



The Newsletter

GRANGE ASSOCIATION SPRING 2015 | ISSUE NO.112



COVER
STORY

Vintage cheers!

www.grangeassociation.org

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Time to put a spring in your step – or perhaps indulge in a good read courtesy of novelist Kate Atkinson (our Profile subject) whose new novel is due for publication shortly. She lives discreetly in the area. Alternatively let's talk wines with legendary expert and Grange resident Michael Romer (our Cover Story). Roger Kellett launches the Grange Award (see insert in this issue) as a benchmark of excellence for developments and innovation across the Grange. Gardening guru Alison Bramley has the lazy, hazy days of summer in mind with a trip to the Borders. The enduring fascination with "residents" of the Grange Cemetery uncovers an unlikely First World War hero. Sofia Leonard pays tribute to ace planner and Grange Association icon Derek Lyddon. And there's much more to enjoy, intrigue and inspire.

Richard Mowe, Editor, The Newsletter



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Your contributions and feedback are welcome.

Not all articles may reflect the views of the Grange Association.

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SPOTLIGHT

Find out more about your Grange Association contacts in the eighth of a series

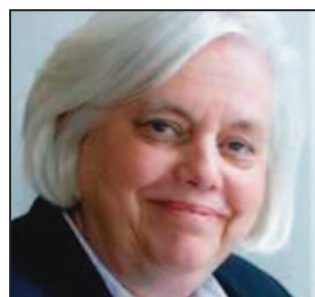
Jenny Dawe

As a child, born in Edinburgh to parents of Skye, Fife and Aberdeenshire ancestry, I longed to live in an era where I could learn all the knowledge in the world and make discoveries to change the universe. Schooling at Cramond Primary, Blackhall Primary and Trinity Academy soon disabused me of that aim.

A year as a Statistical Assistant at the Godfrey Thomson Research Institute of Edinburgh University preceded three years of a four year English Language and Literature course at Aberdeen University.

A three month summer visit to Tanzania to my fiancé working in agricultural research led to a seven year stay, postponement of degree completion, marriage, four sons, work as a librarian, Swahili exams, home schooling, and feeding the family from our poultry and garden crops.

There followed seven years in



similar rural vein in southern Malawi where I ran a small public library, continued home-schooling, and wrote occasional articles for local journals.

Back in Scotland in 1981, I had a year to finish my MA, a year as an MSc student in the Centre of African Studies, and completed my PhD on the social and economic history of cotton-growing in East and Central Africa.

Work on racial equality was followed by six years as a Welfare Rights Officer in Lothian Region

and 11 years leading the Welfare Rights Team in East Lothian. I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and satisfaction of these jobs.

Politics has been part of my life since school days. In 1997, I was elected a City of Edinburgh Councillor at a by-election; led the Lib Dem Group from 1999; and from 2007 to 2012 was Leader of the Council. I miss the buzz of getting things done, the all-consuming effort and the honour of promoting Edinburgh at home and abroad. I now have time to indulge other interests, such as gardening, family history and voluntary work.

I have lived in the Marchmont and Grange areas for 30 years. Asked to join the Grange Association committee in March 2014, I am happy to play a part in its important role in safeguarding the character and quality of life of the area.

I particularly enjoy being part of the Grange Cemetery project about to provide visitor boards and website information on 24 notable graves.

TRIBUTE

Life with a master plan

Sofia Leonard contributes an appreciation of Derek Lyddon, renowned planner and first president of the Grange Association

Derek Lyddon, former chairman and first president of the Grange Association, was chief planner in the Scottish Office from 1967–1985. He directed important projects in Scotland especially those related to the challenges arising from the discovery of North Sea oil and its environmental, social and economic implications for Scotland and the UK.

After making a comprehensive survey of the whole of Scotland's extensive coastline, he established National Planning Guidelines to regulate land-side oil developments including the building of rigs. Among many other projects, he oversaw the implementation of the innovative Glasgow Eastern Area Renewal Project (GEAR). He was made Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1984, for Services to Planning.

Further afield, Lyddon was an early and long-standing member of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISoCaRP). The society was founded in 1964 to respond to the need for sustained peer review of current theory and practice of urban and regional planning in Europe, and later the world. He was editor of ISoCaRP's *Manual of Planning Practice*, and he was elected its fourth President from 1981 to 1984, during which time he secured the organisation's recognition by UNESCO. He was highly regarded by members for his loyalty, sense of humour, practicality and "no nonsense" approach.

