



The Newsletter

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION AUTUMN 2012 | ISSUE NO.104



Frog Heaven!



Cover story: **Garden haven with the highest form of pond life**

www.grangeassociation.org

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Welcome to the 2012 Autumn edition of **The Newsletter of the Grange Association**. On these pages you can find out exactly how the Association is working for you and improving the area by using legacy funds to give a makeover to the Newington Library garden, help fund remedial work at the historic Grange Cemetery as well as successfully staving off moves for an unsightly telephone mast close to Beaufort Road. All this plus a contemporary Wendy House at the bottom of a garden, the intriguing Frog Lady, the fight on crime at the grassroots and an evocative poem from yesteryear.

Richard Mowe, Editor, The Newsletter

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HELP WANTED

Do you know your Abies from your Ulmus? We are looking for someone who is knowledgeable about trees and would be willing to offer the Committee occasional advice to support its efforts to conserve and enrich our treescape. You would not have to join the full Committee. If you think you could help please contact the Chair or the Secretary.

To Advertise in The Newsletter contact:
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SPOTLIGHT Find out more about your Grange Association contacts in the second of a series

RICHARD BROWN: I've lived south of the Meadows for over 30 years – Ladysmith Road, South Lauder Road and now 15 years in our current house in Grange Loan. When we moved here, the house needed a lot done to it, and we set about brightening it up. Away went the gloomy yew tree at the front gate (they do have their place – usually graveyards!) and the dark privet hedge, which it turned out was concealing the almost perfect original railings.

In 2000, we were selected by the Beechgrove Garden to have a "Problem Corner" makeover of the front garden – much to the chagrin of our then school-age children – and it was transformed into the lovely Victorian style parterre you see now, which compliments the Victorian frontage very well. Eight hours of filming and hard work (by us too!) turned into six minutes of TV.

My focus as Treasurer and unofficial "Membership Secretary" has been to increase membership, and ensure that those who wish to be paid-up members of the Grange Association are given the means to do so as easily as possible. I knew myself that sometimes in the past I thought I'd paid the subscription, but actually I hadn't so now there is greater emphasis on Direct Debits and internet payments. Also, we are starting to communicate more with members via email. As far as the purpose of the Association goes, my concerns are with retaining the special character of the area, without it being a museum.



A lasting legacy

WORKING FOR YOU

A much-appreciated legacy by a late resident of the Grange is helping to improve various aspects of the area in exciting ways for the benefit of generations to come.

Newington Library (17–21 Fountainhall Road) possessed a garden area at the rear of the building, which had become overgrown. The Association with a very modest spend were able to engage the services of a gardener to improve it while committee members helped to replant it under the guidance of Grange Association stalwart Dorothy Ryle.

The area now just needs regular tending. Contact Allison Bramley (667 5667/gardens@grangeassociation) if you are willing to join a group who can maintain its makeover.

In the Grange Cemetery a number of headstones had been damaged or were flattened as unsafe and work is now underway to restore them under the auspices of the City Council with support from the Grange Association.

The workforce consists of young people who might have had a short custodial sentence for minor offences but instead are being employed in the community under a "Payback" scheme.

Progress may be slow as the team also work in homes for the elderly, but it is likely that results eventually will be forthcoming. Around 70 headstones were re-erected in Liberton Cemetery under the same scheme in a year. The Association has agreed to fund materials, while the labour is, of course, free.



Transformation at Newington Library – thanks to a legacy makeover

Signage boards giving historical information are to be erected (again in conjunction with the City Council). These initiatives should improve the appeal of the cemetery for both Grange residents and visitors alike.

The Association formed a Committee to look at appropriate ways to spend legacy monies. There are a number of other projects being taken forward, all to improve various aspects of the area. Details of further legacy projects will be reported in future Newsletters.

ALASTAIR KEATINGE

FRONT ROOM

A POEM BY MARION MONTGOMERY

North-facing, it was always cold
but had a view of people,
horses, traffic, in the street below

First came my aproned "ladies"
trudging in the half-light to clean
"The Geographical" nearby
They listened kindly to my news
however trivial, but once
I rushed down, breathless to announce
"I have a baby brother, George,"
and saw their faces light with smiles.

Horse drawn carts brought milk from
the Co-op and Dumfriesshire Dairies.
A man came out with a hovel to collect
the droppings for his garden. Boys
In smart caps left for school.

