



# The Grange Association

---

Edinburgh

Scottish Charity No. SC025491

THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Wednesday 2nd March 2016 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-sixth AGM minutes
- 4 Matters arising
- 5 Reports: Chair  
Planning
- 6 Honorary Treasurer's report and adoption of accounts
- 7 Adoption of membership fees for 2017
- 8 Election of office bearers, committee members and  
Auditor's appointment
- 9 Presentation of Grange Award
- 10 Question time
- 11 Conclusion

*(The Hall will be open from 6.30pm for teas and coffee, to renew membership or to join the Association)*

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Alistair Law and Jo Doake on:

**The History and Work of the Scottish Rights of Way Society,  
including the Astley Ainslie site.**

Minutes of the Grange Association Thirty-sixth Annual General Meeting  
**Held at Marchmont St Giles Church, Kilgraston Road Edinburgh**  
**On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.00pm**

**Present: Committee:** John Graham (Chair), Doreen Allerton, Richard Brown (Treasurer), Sue Tritton (Secretary), Hilary Watkinson, Alison Bramley, Roger Kellett, Neil Davidson, Erick Davidson, Margaret Thom, Jenny Dawe, Adam Rennie

**Members (about 60 present including):** Barbara Foot, Sofia Leonard, Jane and David Main, Elizabeth and David Hudson, Ken Duncan, Rhoda Drummond, Ian Moffat, Robert and Adrienne Ker, Pat Storey, Jean Barrell, Neil Myson and A Wenigr, Jean and John McCutcheon, M Bayne, Pamela Molyneux,

Neil Mackenzie, Margaret Thomson, Isobel Miller, Jo Doake, Lorn and Camilla Cowie, Robbie Bartholomew, Sheila McLellan, Jenny Watkinson, Jean Long, Pat Rodgers, Burry and Kirstine Baxter, Ken and Ruth Orr, John Duncan, Hazel Kennedy, Alexa and John Dewar, Kirstie Colam

**Guests:** Cllr Cameron Rose, Alastair Philp (Marchmont Sciennes CC),

**Apologies:** Ian Murray MP, Jim Eadie MSP, Cllrs Melanie Main, Steve Burgess and Sandy Howat, Dorothy Ryle, Joan Forehand, Bill and Janice Gammell,

1. **Welcome:** The chair, John Graham, welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies:** Given to the secretary
3. **Adoption of Thirty-fifth AGM minutes:** There were no amendments proposed.  
The minutes were adopted by the meeting.  
Proposed: Neil Davidson                      Seconded: Doreen Allerton
4. **Matters arising:** None
5. **Chair's report:** A report had been circulated. The Chair said he would particularly like to mention:-
  - a. The new venture of the Grange Fair, which was successfully run last year by Lucy Richardson and a team of willing volunteers. This year the Fair will be on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May.
  - b. Updating by the Council of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal was very thorough and the GA was involved in the process. The outcome was a very good document, which will be tested with forthcoming planning applications.
  - c. The GA's winter evening events and garden events have all been well supported.
  - d. Thanks to all office bearers, committee members and newsletter deliverers.
  - e. Welcome to Councillor Rose, who had just arrived.
6. **Honorary Secretary's Report:**
  - a. A report (including a Planning report) had been circulated. The Secretary mentioned the success in getting street poles removed and the parking signs then attached to a wall or railing.
  - b. All facilities at the Astley Ainslie site will move to the Royal Edinburgh site.
7. **Honorary Treasurer; report and adoption of accounts.** The Treasurer commented:-

- a. A good success rate for Standing Orders – now 211. This makes the work of collecting subscriptions easier.
- b. Agreed to maintain the ratio of one page of ads to 8 pages in the newsletter. These cover 60% of the cost of the newsletter.
- c. Reminder about Gift Aid, which gives an extra 25% - HMRC has made claiming very easy.
- d. Changed savings accounts as there is more interest in the Cambridge account.
- e. There were 347 members at the end of 2014.
- f. A member commented that the accounts should show the signature of the independent examiner.

The accounts were adopted by the meeting.

Proposed: Hilary Watkinson

Seconded: Adam Rennie

8. **Adoption of membership fees for 2016:** Subscription fees cover regular expenses costs and it was proposed, and agreed, that there be no change.

Proposed: John McCutcheon

Seconded: Pat Storey

9. **Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditors appointment:**

A list of proposals for the 2015/16 committee had been circulated. These were:-

**Office bearers (normally serve for up to 4 years)**

Chairman: Sue Tritton (2015)

Vice chair: Roger Kellett (2014)

Hon Secretary: Adam Rennie (2015)

Hon Treasurer: Joan Forehand (2015)

**Committee (8) (serve for up to 4 years)**

Hilary Watkinson (2013)

Neil Davidson (2014)

Jenny Dawe (2014)

Erick Davidson (2014)

Jack Cadell (2015)

John Duncan (2015)

Jo Doake (2015)

Richard Brown (2015)

Year in brackets indicates the year of first election to this position.

