



The Newsletter

GRANGE ASSOCIATION WINTER/SPRING 2014 | ISSUE NO.108



**COVER
STORY**

The feisty fighter

www.grangeassociation.org

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A bracing welcome to the 2014 Winter and Spring edition of the official magazine of the **Grange Association**. We reveal plans for an exciting **Grange Fair** initiative in May... go inside one of the area's most iconic historical homes in **House Proud**... and talk to political maverick **Margo MacDonald** for our **Portrait** series. Our planning guardian sounds a warning about threats to the character of the area while an action-packed programme of events awaits your delectation on the back page.

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 fifth of a series

ROGER KELLETT

I was born and brought up in Bradford, Yorkshire, which at that time had soot-stained but very imposing Victorian architecture. I studied medicine in Cambridge where both the architecture and countryside were in marked contrast with my hometown.

I started work in London and Essex before my wife and I moved to Scotland. We spent six years in Glasgow where our two daughters were born and moved to Edinburgh in 1975. I worked as a Consultant Physician at the Eastern General Hospital and in Roodlands Hospital, Haddington.

When the Eastern closed, I was moved to the old Royal Infirmary in Lauriston Place but decided to retire before the move to the new hospital at Little France.



Roger Kellett: Planning

We lived for 32 years in Newington within the Waverley Park conservation area. It had been conceived with a single master plan specifying the design of the houses and streetscape. I was a member of the Waverley Park Feuars' Committee, which I chaired for a short time.

The committee managed the parks and scrutinised planning applications to ensure the harmony of the area was maintained. My wife and I took pride in the upkeep of our Victorian house but, when I retired, decided a more modern house would be easier and moved to our present abode in Wyvern Park.

In March 2012 I was elected to the committee of the Grange Association. I am a member of the group of five committee members who scrutinise planning applications within this area.

Although changes are necessary in order to keep up with modern lifestyle, we are keen that they are not allowed to spoil the special character of the area. I also help with the administration of the Association's website.

TIME TO PLAY YOUR PART

The annual general meeting of the Grange Association will be held on Wednesday 12 March at 7.00pm at the Butterflies Cafe at Marchmont St. Giles Church. The Association's constitution sensibly provides that members of the committee can serve no more than four consecutive years, so that new people with new ideas can join on a regular basis.

That means that at this AGM there will be three vacancies on the committee. Please consider if you could contribute to our work by joining the committee. Your role could be helping to consider planning applications, bringing ideas for spending the legacy we received some years ago, offering views on transport and parking or just taking the minutes. The committee meets roughly once a month and the meetings last no more than a couple of hours.

If you have any questions about being on the committee, or would like to put your name forward, please contact John Graham or Sue Tritton (details in Contacts on opposite page).

Fun of the Fair

The Grange Association is planning a new, free, social event on the afternoon of Sunday 11 May. Note the date now in your diary (writes Lucy Richardson).

Newington Library is a wonderful community resource offering much more than books. Last year volunteers from the Association's Gardening Group started looking after parts of the garden to make the library's surroundings more inviting and to encourage people to make more use of it.

There is a lovely sunny patio at the back and in the spring the garden should be a blaze of colour with daffodils and crocuses. The idea of holding a Grange Fair sprang out of our closer involvement with the library.

To make the event a success we would really appreciate your help, contributions to the stalls and, of course, your presence on the day. Look out for more publicity nearer the date on the GA website and at the Library.

The Fair will run from 1.00pm to 4.30pm on Sunday 11 May. Everyone is welcome to come along to an afternoon of fun and entertainment. Stalls, face painting, badge making, music,

dancing displays and much more will be on offer. Any profit will go to Newington Library for children's craft materials for the popular Friday afternoon sessions.

To make the event a success we need your help. We are seeking:

VOLUNTEERS to be stewards on the day

DONATIONS for the various stalls including Collectables; Books and DVDs and Tombola

How about turning out a few cupboards and drawers and passing on the things you don't need?

