



The Grange Association

Edinburgh

Scottish Charity No. SC025491

THIRTY SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 11th March 2015 at 7.00 pm
at Marchmont St Giles' Church Hall, Kilgraston Road,
(Hall open from 6.30pm)

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Adoption of Thirty-fifth AGM minutes
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Chair's report
- 6 Honorary Secretary's report.
- 7 Honorary Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts
- 8 Adoption of membership fees for 2016
- 9 Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditor's appointment
- 10 Question time
- 11 Conclusion

Minutes of the Grange Association Thirty-fifth Annual General Meeting
Held at Marchmont St Giles Church, Kilgraston Road Edinburgh
On Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 7.00pm

Before the AGM started, Rachel Howarth (City Council) addressed the meeting about the review of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal now being carried out. Consultation will be from 17th March to 7th April and there will be an exhibition in Newington Library from March 17-28. The Chair thanked Rachel, and students from the University, for their work and for involving the GA at an early stage.

Present: Committee: John Graham (Chair), Doreen Allerton (ViceChair), Richard Brown (Treasurer), Sue Tritton (Secretary), Dan Cronin, Hilary Watkinson, Alison Bramley, Dorothy Ryle, Roger Kellett, Neil Davidson

Members (over 60 present including): Elizabeth Hudson, David Hudson, Andy Bell, Riona Bell, Betty Findlay, Jenny Dawe, Mike Falchikov, Bill Cantley, Erick Davidson, Peter H Whelpdale, Jim and Jenny Gray, Robert Bartholomew, Isobel M Miller, Mr and Mrs AG Graham, Mr and Mrs Wren Hoskyns-Abraham, Mrs M Haynes, Mrs M Somerville, Mrs ME Wilson, Mrs M Bayne, Mr and Mrs J Wood, Mrs J Robinson, May Bowie, Ken McKinnon, Stuart and Norma Macphae, John and Camila Cowie, John Martin, Moyra Forrest, David and Jane Main, Brenda and Kenneth Holmes, Jean Swaffield, RW McNeil, Jane Main, Pat and Elizabeth Wimbush, Neil Mackenzie, Marjorie Mackenzie, Rosemary Razzell, Caroline McInnes, Krishel Colam, Rhoda Drummond, John Eliot, Ken and Ruth Orr, Pat Storey, Pamela Molyneaux, Euan Rae, Laure Mitchell, Joan Steven + several others

Guests: Councillor Cameron Rose, Alastair Philp (Marchmont Sciennes CC), Rachel Howarth (CEC), Nikolia Kartalou (Edinburgh University)

Apologies: Ian Murray MP, Cllr Steve Burgess, Cllr Ian Perry, Tony Harris, Richard Grant (West Blacket Ass), Margaret Thom, Adam Rennie

1. **Welcome:** The chair, John Graham, welcomed everyone to the meeting- in particular Cllr Rose and Alastair Philp (MSCC)
2. **Apologies:** Given to the secretary
3. **Adoption of Thirty-fourth AGM minutes:** There were no amendments proposed.
The minutes were adopted by the meeting.
4. **Matters arising:** None
5. **Chair's report:** A report had been circulated and the Chair said he wishes to stress 3 points:
 - a. Two committee members were retiring as they had completed their 4 years in office: Doreen Allerton as Vice-Chair (but she would continue as a co-opted member as the GA rep on the Grange Prestonfield CC) and Dan Cronin who had efficiently organized the distribution of the newsletter
 - b. A new venture (for the present committee) is the Spring Fair planned for Sunday May 11th at Newington Library. This is being organized by a very enthusiastic group of local residents, led by Lucy Richardson, but help is needed and members are asked sign the sheet at the entrance. There are fliers about this on your seats.