On retirement from the Scottish Office, Lyddon became chairman of the Old Town Conservation and Renewal Trust (1991–1999). He was awarded an Honorary DLitt by Heriot-Watt University in 1981 and became Governor of the Edinburgh School of Environmental Design 1989–1995. He supported and helped find financial support for the newly created Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning Studies at the University of Edinburgh. He was elected and served for more than ten years as Council Member of the Cockburn Association, dedicated to the preservation of Edinburgh's unique historic and architectural merit for future generations.

Other appointments after retirement included: Chairman of the Planning Exchange 1988–2003, chair of Environment and Planning Committee of the Economic and Research Council 1985–1987 and Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographic Society.

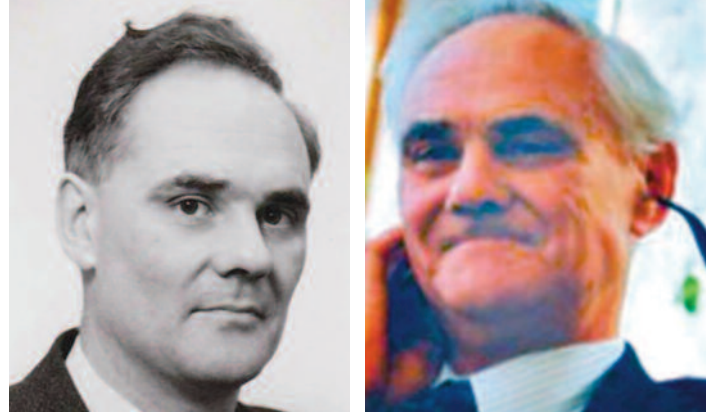
He was a strong supporter of the Grange Association. A committee member since 1987, he served as chair through 1991–1997 and became the first honorary president. While still at the Scottish Office, he could not be directly involved in our successful efforts to become Edinburgh's first "Victorian" Conservation Area. But after 1985 he vigorously supported the City Council's "Villa Policy" for the protection of other Victorian area developments in the city, based largely on the principles set out in the report *The Grange: A Case for Conservation* (1982). Other voluntary work included his support for neighbouring community groups such as the Friends of the Hermitage and the Friends of Astley Ainslie Hospital.

William Derek Collier Lyddon was born on 17 November 1925 in Loughton, Essex. He was the younger of three siblings following Alan and Diana. After schooling at Wrekin College, he joined the Navy in 1944. After the Second World War he gained a degree in Architecture and a Diploma in Town Planning at University College London. His earlier professional planning experience included work for Belfast, Coventry, and for new towns Stevenage, Skelmersdale and Cumbernauld. It was there that Derek Lyddon and his wife Marian formed a music and theatre group, which took over a row of derelict cottages and created a performance space, which is now the Cumbernauld Theatre.

He had met Marian Charlesworth, a WREN from Belfast during the war, and they were married on 23 August 1949. They had two daughters Janet and Clare, both now married. The family moved to Edinburgh in 1967 and chose to live in one of the most outstanding villas in the Grange, Grange Park in Dick Place, formerly Egremont House designed by architect Frederick Pilkington for his own family (see Events on Page 12). He and Marian, very generously, made their magnificent drawing room available to the Association for many a musical evening. The family home became indeed a friendly meeting place, a community centre for the events of the Grange Association, especially during his term as Chair.

He was a family man devoted to his wife and daughters. He was a distinguished member of the local community, an outstanding government official who reached the very top of his professions, a voluntary worker for civic charities, and an international personality. A campaigner to reduce car use in the city, he led by example, going out on his trusty bike in all weathers to his many meetings.

I first met Derek at the International Society of City and Regional Planners' annual Congress in Amsterdam 1976 as a member of the Edinburgh delegation led by Professor Percy Johnson-Marshall to present the Oporto Regional Plan, the first of its kind in Europe based on the principles of Sir Patrick Geddes. I was privileged to have known Derek as a friend, colleague, trusted adviser and supporter over many years. I have enjoyed his sense of humour and his ability to write, impromptu, an amusing poem encapsulating a meeting or other event.



Derek Lyddon in the Sixties on appointment to the Scottish Development Department and the familiar figure from the Grange Association.

