



# The Grange Newsletter

Grange Association

September 2021

ISSUE No. 131



## Doors Open Days at Grange Cemetery

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Read about our plans for gravestone walks and a tree trail

[www.grangeassociation.org](http://www.grangeassociation.org)

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This is the last edition for 2021 and we hope you find something within it to grab your interest.

For the first time, the Grange Association will be participating in Doors Open Days. You can read about what we are planning to do in Grange Cemetery in three articles - an overview of our plans, a more specific description of the Graves Walk and information on the Tree Trail. We also have pieces encouraging participation in Community Councils and leaf clearing; a short article on the late Elizabeth Blackadder; and our usual Gardening Matters and Nature Notes. With restrictions easing, it was possible to interview Peruvian-born Sofia Leonard, our Association President, for a centre-page Profile piece. You can read about how she came to settle in the Grange and her professional career in regional and town planning and the Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning Studies.

*Jenny Dawe, Editor*

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### Cover photo by David Watson:

The main entrance to Grange Cemetery (East Gate at top of Lover's Loan) with the new Council-installed zebra crossing (the first of three for Grange Road), enclosures for trees and one of two new benches.



To advertise in *The Grange Newsletter*, contact Martin Sinclair (667 4250) email: [treasurer@grangeassociation.com](mailto:treasurer@grangeassociation.com)

Newsletter contributions, photographs and feedback are welcome. Send to Jenny Dawe email: [liaison@grangeassociation.com](mailto:liaison@grangeassociation.com)

# HISTORY, HERITAGE & ENVIRONMENT

## Grange Cemetery Doors Open Days 2021

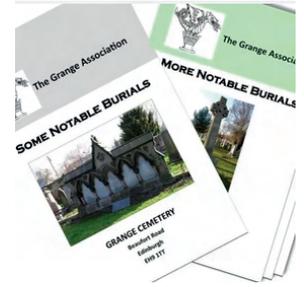
The Grange Association will be taking part in the Doors Open Days events over the last weekend of this month on **Saturday September 25, 13:00-17:00, and Sunday September 26, 11:00-17:00**. Grange Cemetery is always open but, over this weekend, volunteers will be around to tell visitors about some of the work going on. There will be a Gravestone Walk with information posters, a Tree Trail, a War Graves walk, and, if you visit on Sunday morning, you may see some of the Community Payback Order participants restoring smaller fallen stones.

For regular visitors to the Cemetery, you will know that the Council has been keeping the grass well under control this year. In addition, some work has been done by volunteers, coordinated by Sue Tritton and with tools supplied by the Council, removing saplings and invasive weeds growing around gravestones. If left unchecked these can cause damage to the monuments, even dislodging them.

**Tree Trail.** Although not an unusual or spectacular collection, the trees in the Cemetery add a great deal to the general ambience and attract many birds and insects. There will be a Tree Trail for visitors to identify and learn about some of the more interesting specimens in the grounds. You can read more about this in Peter Pitkin's article on page 9 of this newsletter.



**Gravestone Walk.** Our leaflets, *Some Notable Burials* and *More Notable Burials* will be available in their usual holders at the East and West Gates. But there will also be posters placed by 21 gravestones in the Cemetery (some mentioned in the two booklets and some new ones) and a map to guide you to them. The posters will give information on the biography, background and importance of the various "inhabitants" of the graves, researched by Pat Storey and Jenny Dawe. See piece below, continued on next page, for a sampler of what you might discover.



**War Graves.** Initiated by a Grange Association member, Frank Donald, a booklet has been prepared that identifies 22 stones commemorating deceased servicemen. Ten are official war graves, the others are family memorial stones. These graves lie around the perimeter of the Cemetery, so make for an easy stroll.



**Please come along.** If you haven't already seen some of the work being done to make the Cemetery an even more interesting place to visit, then please come along on one of the Doors Open Days. We expect Butterflies Cafe, in the church hall in Kilgraston Road round the corner from the Cemetery, to be open, as will some other local cafes, so you can enjoy the event even more.

**If you want more information or would like to help, please contact us at [cemetery@grangeassociation.com](mailto:cemetery@grangeassociation.com)**

## Grave Walk Marker Notes

**Jenny Dawe and Pat Storey have chosen 21 monuments to highlight on Doors Open Days at Grange Cemetery. It could have been more, or less, but that's the number that fits on a board of Corex for printing!**

In deciding who to include, we tried to choose reasonably accessible stones that would avoid steps and keep mainly to paths. We included some for whom research had already been undertaken for *Some Notable Burials*, though we have added extra interesting material, others that had not been researched in any detail and a "wild card" that tells the story of the restoration of a family monument. It has proved an arduous but really interesting journey into the lives of a wide variety of people - from Ministers to murderers, military men to musicians, architects to authors, supporters of Hearts and of Hibs, and two tragedies - a Titanic victim and an "African slave boy".

