



The Grange Association

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

Newsletter No 97

Spring 2010

Recognised Scottish Charity SC025491

Forthcoming Events

- Sat 8 May** 2.00pm-3.30pm Our Annual Plant Sale, in the Marchmont St Giles Church Hall (entered by the door to the south of the main church). Come along and buy your summer bedding plants—we will have a wide range available. All donations of indoor and outdoor plants are gratefully received—if you need help transporting them, we can collect in advance (667 5570).
- Sun 30 May** By popular demand, we'll be taking another trip to see gardens outwith Edinburgh. This year, we will visit gardens in Perthshire near Aberfeldy: Bolfracks, and Cluny House Gardens. There will be a lunch stop in Aberfeldy, with an optional visit to the Watermill art gallery/café/bookshop. Join us and bring friends: to book a place or find out more please call Judith Reeves (667 5570). The coach leaves Lauder Road at about 9.30. The cost of £22.50 includes coach fare entrance to gardens, and morning coffee.
- 1, 14, 27 July** Following up suggestions from the last GA evening, we are also planning to organise guided tours of the Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh in July. The three dates being offered are: Thu 1 July, Wed 14 July and Tue 27 July. Tours will commence at 11.00am and finish at 12 noon, costing £4 per head (the fee is payable to the Gardens, not the Association!). Association members will be responsible for their own transport. Each party will consist of 10–15 members, so if we are oversubscribed on any particular date, an additional group may be organised. If you wish to go, please email t.reeves@napier.ac.uk by Tue 1 June with your choice of date, or drop a note to Tony Reeves, at the address on p8. Once the numbers are collated, Tony will confirm the arrangements.

Our next event will likely be on 6th October. More details in the Autumn newsletter.

Tony Reeves

The Grange's character depends on its geography, history, natural history and architecture; and it depends on its residents! We aim to encourage four things:

- Learning: Education about the Grange's character
- Care: Active interest in looking after it.
- Enhancement: Recognition, preservation and improvement of its best features.
- Quality: High standards in its planning and architecture.

Brief Minutes of the Thirty-First Annual General Meeting of the Grange Association

Held in Marchmont St Giles Church Hall, Grange Road, Edinburgh at 7.00pm on Wednesday 24 February 2010. (Full minutes available from the Secretary.) Some 50 people attended; apologies were received and noted. The minutes of the 30th AGM were adopted as correct. Our Chair Sofia Leonard reported the following:

- The Association had dealt with somewhat fewer planning applications than in the previous year. During 2009, 84 applications had been inspected and comments made on 13 of these. 6 applications were refused by the planning department (of which 2 were ones we had commented upon). It was noted with regret that changes to planning procedure had taken place in August, meaning that 7 letters of objection rather than the previous 3 were required to trigger a presentation to the planning sub-committee.
- Further southward extension to the Controlled Parking Zone is still under discussion. Resolution of the problems south of S1 remained to be achieved; a comprehensive, universally acceptable solution to commuter, long term and displacement parking would not be easy.
- Committee members have been involved in many bodies within the city, including the City Development Neighbourhood Group, Local Environmental Forums, the Civic Forum and Marchmont and Sciennes and Grange/Prestonfield Community Councils. The Civic Forum, organised by the Cockburn Association, provides access to planning officials and briefings on policies and developments. Together with sister conservation groups, we continue to meet occasionally with our local councillors.
- Grange Energy And Renewables Study (GEARS): Government policy requires a reduction of 40% in carbon dioxide production by 2020 and 80% by 2050. GEARS was set up to: provide information to householders on energy reduction and efficiency, and sustainability; stimulate community engagement; and provide data for a further stage 2 study. A grant of £10,121 was approved by the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) for stage 1, now complete. An application for stage 2 has been lodged with the CCF, to be decided in March. The AGM thanked the GEARS team for their efforts, particularly Graham Dickson, Grigor Mitchell and Sue Tritton.

