



The Grange Association

Edinburgh

Scottish Charity No. SC025491

THIRTY FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 7.00 pm
at Marchmont St Giles' Church Hall, Kilgraston Road,
(Hall open from 6.30pm)

AGENDA

Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal

update by Rachel Howarth (CEC) at 7pm.

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Apologies
- 3 Adoption of Thirty-fourth 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 2015
- 9 Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditor's appointment
- 10 Question time
- 11 Conclusion

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

Following the AGM there will be a talk by Dr Brian Pentland

“Astley Ainslie Hospital; a brief history”

Minutes of the Grange Association Thirty-fourth Annual General Meeting
Held at Marchmont St Giles Church Hall, Kilgraston Road Edinburgh
On Wednesday 13th March 2013 at 7.00pm

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

Members: Jill Turnbull, K and R Orr, Elizabeth Hindse, Andy Bell, Riona Bell, Geoff and Marjory Holme, Joan Weir, Pat MacDermick, Wendy Moffat, Betty Findlay, H Henshall, Jenny Dawe, Mike Falchikov, Bill Cantley, EG Whitelaw, Tony Franks, Olga Franks, Peter H Whelpdale, Edith Davidson, Joanne Davidson, Jennifer Reilly, Christian and Molly Ludlan, Pat Rodger, M Jean Long, Andrew Murray, Irene Murray, Jim and Jeanifer Gray, Michael and Lily Atiyah, Robert Bartholomew, Isobel M Miller, Jean Banell, R Jellios, P Cook, Kenneth Holmes, Brenda Holmes, Neil and Moya Johnston, Tom and Alison Cunningham + several others

Guests: Councillor Cameron Rose, Cllr Jim Orr

Apologies: Ian Murray MP, Cllr Steve Burgess, Cllr Sandy Howat, Tony Harris, and on behalf of CPA), Lord Hardie & Catherine Hardie, Ian McNab, Marion Cantley

1. **Welcome:** The chair, John Graham, welcomed everyone to the meeting- mentioning Councillor Orr who had come in to wish us well but unfortunately could not stay.
2. **Apologies:** Given to the secretary
3. **Adoption of Thirty-third AGM minutes:** There were no amendments proposed.
The minutes were adopted by the meeting. Proposed: /
4. **Matters arising:** None
5. **Chair's report:** A report had been circulated and the following points were highlighted.
 - a. It had been a positive busy active year and finances were healthy.
 - b. Planning has been looked at in more detail
 - c. Thanks given to Tony and Judith Reeves for all help given; Caroline McInnes for serving tea and coffee at lots of meetings in the past. Olga Franks for all her work for the committee and thanks for helping with tea and coffee in the future. Richard Mowe for all his work on the newsletter
6. **Honorary Secretary's Report:** A report had been circulated and Sue Tritton said she was happy to answer in questions from all the topics mentioned.
 - a. The report includes a planning report from Roger Kellett and John Graham.
 - b. There has been no update as yet re the Astley Ainslie site but there is a meeting on March 14th and more detail will follow
7. **Honorary Treasurer; report and adoption of accounts:** The treasurer Richard Brown spoke to the circulated accounts and numbered superscripts.

1. The GA has very healthy finance as the number of members have remained stable and subscriptions were increased last year
 2. There was no plant sale this year
 3. The advertisers covered half of the cost of the newsletter. The number of advertisements have increased but are being restricted keeping to one in eight pages
 4. There is bank interest on the Legacy- (Scots. Widows charity account)
 5. Christmas Party amount is over two years 2011 to 2012
 6. The accounts were adopted by the AGM
- Accounts proposed by Robbie Bartholomew Seconded Roger Kellett

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).

