



The Newsletter

GRANGE ASSOCIATION WINTER 2013 | ISSUE NO.105



COVER
STORY

A brush with genius

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A warm welcome to the 2013 Winter edition of the official magazine of the **Grange Association**. Feel inspired by artist Dame Elizabeth Blackadder in the first of a new series *Portrait... marvel (or not) at the ingenuity and imagination of an award-winning architectural gem... give your views on design and planning issues... and take note for your diaries of an exciting and unmissable agenda of talks and events... all this and so much more.*

Richard Mowe, Editor, The Newsletter



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Some times the planning system seems to mitigate against the aims of conservationists... **Roger Kellett** discusses the issues.

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Your contributions and feedback are most 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 third of a series

SUE TRITTON:

I came to Edinburgh, as a student, in 1962 and fell in love with the city. After graduation, I got a job at the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Sussex and spent the next 15 years working there, in South Africa, Thailand and Australia. I returned to Edinburgh in 1980 (to work at the Royal Observatory) and moved to the Grange in 1990. I was also a councillor (for Merchiston) from 1995-2007.

After retirement I decided to get involved with local groups and was encouraged by the late Graham Dickson to join the committee and immediately got involved with the GEARS project. A grant allowed us to do a survey of energy problems in an area with old stone built houses and to suggest alterations which could improve their energy efficiency.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful with our application for a further grant; many of those originally involved could no longer help and the project folded.

Three years ago I had my arm twisted to take over as secretary from (the almost irreplaceable) Andrew Bell. I combine this with being secretary of the Grange Prestonfield Community Council – one of the two Community Councils which cover the GA area. In both groups I try to encourage and promote my interest in environmental issues – particularly those connected to Climate Change.



STOP PRESS: BANK BRANCH CLOSURE

To the regret of its customers, the Royal Bank of Scotland has announced the closure of its branch at the corner of Marchmont Road and Warrender Park Road in the first week of March. If you want to register your concern email Dorothy Ryle on mscc@grangeassociation.com

PORTRAIT

Photographer:
DAWN MARIE JONES



Dame Elizabeth Blackadder has lived in the Grange for more than five decades, deriving much of her distinctive inspiration from plants and flowers in her immediate surroundings. Considered as Scotland's greatest living female artist she is quiet and unassuming. She gives a rare interview to editor **RICHARD MOWE** in the first of a new series *Portrait*, focussing on celebrated residents in the area.

In the eye of the beholder

Like many artists with inspiration coursing through their veins Dame Elizabeth Blackadder sees no need to embellish her work with words. She is adamant that her paintings from the natural world, especially flowers, can speak perfectly well for themselves.

She prefers to simply get on with her art and leave to others the discussion and dissection of technique and theorising about her place and value in the cultural universe.

Her routines have remained the same: she has three paintings on her easels at any given time in her separate studio spaces on the first floor of the sizeable stone-built detached villa in Fountainhall Road which has been home for more than 50 years – since she

and her late husband and fellow artist John Houston, who died in 2008, took over the house and garden in the Fifties.

It provided the perfect verdant location in relatively close proximity to Edinburgh College of Art where she began teaching in 1962 until her retirement in the mid-Eighties. She had studied there between 1949 and 1954, winning various scholarships to enable her to travel extensively – and her quest for exploration remains undimmed.

“The previous owners of our house could not believe that the two of us and my assorted cats over the years could fill such a large property but we managed it,” she says with her bright eyes



Dame Elizabeth has been interested in gardens, flowers, plants... and cats... since her childhood

PORTRAIT

twinkling and a ready smile. It gave them both space and tranquility in which to develop their careers and art.

Imbued with a strong Scottish work ethic she has always been a determined self-disciplinarian. She admits to having lost count of the works she has produced – or even the precise locations where some may now reside. When the National Galleries of Scotland mounted a retrospective to mark her 80th birthday last year she was pleased that the detective work of sourcing the material was left entirely in the organisers' capable hands.