Included in the walk is **Colonel Sir George McCrae** (1860-1928). A sad omission from the first booklet, he made an

appearance in *More Notable Burials*. Seek him out and you will learn of a man with an unfortunate start in life who, by sheer determination, became a successful businessman, a Town Councillor, an MP and a senior public servant. But he is best known as the founder of "McCrae's Battalion" in 1914, a volunteer force whose bravery and many losses are commemorated by a memorial cairn in France.

Further south, find **Christian Isobel Johnstone** (1781-1857), a remarkable person, the first woman to be paid editor of a Victorian periodical, and author of popular fiction and non-fiction books and many contributions to magazines.

A surprise, perhaps, is that **Thomas Dick Lauder** (1784-1848), owner of the Grange Estate, was much more than just a wealthy landowner. He wrote learned papers on scientific matters, was author of novels and stories, and an accomplished artist.

The most recent stone noted is that for **Aileen Francis Paterson** (1934-2018) in the Cemetery extension to the west. An artist from childhood and by training, she is the creator of the wonderful Maisie books.

**Cont. overleaf**

# CEMETERY NOTES cont/BOOK REVIEW

**Cont. from p.3**

Perhaps the saddest tale is that behind the simple words on a small stone on the ground: **Tom an African slave boy, died at Edinburgh April 19<sup>th</sup> 1884 aged 13. Redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. Erected by children of Rosehall U.P. Church.** Tom (born c. 1871) was rescued from slavery and brought from the Congo to Scotland by a missionary. The young boy died of bleeding from a stomach ulcer. Still a mystery is the connection with Rosehall United Presbyterian Church. Perhaps a Doors Open visitor may be able to tell us?

Another worthy of note is **David Masson (1822-1907)** who gave up training for the ministry for a literary career, becoming Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature at Edinburgh University. An active supporter of education for women, the University's first hall of residence for female students was named after him.

If murder is more your scene, then visit the grave of **Michael Taylor (1793-1867)** where also lie his wife and daughter, poisoned by Dr Edward Pritchard. Read the story of the murders and a little bit about another murder victim elsewhere in the Cemetery.

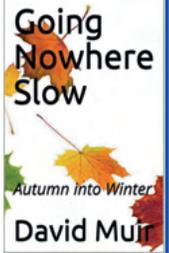
There are many more stories that can be found and you may have some to tell us.

We look forward to welcoming you to Grange Cemetery on the last Saturday and Sunday of this month.

*Jenny Dawe*

## Going Nowhere Slow

I received three books recently with a letter from their author David Muir, a retired science teacher living in the Grange, suggesting I might like to read them and that, if they bored me, I should "feel free to pass them on to someone who irritates you". Well, I have now read the trilogy that goes through the seasons of David's first year of retirement in diary form and I have not felt the need to pass them on to someone who annoys me! Quite the opposite. He covers all manner of things: gardening, beer, bees, birds, knee surgery recovery, trees, Orkney, poisonous plants, fungi, eye conditions, snails, clouds and a myriad other observations about the world around him. There's occasional groan-worthy humour but, if you like "wandering and pondering" as he does, then these books are worth reading. At times, I found the didactic tone of his word derivations and scientific explanations a bit irritating - you can't take the teaching out of a teacher - but, in fact, I learned many useful and quirky things and I began to look forward to the lectures. I now know about diverse matters such as plane contrails as weather predictors, how to sex holly trees and clip-on microscope magnifier lenses for phone cameras. The books are an enjoyable and entertaining read with much about the flora and fauna of the Grange. They can be bought at Amazon UK for Kindle or as paperbacks.

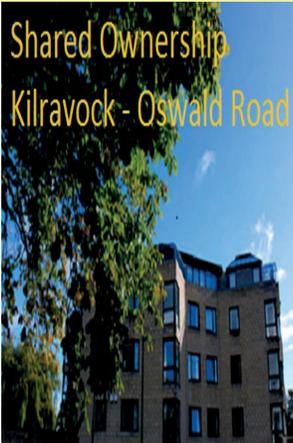


*Jenny Dawe*



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## LOCAL INTEREST



# Our local Community Councils need you



### Representing you in this area

Community Councils (CCs) are important local bodies because they are established by statute and have the right to be consulted on planning and other matters. They act as voices for their local areas, articulating the views and concerns of individuals and groups in their areas and making representations to the Council and other bodies. Whereas the Grange Association (GA) is a residents' group with no statutory basis, the CC meetings are attended by elected officials, including City Councillors, as well as by representatives of the Police and of the Council (e.g. Parks). They can therefore be a very useful forum where local interest groups can come to ensure that they are heard by those who can make a difference and get things done.

