



The Grange Newsletter

Grange Association

September 2020

ISSUE No. 128



Centre
pages

Local lockdown in pictures

www.grangeassociation.org

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The May edition of our newsletter was available online only. You can read it at <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/newsletters>. Though life is not back to normal, we hope that this edition will be delivered through all local letter boxes but it can also be found online at the link above.

Lockdown has given us centre pages of photos in place of an interview-based profile of a person. There is still plenty to read, including several "History and Heritage" pieces - the story of Tom leaves unanswered questions but you will learn a lot more about him on page 3. Another Tom, our nature writer, has enjoyed observing the world around him, as usual, but you will find on page 8 that he had a very unexpected visitor to his garden recently. Elsewhere, look out for a beheading, tree diseases, leaf clearing, planning news, gardening advice and our socially-distanced talks programme.

Happy reading and stay safe.

Jenny Dawe, Editor

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Cover photo:
peacock butterfly by
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Your contributions, photographs and feedback are welcome. Please send to Jenny Dawe
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HISTORY & HERITAGE

The tantalising tale of Tom, c.1871-1884

Some time ago the Grange Association group researching graves in the Grange Cemetery received an inquiry about a gravestone (right) which reads:

Tom, an African slave boy, died at Edinburgh April 19th 1884 aged 13. Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. Erected by children of Rosehall U.P. Church

It has taken two years but we now know that Tom was a slave in the Congo who was bought by Joseph Clark, a Baptist missionary from Aberdeenshire, who had gone to the Congo in 1879. He returned to Scotland on leave in 1883 bringing with him Tom and another boy, Theo, who had also been rescued from slavery by one of Joseph's fellow missionaries. While on leave, Joseph travelled round talking about his missionary work and, at least on some occasions, he took both Tom and Theo with him - newspaper reports of meetings show they were in Belfast early in April 1884. The *Northern Whig* (12 April 1884), for example, reporting on a meeting held the previous evening in one of the local churches, wrote that Joseph Clark "delivered an interesting lecture on mission work. He was accompanied on the platform by two lads, natives of the Congo Valley, who had been rescued from slavery."

Disaster struck after their return to Edinburgh. A paragraph in *The Dundee Courier*, Friday, 25 April 1884, reveals what happened: "Death of a Congo Lad in Edinburgh.- On Tuesday the remains of Black Tom, a little Congo lad, were interred in the Grange Cemetery. On Saturday morning he burst a blood-vessel, and in the evening he died. He had a companion named Theo, also from Congo. Mr Clark ... returned on furlough last year, bringing with him the two boys. The one who died had been purchased by himself,



while the other was also a slave, claimed by three different chiefs."

Tom's death certificate reveals a little more: Thomas Clark, died 19 April 1884 11h 45m p.m., Lochrin House, Lochrin, Edinburgh, aged about 13 years. Under parents' names: "A native of Africa". Cause of death: "Haematemesis 1 day Ulceration of Stomach as certified by George Mackay M.B.". The death was registered on 22 April by "Joseph Clark, Guardian, present". Haematemesis is the vomiting of blood, especially as the result of a bleeding ulcer.

In the 1880s Lochrin House at Tollcross, on the corner of Gilmore Place and Home Street, was divided between Dr Mackay and his household and a small home for orphans. It seems likely that Tom and Theo were staying at the orphanage while they were in Edinburgh, while Joseph was apparently staying with his half-sister who was in service with a wealthy widow in Morningside. He got married a few days after Tom died and gave Morningside Park as his address on the marriage certificate.

Joseph and his new wife had a long career as missionaries in the Congo, where Joseph died in 1930. What we still don't know is what happened to Theo (who may be the Theodore Walker who appears in the witnesses section of Joseph's marriage certificate) or why the children of Rosehall Church (now Priestfield) raised the money for Tom's stone in the Grange Cemetery. What was the connection?

