

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

NEWSLETTER No.46

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

Unfortunately, another long time FoCH Committee Member, Martin Craven, passed away in January. Martin worked energetically in the Walled Garden and organised deliveries of our Newsletter for many years. He was also a keen birdwatcher, on the Hill and elsewhere, and in earlier years a considerable cross-country and marathon runner. We shall all miss him, and we extend our sympathies to his family.

Since the last Newsletter we had a very successful and well attended pre Christmas Social at the Heritage Centre, and updated attenders on our activities. Briefly, over the last 5 months we have taken forward:

Waymarkers on the Hill – See separate item later in this Newsletter.

Cycle use on the Hill: we have been awaiting the appointment of a new CEC Ranger to head up this Working Group, and are hoping to meet with her soon.

John Muir Path. (Walking path from Dunbar to the Clyde). We have submitted our views on the part of the route which goes over Corstorphine Hill to the City Council.

Meeting of Edinburgh Greenspaces Friends Groups. Two of our Committee attended this meeting in November and presented a resume of our work over the last 12 years, as the largest and most effective Friends Group in Edinburgh. This was a very interesting meeting and we were pleased to have made such a significant contribution. Gordon Swann (Chairman)

WALLED GARDENERS WANTED: EVERY LITTLE HELPS

Why not have a go at helping in the walled garden?

No experience necessary, tools provided. Come when it suits you – in spring or summer, for as long as you prefer. Light and heavier work are optional, both gardening and maintenance.

We are usually there on Tuesdays 11-1 and Thursdays 2-4, but other times may be possible. Please come along any week and try it out, or call first to Eddie on 539 0836 or Pete on 336 1628.

On foot or by bus, go up the lane opposite the 26 bus terminus and look for the Green Flag. Parking available at Cairnmuir Road and unrestricted street parking nearby. You can also walk from Clermiston Road North car park or across the hill from Craigcrook Road.

Payment of annual subscriptions and any donations can be made using our boxes placed in Corstorphine Library, Blackhall Library, Balgreen Library, the Dower House and the new Drumbrae Library Hub.

INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER IS THE ANNUAL RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP FORM

If you would like your Newsletter sent by e-mail, rather than delivered, please fill in the section on the form. This will, in time, save on paper and shoe-leather for our deliverers.

100 YEARS**100 YEARS****St.Anne's Parish Church Centenary 1913-2013**

This year sees the celebrations of 100 years since the completion of St.Anne's Church at the foot of Corstorphine Hill at the junction of Kaimes Road and St.Johns Road. It was designed by the renowned Scottish ecclesiastical architect, Peter Macgregor Chalmers and only the best materials were used in it's construction resulting in the magnificent building which has withstood the test of time and, God willing, will continue to do so for many generations to come.

Several events are planned for this year of celebration to which all "friends on the hill" are most welcome.

Please see the events calendar on our web site www.stannescorstorphine.org.uk for details.

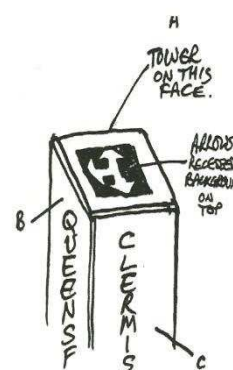
ALSO

Edinburgh Zoo

Congratulations to Edinburgh Zoo, which celebrates its centenary this year. They have many events planned throughout the year, please visit their web site to find out more details.

Waymarker Project

Been wondering about the white numbers at some of the junctions on the paths on the hill? Well, these are the penultimate stage in the project to place ten waymarkers at the main junctions on the network of paths which traverse Corstorphine Hill. The idea was prompted by encountering people lost on the hill and the Committee decided it would be worthwhile looking at the possibility of placing markers on the hill to help and encourage visitors and walkers to the hill.



Iain McGeachy

The first stage was to decide on a type of marker which would be environmentally friendly, robust and fit into the landscape of the hill bearing in mind that it is a Local Nature Reserve and 'Regionally Important Geological Site'. Taking these factors in mind a 'milestone' format using sandstone blocks was selected and the specifications presented to a number of suppliers for estimates. The second stage was to find funding for the cost of the project. Applications were made to BIFFA, the specialist waste management company through their Biffaward - a multi-million pound fund that awards grants to community and environmental projects and to the British Airports Authority Edinburgh Airport Community Fund. We were fortunate to receive £5,000 from the former and £1,000 from the latter at their final meeting before the change in airport ownership. We wish to express our sincere thanks to these two organisations.

Having settled on a design and received funding the next stage was to select a stone mason and meet with him to agree placement and wording. This has been done, with two walk rounds of the hill, the work on the stones has commenced.

Iain McGeachy

CORSTORPHINE HILL TOWER

The Tower will be open again this summer every Sunday starting on Sunday 5th May (2pm till 4pm) and finish with the Edinburgh Open Doors weekend in September when the Tower will be open Saturday & Sunday, We hope you can come and enjoy the spectacular views

Forthcoming Events

Tuesday March 12th at 7.30 in the Capital Hotel. Old Edinburgh in Maps as illustrated by the Bartholomew Map Archive. This talk will be by Chris Fleet from the National Library where the archive is on show.