The details of how Community Councils work are at: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23674/scheme-for-community-councils>

The Grange Association straddles two CC areas and is represented as a 'Local Interest Group' on each of:

- **Marchmont and Sciennes (MSCC)** (broadly the north and west of the GA area)  
<https://www.facebook.com/MarchmontSciennesCommunityCouncil/>; and
- **Grange Prestonfield (GPCC)** (broadly the south and east of the GA area)  
<https://www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk/>

The CCs provide a conduit for the many local interest groups to access officials. **But the CCs need new people to join and to take on roles**, to ensure that they retain a credible position as representing the local community. For example, people with young families are generally under-represented (understandably, as they have busy lives). But the recent big issues such as Spaces for People and AirBnB regulations affect these members of our community more than any and the CCs would benefit greatly from a broader representation from the wider community.

Anyone from the relevant area can attend CC meetings but each CC has elected members. Elections are held every three years and the next are due in Autumn 2022, although people can be co-opted between elections.

**So please consider joining your CC.** They meet once a month in the evening. You do not need to stand for election. You can just attend as a member of the public to add your views to those present. You can see which CC includes your street by checking the map at: <https://grangeassociation.org/ga-area-ward-and-cc-boundaries-v6/>

The GA's representatives on the CCs are: Nigel Ayton ([chair@grangeassociation.com](mailto:chair@grangeassociation.com)) for MSCC and Sue Tritton ([sue.tritton@grangeassociation.com](mailto:sue.tritton@grangeassociation.com)) for GPCC. Please contact them to discuss or for further information.

*Nigel Ayton*

### Dame Elizabeth Blackadder, artist and printmaker, 1931-2021

One of the Grange's most famous residents died late last month at the age of 89. Elizabeth Blackadder had lived in a large villa in our area since the 1950s with her husband, the artist John Houston, until his death in 2008. She continued to live and paint there.

She taught at Edinburgh College of Art, where she had been a student, from 1962 to 1986. Regarded as one of Scotland's greatest watercolour painters, particularly well-known for her flower, cat and still life works, she was the first woman to be elected to both the Royal Scottish Academy and the Royal Academy. She was appointed Her Majesty's Painter and Limner in Scotland in 2001 and was the recipient of many honorary doctorates. In 2007, Elizabeth Blackadder completed an oil painting commission of Eric Milligan, a previous Edinburgh Lord

Provost; and in 2012 she was presented with the Edinburgh Award for her contribution to the city through her reputation and achievements.

Her works hang in many galleries, including The Tate Gallery, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Our previous editor, Richard Mowe, interviewed the artist in 2013 and she told him: "I don't like talking about my work ... my painting really should speak for itself." Her work will continue to speak to many future generations.

*For more information on Elizabeth Blackadder, see Grange Newsletter, Winter 2013, at*

<https://grangeassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/grangenewsletter105.pdf>



*Photo by Dawn Marie Jones for Grange Newsletter, 2013*

## PROFILE - SOFIA LEONARD



*Sofia at home with her tapestries; with husband John at a 1960s Brasilia conference; in Angkor Wat.*

**Grange Association President, SOFIA LEONARD, tells JENNY DAWE about her interesting life, work and travels around the world.**

What do you associate with Peru? Maybe Machu Picchu, fine coffee, the haunting sound of panpipes, colourful ponchos and blankets, or even, perhaps, a small marmalade-loving bear? Well, here's another item to add to your list: Sofia Leonard, President of the Grange Association since March 2019, Grange resident for 45 years.

Carmen Sofia Giles was born in the attractive Miraflores District of Lima, by the Pacific Ocean, in 1937. Fourth of five children and first of two girls, she describes her lawyer/judge father as "very Victorian, believing boys are boys and girls are girls" and her mother as "the exact opposite, quick to encourage me to study and make the most of myself". To begin with, her father's wishes prevailed. Sofia had excelled at school but her father insisted she go to a finishing school in Lima for young ladies to learn domestic and social skills for their expected future as dutiful wives. Not as awful as it sounds, Sofia reflects: "I did not regret my time there and learned many useful things, including first aid and how to run a home." Her school friends had other ideas for her and were quick to point out that she was wasting her life. It was with relief that, when she broached the subject of higher education with her father again, he now agreed to her going to university. Thus began the journey to a very satisfying professional life, to much international travel and to the Grange. She chose to study in the School of Architecture in Lima. Why architecture? "Two of my friends had done it and said it was a great course, so I decided to do the same. I really enjoyed it." After two years she transferred to Iowa University where a brother was completing his Ph.D. There she graduated B.Arch. in 1962. It was not all plain sailing. Right at the start of her time in Iowa, Sofia encountered a problem. Although she had studied English at school, Spanish was her first language and she was unprepared for her inability to understand American speech. "So much so," she tells me, "that I went to a lecture, where the only two words I could grasp were 'Robinson Crusoe'. It turned

out it was an economics lecture looking at one person on an island." Fortunately, the linguistic confusion did not matter in architecture classes with drawing not requiring translation. She developed an ear for American English well enough to complete her three years at Iowa on a difficult course with only seven people graduating from the hundred starting the course.