Pat Storey

Grange Cemetery news

Grange Cemetery has proved very popular as a quiet place in which to walk or sit during lockdown. Many visitors have been picking up copies of our reprinted booklet, *Some Notable Burials*, first published in 2017, and our new booklet, *More Notable Burials*, published earlier this year. It has been especially good to see family groups using the booklets as the basis for a fun learning experience, with children vying with each other to find the graves in the booklet using the maps on the back pages - not easy when a large cemetery plan is condensed into less than an A5 page. The booklets, both featuring information on 24 notable people in the cemetery, can be found in holders on the map supports at both gates. We try to keep the holders filled up but they do sometimes run out. However, the information is available on our

website at <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/cemetery>. The QR code on the maps on the boards will also take you to the relevant web pages.

The Cockburn Association has cancelled its usual Doors Open Days this year, replacing it with digital content, but believed initially it might be able to advertise open air events. The Grange Cemetery Group was keen to be involved in this, offering information and, possibly, guided walks. Although the Cockburn Association has now decided that it is too risky to encourage "clustering" of people anywhere, our enthusiasm has been roused and we are going ahead with preparations to provide a "Cemetery Open Day" when circumstances mean this can be done safely.

Work has also begun on mapping a tree walk round the cemetery.

HISTORY & HERITAGE

A brief history of my house

Inspired by the Edinburgh World Heritage project on House Histories and encouraged by preliminary research in the Edinburgh Room of the Central Library, I set out to discover the history of the house where I live (photo, right). Built in the Grange in 1881 (date above the door with initials and large wobbly stone thistle) in typical gentrified Victorian villa style, it used to adjoin a larger but similar property, Oswald House, built on an extensive feu and illustrated in Malcolm Cant's 'Sciennes and The Grange' but turned into a development of 38 flats retaining the original wall and gardener's cottage. My property fared better. It was divided in 1945 then re-divided in 1997 so that I live in a third of the original house. Alas, the garden attached to my part fell prey to developers and a modern house sharing the same plot was built over the rose garden and vegetable plot.

From street indexes I discovered that the property was built by David MacGibbon (1831-1902), a notable Edinburgh architect who started his practice here in 1856, being involved with his father's designs on houses in Royal Terrace. He became architect to the Edinburgh Merchant Company which brought in a programme of repair to the Company's schools. His own house, now demolished, was opposite mine in Grange Loan.

This house, whose original name, St Oswald's, can still be faintly seen on the gateposts, was built for Duncan McLaren (b.1839) whose father of the same name was Lord Provost at the time. He and his wife Eliza lived here with four servants including a laundress but no children of their own. The 1891 census shows two young children and their nursemaid who may have been his wife's deceased sister's offspring. He was a draper and silk merchant. They were still living here in 1901 but disappeared from the 1911 Census.

Once the name of the owner has been established, it is easy to trace through the Census the various family developments as well as the number of windows, who the neighbours were and where the occupants were born. One of the domestic



servants came from South Africa and in the next road lived a teacher of languages from Holland, a servant from Germany, an architect from Berlin and a Professor of Theology from Cheshire!

I have seen a photo, gifted to the Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) (merged with Historic Scotland in 2015 to form Historic Environment Scotland), of Duncan McLaren Senior with three generations of his family in the now demolished Newington House, Blasket Avenue. The first owner of my house is pictured there in the 1860s, aged 22. A former neighbour of mine in the Blasket area found me a McLaren family tree as she is tracing the descendants, who include a prominent astronomer, the first Baron Aberconway and various other illustrious persons whose issue are alive today. Emerging from this brief and amateurish act of research were three coincidences. In 1851, Duncan Junior lived as a child in 24 Rutland Street next door to the house where my great-great-grandmother Harriet Hilditch lived at the same time, so they must have known one another; Newington House, where Duncan McLaren Senior and family moved in 1852, now converted into modern student residences, was at the end of the road I lived in for twenty years; and the donor of the photo to RCAHMS was the mother of a friend of mine. Only connect!

Maggie Anderson

Caught out at Carlton Cricket Club

The Scotsman, 04 August 1883:

BOYS SENTENCED TO BE BIRCHED—At the Edinburgh Sheriff Summary Court yesterday, two little boys named James Fairley and Thomas Syme pleaded guilty of having stolen eight bottles of beer and lemonade, six cricket balls, and a cricket cap from the cricket-house of the Carlton Cricket Club, at their field at Grange Loan. Sheriff Rutherford ordered the lads to receive seven stripes with a birch rod, or, in the event of their being certified to be medically unfit for receiving such punishment, to be imprisoned for 24 hours.

