



# The Grange Newsletter

Grange Association

January 2024

ISSUE No. 138



**In the bleak midwinter ...**

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

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A very Happy New Year to all our readers!

This edition is the usual eclectic mix of past, present and future. Read about Thomas Rankine, a previous Grange resident; Christmas and Hogmanays past; a new Committee member; The Eric Liddell 100; commemorative trees; local planning applications; the Grange Award; gardening; home energy thoughts; observations on the natural world around us; and the remaining talks in our 2023-24 season. Most importantly, on page 7, you will find notice of the Grange Association AGM and membership information.

My plea in the last edition for cover photographs came to nothing so many thanks to grandson Eric for letting me use some of his photos and to Peter Whelpdale for a previous batch of photos.

*Jenny Dawe, Editor*

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... beauty shines through.

Wintry cover photos:  
macro photography of ice crystal, snow on pine branch and frosty moss by Eric Dawe; holly branch by Peter Whelpdale.



To advertise in *The Grange Newsletter*, contact Richard Brown (07899 914678) email: [treasurer@grangeassociation.org](mailto:treasurer@grangeassociation.org)

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



## HISTORY & HERITAGE

### Major Thomas Rankine, not just a shoe salesman

**Maggie Collard made good use of lockdown and here writes about one of the previous residents of her home in the Grange.**

Have you ever wondered about the people who lived in your home in times gone by? During Covid lockdowns, I set myself the challenge of identifying all former occupants of my house: 22 Fountainhall Road. So began a journey richly peppered with unexpected discoveries. Take for example Thomas Rankine, scion of Edinburgh shoe-selling dynasty, Thomas Rankine and Sons. He and wife, Elizabeth Kennedy (who grew up next door at number 24) became tenants of number 22 in 1906. At first glance, his story seemed pretty ordinary, born in the city in 1879, a grandson of the founder, describing himself as a 'wholesale boot factor'. But there was more to him than met the eye.

The family firm once occupied impressive premises on the corner of Chambers Street. It would have been a landmark shop for Edinburgh customers and also supplied other regions of Scotland. Yet, Thomas' story was not confined to footwear. In the classifieds of *The Edinburgh Evening News* in March 1910 I found a clue. The Rankines advertised for sale a 'Sectional woodhouse, 12 by 10 feet, 8 feet to eaves; sliding zinc covered span roof;' I was curious about this unusual structure and interested to discover the sliding roof had accommodated a telescope. A wonderful snapshot of Edwardian star-gazing emerges.



**Speculative sketch of the back garden circa 1906-1910, with glasshouse and observatory with super-sized telescope!**

In April 1910 Thomas obtained a warrant to build a permanent observatory in the garden of his next home - 2 South Lauder Road. By 1911, he had retired aged 34 and this might have been due to his wife's connections. Elizabeth's uncle, John

Stewart Kennedy, had become one of the most prominent financiers in New York City when he died in 1909: Andrew Carnegie and James Pierpont Morgan were mourners at John's funeral. So, perhaps a bequest meant Thomas Rankine could retire and focus on his passions.

And it seems his hobbies weren't confined to astronomy. In December 1914, like many of his generation, Thomas was moved to serve King and Country. However, an unusual skill set saw him setting sail for Dunkirk in the company of Mr Alexander Miles, an orthopaedic surgeon from the Royal Infirmary. Miles had been appointed to head the staff of the 'Edinburgh and Border Hospital', tasked to treat soldiers from the French Expeditionary Force and, to my surprise, Thomas was also offering medical expertise because he had, '*...devoted a good deal of attention to the study of radiography and... taken with him his-X-ray apparatus, which is very valuable ...in the hospital during the war...'*

Perhaps Thomas had been inspired to take up this new interest by his younger sister, Mary Doughty Rankine, who had graduated in medicine from Edinburgh University in 1912. Thomas continued to develop pioneering rehabilitation treatments and provide the x-ray equipment until 1919, becoming head of the 'electrotherapeutic department' at Bangour military hospital - rising to the honorary rank of Major. His dedication may have had a terrible legacy though.

An article from *The Scotsman* on 21 May 1921, reveals that the dangers of radiation exposure were only beginning to be recognised. Headed, 'X-RAY AND RADIUM PROTECTION COMMITTEE', the article covers: '*The preliminary meeting of this committee...composed of radiologists, physicists, pathologists, and others... under the chairmanship of Sir Humphry Rolleston...'* It was announced that the members intended to: '*...issue very shortly a considered statement as to the urgency of affording adequate protection to the worker, indicating the best means whereby this may be carried out...'*

Although he couldn't have been aware of the dangers, Thomas would have been exposed to extremely high levels of radiation every time he operated his x-ray machine.