Proposed

- c. The “Christmas Quiz” held last December was enjoyable but not many attended. He invited members to say what kind of social event they would like to attend.
6. **Honorary Secretary’s Report:** A report (including a Planning report) had been circulated. The secretary mentioned the success in getting street poles removed, and the parking signs attached to a wall, and invited others to contact her if there was a pole outside their property which could be removed.
7. **Honorary Treasurer; report and adoption of accounts.** The treasurer commented
- a. That the membership level has remained remarkably steady for the past few years although there is a turnover with new members replacing those leaving. It would be nice to get to 400.
 - b. There are lots of people wanting to advertise but the committee had decided to restrict advertising space to 1.5 pages in a 12 page newsletter
 - c. It is taking some time to spend the legacy money - £500 towards the new Cricket Club gates was “money well spent” and information boards in the Cemetery should be on display soon. Other suggestions are still welcome.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed by Roger Kellett

Seconded by Alison Bramley

8. **Adoption of membership fees for 2014:** Agreed at the AGM in 2011 to remain the same for at least 5 years (2012-2016 inclusive). It was not expected that there would be a proposal to increase them next year. In answer to a question about Gift Aid the treasurer explained that there was a time delay between receiving subscriptions and claiming gift aid, and that this could straddle accounting years.

The subscription level was approved to remain the same for the next year:

Proposed: Hilary Watkinson

Seconded: John Eliot

9. **Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditors appointment:** A list of proposals for the 2014/15 committee had been circulated.

a) Chairman: John Graham

Vice chair: Roger Kellett

Hon Secretary: Sue Tritton

Hon Treasurer: Richard Brown

b) Ordinary members for (re-)election to the committee –

Margaret Thom (Minutes) 2011

Alison Bramley (Grange Garden Exchange) 2011,

Adam Rennie (Planning) 2012

Hilary Watkinson (Events) 2013

Neil Davidson (co-opted 2013)

Jenny Dawe

Erick Davidson

The election for all these to be taken together.

Proposed: Jim Gray

Seconded: John Wood

Ken Robertson was re-appointed as Independent Examiner (Auditor) by acclamation.

10. Question time

- a. Does the GA have any influence with the Council about the state of the roads? Cllr Rose said that roads all over the city are in a shocking state – a certain amount of cash is allocated each year to repairs and all roads and pavements are checked each year. Possible for local councillors to “rabble rouse” and he encouraged everyone to contact the councillors. Mentioned that some pavements (not all that bad) e.g. Melville Drive, are being repaired. The Chairman agreed to write to CEC saying that concern about the state of roads had been brought up at the AGM.
- b. Planning matters: Do we have a note of which councillors voted which way on contentious planning applications? Cllr Rose said that individual councillor’s votes are not recorded at present although with the introduction of electronic voting, expected later this year, this will be known. The Chair said that the GA had had productive meetings with Cllr Ian Perry (Convener of Planning) and that the GA is now noted as an objector in the reports. It was confirmed that 7 objections are necessary for an application to go to committee.

11. Conclusion: The AGM was formally closed at 7.45pm

Chair's report – AGM 2015

This has been another busy year for the Association. The highlight was the Spring Fair held in conjunction with the Library last May and ably organised by Lucy Richardson and a large supporting team. This was the first event we had held for children for several years and attracted hundreds of people to Fountainhall Road. Slightly to our surprise it made a surplus and we were able to donate some welcome new equipment to the Library.

We had extensive discussion with the Council about the revision of the character appraisal for the area. This is the document which defines for the planners what is distinctive in our area. Our input was very much welcomed and we think the new appraisal is an excellent piece of work. It identifies some important management issues for the future, in particular how we ensure that the varied trees which are such an integral part of the character of the area can be renewed as they come to the end of their natural life. This is not something the Council can sort: the residents need to take responsibility for it.

Although our membership is slightly down our finances remain healthy. We have made two donations to the group planning major improvements to the playground at Sciennes Primary School. The Cemetery project is nearing completion, with biographies of 24 notable burials researched by Joanne Lamb and a design for information boards for the Cemetery created. We will pay for the signs to be made and we expect them to be installed soon. A team from Glasgow School of Art is coming to laser-scan the wyverns in Grange Loan; this is a very precise form of photography which will help ensure conservation of these carvings in the future. We have made a further donation towards the conservation of the Jawbones to be re-erected in the Meadows.