At the time of the show's launch John Leighton, Director-General of the Galleries, summed up her achievements and enduring appeal in this way: "Elizabeth Blackadder is, quite simply, one of Scotland's greatest painters. She has revitalized long-established traditions of landscape, still life and flower painting in this country; she could be described as one of our finest painters in watercolour or equally lauded for her work as a printmaker. At once profoundly Scottish and enticingly exotic, her art is both familiar and mysterious."

The art critic of The Scotsman newspaper Duncan Macmillan, applauding her choice by the First Minister Alex Salmond for the official 2012 ministerial Christmas card, wrote: "Her achievement is a most elusive one for a modern artist. She has a real standing as a painter, but, without ever compromising her art, she has achieved genuine popularity at the same time."

There was never any doubt in her mind about her chosen path. "Even at school in Falkirk where I grew up, I had a strong idea that this was what I was going to do. My father died when I was very young and my mother was supportive and encouraging as were all

my teachers. A significant mentor at Art College was the principal Sir William Gillies who was a great influence on many of the next generation of the Edinburgh School," she recalls.

"I have always been interested in gardens and flowers and plants. I was sent off to stay with my grandmother in the country in Argyll at the beginning of the Second World War and she sent me off to garden for all her friends. I dug up plants from the hill behind the house and transplanted them. Earlier on my father who was an engineer, did a lot of drawing. He had an interest in boats and spent time drawing them so I think from quite a young age he helped me to draw.



First Minister's question time: Alex Salmond quizzes Dame Elizabeth about his 2012 ministerial Christmas card



Artist at work: Dame Elizabeth has always been a determined self-disciplinarian

PORTRAIT

"I suppose my curiosity about objects was stimulated by my grandfather, who was a great traveller, and he always brought things back from trips to France, Italy and Spain. He was interested in everything and his passion for collecting proved infectious." Dame Elizabeth admits to being an insatiable collector while friends help to satiate her appetite by still bringing her irresistible offerings.

Besides her daily appointment with her brushes and easels she is a regular visitor to Glasgow Print Studios where she is ready and willing to learn new techniques. She enjoys the interaction with other artists as a way of diffusing the solitary atmosphere of working alone at home. "When John was alive I would often ask him to give an opinion or seek advice on what I was working on and that was very valuable. I would never, however, venture an opinion on his work because I knew he always had a very clear idea of what he was going to do." Her continuing thirst for travel took her to Armenia last year where she and a friend spent time exploring churches. "I suppose I am a bit like a sponge and soak up experiences and images and then squeeze them out through the brushes when something magical can happen," she reflects.

In the 1970s she gained an interest in Japan and Japanese artistic traditions. She started using Japanese paper for her water-colours with the background being left blank. In the 1980s she visited Japan on a number of occasions and many of her paintings at the time showed the influence of these trips.

She remains discreet and level-headed about her prolific and esteemed status, examining the world around her with a keen and all-seeing eye. She was the first woman to be elected to both the Royal Scottish Academy and the Royal Academy. In 2001 she was

appointed as Her Majesty's Painter and Limner in Scotland, a post first held by Sir Henry Raeburn some 200 years ago. She says modestly: "The late Donald Dewar put my name forward and then later on I got a letter in the post." Honorary university doctorates abound as do honours: an OBE in 1982 and DBE in 2003. Frequently she is referred to as "a national treasure," her work adorns best-selling merchandising such as tea towels in gallery shops and it has even appeared on a series of Royal Mail stamps.

"I don't pay too much attention to what other people think," she says sternly. "Yes, recognition and exposure are satisfying as long as you don't spend too much time thinking about it. I prefer to just get on with the work, trying to use paint in different ways with one thing leading to another. You hope that you ring the changes and don't keep repeating yourself. But really I don't like talking about my work... the painting really should speak for itself."