We're also planning a plant stall and will be asking you for donations nearer the time. Please start potting up spare plants now.

Put any items you can donate in the box in the library vestibule, or if you would like them collected then simply contact us.

Note that we do not accept jumble or clothing.

Contact: Lucy Richardson, 0131 662 4992, lucyclarericardson@yahoo.co.uk for offers of help, or a request to collect donated items.

For more information and updates visit: www.grangeassociation.org.uk



The proceeds from the Fair will help Newington Library children's sessions.

Watch out for cyclists who run the gauntlet

Most cyclists obey traffic laws, cycle sensibly and have working lights. However, a few cycle on pavements, jump red traffic lights, and have no lights which make them hard for others to see.

There have been many complaints about such cyclists and we have had reports of near accidents with pedestrians – these matters have also been discussed with the Police at Community Council meetings.

At the latest Neighbourhood Partnership meeting the Police Sergeant reported that the Police do take such matters seriously and that several fixed penalty notices had been issued in the past few weeks to offending cyclists.

Meanwhile several residents have had cycles stolen from their premises recently. The Police advise that a shed alarm (which provides a very loud warning) can act as a deterrent – these cost between £10 – £15 and are available from St Leonard's Police Station.

We notice that several people are chaining their bikes to lamp posts. While appreciating why the owners do this it does clutter the pavement and can cause problems for those with buggies or wheelchairs.

SUE TRITTON

HOUSE PROUD



The intricate Italianate ceiling rose and plasterwork of the main living space which was originally the formal dining room of the whole house.

Prime location!

What's it like to live in one of the most iconic houses in the Grange? Grange Park House was built in 1864 in gothic style by architect Frederick Pilkington who was responsible for the soaring spire of Barclay Church in Bruntsfield among other notable edifices. The family who live in one half of the secluded mansion in a prime position overlooking the Carlton Cricket Ground, open their doors for the latest in Richard Mowe's HOUSE PROUD series.

A strange twist of fate brought the Fleck family up the drive to Grange Park House, which has been their home since 1996. Confronted with the imposing mansion with its gables, Romanesque carvings, and gargoyles and extensive grounds they thought it would be well beyond their means.

Professor James Fleck was a young academic at the time and his wife Heather was a violinist, music teacher and mother to their four children with a limited disposable income.

Once they had considered the prospects of Grange Park they felt they should go for broke. "The clincher was when we looked out on the patio and saw a fox running by. It's like being in the middle of the country but only minutes from the city centre," said James Fleck.

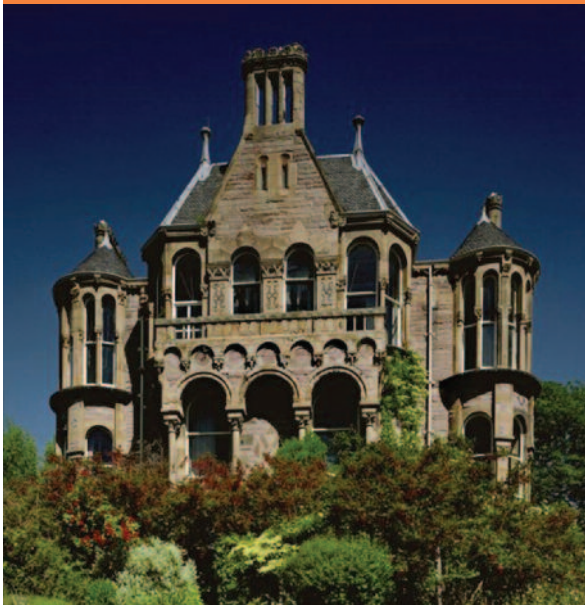
Sitting in the resplendent former dining room with its intricate rococo plasterwork ceiling and views over the cricket ground to Blackford Hill the couple still seem slightly incredulous that their

offer on the lower half of the property (the house was split in two in 1929) was accepted.