I have been unable to pinpoint exactly when or how Thomas Rankine died. However, Elizabeth's death notice in 1937 confirms she was widowed. As she was eighteen years older than Thomas, it seems likely his exposure to radiation cut his life short. His work at the cutting edge of medical science during WW1, however, made me believe him to be a man who had found his true calling, even if improving the life chances of hundreds of survivors may have resulted in his own grave sacrifice.

### Grange Cemetery Doors Open Weekend 2023

The weather on 23-24 September could have been kinder and the publicity from the organisation coordinating Doors Open days in Scotland could have been better, so it was not surprising that fewer people visited Grange Cemetery than in previous years. However, those that did come along gave high praise for the work done to educate and entertain visitors that weekend. The novelty of being able to see round the catacombs again attracted particular interest.

# The ERIC LIDDELL 100/SPOTLIGHT

## Fitting legacy for a legend's lifetime of inspiration

Nearly a hundred years ago, *The Scotsman* of 12 July 1924 eulogised the Edinburgh University sprinter Eric Liddell for his great victory at Colombes Stadium in the Paris Olympics 400 metre race. It reported that there was a gasp of astonishment from the crowd when an inspired Eric Liddell, "one of the most popular athletes at Colombes", was three yards ahead of the field at the half-way point. It recorded: "The crowd went into a frenzy of enthusiasm" as Eric flashed past the tape to win the race and break the world record. What was most astonishing, of course, was that this wasn't his preferred distance. He had refused to run in the 100 metre heats that were held on a Sunday and entered the 400 metre race instead.



To celebrate his life, sporting and community service achievements, The Eric Liddell Community, the care and specialist dementia charity based at Holy Corner, has set up The Eric Liddell 100 programme of events and activities. The aims are to celebrate Eric Liddell's values and integrity globally; to inspire new

generations to make a positive impact on the world; to build on existing international links; and to develop new sporting, business, cultural and educational relationships linked to Eric Liddell's legacy. This will be done through education, developing resources to support learning at all ages; through engagement in sporting/physical activities; and through cultural celebrations, including an Eric Liddell Exhibition.

The Eric Liddell 100 aims are being delivered in partnership with many individuals and organisations in Scotland, the UK, Hong Kong, China and the USA. Amongst these are former Olympic stars, Menzies Campbell and Eilidh Doyle, pictured above with The Eric Liddell Community CEO, John MacMillan. For more details on events, activities and how you can get involved, visit <https://ericliddell.org/the-eric-liddell-100> or contact [el100@ericliddell.org](mailto:el100@ericliddell.org)



### SPOTLIGHT on Maggie Anderson Grange Association Events Organiser

My involvement with matters cultural: an interest in museums, galleries and the Arts in general has been relevant to my task of organising a series of talks. As a former Scottish Tourist Association Blue Badge Guide my interests are wide, so I am pleased to embrace a variety of speakers.



I lived in the Grange for 19 years and before that in both Newington and the Director's Residence in the West Wing of the British Museum where my former husband was Director. A linguist by profession, I have taught in various schools both in Edinburgh and in London (where City of London School for Boys was my last post) before training as a Guide. I have worked all over Scotland during the past 12 years, including on French cruise ships to Orkney, Shetland and the Hebrides.

I volunteered in Romania for an elderly 'Gap' year and ran a project in Hungary for several years as a volunteer. I travel widely, including in Eastern Europe and India, partly owing to my peripatetic sons, one of whom works as an archaeologist in Ireland and the other teaches History at Northumbria University. I have four grandchildren. Other interests include music, the theatre, Italian and German language classes; Poetry group and a Southside Book Group, now 40 years old!

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## TREES by Peter Pitkin/HOME ENERGY

### Commemorative trees

I was recently copied-in to correspondence expressing concern about plaques that have been fixed to the trunks of trees in the Meadows, either as memorials or to mark certain events in people's lives. The plaques, which indicate that a tree has been 'adopted', are made available through Tree Time, an initiative of the Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust that aims to plant 6,500 trees every year – about four times the number in the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital. I have spotted nine plaques in the Meadows – they are small and relatively unobtrusive but with a conspicuously printed Tree Time logo.

Tree Time, sponsored by members of the public or businesses, has also planted several young trees on the Meadows. The most interesting of these is an oak from China and the Himalayas called Quercus acutissima. It has very un-oak-like leaves with neat teeth each ending in a long bristle.

