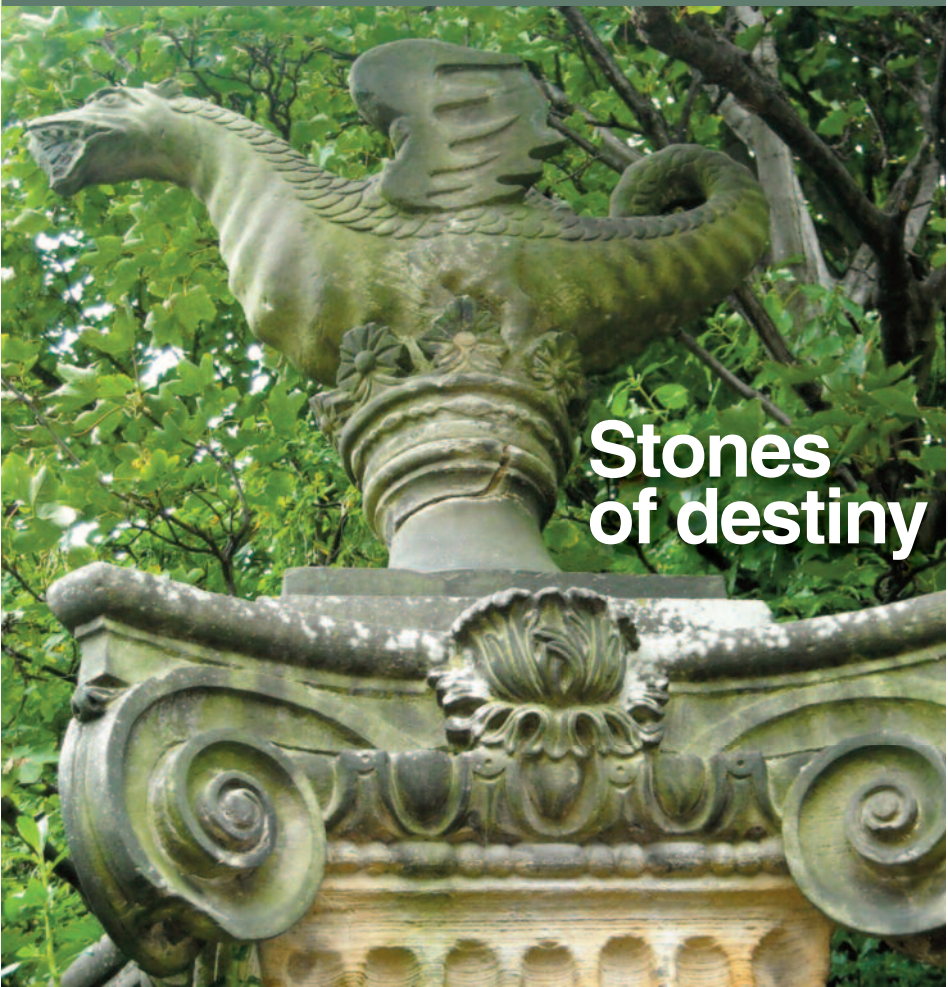


The Newsletter

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION

AUTUMN 2010 | NO.98



Stones of destiny

Wearing well after all these years: originally the iconic wyverns topped the gateposts to the now demolished Grange House. This one can be found at the bottom of Lovers Loan. Other examples of Grange stonework give cause for concern.
FULL STORY – Page 3

www.the-grange.org

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Welcome to the 2010 autumn edition of **The Newsletter of the Grange Association** whose key members look after the best interests of your area. Play your part by using the form on his page to join us if you have not already signed up. Or urge your friends and neighbours to become members. As well as keeping a watching brief on planning, conservation and other matters of concern there are events, talks and excursions throughout the year.