They knew that extensive renovations would be required – and the work still goes on. "We inherited a kitchen that was I diabolically awful – like a black hole. We ripped out everything and discovered an enormous broken down range that would have served the whole house. A dumb waiter still links the kitchen with what was the original dining room. We uncovered the original floor tiles and put in an Aga.

"For the first year we camped out while attending to the basics such as installing central heating and a kitchen sink" said Heather. Her husband in the early stages had time to sort out the electrical wiring, which seemed to also power up parts of the flat upstairs. They cleared more than 16 skip loads of rubble from some of the basement areas, established a damp course and put in new wooden flooring.

HOUSE PROUD



Prime position: the imposing balustrades, buttresses and columns of Grange Park House and (right) the Aga range dominates the kitchen.

One of their daughters, an architect, has drawn plans for further improvements on the ground floor level. The stonework and chimneys had extensive works carried out a year ago – and the owners of both the properties in the building keep a weather eye on items requiring attention.

Professor Fleck believes that Pilkington was astute in the way he oriented the house, so that even in winter the sun comes right to the back of the main public rooms and the temperature is ambient even without any heating.

Even in the beginning they adapted to the space quickly and still enjoy living with the history of the house. They frequently find people with connections to it on their doorstep. A nursery school was once run in the dining-room by a previous occupant who ruled with a rod of iron.

Professor Fleck, former Dean of the Open University Business School, was based for many years at Milton Keynes where they lived in an even more historic abode – a 16th century thatched cottage. They are in the process of moving back to Edinburgh full time with an assorted mountain of books, journals and research papers.

The original feu for the site stipulated that any new building should be no more than two stories. Professor Fleck suggests that the architect probably managed to get round the regulations by describing the dining-room as being in the basement because of the way the land falls away.

Records show that Pilkington feued over 13 acres of land to the south of Dick Place from Sir John Dick Lauder of Grange and Fountainhall in 1864, but disposed of some of this to other developers. Sasine records show that Pilkington used his own house and land several times as security for loans. Pilkington lived in the house, which he called Egremont (after the home of his second wife) between 1865 and 1870 and also was responsible for 48 and 50 Dick Place in a similar architectural style. The Marine Hotel in North Berwick also was one of his commissions.

The Flecks have grown to fill the space with their five children (the youngest son, Ruaridh, was born in the house) and now four grandchildren and assorted friends who throng the house over holiday periods. Heather and friends recently gave a performance of a Brandenburg Concerto – the kind of occasion of which Frederick Thomas Pilkington undoubtedly would have approved.



Rooms with views – looking West from one of the bathrooms (left) and from the drawing room to Blackford Hill.

The free spirit of politics

Adorned with a bit of Festive bling in the way of a Christmas tree brooch pinned on her dark top with lacy sleeves, a snazzy necklace and a blue scarf draped nonchalantly over her shoulders MSP and Grange resident Margo MacDonald is all set to hold court for the latest in our PORTRAIT series.

INTERVIEW: RICHARD MOWE



Margo MacDonald: Laying down challenges... and dishing out sympathy

When I arrive with photographer Dawn Marie Jones for our rendezvous with Margo MacDonald, the only Independent member in the Scottish Parliament, she is busy doing hair and make-up.

Her previous incarnation as a television presenter has given her a certain dexterity in the art of putting your best face forward for the camera – and today is no exception. She's also seated in a prime position outside the Chamber to engage passing acquaintances in cheerful conversation – from fellow MSPs to a friendly usher who arrives with a heart-felt moan about her "sair feet."

MacDonald sympathises – her feet and much else besides are not that great either since she was diagnosed in 1996 with Parkinson's Disease. With the support of her loyal staff Peter Warren and Mary Blackford and on the home front of her husband Jim Sillars she executes her duties and looks after the interests of her constituents with a dedicated zeal. The spirit is as well as ever and her popularity with the public has remained undimmed since she arrived in Holyrood in 1999 as an SNP member.