Derek's wife Marian sadly passed away two years before him. Derek died after a short illness on 7 February 2015. He will be missed by all who knew him, not only in Scotland but also among colleagues throughout the world.

William Derek Collier Lyddon, CB, BA (Arch), D Litt, FRTPi
17 November 1925 – 7 February 2015

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PROFILE



Kate Atkinson: Finding impetus and inspiration in the Grange as part of a growing literary enclave. Photograph: Andrew Crowley / Telegraph

Woman of her words

Best-selling author Kate Atkinson is another of the notable scribes living and writing in the Grange. With only a few weeks before the publication of her latest novel we profile a literary phenomenon in our midst. By RICHARD MOWE

She lives quietly and privately on the fringes of the Grange, somewhere in the shadow of Blackford Hill. She is so discreet the request for a face-to-face interview was politely rebuffed (via her agent), perhaps understandably because in a few weeks she will be all over the pages of the literary supplements, talking about her latest novel, which has been described as “a masterful companion” to her best-seller *Life After Life*.

Her devoted readers will recall that the central character of Ursula Todd in *Life After Life* had a young brother Teddy who will now provide the main focus of *A God in Ruins*. Ursula intriguingly lived her own life over and over again. Now her publishers have revealed that Teddy, the would-be poet, RAF bomber pilot, husband and father finds himself, like his older sibling, negotiating “the perils and progress of the 20th century.”

The publishers added that: “For all Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge will be to face living in a future he never expected to have”.

It has been stressed that the new book is not a sequel to *Life After Life* but rather “a companion volume, much of the narrative coinciding with the masterful timeline” of its predecessor.

In the original Costa (formerly Whitbread) award-winning novel, Ursula is given multiple chances at living her life – and dying her death. “What if we had a chance to do it again and again until we finally did get it right? Wouldn’t that be wonderful?” Teddy asked her.

Again her faithful following undoubtedly will remember that Ursula is asked if, given the opportunity, she would kill Hitler. “‘Could you do that? Could you kill a baby? With a gun? Or what if you had no gun, how about with your bare hands? In cold blood.’ If I thought it would save Teddy, Ursula thought... Not just Teddy, of course, the rest of the world, too.”

Apparently she began to write *Life After Life* after becoming hooked by “one of the most potent and familiar” of all

PROFILE

“What if?” scenarios: “What would have happened if Hitler had been prevented from coming to power?”

Will Teddy, too, live his life over again in the new novel? Neither the publisher nor, it goes without saying, Kate Atkinson herself, will give any clues in advance.

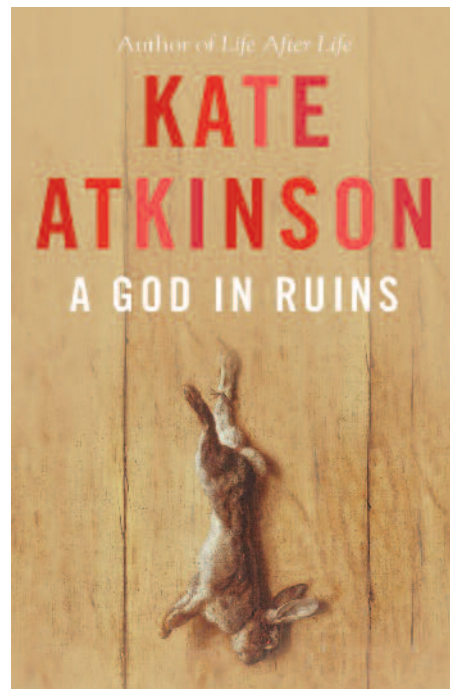
The Grange has been good for this acclaimed novelist, providing impetus, succour and inspiration right from her first novel *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* in 1996, and continuing through Jackson Brodie crime series (*Case Histories*, *One Good Turn*, *When Will There Be Good News?* and *Started Early, Took My Dog*). The latter two have been adapted in to two successful TV series with Jason Isaacs, some of which was shot in the area in the environs of Dick Place. Ms Atkinson has even managed to include in her pages references to such local emporia as the Avenue Store (much to the delight of its proprietor) and she relishes using other Edinburgh locations, including familiar places and streets around where she lives.