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Richard Groom's cover story gives advance warning of the deteriorating state of landmark pieces of stonework **Pages 1 & 3**

Sofia Leonard lobbies for more tree planting and preservation to maintain the unique tree-scape for future generations **Pages 4, 5 & 6**

Richard Mowe encounters two residents with wild life tales **Page 7**

Andrew Bell keeps a watchful eye on planning issues including moves on an infamous gap site **Pages 8 & 9**

Sue Tritton finds energy savings for your purse and the planet **Page 10**

Tony Reeves details Grange Association events open to all **Page 11**

Watch out for the next winter edition of The Newsletter (publication December). Your contributions and feedback are welcome.

**Richard Mowe, Editor,
The Newsletter**

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COME AND JOIN US MEMBERSHIP FORM

TO: The Treasurer, The Grange Association

I / We would like to join / renew membership of The Grange Association for 2010 ☐

OR

I / We would like to join / renew membership of The Grange Association until further notice and am / are sending my / our bank the Standing Order Form (sent by request). ☐

Annual Subscription Rates:

Household Membership: £5

Senior Citizen / Student Membership and other concessions: £2.50

I / We enclose £

(Please make cheques payable to **The Grange Association**, and enclose an SAE for your membership card).

NAME(S)

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TEL

EMAIL

Stones of destiny

Two symbolic historic beasts are wearing well but other pieces of stonework in the Grange area have fared less auspiciously. Richard Groom sounds an alert.

A recent call to the Grange Association expressed concern on the state of the two wyverns on Grange Loan. One is at the southern entrance to Lovers Loan and the other further east along Grange Loan. To avoid confusion in the pet shop, wyverns have two legs, dragons four; both have wings and breathe fire. Originally the wyverns topped the gateposts to the now demolished Grange House.

I do not have any real concerns for their current state or that of the supporting stonework. There is some subsidence, but all in all they wear their 200 or so years very well. Further into the future it may be valid to do some conservation work.

It may also be worth taking a digital laser scan of both wyverns to record every detail in full digital 3D for posterity and as a comparison tool to assess any future deterioration. In another 20 or so years', depending on their state, it may be worth considering bringing these iconic beasts indoors out of the elements and replacing them with replicas.

There are other notable ornamental stone features dotted around this area which add to the character. Many are the concern of individual property owners and they would be missed if they were gone.



The wyverns as they used to appear on the gateposts to Grange House



The red sandstone of the Penny Well marker on the corner of Findhorn Place and Grange Loan is in poor condition

Others, such as the Penny Well marker on the corner of Findhorn Place and Grange Loan, will not be the concern of an individual property owner. The Penny Well marker is in a very poor condition as the red sandstone used has been face bedded – like putting a ream of paper on end, facing the street. The top sheets or beds are delaminating and failing. Relatively soon all legible detail will be lost. As this is a marker and not the original well itself, arguably, the important thing is to continue to provide a record of where the well was situated and not necessarily to conserve what is currently there.

Other stonework in the Grange gives cause for concern too. Back at Lovers Loan, for example, the pointing in many areas has failed to such an extent that full stones have fallen from the wall. Lime pointing is designed to be sacrificial and slightly weaker than the stone it separates.

Minor re-pointing work every 25 or so years means stone walling will last for centuries. If the neglect continues for too long, far more costly repairs will be required.

This lack of maintenance is more concerning than the graffiti in the Loan, areas of paint on the stone will not stop water from escaping and a percentage of the graffiti is on pointing that can be replaced. Perhaps educating the "artists" in lime pointing and encouraging them to leave their mark would make their endeavours more appreciated.

We'd all be able to look back in later years with pride, graffiti can often simply say: "I am here and have value".

TREE PRESERVATION

Planting now for the future

As the Grange Association brings added pressure on the City of Edinburgh Council to increase the number of tree preservation orders, Sofia Leonard looks at the wooded nature of the area.

Leafy outlook – but the number of trees that need to be planted in the Grange each year to keep its characteristic tree-scape is about 200.



There are roughly 10,000 trees in The Grange and the average household owns about five trees. The three most common trees are apple, lime and lilac, but there are 120 tree species in all in the area.

Trees can grow to a ripe old age. Some of those still growing on the south side of Sciennes Road and at the boundary to the west of Palmerston Road were planted to delineate the original Grange Estate. These trees were shown on the Kirkwood map of 1817 so they are at least 180 years old. At that time the Grange was an area of fields with three mansion houses and two farms.

