



The Grange Newsletter

Grange Association

January 2017

ISSUE No. 117



**COVER
STORY**

A long way from the Grange

www.grangeassociation.org

Recognised Scottish Charity SC025491

The Grange Association offers a warm welcome to Edythe Murie who is now organising the garden group of the Association. She replaces Alison Bramley who has led the group for five very successful years. Huge thanks to Alison for the time and effort she has given.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter with its articles on the historical, natural and built environment of our area. There's a neat continuity of theme in contributions on early and modern footpath issues.

The Committee looks forward to seeing many of you at the AGM on 01 March.

Jenny Dawe

Contents

History & Heritage:

Early footpath battles
Page 3

Local amenity:

Astley-Ainslie access
Future of Astley-Ainslie site
Page 4

Environment:

Grange Cemetery news
Trygve
Page 5

Profile: Kim Crosbie -
in pole position
Pages 6/7

Local matters

Tree time
Born again
Page 8

Nature Notes

On Golden Pond
Planning advice
Page 9

Planning Update
Page 10

Gardening: Guilty
pleasure?

Useful Contacts
Page 11

Diary Dates
AGM notice
Page 12

CONTACTS

Sue Tritton (667 8027) *Chair*

6 Grange Terrace, EH9 2LD
chair@grangeassociation.com/suetritton@btinternet.com

Roger Kellett (667 0300) *Vice Chair/Planning*

10 Wyvern Park, EH9 2JY planning@grangeassociation.com

Adam Rennie (668 4992) *Hon Secretary & Planning*

7 Grange Terrace, EH9 2LD secretary@grangeassociation.com

Joan Forehand (668 4913) *Hon Treasurer*

25 Dalrymple Crescent, EH9 2NX treasurer@grangeassociation.com

Richard Brown (667 8289) *Membership*

90 Grange Loan, EH9 2EP membership@grangeassociation.com

Doreen Allerton (0780 3356200) *Community Liaison*

61b/4 St Alban's Road, EH9 2LS

Neil Davidson (667 3960)

43 Blackford Road, EH9 2DT neild99@hotmail.co.uk

Jenny Dawe (447 1296) *Newsletter*

1 Strathearn Road, EH9 2AH liaison@grangeassociation.com

Jo Doake (261 6084)

29 West Relugas Road, EH9 2PW jodoake@talktalk.net

John Duncan (667 3912) *Planning*

7 Dick Place, EH9 2JS jc.duncan@ic24.net

Edythe Murie (466 1520) *Garden Group*

28 Mortonhall Road, EH9 2HN gardens@grangeassociation.com

Peter Pitkin (447 3220) *Tree Advice*

8 Blackford Road, EH9 2DS trees@grangeassociation.com

Lucy Richardson (662 4992/07870307224) *Newsletter Distribution*

31 Fountainhall Road, EH9 2LN lucyclarerichardson@yahoo.co.uk

Dorothy Ryle (237 8948) *Community Liaison/Planning*

Hilary Watkinson (667 6360) *Events Organiser*

54 Grange Loan, EH9 2EP events@grangeassociation.com

Antarctic cover
photo courtesy of
Kim Crosbie

To advertise in *The
Grange Newsletter*,
contact

Joan Forehand
(668 4913)

email: treasurer@
grangeassociation.com



Your contributions and feedback are welcome.
Please send to Jenny Dawe
email: liaison@grangeassociation.com

HISTORY & HERITAGE

Grange footpath battles in the 1760s and 1860s

Grange resident Helen Gretton describes two early access fights in the area.

There were years of legal action in the 1760s about public access to paths on the Grange estate.

Supporters of public footpaths were led by some well-to-do merchants who had their country houses next to the Grange estate, along Causewayside from today's petrol station uphill towards Sciennes. The doors in their back garden walls led to paths across the fields. They gathered pages of evidence that these had been public footpaths "immemorially". Local people described earlier generations from Grange House coming along a path called Dean of Guild's Walk, and using a garden door to reach the "village" of Causewayside. Old Provost Drummond had ridden one of the paths daily on his way from Liberton into town. An old man had helped enlarge the Walk and build a seat there when he was a boy ... and there were many more people happy to chip in with their stories. Furthermore, the main road was unusable for the muddy half of the year and people needed the paths to reach the best route to the parish church, St. Cuthbert's.

Wanting to enclose the land and stop public access to the footpaths was the new young laird of Grange, Sir Andrew Dick Lauder. In 1765, with all his Grange

relatives dead, the 23-year-old laird set about enclosing and improving the land, started various lawsuits, and demanded that the merchants' garden doors should be blocked up. He said his "fine fruitful corn grounds" were being trampled and the paths were used mainly by smugglers and drunken washerwomen. Corn and "cut grass" were being stolen at night. The merchants blamed "the Rabble from Edinburgh" and/or Sir Andrew's farm workers for any damage. The laird had only a handful of people on his side, mostly employees, including one who drew up a misleading sketch map to support his case. This argument went on in the Court of Session until about 1769.

