



Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Newsletter, Summer 2002

The Tower

The tower on the top of Corstorphine Hill will be open for visitors on the **30th of June, and every second Sunday afternoon until the 22nd of September, 2-4 p.m.** Do take the opportunity to visit and appreciate the view. On a clear day you can see, not quite forever, but certainly from Ben Lomond to the west as far as North Berwick Law to the east and from the peaks of the Trossachs to the north right down to the Lammermuirs in the south. By moving only a few steps, you can pick out the Castles of both Edinburgh and Stirling plus Merchiston, Craigcrook, and Aberdour; two observatories; two old-established bird sanctuaries (Inchmickery and the Bass Rock); four universities (Edinburgh, Napier, Heriot-Watt and Queen Margaret); both Forth Bridges; four of Scotland's major mountains (Bens Lomond, Venue, Ledi and More); the islands of the Firth of Forth; and monuments commemorating Sir William Wallace, Sir Walter Scott and Admiral Lord Nelson.

Many of the symbols of our history are visible - Caerketton and Carnethy with their prehistoric remains; Malcolm Canmore and Queen Margaret's royal seat at Dunfermline; Kinghorn, where Alexander III died in a cliff fall precipitating the Wars of Independence; Stirling Castle and the Wallace Monument, Edinburgh Castle and the Old Town, the New Town, numerous oil-shale bings and quarries, the gasworks at Granton; and the remains of First and Second World War defence works on Inchmickery and Inchcolm and, hidden behind the swell of Mons Hill, the former Naval Dockyard at Rosyth.

Christmas Card

The Corstorphine Fair committee has produced a Christmas card showing a snow-covered scene of the Hill with the Tower in the background. The cards will be on sale in Corstorphine Library and at the TSB from October. For further details, contact Eileen Macarthur, telephone 334 1169.

Walks

Alternating with the fortnightly Sunday afternoon openings of the Tower, there will be guided walks on the Hill exploring various subjects:

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| Jul 7 | Trees
from Clermiston Rd North car park |
| Jul 21 | Geology
from Cairnmuir Road car park |
| Aug 4 | Badgers
from Clermiston Rd North car park |
| Aug 18 | Botany
from Cairnmuir Road car park |
| Sep 1 | Geology
from Clermiston Rd North car park |
| Sep 15 | Fungi
from Cairnmuir Road car park |
| Sep 29 | Fungi
from Clermiston Rd North car park |
| Oct 13 | Mosses
from Cairnmuir Road car park. |

For all the walks, meet at **2 p.m.** Each walk will last about 2 hours. The walks will visit some of the rougher and more out-of-the-way parts of the hill, so it is advisable to wear stout footwear. For further details, contact David McAdam, telephone 539 1060.

Talks

The winter programme of talks will begin again on Thursday the **26th of September**. Andrew Broom of Corstorphine Trust will present *Corstorphine Old and New*, an illustrated lectures from the archives of the Trust showing how much Corstorphine has changed over the years. Details of other talks will follow in the next newsletter and on the Friends website.

Walled Garden



A smart new memorial seat has been placed in the garden. On the 19th of May, Councillor Steve Cardownie accepted the donation of the seat, presented in memory of local resident Ian MacDonald, a founder committee member of the *Friends* and the person who drew up the original plans for the restoration of the overgrown garden.

A cherry tree was also planted in Ian's memory.

Work in the garden is on-going: there are plans for more work on the surrounding wall and for the creation of a wet woodland area.

If you can spare some time to help, you will find people working in the garden on Thursday afternoons.

If you know of any less able visitors who would like to see the garden, please contact Eddie Price, telephone 539 1088, so that car parking and access can be made as easy as possible.

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

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website www.corstorphinehill.org.uk

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