



Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Winter 2003

Conserving and improving the environment

Your Chance to Have a Say

The City of Edinburgh Council Ranger Service is holding a meeting in Fox Covert Primary School on Thursday **November 27** at 7 p.m. to discuss the **Management Plan for Corstorphine Hill**.

Corstorphine Hill is the second largest urban woodland in Edinburgh. It has been a public park since 1924 and became the first of Edinburgh's Local Nature Reserves when it was designated in 1993, protecting it from development. Its significance as a countryside site has increased as a recreational area for people living in the area and will also be important for those moving to it in the future, for instance when the Queen Margaret University College campus is re-developed.

The Rangers are looking for recommendations from users of the hill on how the area could be improved or changed. These will then be incorporated into a draft management plan.

The first management plan was written in 1998 after extensive public consultation. It was to cover five years, and so it is now time to review, update and amend the plan for a further period.

The new plan will come into effect in April 2004.

If you are unable to attend the consultation meeting but have views on what is good or bad about the hill or what you would like to see changed, you can send your suggestions by e-mail to fiona@cecrangerservice.demon.co.uk or by post to F. Devlin at the CEC Ranger Service, Hermitage of Braid, 69a Braid Road, Edinburgh EH10 6JF.

Talks

The Friends Winter talks are held in Queen Margaret University College, Lecture Theatre B, at 7.30 p.m.

November 20

Birds of Corstorphine Hill

Martin Craven, keen ornithologist and member of the Friends committee.

January 15

History of Cramond

Doris Duncanson,
Cramond Heritage Trust.

February 19

The Lowland Canals and the Falkirk Wheel

Helen Rowbotham,
British Waterways Scotland.

If you have any questions about our walks or talks, or would like to suggest a topic, please contact Margie Dobson, telephone 466 0216.

Or Close Up the Wall, said Eddie

It is with as much determination as Henry V rallying his troops that our Chairman has summoned resources for repairs to the walls of the garden. The breaches in the west wall have been closed. The east wall has mostly been restored. There remains a further section together with the shed which has yet to be completed. Even now, though, the results are dramatic, giving the garden a more complete and sheltered feel. It is noteworthy that all the restored sections of wall have been built to a high standard, highlighting the fact that the old skills do still exist.

Throughout the summer, the stalwarts have kept on top of the weeds and trimmed the grass. Martin has carried out a personal campaign with a particularly mole-like determination, grubbing up even the tiniest bits of Japanese knotweed root which might otherwise have evaded detection. Additional areas have been cultivated, pushing out gradually from the centre. The planting has mainly been of native wild flowers but it will be next year before the effects will be apparent. The overall effect is taking shape gradually. There are plenty of ideas as to how more areas of the garden can be developed to make it pleasant, interesting and educational. It is your garden so do come along and give us your ideas, suggestions and, if you have the time, a bit of physical help in the way of practical gardening - welcome anytime but particularly at the regular work times of Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

Tower Opening

Many thanks to all who helped out over the summer months, opening the Tower - we couldn't do it without you.

Christmas Card

The Corstorphine Fair committee gave careful consideration to the choice of picture for their second Christmas card. Last year, celebrating the Tower's 130th anniversary, the cards showed a view of the Tower. It was a fitting tribute to its long-standing existence. The cards were sold to raise funds for Christmas events. This year sees another milestone in the Tower's history: the 70th anniversary of its official handing over to the then Edinburgh Corporation. The Tower was repaired and opened to the general public after agreement with the owners of the land around the Tower that they would give ground for access, free, provided the

Corporation would erect an iron fence to separate it from their property. This year saw another repair and re-opening, this time after vandals damaged the Tower in April 2002. It was carefully restored, at an approximate cost of £5,000. The doors were opened to visitors again in June this year. Corstorphine Hill Tower takes its rightful place among the 180 buildings / monuments owned by the City of Edinburgh Council. It may jostle for prominence on the hill these days but it justifies a prominent place in our hearts. Thus, in recognition of its importance, the "Christmas Card for Corstorphine" again shows Corstorphine Hill Tower. If you want packs of the cards, they are on sale at Corstorphine Library; each Saturday from October at the TSB; some Saturdays outside Iceland; or you can 'phone Eileen Macarthur on 334 1169 - free delivery within Corstorphine!

Plants for the Fair

Looking ahead to the Corstorphine Fair next year, on **5 June**, the Friends will again be present to let visitors know what we do and also to try to raise some funds. This time, we intend to sell herbs and so, if you can help by growing some plants, please get in touch with either Margie Dobson, telephone 466 0216 or Willma Carroll, telephone 476 5594.

Win Golder

It is with great regret that we have to let you know of the sad loss of one of our founder committee members. Win Golder passed away peacefully in St Columba's Hospice on 7 September. She was an active participant in the setting up of the Friends and spent many happy hours in the creation of the Walled Garden. She will be sadly missed.

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Registered as a charity No SCO28842.

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Website www.corstorphinehill.org.uk