The concerns expressed about the plaques were about the possible harm that might be caused by screws used to affix them. Edinburgh Council has, going back many years, used metal numbers nailed or screwed to the trunk as a means of identifying the trees on land it owns or manages. I hesitate to say that there is no risk involved but I am not aware of cases where this has led to fungal or bacterial infections. Other concerns, with which I do have some sympathy, are that plaques detract from the natural beauty of the trees and that 'adopting' a tree on council-owned land might be perceived as taking possession of something that is public property.

Tree Time's website offers opportunities both to plant and to adopt trees in given situations on council-managed land: it currently includes opportunities for both on Blackford Hill, but on the Meadows only to adopt a tree. Within the Grange there is one opportunity - for a suggested donation of £5000 - to plant a tree on Relugas Road.

Over the years trees have been planted in the Grange to commemorate people and events. In the cemetery, two are marked – one being the Scots pine planted for the Grange Association by Roger Crofts, Chief Executive of Scottish Natural Heritage (then based in 12 Hope Terrace), to mark the millennium. Others are unmarked. There are at least four in the Astley Ainslie grounds. The most recent, a flowering cherry, was planted by NHS staff on 26 October among ten-or-so newly planted winter-flowering cherries (Prunus subhirtella Autumnalis). It marks the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the hospital. Long may both survive!

Also in the Astley Ainslie grounds there is a tree that has recently been adopted, very probably at no cost: a horse chestnut beside the Charles Bell Pavilion. It is marked with a plastic label in the soil – Brian's Tree.



Corrigendum: The May 2023 edition named a walnut tree recently planted in Newbattle Terrace as an American walnut. In fact, two walnuts have been planted on the South side of the street. Both are European walnuts.

### Home energy intro

I have lived with my family in the Grange for some 44 years. Our home is typical of many: stone built in 1870, it has its charm, but is 'well ventilated' – i.e. draughty and difficult to heat efficiently. We nevertheless want to be responsible citizens and to reduce our carbon footprint as well as our bills. On this account, I wrote last year to the Grange Association for advice – and they kindly invited me to join the Committee! Knowing that my energies can never keep pace with my sense of urgency, I agreed to do so, if it were acceptable to limit my role to that of being a focus for others' ideas. Happily, the Association is already well resourced in having an expanding website, hosting an 'Energy conservation and generation' Forum and a lively Newsletter with which to promulgate ideas and information. With a very little research, I quickly realised that Edinburgh has a goodly number of community groups which aim to address energy efficiency. These groups 'tick several boxes', bringing respective communities together to identify and respond to their particular concerns. A number of them have produced reports (e.g. Marchmont Sciennes Community Council paper, *Insulating Homes in a Conservation Zone*) accessible via the Grange Association website. And many have been assisted by organisations such as EdinBRIC: Edinburgh Building Retrofit and Improvement Collective (<https://edinbric.scot>), The Energy Saving Trust ([energysavingtrust.org.uk/Scotland-communities](http://energysavingtrust.org.uk/Scotland-communities)), and Home Energy Scotland ([www.homeenergyscotlan.org](http://www.homeenergyscotlan.org)).

While individual households can do much – and many in the Grange already have – a community group is clearly better placed as an effective resource. To that end, following the Grange Association 17 October talk on the Passivhaus, 11 people agreed to come together to think about the best way forward. We met in November, and decided that an initial survey to establish residents' home energy needs might prove the best starting point. A number of interesting issues present for discussion: How compatible is conservation with retrofitted upgraded insulation? Can a large area like the Grange host collective activities? Should a 'Home Energy' brief also cover the environment? No person (or house) is an island!

We're just at the start of discussion and discovery and so welcome everyone's contributing thoughts and information.

Molly Ludlam

Morningside Justice and Peace provides an interesting and varied range of talks from 10 January to 20 March at The Eric Liddell Community (15 Morningside Road, Edinburgh EH10 4DP) on Wednesdays at 10.30 a.m. All welcome. £3. Programme at [www.morningsidejandp.org](http://www.morningsidejandp.org)

# SEASONAL SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST



*The Scotsman*, 26 December 1903

**CHRISTMAS DAY EDINBURGH:** .... The city in the morning had almost a Sunday aspect. The bells tolled the people to church at 11 o'clock, but after the devotions were over the streets assumed more of a holiday aspect, and the leading thoroughfares were crowded with well-dressed citizens. Large numbers of strangers were also in the city - all the early morning trains from the south being exceptionally heavy.

*The Scotsman*, 10 December 1929

Thieves' Haul. During Theatre Performance. £400  
EDINBURGH ROBBERY.

