



The Grange Association

Edinburgh

Scottish Charity No. SC025491

THIRTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 13th March 2013 at 7.00 pm
at Marchmont St Giles' Church Hall, Kilgraston Road,
Edinburgh

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Adoption of Thirty-third AGM minutes
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Chair's report
- 6 Honorary Secretary's report.
- 7 Honorary Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts
- 8 Adoption of membership fees for 2014
- 9 Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditor's appointment
- 10 Question time
- 11 Conclusion

(The Hall will be open from 6.30pm to renew membership or join the Association)

**Following the AGM there will be tea/coffee and then a talk by
Alison Kinnaird MBE entitled: 'The Beauty of Glass'**

Minutes of the Grange Association Thirty-third Annual General Meeting

**Held at Marchmont St Giles Church Hall, Kilgraston Road Edinburgh
On Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 7.00pm**

Present: Committee: Derek Lyddon (President), John Graham (Chair), Doreen Allerton (ViceChair), Richard Brown (Treasurer), Sue Tritton (Secretary), Dan Cronin, Margaret Thom, Olga Franks, Sofia Leonard, Judith Reeves, Tony Reeves

Members: Michael and Lily Atiyah, Alastair Keatinge, Caroline McInnes, Ruth Baird, Joanne and Terry Lamb, Hilary Rae, WD Annan, Andrew Bell, Jenny Dawe, Euan Rae, Adam Rennie, Frank McGrail, E&P Wimbush, C&M Ludlam, M Anderson, Tony Franks, Roger Kellett, + several others

Guests: Cllr Steve Burgess, Alastair Philp (Marchmont Sciennes CC), Tony Harris (Craigmillar Park Association)

Apologies: Alison Bramley, Bill and Marion Cantley, Cllr Alison Johnstone
Cllr Marilynne Maclaren, Ian Murray MP, Jim Eadie MSP, Jon Oberlander, Dorothy Ryle

1. **Welcome:** The chair, John Graham, welcomed everyone to the meeting including Councillor Steve Burgess and representatives from Marchmont Sciennes CC and Craigmillar Park Association. He then gave the floor over to Derek Lyddon. Derek gave thanks to Sofia Leonard who has been instrumental in the GA for a long time. She wrote the “Grange – A Case for Conservation” in 1978, which resulted in the Conservation Area. She had also been chair of the committee on two occasions, giving a lot of time and commitment to it.
2. **Apologies:** Given to the secretary
3. **Adoption of Thirty-second AGM minutes:** There were no amendments proposed.
The minutes were adopted by the meeting.
Proposed: Tony Reeves Seconded: Doreen Allerton
4. **Matters arising:** None
5. **Chair’s report:** A report had been circulated and the following points were highlighted.

The chair gave thanks to all for the help and the personal support in his first year; in particular Sofia Leonard for the handover and continuing help when asked. He also thanked John Duffus for his long service to the committee, Judith Reeves who always organized the “Plant Sale” in the recent years and particular thanks were given to Graham Bell for all the work done on planning applications.

6. **Honorary Secretary’s Report:** A report had been circulated and Sue Tritton said she was happy to answer in questions from all the topics mentioned.

7. **Honorary Treasurer; report and adoption of accounts:** The treasurer Richard Brown spoke to the circulated accounts. He had closely looked at the files over the year and discovered those who had paid, those who hadn't and those who thought they had. He stated that the new advertising in the revamped Grange Association newsletter had increased and made it more competitive. There was a significant increase in the membership.

The accounts were adopted by the AGM

Proposed: Dan Cronin Seconded: Tony Reeves

8. **Adoption of membership fees for 2013:** It was agreed that new rate should remain for 5 years. Proposer: Tony Reeves Seconded: Dorothy Allerton

9. **Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditors appointment:** Thanks were given to all retiring elected committee members this year, viz. – Graham Bell, John Duffus. Also thanks given to all the retiring Co-opted members viz. Richard Mowe, Sofia Leonard, Dorothy Ryle, and Judith Reeves.

a. The secretary presented the committee's proposal for the coming year's committee. There were no nominations from the floor and the following were elected to serve for 2012/2013.

b. Chairman: John Graham

Vice chair: Doreen Allerton

Hon Secretary: Sue Tritton

Hon Treasurer: Richard Brown

Proposed: Robbie Bartholomew Seconded: Judith Reeves

c. Ordinary members re-elected to the committee –

Dan Cronin, Margaret Thom, Olga Franks, Alison Bramley, Tony Reeves

New ordinary members elected to the committee –

Adam Rennie, Roger Kellett, and Alastair Keatinge

Proposed: Andy Bell

Seconded: Caroline McInnes

In addition Derek Lyddon was again appointed as Honorary President

d. Ken Robertson was appointed again as Auditor (Independent Examiner)

Proposed: Richard Brown Seconded: Doreen Allerton

10. Question time

a. Andrew Bell asked about the 20mph, how long would the trial be for and how would it be tested? ST asked about the accident rate in cyclists in the area?