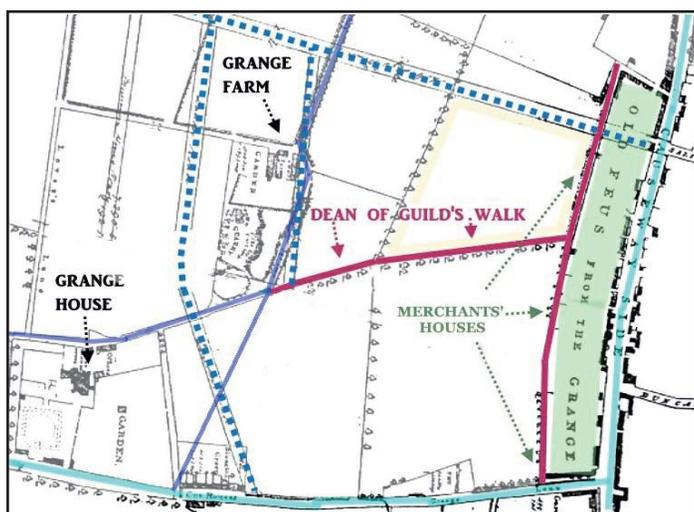
Sir Andrew seems to have won in the end, although the paper trail peters out and we have to rely on maps.

A century later, in 1865, Andrew Dick Lauder's grandson John tried to close part of Lovers' Loan and add it to his grounds.

A resident of one of the new Grange villas noticed a stretch of hedge being removed from this ancient path,



***Lovers Loan opening in wall in 1865, just beyond entrance to Grange House.
(Sketch by Jane Stewart Smith)***



Key to Map: Hotly disputed footpaths in red; cart tracks in blue; old roads in turquoise; modern roads with dotted lines.

and roused up his neighbours to protest. It looked as if the dispute would go to court, but the Town Council intervened and Sir John backed down. He claimed he had "given" so many new roads to the public for their convenience that no one could possibly need Lovers' Loan any more. He thought it would be of "material benefit" for the district to be free of it. Perhaps he didn't like living next to a "suburban walk for a large class of the population", as the *Caledonian Mercury* called it in 1865 or, as they had described it in 1824, "a narrow lane skirted by hedges... a road familiar to every lad and lass in Auld Reekie".

[More details at EdinburghFootnotes.co.uk]

We welcome short articles on items of local interest. Please contact liaison@grangeassociation.com

LOCAL AMENITY - ASTLEY AINSLIE

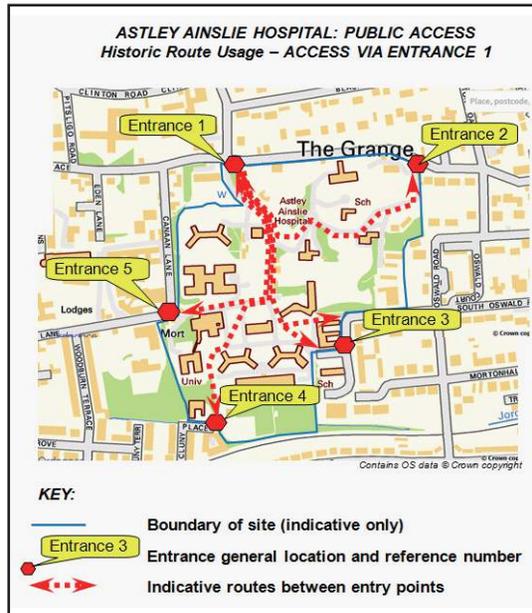
Astley Ainslie access matters

Those living in south Edinburgh are fortunate to have had access through the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital for decades. But, with the NHS due to vacate the site in 2019, major changes are on the way.

With individuals and organisations concerned about continuing public access across the site, the Grange Association conducted a one day survey in 2012 at the five main gates (see Map inset) and interviewed over 1000 people. Whilst this illustrated the high level of usage it couldn't prove the existence of rights of way so the local Green Party asked ScotWays, an access charity based in Leith, for advice.

A questionnaire was adapted for the site, retaining the four key questions that must be answered to prove a route to be a Right of Way (RoW). Does the route go from one public place to another? Has it been used without permission? Has it been used for 20 years?

Does it follow more or less the same route each time? An excellent response allowed ScotWays to analyse the results, clearly **proving three legitimate RoWs**. The City of Edinburgh Council and the NHS have accepted these, they have been mapped and have been added as "Asserted" to the National Catalogue of Rights of Way (held by ScotWays) - good news for local people. The RoWs are for pedestrians and cyclists, not vehicles. One route goes from Canaan Lane (entrance 5) to South Oswald Road (entrance 3) where the anomaly of a locked gate remains. A second route joins this from Cluny Place/Egypt Mews (entrance 4); and a third comes south from Grange Loan/Whitehouse Terrace (entrance 1), using the small side entrance by the big black gates. We trust that the access through the gates at the north east corner, nearest Kilgraston Road, is too valuable a site entrance to be closed off.