9. **Election of office bearers, committee members and Auditors appointment:** Thanks were given to all the retiring co-opted members viz. Dorothy Ryle, and Judith Reeves.

a. The secretary presented the committee's proposal for the coming year's committee. There were no nominations from the floor and the following were proposed to serve for 2013/2014.

b. Chairman: John Graham
 Vice chair: Doreen Allerton
 Hon Secretary: Sue Tritton
 Hon Treasurer: Richard Brown

c. Ordinary members re-elected to the committee –
 Dan Cronin (Newsletter delivery) 2010
 Margaret Thom (Minutes) 2011
 Alison Bramley (Garden Project, GPCC Liaison) 2011,
 Roger Kellett (Planning) 2012
 Alastair Keatinge 2012
 Adam Rennie 2012
 Hilary Watkinson (Co-opted January 2013)

JG suggested that (b) and (c) should be taken together – this was agreed.

Proposed: John Elliot Seconded: Andy Bell

d. Retiring (Elected Members)
 Tony Reeves (Events)
 Olga Franks

e. There is one vacancy on the committee - can co-opt someone, volunteers are welcome

In addition Derek Lyddon was again appointed as Honorary President

Ken Robertson was appointed again as Auditor (Independent Examiner)

Proposed: Richard Brown Seconded: Alison Bramley

10. Question time

a. Does the GA have a rep on the civic forum?
 Answered yes, GA is still invited to it and some members do attend.

b. Query about Enforcement action.
 The reference to 14 Kilgraston Road resulted from a local who saw the work in the garden and reported it. The Enforcement team was

delayed in getting access and there will now be a retrospective application

- c. Discussion about communal food bins in the street. Would they encourage rats? The GA was unaware of this proposal for our area.
- d. In the Neighbourhood Watch area there could be a “no cold calling zone” i.e. people at the door. Tom Cunningham (East Grange Neighbourhood Watch) answered that there is going to be consultation in their area - there has to be a 51% agreement from the people who live there for it to happen.
Adam Rennie noted that this proposal had not been discussed by the committee and felt it raised some civil liberty issues. It was stressed that this was for traders who knock at the door. There is an article about this on the council website
- e. Asked what was happening about the 20mph limit?
There will be a report about this in the autumn and the GA will have some input into it. Need to take in its effect and cost. Previously there had been no serious accidents before the speed limit was changed. One member said he was strongly opposed to the limit.
- e. Asked if there were any thoughts or decision made about the proposed move of the PO sorting office in Strathearn Road? As well as the proposal having been circulated by the GA, Ian Murray MP and Jim Eadie MSP had circulated the information widely and asked for letters to be copied to them. The Royal Mail has not yet made a decision what the provision will be. The office near Cameron Toll is thought to be not big enough to handle all the mail so the move might be to Slateford. Information from the Royal Mail indicated that undelivered mail might be re-delivered at the weekend. Councillor Cameron Rose said that everyone should make a representation about this as it affects a lot of people.

Conclusion: The AGM was formally closed at 7.30

People given the opportunity to pay/renew their subscriptions and/or sign up for the Garden Group. Also time given for tea and biscuits and friendly chat about the evening and other items amongst members.

11. **Talk by Alison Kinnaird MBE on “The Beauty of Glass”:** Afterwards we listened to this illuminating and interesting talk complete with photographs.

Chair's report – AGM 2014

The past year has been reasonably successful for the Association. Our membership continues to support us loyally. The Council continues to take our input on planning issues seriously, as their presence tonight shows, even if they do not agree with our views as often as we would wish.

Our programme of talks has attracted good audiences, although we would have liked more people for the quiz before Christmas.

We have made progress with some projects:- work is well in hand on information boards for visitors to the Grange Cemetery, we supported a splendid new set of gates to mark the 150th anniversary of the Carlton Cricket Club and we have secured a start on the removal of unnecessary poles carrying signage about parking controls.

I am very grateful to all the office-bearers, committee members and others who have put so much effort into supporting our work during the year. It is invidious to pick out individuals, but I should particularly mention those leaving the Committee because their time is up – Doreen Allerton, who has served as vice-chair for the last 4 years, and Dan Cronin, who has calmly and efficiently organised the delivery of the thrice-yearly newsletters.