From Iowa, Sofia returned to Lima to study for a Masters in City Planning. For the second of the two years she got a scholarship to Yale University, graduating with her Masters degree in 1965. At Yale she was very struck by the wide division of wealth: "In Peru there are socio-economic divisions, the same as elsewhere, but at Yale I met the super-wealthy. One of the boys in my class invited everyone to an exhibition of Turner paintings. It turned out his father owned the whole collection and the Gallery building as well!" She was very impressed by Yale's Art and Architecture Building, recently opened. Though the outside of Paul Rudolph's massive "Brutalist" building of concrete blocks was not universally applauded, Sofia found it "a fantastic, inspirational place for future architects with a void space at its heart surrounded by platforms for individual student studios". The most life-changing aspect of her Yale experience was that she met John Burford Leonard, a UK architect with a French Literature degree and fluent Spanish, who was in the first year of the same course. Not even friends at first, they got to know each other when most of the other students went away on vacation. Sofia's intention had always been to spend her life in Peru but she got engaged to John before she left for home at the end of her course, starting a happy 52 year partnership that took them to many countries before John sadly died in 2018. She describes John as a very romantic man, who gave her a Tiffany's ring at the top of the Empire State Building and kept a list of where they spent every wedding anniversary.

On Sofia's return to Peru, she worked at the National Planning Office of Peru on a variety of projects, including the Master Plan

# PROFILE - SOFIA LEONARD

for the mining town of Cerro de Pasco, high in the Andes, the first New Town approved for Peru. She and John got married in Lima in 1966 and spent three productive years working there. They had good jobs and a comfortable life, with first son, John Humbert Mapletoft, born in 1968. The coup against President Belaúnde's government led to a less pleasant environment, so the family moved to Edinburgh in 1969 with John taking up a post as Lecturer in the Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning at Edinburgh University.

They lived for the next four years in Dean Village in an architect-restored cottage. Sofia worked part-time for the private planning/architecture company, Percy Johnson-Marshall & Associates, that specialised in master plans for cities around the world. Percy Johnson-Marshall was Edinburgh's first professor of Urban Design and Regional Planning, a very esteemed man. With two young children, Rebeca (Spanish spelling) having been born in 1970, Sofia appreciated her flexible working hours. By 1973, however, her work did not compensate for her gloom about life in Scotland: "It was so cold and miserable and the darkness in winter was so depressing." Thus, they moved to Brazil, with John on secondment from his Edinburgh University post. They stayed three years' with Anthony born in 1974. Sofia's tapestry skills, developed while awaiting Anthony's birth in Rio de Janeiro, continue to brighten her home (photo on right on opposite page).

With two of the children of school age, Sofia felt able to countenance coping with Edinburgh again. The family returned in 1975 and she began to enjoy life in Scotland when they moved into the beautifully proportioned rooms of the home in which she still lives in the Grange. "I fell in love with the area south of the Meadows, gently sloping to face the sun in the mornings." She still gets pleasure from facing the sun with her morning coffee in the sitting room with its large double-aspect windows. On a practical level, their new home was convenient for their work at the University, John as a lecturer and Sofia with Percy Johnson-Marshall.

Wanting to learn more about Edinburgh's architectural heritage, Sofia attained a Diploma in Architectural Conservation from Heriot-Watt University in 1979. Her work with Percy Johnson-Marshall continued and she still takes pride that she was a member of the international team that developed the Regional Plan for Porto, Portugal – a Plan adopted by the Portuguese Government and now largely implemented.

The final chapter of Sofia's working life involved Patrick Geddes (1854-1932), the Scottish polymath, innovative town planner, educationalist and environmentalist. First learning of him in 1963 as a student in Lima, he was described as a remarkable "English Professor". She was soon disabused of that idea in Edinburgh but found Geddes was better known overseas than in his birthplace of Scotland. She did not envisage as a young student that she would become so immersed in his work that she would spend 1989-98 on the huge task of cataloguing the Geddes Collection at the Outlook Tower in Edinburgh and that she would be Acting Director and then Director from 2010-13 of Edinburgh University's Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning

Studies, succeeding Percy Johnson-Marshall. She did not imagine that she would write book chapters about Geddes; and produce *The Patrick Geddes Heritage Trail*, a leaflet on a mile-long walk in the area where Geddes developed his "Conservative Surgery" method of urban regeneration, retaining the old where possible but recognising that a city constantly evolves. She never thought she would compete with the Dalai Lama in the adjoining lecture room at the Delhi Institute yet manage to address "a room filled to the rafters with students and planning professionals eager to hear about the 'Father of Town Planning'; and would attempt to follow in Geddes's giant footsteps on four trips to India. This was a very satisfying period of work for Sofia. Even in retirement, she kept up the Geddes connection on The Sir Patrick Geddes Memorial Trust and her planning interests as an elected member of the Cockburn Association Council and the International Society of City and Regional Planners.