Thursday April 25th at 7.30 at the Capital Hotel. Friends of Corstorphine Hill Annual General Meeting 2013. Please come along to find out more about what we do, ask questions, give your views, and even volunteer to help in the Walled Garden, the Nature Reserve or any way you wish !

Saturday May 4th, at 10.00. There will be a **Birdwatching walk on Corstorphine Hill**, starting at 11 am from the Clermiston Road North car park, led by by Keith Donnelly of the Edinburgh RSPB Group. This is a good time to see and hear the summer migrants beginning their nesting , while the limited leaf cover allows us to see them.

“NEW” FRIENDS OF CORSTORPHINE HILL PAMPHLET: “The South Side”.

This area of Corstorphine Hill, bounded by the Zoo, the Golf Course, buildings on the Glasgow Road – The South Side – opens onto Balgreen Road (to the south) and Rest-and-be-Thankful (to the North). It is “the poor relation” in that no Friends’ pamphlet had introduced its attractions. What are these attractions, you ask: Our group has summarised these: it is the best preserved and most diverse area of heathy grassland on the hill, if not in greater Edinburgh, the viewpoints to the south (the entire Pentland Hills range) and east (the Old Town) are unmatched, this permanently open ground attracts birds of prey or raptors, and woodpeckers like no other, badger setts and feeding grounds, are notable. The traditional Roman Road to Cramond passes this way, the climax of Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Kidnapped” take place exactly here – with the novelist specifying the unique combined southward and eastward view. Look out for the free pamphlet (Due in the Spring) and make a visit.

Dr Brian Moffat

RAREST OF PLANT SPECIES being conserved on Corstorphine Hill

The ELECAMPANE (*Inula helenium*) has only one recorded site in Edinburgh and the Lothians, and that is on Corstorphine Hill. The other site recorded – Bawsinch – is, we are told, no more. With a single station, nothing can be rarer -! What is it?

It is one of the large and complex Compositae (Dandelion/Daisy Family) Picture a half size and erect Sunflower, with a brilliant yellow flower and velvety leaves. It has not caused a stir as yet because it has been judged to be a recent garden escape, largely because of its location on Clermiston Road North a little to the North of the car park/bus stop (southbound). Garden waste is sometimes still dumped from the houses opposite (built in the 1930’s) and this has misled botanists. Elecampane preceded the houses on this road and is recorded as long ago as 1810. According to the household accounts of Fowlis of Ravelston, it was bought locally in the 1690’s, it was not sent away for – it has a long, long history of being useful and used in medicine and ritual – extending to ancient Egypt, Assyria Greece and Rome. It does seem to originate in this broad area. Because of its rarity, we have gathered and preserved seed since 2009, We will be re-planting it in the Walled Garden imminently. At the AGM, we will be selling seed (with instructions) towards Friends funds – to make certain it is no longer susceptible to local extinction. A lazy gardener’s dump could have seen its end, but no longer.



PLEASE LET US KNOW BY THE END OF APRIL IF YOU WISH TO GO ON THE TRIP.
THANK YOU



Coach Trip to Kailzie Gardens, nr Peebles.

Tuesday 28th May 2013

The History of Kailzie Gardens

Kailzie was originally known as West Kelloch, which means wooded glen. Remnants of old forts on the hill indicate that man has lived here for a long time. The first recorded mention was in 1296 when William of Hop Kallow swore allegiance to Edward I and paid the then princely sum of 30 shillings to the King. In 1326 King David II confirmed a grant in respect of Hop Kailzie to James of Tweedie. It remained in the Tweedie family for several centuries, and at some stage they built a keep, the site of which can still be clearly identified. More history can be found on their web site www.kailziegardens.com Situated 2.5 miles from Peebles town centre on the B7062, Kailzie Gardens in the Scottish Borders are open 7 days a week throughout the year.

In their seasons, the [Gardens](#) provide a rich variety of colour and charm for both the keen gardener, and for the visitor simply wanting to enjoy a beautiful garden in peaceful surroundings

Apart from the gardens, principal attractions for a day out include live viewing of the [Tweed Valley Ospreys](#) (Easter to August) **Entry to view the Ospreys is £3**, the [restaurant](#), a gift shop, and a picnic area.

Kailzie is not a National Trust garden, but is privately owned and run by the family - there is a small charge for entry depending on the season.

The coach will leave from the Capital Hotel, Clermiston Road at 10.30am and will leave Peebles at 3.30pm (approx) for return. (Open to members and their friends) (You will be allocated a seat/s on a first come basis & notified by telephone to confirm)

Detach here-----

**Applications, with payment, should be sent to:-
Friends of Corstorphine Hill c/o Fred Davies, 5 Saughtonhall Place, Edinburgh EH12 5RH**

Tuesday 28th May 2013

KAILZIE GARDENS, nr PEEBLES

Please reserve.....places at £14 each to include coach travel and entry.

Cheque payable to "Friends of Corstorphine Hill" for £.....enclosed

Name and Address (Please Print).....

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Contact Telephone Number.....