... The robbery took place at the Grange house of Mr M.J. Kinnear Livingstone, the manager of the Lyceum Theatre. ... Mr Livingstone himself was the chief sufferer. He lost articles to the value of about £200. ... In a case in a wardrobe and lying beneath a number of dressing gowns, was £30 in money. ... In addition to this, they took about £2 in threepenny pieces. ... Normally, Mr Livingstone would have banked the loose money which was lying there, but, owing to the fact that the Christmas gift season was approaching, he did not do so...

*The Scotsman*, 17 December 1937

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** "...What happy memories I have of carol singing in the streets of Edinburgh, not so many years ago. How we used to make the Grange district ring with the harmony (or discord) of our vocal effort. It was all such grand fun!

We used to start about ten days before Christmas and we did a tour of the homes of our friends and fellow parishioners. How cunningly we marked out for special attention the houses where we could reasonably expect a generous reward! ..."

Margaret Hunter

From *Memories of the Grange*, 2003 edition, p.77

Interview with Mrs Heather Thom on her time in the Scottish Congregational College, Mount Grange, Hope Terrace, where her father was Professor of Semitic Languages and then appointed Principal in 1964: "As a child she regularly went to the Christmas parties - she found them boring so as they took place in the library she was able to take down a book to read, even theology being more entertaining!"

01 January, 1863. Chambers, *The Book of Days*

Till few years ago in Scotland, the custom of the wassail bowl at the passing away of the old year might be said to be still in comparative vigour. On the approach of twelve o'clock, a hot pint was prepared - that is, a kettle or flagon full of warm, spiced and sweetened ale, with an infusion of spirits. When the clock had struck the knell of the departing year, each member of the family drank of this mixture with a general hand-shaking, and perhaps a dance around the table, with the addition of a song.

31 December 1878. Robert Louis Stevenson, *Edinburgh: Picturesque Notes*

Singly, or arm-in-arm, some speechless, others noisy and quarrelsome, the votaries of the New Year go meandering in and out and cannoning one against another: and now and again, one falls and lies as he has fallen. ... when once the New Year has been rung in and proclaimed at the Tron railings, the festivities begin to find their way indoors ... But think, in those piled lands of all the senseless snorers, all the broken heads and empty pockets!

*Edinburgh Evening News*, 01 January 1903 on Hogmanay at the Tron

... when eleven o'clock the public-houses belched forth their drink-besotted inmates, things became much more lively, and the High Street and the Bridges quickly assumed their usual crowd of "staggerers", parading bands of boys and girls evolving ear-splitting noises from Concertinas and still less melodious penny trumpets, and monopolising most of the pavement. ... at convenient corners street preachers improved the shining hour, and held forth to small and enthusiastic gatherings on the evils of drunkenness ... Temperance, however, was a bad second last night, and the effort did not appear to meet with conspicuous success.

The *Edinburgh Evening News*, 1928-1941, contained many advertisements for Grange Dance Club, Glendinning's School of Dancing and The Argyll Ballroom, all at 1 Chalmers Crescent, including special Christmas and Hogmanay events. No shortage of seasonal fun for Grange residents!

Snippets found by Lucy Richardson, Richard Brown and Jenny Dawe





# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

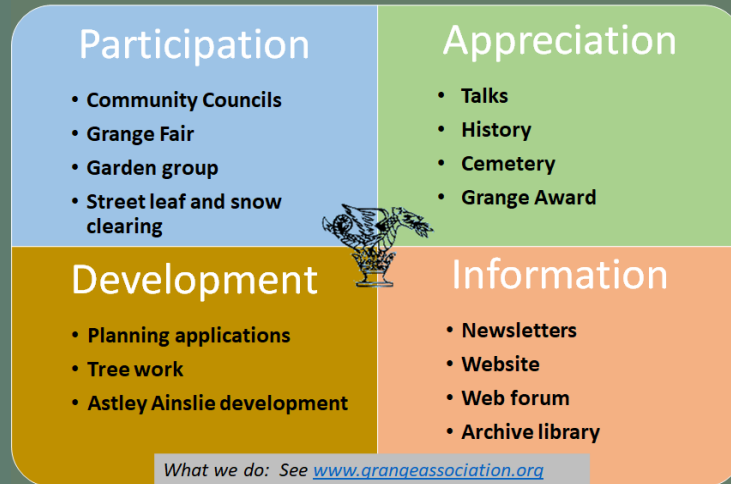


The Grange relies for its conservation and enhancement on its residents. The Grange Association works to protect and improve the Grange for everyone who lives in, works in or visits the neighbourhood.



Make 2024 the year that you join us!