Once a week the Vegetable Man,
whose horse must get a sugar-lump,
rang our bell and the fish-wife eased
her creel onto the doorstep.
Music came too – from the barrel-organ
and the Fiddle Man, who'd played
in Patrick Thomson's orchestra
till something called The Slump
emptied him jobless on the streets.

Starting school, I missed most day friends
but one delivered post at five
and I could still watch my father
coming home, felt-hatted, stick in hand,
oxtering The Evening News.
In winter Leerie would come first
to light the lamps.

Once, I was carried, downed in sleep,
to see from the bay window
Northern Lights
I cannot picture now.

Later, sirens shrieked and search-lights
Swept the skies beyond the blackout
And Leerie came no more.

*Reproduced with permission from Lyart.
Marion Montgomery lived at 34 Grange
Terrace from 1933 to 1943.*



Leerie was a familiar sight



A view from the mezzanine above: Marjo McLaren relaxes in her “cottage” which brings her garden in close proximity

HOUSE PROUD

The great escape

Think a Wendy House for grown-ups meets Scandinavian summer cottage: when one Grange family wanted a closer connection to the great outdoors they decided to have designed for them a separate “dependance” in the garden which has transformed their lives. For the latest in his series HOUSE PROUD **Richard Mowe** meets one of the owners and the Swedish-born architect.

Many homes have them: Those rather ugly pebble-dashed garages with a flat felt roof, often leaking, which become repositories for unused household items, redundant pieces of machinery in need of repair and assorted jumble in search of a charity with nary a car in sight.

When the McLaren family called in architect Jens Bergmark to work out a solution to make a closer link between the garden and their double upper flat in a large Victorian house in Mortonhall Road he saw a potential solution in their 1960s garage. He suggested creating a separate studio space with its own bathroom, kitchen, living area and a sleeping platform on a mezzanine level under the roof with views of the sky and stars.

He was convinced that as long as they adhered to the footprint of the original garage the planners would look sympathetically on the proposal. The McLarens – Chris is a partner in a firm of consulting engineers and his wife Marjo, a freelance travel agent – took very

little persuasion to give him the go-ahead.

“It works really well,” says Marjo McLaren, “because it provides a beautiful place in which I can work, and also gives that proximity to the garden. In addition it gives me that division between home and office. We can use it as guest annexe. It also means that we spend more time in the garden because we don’t have to go all the way in-doors for the toilet or to make a cup of coffee. We can even entertain from the little kitchen with an outdoor dining table and chairs.

“One woman said it was like ‘a Wendy house for grown-ups’ and it reminded her of one she had as a girl. You could almost perfectly happily live there and be completely independent. It has a log stove, is wonderfully insulated, and is bright and airy with wide glazed doors opening on to a paved area. We did not need the extra space, it was more because we wanted to be able use the garden more and to make it as easy and as convenient as possible.”



Small but perfectly formed: incorporating a wood-burning stove, shower room / toilet and kitchen

Bergmark had worked with Chris McLaren on various professional projects in the past so he knew the client would have a specific input. “Chris designed the heating and services system as this was his particular area of expertise,” says Bergmark.

The planning department needed a bit of convincing, especially about the new pitched roof in zinc overshadowing the neighbouring garden but quickly relented. Their decision-making was helped by the fact that the new studio was on the same site as the old garage – the old concrete floor was used as a base while the back walls of the original building were used to save on costs.

Jens Bergmark explains: “I felt that the building wasn’t big enough to face it in stone – and often it looks ridiculous if you try to emulate the stone of the traditional buildings round about. The planners seem to encourage contemporary finishes rather than

pastiches. Timber can work, but we felt it would be too rustic in this area. We tried to make it monochrome so the outside walls matched the zinc roof. It makes it all more cohesive and less fragmented. It also matches the shape of the Victorian conservatory at the other side of the paved area. It does not look tiny, and it does blend in well with the rest of the garden and the style of the house.”

Bergmark who came to Edinburgh on a student exchange some 20 years ago and never really returned to his native Sweden, feels that his Scandinavian roots helped to inform the project. “There is our tradition of having a summer home or just a basic cottage where in the short hot summers you live a very different and often more simple life compared to the rest of the year. The Russians do the same in their dachas,” he says.