Her own and John's work took them to many places. A reminder of a year in Burma/Myanmar is her beautiful tapestry of a Burmese woman (photo on opposite page). She recalls a visit to Patiala in the Punjab, bearing a copy of Geddes's Plan for Patiala, and the Maharajah's amazing hospitality. Acknowledgement of Sofia's impact on Jadavpur University, Kolkata, is noted in the credit she is given in the setting up of their Centre for Human Settlement Planning which "was first mooted during the visit to our campus by Sofia Leonard, Director of the Patrick Geddes Centre of Planning Studies, Edinburgh".

The Grange has benefited from Sofia's knowledge. Many people will remember her as Chair of our Association for four years (1988-90 and 2009-11) and that she was integral to the Grange achieving Conservation Area status in 1983, one of the first Victorian areas in Edinburgh to be given protection against developments that do not conserve or enhance the character of the area. Her involvement in producing *The Grange – A Case for Conservation* (1982) stemmed from her Heriot-Watt essays on the area and her awareness that the community needed to be involved through surveys and a public exhibition. Sofia is keen to acknowledge the support and encouragement she had from Dr Hale, Chair of the East Grange Association. Today, Sofia retains an active role in the Grange Association as President.

Thanks to Covid restrictions, Sofia has missed having family in her home, especially her children (in London, Darlington and Thailand) and five grandchildren – Giulia and Francesca, daughters of son John and his Italian wife; and Inga, Britt and Magnus, children of Anthony and his Orcadian wife. Travel plans have been disrupted and she is still upset that she could not get to the USA to see her 90-year-old brother when he broke his leg. With restrictions easing, she was looking forward to an imminent visit from her sister in America.

I left Sofia's very tidy and organised home, with its great array of paintings - some by John's mother, photographs and artefacts, enormously impressed by her remarkable education, training, professional career, creativity, knitting (a "lockdown" sweater), artistic talent and her contribution to our area – and by the delicious Tarta de Santiago she had baked for the occasion of the interview! Lima's loss has certainly been the Grange's gain.

# NATURE NOTES from Tom Breheny

## Wildcat stalker in the Grange

In the spring of 2019 a burly white tom cat appeared in the area and was assumed to be a stray because he hadn't been micro-chipped and wore no collar. A local woman with two young children and two cats of her own was concerned about the cat's aggressive behaviour and invasion of her home. One of her cats had already been attacked and injured by the unwelcome intruder. A good Samaritan living on Blackford Avenue was keen to help out and managed to catch the tom cat in a blanket and take him round to the local vet in an attempt to trace the owner. The vet recognised the troublesome fugitive and said she had already contacted the cat's owner due to a previous complaint by another neighbour. The tomcat's owner had refused the vet's suggestion to have the cat micro-chipped or consider having it neutered to curb its aggressive antisocial behaviour. The vet advised the worried mother with the children to contact the SSPCA to find a solution to what was becoming a serious safety concern due to the lack of responsibility by the white cat's owner.



*Posed by a model for Samson Jay on Pixabay*

There were more attacks. Some days later the cat had returned to the house and gained entrance through an open window, attacking one of the house cats again. In an effort to remove the cat from the premises before more serious injury was done, the householder put on a thick pair of gardening gloves and intervened. The trespasser then turned his full attention onto her and she received deep scratches on both arms and a deep bite to the thumb piercing the thick leather. The wounds were serious and my neighbour was taken to A&E to have them treated. The risk of infection from a cat bite is a cause for concern. At the hospital the thumb was X-rayed and the patient was given a tetanus jab, antibiotics and antivirals. An infected wound next to the nerve can cause permanent damage and loss of use of the thumb.

Following the incident the cat returned to the garden and chased the two children, scratching their legs, and the kids became frightened of playing in the garden. Their mother was also attacked in the kitchen after the tomcat managed to get through an open window. The SSPCA said they were unable to help and advised contacting the Police. The Police told her they were unable to act because of the present law which states that cats have the right to roam and the cops have no authority over the owners if the cat is deemed to be "healthy". Rather ironic considering the

health and safety of our innocent human and feline neighbours. Other cats in our street have also been on the receiving end of these random unpredictable attacks by the miscreant bully boy and he's been responsible for several expensive vets' bills.

There was another unprovoked attack on the mother of the children, this time in the garden from behind and she didn't see the cat approaching. She was wearing shorts and the scratch wounds went deep into her flesh and needed stitches. She returned to the A&E department for further treatment. Later the Police were informed about the second incident and the local GP confirmed that swabs from the wound site showed bacteria linked to an animal bite. Photographic evidence of the wounds was removed from the server for being too graphic and likely to cause distress and a representative from Edinburgh District Council was horrified.

Several weeks later the white cat was seen again close to the garden but outside the boundary fence looking rather more timid than usual. Only time will tell if his altered ego is related to the removal of his testicles by the local vet, much to the relief of our community and our overburdened medical services. We live in hope he will never share his horrendous genes causing more terror and mayhem on this side of the tracks and we can sleep easy in our beds.