Steve Burgess answered it would run for a year and speed tests would be taken randomly in different places but the head of transport would be asked about this. There will be a lot of signage for this, asked if this will stay? It was thought that letters to the locals would help also asking their opinion if they have noticed any difference?

b. Also asked if the Association was aware of the new bus shelters as they appear to be badly placed. The Association did not know about

them previously but will look into them. Feed back to the council was agreed it would be a good idea.

- 11. Conclusion:** Thanks given to all the people who filled in the questionnaire; the people who won the vouchers were – Frank McGrail, Ron Hoskins, Fiona Loftus, Mes Henshall, Avril and Alison.

GA has Alistair Scott's book about Trees - what to plant and maps. There would be a small charge for anyone wishing a copy, which will go towards the Association's funds.

Judith Reeves stated that the coach to look at gardens in Fife in July is now fully booked.

The AGM was formally closed

- 12. Talk by Richard Groom entitled 'Stonework of the Grange':** After a few minutes we listened to this illuminating and interesting talk complete with photographs.

Afterwards there was tea and biscuits and friendly chat about the evening and other items amongst members.

Chair's report to Annual General Meeting

The Grange Association had an active year in 2012. We maintained a membership of over 350, we distributed 3 newsletters to the 3000 households in the area, we considered a steady stream of planning applications and we organised a successful programme of events. Our gardening group had a varied programme of meetings and outings.

In an effort to ensure that we were doing what our members thought we should be doing we sent out a questionnaire with one of our newsletters seeking views on our activities. There were just over 100 responses, and they showed solid support for the key activities of the Association in relation to planning. Around 60 per cent of the responses showed interest in our events, and one or two offered helpful suggestions for speakers. Almost half of the responses showed interest in gardens. The questionnaire also helped us understand how best to communicate with our membership and enabled us to recruit some fresh blood for the committee.

As is reported elsewhere we did not have to consider any major planning applications during the year, and those which caused concern were generally proposed extensions or schemes to pave over front gardens. We took the opportunity to comment on revised planning guidance issued by the city council. Our events programme was varied and generally well attended, with one meeting attracting over 80, and our annual garden outing was fully subscribed. A social event organised in the early summer in the cricket club and the Christmas concert were less well supported and we need to think further about the kind of social events which will appeal to members.

Our financial position remains healthy. We have a number of plans to use the legacy we received some years ago for the benefit of the area, but most of them are proving slow to come to fruition. We have been in touch with the council about assisting with repair work in the Grange Cemetery, and about providing more interpretation in the cemetery to help visitors understand the importance of some of those who are buried there. We are investigating proper recording of the carved wyverns in Grange Loan to assist their preservation in the future. We have agreed with the Carlton cricket club that we will support further tree planting around the cricket ground. We have carried out small scale improvements to the garden at the library in Fountainhall Road. Other ideas on the stocks include providing access to stories about the area on our website and putting together an archive of photographs and other historical material relating to the area.

I am very grateful to the other office bearers and all the members of this year's committee for their hard work and support. A particular word of thanks goes to Tony and Judith Reeves, who have been responsible for the events programme and the annual gardens outing and plant sale for a number of years and have now moved to Haddington. Olga Franks, who is standing down from the committee, was a hard working and committed Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Caroline McInnes has efficiently looked after refreshments at our meetings. Lastly we continue to be very grateful to Richard Mowe, our newsletter editor, for the production of interesting and attractive newsletters which receive regular praise around the area.

John Graham
March 2013

Secretary's Report to 2013 AGM

Traffic and Parking in our area:

We have received some comments that the restrictions introduced in Priority Parking area "B1" do not sufficiently reduce the amount of "free" parking. However, most residents seem happy with this scheme and we have decided, for the present, not to ask for more restricted parking. We note that some streets in CPZ zone "S1" have more 9-hour bays and that these do not cause serious problems for residents. The "20mph limit" trial in the area, which started in March 2012, has met with mixed success. We recognise that the new signage was the minimum possible and appreciate the work of Council officials in ensuring this. The limit has generally been welcomed but there are still too many instances of motorists exceeding the limit. We know that several drivers have received "warning" letters about exceeding 20mph but know of no actual prosecutions. We look forward to the report to CEC at the end of the trial, probably in the autumn.