“Even the French royal family used escape the more formal aspects of court life by going to the Petit Trianon. So I like to think of it as in essence a Petit Trianon meets Scandinavian summer cottage – but designed for a normal modern family in the middle of the Grange.”

The house proved a talking point (mainly positive) when it featured in Edinburgh’s Doors Open Day two years ago. If all Wendy Houses could be like this then every home should have one.



Home from home: nestling naturally in its surroundings

FACT FILE

**Bergmark Architects Ltd, Tower Mains Studios,
18c Liberton Brae, Edinburgh EH16 6AE**

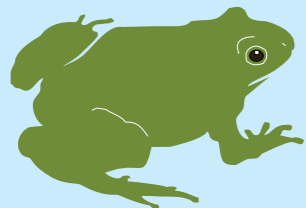
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A vista of horticultural harmony... Annemarie Hammond's garden can be visited as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme

The garden guru



She has a reputation for green fingers – and a penchant for pond life, notably frogs. Her garden in Fountainhall Road has become a haven for visiting gardeners through Scotland's Gardens Scheme. Her accumulation of knowledge naturally enough was purely organic. RICHARD MOWE meets the fabled Frog Lady of the Grange.

Her first love was music. When she decided to relinquish the flute as a keen amateur player and a professional teacher Annemarie Hammond found suitable solace in her now famous garden at 61 Fountainhall Road, on the lower reaches of the Grange's south facing slopes.

She and her husband John moved in to part of a large house on the corner of St. Thomas Road some 42 years ago. What attracted them in particular was the size of the garden. The conversion had hived off the servants' quarters of the house that was built in 1876 by a wealthy Edinburgh merchant. That meant she inherited fruit trees and room for a vegetable patch tended by John for the first ten years in the new house. Although there was plenty of scope for her burgeoning skills she and John did not have much time in their first 20 years there and simply kept it ticking over. Once she gave up playing and teaching the garden was slowly transformed in to the glorious riot of colour, foliage, blooms and plants that characterise it today.

"It's an idyllic spot in many ways because it faces south, is well secluded, and the soil is good because originally this area was the 'garden' for Edinburgh," she says as we take tea in an arena that overflows with sights for the senses. "I am really self-taught – all my skills are the result of

knowledge accumulated over time. Gardening has affinities to music you know – music is about shape and form and contrast, and so is this garden."

She discovered that she had some allies in her quest to create an oasis out of the mundane: families of friendly frogs. "When I was working in the garden even before I made the series of ponds I would meet them and they were obviously curious about what I was up to but now seem to be delighted with their natural habitat."

She has affinity with them to the extent that any money she makes from her year-round sale of plants and her open days under Scotland's Gardens Scheme goes to the charity Froglife (an organisation specialising in the conservation of native amphibians and reptiles) among other beneficiaries. "When I made my first pond and the frogs came hopping along I became fascinated by these gentle little creatures. I discovered that they come in all shapes, sizes and colours," she says. "There are sharp angular frogs and round cosy looking frogs. There are black frogs, brown frogs, red, orange or yellow frogs but very few frogs that you could actually call green." "I learned some surprising things in the course of my 'frog watching.' Did you know that some frogs sit on the stones at the side of the pond



Ponds like this provide natural habitat for families of friendly frogs

and sunbathe, plopping back into the pond from time to time to re-hydrate? Did you know that a small frog can swallow a large bumble bee? They will even swallow wasps and appear to be none the worse apart from a scream of pain if they are stung! There are newts in my garden, too, but they are shy creatures and I don't see them very often. However, they too occasionally enjoy sunbathing on a rocky ledge!"

Her entry on the Scheme's website proclaims: "Large walled town garden in which trees and shrubs form an architectural backdrop to a wide variety of flowering plants. The growing collection of hellebores and trilliums and a large variety of late blooming flowers provide interest from early March to late October. In addition there are now several alpine beds, which include a large collection of Sempervivums. Three ponds, with and without fish, have attracted a lively population of frogs."

Annemarie Hammond over the years has acquired an enthusiastic retinue of regular visitors who never tire of returning. "I get a lot of repeat business but people like to come back at different times of the year," she explains. "The first-time I opened it was mobbed, but that's always case with a new entry. I have an average of 50 people on each open day if the weather is good. This year, of course, has been a disaster from a meteorological viewpoint – on my second opening in June just one brave person turned up which has never happened before. There was nothing for it but to drink up the wine and look at the rain."