Our programme of talks has continued to attract good audiences. Our newsletter has continued to raise awareness of the houses, gardens, history and people in our area, and is always well received. . The Grange Garden Exchange continued with an active membership of over 50 and visits to interesting local gardens, sharing some of our own garden successes and problems and exchanging seeds and plants. The annual coach trip to Wemyss Castle Garden in Fife and to Southern Hemisphere Botanics was a great day out. The group provided lots of plants and helpers for the plant stall at the Grange Fair, contributing to the success of the day.

This is the end of my 4 year term as Chair, and I could detain you for some time while I thank all those who in large and small ways, on the Committee and elsewhere, have helped me and the Association during that time. I shall limit myself to mentioning my fellow office bearers. Sue Tritton has been a most conscientious and efficient secretary, and we have benefited indirectly from the wide range of other work which she does for the community. Roger Kellett carries out his responsibilities for leading on planning applications in a most business-like way, and his letters to the Council are models of clarity and tact, helping to ensure they take us seriously. Richard Brown has been a reliable treasurer and with his IT skills has transformed our membership

management, as well as, with Roger, making real improvements to our website. You are lucky that all 3 will remain involved in the coming year.

I should also pay tribute to Derek Lyddon, who died last month. After a very distinguished career as a planner in the public service Derek was our chair for a number of years and until last year our honorary president. Our thoughts have been with his family, and an appreciation will appear in the next newsletter.

I conclude with 4 requests.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet to help with the Spring Fair on Saturday 9 May.

Please if you are interested add your name to the list for the annual gardens outing to Portmore and Carolside in the Borders.

Please think about encouraging one of your neighbours who is not a member to join us.

Please go home and look at your garden, or your neighbour's garden and consider whether you have a site for a new tree: we still have copies of Alistair Scott's booklet with 100 suggestions for new trees.

Secretary's Report to 2015 AGM

Continued success – Removal of poles in the street:

Following the Grange Cricket Club agreeing that parking signs in Grange Loan could be attached to their wall we have encouraged other residents to allow poles outside their property to be removed and the sign attached to their wall or property. About 55 poles have so far been removed in the area and more are scheduled for removal in April. A particular success was in Blackford Road where one resident encouraged most of his neighbours to agree to this. We now ask our members to encourage their neighbours to ask for a pole near their property to be removed. Thanks to Richard Brown, we have a leaflet giving full details and we are also aware of poles due to be removed shortly. Please contact us if you can help this campaign.

Traffic and Parking in our area:

As most people will be aware the City Council has agreed that the pilot 20mph area is to be extended to most residential streets in the city. Some people do not support this proposal and there are concerns about the implementation and prosecution of speeding motorists. However, a welcome benefit will be the removal of many 20mph signs at the entry to side roads. The Council is also about to consult on the introduction of a dedicated cycle lane from the Meadows to KB. The draft proposal tackles the difficult Kilgraston Road Grange Loan junction and suggests a one-way route here. We were also pleased to hear that, following pressure from residents, the Council has reluctantly agreed to look at the need for pedestrian crossing on Kilgraston Road.

Astley Ainslie Hospital site:

The Scottish Government has recently approved funding for NHS Lothian to move all facilities on the Astley Ainslie site to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital campus and building work on "Phase 1" has started. We understand that the Astley Ainslie site may be vacated by the NHS in about 3 years. We are urging the Planning Department to draw up, and consult, on a planning brief for this site before any parts of the site are put up for sale.

Planning report by Roger Kellett

As mentioned by the Chair, considerable effort was made by The City of Edinburgh planning department in re-writing of the conservation area character appraisal and we were fully consulted. We feel that our opinions have been taken in to account and that the resulting document is useful and a significant improvement.

In the past year we have scrutinised 93 planning applications. One was to create ten flats the others were for extensions or smaller alterations. The Grange Association lodged objections to 20 of these proposals but the majority were granted planning permission despite our objection, however seven of these were modified before being granted and one application was given with our recommendation. Only one was refused. Four are still pending.

We reported four alleged infringements of planning regulations. In one case, the owner promised to remove the offending fence. In one an enforcement notice was served and a decision on the other two is still awaited.

There continue to be a disproportionate number of applications from Mansionhouse Road. This causes us concern in case the accumulated effect of these will be to alter the character of the street.