Her decision to stand as an Independent in 2003 came after she had been placed fifth

on the party list for Lothians, which effectively meant she had been deselected. The SNP hierarchy decided to ban her from the party but her profile has remained high with re-elections in 2007 and 2011.

Electors have warmed to this bonnie fechter who is not afraid to speak her mind. She laments the fact in the current array of politicians there are few of her persuasion and demeanour, prepared to cause waves rather than toeing the party lines. "We have too many people who came in on the leader's coat tails and they will not challenge anything and that stultifies Parliament's growth," she says.

She pursues her particular concerns with a single-minded determination that has served her well four decades as a politician. She has revived her Assisted Suicide (Scotland) Bill, giving the terminally ill the right to choose when to die, after it was defeated two years ago. She hopes that this time it will go through as she takes it to the committee stages before it goes again to Parliament.

"We are running behind where I'd hoped we'd be because of all the work going on around the Referendum legislation. I think we have addressed the fears of the disabled lobby – it is a question of rights,

and the right of the individual to choose. If you don't choose then fine, so that stops anyone feeling vulnerable." She has a declared vested interest in the legislation: when the time comes she wants to choose the moment of her death. For the bill she investigated and cherry-picked the best points from countries where assisted suicide is legal – Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Belgium as well as Switzerland.

MacDonald is also keeping a watching brief on the management of prostitution. She is opposed to the attitude of the new Single Police Authority who have declared they would like to eliminate prostitution. "They are wasting their time. They should try to minimise the add-on criminality and make sure that the women who decide to give up what has been termed the oldest profession in the world should have the opportunity to go into job training," she says.

On a less serious note, although with no less commitment, she is trying to find a berth in Leith for *HMS Edinburgh*, which could become a visitor attraction in a different dock, but linked to *Britannia* via water taxis. "They're not moving fast enough on this for my liking," she suggests sternly.

PORTRAIT

MacDonald has an affinity for the spirit of Edinburgh's port, gushing warmly about the film of the stage show *Sunshine on Leith*, not just because it features the music of the Proclaimers (daughter Petra is married to Craig, one half of the duo). "It's very Leith and also very Edinburgh as well as being confident and stylish. The story may be cheesy but it works, a kind of modern pantomime."

And, lest it be forgotten, she will be on the barricades once the trams are up and running to look at the development of an integrated network reaching as far as the city's waterfront and elsewhere. She would never have agreed to the current limited line (a result of financial restrictions) but she did support the original plans to encompass Leith and Granton "and I'll be asking for the whole issue to be opened up again – but just let's allow the service to get under way first."

Without wanting to invite a polemic I ask for her philosophy of Independence. It's simple and emotive. "If you take responsibility you will grow that bit bigger and if you grow that bit bigger there is nothing to hinder you trying a bit harder and growing that bit even bigger. If you start the process your sense of responsibility will continue to evolve."

Away from her hectic political life she likes to escape to home behind one of the high stone walls of the Grange, opposite the Carlton Cricket Ground. "Jim loves the privacy and the peace and I like to potter around in the garden," she says.

Previously they had lived up two flights in Woodburn Terrace, providing a family home for Sillars and daughters Petra and Zoe (from her previous marriage to pub landlord Peter MacDonald). "I was a Morningside matron," she says beaming, although she is hardly typical of the species, given that she cites country and Western singer Dolly Parton as a role model – "an admirable woman and not just as a performer." MacDonald was born in 1943 and grew up in and around East Kilbride, one of three children – again not the traditional Morningside matron roots.

When she found that her legs were reluctant to scale the two flights several times a day they decided to move. Ideally she would have loved a ground floor flat in the same street with French windows to the garden but the only possibility required extensive renovation and she could not face "a gutting job." Instead they stumbled across the then newly built flats in Grange Loan, which ticked every conceivable box and they have been there for more than 20 years.