## WHAT WE DO



Our activities each year include participation in the above areas of life in the Grange area. Some residents are very actively involved, others enjoy the end-results. By becoming a member, your modest annual subscription helps us to deliver enhancements to the area and to keep residents informed through talks, Cemetery Open Days, the newsletter, monitoring of planning applications and the website.

If you have ideas that you think would improve the area in any way, we would like to hear from you.

### The 2024 Grange Association AGM will be held at 19:00 on Tuesday 19 March at St Catherine's Argyle Church, 61-63 Grange Road EH9 1TY

Details will be issued to members and our website will include AGM details, including papers, by 5 March. The AGM will include the election of the Committee for 2024-25. We are always keen to welcome new committee members who feel they can contribute positively to any aspect of our work. To learn more about this, contact [chair@grangeassociation.org](mailto:chair@grangeassociation.org) or talk to a current Committee member. Nominations close on Monday 19 February 2024.

**Come and join us.** Membership is open to anyone who lives or works in the Grange, or who has an interest in the conservation of the area. Membership costs remain at £10 per year for individuals and £15 for a household.

*Every home in the Grange Association area receives this newsletter – not only members. If you are in doubt whether your membership was paid for 2023, check your banking records, or check with [membership@grangeassociation.org](mailto:membership@grangeassociation.org)*

**Membership applications and renewals:** Most members pay their annual subscriptions by standing order, usually in February, so do not need to do anything to renew their membership. However, if you wish to join or you pay annually by bank transfer or by cheque, please see our website at [www.grangeassociation.org/join](http://www.grangeassociation.org/join) for payment details or to print an offline form. Or call our membership secretary on 07899 914678.

## NATURE NOTES from Tom Breheny

### Aye, it's awfy nippy oot there

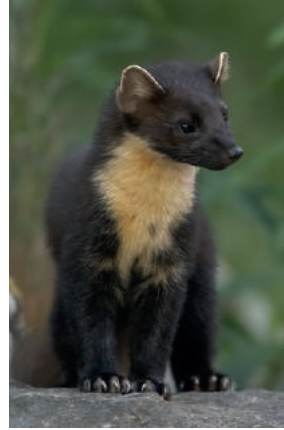
American grey squirrels, first introduced to Britain in 1876 by a few misguided aristocratic landowners, have certainly made the best use of our natural resources: waste not, want not. Why would they bother to break into their precious winter stores when they can first nibble the shredded conkers that have been ground to smithereens under the tyres of the vehicles in our street? They select only the perfect quality chestnuts for storage and also do the same with the apples from our trees by inspecting the fruits carefully and removing them by the stalks with their teeth so as not to damage the skins when they carry them away to stash secretly in their special hideaways. I have discovered and recovered perfectly preserved apples hidden in our compost heap that I relocated, after washing them, to our fruit basket on the kitchen table. Those thieving nutkins are undeniably cute, resplendent in their warm winter coats, but they are serious scunners when it comes to making their



homes inside our homes by removing slates and timber to access some of our Reekie residents' attics. This happened to friends of ours in Merchiston but those unwelcome destructive burglars were rapidly removed from the property without the assistance of the Lothian and Borders Police Firearms Department.

Any observant walkers through the Hermitage would probably have noticed a great deal of trees, mainly young beech, that have been severely damaged by ring-barking and will have a bleak future and a short life. I have heard that in the USA the greys are less destructive to the environment so perhaps their dietary needs are satisfied on their home turf. During the war some of the American pilots stationed in the south of England bought squirrels to eat that had been shot by local farmers living near the air bases. I tasted squirrel myself once, and once was enough. Perhaps a Masterchef recipe would be more appetising. Mine had the texture of a rubber inner tube or a Brooks leather bicycle saddle.

One of our pet lurcher puppies carried a lifelong reminder of the agony experienced following a close encounter with a grey in the Hermitage after his nose was nipped by its sharp teeth leaving a permanent scar. The hound developed a pathological hatred of their tribe.



There are places in the Borders where grey squirrel numbers have been significantly reduced since the reappearance of the pine marten, a fierce hunter. The greys are easy prey victims for them because they spend more time on the ground compared with their indigenous red cousins who are safer, wisely spending more time in the treetops. One severe winter, I can remember finding a pair of grey squirrels frozen to death in a

small cage set by the resident gamekeeper on Mortonhall Estate. In those days there were plenty of rabbits, pheasants, partridge, woodcock, snipe, hares and as many as five roe deer that feasted on the apples from the trees close to the big house. They would stand up on their hind legs to reach the higher fruits. The deer population has continued to increase in numbers almost everywhere in Britain and the ones that fall victims as road casualties are likely to be young bucks being forced onto marginal territories. As many of our readers will know, we sometimes have roe deer in our gardens in the Grange producing fawns. The railway line is a handy route to overgrown gardens and the Astley Ainslie Hospital grounds. I have no idea how those deer manage to avoid all of the dogs in the area.