The newsletter is a splendid advertisement for the Association, and we are much indebted to Richard Mowe for the range of interesting material he assembles and the high quality of the production.

Derek Lyddon stood down after many years support of the Association, latterly as our Honorary President, and we are very grateful for his contribution to our work over the years.

A particular pleasure last year was the small ceremony at the cricket club to unveil a plaque beside the tree planted in memory of Alistair Scott, who advised the Association on trees over a long period. It was good to see members of his family and friends celebrating his memory.

Looking forward, we are fortunate to have 3 new members with rich experience in various fields standing for election to the committee.

An important early task for the new committee will be responding to the draft of the new Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

Then we have a new venture – our Spring Fair, being held in conjunction with the Library on Sunday 11 May. This is a big show – a section of Fountainhall Road will be closed for it – and we need assistance in many forms, so please add your name to the sign-up sheet.

We are also looking for names for the annual gardens outing to Wemyss Castle Gardens on Tuesday 17 June. So the Association is going to have an active start to the forthcoming year.

Secretary's Report to 2014 AGM

Success - Strathearn Road Sorting Office to stay open:

It seems to be a long time since the Grange Association led the campaign to keep this office open. We were delighted when the Post Office announced that it would not close "for the present".

Success - Street Signage:

The Grange Association has long campaigned for a reduction in street clutter. We were therefore delighted when the poles displaying "parking notices" alongside the Cricket Club in Grange Loan were removed and the signs attached to the wall. We are now trying to persuade residents who have a suitable wall (or railing) and a pole nearby to contact us and the Council has promised that if signs can be attached to the wall then the poles will be removed.

Traffic and Parking in our area:

The "20mph limit" scheme (piloted in South Edinburgh) has been considered to be a success and the Council has agreed that it should be extended to most of the residential streets in the city. We are aware that some residents do not like the 20mph limit but feel that it is generally supported and has made the area feel safer for walkers and cyclists. However, we are not aware that there has been a prosecution of any driver exceeding the limit. One problem street in the area still considered to be unsafe for many is the Blackford Avenue – Kilgraston Road route from Blackford Station to Marchmont. We have written to the Council suggesting that this route should be included within the 20mph limit (as we originally requested). The problems of crossing Kilgraston Road continue (as they have since the 1970s) to be unresolved but limiting speed on the road might help.

We still receive complaints that some streets in the "Residents Priority Parking (RPP)" area have too many free spaces which get abused by large vehicles which park for long periods. However, we feel that, in general, the RPP scheme is a success and do not intend, at present, to ask for more restrictions in the area.

Astley Ainslie Hospital site:

We continue to monitor this site but most activity recently has related to the Planning application submitted in 2013 for the "Phase 1" development at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital site – outside our area. We asked residents who have used routes through the grounds over the past years to let us know and we are keeping details in case we need to prove that these routes are "rights of way".

Planning by Roger Kellett

In the last year we have scrutinised 96 planning applications for 84 proposed developments. One was for a new house the others were for extensions or smaller alterations. The Grange Association lodged objections to 13 of these proposals but has been disappointed by the planners' response to our objections. Of these 13 applications, one was withdrawn and two were amended in the light of our comments before being approved, however eight were granted planning permission despite our objection and only two refused. Of the 71 to which we did not object, five were refused and six are still pending.

We reported two alleged infringements of planning regulations. For one a successful retrospective planning application was made. The other infringement was dismissed.

Recently we have objected to the proposal for a large extension to a listed building in Dick Place but this is still pending. Five of the planning applications were for nearby houses in Mansionhouse Road. This causes us concern in case the accumulated effect of these will be to alter the character of the street.