As master plans are drawn up (see article below), the Rights of Way will be clearly shown so that developers should know to avoid them. We trust that this will greatly ease tensions over public access

in the years ahead!

Jo Doake

The future of the Astley Ainslie (AAH) site

There is now some information from NHS Lothian about the future of this site. First, we remind readers of some recent history. The site was first considered for development in the early 2000s when building a new school there was thought to be possible. In 2002 a Development Brief for the site was drawn up by the City Council. This Brief has been confirmed to be still valid and no amendments are planned. The Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal, updated in 2014, has a long section on the AAH grounds and its value to the area.

In 2011 NHS Lothian began consulting representatives of local Community Councils about redevelopment of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital (REH) site which would include transferring all facilities from the AAH site to the REH site. At a meeting in October, NHS Lothian confirmed that they expect to start consultations with the community in early 2017 in advance of producing a Masterplan for the AAH site prior to a sale around 2019.

The AAH site lies within the boundaries of the Marchmont Sciennes Community Council and is within the Grange Conservation Area. Three other community councils border the site and their residents also have a strong interest in

any development on the site. Representatives of the community councils have agreed to work together to keep their residents informed about any consultation events and plan to work with the NHS to ensure that any information provided is accurate – possibly *via* a dedicated website.

Although the loss of some of the much appreciated open space in the AAH grounds is regretted, we recognise that some development on this site is inevitable. We therefore wish to work with the community to try to ensure that the development is acceptable – or, as acceptable as possible. The Grange Association has long been involved with this much loved area and took part in the survey in 2012 to record public use of the grounds (see Newsletter No 104 and article above), leading to the public rights of way. We will keep you informed about details of any public meetings on our website. If you are able to help in any way please get in touch. **We would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone with experience of dealing with such large scale developments who may be able to help with any legal or planning matters which will arise.**

Sue Tritton

GRANGE CEMETERY/TRYGVE

Grange Cemetery news

Thanks to funding, mainly from the Old Edinburgh Club, the City of Edinburgh Council, the Neighbourhood Partnership South Central Decides event and the Grange Association - and the formidable driving force of Alan McKinney - work is underway on rebuilding some of the headstones in Grange Cemetery. For safety reasons, following tragic accidents in cemeteries, nearly 9,500 headstones were laid flat on the ground in Edinburgh in 2006. This project will improve the environment in our most local cemetery.

The work is being done by people on the Community Payback Programme, with trained Council supervisors. Two teams working two days a week have a first target of rebuilding headstones up to about 6 feet high. The larger the stone, the deeper the cement foundations and so the thicker, longer and more costly are the steel pins needed.

The weather so far has been kind, allowing progress to be made on digging foundations and pouring concrete. Concrete has to be poured in frost-free conditions, so work may slow down if the weather deteriorates.

Alan McKinney writes: "By rebuilding monuments, it is possible to restore some civic pride and enable these spaces to be enjoyed by future generations."

Trygve?



The Scandinavian art of "Hygge", a sort of cosy well-being, has been a big feature in lifestyle pages over the past year. But have you heard of Trygve (pronounced "trig-veh")? It means "safe and secure" and is a new digital tool from Sweden – a cross between a forum, incident mapping tool and a neighbourhood watch, with the emphasis on helping make neighbourhoods and individuals safer by giving people a ready way to collaborate.

Richard Brown, our Membership Secretary, is taken with the idea and writes: "Over 2000 Swedish communities, including local police, community groups, private users and the Swedish Neighbourhood Watch, are using it successfully. It can be used by small groups – say, a street, postcode, stair or block – or cover larger areas. It will never replace people speaking to each other but I think it will be very useful."

Trygve made a presentation to the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland AGM and pilot areas are being set up locally. We look forward to seeing if it could be useful in the Grange area. To learn more about it, visit trygve.co.uk.



iQ Fire & Security
Intelligent Protection

Protecting Edinburgh, Lothian's and throughout the UK



Fire & Security Solutions For Home & Business
0131 662 0060

 Intruder Alarms	 Access Control	 24/7 Monitoring
 Fire Alarms	 CCTV	 Key Holding Services

iQ Fire & Security 95-97 St Leonard's St, Edinburgh EH8 9QY
Tel: 0131 662 0060
Email: info@theiqcompany.com • Web: www.theiqcompany.com




**1 Grange Loan,
EH9 2NP.
0131 667 0397**

vinowines.co.uk

Weekly Wine Tasting Friday and Saturday 4-8pm

Monthly Beer Club First Tuesday of the month

Exclusive Grange Association Case Offers



Free Edinburgh Delivery

PROFILE

KIM CROSBIE, environmentalist and conservationist, has gone a long way since her childhood in the Grange and was awarded the 2016 Polar Medal for her work in the Arctic and Antarctic regions. Jenny Dawe visited her last month.

