension manufacturers?). Nor do we like the narrowing of streets, as in Sciennes. We have been most impressed with traffic calming measures which we have encountered in several Highland villages. These are sensors that flash 'Slow Down' if anything approaches them at more than 30 mph. It is very, very effective. This device has a salutary effect on people, who feel quite shamed. ... But please, no 'bumps' in our street and no traffic lights.

Adrian Redfearn writes: I have read that humps damage cars even if they travel at low speeds over humps. The angulation of the suspension causes premature wear of suspension, steering, and tyre edges. It is a safety issue for residents who regularly drive over humps. Vehicles are designed for world markets which generally do not have these humps. In Gateshead, they have spent £100,000 modifying their German built ambulances to help deal with humps for which they were not designed. Only 4x4s are designed for this wear and tear, and I have also read that Edinburgh has the highest percentage of vehicles registered which are 4x4s in the UK. In Spain, they have an effective way of dealing with urban speeders. At the entry to restricted zones, there are traffic lights which change to red for those exceeding the limit. These would be suitable outside schools and other vulnerable places.

Geoffrey Green writes: Like most people, in all probability, we are in favour of traffic calming in principle, but we are very much against the use of rough and unsightly speed bumps. Surely if conservation status means anything, it should mean ensuring that environmentally enhancing measures, even if more expensive, should be used to achieve traffic calming, in preference to speed bumps which would degrade the very environment we are seeking to enhance. In our (perhaps radical!) view the most effective, environmentally enhancing and economical approach, city by-laws permitting, might be the introduction of cul-de-sacs (as for example in Castle Street), while preserving adequate main access points for emergency services etc. We believe the benefits in economy, safety, noise, pollution, pedestrianisation, quality of life, environmental enhancement, preservation and enhancement of property values, the definition of the Grange boundaries and the fulfilment of conservation aims might significantly outweigh any minor inconvenience to do with access. Having said all this, we feel that an extension to traffic calming in the Grange is actually unnecessary while extensive car-parking effectively narrows the streets and effectively reduces speeds and traffic flows.

Finally, *Brian Cameron* writes: I have been in correspondence [with the Council] now for some time to try and get traffic calming—of any sort—put in place between Grange Loan and Grange/Beaufort Road. Findhorn Place is now a very busy shortcut for vehicles especially during the rush-hours. It is also one of the main thoroughfares that children use to get to Sciennes School. My argument is based purely on safety. Because controlled parking on Findhorn Place does not become effective until 0830 and finishes at 1730, it is not unusual to see vehicles coming from Ratcliffe Terrace and hurtling round the entrance to Findhorn Place to then come face to face with parked cars on either side of the street. Cars coming from the opposite direction frequently have to surrender their road space to avoid a head-on collision. At 0830 the problem changes to one of sheer speed: vehicles coming from the Ratcliffe Terrace direction now have no congestion problems and are quite often achieving speeds of 40-45 mph by the time they reach the entrance to Dick Place. Any calming measures would improve matters. I'm afraid I have no sympathy for those who complain it can wreck exhausts or suspensions. It can, but only if the driver is driving at an unreasonable speed. And I'm fed up being told the Council can't afford it! They have managed to put calming restrictions in two cul-de-sacs close to where I work—just how crazy is that?

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 Acting Chair, Jon Oberlander, 667 9551.
- Volunteer to be one of the 64 distributors of the Newsletter.
- 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 2006 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 12 February 2006.
- 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 you will fill out the membership form for the Association, as well as the Gift Aid declaration, and send it to the Treasurer very soon. Gift Aid helps charities: over the last two years, we have been able to claim back over £286. If you have not been a member before, please do join us now. The more committed public support we have, the better, as we work to implement the aims of our constitution. Your continued backing is a true encouragement to us, and we look forward to welcoming as many as possible of you to the AGM, and the talk afterwards.

This year, we aim to elect a number of new people to the Committee. We recognise that some residents can offer expertise on an occasional basis, but do not wish to serve on the Committee; we are grateful for the input from these members, and would like to encourage more to come forward on this basis. At the same time, we earnestly hope that some other members will be willing to put their names forward. The work is varied, interesting, and a continual learning process. 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. Please do consider it seriously: We need you!

Jon Oberlander

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 2006.

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

Membership form

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 2006 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.

The Grange Outstanding Conservation Area

Planning Permission: A first checklist for householders

'When do I need approval to do something to my property?'

The rules about planning and listed building consents are more stringent in Conservation Areas. It is always best to ask for advice, but assume you will need planning consent for the following:

1 The building

Enlargement, improvement or alterations, including replacing windows and changing the colour of external walls, windows and doors

2 The surroundings

Provision or alteration of buildings or enclosures, including walls fences and garden sheds, and changing paving in front gardens

3 Gates, fences and walls

Construction, removal or alteration, including changing colour of railings
NB painting a different colour is regarded as an alteration

4 Car run-ins

Including gates and alterations to kerbs

5 TV aerial dishes and burglar alarms

Installation on any part of a dwelling which faces the road or any part of any other type of building

6 Gas pipes and boxes

On front elevation

7 Trees

Uprooting or lopping of a tree having a diameter of 75mm (3") at a point 1.5m above ground ?

Notify the Council and if you hear nothing within 42 days, you can go ahead

8 Working from home

Notify the Council with proposals. Permission not normally required if:

- only one room is used and only members of the household use it
- no advertising, casual callers or commercial vehicles
- use is not detrimental to amenity of area due to noise, smell or fumes

NB This is informal advice to help you and your neighbour look after the Grange. If in doubt ask at the planning office at 1 Cockburn Street or write to the Head of Planning, 1 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh EH1 1ZJ. You should consult the Council Building Control Department about any separate need for a Building Warrant.

The Grange Association Committee 2005/6

Jon Oberlander 22a Findhorn Place EH9 2JP	667 9551	Acting-Chair, Newsletter Editor
Marion Cantley 59 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH	667 8074	Hon Treasurer
Andrew Bell 17 Hatton Place EH9 1UB	662 4354	Hon Secretary, Planning
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David McCardel 24 Dick Place EH9	6677426	Neighbourhood Watch, Planning
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Judith Reeves 125d Grange Loan EH9	667 5570	Gardens, Social
Dorothy Ryle 33 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	667 1444	Community Liaison

You've got (too much) mail ...

Each year, 78,000 tons of unwanted mail is generated in the UK. Naturally, we hope that the Association's Newsletter is not part of this total, as far as you are concerned. But if you are receiving more marketing mail than you would like, you can register yourself (or previous residents of your property) with the Mailing Preference Service. This will remove you from almost 95% of all direct mailing lists. You can do it at <http://www.mpsoline.org.uk>, or by a local rate phone call to 0845 703 4599. Note that this won't get you out of unwanted mail from overseas companies, those you already deal with, or mail with either no address, or that which is simply addressed to "The Occupier". For more tips on how to reduce this and other kinds of waste, check out <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/wasteaware/>

Copy date: 31/12/05. 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.

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