Like all astute novelists Ms Atkinson keeps in touch with her readers via her website where she reveals: “I was born at the end of 1951 and grew up feeling that had I just missed the Second World War, that something terrible and tremendous had occurred and I would never know it. Looking back this strikes me as odd for as a child I was never aware of those around me talking about it. It was almost as though it had never happened, for although my family experienced the war they rarely mentioned it.

“It’s only recently I’ve come to realise – and understand – that once it was over and people faced the grim reality of the peace, all they wanted to do was to forget – not just the destruction wrought on us but the greater destruction that we rained down on Europe. We had reduced Germany to rubble and we were not necessarily proud of that, nor of the endless moral compromise that war necessitates. People move on, history remains.”

Originally from York (the daughter of a shop-keeper – perhaps that’s why she’s so keen on the Avenue Store) she sensed through her teens, twenties and thirties there was the threat of the future – of nuclear war – that concerned her. “I was arrested for civil disobedience at Upper Heyford, I was reasonably convinced that the world would end with a bang not a whimper. Those fears receded, rightly or wrongly, and it was only when I came to write *Behind the Scenes at the Museum* and started looking at my family’s history that my fascination with the Second World War was rekindled.”

A quote from one interview gives a clue to Atkinson’s perpetual personal tussle between the relentless exposure of fame (even, heaven forbid, in the pages of the *Grange Newsletter*) and the desire to keep herself to herself. Once she told an interviewer: “I was asked by two



Cover image of Kate Atkinson’s new novel *A God in Ruins*

women at a book event how often I had sex! People think they’re intimate with you just from reading your books. I never think of giving myself away like that.”

Clearly she is a woman of her words.

A God in Ruins – publication in hardback, ebook and audio in May.

All you need to know and more about Kate Atkinson on her official website: www.kateatkinson.co.uk

VIEWPOINT
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PORTRAIT



Along with the likes of Valvona and Crolla and Victor Hugo, Peter Green, wine merchants, has been an Edinburgh institution over the decades. Michael Romer, a partner and owner of the business as well as Grange resident, reveals in the PORTRAIT series how it has maintained its niche as a provider for discerning palates.

By RICHARD MOWE / Photographs CHARLIE PARKER

The love of wine is a common thread through the generations of the Romer family. Edinburgh is a wonderful place for a wine business because the love of culture is combined with a centuries old interest in good food and wine.

Romer père spent his honeymoon in Edinburgh on a 48-hour pass from the Army just after war had been declared in September 1939. Romer *filis* explains: "He was from English roots but was born in Spain and had an interest in all things continental. When his family moved back to England his own father built up a collection of fine Bordeaux vintages, all invoiced in beautiful copper-plate handwriting."

The Peter Green business was started in Nicolson Street in 1915 by the Green family and bought by Romer's parents when they returned to become citizens of their honeymoon city in 1947. Romer's mother made the transition from her native west of Scotland without difficulty.

When the Council and Edinburgh University started to develop the area around Bristo Street and George Square in the 1960s the shop came under threat and they decided to move to the current address on the corner of Warrender Park Road in 1966.

Michael Romer says he was always looking to take a different route from his parents after he had graduated from Cambridge. "But when you are selling a good product to customers who are interested in it, then it seemed perfectly natural for me to follow them. We developed a reputation for discovering unusual wines from a wide variety of places, rather than the standard offerings you might find in chains or supermarkets. The supply side is quite fragmented with many small producers out there to discover. Good things often come in small quantities. We always tried to establish good relationships with small vineyards but when they became too successful their prices naturally went up and we moved on."

Wines now come from a huge range of countries: "I was delighted at the quality of a red wine from Thailand we started keeping recently. And we have stocked some of the wines that film legend Gérard Depardieu is involved with – in fact, his passport defines him as a viticulteur rather than an actor! Our speciality is in wine but we have a range of beers and whiskies that we try to keep up to speed.

"People like to rely on our expertise and we get lots of feedback from our regular Friday tastings, which are always well attended. We pride ourselves on being able to find the appropriate wine for the right occasion and we work a lot with the organisers of official dinners to source wines that complement their menus. It is surprising how medical people know so much about good wines in spite of all the exhortations about alcohol consumption. If you have a wine question and we are not available, just ask your doctor."

PORTRAIT

Romer's personal wine tastes are wide. He has striven over the years to give a proper prominence to German wines on his shelves despite them remaining resolutely out of fashion. If he had to choose one country for its wines, perhaps unsurprisingly for this committed Francophile, he would plump for France. "It is mainly for the sheer variety of French wines but also for the way the French have managed to maintain their traditions while adopting and pioneering new techniques."