Accounts presented by our Honorary Treasurer Marion Cantley were adopted, and thanks to our new auditor, Ken Robertson, recorded. Notably, the association had received a generous bequest of £10,000 from a former member, Ronnie MacKenzie. The committee welcomes ideas from the membership on the use of this legacy. It was also noted that fraudulent withdrawals from our former bank account had required the opening of a new account. Although the bank had reimbursed us, the sum lost did not compensate for the work and materials involved in reorganising our members' details. Thanks to retiring members of the committee were noted: Marion Cantley, who had served as Treasurer for 17 years; Caroline McInnes; Graham Dickson; Andrew Bell; and Tom Cunningham. Under other business, the death of Ian McNeil, McNeil of Barra, was noted with regret. Following the AGM, Dr Graeme Cruikshank gave a talk entitled: 'A Capital Story: Edinburgh's History in a Nutshell'.

Andrew Bell

Edinburgh Garden Share Scheme

The Edinburgh Garden Share Scheme (EGSS) www.edinburghgardenshare.org.uk is run by Care and Repair Edinburgh Ltd. People who have gardens they can no longer maintain, are matched with volunteer gardeners who would like to grow more of their own fruit and vegetables.

Do you have difficulty looking after your garden? Would you be prepared to share your garden with someone, for them to grow vegetables? You would benefit from an agreed share in the produce. The Garden Share Scheme is particularly aimed at garden owners who are elderly or disabled: however if you do not fall into one of these categories, but you are interested in sharing your garden, please contact EGSS anyway. Their project coordinator can answer any questions you have about the project, and can visit you and your garden to assess the best way forward.

Or perhaps you would like to grow flowers, fruit or vegetables but have no garden or access to land? If you would be interested in sharing a garden with someone who has difficulty looking after it, please contact EGSS.

- EGSS carry out disclosure checks for volunteers - they are often working independently with people who are considered vulnerable. Volunteers also complete an application form and are required to give two references.
- EGSS support volunteers and garden owners to come to a mutual agreement about how the space is to be used, access etc. Ongoing support is also available for volunteers and garden owners.
- EGSS aim to match people who live near to each other, although this can be limited by the availability of gardens or volunteers in a particular area.

The Scheme is funded by the Scottish Government through the Climate Challenge Fund until March 2011. The target is to reduce carbon emissions, through the projects activities, by 12.5 tonnes. For more information or if you would like to share your garden or be a volunteer gardener then please contact Mandy Rathjen on the EGSS team on 0131 220 7636 or mandy.rathjen@careandrepaiiredinburgh.org.uk

Mandy Rathjen

In praise of garden sharing

I would like to recommend "garden sharing". Last year I was finding the garden heavy going and offered a small border to two young neighbours. The border has been well kept and there has been a harvest of lettuces, potatoes and carrots. This year there is promise of beans and strawberries. I have also made two very good friends. You should try it!

Betty Findlay

We were thrilled when our neighbour asked us if we would like to do some gardening in part of her garden she wasn't using. Since then we have been having great fun planting, harvesting and sharing delicious, organic and above all, local vegetables. After so much super-fresh salad-stuff, we can't wait for this year's crop! We are lucky to have such a kind and friendly neighbour!

Ozanne and Evrim Caba

Planning Developments September 2009 to end of March 2010

Significant Applications and Planning Issues

Although there are no major developments proposed in size there are some proposals that we consider would have a major effect on the appearance of the area and which we believe are inappropriate in this conservation area. The recent changes in planning procedure now means that at least 7 letters of objection have to be lodged with the authorities before the case is required to be decided by the planning sub-committee. The effect is that individual planning officers will make more decisions by virtue of the powers devolved to them and, as we have found in the past, their interpretation of planning guidance does not always coincide with ours.

Local residents will be aware of further suggestions on how to resolve planning issues south of the controlled parking zone S1. The transport department have attempted to take into consideration the many views expressed to them, sometimes quite forcefully, and there does seem to be some progress being made towards a solution which would satisfy most people. It is recognised that no outcome will have universal appeal. If you have not viewed the latest proposals they can be viewed on the council website on the Transport/Parking news/Possible extensions to the CPZs page. Comments may still be lodged.