Snippets found by Richard Brown

Morelands: Fumigation fire and Suffragette sparks

The Scotsman, 03 July 1880:

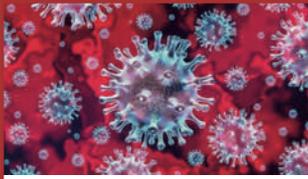
... yesterday afternoon, fire broke out at Moreland House, Grange Loan ... it is supposed that some of the material burned [to fumigate where sick children had been confined] set fire to the flooring of the apartment ... By the efforts of the firemen, the flames were prevented from spreading to other parts.

The Scotsman, 23 August 1913:

Morelands House, Grange Loan—... the Brigade were occupied nearly two hours at this [fire] outbreak ... but for the timely discovery of the constable, there is little doubt that the house and its valuable furnishings would have been totally destroyed...

SUFFRAGETTE TRACES. Among the articles found in or about the house were pieces of candle...a gold-mounted umbrella...three tins smelling strongly of petrol, a lady's comb...two copies of 'The Suffragette', one dated 15th, and the other 22nd August.

GA ACTIVITIES



Grange Association Covid-19 response

In March, we set up the Grange Coronavirus Helpers scheme to help those who should not be going out themselves with shopping, collecting prescriptions, and walking their dogs. This has been very successful, with over 390 people registered to help and 46 people supported throughout the period of the restrictions.

The Scottish Government announced that it was ‘pausing’ shielding from 1 August, noting that the levels of infection in Scotland are now very low. The Grange Association has therefore likewise ‘paused’ the Grange Helpers scheme from 1 August. We are ‘pausing’, rather than winding up, the Helpers scheme because we are aware of the risk that the virus could take hold again as we approach the winter months. We therefore intend to maintain our database of Helpers such that we could contact them again in the event that we need to re-establish the scheme and provide new help in the winter.

Helpers should therefore please continue to advise us of changes in their circumstances so that we can keep our records up to date. We are aware that many people who volunteered in March have returned to work and their availability may now be different. Please let us know if your availability or your contact details have changed, or if you no longer wish to be recorded as a Helper in our records.

We are very grateful for the support of all our Helpers. Even if you were one of the Helpers who has not been called upon to assist, you helped us to have the breadth and depth of Helpers available such that we could allocate Helpers who stay on the same street or very near to each person who has needed help. Thank you.

We have archived the Coronavirus pages of our website. You can still find all the information and forms in the [Library](#) section, by clicking on the “About the Grange Association” tile.

Nigel Ayton

GA WEB NEWS: Have you looked at our website recently? It’s worth checking out the new Cemetery pages at: <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/cemetery>. Have a look at the updated Library section at: <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/library>. It includes sections on Trees, Planning, History, and Newsletters from 1974-2011. From the newsletters you’ll soon find that today’s grumbles about traffic speed, bus routes and parking were shared by Grange residents of the 1970s!



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PROFILE - Local lockdown in pictures