BEHIND THE LENS

Three years ago Dawn Marie Jones decided to follow her passion and take up a photography course in Edinburgh, having spent eight years in the European property market. Now in her final year of BA photography she is building a broad portfolio and business, specialising mainly in fashion, beauty and commercial photography. Her photo shoot with Dame Elizabeth Blackadder was one of her latest assignments.

Last year was a particularly successful year of collaborations and publications, having had several editorials and images published in magazines both local and international and also being awarded second place in the student fashion and advertising category at Scotland's prestigious British Institute of Professional Photographers (BIPP) Awards.





Visions of light

When the large late Victorian stone-built villas of the Grange started to be divided in to flats the means of access often proved problematic. The solutions frequently emerged as brutal rather than sympathetic. Recently architectural ingenuity has produced some arresting results. For the latest in his series *House Proud* RICHARD MOWE looks at an award-winning innovation in Dick Place

When the owner of 31B Dick Place took over the first and second floor property the way in was via a utilitarian stairway with creepers on the outside of the West-facing wall. It was not an object of great beauty but did the business, and provided a small outside flat area in front of the main door, which used to capture any sunshine on offer and provide stunning views.

The technique of breaching a first-floor window, turning it in to an entrance door and adding outside steps as a way of creating two separate flats was a favourite and easy method of dividing many of the Grange's substantial homes.

It was only when Marion Caldwell, an advocate at the Scottish Bar, met her late partner architect Andrew Doolan that a more radical plan presented itself – and one that was to win an award for its breath-taking imagination and daring.

As the visionary behind the refurbishment of a disused bank building on the Royal Mile into a boutique hotel and the development of the Point Hotel on Bread Street from the old St Cuthbert's Co-operative Association department store among other landmark projects Doolan was used to challenges on a large scale.



Nighttime reflections show off the clean and simple lines while the glass panels gleam in the bright sunshine of a spring day

Photographer: Keith Hunter

HOUSE PROUD

His imagination, however, proved to be equally stimulated by a challenge on a more domestic scale. “We used to perch at the top of the stairs with an evening aperitif and regret the waste of the situation and the full potential of the views over the Grange to the Pentlands. Then Andrew came up with this amazing plan to reconfigure the entrance to the flat behind glass walls, add a garden room, a reflective pond and a terrace that gave a spacious outdoor area off the kitchen and dining room in which to relax and enjoy the surrounding environment,” recalls Caldwell.

The couple moved out of the Grade C listed house while the work progressed over a period of five months and at a cost of £300,000. On their return the transformation was complete. The steel-framed glass addition sparkled in the large oblong pond, which provided a mirror for the delicacy of the design. Cream-coloured Italian ceramic tiles took the inside out and vice versa in the garden room. The rest of the flat was given a complete make-over with American walnut flooring and stairway, contemporary fittings and new bathrooms. A glazed screen allows the kitchen and dining room to be seen from the first floor entrance providing an atmosphere that is light and airy.

The Dick Place property attracted the discerning attention of the Edinburgh Architectural Association Design Award judges in 2003 who bestowed a Silver Medal for Best Building. It was awarded in April 2004. A month later the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) gave the project one of only three awards in Scotland that year –

a silver medal. Doolan was a Fellow of the RIAS. He had received the association’s first silver medal two decades previously for his conversion of the old Blair Brewery in Calton Road into flats.

The EAA citation described the Dick Place project “as an experimental fantasy in light and water” which helped to trounce the negative attitudes of some of its more conservative detractors in the neighbourhood. The judges added that: “The detailing is exquisite and quite subliminal to the composition.” Tragically Doolan died unexpectedly just three days before the award was announced.

Caldwell remembers her partner’s more pragmatic quote on the subject. Andrew described it as “a big greenhouse – albeit a very modern interpretation.” She added that he wanted it to be “like gossamer floating above a sheet of white paper.”