Although the Grange Association objects to those planning applications which we feel might be harmful to the area, we also welcome the more sympathetic proposals. With this in mind, we now plan to re-introduce the Grange Association Award for plans which will benefit the area. Details of the Award are given in the enclosed nomination form.

Grange Association Treasurer's report on 2014 – AGM 2015

I have now completed my four years as Treasurer, and I would like to say what a pleasure it has been! I am confident my successor will build on what I've done and take the finances of The Grange Association onwards.

As in my report for last year's AGM, I have continued building on subscription collection, membership development and advertising revenue generation.

Subscriptions and memberships

Membership numbers slipped a little for 2014, and I'm not sure why. They had been rock-steady at around 370 for the last couple of years and were 347 by the end of 2013.

The proportion of members paying by Standing Order continues to rise, which is good news – certainly for the Treasurer, as it does make life simpler, except for the day when 95% of the Standing Orders arrive in February !

Advertising revenue

We still keep our "policy" of 1:8 pages being advertisements, all of an appropriate local and useful character, as best we can, and currently both our MP and MSP are committed to carrying adverts for the duration of their tenures. However, we do not plan to continue with their adverts after their respective elections.

I still have a long list of prospective advertisers, and have now started a free service, on the Grange Association members' on-line forum, allowing small, local traders to advertise for free, and we will strictly control the content.

The advertising revenue now pays for £600 of the £1040 cost for the full colour, glossy format.

Gift Aid

HMRC has simplified its process for Gift Aid claims, and it is now done completely on-line. It is simple enough that I can claim at the end of each month for new members in that period. I have also had several people sign the Gift Aid form who hadn't previously, which helps.

We received £950 in 2014. I would expect around £1100 this year (2015).

Bank interest

The Charities interest-bearing account with Scottish Widows Bank reduced its rates to bring in only about £21/quarter – on over £20000 ! I therefore moved the legacy amount to Cambridge and Counties Bank, which is now paying more than that amount (~£25) per month.

Our finances in general

You will see from the statement (over) that we "made a loss" (-£456) last year – whereas in the previous two years (2013 = £2100, 2012 = £2500) we were in the black.

However a closer look will show you that is explained by projects (£1700+), a donation (£1000) and the cost of the new membership cards – the stock of which will last us many years.

The Grange Association
Statement of Income and Expenditure for 2014

	2,014		2013
	£		£
Income			
Subscriptions and donations	4,559		4,745
Gift Aid and Tax refunds	950		949
Grange Fair grant from CEC	726		
Grange Fair takings	1,557		
Garden Outing (net proceeds)	6		-68
Advertising Revenue	2,160		1,960
Bank Interest	134 ¹		197
Total	10,092		7,783

Deduct

Expenditure

Printing/design of newsletter	3,857		3,799
2000 new membership cards	617 ²		
Grange Fair costs	1,002		
Grange Fair donations to library	989		
Subscription - The Cockburn Association	40		40
PA system	13		
Christmas party			139
Social evening at Carlton CC	181		10
Tree planting in Carlton CC			76
Planting work in library	59		80
Grange Cemetery project	1,675 ³		
Parking Pole project	68 ⁴		
Local donations	1,000 ⁵		500
Meeting expenses	535		674
Officials expenses	15		124
Other expenses	497		203
Total	10,548		5,645

Surplus for Year **-456** **2,138**

Statement of funds at 31st December

General fund - year open	22,028		19,889
surplus for year	-456		2,138
General Fund - year end	21,572		22,027

Represented by :

Bank of Scotland Treasurer's account	993		1,583
Cambridge and Counties Bank Charity Account	20,579		20,445
	21,572		22,028

- 1 Scottish Widows Charity a/c %age decreased
- moved to Cambridge and Counties Bank - should earn ~£300 in 2015
- 2 One-off cost for 2000 cards - ~450 in use, remainder will last for years
- 3 Project outgoing
- 4 " ditto "
- 5 Donation to Sciennes Playground fund

Grange Fair	In		Out		
Council grant	726	Costs	1,002		
Takings	1557	Donations to library	989	Fair	
Total	2283	Total	1,991	Surplus	292

22 Monkwood Court
Edinburgh
EH9 2DY

14th February 2015

Mr Richard Brown
Honorary Treasurer
The Grange Association
90 Grange Loan
Edinburgh EH9 2EP

Dear Richard

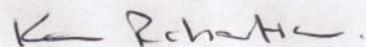
The Grange Association 2014 Accounts

I have completed the independent appraisal of your draft accounts, and I return your records to you.