PHOTOGRAPHS: STEVE COX



Kim at home (above) and off for a walk with Worsley in the Hermitage (right)

In Pole Position

What do albatrosses and walrus have in common? “They’re my two favourite animals. The albatross for the south and the walrus for the north,” says Kim Crosbie, 2016 winner of the prestigious Polar Medal. She muses: “I want to come back as an albatross.”

Modest about her achievements, at home between trips in her comfortable terraced abode near the Hermitage, Kim told me about her adventurous life in the polar regions.

It all began in the Grange, as so many interesting lives do. Born in 1968 to Sandy and Nicola, both geographers, Kim lived in South Lauder Road until she left for her first degree at Aberdeen University. Schooled at St Margaret’s, Kim had “a great childhood” with her brother and two sisters. She extols the virtues of the Grange: “It was a fantastic place to grow up. I was privileged to live in such a leafy area.”

Favourite childhood memories are of holidays spent on the west coast of Scotland, mainly Argyll. “I’ve travelled a lot but the west coast of Scotland is world class. It’s one of my favourite places. I think my love of cold places and islands has stemmed from these wonderful holidays as a child, mucking around in wellies in the cold and wet.” Always keen to share her enthusiasm with others, Kim adds, “I’m delighted that my sister’s three children, with whom I’ve been boating and wild camping on the west coast, are growing up enjoying the outdoors world.”

Kim describes a streak in her that is “very loyal to places”. She lived in Grange Terrace for 15 years in a flat bought with her sister. Now, she lives not too far from the Grange with a garden for her dog, Worsley. When their work commitments permit, Kim also shares life with her German sea captain partner, whom she met in the Antarctic in 1994. Worsley, by the way, is named after Frank Worsley, best known as captain of *Endurance* on Shackleton’s 1914-17 Antarctic expedition and with Shackleton on his last 1921-22 Antarctic expedition.

Although it is hard to imagine Kim in a different line of work, she could have been directing where and when your next holiday flight lands. Graduating with an MA in Geography, Kim was unsure about what she wanted to do. “In a choice between Air Traffic Control and a poster advertising places at the Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI), Cambridge, I went for SPRI.” Thus began a career in polar regions.

Kim gained an M.Phil. in 1991 for her dissertation on environmental protection in the Canadian Arctic. She says: “It was a particularly interesting time to be involved with Arctic affairs because of the Nunavut land claim negotiations.” The 1993 Nunavut Land Claim Agreement gave the Inuit of the central and eastern Northwest Territories a separate territory of Nunavut. For someone whose career became so centred on the interaction between humans and the polar environments, the attraction is clear.

Her M.Phil. completed, Kim was not sure what to do next. She joined the SPRI’s Antarctic programme, spending three seasons, two of them as leader, at a small temporary field camp on Cuverville Island, researching wildlife/human interactions. The conditions were basic – tents and three garden sheds serving as kitchen, store hut and work hut. Communications with the outside world were *via* VHF radio.

A five year study of the impact of passenger operations in the maritime Antarctic culminated in her thesis, *Monitoring and management of tourist landing sites in the Maritime Antarctic*, and the award of a Ph.D. in 1998 from St Catherine’s College, Cambridge.

After completing her studies, Kim worked full-time leading expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic, mainly on cruise vessels. In 2005, she joined the International Association of Antarctica Tour Operators (IAATO) as Environmental Manager, then as Operations Director. She became Executive Director in 2013. IAATO, founded to promote

PROFILE

safe and environmentally responsible private-sector travel to the Antarctic, currently has about 120 member organisations. The Association has issued guidelines on a range of issues including limiting numbers of passengers allowed ashore at one time, boot-washing to prevent introduction of non-native species, garbage policy, emergency evacuation, and wildlife watching. Kim points out: “Fortunately, I can work from home not IAATO HQ in Newport, Rhode Island. This allows me to maintain some sort of work-life balance between travels.”

What did Kim’s family think of her involvement in polar regions? “They were thrilled because they knew the excitement of exploring new areas.” She adds, tongue-in-cheek, “Well, they were thrilled till I came back with 3,000 photos! It was suggested to me that perhaps it was best to show them in small numbers at a time.”

Kim’s enthusiasm for cold remote places, Antarctica in particular, shines through her conversation. Antarctica was designated “a natural reserve devoted to peace and science” by the Antarctic Treaty, in force in 1961. Kim describes Antarctica with great passion. “It’s like stepping into another world. There is nowhere else you can go ashore where the wildlife hasn’t learned to be afraid of humans. It’s the largest wilderness area on earth and the fact that access is during a short 4 month season adds to the mysticism of the place. It remains difficult to get to and, when you do, there are these wonderful, beautiful views. It’s like pushing through the wardrobe into Narnia – a magical land.” Such magnificence has hidden dangers. Kim explains: “Incredibly strong katabatic winds, which flow down mountains, can come out of nowhere to blast you. You need always to keep a wary eye on the landscape around you.”