Edinburgh City Centre, as seen by Peter Whelpdale



Peter Whelpdale at Blackford pond



Eleanor Pyrah at Blackford Pond

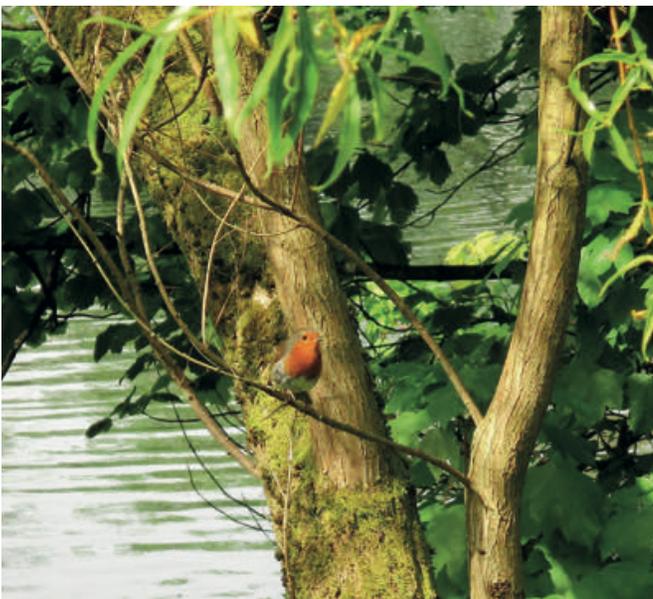
Local lockdown in pictures



South Oswald Road: before rehousing, honey bee swarm by Judith Steel



Mid-July in a garden in South Oswald Road: roe deer by Cliff Ford



Blackford Pond: robin by Eleanor Pyrah



Midmar Paddock: Meadow cranesbill by Eleanor Pyrah



Blackford Pond: by Eleanor Pyrah

Many thanks to those who responded to the request for “lockdown photos”.

What a pity we couldn't capture the birdsong too, heard so vibrantly without background traffic noises!

NATURE NOTES from Tom Breheny

Lock down but look up! No jet contrails, just passing clouds and clean air. Nice while it lasted for the natural world.

I was extremely fortunate to be able to observe the peregrines again this year when they returned to their regular nest site in early March. The nest entrance is shaped like a letterbox in the smooth surface of the rock where a hanging curtain of ivy provides partial cover. The female began to spend more time inside the nest, while the male kept watch. When she did appear, the male swapped places and they squeezed past each other on the narrow ledge and he went inside. I watched her fly across to a ledge opposite the nest, take a bow, cock her tail up and squirt a great arc of liquid guano high into the air which streaked the rocks below. She then ruffled her feathers, flew from the rock and flapped high into the sky and disappeared from view. I saw this relief switch several times, and it seemed likely that each bird was taking a turn at incubating the eggs before hunting.

It was probably more than a month before I could see something of interest through the ivy. With binoculars, I saw what looked like two fuzzy golf balls but it was several weeks before I was certain that I had seen at least two white fluffy heads of fledgling chicks teetering forwards on the ledge to take a glimpse beyond the confines of their dark cave. As time passed I was able to watch them grow in size and one of them was noticeably smaller than its sibling. I was guessing it was a young male, smaller than his sister by at least a third, normal for peregrines, although their own parents were identical in size. The male parent has been identified as a cross peregrine/lanner falcon. Sometimes falconer's birds do escape with the possibility of breeding with wild birds. Peregrines can live up to the age of 15 years although the mortality rate for young falcons is considered to be high, estimated at 60%. A normal clutch of peregrine eggs is four.

The majority of kills being brought into the eyrie were usually feral pigeons but blackbirds also seemed to be high on the list of prey species. As the chicks grew in size and perched fully exposed on the ledge, their parents became more aggressive towards other birds in their airspace, particularly crows, seagulls and fulmars. I lost count of the number of high stoops down onto seagulls without contact, but they were exciting to witness. What I did notice was the apparent respect that the falcons showed towards their crag neighbours, the fulmars, presumably because of their impressive weapon of oily vomit as a defence system against would be predators. I was aware of this stinky deterrent as a young man scaling the cliffs below Tantallon Castle.

The peregrine and the fulmar both have stiff pointed wings and shallow wing beats, although the fulmar has a wider span. One evening above the nest site I saw what looked like a serious duel between the two birds but it was the fulmar that deliberately bumped the peregrine after a series of dramatic tit-for-tat stoops - something I never expected to see and my regard for the plucky fulmar went up a few notches. Later I watched the male peregrine pursue a blackbird up over the cliff face and back round again in front of the nest site where the female was perched. She stooped down from the ledge and joined the pursuit and both falcons crossed flight paths, almost colliding, forming an X inches behind the blackbird which escaped into a gorse thicket. The next blackbird I saw was intercepted from a greater height and wasn't so lucky, ending up being plucked on the ledge and then taken into the

nest for the chicks to rip at by themselves.

I managed to see the young falcons testing their wings on the ledge, flapping madly in strong winds but keeping their feet firmly on the rock. Later the smaller one managed to get into the ivy and thrashed about in a very ungainly fashion, like a chimp, before clambering back up onto solid rock. Their short teetering maiden flights were assisted by a warm updraft on a breezy day and their landings rather shaky, wings windmilling like tightrope walkers.

