



Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Summer 2003

Conserving and improving the environment

Walled In Wild Flowers

You may be aware of the hard landscaping work carried out in the Walled Garden during the winter - paths improved and increased and plans well underway to have the wall fully repaired - but have you noticed the plants?

Most of the trees planted have done well and become well established. We know this because we have had to slacken off the tree ties as the trees have grown. We look forward to the time when we can remove the stakes, which will improve the natural appearance.

Recently we have "reclaimed" another two substantial areas of the garden, pushing out towards the edges.

This is where we have planted some 320 plants representing 19 different species, most of which are native wild flowers.

The plugs of wild flowers planted last year in the wild flower meadow area have mostly taken. Whilst this area does not give the splash of colour of a parks garden laid out with bedding plants, it is rather exciting to find a wee flower of a native species peeping out of the grass.

We have managed to keep the garden tidy by cutting grass (made easier thanks to Mr and Mrs Hamilton's donation of a powered lawnmower) and weeding. This has been done by a band of volunteers,

some giving much time and others just a little but all have gained satisfaction for their efforts. Many hands and all that pop in for a while on a Tuesday morning or a Thursday afternoon and help to make it your garden.

We are winning the battle against the Japanese knotweed. It is not eliminated but it is being contained. The rosebay willow herb tries to grow everywhere but is easier to deal with than the knotweed. Likewise, the nettles which are good for butterflies and soup, or so we're told.

April and May brought the spring flowers, especially daffodils. May and into June has treated us to splendid blossom on the large hawthorn. The dreaded creeping buttercup, tangling its roots amongst all the other plants, can almost be forgiven because of the magnificent display of yellow flowers particularly along the top edge of the garden.

Pay a visit and see for yourself what surprises the flowers have to offer in the summer months. The entrance is on the access road up to the Tower from Clermiston Road.

If you have any questions about the garden or if you want to know how you can help, you are welcome to contact committee members:

Eddie Price, telephone 539 1088

Ed McLennan, telephone 539 0836

Les Hutcheon, telephone 334 3832.

Walks

The Sunday afternoon walks begin at 2 p.m. and usually last about 2 hours.

July 27 Flowers and Birds

To be led by David McAdam and Martin Craven.

Meet in the Walled Garden.

August 10 Geology

David McAdam.

Starting from the Clermiston Road North car park.

August 24 Badgers

Tricia Alderson.

From Clermiston Road North car park.

September 7 Trees

Mary Robertson.

From Clermiston Road North car park.

September 21 Fungi

David Adamson.

From Cairnmuir car park.

Talks

Subjects proposed for evening talks next winter include an update on Friends activities; birds; flowers; geology; trees and the work of the Ranger Service on the Hill.

If you have any questions about walks or talks, would like to suggest a topic, or request that a walk takes place at a time other than a Sunday afternoon, contact Margie Dobson, telephone 466 0216.

Tower

Work to repair damage to the Tower stonework caused by vandals has been completed and so we intend to open the Tower for visitors on the following Sunday afternoons, 2 - 4 p.m.

July	27
August	10
	24
September	7
	21

and also on *Saturday 27 September* from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of the Civic Trust Doors Open Day.

If you have any queries about access to the Tower or about helping with the Sunday afternoon openings, contact Willma Carroll, telephone 476 5594.

Contributions

Letters to the editor, local news and other items for the newsletter are all very welcome. If you have anything to contribute, please contact Lesley Castell at 10 Hillpark Brae, telephone 336 4283.

E-mail

E-mail is becoming an increasingly useful way of keeping in touch, promptly and cheaply.

If you would like to be contacted in this way, please send your e-mail address to friends@corstorphinehill.org.uk

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Registered as a charity No SCO28842.

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