



Friends of Corstorphine Hill

February 2003

www.corstorphinehill.org.uk

Talks

Thursday 20th February

Susan Steel

City of Edinburgh **Biodiversity Officer**

Her experience of working for the Edinburgh Biodiversity Partnership over the last four years, including work related to animal and plant life on Corstorphine Hill.

Thursday 20th March

Fiona Smith

City of Edinburgh **Countryside Ranger**

Talking about her first year with responsibility for Corstorphine Hill, and about her own special interests as a Ranger.

Thursday 24th April

2003 Annual General Meeting

and **Educational Use of Corstorphine Hill**

Information on what is being done to promote use of Corstorphine Hill by primary schools and other groups.

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

For further details, please contact David McAdam. Tel 539 1060.

Paved With Good Intentions

A metallic structure bristling with communications antennae and surmounted by a merry red globe is positioned high on the hill. It is difficult to understand how the elevated piece of land on which it stands so proudly can be a marsh, but wet it most certainly is. Regular visitors to the Temperate Rain Forest, formally kent as Corrie Woods, will have noticed that the geology has turned itself into a sticky substance. Attaching itself to footwear and canine companions results in it migrating, like some form of seed dispersal, to block the dog walkers' drains back home.

Seeking to alleviate problems of scoured paths in the Walled Garden, to prepare a new access path in the garden, and to provide dry passage through some of the well-trodden muddier parts of the western paddy fields, the *Friends* recently undertook the pedway project.

The usual band of members, assisted by BTCV's team of volunteers and with supervisory expertise, prepared the ground midweek for a work party to follow on the Saturday. Meanwhile, many tonnes of hard core were delivered.

There were good winter weather conditions on previous weekends for Cross Country and Orienteering events on the Hill but not so for the work day. It is fortunate that the volunteers were made of stern stuff. Once dried out, with the stiffness and blisters relegated to the recesses of memory, they should all feel rather chuffed with this community effort.

For the project, we had the use of a mechanical beast of burden in the form of a dumper truck from the zoo for which we are most grateful. In the spirit of the Bard whose birthday it was, Eddie

Weel mounted on his Dumper, sit;
A better never was to tip.

Wrestling with a recalcitrant gearbox, Eddie sped around to supply the path builders with ballast. Between filling Eddie's scoop, the stalwarts also barrowed many loads for the new access road.

Development continues in the "semi-walled" garden, with new paths and preparations for a tool storage shed. The wet woodland area has been planned for some time in the lowest, dampest part of the garden. Now this is rather weird because, with all the precipitation, one of the few parts of the garden where the gloop does not suck off your wellies, is just that spot.

Never mind, for a' the rain;
Our plans are far frae doon the drain.
So, the paths are not quite done;
Want to help? Call Eddie an' join the fun!

Help!

We really need your help - please let us know if you can take a turn

Tower opening	_____
opening and closing the walled garden	_____
working in the walled garden / on paths	_____
arranging talks	_____
organising walks	_____
delivering newsletters	_____
reporting on areas of the hill	_____
other (what interests you?)	_____

Membership for 2003

Renewal of membership remains at only **£1 per member per year.**

Donations are also always very welcome!

Please send this form and the fee to **E. Price, 25 Corstorphine Hill Ave., Edinburgh EH12 6LF**
or to any other member of the committee (see below).

Name (please PRINT)

.....

Address

.....

Telephone

.....

E-mail

.....

This personal information will only be used to keep in touch with you and will not be disclosed to others.

Contacts

To renew membership or to discuss matters related to the *Friends* or to Corstorphine Hill in general, you are welcome to contact members of the committee:

Chair	Eddie Price	25 Corstorphine Hill Avenue	539 1088
Treasurer	Leslie Foggie	9 Strachan Gardens	312 6554
Secretary	Lesley Castell	10 Hillpark Brae	336 4283
	Fiona Campbell	6 Barony Terrace	538 1488
Membership	Willma Carroll	7 Drum Brae Drive	317 1385
Newsletter delivery	John Crombie	5 Southbank, Easter Park Drive	312 7360
	Margie Dobson	23 Drum Brae Drive	466 0216
	Win Golder	65/5 Rannoch Road	339 7528
Walled garden	Les Hutcheon	17 Caroline Terrace	334 3832
Walks / talks	David McAdam	39 Clermiston Road	539 1060
Walled garden	Ed McLennan	84 Drum Brae Park	539 0836
	Os Wallace	22 Clerwood Place	334 3343