When she visits other gardens she relishes the opportunity to stock up but she believes she must be the only participant to offer a year-round plant sale. "I have so many plants – probably too many. I just cannot resist them – it gets to be compulsive. So selling off the surplus for a good cause makes feel less guilty," she smiles sheepishly.

Hammond is not a particular fan of over-fragrant gardens with scents fighting each other for attention. She prefers to concentrate on the visual appeal. "Roses when they die off look like crumpled Kleenex although they do smell wonderfully for a time, but scent is definitely a secondary consideration.

"For me it is what it looks like, the visual aspect, first and foremost. John worked hard on our vegetable patch but eventually it became too much so it has disappeared. And I've gradually done away with all the fruit trees and bushes. There



Wooden sculptures adorn the garden and provide added interest

were apple trees when we moved in, which greatly pleased John as he is a Norfolk farmer's son, but they produced dreadful apples. The trees were not attractive and the leaves curl and go brown quickly and the blossom is not all it is cracked up to be. They were not aesthetically pleasing and if it is not aesthetically pleasing then I don't want it in my garden."

In among the plants are striking reclaimed wooden sculptural pieces from Driftwood Scotland. She adds: "I feel strongly that a garden should have contrasts of texture, colour and shape which you don't get from plants alone. This explains my use of stone, wood and ceramic pots."

She grew herbs initially but discovered that "they grow very large and very ugly" and she never used very much for cooking. "I have kept oregano, thyme, and mint, and that is it. I do have lots of lavender and I have it among the rose bushes. My husband adores good Norfolk lavender. As for pesticides I don't use them much especially on the roses because that is where the frogs live. So the roses have to take their chances. Amazingly if the leaves look unhealthy the bushes can still produce wonderful roses, unless you have a year like this with so much rain which rots the buds."

With her devotion to the pond inhabitants does she have any time left to talk to her plants. "Of course I do – otherwise they wouldn't look so happy and radiant," she says.

FACT FILE

Annemarie Hammond recommends these nurseries:

Binny Plants Binny Estate, Ecclesmachan, West Lothian EH52 6NL
Tel 01506 858 931

Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Eyemouth, Berwickshire TD14 5TZ
T: 01890 771386 F: 01890 771387 E: info@edromnurseries.co.uk

Scotland's Gardens Scheme
Dr J A and Mrs A Hammond, 61 Fountainhall Road,
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T: 0131 667 6146 E: froglady@blueyonder.co.uk
www.froglady.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk
http://www.scotlandsgardens.org/

PLANNING WATCH

Blot on the landscape

The Grange Association has been active in persuading the planners to refuse permission for a mobile phone mast in the heart of the conservation zone. **John Graham** welcomes a victory for the visual quality of the area.

- The proposal was contrary to Edinburgh City Local Plan Policy Env 6 in respect of Conservation Areas – Development, as due to its positioning it would result in an unusually intrusive feature in this location, to the detriment of the character and appearance of Grange Conservation Area.
- The proposal was contrary to Edinburgh City Local Plan Policy Inf 5 in respect of Telecommunications, as due to its size, location and design it would visually dominate the surrounding area.

When the Planning Committee considered the application at the beginning of July they supported the recommendation of officials and refused consent.

Otherwise the new proposals coming forward, as the accompanying list shows, have generally been on a small scale and have not caused concern. We are at the time of writing, however, looking closely at an application for a new house alongside an existing villa at 12 Mansionhouse Road.

The owner of 31 Mansionhouse Road, which featured in our last issue, has written to point out that I was incorrect in describing the conservatory or greenhouse which he has had demolished as “Victorian”.

He says that it was converted in the 1920s and rebuilt in the 1990s, although some of the original fabric may have been reused. We are happy to apologise for the mistake. It is fair to point out, however, that the age of the structure was not mentioned in our objection to the scheme, which concentrated on the loss of a visual break between the original villas and the loss of an attractive structure which contributed to the character of the conservation area.

The most significant proposal the Grange Association has considered recently has been a new telecoms mast and cabinets to accommodate antenna shared by Vodaphone and Telefonica.