Human contact makes the Arctic very different to Antarctica. Until a few years ago, Kim was going to the Arctic each summer. “Politically, the Arctic is more difficult. There are cultural aspects to consider and the animals have had predators that make them much more wary.” But not all animals are scared of humans, as Kim narrates: “Polar bears are not afraid of humans. That can make them dangerous. I’ve been chased off a few beaches by polar bears. When going ashore, we always check to see if there are any around and, if so, we leave. But they’re very sneaky at hiding or sleeping behind rocks and are surprisingly difficult to spot. They also move incredibly fast.”

Kim loves her work in a way most people would envy. Some aspects have been unusual. For example, during the making of the film *Shackleton* about the 1914 Antarctic

expedition, with Kenneth Branagh as the eponymous hero, Kim was in Greenland making sure that safety was not compromised during boat work. She also drove the film crew around.

Kim worries about the impact of the rising temperatures of climate change on polar environments. “In the Antarctic,” Kim explains, “more open water and less sea ice has affected three types of brush-tail penguins - Chinstrap, Adélie and Gentoos. There has been a massive increase in numbers of Gentoos because they prefer warmer conditions and are open water feeders. There has been a massive crash in Adélie numbers because they are unable to feed where they could previously and have to follow the decreasing sea ice. Chinstrap numbers are also diminishing.”



Kim’s Polar Medal, showing the obverse side with Scott’s ship, ‘RRS Discovery’ and a sledging party

Where Kim has been able to have an influence is on minimising the impact of humans on the ecosystem. The answer, she believes, lies mainly in education. Visitors and guides need to understand the environment and the potential for damage. Drones are a recent hazard. Recreational use of drones has been banned from Antarctica. “Yes, they’re great for getting amazing photos but the disruption can be terrible, so now we have professional footage available for tourists.”

Kim identifies one of the best things about her job as “The people I work with, who are dedicated to the place. Teamwork is vital and we have to trust each other. Tour operators compete in the market place but they do not compete in the field. Everyone is passionate about what they do.”

Wider recognition of Kim’s work came with the award of the 2016 Polar Medal for outstanding achievement and service in Antarctic and Arctic polar research as an environmental scientist and conservationist specialising in wildlife/human interactions, visitor management, education and outreach. She follows in illustrious footsteps – Captain Robert Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton and Sir Edmund Hillary. Instituted in 1904 as a successor to the earlier Arctic Medal, the Polar Medal since 1968 has emphasised personal achievement. Kim is “slightly embarrassed” by the award, which she feels she doesn’t really deserve, but there is no doubt that her work is helping to minimise the impact of humans on the polar environment.

Kim ends by saying that she is good at compartmentalising her life. When she comes back to Edinburgh, she is happy to visit the supermarket, read newspapers and go to coffee shops, like anyone else. But I suspect her heart belongs firmly in the magical beauty of the frozen lands, to which she continues to devote her working life.

LOCAL MATTERS - TREES/MAX BORN

Tree time

Peter Pitkin is our new “tree adviser”. Here, he comments on what he has noted so far.

As many residents will know, there is a requirement in the conservation area for work on any tree having a trunk of more than 3 inches diameter at 1.5m above ground level to be notified in advance to Edinburgh City Council. ‘Work’, of course, includes felling. Notifications are published on-line along with planning applications, and the public has the opportunity to comment. The council has six weeks in which to respond - otherwise the work can proceed.

Since I took on the job of tree monitor for the Grange Association in July, around 30 proposals have been notified - roughly a third of them for removing trees, and two thirds for cutting back or trimming. I have looked at about 25 of these and submitted comments on two. In addition, there have been two proposals involving trees that are specifically protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs), one of which I commented on for the Association.

Here are a few general observations based on the cases I’ve seen:

- Most ‘tree work’ notified is undertaken by contractors. Most contractors notify the council on

behalf of owners. The information they provide varies from detailed and precise to ill-informed and sketchy.

- Most of the work proposed, nevertheless, is entirely reasonable. Many trees in the Grange are too big for the gardens in which they were planted. They often block out the light and sometimes directly interfere with buildings.
- There are many self-sown trees and shrubs (particularly sycamore, ash and elder). Once they reach any size these can detract from the amenity of the area.
- Trees being removed are, for the most part, scrappy, moribund, and either overcrowded or overgrowing. Few are mature or conspicuous and, when they are, there are generally concerns about their health or safety. Sadly, trees don’t live for ever.
- Some of the largest and characteristic trees in the Grange are limes. Many have been badly cut back in the past but they show a remarkable capacity for recovering their shape if they’re treated sensitively.

Trees are a delightful feature of the area. The Association has no formal responsibility for policing the regulations – its aim has always been to encourage people to appreciate trees, to care for them properly and to plant new (and interesting) ones in places where they will flourish, so adding to the delight.

Born again

Readers may remember the article in our Autumn 2015 newsletter (No. 113) about the life of a famous previous resident of 84 Grange Loan. The article ended with the current resident suggesting that it might be appropriate to have a plaque put up on the building to honour



Max Born with Gustav Born in the garden of 84 Grange Loan around 1942.