Some years ago I became a victim of a canine attack while passing an open gate on Mortonhall Road. I was bitten on the right hand and received a gash which required several stitches. At the hospital I was advised to report the incident to the police, this being normal procedure for a dog bite. I discovered that I was the third person to be bitten by the same black Labrador. One of the other victims was our local postie, who also needed medical treatment for the dog bite. The Lab's owners told the police that their free roaming hound had previously been involved in a road accident and had received a head injury. "Before the accident the dog was friendly and docile."

What astonished me was that the parents of two vulnerable young children were taking such a risk with an unpredictable brain-damaged pet. On the advice of the police, the owners were advised to have the dog put down and they fully supported the decision. There is a Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 - but no such thing as a Dangerous Cat. Perhaps we need an update in our Scottish Justice System?

**Update to Tom's request for Linen Thread in the last Newsletter:** Tom was surprised and absolutely delighted at the response and now says he has enough material for his needs "without being greedy"!

## TREES/LEAF CLEARING

### Cemetery Tree Trail

Over the past year I have spent quite a few hours looking at the trees in the Grange Cemetery. An account of the survey carried out last year is available on the Grange Association's website, and a tree trail, guiding visitors around seventeen of the more interesting trees, should be available in time for the Doors Open event at the end of September.

The older cemeteries in Edinburgh contain many fine trees. I could not claim that the collection in the Grange is by any means the best, but its trees add much to its atmosphere, breaking up its formal layout and providing shade and shelter. It contains more than 180 trees, far fewer than the grounds of the Astley Ainslie hospital. That has around 1600, but on roughly five times the area. The cemetery is certainly the second most important tree site in the conservation area, and it has the advantage that the trees are reasonably well spaced and well grown.

None of the trees appear to be older than the cemetery itself, and it is very likely that the architect, Bryce, didn't expect any to be planted. The older trees, some of which date from the mid-nineteenth century, were certainly not planted on the basis of any plan. Almost all the larger trees have been pollarded in the past, no doubt with the aim of keeping an open landscape and emphasising its formal layout. So for a long time it would have looked very different to the way it does today.

Rather surprisingly only two trees are marked as being planted in memory of the cemetery's occupants, but plaques and labels are easily lost. More than a third of the trees are birches, and it's likely that some of these at least will have been planted for their 'weeping' habit. One, a very tall narrow and weeping specimen close to the north wall, appears to be the variety 'Tristis'. And there are some stately old copper beeches that were very likely planted for their sombre dark purple foliage.

Also perhaps planted with the theme of mortality (or immortality) in mind is a dawn redwood (*Metasequoia*) from China. *Metasequoia* was known for a long time as a fossil, dating back more than 60 million years and believed to be long extinct. In 1941 it was discovered alive, however - growing beside a shrine. There is also one in the Astley Ainslie grounds, perhaps chosen for the same reason.

In all, the cemetery has around 40 species and varieties, of which seventeen can be found growing wild in the UK. Others come from Europe, Asia and North America. There are at least four varieties of sycamore. The obvious gap seems to be South America, so perhaps there needs to be a monkey-puzzle. We can pass on Australia - I don't think a eucalyptus would fit in.

Please try out the tree trail - I'd be delighted to receive comments.

*Peter Pitkin*

### Leaf clearing time again

Every autumn and winter since October 2018, teams and individuals have been out leaf clearing in the Grange to make the area cleaner and safer for everyone. For those new to the area, the Council helps by providing brushes, shovels and black bags for fallen leaves, to be collected by the Council and taken away for compost.

You may have noticed that heavy rain this summer led to blocked gullies unable to cope with the volume of water, resulting in localised flooding. The heavy rain also washed leaves, mud and grit into gullies so more have become blocked. Several residents have been out doing their best to remove debris from gutters and trying to clear blocked gullies - this debris is very heavy but the Council has collected filled black bags. Keeping our gutters and gullies clear will also make autumn leaf clearing somewhat easier. Residents in Blackford Road organised a community clean of all gutters and pavements - those unable to help with the clearing provided refreshments for the workers - a really good community effort.

I keep a list of those involved with this project and send out occasional emails - anyone who has not yet joined, please contact me for further information and details of where to get the equipment.

**Sue Tritton:** [sue.tritton@grangeassociation.com](mailto:sue.tritton@grangeassociation.com)



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# PLANNING UPDATE by Nigel Ayton

Check the planning guidance on our website to see whether you need permission to do work to your home or to lop or fell any tree in the Grange: <https://grangeassociation.org/planning/>

All planning applications and notifications of tree work in the Grange can also be viewed there.