One of my favourite haunts these days is Hunter's Bog in the Queen's Park which I can only manage now with the help of my trusty electric disability scooter. Last week I was there with my wife on a rare late sunny afternoon watching the swarms of visitors like ants heading for the top of Arthur's Seat, which our granddaughter still refers to as the volcano. In the bright blue sky above those climbers, were several hundred corvids, mainly crows and jackdaws wheeling around in a great flock. Some of them had been bathing in the shallow loch. In the springtime it's full of tadpoles which the crows like to feed on by paddling after them.

Gone are the days when we took the kids to the glen to sledge down those craggy slopes most winters, when snow was the norm before climate change. My son and his family now live in Switzerland where they are still able to ski and toboggan and the little ones learn to ski very young. In the late 60's some of the elderly folk in Edinburgh still referred to the park as the King's Park. Perhaps the same thing will happen again since Charles became King with the passing of his much loved mother. Her coronation was one of my first childhood memories.

**Excellent result on planning issue:** In the last edition, Nigel Ayton wrote on improved connectivity *versus* environmental impact, noting that the Grange Association had objected to a planning application for a 16m 5G telecoms mast and cabinets at the corner of Grange Loan with Blackford Avenue. There were 171 other objections. It's great news that this mast has been refused, adding to the number of similar refusals for 5G masts in prominent positions in conservation areas.



# GRANGE AWARD/LOCAL INTEREST



## Grange Award 2024 Final call for nominations



The Grange Award is presented biennially at the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) for a significant positive contribution to the amenity and appearance of the Grange. That can be to the owner or developer of a site that has been improved in the last couple of years, or to a person or group that has made an exceptional contribution in other ways to the environment, amenity and appearance of the Grange Association's area. This year's AGM is on 19 March 2024.

Members were invited by e-mail in December to submit nominations for the award. We are already shortlisting the nominations for judging but there is still time for a submission.

You do not need to be a member to submit a nomination. This can be your own home or garden, that of a neighbour, or just some work that you have seen in the Grange which you consider enhances the area or improves facilities in public areas enjoyed by residents and that has been completed since January 2021. This can include new buildings, extensions, refurbishments, boundary walls, landscaping and tree planting.

Nominations, making clear why you think the project merits the Award, should be sent to:

[planning@grangeassociation.org](mailto:planning@grangeassociation.org)

Check for the closing date at

<https://grangeassociation.org/planning/>

## Site for a new public bench?

Many people welcome somewhere to sit when going to the shops, getting a bus or out exercising. **Where would you find it useful to have a new bench sited in our area?** A member has left us a bequest and we are considering providing a bench in his memory. Let a committee member know of possible sites or email [newsletter@grangeassociation.org](mailto:newsletter@grangeassociation.org)

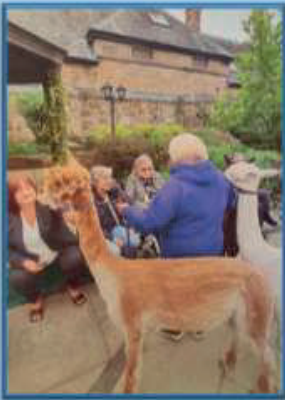
## Keeping our streets safer

The Grange Association's Autumn 2023 Leaf Clearing Campaign was very successful in keeping pavements safer and cleaner. Many thanks to the hard work of all the helpers in clearing leaves from pavements and gutters and to the City of Edinburgh Council for supplying bags, shovels and brushes and for collecting filled bags regularly.

Next on the agenda is likely to be clearing snow and ice from pavements. Read about how to do this safely and where to find Council grit bins throughout our area at:

<https://grangeassociation.org/roads/snow-gritting/>

**Community Council Elections 2024:** There are likely to be Community Council elections this year, exactly when dependent on a General Election date. Our area mostly falls within the ambit of Marchmont Sciennes Community Council and Grange Prestonfield Community Council (GPCC). If you are interested, a GPCC member has offered to explain the role of Community Councils and what membership involves. Contact him at [ken.robertson22@btinternet.com](mailto:ken.robertson22@btinternet.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 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 23 properties, there have been a further 37 applications and 41 decisions for planning and/or listed building consent in the Grange. We lodged comments on seven of these new applications, after consulting members nearby. Members who stay near to the site of each application receive an email from us inviting comments. [Join us](#) if you wish to receive these emails.