Margo MacDonald: Loves to escape to the tranquility and seclusion of her home in the Grange

The only drawback has been the occasional stray cricket ball landing in the garden, which made it a no-go area for her four grand-children. "It seemed rather expensive at the time, but the bank manager knew the area and said we couldn't lose out, so we decided to go for it," she recalls. She even managed to persuade him to fork out for some expensive Swedish curtains.

How has she adjusted to the seclusion of the Grange? "Once you have been here for a bit and you get behind the walls the neighbours are great. They are not at all exclusive or stand off-ish," she says although a burst of the MacDonald charm offensive mixed with an abrasive sense of humour would melt the most frosty demeanour.



Flashback: Margo MacDonald in 1977.

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Custodian of the past

It may have only been an outline on an old map – but TERRY RUSSELL has been able to trace back his home to its very foundations and to preserve the memory, legacy and caring stewardship of previous owners all under the watchful gaze of a gilded heraldic lion.

I like reading about other people's houses and gardens so I thought I would enter into the spirit of things and make a few remarks about my own. A further prompt to do so was that the autumn Grange Newsletter (issue 107) made reference to the former Esdaile College for girls.

The connection with myself is that my house and garden occupy ground that once belonged to Esdaile College – on its south boundary at the junction of Kilgraston Road and Grange Loan. Before the present-day constructions, on a frosty morning I could look over our shared boundary wall and see the ghostly outlines of former tennis courts revealed by the cold in the surface of the sunken parterre garden (as pictured in the article). Indeed, I often imagined the girls at play and their "laughter born of gentleness" – as poet Rupert Brooke might have said.

Let's look at the history of the site. A good starting point is Robert Kirkwood's map of 1817. This shows much of what is now the Grange with the Esdaile site bounded by properties in the ownership of Messrs Lauder and Warrender – evocative names preserved to this day. Kilgraston Road does not yet exist but Grange Loan does and shows the site of my garden occupied by small buildings and a pump house.

Indications of the latter are still evident in my west boundary wall. In 1851, a certain Captain W. D. Gosset surveyed the whole of Edinburgh for the Ordnance Survey who published his efforts the following year to the large scale of 1:1056 (five feet represents one statute mile). Esdaile College was not yet built but the boundaries of my garden site are clearly delineated.

We come nearer to the time of the creation of my house and garden with the Ordnance Survey map of 1877. This is essentially an update of Gosset's survey. It is drawn to the same scale and is a rich source of information bearing on the topographical history of the Grange and its properties. Esdaile College is now indicated – designated as Ministers' Daughters' College – with the site of my property still occupied by the small buildings and pump house. Perhaps the College authorities considered these constructions spoiled their



Moon and sun greet each night and day: a contemplative corner of Terry Russell's garden.

view south to Blackford Hill and beyond? Be this as it may, in 1881 the College had a feu charter drafted which prepared the way for my house and garden.

The charter allowed for the ground and structures on the south boundary of Esdaile to be developed as a dwelling house provided that: "[It] shall not contain any windows in the north wall or roof facing the ground of the College." Clearly, the propriety and decorum of the girls were to be safeguarded. And the amenity of the area similarly was to be protected: "There shall be no distilleries, manufactories, breweries, candleworks, tanneries, kilns or steam engines." (Pity about the latter since I'm rather fond of steam engines!). Interestingly, "dung hills" were allowed, provided they were for the exclusive improvement of the land and "not for sale"!

In the same year, 1881, the Edinburgh architect James Gibson drew up plans for a villa, the 'embryo' of my house, that had to meet the approval of the College and was "to be of value not less than £800," and "to be surrounded by stone dykes with copes." The house was subsequently enlarged in 1926, by another firm of Edinburgh architects, to give its present-day appearance – but still with no windows facing north.