Since the last newsletter, which included applications pending for 25 properties, there have been 34 new applications and 39 decisions for planning and/or listed building consent in the Grange. We lodged comments on 5 of these new applications. Members have contacted us about the large gate installed at the north end of Blackford Avenue with commercial signage. The owner has assured us that this will be removed shortly.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS April - August 2021

### Applications granted:

*§ RHSC Mortuary Chapel 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	Demolition of linking buildings
§ 11 Tantallon Place EH9 1NZ Omicare Pharmacy, 156 Causewayside EH9 1PR Petrol station,	LBC to widen side doorway  Projecting illuminated sign
2-40 Ratcliffe Terrace EH9 1SS 3F2, 60 Ratcliffe Terrace EH9 1ST	Provisional S50 certificate CLP for loft conversion and roof lights
§ 1F 3 Palmerston Road EH9 1TL	LBC for relocated boiler flue to side
19 Chalmers Crescent EH9 1TS	Roof and cladding alterations and new dormers
7 Hatton Place EH9 1UD 47 Grange Road EH9 1UF § 8 Grange Road EH9 1UH	CLP for replacement windows Alterations to garden cottage 3 gates; black doors and windows
42 Grange Road EH9 1UN	Variation: Rooflights, patio doors, CCTV
Weezy, 246 Causewayside EH9 1UU *¶§ GF, 16 Strathearn Rd EH9 2AE	Provisional S50 certificate Kitchen extension to rear (as amended)
§ 2F 18 Strathearn Road EH9 2AE 40 Hope Terrace EH9 2AR 2A Blackford Avenue EH9 2ET § 1 Whitehouse Terrace EH9 2EU	CLE for gas flue Rooflights Replacement boundary wall LBC for lift
§ 2 Oswald Road EH9 2HF § 31 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HN	LBC for French doors to rear LBC to remove press, fireplace and balustrade (as amended)
§ 33 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HN	LBC for internal door, drainage pipes and vent
§ 42 Dick Place EH9 2JB	Garage conversion and accessibility alterations
*¶ § 24 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	Rear GF extension and glazed link to garage (as amended)
§ 18A Dick Place EH9 2JL * 10 Seton Place EH9 2JT § 53C Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH § 17 St Thomas Road EH9 2LR	Variation: Garden room cladding Replace rear extension Side extension and alterations Roofspace conversion and new dormers
60 St Alban's Road EH9 2LX *¶ 60A St Alban's Road EH9 2LX	New path, gates and fence 1F dormer with roof terrace; relocate front door
§ 54 Findhorn Place EH9 2NS 23 Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NX	LBC for parking sign on boundary Solar panels; replacement windows, doors and gatepost
25A Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NX 104A Findhorn Place EH9 2NZ	Garden room Rear extension and alterations

### Applications granted (cont'd):

8 Blackford Avenue EH9 2PH	CLP for rear window
3 Relugas Place EH9 2PY Primary School, 35 Canaan Lane EH10 4SG	Porch to front Variation: relocate bicycle shelters

### Applications refused, withdrawn or being appealed:

* 4B Palmerston Road EH9 1TN	Change of use for short term lets: Withdrawn
*§ 4 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HW *§ 30 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	Garage conversion: Refused New garage with playroom above: Withdrawn
* 9 Relugas Road EH9 2NE	Change of use from railway to private garden. Erect fence: Refused

### Applications pending at 14 August 2021:

*§ RHSC Mortuary Chapel 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF 11 Grange Court EH9 1PX 2E Palmerston Road EH9 1TN § 6B Chalmers Crescent EH9 1TR § 5A Chalmers Crescent EH9 1TW *§ 15 Hatton Place EH9 1UD	Conversion to residential use with public access to murals 1F balcony Garage conversion and extension Orangery LBC for replacement windows Hard-standing at front; Internal alterations; Box bay window to rear
§ 50 Lauder Road EH9 1UE	LBC for garage conversion, resurface drive, reglaze windows
33 Hope Terrace EH9 2AP	Variation: Omit pedestrian gate & stone piers; smaller extensions
* 14-16 Hope Terrace EH9 2AR	Restore NHS site to 2 residential villas and one new house
*¶ 13 Kilgraston Road EH9 2DX	Rear two storey extension (as amended)
26 Grange Crescent EH9 2EH 4 Trotter Haugh EH9 2GZ § Astley Ainslie, 143 Grange Loan EH9 2HL Flat 1, 4A Mortonhall Rd EH9 2HW	New driveway and roof dormers Attic conversion and dormer Fencing behind 145-157 Grange Loan LBC for replacement windows and garden steps
§ GF1, 20 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HW *§ 61 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH	Garden redesign with arbour Convert garage to living space; LBC for internal alterations
Garage, 19 Relugas Lane EH9 2LZ * 34 Blackford Avenue EH9 2PP 9 Blackford Bank EH9 2PR	CLP to enlarge garage Replace house with new dwelling GF extensions to front and rear; garage conversion
31 Canaan Lane EH10 4SX	Timber screens to garden wall; Greenhouse; Reglaze windows

LBC = Listed Building Consent      § = Listed Building  
CLP (CLE) = Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed (Existing)  
GF/1F/2F = Ground Floor/First Floor/Second Floor

S50 = Section 50 buildings compliance for alcohol licence  
\* = Comment or objection submitted by Grange Association  
¶ = Application modified thereafter

# GARDENING/USEFUL CONTACTS

## Gardening matters

### Fashionable plants

There has lately been a fashion for "airy" plants. These are slim upright plants that do not obscure the view behind them. They add an informal look to the border, do not take up much space and many are attractive to pollinators. You have perhaps come across the popular Verbena bonariensis and Ammi majus. Here are two more that I have grown from seed this year.