Nobel Prize winner Max Born’s 18 year sojourn there from 1936 to 1954.

The Grange Association followed up this suggestion to apply for a blue plaque but was unsuccessful. So, we were delighted to be asked by Edinburgh University to support their application for a plaque.

On 1st December 2016, the Principal of Edinburgh University unveiled the plaque.



Max Born’s grandson, Sebastian (photo above), attended the ceremony with his wife, Sue, and read a speech from his father Gustav, now 95. In his speech, Gustav, seen with his father in the photo left, reminisced on life in Grange Loan in the 1930s and 1940s, meeting other famous scientists and listening to music recitals in the drawing room.

Kenneth and Lesley Combes, who now live in the house, were very welcoming hosts and are delighted to have the plaque on their home.

If you know of any houses in our area with noteworthy previous inhabitants, we’d like to hear about them. Please let us know by email to liaison@grangeassociation.com

Sue Tritton

Photos above by Richard Brown

NATURE NOTES/PLANNING ADVICE

On Golden Pond

At the end of September we had a rare feathered visitor to the area, first spotted by my wife Ellen. A mandarin drake appeared on Blackford Pond causing quite a stir among local birding buffs and twitchers, and visitors from outside the district began to appear beside the pond with their cameras and zoom lenses to record the event. These beautiful exotic ducks from China and Japan, were first introduced into the UK



Male Mandarin Duck

by private collectors in the 18th century. In the 1930's escapees from a collection in Surrey formed wild flocks which still thrive today. As far as I know, there have only been two officially confirmed

sightings in Edinburgh in the past twenty years, both on Duddingston Loch. Mandarins do not have lifelong partners, although in China Mandarin ducks are considered to be a symbol of fidelity. The drake appeared quite contented paddling along with a flotilla of mallards and tuffies waiting for the bread delivery from mums with toddlers. Mandarins nest in trees wherever they can find holes and cavities but competition from jackdaws and squirrels for nest sites have

limited the mandarin's population expansion in the UK. In the Hermitage and Blackford, it's the Jackdaws that rule the roost. They operate in mobs and can be very aggressive in attacking dogs in the woods during the breeding season. They also launch aerial attacks on kestrels above the hill when those little falcons are hunting for their vole suppers at the close of day.

A kingfisher was spotted and photographed on the pond on the 20th November and was seen to perch and dive into the water. I have seen kingfishers on the Braidburn a couple of times but never on the pond. Perhaps they are on the increase here with the advent of milder Scottish winters.



Common Kingfisher

The rats are also much in evidence at the east end of the pond during the late afternoon, claiming their bread rations after well meaning but ill informed visitors have dumped tons of sliced, white, Mother's Pride onto the grassy banks. The ducks, swans and seagulls have had their fill and there is always plenty left for Ratty and Co. In my young day my Ma made good use of stale bread by making Bread and Butter Pudding by adding eggs, milk, sultanas, freshly ground nutmeg and cinnamon. Perhaps this delicious inexpensive recipe could be posted at the park gate for visitors to read and send them homeward taе think again.

Tom Breheny

What if my neighbour's extension/alteration plans affect me?

If you are aware that your neighbours have applied for planning permission, you can check the application on the Council website <http://edinburgh.gov.uk/planning>, at the Planning Department at Waverley Court, or contact the enquiry desk at 0131 529 3550 (9:00 - 13:00 Mon – Fri).

Most of our houses were built in the 19th century, so some changes are inevitable. Some changes that look stark and unpleasant on plans turn out to be acceptable.

A few minor changes can be made as "Permitted Development Rights" but most alterations or extensions within the conservation area will require formal planning permission from the Council. Immediate neighbours will get formal notification from the Council but you can also check on the Edinburgh Council website. When assessing the plans, remember to take into account the effect the development may have on the area as a whole, not just the impact on your own property. The Council's Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal summarises the characteristics of the area and the features we wish to protect.

We recommend checking Council policies on alterations and extensions before you put in a complaint. It is worth checking the Grange Association website since we may have put in an objection you could use as a template. You can lodge a "comment" on any planning application provided it is received before the deadline, approximately three weeks after receipt of the application. A comment can be in

favour of a development, object to it or be neutral. To be effective, an objection should show how the plans would contravene the planning policies or planning guidelines, although the latter will carry less weight. Comments can be submitted on-line or by letter and must include your name, address and telephone number.

If there are no more than six objections, the decision is delegated to a planning officer. If there are more than six, the plans are put to the Development Management Subcommittee of the Planning Committee with a recommendation from the planning officer. Any objection from the Grange Association only counts as a single objection so it is important that all residents who would be adversely affected write to the Council.

Planning issues can cause serious conflict between neighbours and we would recommend talking face to face with neighbours before objecting to their plans. Sometimes minor changes to the plans can leave both sides happy. Remember an objection to the Council will become public.

The planning section of the Grange Association website, <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/planning-2>, gives further information and links to Council policies, guidance documents, the Character Appraisal and the Government paper on Permitted Development Rights.