Applications and Decisions | September 2008 to 30 March 2009

All are considered by the Planning Group. * indicates comments made by Grange Association though not all of our comments involve a recommendation for refusal of permission. Note that the category 'Withdrawn' usually means that an application is being redrafted to avoid its being refused; most are later resubmitted in a revised, somewhat less contentious form. Some properties may appear more than once; that can indicate repeat applications have been made.

Granted:

33 Lauder Rd	Alter and install windows, solar panels, widen driveway gate and infill entrance gate.
1 Relugas Gdns	Alter kitchen to bedroom, extension to rear, to form bedroom, kitchen & cupboard.
2 Blackford Bank	Single storey extension.
27 Blackford Road	Install 2 air source heat exchangers for a heat pump.
13 Dick Place	New timber shed with zinc roof.
*12 St Thomas Road	Demolition of single storey house/garage. Replace with new house/garage.
8 Whitehouse Terr	Rear extension and building alterations.
15 Blackford Road	Erect single storey extension and decking and 1st floor windows.
42 South Oswald Rd	Erect conservatory.
52 St Alban's Road	Erect Porch.

- 8 Whitehouse Terr Widen or form new internal/external openings, remove door, form window.
- 7 West Relugas Rd Erect new garden room.
- 6 Lauder Road Extend house to south east elevation.
- 8 Chalmer's Cres Vary consent.
- *46 Grange Road Form guest accommodation. Stone pillars, replace/widen access gate & hard standing.
- *47 Lauder Road Replacement sunroom
- 121/5 Grange Loan Replacement windows & doors.
- 6 Grange Terrace Replace windows to bedroom with wooden sash windows with slim line DG.
- 3 Mortonhall Road Construct access balcony and spiral staircase.
- 12 Dick Place New terrace, reinstatement of original window, formation of French windows.
- 20 Grange Road Install rooflights and solar panels to rear.
- 50 Grange Road Extend kitchen and alter outbuildings.
- 15 Lauder Road Internal alterations & form 2 new doors to exterior from existing windows.
- 34 Grange Loan Demolition and replacement of existing rear kitchen outshot.
- 2 Dick Place Alterations and extensions to existing kitchen.
- 38 Dick Place Remove non structural concrete block wall and refurbishment.
- *46 Grange Road Remove internal wall & provide timber cupola.
- *46 Grange Road Erect railings, remove trees, rebuild boundary wall incl. stone piers at vehicular access.
- 7 Mortonhall Road Erect greenhouse to rear of existing garage.
- 10 Sciennes Gardens Alterations. Study to outshot. Porch to garden. New window in south gable.
- 6/3 Dalrymple Cres Replacement velux window.
- 24 Lauder Road Install satellite dish to chimney above flat roof.
- 28 Lauder Road Conservatory.
- *39 St Alban's Road New vehicle run-in, gates and fence.
- 7 Sciennes Gardens Greenhouse.
- BF 129 Grange Loan Remove timber shed extend to form garden room/sun room.
- 9 Palmerston Road Reinstatement of hay loft for craft workshop (domestic use) ancillary to dwelling.
- GF 17 Strathearn Rd New infill extension to rear and new box-bay window.
- 34 Grange Crescent New rooflights.
- *33 Dick Place Alterations and rear extension, enlarged parking area in front garden.
- *1F 38 Dick Place Double garage.
- 26A Dalrymple Cres Erect wooden children's playhouse.
- 18 Lauder Road Level access threshold to Lauder Road, ramp to garden area incl handrail & tactile paving.

Refused:

39 Lauder Road Alterations to form French doors & replacement windows for dormer

Mixed decision:

34 Grange Crescent Install replacement front & rear dormers windows. New side roof projections & rooflights
(Rear windows approved; side windows rejected.)

*9 Seton Place Extension to rear, form parking and access within front garden.
(Parking space refused)

Withdrawn:

None.

Pending:

Cameron Toll Extend to include cinemas, restaurants and retail outlets on 3 floors to south of existing centre.

*32a Lauder Road Demolish garage and external stair and replace with stone-fronted (two-storey) extension.