The darker pink (photo left) is Dianthus carthusianorum. At around 0.5m its wiry stems hold up well and it flowers over a long period. It is evergreen, which is useful if, like me, you tend to dig up wanted plants along with weeds in spring. The other is the wild carrot, Daucus carota (photo on right). It can reach 1m, although mine, in a crowded border, is shorter.

It flowers from June to September. It has a softer look than the Dianthus and is floppier, so may need some staking.

Both of these are hardy and enjoy a sunny position. They would look well with ornamental grasses, but also fit into a more traditional border, adding lightness and contrast and are useful for filling gaps. They will self-seed unless the flowers are dead-headed before the seeds set. I grew both from seed and found them easy to germinate.



That reminds me that in the autumn the Garden Group usually holds a meeting to exchange spare plants and seeds that members have collected. Now that Covid restrictions have been relaxed, I am hoping that this meeting will go ahead and look forward to welcoming you. The date will be circulated to garden group members. Thanks to all the donors and donees of plants this year. It has been a pleasure for me to meet many of you in your gardens and hear about your gardening experiences.

*Edythe Murie*



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**To join the Grange Garden Exchange group and to hear about future activities write to:**  
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 or phone Edythe Murie 07779 763930

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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# EVENTS/Ads

## Grange Association talks, Winter 2021–2022

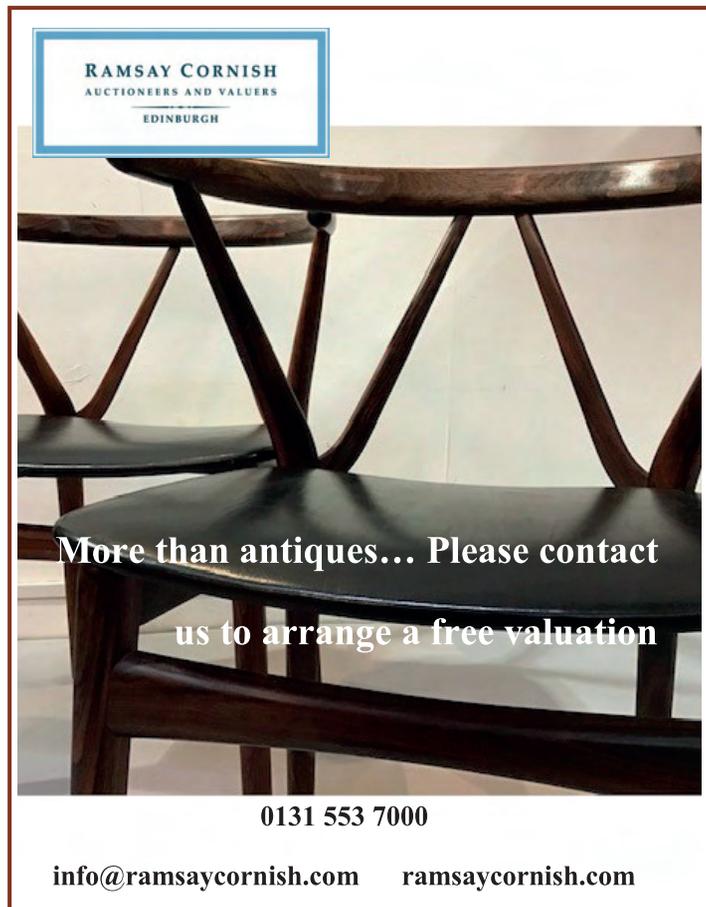
Planning is under way to run the usual series of monthly talks this winter. After a successful season on Zoom last winter, we are hoping to be able to return to in-person events at St Catherine's Argyle church in October (we'll up-date you on the venue nearer the time).

Talks take place on the third Tuesday in every month at 19:30, beginning on Tuesday 19 October, when Stuart McKenzie will recount how some folk songs from St Kilda were saved from oblivion. In November Rab Houston will talk on mental health care in late 19th-century Scotland. And the December meeting will host Brian Bannatyne-Scott describing the life of a professional opera singer. The second half of the programme (January to March) is yet to be finalised.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** (2021) 19 October, 16 November, 14 December; (2022) 18 January, 15 February and 15 March (talk preceded by the AGM). All talks begin at 19:30.

**Check the GA website** <https://grangeassociation.org/events/> for further information on talks and other events.

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