If you have any queries about planning matters, contact us at planning@grangeassociation.com.

Roger Kellett

PLANNING UPDATE

At 4 Blackford Road the application for a modern extension was replaced by more traditional plans. This application was granted. At 3B Chalmers Crescent, plans were put forward for an extension to improve access to the upper floor. Modified to include a timber door, rather than aluminium, and stone quoins and lintel, instead of reconstituted stone, this was granted.

The proposed rebuilding of the upper floor of 9 Relugas Road, mentioned in the last newsletter, is still awaiting a decision from the Council. Meanwhile the owner has started construction of buildings within his garden which, as yet, appear to be unauthorized. This has been reported to enforcement. We depend on the planning system to protect our area and would urge all owners to abide by the rules, however tiresome it appears.

We reported in the last newsletter the plans to convert a garage in Whitehouse Terrace into an annexe to 9 Blackford Road. Despite changes, we still feel that the proposal would be undesirably small as habitable

accommodation and have continued to oppose it.

13 Tantallon Place is a listed building. The owner applied to fill a gap between his house and his garage with a redwood-clad extension. This appeared to us to be inappropriate but the application was granted because of the inconspicuous location of the extension.

Having lost two appeals to the Scottish Ministers, the owner of 20 Mansionhouse Road has requested a certificate of lawfulness to say that artificial grass should not be subject to planning regulations. We consider that artificial grass would have an adverse effect on biodiversity and is not in the spirit of the Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal, the document we helped to produce which outlines the important aspects of our area that should be protected. This application is not one on which residents can comment. It will be decided by the Council. Nevertheless, the Grange Association has made its opinion known.

Roger Kellett

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING CONSENT, September - December 2016

The following applications were granted:

72 Findhorn Place. Replace window with kitchen door.

5 Metres North of 3 Oswald Road. Installation of a BT broadband cabinet.

Flat 5, 7 South Oswald Road. Replacement windows.

4 Mortonhall Road. Internal alterations.

12 Cumin Place. Rear sliding door.

23A Dick Place. Lower small section of front wall.

1, 121 Grange Loan. uPVC window to storeroom at rear.

21 Grange Road. Change rear door to double-glazed timber window.

§ 4 Blackford Road. 2 Storey extension and internal alterations.

§ 17 Findhorn Place. Attic conversion – varied by removing one of two dormers.

11 – 15 Kittles Yard. Change use to doctor's surgery.

§ *3B Chalmers Crescent. Side extension with aluminium windows and reconstituted stone lintels.

47A Grange Road. Alterations to rear outshoot.

GF 18 Strathearn Road. Garden shed.

9A Palmerston Road. New gas pipe.

§ 36 Mansionhouse Road. New side gate and wider paths.

1F1 3 Grange Road. Replacement timber double-glazed windows at rear.

GF2 1 Sciennes Hill Place. Replace rear window with door.

*** 13 Tantallon Place.** Replacement storage building clad in timber.

36 St Alban's Road. Single storey extension at rear.

*** 17 St Thomas Road.** Garage. Old vehicle entrance to be filled and new entrance of same size.

141 Grange Loan. Extension to side of house.

The following was given a mixed decision:

33 Canaan Lane. New window and door allowed.

Widening of vehicle entrance refused.

The following was refused:

15 St Catherine's Place. Replacement windows, replace garden shed.

The following were reported to enforcement:

*** 9 Relugas Road.** Unauthorised construction within the garden.

The following were still pending in December:

§ *9 Relugas Road. Rebuild and extend first floor.

§ * 9 Blackford Road - Garage 12m East of 1 Whitehouse Terrace. Extend and convert existing garage into annexe accommodation for 9 Blackford Road.

19 Dick Place. Variation making width of new rear bifold doors 1 metre less.

20 Mansionhouse Road. Application for lawfulness of artificial grass.

The Priory, 37 Canaan Lane. Alter boundary wall to improve disabled access.

** Signifies that a comment or an objection was lodged by the Grange Association*

§ These applications were modified after the plans first appeared.

GARDENS/CONTACTS

Guilty pleasure?

For some gardeners winter is the time for well-earned relaxation by the fire with a pile of seed catalogues and maybe a glass of a home-made cordial. In my case it is a time for guilty reflection on all the jobs I have not yet caught up with. Nevertheless, gardening is certainly about planning for the future, so with that in mind, I am thinking about the gardens to visit and the meetings and talks we might run in the coming season. The aim will be to have some sort of event most months. Please get in touch if you have any suggestions for this.

We had our last meeting at my house in October for our annual seed and plant exchange. There was a lot of material on offer and plenty of takers too, so thanks to all who participated. This was also the occasion when Alison Bramley handed over the administration of the garden exchange to me after 5 successful years, so long may her garden flourish!

