

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

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Ten Years and Still Improving

At the Annual General Meeting the Chairman thanked all the volunteers who in various ways contributed to the efforts which made the Friends so successful. In particular he thanked Alison MacKintosh for producing the History of the Hill. The book has been a great success. The woodland improvements have also been much appreciated.

This year the Hill has been entered in the Green Flag Award scheme and the Walled Garden in the Green Pennant competition. This is surely a reflection on the achievements of the past ten years. There are some very positive ideas as to how the anniversary should be celebrated.

Brian Moffat was formally elected on to the committee having served for some time as a co-opted member. The remainder of the committee remained in position.

The new team is as follows with specific interests and contact numbers:-

Eddie Price	Chairman.....539 1088
Donald Gorrie	Secretary.....337 2077
Fred Davies	Treasurer with an additional interest in wedding photographs.....337 9232
Martin Craven	Members secretary with an additional interest in newsletter distribution as well as in birds...334 1247
Les Hutcheon	Newsletter editor with an additional interest in the walled garden and acting as tree warden.....334 3832
Eddie MacLennan	Co-ordinates work carried out in the walled garden, keeps photo graphic records and assists the chairman at giving talks to local groups.....539 0836
Ian McGeachy	Organises the gate rota for the walled garden.....476 5499
Gordon Swann	Organises the Tower rota, as well as organising the summer walks and winter talks programmes.....334 4769
Brian Moffat	Botanist with specific interest in the Hill and the garden
Cecilia McPherson	Committee member backing up Gordon on the talks programme

There was some discussion concerning the collection of subscriptions and it was agreed that boxes would be placed in the library and at the Dower House with application forms and a facility to leave the annual subscription to make it easier.

Paul Edie then summarised the achievements over the past ten years, which was quite inspirational. Those who heard of how the Friends had influenced events over the past decade for the first time, were impressed. Even those who had experienced the events themselves were equally impressed. One can only wonder at what would have resulted due to the lack of maintenance on the Hill. Excavation of water tanks may have taken place. There would be no restful garden to sit in, no educational material, and perhaps more important there would be a lack of community spirit, all of which makes living in Corstorphine particularly pleasant.

Finally the Chairman thanked the Capital Hotel for providing the venue. Now that the former college has been reduced to a pile of rubble, the hotel has stepped in to provide venues for meetings which have been used for our winter talks as well as the AGM and we are delighted with the service that has been provided.

Summer Guided Walks Programme

The walks got off to a good start on 2 May with some good sightings of rarer birds. The second walk on botany on the Hill has taken place also well supported and here is a reminder of the walks still to come.

Sunday 21st June 2 pm starting at the Walled Garden.

Local herbalist Sarah Clarkson will lead a walk looking at the many useful herbs which grow on the Hill, entitled 'Medicinal Plants of Corstorphine Hill'. This is part of National Herbal Medicine week.

Tuesday evening 7th July at 7.30 pm , Edinburgh and Lothians Badger Group will lead a Badger Watch. Numbers are restricted and participants must follow certain guidelines so attendance is by booking only from : Gordon Swann, tel. 0131 334 4769.

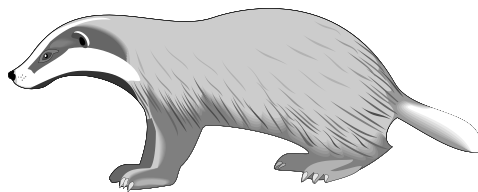
Sunday 19th July at 2 pm in the Walled Garden, Kirsty Straughan will lead a storytelling session on themes related to the Hill. The stories are aimed at 4 – 8 year olds, and their parents, of course. That is definitely Sunday 19 July and apologies for any confusion. This event is proving very popular so please phone Kirsty about the stories and the availability on 334 1884.

Sunday 9th August at 2pm starting in the Walled Garden. Gordon Swann will lead an expedition, as last year, to find and identify 'Butterflies, Bees, and other Beasties'. Nets and bug bottles provided, children, young and old, especially welcome !

Sunday 20th September at 2 pm, starting from Kaimes/Cairnmuir Road car park, David Adamson will lead another of his perennially popular 'Fungus Forays'

Summer Guided Walks Programme

Please note that the Badger watch on the 7th July is over subscribed so we have arranged another one on Tuesday 25th August. Please contact Gordon Swann 334 4769 for details.



Tower Opening Dates

The Tower openings started on 10th May and will continue on alternate Sunday afternoons between 2.00 and 4.00 pm till 27 September, which coincides with the Doors Open weekend in Edinburgh. That is 21 June, 5 July, 19 July, 2 August, 16 August, 30 August, 13 September, and 27 September. In addition as part of the Edinburgh Homecoming Week the Friends will open the Tower for the same two hours on Monday 29 June, Wednesday 1 July and Saturday 4 July.

Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers so if there is anything you would like to get involved in please give us a ring. As always Martin is grateful to all those who assist in the distribution of Newsletters and at the moment would like to get assistance in the Murrayfield and Craigmount areas. Gordon too much appreciates the help in opening the Tower and remember that without these volunteers the community would not be able to enjoy this facility. This year new volunteers have turned up at the walled garden in spite of some poor weather. We are particularly glad of this assistance as there is always something to do in the garden. Ian's team opening and closing the garden also make the garden facility available.

In The Garden

The garden is looking quite mature now. Apart from the usual maintenance, the main initiative this year has been to improve the selection of plants in wildflower meadow, the wild flower section and the marsh areas. A section is also being developed as a herb garden with a variety of different plants.

Ten Years In Business

We would like to announce our celebration of the founding of the Friends of Corstorphine Hill by having an open day in the walled garden on **Saturday 8th August between 2.00 and 4.00pm.**

As you know we are competing for the green flag for the Hill and the green pennant for the Walled Garden and if successful it will be more reason for celebrations.

Please come and join us in the entertainment which we are providing and everyone is welcome.

There will be barbershop choir singing, pipe music and a tombola stand. The tombola will be a fund raising exercise so we will be grateful to anyone donating bottles of scotch, wine, irn bru, shampoo, ketchup etc to myself or to Gordon Swann at 1 Dovecot Road in the next week or so.

In addition we hope to have pony rides for the children. There will be trips to the Corstorphine Tower for anyone who would like to see the marvellous views from the top.

We also plan to lay on a guided flower and tree walk to point out some of the interesting plants growing on the Hill.

Our committee look forward to meeting you all on the day.

Eddie Price