The youngsters were sometimes difficult to spot when they were perched on the rock face away from the nest, well camouflaged in their brown and cream juvenile plumage. Soon, both parents were teasing their offspring to follow them aloft and making a great deal of screeching encouragement. It was easy to differentiate the learners by their nervous aerial manoeuvres, hanging like kites in the wind unaware of their future powers as masters of the skies.

One afternoon I only became aware that the falcon family was directly above me when I heard the cacophony and looked up. The male parent was carrying a limp blackbird in his feet and circling within a flock of angry seagulls and cawing crows causing uproar and the youngsters were part of the mayhem. One windy evening, three of the falcons had the empty sky to themselves and appeared to be flying for the sheer joy streaking across the heavens in all directions and then circling back in great arcs passing each other like Spitfires and Messerschmitts in mortal combat during the Battle of Britain. One of the young ones was missing. This wonderful circus continued for about twenty minutes and left me feeling delighted, exhilarated and with a very stiff neck. A small price to pay for the best seat in the house.

We had a surprising visitor to our garden one evening at dusk, a time of day I like to stand at the window and watch out for our pipistrelles hunting under the eaves. We have an apple tree close to the house with a bird feeder hanging from a branch by a slender wire and I got a brief glimpse of something moving about on the ground below but was unable to see clearly if it was a bird or beast. Robins, wrens and dunnocks like to search under the tree for fallen seed and insects. Five minutes later a small rodent appeared inside the feeder in full view. It wasn't a rat or a vole or a field mouse and looked more like a squirrel in miniature with a short body, blunt face, large eyes and a furry tail and the naked feet were large in proportion to its body. I called my partner Ellen over to the

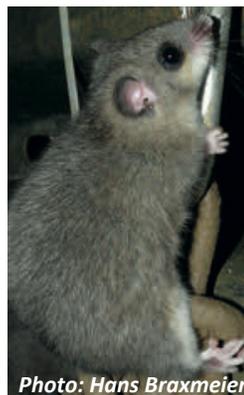


Photo: Hans Braxmeier

window and we observed our exotic visitor for several minutes. There was a brief temptation for me to rush outside and get a closer look but we could see clearly from the window. It was an edible dormouse.

I was keen to record this unusual sighting in Scotland and in the morning contacted Jackie Stewart at wildlife information, Vogrie Park. Unfortunately the sighting could not be officially verified without clear photographic evidence. Later I did hear from a naturalist friend living near Peebles that a vacant nest thought to belong to a dormouse had been found in woodland in that area. Hopefully any person who might spot this wee beastie in the future will have a camera at the ready. In Victorian times a keen sportsman was likely to shoot a rare creature as proof of sighting and then take it round to a taxidermist. I can sleep with a clear conscience.

LOCAL NEWS/TREES

Leaves and poles

Leaf Clearing – Autumn 2020

We plan to repeat the very successful programme of clearing leaves from our streets this autumn and have the full support of the Council for this initiative. The Council provides shovels, brushes and black bags and then collects filled bags. Thanks are due to several residents who, over the summer, have been clearing, mainly weeds, from pavements and gutters. This work has helped to keep drains clear and therefore prevent local flooding during heavy rain; to remove weeds which might otherwise have been sprayed by chemicals; and generally to improve the appearance of the area.

Those of you on my list of helpers will have received occasional emails over the summer – please let me know if you no longer wish to be included. However, remember that it is not necessary to be a member of the Grange Association to join this scheme. If everyone took responsibility to clear the pavements and gutters near their homes it would free up others to clear particularly leafy areas or those, like Lover's Loan, with no nearby residents. There may also be residents who are unable to help with the clearing but who can help in other ways: by offering storage for equipment (shovels, bags, brushes) which can be collected by those doing the work; making your brown bin available if you don't need its capacity (more environmentally friendly than using black bags); and by encouraging those you see doing the clearing.

If you want to help please email me – and also send any ideas to make this initiative even more successful this year.