Besides his enduring passion for the world of wine and spirits, Romer is an avid reader. When he was asked by the Scottish Poetry Library to describe his bedtime reading he waxed lyrical about Boswell's *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* with Samuel Johnson. "It has given me enormous pleasure, particularly since their horseback travels from August to November in 1773 take place in such atrocious weather. Boswell brightened my adolescence when I discovered the outrageous passages in his 1762–1763 *London Journal*, a copy of which appeared so innocently in a family bookcase. Boswell is the ideal tour manager to arrange Johnson's gigs. It is fascinating to see how the intrepid pair take Highland chiefs to task for abandoning old clan customs."

And, of course, the pair also had an enthusiastic propensity for fine wines although Johnson did admit to a conflicted relationship with alcohol and veered from



A nose for a good wine: Michael Romer tests the bouquet with appropriate seriousness of intent.

abstinence to bingeing. He was quoted as saying: "Before dinner men meet with great inequality of understanding; and those who are conscious of their inferiority, have the modesty not to talk. When they have drunk wine, every man feels himself happy, and loses the modesty, and grows impudent and vociferous: but he is not improved; he is only sensible of his defects."

You might expect Romer to have one of the best-kept personal cellars in Edinburgh but he asserts that is not the case. "Anything that I put to one side for laying down suddenly seems to find its way to a customer. But, yes, I have one or two fine vintages tucked away!"

Time to tee off

The Grange and surrounding area has a lot to offer its residents. One such gem is the Craigmillar Park Golf Club, considered "the country course in the city", situated just off Observatory Road.

Founded in 1895 within the centre of Edinburgh yet within the green belt with fantastic views down the coast of East Lothian and across the Firth of Forth – where you won't hear the intrusive sound of traffic and are likely to spot deer. Partly built on a hillside the course is largely parkland in character. The tree planting carried out over a number of years has enhanced the appearance, coupled with its proximity to the Royal Observatory.

The Club has an active playing membership covering all ages and abilities as well as a social side. Benefits of membership include free golf at 43 clubs in the UK, discounted rates at any of 200 Association of James Braid Courses, discounted rates at 12 Edinburgh Golf Clubs, reduced rates of membership at the King's Buildings Sports and Leisure Club, free use of clubhouse and a business room with Wi-Fi, projector screen and catering. There are two PGA Professionals, one a top club fitter and one a top teaching professional.

More details on: www.craigmillarpark.co.uk or contact the club manager on 0131 667 0047 or email: secretary@craigmillarpark.co.uk

PAUL GOWANS

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NEIGHBOURHOOD
PARTNERSHIP

PLANNING WATCH

Objection – but to no avail

Three applications mentioned in the last issue (*Newsletter 111*), and to which the association had objected, have been granted planning permission: 4 St Catherine's Place, 3B South Lauder Road and 52 Grange Road. We were also unhappy about the proposed glass canopy over a new side door at 1 Lauder Road but again this was passed.

The objection to an extension to 34 Mansionhouse Road was filed because it made the site too congested and untidy. Planning permission was refused.

At 9 Hatton Place an application has been made for large French windows and a large fixed window at the rear. These would be fully visible from Sciennes Road and would not be in keeping with the Victorian house. The planning decision is awaited. At 31 Hatton Place the owners wish to construct a timber-clad side extension including a large picture window at the front, which was incongruous especially since the adjoining house has a stone extension with traditional windows. After objection, the application was modified to clad the extension in stone.

A tall garden shed has been constructed at 35A Lauder Road against the boundary wall and overlooking a neighbour. Objections have been raised to this retrospective application. Concern also has been expressed about the application for a garden room at the rear of 52 St Alban's Road. The plan is in fact to build this room at the side of the house seen from St Alban's Road. The GA view is that it is unacceptable.

As previously reported the paving and laying of Astroturf at 20 Mansionhouse Road has been brought to the attention of the Council's Enforcement team. Full inspection had been delayed while the Council sought a warrant through the court, but the warrant has now been granted. The owners of 59 Grange Road have now been served notice and required to reinstate the soft landscaping to the side and rear of the house.