Alison Bramley and Margaret Thom had completed their 4 years as committee members.

In addition, Dorothy Ryle and Doreen Allerton were co-opted to the committee in 2014/15.

There were no further nominations from the floor.

The election for all the above was taken together.

Proposed: Alison Bramley

Seconded: Isobel Miller

Proposed, and agreed, that Ken Robertson be re-appointed as Independent Examiner (Auditor)

Proposed: Richard Brown

Seconded: Neil Davidson

10. **Question time/comment time**

) Alistair Philp asked who was the best contact for Planning matters – Roger Kellett.

) Jean McCutcheon asked about the hydrotherapy pool at the Astley Ainslie. ST explained that all facilities at the AAH are due to move to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Protecting routes, trees and open space at the AAH site is likely to be

an important matter for the GA in the next few years. New committee member, Jo Doake, has the expertise to help with this.

- ) Is there any information about possible developments at Midmar Paddock? Cll Rose explained that the Local Development Plan, which is strategic for Edinburgh, had been delayed. This delay may make it easier for developers to appeal decisions refusing permission if the land is designated green space. It is hoped that the plan can be ratified shortly.
- ) Please endorse the latest proposals for new cycle lanes. The Secretary explained that there had been consultation with local Community Councils over the draft proposals. Public consultation should start shortly.
- ) Roger Kellett spoke about the proposed new Grange Award, which the committee hoped would encourage high quality planning applications. The first award is expected to be made at the 2016 AGM – forms to nominate a candidate for the award are available.
- ) Roger Kellett thanked John Graham for his four years as Chair. In particular he commented on John's skills at running meetings and his excellent communications with Council officials and others.
- ) Members were also reminded about the Grange Fair on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>; the Garden outing in July; and that the winter events have changed to the first Wednesday in each month. Full details will be in the next newsletter (due in April).

**11. Conclusion:** The AGM was formally closed at 7.40pm

Following the AGM there was a very informative talk introduced by Angus Millar from the Edinburgh Volcanic History Society

# Chair's Report to AGM – March 2016

I am pleased to report another very successful year for the Grange Association. The series of talks, held on the first Wednesday in most months during the winter, has attracted audiences averaging about 60. Many thanks to Hilary Watkinson for arranging these talks which ranged from the History of the Lost Garden of Penicuik to Architecture and Conservation in Chicago. I would also like to thank Tony and Olga Franks for organising teas and coffees at the start of the meetings which allowed members to meet each other in a relaxed and informal situation. Any suggestions for future speakers would be welcome.

The main change in the Association's organisation has been the change in the editor of the Newsletter. After organising the production for five years, in which time the newsletter changed from a small A5 leaflet to a glossy 12 page, full colour edition, Richard Mowe resigned as editor in September 2015. On behalf of all members of the Grange Association I would like to thank Richard for all the work he did in creating a modern, interesting and very readable newsletter. We were very fortunate that Jenny Dawe had the skills and was able to edit the next Newsletter – she has offered to continue as editor for the next few editions and we are very grateful for this.

The committee has continued to discuss ways to spend the legacy left to the Association in 2009. During the year we made further donations to the Jawbone Appeal (and hope the Jawbones will be back in place soon), the Sciennes playground project (which we encourage all members to go and see), equipment for the Library and the signs for the Grange Cemetery. We are still discussing further ways to spend this money – possibly to include more seats for the Cemetery – and would welcome all suggestions. We also welcome suggestions for additional notable graves and any offers of help in researching these.

The Garden Group continues to flourish (apologies for the pun), thanks to Alison Bramley, and had a successful outing in July 2015 to Portmore and Carolside. This year's outing will be to Earlshall on June 29<sup>th</sup> and anyone interested in going should contact Alison and/or sign the form.

A second Grange Fair, organised by Lucy Richardson and many helpers, was held on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Again, the weather gods looked favourably on us and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by over 1000 people. We had received a grant from the City Council to help fund some of the expenses and managed to make a profit. We donated £1000 to the Eric Liddell Centre and kept some funds in reserve in case the weather isn't kind to us this year. The Fair will be held on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> and offers of help, both in providing items for sale and in manning stalls on the day, are wanted.