Parking Pole Removal

One campaign we have always supported is the removal of unnecessary street clutter – to make walking along pavements safer and easier for everyone especially those visually handicapped, with buggies, or in wheelchairs. Some poles are, of course, essential, including lampposts and some advisory signs near junctions. However, in many cases, signs attached to poles could safely be placed on a wall or railing and the pole removed. Several residents have agreed to have a "parking sign" attached to their wall or railing and this has resulted in the removal of several poles. Over the past months we have called on residents where, we think, the sign attached to a pole near their property could be attached to their wall or railing. Many residents have already signed a form giving permission for the Council to do this work and we hope this might happen over the autumn. If we haven't yet contacted you and there is a pole near your home which could be removed, please either contact us for further information or complete the form on our website at

<http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/parking-pole-removal> We will collect the forms and pass them to the Council.

Reminder: a blocked gully or dark streetlight can be easily reported to the council via the Council website at edinburgh.gov.uk/gully and edinburgh.gov.uk/streetlightproblem

Sue Tritton

Trees in trouble

Ash and rowans

In the January newsletter I wrote about ash die-back and about fireblight which frequently affects rowan trees in this part of the city. Over the past six months I have noticed both diseases appear to have advanced, perhaps because of the very dry weather earlier in the summer or because of the three damp cool months since then - but perhaps only because I've looked.

In early June we had an enquiry expressing concern about the appearance of a weeping ash in Dalrymple Crescent which, sadly (it's a very attractive tree), is quite clearly affected by die-back. Over the summer it was noticeable that several mature ash trees in the neighbourhood are showing likely signs of the disease. The affected trees have conspicuous dead twigs and outer branches, but with green foliage arising further back, in some cases straggly, but in others seemingly vigorous. There is a substantial tree on Dick Place that is badly affected; other cases are in gardens on Lauder Road and the grounds of Forteviot on Hope Terrace. Ash die-back can kill young trees quite quickly (such as those by the Jordan Burn), but mature trees are more resistant, showing some capacity to regenerate. Just how much remains to be seen.

Of two recent applications to the council for work on rowans, one, in Sciennes Gardens, involves two trees that are dying back, very likely affected by fireblight.

Fireblight arrived around fifty years ago from North America, where it causes considerable problems for fruit producers. Ash die-back came here rather more recently, from the Far East. There are other similarities: for instance both gain entry to the tree through the foliage (and flowers in the case of fireblight) and gradually spread down through the tree to the roots. This means that their advance can be controlled in the earlier stages by cutting out affected shoots or branches – perhaps simple enough for a rowan, but impossible for a mature ash.

Fireblight can also infect trees through wounds, so any tools used should be disinfected and cut surfaces dressed with a protective paint. But ash die-back is a fungus – producing visible, albeit tiny, fruiting bodies on the stalks of fallen leaves – while fireblight is a bacterium and, obviously, invisible. So, diagnosing the problem isn't always particularly easy. For instance, wood pigeons are rather fond of young ash leaves and can sometimes strip them from the twigs. And rowans are susceptible to bacterial canker.

Limes reprieved

Finally, a spot of news on a different front. At the beginning of July a proposal was posted on the council's website for felling two very substantial lime trees in Cumin Place. This attracted a great deal of comment most, though not all of it, concerned at the potential loss to the amenity of the conservation area. The strength of feeling, evident on the GA Forum, was quite exceptional, perhaps reflecting people's increased concern for their surroundings over the past few months. The proposal has been withdrawn.

Peter Pitkin

PLANNING UPDATE by Nigel Ayton/AAH

All planning applications in the Grange can be viewed at: <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/planning-2>
 Check here to find whether you need permission to do work to your home or to lop any tree in the Grange:
<http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/planning-2/planning-guidance>

Since the last newsletter, which included 9 applications pending, there have been 20 decisions and a further 18 new applications for planning or listed building consent in the Grange. We lodged comments on three of these new applications, one of which has been refused, one withdrawn, and one remains pending. We e-mail members near each application to seek their views before making any comment or objection.

There has been a great reduction in building work during the Coronavirus restrictions. The activity is increasing again, however, and planning permission that would otherwise have lapsed has been extended by one year. So you may see some work underway for which the permission was granted many months ago. Check for prior years if you are searching on our website planning pages.