Newington Library is a modern building with an upper section of zinc to echo the slate roofs of nearby houses. We consider that the installation of large unsightly ducts and ventilators on the roof interrupts the clean lines of this building. This also has been reported to Enforcement.

ROGER KELLETT

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING CONSENT

Between December 2014 and March 2015 the following planning applications were granted:

4 St Catherine's Place Form a driveway and remove part of garden wall (*)

36 Grange Loan Internal alterations

3B South Lauder Road Form new single-storey extension. [New application], (*)

52 Grange Road Glazed dormer to rear and velux rooflights to front (*)

11 Cumin Place Timber rolling roof enclosure to house a telescope

28 Mansionhouse Road House extension in place of sun room and coal shed.

39A Lauder Road New window to front, and replace window to front and side (Comment)

Carlton Cricket Club Green wire mesh fencing

11 Mansionhouse Road Side extension

8 Blackford Avenue Variation to planning consent – sliding folding doors

91 South Oswald Road Additional rooflights and balcony

1F1 20 Mortonhall Road Internal alterations

The Priory, 37 Canaan Lane Replace windows and new accessible entrance

1 Lauder Road Replace utility extension and glazed canopy over new doorway (*)

28 Findhorn Place Bike shed in the front garden

9 Dalrymple Crescent New rooflights to garden room

14 Mansionhouse Road Alleged widening of driveway and removal of stone pillar. We are told this is a simple repair.

The following were refused:

59 Grange Road Hardstanding to side and rear (*)

34 Mansionhouse Road Single storey extension and velux roof windows

The following were still pending:

4 Dick Place Dormer window to rear (*)

1 Hope Terrace Side extension

9 Hatton Place French door and window to rear (*)

15 Cumin Place Additional rooflights to extension

35a Lauder Road Secure garden shed (*)

31 Hatton Place Side extension and garden shed (*)

52 St Alban's Road Garden room in aluminium and glass (*)

2 Seton Place New and replacement roof windows

42 St Alban's Road New rear doors

18 St Alban's Road New door opening and new window

Camilla House, 19 Grange Terrace Internal alterations

36 Mansionhouse Road Glazed extension to the cellar within the light well

Enforcement awaited:

20 Mansionhouse Road Unauthorised construction of path along south side of building and Astroturf in place of lawn (*)

Newington Library, Fountainhall Road Ducts and ventilators on the roof (*)

The Grange Association has objected to those marked (*)

GRANGE ASSOCIATION AWARD

Nominations are sought now for the Grange Award to be presented in March 2016. Eligible are any developments that enhance the area including new buildings, extensions, refurbishment or landscaping and simple tree planting. See insert with this issue for details.

The draper who turned war hero

Colonel Sir George McCrae is another celebrated “resident” in the Grange Cemetery. EMMERICK WEST traces his life and times

The recruitment policy during the Great War was to keep together men from the same area. This meant that casualties were usually specific to local recruiting areas.

As “Pals” fought together, more often than not they died together. This meant that local communities experienced collective mass grief rather than individual loss. An unlucky shell could wipe out a third of the adult male population of a small town. The War Memorials in every town and village are testament to the sacrifice made by rural society.

One of the most famous “Pals” regiments was C company of the 16th Royal Scots, known as McCrae's Battalion. Raised by Colonel Sir George McCrae in November 1914 and among those who enlisted was the entire Heart of Midlothian football team. McCrae was a volunteer soldier. Born in poor circumstances, in Aberdeen, the illegitimate son of a housemaid, George McCrae was educated at the Lancasterian School, Edinburgh, having been raised by his maternal uncle. He never knew the identity of his father. In 1890 he married Eliza Cameron Russell.

McCrae made his mark in the textile trade. He was described variously as a draper or a merchant hosier. In 1909, after a successful career as MP for Edinburgh East, he resigned from the House of Commons to take up a position in Scottish government service, accepting the appointment of Vice-President of the Scottish Local Government Board. From 1919–1922 he served as Chairman of the Scottish Board of Health. He was knighted in 1908.

McCrae's Battalion was blooded in the Battle of the Somme in 1916, losing three-quarters of their strength on the first day alone when seven Hearts players lost their lives and 11 others were wounded or gassed. McCrae, commanding the regiment, was himself invalided home. In time, the battalion recovered. It came of age at Arras, endured the muddy horror of Passchendaele, and held the line unbroken in the face of furious German attacks on the Lys in 1918.