I have gone through everything to my satisfaction and would confirm that the accompanying Income and Expenditure Statement for 2014 is an accurate reflection of the Association's financial transactions over the course of the year.

Your record-keeping is of a very high standard and so it has been a pleasure to be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely



Ken Robertson
FCSI

Proposed Committee for 2015/16
(Year after name is date of Election)

Office Bearers (normally serve for up to 4 years)

Chair – Sue Tritton (2015)
Vice Chair – Roger Kellett (2014)
Hon Treasurer – Joan Forehand (2015)
Hon Secretary – Adam Rennie (2015)

Committee (8) (term is 4 years maximum)

Hilary Watkinson (2013)
Erick Davidson (2014)
Neil Davidson (2014)
Jenny Dawe (2014)
Richard Brown (2015, Membership)
Jack Cadell (2015)
John Duncan (2015)
Jo Doake (2015)

Retiring (have served 4 years in present position)

Elected members – Margaret Thom (2011)

Alison Bramley (2011)

Chair – John Graham (2011)

Hon Treasurer – Richard Brown (2011)

Hon Secretary – Sue Tritton (2011)

Co-opted members in 2014/5

Dorothy Ryle (MSCC Liaison)
Doreen Allerton (GPCC Liaison)

CVs for proposed new Committee members

Joan Forehand:

“I have lived in the Grange, in Dalrymple Crescent, since 2001. I am a chartered accountant (ICAEW) currently employed by Standard Life where I have worked for the last 23 years, mostly in financial reporting roles. My interests are sports, mindfulness, science & nature and current affairs.”

Jack Cadell:

“I am a Chartered Surveyor of some 17 years, currently a Board Director of John Swan & Sons PLC utilising my property development, asset management and general agency skills across a wide range of use classes. I have sat on a number of key boards including the British Council of Shopping Centres (BCSC Scotland) and am a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. I am an active member of the Sciennes Parent Council and the Playground Group. The connection of the School with the Grange and the Association is one of my primary concerns and interests.”

Jo Doake:

“I work at ScotWays and have been involved with analysing questionnaires to see if there is enough evidence to put to the council, for designating a right of way through the Astley Ainslie grounds. I am also on the committee of the Friends of Blackford Hill and Hermitage.”

John Duncan:

“I studied Architecture at Glasgow School of Art, and worked in Westminster and overseas until 1974. Since then I was in private practice and employed as Scottish Partner based in Edinburgh for a large UK architect practice until I retired. I am now a retired member of the RIBA and RIAS (retired status). I moved into Dick Place in 1998”

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Nominations are sought for the Grange Award to be presented in March 2016.

Nominations should be for any development that enhances the area so they could include new buildings, extensions, refurbishment or landscaping including simple tree planting.

Nominated projects will be judged by the GA committee who will select projects that enhance the Grange Conservation Area. In particular we shall consider

- J Sympathetic restoration which maintains and enhances existing features
- J Innovative design which respects its immediate surroundings and the wider context of the Conservation Area
- J Maintenance and enhancement of trees and green spaces

The awards are open to projects completed between January 2010 and December 2014 and will consist of a trophy or equivalent and a certificate given to the winning owner and also a copy certificate given to the designer or architect.

Nominations should be sent to Roger Kellett, 10 Wyvern Park, EH9 2JY or emailed to planning@grangeassociation.com to be received by 30 September 2015.

Proposer	
Proposer's contact details (email, phone number or address)	
Address of nominated project	
Owner of the property	
Type of project (select one)	New building / Extension / Refurbishment / Landscaping
Reasons for nomination (continue on another sheet if necessary)	