Please remember that planning permission is required for the stone cleaning of any building within a conservation area. We have been contacted by residents concerned about the apparently unauthorised stone cleaning of a listed building in the Grange and the Council is investigating.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS April - August 2020

Applications granted:

4A Sciennes Gardens EH9 1NR	Combine two flats into single dwelling
158 Causewayside EH9 1PR	260 solar panels on roof
§ 47 Lauder Road EH9 1UE	LBC to convert LGF rear window into doorway
45 Grange Road EH9 1UF	Extension to side and attic conversion
§ 19 Strathearn Road EH9 2AE	Vary plans for rear windows in new rear study and kitchen
§ Marchmont St Giles	Six phone antennae in tower; GRP replica louvres
3 Kilgraston Rd EH9 2DW	
§ 17 Oswald Road EH9 2HE	Five solar panels on rear roof of east extension
Astley Ainslie Hospital EH9 2HL	No EIA required for demolition of boiler house and mobility centre
39 Dick Place EH9 2JA	Vary permission for cladding on dormer window.
31 Lauder Road EH9 2JG	Replacement windows and doors
§ 6 Dick Place EH9 2JN	Replace conservatory with sunroom
§ GF 12 Grange Terrace EH9 2LD	Internal alterations, decking and replacement of two external doors
*§ 2F, 18 Grange Terrace EH9 2LD	LBC for 22 solar panels on roof
12 St Thomas Road EH9 2LQ	Stand-alone garden room
§ 30A Fountainhall Road EH9 2LW	LBC to replace windows at rear with French doors and fanlight
62 St Alban's Road EH9 2LX	Extension to GF rear
§ 54 Findhorn Place EH9 2NS	LBC to replace sash and case windows like-for-like
88A Findhorn Place EH9 2NZ	Patio doors to kitchen and alterations to rear elevation

Applications refused, withdrawn or appealed:

*§ 2A Dick Place EH9 2JN	Replace garage with two-storey garden building: Refused
* 9 Relugas Road EH9 2NE	Art studio and pottery on land at rear: Withdrawn

Applications pending at 22 August 2020:

11 Grange Court EH9 1PX	Replace timber windows and doors with uPVC
§ 3 Whitehouse Terr EH9 2EU	Stonework cleaning
Astley Ainslie Hospital EH9 2HL	Demolition of boiler house and mobility centre
*§ 24 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	Single storey orangery at rear. Widen drive entrance to 4.6m
*4 Seton Place EH9 2JT	Rear extension and tree removal
27m NW of 55 Mayfield Road EH9 3AA	20m telecoms pole on pavement with cabinets
New primary school	Vary plans to move sub-station and sprinkler tank
35 Canaan Lane EH10 4SG	

LBC = Listed Building Consent
 CLP (CLE) = Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed (Existing)
 GF/LGF = Ground Floor/Lower Ground Floor
 1F/2F = First Floor/Second Floor
 EIA = Environmental Impact Assessment
 § = Listed Building

* Comment or objection submitted by Grange Association
 ¶ Application modified thereafter
 ‡ Appeal pending
 Δ Appeal concluded

Astley Ainslie site update:

COVID-19 means there has been no further progress with the Astley Ainslie site sale. There has been pointless beheading vandalism to the Edith Simon sculpture "Health Service" (photos right).

The hospital plans to demolish the former boiler house at Cluny Place and the Mobility Centre behind St Roque. We wondered whether these buildings might house bats or other species but our investigation suggests there is no problem. In any case, NHS Lothian assure us that the relevant surveys will be carried out before the demolitions.

Roger Kellett



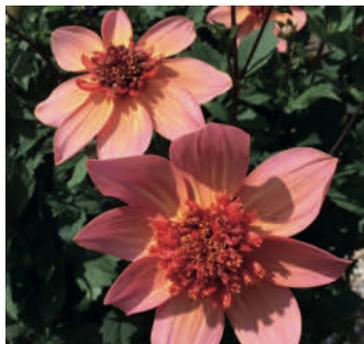
GARDENING

Gardening matters

Are your dahlias failures?