The same map shows also a fine avenue of trees, coinciding with the now Blackford Avenue and leading down to Blackford House. By 1851 the nature of the Grange as a heavily wooded suburb was becoming evident and there are many trees dating from this period still growing in the area.

The practice of residents over the years has been to plant trees in their gardens, especially at the front, and this is what gives the Grange its present wooded and rural character behind the long stone walls. These trees are highly valued for their beauty and their most effective ability to baffle noise and shelter house and garden from wind and frost. Houses and trees enjoy a symbiotic relationship and trees are an essential element of the Grange's character.



Houses and trees enjoy a symbiotic relationship and trees are an essential element of the Grange's character.

Moreover, trees and shrubs provide excellent habitats for a large number of resident and migrant birds. Collared doves first nested in the Grange at the west end of Dalrymple Crescent and there was a flourishing rookery in Relugas Road. Squirrels used to abound in the Astley-Ainslie Hospital grounds and at Craigmount in Dick Place, The Grange was thus a kind of 'rus in urbe', the sort of environment many people are looking for when they buy or rent a house in the area.

The Grange Association has organised two tree Surveys. The first Street by Street Analysis was carried out by Mrs Isobel Simpson in 1982 for the report *The Grange: A Case for Conservation*.

The second was made by a group led by Alistair Scott in 1995. We are now pressing the Council to increase the number of tree preservation orders following the recommendations of the 1995 report.

There are still a very large number of trees in the Grange, but far fewer than there were at the end of the 19th century. It is essential to protect our trees from the pressures of development and other threats such as inappropriate pruning. The number of trees that need to be planted in the Grange each year to keep its characteristic tree-scape is about 200. Any suggestions about public land in the Grange where new trees could be planted are welcome.

A season of mellow fruitfulness

At any time of year the trees of the Grange provide a distinctive backdrop

Sofia Leonard was suitably inspired by the sunset glow filtered through the the trees of the Grange which provide a distinctive backdrop at any time of year

Life is rhythmic and punctuated by the seasons.

Summer is the crest of the wave and winter is the trough, spring and autumn are the ascending and descending curves as Patrick Geddes tells us in the Evergreen.

Just as the sun which quickened the seeds, raised the sap, unpacked the buds and opened the flowers and our hearts in the spring and summer, now the lack of sun is beginning to cast a spell upon life and making us melancholy in the autumn.

We hear another note of autumn when we listen to the calls of the migratory birds as they pass overhead by night or congregate with exited clamouring before starting their long journey south or when we see deer nibbling conifers in some of the gardens in the Grange (see opposite).

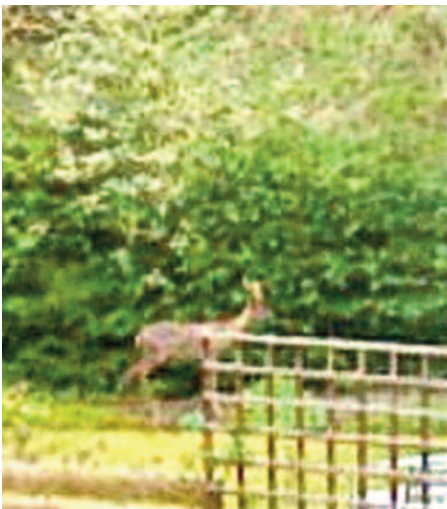
It is a time of withering, but also a time for storing and preparing for winter.

The fruits and seeds of the autumn speak of the abundance and continuance of life.

Garden Exchange

I have lived in Newington and the Grange for 16 years and I have noticed the lack of any gardening club or organisation in this area which would let us exchange tips, plants, seeds and so on. I think there is potential for people with an interest in gardening to get together and share ideas for mutual self-help. I am willing to set up an opportunity to get this going as I will be retiring shortly. Watch this space.... and check out the website for an event in the next few months where you can come along to see what we would all like to do. If you have ideas of your own please do get in touch by e-mail.