9 Whitehouse Terr Alterations to master en-suite bedroom.

2/PF1 Sciennes Hill Pl Convert window in ground floor flat to French doors.

52 St Alban's Road Non-material variation of permission to erect porch/new French windows.

Gf 17 Strathearn Rd Remove sunroom, new rear extension & box-bay window, alterations, install new stair.

*5 Lauder Road Erect 1½ storey gable extensions incl garage, rear extension with pergola, porch, shed.

30 South Oswald Rd New conservatory, remove garage, new carport, greenhouse, gates & railings. Widen entrance,

56 Grange Loan Alterations. Upgrade kitchen/dining/bathroom/attic bedroom. Replace roof light.

3a Dalrymple Cres New en-suite bathroom, enlarge existing bathroom and kitchen, to restore to original.

79 Grange Loan New bay window, deck and steps, install 3 rooflights and form porch.

124 Findhorn Place Alter and enlarge rear window, replace outshoot door with new glazed door.

38 Dick Place Erect porch.

24 Blackford Road Erect single storey rear extension.

119/2 Grange Loan Renew consent (05/01018/FUL) to form window and door to lower apartments.

8 Whitehouse Terr Alterations incl. enlarge external openings, replace roof infill, new opening/gate in front wall.

39 Mansionhouse Rd Erect detached single storey home office shed.

Parking Proposals: Update from Councillor Gordon Mackenzie

Cllr Mackenzie is one of the Grange's Councillors, and Convener of the City's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee. He writes:

An exhibition and public meeting was held in the Marchmont St Giles Church on 25th March to discuss the latest proposals. Attendance was good; around 90 residents came to view the proposals [which can be seen at Newington Library], give comments and ask questions. In addition there has also been helpful feedback from residents who were unable to get to the meeting. The most common points to arise and my initial responses are as follows:

1. Number and location of permit places - several residents felt there were insufficient places provided for residents. A further study of parking patterns is to be carried out to identify the number of residents who do not use their car every day but may still wish to purchase a permit. Further permit places will be identified to ensure there is a better spread of permit bays across the area. The proposed pattern has been determined, in part, by the location of driveways, junctions and lamp-posts, partly to reduce additional street clutter. To provide a better distribution of permit bays may entail placing signage on walls or, in a few cases, putting up additional signposts.

2. Safety Concerns on Blackford Avenue, Oswald/South Oswald Road etc. - a number of residents raised concerns regarding potential increase in traffic speeds and sight lines. I have requested a number of changes to be made to improve sight lines and help manage traffic speeds. In addition, there will be an audit of the revised arrangements by the Safer Routes to School Co-ordinator and officers from the Road Safety Team.

3. Parking at the Avenue Store - residents and the Avenue Store owner were concerned about possible encroachment by commuters into the parking spaces near the store. Arrangements will be put in place to designate (free) spaces for shoppers and prevent longer term parking.

4. 9 Hour Parking in S1 - many residents wish to see the use of 9 hour bays extended in streets with very low levels of parking, within S1. Detailed proposals will be produced based on the pilot which has been running in Lauder Road for the last 10 weeks. The additional 9 hour bays will come into force ahead of the introduction of the permit parking bays, thereby providing an opportunity to examine the impact and tailor the roll out of permit bays. It is envisaged that the introduction of additional 9 hour bays will come into force at the end of this year with the permit bays coming in around July 2011.

5. Camper Vans - Unfortunately, we are unable to address the problems caused by these vehicles directly but will continue to look for solutions which do not simply displace the problem into other residential areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact Cllr Mackenzie about the proposed measures:
gordon.f.mackenzie@edinburgh.gov.uk

The Grange Association Committee 2010/11

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Microgeneration: Energy Saving Scotland home renewables grants "If you have the drive to generate your own renewable energy, then the cost may not have to hold you back. Grants are available to cover 30% of the cost of installing a renewable heating system at home, up to a maximum of £4,000. Clean energy cash back incentives such as Feed-in Tariffs are available for installing a renewable electricity generating technology." For more information on microgeneration options for the Grange, see Newsletter 93, or www.est.org.uk/schri

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