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS and DECISIONS August - December 2023

### Applications granted:

§# RHSC former hospital 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	Increase frontage parking spaces from 12 to 18
§# RHSC former hospital 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	LBC for: Replace roof and internal alterations (not balconies)
# RHSC student block 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	Variation: Public realm amended; landscaping omitted
# 140 Causewayside EH9 1PR	Redevelop site for student accommodation (pre-application)
§ GF 3 Palmerston Road EH9 1TL	Variat'n: Add window and roof lights
§ 9 Palmerston Road EH9 1TL	LBC for: Double glazing
14 Mansionhouse Road EH9 1TZ	GF extension
45 Grange Road EH9 1UF	Attic conversion and dormer; GF conservatory
33 Grange Road EH9 1UG	Side and rear extension. Alter LGF windows.
*¶ Flats 2 & 3, 2 Strathearn Rd EH9 2AH	Replace 1F sun room and new balcony
¶ 12 Hope Terrace EH9 2AP	Greenhouse and garden sheds
14 Hope Terrace EH9 2AR	Detached double garage
1F 34 Hope Terrace EH9 2AR	Garden room
* 13 Kilgraston Road EH9 2DX	Hard landscaping; replace garage; widen road entrance
§ Flat 2, 15 Oswald Road EH9 2HE	LBC for: Double glazing
23 South Oswald Road EH9 2HH	Garden relandscaping
¶§27-5 South Oswald Road EH9 2HH	LBC for: Double glazing
69 South Oswald Road (Sunnyside Ct) EH9 2HH	Reduce window size and remove Juliet balconies
§ 5 Glenisla Gardens EH9 2HR	Attic rooflights; rear porch; garden shed
12 Mortonhall Road EH9 2HW	Alter and extend external store room; pergola to rear
§ GF3 38 Dick Place EH9 2JB	LBC for: Double glazing
50 Dick Place EH9 2JB	Resurface driveway
§ 24 Mansionhouse Road EH9 2JD	Reconfig 2F attic and rear dormers
2 Seton Place EH9 2JT	ASHP to side
17A Seton Place EH9 2JT	Replace 1F conservatory with extension
*¶ 4 Cumin Place EH9 2JX	Alter GF ext'n and double-glaze; widen road entrance to <del>3.7m</del> 3.0m
§ 65 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH	LBC for: Alter doors and windows; relocate kitchen; ensuite bathroom
§ 30A Fountainhall Road EH9 2LW	LBC for: Double glazing
#19 Blackford Avenue EH9 2PJ	1F extension; remove chimney
4 Esdaile Bank EH9 2PN	GF window to side

### Applications refused, withdrawn or being appealed:

*§# RHSC Mortuary Chapel 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	Conversion to residential use with public access to murals: Withdrawn
§# RHSC former hospital 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	LBC for: Replace roof; internal and balcony alterations: Refused
* 21 St Catherine's Place EH9 1NU	Convert garage on Sciennes Road to STL: Refused: Appeal in progress
PF2 4 Sciennes House Place EH9 1NW	Change use to STL: Refused. Enforcement notice issued.
3 Tantallon Place EH9 1NY	20 solar PV roof panels: Withdrawn
* Corner Grange Road & Lauder Road EH9 1TX	15m high 5G telecoms mast and cabinets on pavement: Refused
33 Grange Road EH9 1UG	Variation: Reduce roof profile; <del>zinc</del> black timber cladding: Refused
12 Hope Terrace EH9 2AP	Variation: Windows, dormer profiles, lift shaft: Refused
* Corner Grange Loan & Blackford Avenue EH9 2EB	16m high 5G telecoms mast and cabinets on pavement: Refused
* 5 Lauder Road EH9 2EW	20 solar PV roof panels: Withdrawn
* 17 S. Oswald Road EH9 2HQ	2-storey extension with metal cladding: Withdrawn

