

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

NEWSLETTER No. 28

February 2007

Editor: Les Hutcheon Tel 334 3832

Chairman's Tidings

As this is our first newsletter of 2007, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year. 2006 was the most successful year to date for improvements on Corstorphine Hill. These include the clearing of all unwanted rubus, the planting of native trees and re-surfacing of the pathways. This year we should see the introduction of heritage signs throughout the hill and new seating at various vantage points.

These projects are part of the three year woodland management plan funded by a £330.000 grant from the forestry commission.

Another success from 2006 was the walled garden winning "gold" for the best community garden in Edinburgh in the Keep Edinburgh Growing Competition, a welcome recognition for all the hard work volunteers have put into the garden.

An event already undertaken this month was a meeting with members of the Executive Council of the City of Edinburgh where I was privileged to put across views of the Friends. During this meeting I sought help from the aforementioned executive in assisting in the formation of a trust which would aim to protect the Hill from intrusion from various companies who seek to acquire parts of the Hill for commercial gain.

A similar body is already working effectively for Edinburgh castle and its surrounding areas. I eagerly await their response in this matter.

Your committee is looking forward to this new year and the continuation of the normal activities we undertake. We would also like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have donated their time and effort without whom the Friends would simply not be able to function. On that note may I extend an invitation to anyone interested in joining our group where there are more activities needing volunteers. They include delivery of news letters, opening the tower and walled garden gate, working in the walled garden, and even joining our committee. All these are excellent ways of meeting local people with a common interest.

To those who are already involved and any newcomers, I look forward to seeing you at the AGM in April if not before.

Eddie Price

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **Thursday 19th April 2007** at **7.30 pm** at Queen Margaret College University, Clerwood Terrace.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Approval of the minutes of the 2006 AGM
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members
7. Any other business

Winter Talks Programme

I would like to thank the speakers who supported our winter talks also all of you who attended. I must say, I was very gratified to see such an enthusiastic audience.

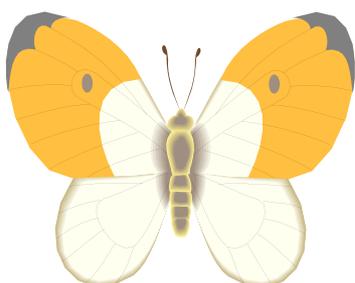
Thomas Turnbull set our environmental thoughts going by delivering such an interesting talk on 'Composting and Recycling' followed by another speaker Charles Everitt whom now we recognise as our 'local' wildlife crime officer. He spoke so passionately about his work and definitely raised our awareness. His contact details are:
charles.everitt@lbp.pnn.police.uk.

Moving on, I would like to re-open the programme of winter talks for early 2007. I have planned two talks for you which, following all the Christmas lights and energy used, I am sure will leave all of you with food for thought. This talk will be delivered by **Mr Robb Kidd, Fire Health and Safety Officer, BUPA Murrayfield Hospital, on Tuesday 20 February**, and is entitled '**Say a Prayer, Health and Safety**'.

Following our efforts into looking after the environment and ourselves I will take you into spring mode to hear a talk on '**Butterflies**' by **Richard Buckland, on Thursday 15 March**.

Both talks will take place at Queen Margaret College starting at 7.30 pm.

Until then,
Cecilia McPherson



Bird Walk

Martin Craven will be leading a guided bird walk on **Sunday 13 May**.

For those wishing to join the walk meet in the **Walled Garden starting at 10.00 am**.



History of the Hill

Although going through the process of moving house Alison continues her work on the history of the Hill and hopes to be in a position to publish a book in due course

Woodland Management Update

Path works

The path works on Corstorphine Hill are complete. Corstorphine Hill has benefited from upgraded and new paths across the site. New fencing has also been installed where existing fencing was in a state of disrepair near the golf course.

Tree planting

Despite the dry summer, the trees planted last winter/spring are on the whole establishing well. Some trees have failed due to vandalism or the drought and these losses will be replaced with new trees in the new year.

Salmonberry/vegetation

The salmonberry has regenerated vigorously in areas where it was removed. The planting contractor has treated the regenerating salmonberry in the areas of tree planting with herbicide to prevent this invasive weed competing with the young trees for light, water and nutrients. He will continue to treat it in the spring and summer months.

Signage & Interpretation

Over the next few months design work will be commissioned for the entrance signs and interpretation boards on the site. The Friends of Corstorphine Hill will be consulted with regards to this.

The improvement works in Corstorphine Hill Local Nature Reserve have been funded from the Forestry Commission's Woodlands In and Around Towns Challenge Fund and the City of Edinburgh Council.

Management Works launch

A successful event was held in the Walled Garden at the end of October to recognise the completion of the woodland management works and the achievement of the Friends Group in their recent awards. Fox Covert Primary and Fox Covert R.C. Primary Schools were invited and were entertained by our Countryside Ranger Fergus. Councillor Bob Cairns, Executive Member for the Environment and Streetscape made a short speech after a short walk around the Hill and a trip up the Tower. The event generated good publicity for Corstorphine Hill in the local press and radio.

For more information please contact the Trees & Woodlands Officer on 311 7078 or the Countryside Ranger Service on 447 7145.

Jane Bilous

Jane is currently on a year long employment break enabling her to see the world. We wish her well in her adventure.

Latest Planning News

The two planning applications for house and nursery on the site of the old water tank on North Clermiston Road have been refused.

We continue to monitor the position and further development of the Zoo master plan.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The fee is **£ 1.00 per member per year**. Donations are also welcome!
It is important to keep our records up to date, therefore, please fill in the form below even if you have supplied the information before and return the form along with your subscription to Eddie Price 25 Corstorphine Hill Avenue, Fred Davies 5 Saughtonhall Place, Martin Craven 42 Clermiston Road, or indeed through any member of the committee or your newsletter deliverer if you see them.

First name.....Surname.....(please print)

Address.....Postcode.....

E-mail (if applicable).....Tel. No.....

As always we can use volunteers who in turn enjoy participating in preserving the reserve. Activities can vary and here are examples where you can indicate in which direction you can make a contribution:-

- committee work
- giving a talk
- leading a walk
- newsletter delivery
- newsletter production
- organising talks
- organising walks
- taking a turn on the Tower rota
- walled garden maintenance
- opening/closing the garden gate
- any other activity

Please fill in the form promptly. For audit purposes it is essential our records are up to date.

Friends of Corstorphine Hill

Registered as a charity No. SCO28842

Chairman: Mr E Price, Corstorphine Hill Avenue Edinburgh EH12 6LF. Tel 0131 539 1088

Secretary: Mr A Hayes e-mail mr_ali_hayes@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.corstorphinehill.org.uk