Astley Ainslie Hospital site:

The closure of the wooden gates at the South Oswald Road entrance has caused problems for many residents using the hospital grounds as a useful route from the Grange to Morningside or Marchmont, especially those using it as a safer route to school. Despite many requests the hospital refuses to allow this entrance to be used by pedestrians. As many of you will know, the Grange Association, in conjunction with the four neighbouring Community Councils, conducted a survey of pedestrian and cycle use of routes through the hospital grounds in June 2012 and I would like to thank all those in who took part in this. The results of the survey have been given to the hospital and to the Council as evidence of the use made of the grounds and we hope that this will help to ensure that the grounds remain accessible to the public when facilities are moved to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Strathearn Road Sorting Office – possible move:

We were alerted to this proposal by a friendly "postie" in late January and immediately circulated the information. We are aware that many residents are very concerned at this proposal; many walk to the present office to collect undelivered mail and would find travelling to a proposed alternative site difficult and inconvenient. Ian Murray, MP has been active in publicizing this and has sent this report:

"I would like to thank the Grange Association and all the rightly concerned local residents who have contacted me regarding the Royal Mail's proposed plans to close the Strathearn Road Delivery Office and relocate the collection service to either the South East Delivery Office at Bridge End, off Old Dalkeith Road or the Slateford Road Delivery Office. The Strathearn Road office serves the EH9 area and is a well used local institution. Following the terrific response I received from my local survey I have made several representations to the Director of Scottish Operations at the Royal Mail to express my concerns about their proposal, in particular the impact this move will have on local elderly and disabled residents who will now have to travel some considerable distance if collecting a package.

I am actively campaigning to keep the Strathearn Road Delivery Office open and will continue to do so until the final decision has been reached by Royal Mail. However one of the key points I raised with the Royal Mail was they must provide adequate alternatives to residents if the office does close. As a result the Royal Mail is guaranteeing a free re-delivery at a time that suits the resident, which can be on weekends as well as during the week. This would hopefully negate the need to collect any parcels from the completely inadequate alternative sites at Bridge End and Slateford. I am also in discussions with the local Sub-Postmaster at Blackford Avenue about providing an alternative location for local collections and I promise to update residents on these points very soon."

Street Signage:

A concern of many in the area is the number of unnecessary poles – particularly those in the “S1” CPZ area. The Carlton Cricket Club has agreed that the signs in Grange Loan outside the grounds can be placed on the wall. We will be pressing the Council to move these signs and remove the poles; we then hope to persuade residents in the area to allow signs to be placed on their wall or fence where possible.

Planning

A consultation process was set up by City of Edinburgh Council on a revision of the guidance documents on planning matters. Up to then the guidance had been spread across over 40 separate documents and there was certainly a case for rationalisation. The Council's declared aim was consolidation, not changes of policy. The three pieces of consolidated guidance of most interest to us are the guidance for householders, the guidance for listed buildings and conservation areas and the guidance on design. The Council's first draft completely omitted the specific guidance for areas of stone-built villas like ours. In response to comments from us and others some was restored in a revised version which went to committee in December and was approved. The draft guidance on design contained disappointingly little about the design of new developments in conservation areas like ours and we have submitted fairly extensive comments. The final version is due in May.

There was a proposal to install a tall telecommunications mast and cabinets at the junction of Lovers Loan and Beaufort Road. The Grange Association was amongst the objectors and this application was refused. The new owner of 12 Mansionhouse Road applied to build a large two storey extension of a non-traditional design. The Grange Association objected to the design and size of the proposal and it was withdrawn only to be replaced by a somewhat smaller extension of similar design. Despite further objections from the Association and neighbours, this plan was approved to our disappointment. A new house was proposed at 12 Hope Terrace, again in a contemporary design and using modern materials. On this site, however, we felt this was broadly acceptable, but the conditions attached to the consent reflected some of our detailed comments. More comments from us were picked up in the consent for the new driveway at 1 Whitehouse Terrace.

We raised no objection to the demolition of the bungalow at 12 St Thomas Road, although we do have concerns about the existing consent for a two-storey house on the site, which we think will affect the amenity of its neighbour at no 10. We were uneasy about the scale of the new garage planned at 21 St Catherine's Place and the application has been refused (the applicants are appealing). There were plans for 2 Sciennes Gardens which included parking for two cars in front of the neighbour's window. We objected and this aspect of the plans was removed. We questioned whether the proposed lighting for the tennis courts in Newbattle Terrace was consistent with the Council's lighting policies. In response, an environmental assessment was made and the Club has recently revised the plans. We were somewhat disappointed by the appearance of the extension to 38A Dick Place which we had mistakenly thought was to be clad in stone not timber.