## Chair's Report to AGM (cont)

The Association wouldn't be able to operate so successfully without the skills and time of many of the committee members (and others). It is difficult to select any for particular mention. However, I must thank Adam Rennie for his work as Secretary, Roger Kellett (see separate report) for monitoring Planning Applications in our area and collating comments for objections to those we are unhappy with, Joan Forehand for taking over as Treasurer and her meticulous accounts and, finally, Richard Brown for agreeing to continue as Membership Secretary until we get a new volunteer for this post. Finally, I would like to thank Erick Davidson and Jack Cadell for their time on the committee – Jack kept us in touch with Sciennes School over the playground project and Erick organised the production of the Cemetery boards.

*Sue Tritton*

## Planning Report

All planning applications in the area are circulated round the full GA committee and a group of six of us study them in detail. In the past year we have scrutinised 82 planning applications. One was to demolish and replace a house, the others were for extensions or smaller alterations. The Grange Association lodged objections to 23 of these proposals but the majority were granted planning permission; five were refused and 10 applications were withdrawn by the applicant. Following our objection, three of the plans were modified before being granted. 11 are still pending.

We, like the Cockburn Association and the Community Council, have been concerned by the Council's acceptance of plans to make a run-in in front of a listed building in Grange Road. It will mean the loss of a high stone boundary wall but the planners insist that correct procedures were followed.

We reported four alleged infringements of planning regulations. One owner was required by the Council to remove hard landscaping. He appealed unsuccessfully to the Scottish government, but now a second appeal is under consideration. All plans for our area are on the planning pages of the GA website ([www.grangeassociation.org](http://www.grangeassociation.org)) where you can also see comments we have sent to the Council.

We are automatically informed of new planning applications but we are not usually informed if the plans are subsequently modified. On one or two occasions, this has led to us making unjustified criticism of an owner's plans when he had already changed them.

There have been problems with noise from a new air conditioning plant at Newington Library and with unsightly ducting on the roof. An active residents' group is in protracted discussions with the Council who, after 11 months have failed to resolve the matter satisfactorily.

Unfortunately, the current committee of the Grange Association has no one with expertise in tree management. The Council notifies us of all proposed tree work and we put these applications on the planning pages of the GA website. We should very much like to recruit a member with the necessary knowledge. He/she could join the committee or if preferred, just check the weekly list and advise where necessary.

We mentioned last year that we are re-introducing the Grange Award for plans which will benefit the area. We have received nine nominations from which we have drawn a shortlist of three. The award will be presented to the winner at the AGM. We received an additional nomination for the Avenue Store in recognition of their service and help to elderly or disabled residents. Although this is outwith the remit of the Grange Award, we feel due recognition should be made to the owner and his staff.

Roger Kellett

22 February 2016

## **Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2015**

This has been my first year as Treasurer, having taken over from Richard Brown at last year's AGM. I would like to thank Richard for his help with the transition and on-going support. The financial records that he passed on to me were in good shape. Not having been an active member of the Association prior to taking on this role I have spent this year learning about the work of the Association and its sources of income and expenditure.

### **Membership subscriptions**

There were 360 members in 2015 compared to 347 in 2014. Income from membership subscriptions and donations from members was £4,902 (2014 - £4,559). 304 members have signed gift aid declarations. Membership subscriptions were £10 for an individual membership and £15 for a household membership. The subscriptions were last changed in 2012. When the revised rates were agreed at the AGM in 2011 it was also agreed that they should remain the same for at least 5 years (2012-2016 inclusive). It will be proposed at the 2016 AGM that no change is made to the level of subscriptions for 2017.

### **Newsletter**

The net cost, after deducting advertising income, of producing the three newsletters issued in 2015 was £2,406 compared to a net cost in 2014 of £2,000. Higher printing and photography costs are the main reason for the increase. The Association continued to benefit from the editorial work done on a voluntary basis.

### **Grange Fair**

The 2015 Grange Fair generated a surplus of £1,901 compared to a surplus of £1,281 in 2014.

### **Level of funds**

The total unrestricted funds of the Association at 31 December 2015 were £22,025 compared to £21,572 at 31 December 2014.

The Trustees' policy is to set subscription levels to approximately cover the net cost of the newsletters and the costs of the talks provided for members along with the administration costs of the Association, whilst using accumulated funds, including an unrestricted legacy received in 2009, on projects which meet the objectives of the Association.

### **Trustees**

Trustees at the date the 2015 Annual Report was approved by the trustees:

Sue Tritton, Chairman

Roger Kellett, Vice Chairman

Adam Rennie, Honorary Secretary (appointed 11 March 2015)

Joan Forehand, Honorary Treasurer (appointed 11 March 2015)

Trustees who retired during 2015:

John Graham (retired as Chairman 11 March 2015)

Richard Brown (retired as Honorary Treasurer 11 March 2015)

### **Joan Forehand**

**Honorary Treasurer**