In the intervening years the building has bedded down naturally in to its environment. The ground-floor apartment has its own separate entrance on Lauder Road, which gives each property in the division complete privacy. The tree-planting and shrubs have softened the edges and the pond has attracted its own eco system of plants and wild-life.

It all seems light years away from a plain stone stairway with creepers...

PLANNING WATCH

Beaten by the System

The committee of the Grange Association is sometimes accused of inaction but often we do act only to be rebuffed by the system, which explains the anger recently felt by your conservation guardians and by neighbours of number 12 Mansionhouse Road.

Back in July, the owner of this property presented plans to the Council for a large two-storey extension of very modern design with wooden cladding and a zinc roof. There was so much opposition to this that the plans were changed to a somewhat smaller extension but still of very modern design which we felt would not sit well in this row of Victorian villas. We spoke to the planning officer and expressed concern at a site meeting with the architect.

The Grange Association committee put in a formal letter of objection to the application, which was considered at the development management subcommittee on 21 November. The Cockburn Association and members of the public also objected to the proposal. To our disappointment and surprise the recommendation from the planning officer to the Subcommittee was to grant approval. Before the subcommittee meeting we explained our concerns to every member of the

Sometimes it is not enough to mount a convincing case against a threat to the character of the area. **Roger Kellett** salvages some comfort from an unfortunate outcome

subcommittee, several of whom pointed out that they had to remain neutral until the application was discussed.

Councillor Rose (one of our councillors for Southside/Newington who is on the subcommittee) immediately responded and said he would ask for a detailed presentation at the meeting. Councillor Orr (one of our councillors who is not a member of the subcommittee) asked for a formal hearing so that he would be able to speak to the subcommittee. Under the new procedures, a full hearing is the only way a councillor who is not a committee member can have a say.

Our hopes were high that it might be possible to prevent a development, which we felt threatened the character of the Grange Conservation Area. However at the meeting Councillor Rose moved that Councillor Orr be denied a hearing since there was to be a detailed presentation.

After this presentation Councillor Rose stated that there were local objections but that on balance he supported the application. Councillor Perry, who is convenor of the subcommittee and also a councillor for our Southside/Newington ward, proposed that the plans be approved. There was opposition to this from councillors in distant parts of Edinburgh and it came to a tied vote.

In line with normal procedure, the deciding vote was then cast by the convenor, Councillor Perry (his second vote) in favour of the plans. It was very disappointing that although councillors from elsewhere in Edinburgh saw the threat to our conservation area our own two councillors on the subcommittee gave us no support.

We can, however, take some comfort from the fact that the initial plans for an even larger extension were withdrawn. The Grange Association committee is now concentrating our efforts on trying to achieve tightening up of the rules and guidelines for developments in conservation areas. We see this as the best way to protect our area for the future.

The article has been shown for comment to Councillors Perry and Rose. Councillor Rose agrees that the facts are correct but he points out: "One of the tensions faced is the balance between the desire of property owners to maintain and up conservation area expectations. In coming to a judgement, the issues are usually many and varied and I aim to do so without fear or favour and as fairly and openly as can be done.

"That the decision taken often disappoints one party or another is inevitable and I fully recognise that the maturity of a few years passing may cast a changing light on whether a decision was the best in the circumstances."

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VIEWPOINT

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Ringling in the new...

Apart from the protest on the proposals for 12 Mansionhouse Road (see **Beaten by the System** opposite), the committee did not lodge objections to any other applications approved during the period.

We took the view that the new house at 12 Hope Terrace, in a contemporary design and using modern materials, was broadly acceptable, but the conditions attached to the consent reflected some of our detailed comments.

More comments from us were picked up in the consent for the new driveway at 1 Whitehouse Terrace. We were doubtful that the proposed lighting for the tennis courts in Newbattle Terrace was consistent with the Council's lighting policies, and the scheme was withdrawn.

