



Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Newsletter, Autumn 2002

Thank You

Many thanks to all who helped at Corstorphine Fair, manned the Tower, and lead walks over the summer. Some events were washed out by atrocious weather but people who were able to go on a walk or climb the tower were very appreciative.

Talks

We are undertaking a winter programme of talks again this year. The first three will be:

Thursday 26 September

Corstorphine Old and New

Andrew Broom (Corstorphine Trust).
An illustrated lecture from the archives of the Trust showing how much Corstorphine has changed over the years.

Thursday 24 October

What the Beechgrove Garden did for us - Corstorphine Hill's Community Garden

Another look, a year on, at work in the Walled Woodland Walkway. Looking back with the *Friends* involved, and looking forward to further development and maintenance of the garden.

Thursday 21 November

Is Corstorphine Hill one of Edinburgh's Volcanoes?

David McAdam (formerly of the British Geological Survey in Edinburgh)
It is well known that Arthur's Seat is an extinct volcano. But what about Edinburgh's other hills, such as Corstorphine Hill? Are they old volcanoes too?

All talks take place in **Queen Margaret University College, Lecture Theatre B**, starting at **7.30 p.m.**

For further information, contact David McAdam.
Tel 539 1060.

Corstorphine Christmas Card

Walkers who use Corstorphine Hill will be familiar with the landmark that has stood proudly on the top for the past 130 years - Corstorphine Hill Tower.

William Macfie, owner of Clermiston House and its estate, instigated the building of the Tower in 1871 to mark the centenary of Sir Walter Scott's birth. Macfie was a great admirer of Scott, and a 70-foot tower seemed a fitting tribute. When the tower was completed in 1872, it was called Clermiston Tower.

The magnificent 5-stage square turreted stone tower originally contained a wooden staircase that gave access to the top, providing a view from the 520-foot hill that is truly panoramic.

After a time, ownership passed to Macfie's friend Mr W. Glassford-Walker. The Council considered purchasing the tower from him and opening it the public to coincide with the centenary of Scott's death in 1832 but the price of £350 in the early 1930s was considered too high. However, shortly after the purchase was rejected, Mr Glassford-Walker gifted the tower to Edinburgh Corporation and other owners of land around the tower agreed to give ground to enable access. The Tower was then re-named Corstorphine Hill Tower.

Many of you will recognise a view of the Tower, depicted in heavy snowfall, that has been used by the Corstorphine Fair committee for a Christmas card. These cards will be on sale from October till Christmas every Saturday at the TSB and in Corstorphine Library. They can also be delivered within the Corstorphine area: contact Eileen Macarthur. Tel 334 1169.

In honour of our landmark, send the Corstorphine card to a friend this Christmas!

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Chairman: Mr E. Price, 25 Corstorphine Hill Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 6LF. Tel 0131 539 1088.

Secretary: Mrs L. Castell, 10 Hillpark Brae, Edinburgh EH4 7TD. Tel 0131 336 4283.

Website www.corstorphinehill.org.uk
Registered as a charity No SCO28842