A theme that emerged at the meeting was that, although we enjoyed our visits to "show" gardens, we also appreciate a peep at what our friends and neighbours are growing, on the strict understanding that we are not expecting perfection but a chance to share our triumphs

and disasters and take advantage of the horticultural expertise of the group. You don't have to be an expert or have a large garden to join us. Lots of members are happy to share their knowledge of local conditions and often their plants and seeds. That reminds me to commend the efforts of the volunteers who keep the street trees in St Alban's Road and West Relugas Road underplanted with a selection of flowers. If you have any suitable small plants to contribute to this, please let me know.

I notice that there are some interesting winter lectures being run by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society at the Botanic Gardens. These are available to non-members of the RCS on payment of a small donation. Two topics that caught my eye are "The conservation of historic rhododendron gardens" on 7 February and "Irises" on 21 February both at 19.30.

Edythe Murie

To join the Grange Garden Exchange group and to hear about future activities write to gardens@grangeassociation.com or phone Edythe Murie 466 1520

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



Extension of the 20mph area: An extension of the 20mph zone into more streets in our area is planned for early 2017. We have been in touch with the Council who have assured us that several poles and signs indicating entry and exit 20mph signs will be removed when this happens, even although a few new signs will be required.

VIEWPOINT joy in later years

Kilravock House
Retirement Living - Oswald Road

Marian House
Care Home - Oswald Road

St Raphael's
Care Home - South Oswald Road

Craft Café
in partnership with Impact Arts

find out more
0131 668 4247
viewpoint.org.uk



USEFUL CONTACTS

MP for Edinburgh South: Ian Murray

Tel: 0131 662 4520

Email ian@ianmurraymp.co.uk

Office: 31 Minto Street, Edinburgh EH9 2TB

MSP for Edinburgh Southern: Daniel Johnson

Tel: 0131 541 2145

Email contact@danieljohnson.org.uk

Councillors for Southside/Newington and Meadows/Morningside: all at City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ; telephone 200 2000; and email at first.name.surname@edinburgh.gov.uk

Southside/Newington Meadows/Morningside

Steve Burgess

Paul Godzik

Jim Orr

Sandy Howat

Ian Perry

Melanie Main

Cameron Rose

Mark McInnes

EVENTS for 2017

Grange Fair 2017

In the absence of anyone to take the lead in organising it, it looks likely that there will be no Grange Fair this year. The previous organiser and committee are still available to help anyone who feels they could take on this very rewarding position.

Newington Library: The saga of the (new) air-conditioning system continues and local residents are still being disturbed by it operating at unsocial hours. We continue to support the residents in their efforts to resolve this problem.

Small Ads

Fiona Hastie - Self-employed Mobile/Freelance Hairdresser - Hairdressing in your own home by Jenners trained stylist with many years' experience in traditional hairdressing. For an appointment to suit, please call mobile 07932 763522; home 0131 447 1968; or email fionahastie@me.com

Do you have a local service to offer? You can have a "small ad" here for just £25 and reach over 3,000 households in the area. Contact Joan Forehand (details on front inside cover).

W BREMNER ROOFING

- Family run business for more than 25 years
- Free no obligation quotes
- From small roof repairs to complete renewals
- Slating
- Built-up felt roofing
- Lead and zinc work
- Rhones installed, repaired and cleaned
- Chimneys, cement work and harling



Roofing Contractors to the Church of Scotland

Tel: 0131 667 4594 | Mobile: 0797 1713855

Domestic & Commercial Roofing Contractor,
7 Ladysmith Road, Edinburgh EH9 3EX

Email: wb4roofing@btinternet.com Web: www.wbremner.co.uk

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 1 February: "You Rang, Madam?" - servant life 200 years ago described by **Maureen Kelly**, a Jane Austen enthusiast with a wider interest in the social history of the Regency period. Maureen is Chairman of the Scottish Branch of the Jane Austen Society and President of Wardie Church Guild.

Wednesday 1 March 2017: AGM of Grange Association. All members are invited to the AGM which commences at 19:00. Speaker to be announced later. Our Constitution sets out time-limits on appointments as office-bearers and committee members. No office-bearers are due to retire this year but we would be very pleased to have "new blood" on the committee. The committee meets about every 6 weeks for a few hours, with much other business conducted by e-mail. If you would like to learn more about being a member of the committee, please contact Sue Tritton, Chair, or Adam Rennie, Secretary, for an informal chat.

Grange Association meetings are held in **Butterflies Cafe, Marchmont St. Giles Church.** Coffee, tea and biscuits at 19:00 precede the main talk at 19:30. **NOTE** that the AGM begins at 19:00 preceded by refreshments at 18:30.
EVENTS ORGANISER: Hilary Watkinson (667 6360)
events@grangeassociation.com



The Avenue Store
36 Blackford Avenue
EH9 2PP
0131 668 3274

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS
from 6.30am until 8pm

We Offer a FULL Grocery Range which includes Instore Bakery, Chilled & Frozen Foods, Newspapers & Magazines
PLUS...

A Great Range of Wines, Beers & Spirits at Great Prices!

WE CAN ALSO OFFER YOU FREE HOME DELIVERY

www.avenuestore.co.uk

for details and offers