At 12 St Thomas Road we raised no objection to the demolition of the bungalow, although we have concerns about the existing consent for a two-storey house on the site, which we think will affect the amenity of its neighbour at no 10. No 10 is an interesting single storey house designed by the well-known Edinburgh architects Morris and Steedman and we plan to explore with the Council whether it merits listing. We are uneasy about the scale of the new garage planned at 21 St Catherine's Place.

Another preoccupation has been the revision of the Council's guidance on planning matters.

Up to now this has been spread across a large number of separate documents and there is certainly a case for rationalisation. The Council's declared aim is consolidation, not changes of policy. The three pieces of consolidated guidance of most interest to us are the guidance for householders, the guidance for listed buildings and conservation areas and the guidance on design. To make our task more difficult the Council issued drafts of these, apparently prepared by different teams, at different times and without cross-referencing them to existing guidance.

As originally issued the guidance for householders omitted most of the material previously contained in the specific guidance for areas of stone-built villas like ours. For example the limits on the size of permitted house extensions were completely left out. In response to comments from us and others some was restored in a revised version which went to committee in December and was approved.

The draft guidance on design contained disappointing little about the design of new development in conservation areas like ours, and we have submitted fairly extensive comments. The final version is still awaited.

JOHN GRAHAM

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING CONSENT

The following applications have been granted between the start of August and the end of December.

- 3 Grange Loan Gardens:** single storey rear extension
- 53C Fountainhall Road:** demolition conservatory/new rear extension
- 31 Relugas Road:** two storey side extension
- 47 Grange Road:** replacement garage
- 18 Blackford Avenue:** extend existing consent
- 28 Findhorn Place:** replacement driveway
- 11 Findhorn Place:** new conservatory
- 12 Hope Terrace*:** new three storey house
- 35 Grange Loan:** new summerhouse
- 8 Chalmers Crescent:** new conservatory
- 1 Whitehouse Terrace*:** extension and new driveway
- 6 Grange Terrace:** new rear extension
- 12 Strathearn Road:** internal alterations
- 8 St Catherines Place:** conversion of outhouse
- 5 Relugas Gardens:** rear extension
- 12 Mansionhouse Road*:** side extension etc
- 5 Seton Place:** new dormer etc
- 24 Mansionhouse Road:** replace conservatory
- 14 Tantallon Place:** new conservatory

An application to widen an access at 12B Oswald Road was determined not to be development.

An application for new lighting at the tennis courts at 84 Newbattle Terrace* was withdrawn. An initial application for an extension at 12 Mansionhouse Road* was also withdrawn

Applications under consideration at the end of December:

- 55 Grange Road:** rear extension and new driveway
- 12 St Thomas Road*:** demolition of existing bungalow
- 21 St Catherines Place*:** replacement garage

* An asterisk indicates comments made by the Grange Association



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Image one: Modest and unobtrusive.



Image two: Difference in stone colour.



Image three: Improvement on existing extensions?

Questions of scale

Size does matter when you start to alter the scale of an original listed building to meet expanding needs. Perhaps prospective owners should think about that before they move in, suggest **John Graham** and **Roger Kellett**.

A fair number of the planning applications, which the Association considers are for extensions. We tend to be against large additions in principle, on the basis that people moving into a conservation area should look for a house to suit their needs, rather than look for a site to develop.

Where extensions are proposed we debate the proposed design, the proposed materials and above all the size of the extension. The Committee does not always have a unanimous view.

Here we look at a number of recent extensions and invite you to think about their design and the choice of materials and then let us know your views.

The extension in **image one** has been there for a long time. It is modest in scale and now looks pretty unobtrusive.

Image two shows an extension approved in 2003. Again it is modest and the design aims to reproduce the character of the surrounding villas. The stone finish seems different from the main building. It remains to be seen whether it will weather with time.

Image three shows an extension approved in 2010, which replaced an older extension on one side and a not very attractive garage on the other. The Council thought this scheme was an improvement on the existing extensions. Stone has been used, although we are not sure about the colour or the quality.