After he stepped down from Scottish public service, McCrae tried to resurrect his Parliamentary career. He fought the 1922 general election as a Lloyd George National Liberal for Edinburgh Central. In a straight fight with Labour he trailed sitting MP, William Graham by 3,505 votes.

For the 1923 general election McCrae switched his attention to the Stirling and Falkirk Burghs. Standing as a Liberal, McCrae defeated the sitting Labour MP, Hugh Murnin by the narrow



margin of 156 votes (which was less than one per cent of the total poll). However in 1924 he was unable to hold on to his gain and Murnin won back the seat with a majority of 1,924 votes.

He died in 1928 at his home at 9 Tantallon Terrace, North Berwick, aged 68 years. His funeral was the largest ever witnessed in Scotland. Businesses closed, traffic was suspended and the Southside of Edinburgh came to a standstill with thousands of mourners lining the streets to the Grange Cemetery.

The clock tower that stands at Haymarket in Edinburgh (unveiled in 1920 to a crowd of 40,000) is dedicated to the players and supporters of Heart of Midlothian FC who died serving in McCrae's Battalion.

<http://www.mccraesbattaliontrust.org.uk> Images and text property of Jack Alexander / McCrae's Battalion Archive. All rights reserved.



Colonel Sir George McCrae's final resting place is on the eastern side of the cemetery.

The Grange Association has initiated a project to provide visitor boards at both entrances to the cemetery, which will highlight some of the notable graves and their history.

GARDENING

Summer in the Borders

Walled garden delights are in store for all as part of summer visits organised by ALISON BRAMLEY

Annual coach trip to Portmore and Carolside on Tuesday 14 July

Everyone is invited to the annual Gardens Visit. This year the trip covers two notable walled gardens in the Borders at Portmore and Carolside.

Portmore House, designed by David Bryce in the Scottish baronial style, has a double central herbaceous border in its restored walled garden which should be at its best in July. Add to this; greenhouses, an Italianate grotto, a water garden and woodland walks.

Kenneth Cox says in Scotland for Gardeners: "Carolside would probably match many people's vision of the perfect English garden." The main plantings are in and around an oval walled garden. Rose Foyle is passionate about her collection of old roses which will be in bloom.

The invitation is open to all, including interested friends. The coach will leave Lauder Road at 9.30 and return by 6.00pm. The cost is likely to be about £25 per person including coach fare, garden entrances but not lunch.

The garden visits are very popular – confirm attendance as soon as possible by phone or e-mail and I will note your interest and send you an application form with more details of the trip nearer the time.



Carolside "a vision of the perfect English garden".

Annual Plant Sale Saturday 9 May

Last year our plant sale at the Grange Fair was so successful it will be repeated on 9 May. There will be a choice of summer bedding plants, vegetables and herbs so please come along and stock up for summer. Plants are fresh from Midlothian and delivered the same day.

All donations of indoor and outdoor plants are welcome and should be brought in the morning. Let me know if you need help with transport. Members of the Grange Garden Exchange will be on hand and volunteers with garden knowledge who would like to help would be welcome.



Baronial welcome to Portmore House – restored walled garden beckons.



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If you want to join the Grange Garden Exchange group and hear about future activities write to:

gardens@grangeassociation.com

or call Alison Bramley 667 5667

Find news under the gardens tab at

www.grangeassociation.org

ENVIRONMENT

Positive signs of progress

Street Clutter – Removal of poles: The reduction in the number of poles following permission given by residents for parking signs to be attached to their wall or railing continues apace.

Most poles in Blackford Road have been removed thanks to the effort of one of the residents, leaving a much more attractive street as a result. Unfortunately, some poles cannot be removed as there is no suitable wall or railing to which the parking sign can be attached.

If any resident would be willing to approach neighbours to encourage them to allow a parking sign to be placed on their wall or railing (so that the pole can be removed) please contact Richard Brown (who has leaflets) or download a suitable form from the website. You can also contact the relevant Council official, Gavin Graham, directly at gavin.graham@edinburgh.gov.uk or phone him at 469 3551.

Jawbones: The Association made a further contribution of £500 to the appeal to restore the Jawbones. We understand that the restoration is almost complete and the jawbones should be back in position later this year.