The house will be familiar to generations of young budding pianists, since my late wife Mary taught piano here for more than 30 years. I always knew when Christmas was approaching by the sound of little fingers learning to play carols. The approach of Associated Board Examinations was also another calendar event – if of a more ominous kind. We purchased the house in 1972 from Commander Haig-Fergusson

(RN) formerly of 46 Dick Place. I still have his garden diary that reveals between 1952-72, he re-landscaped the garden adding new paths, changes of level and the creation of a patio-terrace. In our turn, Mary and I have added substantially to the planting. Consequently, I now have three established Himalayan silver birches, more than a dozen magnolias, about as many mature camellias (some more than ten-feet high) and an abundance of azaleas. With regard to colour, it is essentially a late spring/early summer garden. I think we – and previous owners – have reasonably upheld one particular stipulation of the original 1881 feu charter that stated: "The ground lying around the house shall be formed into a garden or shrubbery which shall be kept and maintained as such in a neat and proper manner."

I am an admirer of artist Ian Hamilton Finlay and his garden-creation Little Sparta – with its associated artworks. In that spirit, but more modestly, I have recently introduced some features of my own. My "smiling sun" greets me in the morning and my "sleepy moon" bids me good night at the end of the day. My sun and moon motif occupies a quiet part of the garden where I can recall Mary. My gilded lion keeps guard in true heraldic fashion. But he is no newcomer. He was given to me on his departure by the Commander and has now watched over the house and garden for more than 60 years.

As I look through my title deeds and survey the names of all those who have gone before me, I am reminded how we are mere custodians of our property – and that my time will one day come to pass on. Shakespeare, as always, conveys such wistful thoughts more eloquently: "We are such stuff as dreams are made on; and our little life is rounded with a sleep."

PLANNING WATCH

An erosion of character?

There have been a number of applications for planning permission in the northern part of Mansionhouse Road. Despite GA lodging objections they were approved. We worry that in combination these could have an adverse effect on the character of this street.

Number 6 had planned to make a parking area beneath the front bay window but fortunately modified these plans. Nevertheless there is still to be significant widening of the drive and of the opening in the front stone-wall.

Number 10 has had constructed a wooden lean-to side extension. We feel the design is not sympathetic with the Victorian villa but little is seen of it from the road.

At number 12 the extension with a zinc roof which was mentioned in a previous newsletter is now under construction. At the end of November number 20 received planning permission for two extensions. One to the south will replace a conservatory and swimming pool. We question its design, which includes a high zinc roof and glass triple doors at the front. In addition the plans include a first floor extension to the north, which will hide a prominent Victorian arched window and encroach on the neighbours.

At 13A Grange Terrace concern has been raised at the large area of the back garden that was to become hard landscaping and by the large size of the proposed garden hut but the plans were approved.

After a nine-month delay an application was made retrospectively for the two gazebos and garden shed which were constructed at 14 Kilgraston Road over a year ago. The frames of the gazebos are permanent but because the canvas cover can be removed, the planners considered them as temporary structures. We felt they detracted from the appearance of a house designed by a distinguished architect and were disappointed that permission was granted.

St Raphael's Nursing Home plan to change the ground floor of the main building into care facilities. The original plans included a new wide entrance from Blackford Avenue but after our intervention, they agreed to use an existing gate instead.

Two applications clearly were in breach of the planning guidance and they were both refused. One was for solar panels on the roof facing the road at 3 Sciennes Gardens and the other for uPVC windows at 17/1 Wyvern Park.

We reported in the last issue that the enforcement team had required the removal of fencing at 38 Dick Place along Lovers' Loan. In its place the owners proposed increasing the height of the stone wall. We thought this would be an improvement on the green netting that is now in place but the planners have refused the application.