The extensions are not set back from the original facade, which is what the council normally encourages.

See pages 6 and 7 for images of the property featured in our *House Proud* series. The remodelling was approved in 2002. This was praised at the time as an elegant contemporary design but it also however attracted some vehement criticism.

Image four shows an extension approved in 2011 in a modern style with a timber finish. It replaced an unattractive non-original extension. The Council's report said that it was "a clearly modern extension which was subservient to the original lodge house".

Image five shows an extension approved in 2007, again in a contemporary style and making extensive use of zinc.

Image six is an illustration of the proposed extension approved in November at 12 Mansionhouse Road, and discussed Page 8. The Council thought that this was a high quality modern design and that the use of non-traditional materials was justified on that basis.

We do not want to re-run the arguments about these particular cases, but if you have views on the design, the materials involved and the issues raised contact us.

John Graham (667 6331) chair@grangeassociation.com

Roger Kellett (667 0300) roger@kellett.eclipse.co.uk



Image four: Modern style and timber finish



Image five: Extensive use of zinc



Image six: High quality modern design?

ENVIRONMENT

Traffic and Parking

The 20mph zone has now been in place for almost a year. There are still many complaints about motorists not obeying the new limit and, as far as we know, no driver has yet been fined for exceeding 20mph. However, we are aware that several drivers have been sent warning letters from the traffic police. A local Community Safety Group has selected monitoring speeds in the area as a priority for the next three months.

From comments received it seems that most residents have welcomed the introduction of the Priority Parking scheme in much of the southern part of the area. The committee has received, however, complaints about excessive commuter parking in some streets.

Trees

We are aware that several mature, and often very beautiful, trees have been removed recently. Of course, trees reach the end of their life and become dangerous; others were planted too close to walls and risk damaging the wall. In a Conservation area it is necessary for owners to contact the Council's Planning Department before cutting down mature trees. However, there is no neighbour notification for this and often the first time that neighbours are aware that a tree is scheduled for removal is when the loppers arrive. The Grange Association has asked, unsuccessfully, in the past for neighbour notification to be introduced when tree removal is proposed. We also encourage owners to replace all trees which have been removed and suggest consulting Alistair Scott's *Trees of the Grange* (we still have copies) for suitable species to plant.

Waste and Recycling

The introduction of fortnightly collection of general rubbish seems to have gone well in our area with few of the problems affecting other parts of the city. The weekly food waste collection removed items from general waste which had concerned many people when fortnightly collections were first suggested. Recent good news is that any plastic bag can now be used for food waste – it is no longer necessary for compostable bags or newspaper to be used for wrapping food waste. With red and blue recycling boxes available for paper, glass, cardboard, card and plastic bottles it seems that local residents are generally happy with the new regime.

SUE TRITTON

GARDENING

Coach Trip

The Gardens Coach Trip will be Sunday 23 June 2013 to Carmichael Mill and Biggar Park. The Garden Exchange Group has taken over the arrangements for our annual gardens coach trip from Judith Reeves to whom we owe thanks for organising these trips for several years. Carmichael Mill is near Hyndford Bridge in Lanark-shire. This riverside garden surrounds the only remaining workable water powered grain mill in the whole of Clydesdale. There will be a vast range of trees and shrubs, both ornamental and fruit, with a vegetable garden. They have a reputation for excellent teas. In the morning we will visit Biggar Park for Rhododendrons and after lunch in Biggar we will go on to Carmichael Mill.

There will be more details in the Spring Newsletter, but contact me (667 5667 or by e-mail) early as these trips are very popular.

Grange Garden Exchange

The group hibernates in the Winter but will get going again in March. We have enjoyed a visit for Autumn colour to Dawyck and had our usual sharing meeting in October where we offered each other plants being divided and saved seed.