This was to be sited on Beaufort Road at the north end of Lovers Loan the plans showed the height as 15 metres, taller than the streetlamps. The Committee of the Grange Association recognise the need for masts. We were aware that at least one other site in the area had been investigated by the same operators.

We considered that the new proposed installation on this prominent site in the centre of the conservation area was the wrong place, and we objected to the proposal on the grounds of visual impact.

Our objection was supported by one from the Cockburn Association, which noted that the character appraisal for our conservation area had highlighted the uncluttered appearance of our streets and argued that this scheme would be highly intrusive. There were other objections from a number of local residents.

Officials in the Planning Department recommended refusal on three grounds. They said that:

- The proposal was contrary to Edinburgh City Local Plan Policy Des 3 in respect of Development Design, as having regard to its positioning and location, it would not have a positive impact on its setting or immediate townscape



Even the signs get in the way of the signs on this Grange streetscape

SIGNS OF TOO MUCH INFORMATION

The amount of signage required to inform residents and visitors about such matters as parking regulations, speed restrictions and so on continues to grow. The committee of the Grange Association is considering ways in which this might be reduced.

The new poles restrict space on the pavements, while bins on the street for collection and overhanging hedges and branches all make walking more difficult, especially for those in wheelchairs or with buggies. Many people keep their hedges trimmed, but the City Council will, if asked, approach owners to cut their hedges. If this is not done the Council will cut the hedge and charge the owner.

Now that most residents have several recycling bins, which take the majority of our rubbish the Council is planning to reduce the collection of general rubbish (green bin) to fortnightly and for all collections to take place on the same day. The Association welcomes the move as it should mean less clutter on pavements.

SUE TRITTON

NEW APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING CONSENT

The following applications have been granted between 23 April and the end of July

- 91 South Oswald Road:** change of use from school to residential
- 112 Findhorn Place:** disabled access
- 18 Dalrymple Crescent:** alterations to rear
- 3 Findhorn Place:** conversion of outhouse
- 38 Dick Place:** new garden store
- 15 St Catherines Place:** single storey rear extension
- 3 Grange Loan Gardens:** single storey rear extension
- 46 Relugas Road:** attic extension
- 54 Grange Loan:** changes to dormer etc
- 13 Kilgraston Road:** new timber conservatory
- 8 Seton Place:** new conservatory
- 35 Grange Loan:** new lean-to to greenhouse
- 2 Hatton Place:** enlarge and relay driveway
- 16A Blackford Road:** new french doors
- 4 Lauder Loan:** new garage
- 9 Tantallon Place:** demolition of rear extension; new wall and gates
- 2 Blackford Avenue:** wheelchair lift etc
- 22 Dalrymple Crescent:** solar panels
- 19 Dalrymple Crescent:** new conservatory

- 4 Dalrymple Crescent:** alterations to windows and doors
- 11 Dick Place:** double glazing
- 19 Chalmers Crescent:** replace windows: new velux window
- Near 4 Sciennes Road:** telecoms cabinet
One application was refused
- Beaufort Road:** new telecoms mast and cabinets*

The following applications were still under consideration on 1 August

- 5 Seton Place:** new dormer etc
- 28 Findhorn Place:** pave driveway
- 53C Fountainhall Road:** rear extension
- 31 Relugas Road:** 2-storey side extension
- 1 Whitehouse Terrace:** extension of coach house: new parking area
- 12 Mansionhouse Road:** alteration of existing house: new house alongside
- 84 Newbattle Terrace:** replace tennis courts and instal floodlighting*

* An asterisk indicates comments made by the Grange Association

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The verdant surroundings of the Astley Ainslie Hospital provide a much appreciated short-cut for residents

Grounds for optimism

A survey of people entering the Astley Ainslie Hospital grounds conducted by the Grange Association and the four neighbouring Community Councils; Grange-Prestonfield, Morningside, Marchmont-Sciennes and Merchiston, covered four gates.

Volunteers were positioned on Thursday 14 June (from 8am to 8pm) at Canaan Lane, South Oswald Road, Grange Loan and Whitehouse Loan to count those entering and to request them to complete a brief form on the reason for their visit and frequency. Counts were broken down by adults/children and by pedestrians/cyclists. Those entering by car were not stopped.