ROGER KELLETT

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING CONSENT

The following applications have been granted between August and December 2013:

- 1F 33 Grange Loan.** Proposed loft conversion; installation of roof windows.
- 10 Hatton Place.** Replace rooflights; provide stone hood at entrance.
- 25 Dick Place.** Part demolition and reconstruction of outbuildings.
- 38A Fountainhall Road.** Remove garage; install wooden gates.
- 12 Grange Court.** Replace garage door with a masonry wall and window; replace existing wooden front door.
- 3 Lauder Loan.** Minor adjustments to house part built.
- 21 St Catherine's Place.** Erect new garage.
- 13 Grange Court.** Install wood burning stove with stainless steel flue.
- 50 Mayfield Road.** Internal alterations; double sliding doors and velux window to rear.
- 8 Grange Road.** Removal of approximately 2m section of the return to the boundary wall; new wooden driveway gates and new wooden pedestrian gate.
- 1F 13 Grange Terrace.** Erect wooden shed of area 4m x 2.5m within 1m of the boundary wall. (*)
- 61 Fountainhall Road.** Replace garden room extension to rear; new window on side elevation and door on rear elevation.
- 1F4 2 Sciennes House Place.** Replacement windows.
- 12 Grange Road.** Orangery extension.
- 14 Kilgraston Road.** Garden storage shed; two canvas gazebos with steel frames (in retrospect). (*)
- 153 Whitehouse Loan.** Garden room extension to rear.
- 1F 13 Grange Terrace.** Internal alterations.
- 6 Mansionhouse Road.** Widen existing vehicular access through front wall; replace carport with lean-to garage; hard surfacing in front of house. (Plans later modified) (*)
- 36 Lauder Road.** Replace existing garage with single storey extension.
- 22m S of 18 Sciennes Road.** Install Telecoms Cabinet.

- 20 Mansionhouse Road.** Replace existing swimming pool and conservatory with a garden room extension. First floor extension. (*)
- 8 Sciennes Gardens.** Garden room extension and paved patio; timber framed bicycle shelter.
- St Raphael's Nursing Home.** Change ground floor offices to residential care facility; single storey side and rear extensions; new entrance gates. (*)
- 13 Grange Road.** Alter windows and provide 2 rooflights to rear kitchen outshot.
- 1F2 27 South Oswald Road.** Application for approval of existing flue.
- 12 Mansionhouse Road.** Timber framed double glazed traditional sash and case windows; traditional cast iron railings.
- 38 Findhorn Place.** Change garage at side of house into habitable accommodation. (*)

The following applications were refused:

- 3 Sciennes Gardens.** Solar Panels to roof. (*)
- Coach House 38 Dick Place.** To increase the height of an existing boundary wall.
- 17/1 Wyvern Park.** Replace timber double glazed blown windows with uPVC to match existing. (*)
- 52 Grange Road.** New dormer to south (rear) elevation and new rooflights to north.

At the end of December these applications were still pending:

- Astley Ainslie Hospital.** Two temporary heating boiler modules.
- 50 Grange Road.** Demolish garage.
- 12 Oswald Road.** Lean-to single garage and rebuild of existing extension.
- 14 Dick Place.** Changes to roof of outbuilding.
- PF2 13 Grange Loan.** French window and decking.
- 45 Grange Road.** First floor extension and conservatory.
- 20 Hope Terrace.** Erect side and rear extensions with terrace and steps.

(*) An asterisk indicates comments made by the Grange Association

GARDENING

Bright idea takes root

Mystery plants have appeared in St Albans Road to beneficial effect. ALISON BRAMLEY reports

We have noticed with pleasure the attractive flowers planted around the trees on the south side of St Albans Road at the junction with Blackford Avenue and would like to thank whoever is responsible.

Other local residents might like to do the same for the trees on the other side of the road at this junction and at other similar places – such as West Relugas Road. The Grange Association would be happy to provide (and pay for) plants and bulbs that could be

planted in the autumn around street trees.