The Committee has contacted Planning Enforcement about three developments made without planning permission. Unauthorised advertising signs in Blackford Avenue were taken down. A new driveway with a parking bay alongside in the front garden was installed at 15 Lauder Road. An earlier planning consent specifically excluded this, however the Council decided to take no action. The other case was of structures built in the garden of 14 Kilgraston Road and a retrospective planning application has now been submitted.

Grange Association Treasurer's report – AGM 2013

I am pleased to have served two years now as Treasurer.

I'm continuing to build on subscription collection, membership development and advertising revenue generation.

Subscriptions and memberships

Membership numbers are steady at around 370 for 2012. More members than ever are paying by Standing Order, which is a great help.

Email is being used more now, to inform members of happenings within the Association, but we are aware that not everyone uses email.

We still use the "garden gate poster" option for events, as you'll have noticed.

Advertising revenue

We are still aiming to stay within the "policy" of the equivalent of 1 page in 8 being advertisements, all of an appropriate local and useful character, as best we can.

Our MSP has taken a block booking until 2016 to advertise his surgeries, and I have a long list of potential advertisers waiting in the wings. Fundamentally, if someone advertises in one edition, they are asked if they would like to repeat it the next time.

The advertising revenue pays for approximately 40-50% of the cost for the full colour, glossy format, depending on length of edition and number of adverts.

Bank interest

You will remember that in 2011, the Bank of Scotland removed even the tiny interest they were paying on the account (£1.55 was a typical month!).

Now that we have a Charities interest-bearing account with Scottish Widows Bank, it is bringing in around £70 per quarter !

Membership numbers

Membership numbers have increased as a result of the activities during the year.

At the end of 2012, membership was 370. At a similar time in 2011, it was 369 (285 at same time in 2010).

Inevitably there is some turnover of membership. A small number have not renewed, citing the increased membership subscriptions, but equally there are new members joining to balance things out.

We have a process in place whereby we post new residents in the membership area a copy of the latest newsletter, and an invitation to join, when we learn of their arrival.

Richard Brown
Treasurer
March 2013

**The Grange Association
Statement of Income and Expenditure for
2012**

	2012	2011
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions and donations	4,236 ¹	2,617
Gift Aid and Tax refunds	1,264	
Sale of books	70	16
Plant sale (net proceeds)	²	192
Garden Outing (net proceeds)	50	7
Advertising Revenue	1,740 ³	280
Bank Interest	248 ⁴	8
Bank compensation		50
Total	7,608	3,170
Deduct		
Expenditure		
Printing of newsletter	2,946	2,805
Subscription - The Cockburn Association	40	40
PA system	147	127
Christmas party	369 ⁵	
Social evening at Carlton CC	138	
Tree planting in Carlton CC	223	
Planting work in library	173	
Local donations	120	520
Meeting expenses	333	390
Officials expenses	120	73
Other expenses	464	237
Total	5,072	4,192
Surplus for Year	2,535	-1,022
Statement of funds at 31st December		
General fund - year open	17,354	18,376
surplus for year	2,535	-1,022
General Fund - year end	19,889	17,354
Represented by :		
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's account	1,642	2,354
Scottish Widows Charity Account	18,248	15,000
	19,889	17,354

1 substantial increase due to increased subscriptions

2 there was no plant sale in 2012

3 effect of current 4-5 ads/edition

4 effect of Scot.Widows charity account

5 represents 2011 and 2012 party costs

Proposed Committee for 2013/14
(Year after name is date of Election)

Office Bearers (normally serve for up to 4 years)

Chair – John Graham 2011
Vice Chair – Doreen Allerton 2010
Hon Treasurer – Richard Brown 2011
Hon Secretary – Sue Tritton 2011

Committee (8) (term is 4 years maximum)

Dan Cronin (Newsletter delivery) 2010
Alison Bramley (Garden project, GPCC Liaison) 2011
Margaret Thom (Minutes) 2011
Adam Rennie (2012)
Roger Kellett (Planning, 2012)
Alastair Keatinge (2012)
Hilary Watkinson (Coopted January 2013)
One Vacancy

Retiring (elected members)

Olga Franks 2011
Tony Reeves (Events) 2010

In addition, Derek Lyddon was appointed as Honorary President