If you want to join us write to gardens@grangeassociation.com and you will get regular mailings about our activities.

Find news under the gardens tab at <http://www.grangeassociation.org>

ALISON BRAMLEY



Jim Eadie, MSP for Edinburgh Southern.

Jim holds advice surgeries at his constituency office at 13-15 Morningside Drive, between 10:00 and 12:00 on Mondays and Fridays. *Appointments are not always necessary and Jim would be delighted to meet you.*

Jim can also be contacted at the Scottish Parliament: Room M4.07, Edinburgh, EH99 1SR. Tel: 0131 348 6283

Or at his constituency office: 13-15 Morningside Drive, Edinburgh, EH10 5LZ. Tel: 0131 466 5950

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Jim also has a Facebook page, where you can read about his work as an MSP. If you would like to receive regular updates about his work as the MSP for Edinburgh Southern, please email jim.eadie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



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EVENTS AND TALKS

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

Wednesday 13 March 2013

Alison Kinnaird on The Beauty of Glass + AGM

One of the world's leading engravers, with work in public, royal and private collections throughout Europe, America and the Far East, Alison Kinnaird's glass work ranges from small intimate pieces, to architectural installations, which incorporate light and colour. A recipient of many awards and winner of many competitions, her contribution was recognized in 1997, when she was presented with an MBE for services to art and music.

Alison is also one of the foremost exponents of Scottish harp music, playing both gut and wire-strung Scottish harps. She is much in demand, at home and abroad, as a performer, a lecturer, and teacher in both her fields.

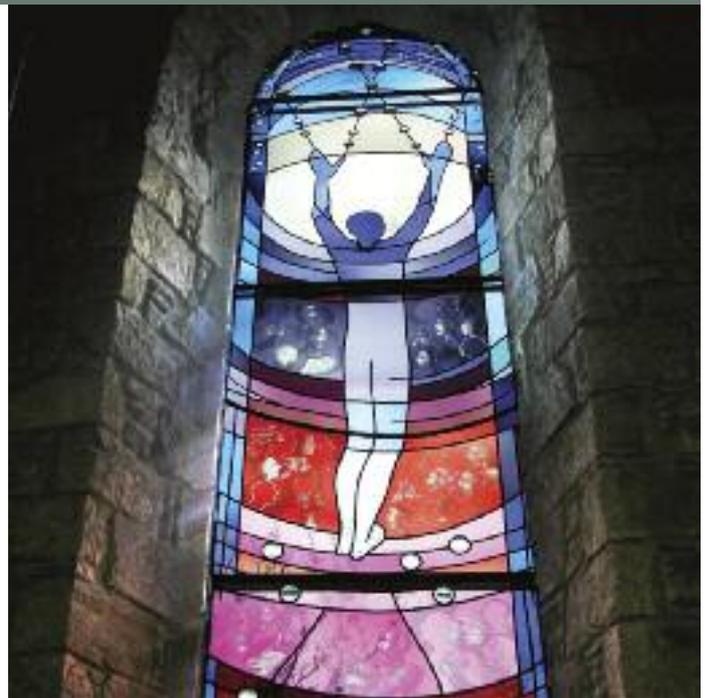
Glass, she says, is a seductively beautiful medium. It has a more versatile nature than any other material. It can be made to resemble stone, water or metal, ceramic, gems or textiles. It can be solid or liquid, transparent or obscure, smooth or textured, heavy or apparently weightless. But it is in partnership with light that glass comes alive. It is then glowing and brilliant, reflective and refractive.

"These qualities suggest the images to me, created by copper wheel engraving, a technique which has remained basically unchanged for 2000 years," she says.

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 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.



One of Alison Kinnaird's stunning engravings

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.

The February meeting will start with tea and coffee at 7pm before the talk at 7.30pm. The AGM (on 13 March) will start promptly at 7pm – there will be a break for refreshments before the talk which will start at about 7.45pm.

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