Exchange of plants and seeds: Members have met in each other's gardens to exchange plants and seeds and we have plans to hold a plant sale at The Grange Fair on 11 May. Think of potting up extra plants and growing extra seedlings in so we have locally grown plants to offer at the Fair, and also look out for spring bulbs coming up in front of Newington Library.



Autumn leaves and signs of life.

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

Ian Murray MP

Labour Member of Parliament for Edinburgh South



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Congratulations to Tobias Summerton P4C Sciennes Primary. Tobias was selected as the winning entry from Sciennes Primary School for Ian's annual Christmas Card Design Competition. Over 2,200 kids took part from 17 local schools.

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9.15am every Monday & Friday at 31 Minto Street

3rd Saturday of every month

9am - Gracemount Leisure Centre • 10am - Liberton High School
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MISCELLANY



Fighting to save your cycle ways through the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital – Scotways and the Grange Association.

Astley Ainslie

As we have previously reported most of the buildings on the Royal Edinburgh and Astley Ainslie Hospital sites are no longer “fit for purpose” and new facilities will be built (as funds become available) on the Royal Edinburgh site. The planning application for “Phase 1” has been submitted and is now being determined. It is not yet known what plans NHS Lothian has for the Astley Ainslie site when facilities are transferred.

The GA was contacted recently by a student looking at pedestrian and cycle routes through the Astley Ainslie site and met Sue Tritton and Roger Kellett on site together with Jo Doake of Scotways. In order to establish “rights of way” through these grounds it is necessary to have evidence that the route has been in continuous use for over 20 years. Contact Sue Tritton (or any committee member) with details of your use of these routes so that we can assemble evidence if there are threats of closure.

Community Council elections

Elections have been held for new members of all Community Councils in the City. The Grange Association area is split between Marchmont Sciennes CC (in the North and West) and Grange Prestonfield CC in the South and East. The Grange Association has a representative on both these Community Councils.

Street clutter

For a long time the Grange Association has been trying to achieve a reduction in the number of poles in the streets. In particular, poles could be removed if parking signs could be attached to walls or railings – the Cricket Club has agreed that the signs on the four poles alongside its wall could be attached to the wall – thus allowing the removal of these poles. The Council has agreed to do this – but we are still waiting for the pledge to be carried out.

SUE TRITTON

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 1SP.

Tel: 0131 348 6283

jim.eadie.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
www.scottish.parliament.uk

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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TALKS AGENDA



David Livingstone

In the footsteps of Livingstone

Everyone is welcome to attend these events co-ordinated by Hilary Watkinson

Wednesday 12th February:

Dr Jack Thompson, a member of the Scotland-Malawi Partnership, who has lived for some time in the country. He is also an expert on Dr David Livingstone. His talk is entitled "Looking for Little Livingstones: David Livingstone and His Children." There is added topicality: the bicentenary of Livingstone's birth was celebrated on 19 March, 2013.

In November there was a well-attended event with Paula Williams, Senior Map Curator of the National Library of Scotland, about "Putting the Grange on the Map". She had a fine selection of maps of the area from the 16th century to the present. The slides she showed can be found on <http://maps.nls.uk/>. Her talk was preceded by a short introduction to the Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal, which is to be followed by a public consultation.

Wednesday 12 March:

AGM of the Grange Association (See Page 3). Followed by a talk on the history of the Astley Ainslie by Dr Brian Pentland. This is a key site in our area and one day there will be proposals for a large redevelopment, so understanding its history is important for us.

December was time for an innovation with a Seasonal Quiz on the Grange area set by members of the committee and accompanied by mulled wine and mince pies.

The last season began with two interesting talks. Brian Forrester, membership secretary of the Carlton Cricket Club, led us on a virtual tour of the Club in October with a fascinating account of the history of the club and the ground and its current success.

In early January we welcomed Christine de Luca (subject of our **Portrait** series in Newsletter issue 106) whose subject was "Island Muse – Island Musing".

Meetings are held in the 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.



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