



# Friends of Corstorphine Hill

**Spring 2005**

**Conserving and improving the environment**

## **Education Pack**

Thanks to work by Friends committee member Margaret Macdonald and under the auspices of the City Council and funded by the West Local Development Committee Community Grants Scheme, the Friends have produced a Teachers' Resource Pack which makes suggestions for field trips to the Hill for all levels of primary school pupils.

It includes follow-up material such as teacher information, photocopyable work sheets, practical activities, art work and posters, all of which comply with the 5-14 curriculum. The presentation of the pack to local primary schools in March was very well received.

## **Walled Garden**

As the hours of daylight lengthen, daffodils and other plants have emerged from the well-watered soggy soil of the garden on the western slopes of Corstorphine Hill.

We await with interest to see the effects of our efforts in cultivation and additional planting in the autumn as we progress into the spring of another year.

Since the first planting in September 2001, progressively more areas have been developed, with a view to providing examples of differing but predominantly native species.

The path network has become consolidated and improvement to the drainage at critical points results in sections of path no longer being washed away after torrential rain.

The completion of the wall and storage shed has greatly enhanced the atmosphere of the garden, resulting in it becoming the outdoor clubroom of the Friends.

During 2005, we intend to develop the wet woodland area, providing the environment for marsh type plants; increase the amount of native plants in the most recently cultivated area; and provide sculptural interest.

Certain of the plants already encourage butterflies to visit the garden and the introduction of four bird feeders is beginning to increase the number of species of birds spotted: as well as blue, great and coal tits, there are wrens, robins, chaffinches, blackbirds, magpies, carrion crows and wood pigeons. White kestrels can be seen flying overhead.

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## **Friends of Corstorphine Hill membership renewal 2005.**

The membership fee remains at **£1 per member per year.**

Money enclosed: **membership** ..... / **donation** .....

**First name** ..... **Surname**..... (please PRINT)

**Address** ..... **Postcode**.....

**Telephone** ..... **E-mail** .....

Thank you for your support.

## Annual General Meeting

### Notice

The AGM will be held on Thursday **21 April** at **7.30 p.m.** in Lecture Theatre B, Queen Margaret University College, Clerwood Terrace.

### Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2004 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of committee members
7. Any other business

David Windmill, Chief Executive of Edinburgh Zoo, will be present to give an update on development plans for the zoo and there will be a presentation from City of Edinburgh Council Countryside Ranger Fiona Devlin about the Woodland Management Plan for the Hill.

The minutes of the 2004 AGM and the annual accounts for the year ending December 2004 will be available at the AGM.

This will be an opportunity to meet other Friends and discuss issues so do come along.

### Notes from the 2004 AGM

The Chairman reported on the past year:

- Walled Garden – problems with the wall and with grants had been sorted out.
- Walks – the summer Sunday afternoon walks were very popular.
- Talks – talks to community groups, publicising the Friends and encouraging membership, were well received.
- Botany Group – the group had produced an excellent leaflet on trees.

Other topics reported included

- Legacy – Local groups such as ours would be involved in planning the use of a legacy of £45,000-£50,000 left for woodlands in the city.
- Orienteering routes – The marker stobs were fully approved by the Rangers and the Friends.
- Education pack – A resource pack for primary schools was being prepared.
- Corstorphine Fair – The Friends would be promoting membership and selling plants.
- Tower – A call was made for people to help with opening the Tower for visits during the Summer months.

Questions raised covered membership numbers; noticeboards; grants; litter bins; fireworks; and the statue of R L Stevenson being erected by United Distillers.

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**Please return membership renewal form(s) / money to one of the following committee members:**

Chair	E. Price	25 Corstorphine Hill Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 6LF
Treasurer	A. Lamb	81 Belgrave Road, Edinburgh EH12 6NH
Membership	M. Craven	42 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh EH12 6XB

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## Volunteer!

Volunteers keep us going - if you can join in with any of our activities, please let us know ...

Committee work	_____	Giving a talk	_____
Newsletter delivery	_____	Taking a turn on the Tower rota	_____
Newsletter production	_____	Leading a walk	_____
Walled Garden maintenance	_____	Other	_____

### Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Registered as a charity No SCO28842.

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](http://www.corstorphinehill.org.uk)