Astley Ainslie Hospital: Construction work has now started on the Royal Edinburgh Hospital site. The REH is outside the area but the work includes replacement buildings for many of the facilities now at Astley Ainslie.

The date for the AAH site to be vacated is estimated to be 2019 when the site is to be marketed by the NHS. The Grange Association continues to press the Planning Department for a new planning brief for this site. Work is also going on, in conjunction with other organisations, to have established rights of way through the area. Many residents have already sent us details of their use of routes through the site – if you haven't already done so, an email, or letter, saying how you use these routes might be helpful.

Midmar Paddock: Many residents appreciate this area for walks, recreation and exercising their dogs. Although designated as Green Belt, Open Space, the local nature conservation site is privately owned and, at present, up for sale for development. Further up to date information can be found at the Facebook page Friends of the Hermitage or email SaveMidmarPaddock@gmail.com to be kept informed.

Bottle tops: We continue to collect plastic bottle tops which can then be used to make the covering for fibre optic cables with a donation to charity. We have been asked to only collect the tops from milk bottles (both glass and plastic bottles) as many other types of plastic are not suitable. Please continue to leave your tops at 6 Grange Terrace.

SUE TRITTON



Jim Eadie MSP

Member of the
Scottish Parliament
for Edinburgh Southern

Should you need any assistance, please feel free to come to one of my surgeries. I look forward to hearing from you.

Advice Surgeries

CAMERON TOLL SHOPPING CENTRE

Sainsbury's Café
1st Friday of the month 1pm - 3pm

MARCHMONT ST GILES PARISH CHURCH

(Mull Room) Kilgraston Road
2nd Saturday of the month 11am – noon

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

13-15 Morningside Drive
Every Monday and Friday 10am – noon

5 Ways to Contact Jim

Parliamentary Office: 0131 348 6283
Constituency Office: 0131 466 5950

jim.eadie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

www.jimeadie.com

[@jimeadie_msp](https://twitter.com/jimeadie_msp)

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EVENTS/TALKS

More fun of the Fair

The positive feedback and great atmosphere at last year's Grange Fair has encouraged us to organise another one from **1.00pm to 4.30pm on Saturday 9 May** at Newington Library and a "closed-to-traffic" section of Fountainhall Road.

Enjoy musical, dance and schools' performances, a variety of stalls (plants, books, home-baking and information), food, children's games, a bouncy castle and more.

Top cyclist Ross Crook will return to lead the cycling fun. Crook says: "I am a keen racer and former Scottish Champion who is passionate that everyone can enjoy the freedom and health benefits of cycling. Teaching cycling skills is something I really enjoy and I organise Bike Clubs at local schools. If you enjoy cycling, bring your bike along to the Grange Fair. You'll find me and a small cycling course on Fountainhall Road near the library."

We need to raise money to help to fund the fair and donations of books, DVDs, collectables and prizes for the tombola would be most welcome. Newington Library is now open again and you can drop items in the box in the lobby, or ring 0131 662 4992 to arrange collection. Donations of plants and home-baking on the day would be much appreciated too.

The Grange Fair at Newington Library
1.00pm – 4.30pm Saturday 9 May

Lucy Richardson



Ross Crook: "Passionate that everyone can enjoy the benefits of cycling."

Grange Association Meetings are held in Butterflies Cafe at Marchmont St. Giles Church. Evenings start with a short networking period with coffee, tea and biscuits at 7.00pm, in time for the main talk at 7.30pm.

EVENTS ORGANISER: Hilary Watkinson (667 6360)
events@grangeassociation.com

Wednesday 7 October

Donald Rodger, Arboricultural Consultant on Heritage Trees in Scotland

Donald Rodger has a particular interest in this specialist field. He is co-author of *Heritage Trees of Scotland* and *The Heritage Trees of Britain and Northern Ireland*.

Wednesday 4 November

Simon Green, President of the Architectural Society of Scotland, on *Frederick Pilkington – A Gothic Rogue*.

Frederick Pilkington (1832–98) was an English High Victorian Rogue Gothic architect, who worked in Scotland. Best works were Church of the Trinity, Irvine, Ayrshire (1861–3), and Barclay Church, Edinburgh (1862–3).

Wednesday 2 December

John Graham, former chair of the Grange Association, on Architecture and Conservation in Chicago.

Wednesday 6 January

To be announced

Wednesday 3 February

To be announced

Wednesday 9 March

AGM



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