The total number of visitors recorded was 1127, of which 71 per cent were adult pedestrians. Cyclists accounted for just over 16 per cent of the total. Children, including those walking or cycling and infants in prams, comprise just below 16 per cent of the total.

The main purpose of the survey was to find out the reasons individuals had for visiting the site. In all, 595 interviews were conducted, covering a total of 809 individuals. A further 318 individuals were counted but did not stop to be interviewed.

Numbers were highest in the early morning and at school leaving time, suggesting that, in addition to those going to work within the grounds, a very high proportion of the traffic was journeys through the grounds to work and to school.

There are three categories of visit: those working at, visiting or otherwise accessing the hospital itself, those making use of the grounds for other reasons, including a nursery, and those cutting through the site.

The remainder of people went through the site to shops, buses, visit friends and for other unspecified reasons. Over 50 per cent of the people surveyed were passing through the grounds for reasons unconnected with the hospital. Many expressed appreciation at being able to make use of the grounds in this way. Concern was noted if the route through should ever be closed – especially as it was seen as being a safer way than the alternatives.

It is intended to repeat the survey at other dates in order to collect further information about the use of the grounds. Thanks to those who helped on 14 June. We will probably be asking for your help again in the future.

Sue Tritton (*Hon Secretary, Grange Association*)

Jean Thompson (*Chair, Morningside Community Council*)

For a longer version of this report with tables:
www.grangeassociation.org

GARDEN EXCHANGE

ALLISON BRAMLEY

Annual gardens coach trip

On 22 July about 30 of us joined a coach for a journey through Fife to Wormistoun House. This is a lovely tower house and we were shown round by the gardener who is restoring the grounds. We then went on to Crail for lunch and spent the afternoon exploring more than a dozen delightful gardens open under Scotland's Gardens Scheme.

Activities

We found some new members for the group by following up the GA Questionnaire and some who contacted us after our table display at the annual general meeting.

We replaced the summer plant sale with an outing to Redhouse Market Garden near Longniddry in May. We advertised the opportunity using posters as this was an event for all who live in the Grange. Despite inclement weather about ten people ventured out and were able to make good use of the wide choice of summer bedding and small shrubs. In June we visited Patricia Cook's garden in Lauder Road, which was looking remarkably good despite the weather.

If you want to join us and hear about future activities write to gardens@grangeassociation.com. Find news under the gardens tab at <http://www.grangeassociation.org>



Seawards the gardens in Crail

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Fighting crime from the grassroots

You can play your part in fighting crime. Why not Create a Neighbourhood Watch for your area or become more involved if you have one already? ROGER KELLETT explains how.

Neighbourhood Watch is not about a team of vigilantes patrolling the streets. It is a system to allow and encourage cooperation between local residents and the police in order to prevent crime.

Supported by both the police and the Scottish Government the initiative depends on two-way communication. Residents, for their part, inform the police of any suspicious happenings they see and give each other support, for example by looking after their neighbour's house when they are away on holiday.

The police, for their part, keep residents aware of the current crime trends in the area. They do this by emails and also by producing a newsletter for our electoral ward. Recent emails have highlighted a number of burglaries from occupied premises at night when the owners have not set the burglar alarm.

In 1988 the Grange Association was approached by the police, keen to promote Neighbourhood Watch. Although the then chairman did not think the scheme should be run by the Association, he wrote an article in the Summer 1988 Newsletter strongly in favour of the idea. It was agreed to distribute a police questionnaire designed to establish whether there was general support for Neighbourhood Watch in this area.

The response suggested that most support came from Mansionhouse Road (south), Dalrymple Crescent, Lauder Road and Dick Place. These roads held a meeting and formed what is now the East Grange Neighbourhood Watch.

Each Neighbourhood Watch is run by a co-ordinator. He or she has a number of street convenors responsible for a street or part of a street. The co-ordinator receives information from the police and passes it on to the convenors who in turn pass the information on to the residents in their street, often by email.

The convenor can distribute leaflets about home security and is able to reassure residents and put them in touch with the Crime Prevention Officer for further advice

on security. Like the Grange Association, this type of contact helps to foster a sense of community. The co-ordinator holds periodic meetings of all the street convenors or of the whole community often attended by the local community police.