### Applications pending at 05 December 2023:

§# RHSC former hospital 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	LBC for: Balcony alterations
# RHSC affordable housing 9 Sciennes Road EH9 1LF	Variation: Raise roof; cladding change from brick to aluminium
7/4 Sciennes House Place EH9 1NN	CLE for STL
* 42 Grange Road EH9 1UN	Variation: Replace soft landscaping with hard standing
§ 46 Grange Road EH9 1UN	Hardwood orangery
# 242 Causewayside EH9 1UU	Change use to STL
* 5B Hope Terrace EH9 2AP	Amended plans for new house: two external flues; 10 PV panels
10 Blackford Road EH9 2DS	Extension, greenhouse and hard landscaping
§ 36 South Oswald Road EH9 2HG	GF extension and garage conversion
§ 27-5 South Oswald Road EH9 2HH	Dormer extension; roof lights; internal changes
1F 1 South Oswald Road EH9 2HQ	CLE for STL
17 South Oswald Road EH9 2HQ	2-storey flat-roof cantilevered extension with stone cladding
* 34 Findhorn Place EH9 2JP	GF and 1F extensions
*10 Seton Place EH9 2JT	ASHP to side (retrospective)
*2F1 20 Grange Loan EH9 2NR	CLE for STL
* 24 Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NX	GF and attic extensions with roof terrace and balcony
¶ 15 & 15A Eden Lane EH10 4SD	Create new unit, change annexe use to STL (in retrospect)
Deanbank, 35 Canaan Lane EH10 4SG	Variation: School building – change door to window
Priory, 37 Canaan Lane EH10 4SG	Convert offices to 8 flats; plus 3 new townhouses in grounds

LBC = Listed Building Consent    STL = Short-term let    § = Listed Building  
CLP (CLE) = Certificate of Lawfulness Proposed (Existing)  
(L)GF/1F/2F = (Lower) Ground Floor/First Floor/Second Floor  
ASHP = Air-Source Heat Pump    # = Outwith Grange conservation area  
\* = Comment or objection submitted by Grange Association  
¶ = Application modified (as ~~struck through~~ text)



# GARDENING NOTES

## Reflections on gardening

Recently, poring over dahlia tubers to decide what was worth keeping, I wryly reflected on the paradoxes of gardening. Some say it brings zen-like benefits, a meditative staying-in-the-moment with the job in hand. But really these small focused tasks can't last for long without our being pulled forward, getting a step ahead in ordering new seeds, or planting bulbs in the cold for an unimaginable spring. That's a different kind of contemplation: working with our seasonality. We may take the seasons for granted, but anyone who has envied the warm days of a two season country can take comfort in the wonderfully rich garden detail that comes with changes in the weather and the diversity of accompanying activity. Never a dull moment!



up in the New Year. One is the possibility of a spring outing to enjoy snowdrops as a group. If interested, drop me a line at [lynn.errey@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.errey@gmail.com).

In addition, we have not one but two guerilla gardening projects in mind for 2024. The planting at Lover's Loan will continue. It went further this year with the work of six stalwart volunteers; a lot of camaraderie and satisfaction of a job well done; and appreciative comments from all the local walkers. A second project in mind is a neglected patch of ground in Grange Loan at the entrance to Astley Ainslie, which, with some volunteer energy, could be turned into another visual delight for our local enjoyment. Are you interested in joining us on that? Watch this space.

*Lynn Errey*

Speaking of activity, we have two or three projects coming

**Contact for gardening matters and to hear about future activities:**  
[gardens@grangeassociation.org](mailto:gardens@grangeassociation.org)  
 Lynn Errey: 07734 442668

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# EVENTS/USEFUL CONTACTS/Ads

## Grange Association Talks 2024

Our 2023-24 season of talks has proved very successful so far. It continues on the **third Tuesday of the month** at **St Catherine's Argyle Church**, Grange Road. Tea, coffee and biscuits are available before the meeting begins at 19:30 in February and before the members' AGM in March begins at 19:00 prior to the talk at 19:45. There is a £5 charge for talks for non-members.

**19 February:** The original speaker for this talk (Susanna Kerr on *This Dear Paradise: Victoria and Albert's Love Affair with Scotland*) has unfortunately cancelled, due to illness. Now, **Neil Mantle**, horn player and conductor of the Scottish Sinfonia, will take us on a musical journey *Around the horn in 40 minutes*, accompanied by Gillian Gray.

**19 March: Professor Frances Fowle**, Senior Curator at the Scottish National Gallery, will speak about the artist and 'Glasgow Boy' Sir John Lavery and his paintings of France and Scotland. **This talk will be preceded by the AGM at 19:00.**



**Maggie Anderson, Talks Organiser**  
[events@grangeassociation.org](mailto:events@grangeassociation.org)



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## THE GRANGE Open Studios

Saturday 22 June

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[deborah.cumming@btinternet.com](mailto:deborah.cumming@btinternet.com)



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**MSP for Edinburgh Southern: Daniel Johnson**  
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Office: 134 Comiston Road, Edinburgh EH10 5QN

**Local Councillors**  
Tel: 0131 200 2000  
Email: [Cllr.Firstname.Surname@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Firstname.Surname@edinburgh.gov.uk)  
Address: City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ;

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Pauline Flannery  
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