On the wider picture, GA committee members attend the Civic Forum which is run by the Cockburn Association and have attended meetings about the draft Local Development Plan. This plan is held up at the moment because the Government requires Edinburgh to earmark more land for new housing, however it is expected that a new draft will come to general consultation during the summer. We have also responded to the Planning Performance Framework, a lengthy document for the Scottish Government on the quality of the CEC planning service.

The City of Edinburgh planning department is re-writing the Conservation Area Character Appraisal documents (CACA) for all the conservation areas in Edinburgh and the Grange is the first. The Grange CACA is the document that is used in deciding whether or not any proposed new development is suitable for the area and should be given planning permission. The assumption is that new developments should actually enhance the conservation area. The last edition of the Grange CACA was written in 1999 and there have been a number of changes since then. We were pleased that a group of us was invited to meet with Council officials to discuss the re-writing. In addition the MSc students from Edinburgh University Architectural Conservation Department have been studying the Grange and their work has been used to help the re-writing. Summary panels of the students' work are on view at the AGM and from the 17th March they will be at Newington Library together with a display about the new CACA.

A new Grange CACA is now in draft form and is going out to public consultation on 17th March. All members are encouraged to view this document, which will be available online or at the library, and respond to the consultation.

Proposed Committee for 2014/5 (Year after name is date of Election)

Office Bearers (normally serve for up to 4 years)

Chair – John Graham 2011

Vice Chair – Roger Kellett

Hon Treasurer – Richard Brown 2011

Hon Secretary – Sue Tritton 2011

Committee (8) (term is 4 years maximum)

Alison Bramley (Garden project, GPCC Liaison) 2011

Margaret Thom (Minutes) 2011

Adam Rennie (2012)

Hilary Watkinson (2013)

Neil Davidson (coopted 2013)

Erick Davidson

Jenny Dawe

One vacancy

Retiring

Doreen Allerton (Vice Chair 2010)

Dan Cronin (Newsletter delivery) 2010

Alastair Keatinge (2012 - resigned)

Co-opted member in 2013/4

Dorothy Ryle (MSCC Liaison)

Grange Association Treasurer's report on 2013 – AGM 2014

I am now three years into my stint as Treasurer.

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

Subscriptions and memberships

Membership numbers are very steady at around 370 for 2013.

The proportion of members paying by Standing Order continues to rise, which is good news.

Advertising revenue

We are still within 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.

I have a long list of prospective advertisers, which realistically will never be fulfilled. We 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 approximately 50% of the cost for the full colour, glossy format, and now we are using a professional photographer for the main features.

Bank interest

I reported last year, that the Charities interest-bearing account with Scottish Widows Bank was bringing in around £70 per quarter. Sadly with the interest rates as they are, that is now only about £21/quarter.

The Grange Association**Statement of Income and Expenditure for 2013**

	2013	2012
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions and donations	4,745	4,236
Gift Aid and Tax refunds	949	1,264
Sale of books	0	70
Garden Outing (net proceeds)	-68	50
Advertising Revenue	1,960	1,740
Bank Interest	197	248
Total	7,783	7,608

Deduct**Expenditure**

Printing of newsletter	3,799 ¹	2,946
Subscription - The Cockburn Association	40	40
PA system	0	147
Christmas party	139	369
Social evening at Carlton CC	10	138
Tree planting in Carlton CC	76	223
Planting work in library	80	173
Local donations	500 ²	120
Meeting expenses	674 ³	333
Officials expenses	124	120
Other expenses	203	464
Total	5,645	5,072

Surplus for Year**2,138** **2,535****Statement of funds at 31st December**

General fund - year open	19,889	17,354
surplus for year	2,138	2,535
General Fund - year end	22,027	19,889

Represented by :

Bank of Scotland Treasurer's account	1,583	1,642
Scottish Widows Charity Account	20,445	18,248
	22,028	19,889

1 Increase largely due to use of professional photographer in main features

2 Donation towards Cricket

3 Club gates

 Includes large carry-over of unbilled meeting room charges from 2012