Dahlias are enjoying great popularity. I've always loved the variety of colours and form, but used to regard them as very high maintenance. A conversation with Janice Coombes, a local gardener who grows many dahlias, convinced me to try again.

Her tips for this time of year are to feed with a low nitrogen feed - I use this for my tomatoes anyway - and to keep deadheading, which prolongs the display, of course. One



Dahlia "Totally Tangerine"

problem I used to have is telling spent dahlia buds from new ones, but a clue is that new ones are round and spent ones are cone-shaped. My real issue with dahlias is having to dig them up, cosset them through winter and coax them back to life in spring. Although TV

gardeners have been suggesting that this is no longer necessary, I thought that this advice was for the south of England. Janice has had great success by leaving dahlias in the ground over winter and applying a 10 to 15 cm (4-6 inch) mulch. She uses spent

compost or grass sods, but bark or leaf mould would also provide a winter blanket.

In mid-April she starts checking for new growth and feeds with general fertiliser when she sees new shoots. Leaving dahlias in the ground over winter is not guaranteed to be foolproof, but neither is lifting them. It worked for me last winter and even if there are occasional losses, I think the risk is offset by the saving in work and time. If you do have to replace some, as Janice says, "For £4 you can have a large specimen flowering for months that summer."

Street Trees

The Grange Association Committee has formally thanked Willie Waite, who has been using his own plants to add colour and interest to the areas around the two street trees on the south corner of St Alban's Road junction with Blackford Avenue. He inspired others to do the same on the north corner of St Alban's Road and later in West Relugas Road and Grange Loan. Recently, the gardener who tended the trees on the north side of St Albans has "retired" and another neighbour has come forward to keep up the good work. Our thanks are due to them all for their commitment and community spirit.

Edythe Murie

To join the Grange Garden Exchange group and to hear about future activities write to: gardens@grangeassociation.com or phone Edythe Murie 07779 763930



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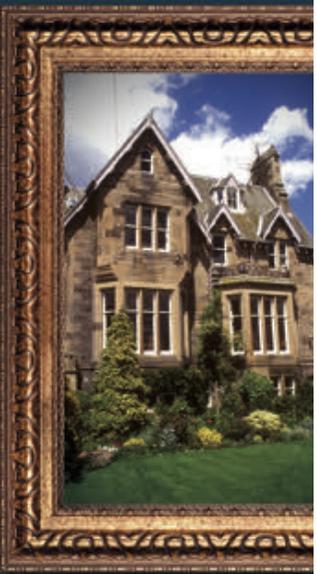


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EVENTS/USEFUL CONTACTS/Ads

Grange Association talks, Winter 20-21

We are planning to run the usual series of monthly talks but attendance will be virtual and not in St Catherine's Argyle Church. Speakers will join you in your own home, courtesy of Zoom.

The dates will be the **third Tuesday in every month at 19:30** and will begin on Tuesday 20 October with GA member Mike Lewis talking about The History of the Edinburgh Festival. The full programme is not yet finalised but, in November, Bruce Peter (Professor of Design History at Glasgow University) will talk about hotel design in Scotland and beyond. On 15 December we hope to sit in on a conversation with our member Tom Cunningham and Alexander McCall Smith.

Note these dates in your diary and look out for further information: **20 October, 17 November, 15 December, 19 January, 16 February and 16 March.** All talks begin at **19:30.**

Joining instructions will be on the Grange Association website and sent to members by email.

Isobel M Miller

USEFUL CONTACTS - ELECTED MEMBERS

MP for Edinburgh South: Ian Murray Tel: 0131 662 4520; ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk; 31 Minto Street, EH9 2BT
MSP for Edinburgh Southern: Daniel Johnson Tel: 0131 541 2145; daniel.johnson.msp@parliament.scot; 134 Comiston Road, EH10 5QN

Local Councillors: Tel: 0131 200 2000; CEC, City Chambers, High Street, EH1 1YJ; email - first.name.surname@edinburgh.gov.uk

Southside/Newington: Steve Burgess; Alison Dickie; Ian Perry; Cameron Rose

Morningside: Nick Cook; Melanie Main; Neil Ross; Mandy Watt

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