Having lived in an area where all the houses were part of the Neighbourhood Watch, I moved to the Grange five years ago and joined the East Grange Neighbourhood Watch. I was surprised to find only a small part of the Grange is covered by a Neighbourhood Watch. The East Grange Neighbourhood Watch covers an area in the north-east and smaller Neighbourhood Watches cover parts of St Albans Road, Oswald Court, Blackford Bank, Argyle and Sylvan Places and Fountainhall Court.

I am keen to encourage residents in other parts of the area to set up their own Neighbourhood Watch. It is relatively simple to do and not particularly time-consuming. Help can be obtained from Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, a charitable trust, which receives funding from the Scottish Government. It provides third party liability insurance free of charge to registered Neighbourhood Watches.

Funding of Neighbourhood Watch is not a big issue. The normal yearly expenditure of the East Grange Neighbourhood Watch is less than £30 (the cost of their own annual information sheet which is delivered to all houses). If a Neighbourhood Watch held large meetings it might also need to pay for hire of a hall. Neighbourhood Watch is a



valuable community service, which the Grange Association is keen to support. To assist the setting up of new Neighbourhood Watches, the Association has offered to cover the cost of the street signs.

If you are interested in setting up or taking part in a Neighbourhood Watch, please get in touch with me. I should be pleased to help and would like to encourage liaison between the different Neighbourhood Watches in the Grange. Many house insurers offer a discount to those living within a Neighbourhood Watch area. If you do not live within one of our Neighbourhood Watches, this is an added incentive to join up with your neighbours to form your own.

FACT FILE

Roger Kellett (roger@kellett.eclipse.co.uk / 07941 348609)

Neighbourhood Watch

<http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk>

Crime emergency hotline 999

Lothian and Borders Police 0131 311 3131

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

EVENTS AND TALKS

Everyone, member or not, is welcome to attend these events co-ordinated by **Tony Reeves**

Wednesday 10 October

Richard Brown on Alexander Henry – Edinburgh Gunsmith and “First Volunteer”

In 1859, the UK government called its citizens “to arms”, because of the international situation, caused by half the British Army being spread around the Commonwealth, and a perceived threat of invasion by the French. Edinburgh gunsmith Alexander Henry (1818 – 1894) was the first to sign up for the Edinburgh Rifle Volunteers. Within a year, 1600 men in Edinburgh were practising drills and rifle shooting in the Edinburgh area, and Henry was their quartermaster. Richard Brown, his great great grandson, talks about Henry, his rifle business, trials and tribulations and sadness, and tells stories of Edinburgh in the second half of the 19th century.

Wednesday 14 November

Eric Melvin on Southside Stories – A disaster, an occupation and an afternoon tea

Eric Melvin discusses the history of the South Side together with well-known characters and the growth southwards of the city in the 19th century. Among the topics to be covered are invaders and occupiers, James IV, the Jacobites, the Disruption, and the areas of the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links.

Wednesday 12 December:

Christmas Variety Concert – Seasonal music and festivities for all.

Wednesday 10 January 2013: To be announced

Keep an eye on the website: www.grangeassociation.org

Wednesday 13 February 2013

Louise Cunningham on The Allure of Antarctica

Early Antarctic explorers described the pain and danger of their journeys in the “accursed country” they discovered; yet these descriptions are juxtaposed with exclamations of the magical beauty of the untamed



Louise Cunningham: Providing a glimpse of the unique wildlife and beauty of Antarctica

continent, fuelling the imagination of many an adventurer. Today, just over 100 years later, the coldest and most isolated landmass on earth continues to beckon increasing numbers of intrepid travellers, who vie for a glimpse of its unique wildlife and beauty.

During this photographic cruise of the Antarctic, discover what attracts and captivates scientists and tourists alike, and hear about life working as a cruise ship lecturer and guide in the last great wilderness on earth.

Meetings are held in the Butterflies Cafe at Marchmont, St. Giles Church. Evenings start with a short networking period at 7.00pm in time for the main talk at 7.30pm. You are welcome to stay for coffee, tea and biscuits at the end of each talk.



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Members are invited to a Grange Association Social Evening

Saturday 6 October 2012 from 5 to 7pm
Carlton Cricket Club Pavilion, Grange Loan

Drinks, light refreshments and snacks available

Free to GA members, £5 for your guests

Numbers have to be limited, so please email John Graham on culkein@btinternet.com or call 6676331 to confirm your attendance