Alison Bramley g.bramley@btopenworld.com



Deer me - an unusual visitor in Relugas Gardens.



Hawk eye: spotted in a garden in Grange Road.

NATURE TRAIL

Walk on the wild side

**If you go down to the woods today
(or even the bottom of your garden)
you could be in for a big surprise
(writes Richard Mowe)**

Two Grange residents have been taken aback to find unusual visitors lurking in the undergrowth.

Yvonne Fraser in Relugas Gardens spotted two male deer complete with antlers nibbling contentedly on her conifer trees – a neighbour managed to capture the moment on his mobile phone (and reprinted here as proof).

Meanwhile, Nicky Regan who has recently moved in to Grange Road found large piles of feathers in the back garden. She ruled out the activities of a cat or fox on the basis that either of these two could not have

made such an impact on one of the local pigeons.

A few days later her partner Jon called her to the back window, saying he thought he had found the culprit who was creating such a mess.

He managed to sneak outside and capture the picture (see alongside). They believe it be a sparrow hawk feasting on one of the local pigeons! The bird was tame enough to allow Jon within eight yards for a few minutes with his camera. Then the bird took off – with the carcass.

If anyone else has interesting tales of life on the wild side in the Grange please send details with photographic evidence to richardmowe@mac.com.

PLANNING WATCH

Mind the gap



Overgrown and neglected but now there are plans for development at this site on the Grange border at the Whitehouse Loan/ Newbattle Terrace junction.

A major potential development lies on the Grange border at the Whitehouse Loan/ Newbattle Terrace junction. Several applications have been lodged for this neglected and semi-derelict gap site over many years but residents will have to wait and see if the latest application is approved and constructed (writes Andrew Bell).

The committee welcomes comments about applications from members. Often local knowledge can put the effects of a particular proposal in context, alerting us to features which are not evident from the submitted plans. We are looking for residents who are interested in planning matters to assist in the

review of applications. If you are interested in this work please contact any member of the committee.

Applications and Decisions

On the next page are reviewed applications within the area.

- * An asterisk (*) indicates comments made by Grange Association though not all of our comments involve a recommendation for refusal of permission. Note that the category "Withdrawn" usually means that an application is being redrafted to avoid refusal; most are later resubmitted in a revised and somewhat less contentious form. Some properties may appear more than once; that can indicate repeat applications have been made.

DECISIONS FROM THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Granted:

32A LAUDER ROAD*
 9 WHITEHOUSE TERRACE
 52 ST ALBAN'S ROAD
 GF 17 STRATHEARN ROAD
 39 MANSIONHOUSE ROAD
 Flat 2 119 GRANGE LOAN
 38 DICK PLACE
 8 WHITEHOUSE TERRACE
 79 GRANGE LOAN
 124 FINDHORN PLACE
 3A DALRYMPLE CRESCENT
 PF1 2 SCIENNES HILL PLACE
 56 GRANGE LOAN
 24 BLACKFORD ROAD
 30 SOUTH OSWALD ROAD
 1 FINDHORN PLACE*
 110 RELUGAS ROAD*
 18 DICK PLACE*
 5 SOUTH LAUDER ROAD
 5 LAUDER ROAD*
 37 FOUNTAINHALL ROAD*
 17 ST CATHERINES PLACE
 GF 46 ST ALBANS ROAD
 19 LAUDER ROAD
 33 WEST RELUGAS ROAD
 20 HOPE TERRACE
 25 SOUTH OSWALD ROAD
 3 TANTALLON PLACE
 14 – 16 HOPE TERRACE
 1 FOUNTAINHALL ROAD
 15 SOUTH LAUDER ROAD*
 38 FINDHORN PLACE

Demolish garage and external stair and replace with stone-fronted (two-storey) extension.
 Alterations to master en-suite bedroom.
 Non- material variation of permission to erect porch/new French windows.
 Remove sunroom, new rear extension & box-bay window, alterations, install new stair.
 Erect detached single storey home office shed.
 Renew consent (05/01018/FUL) to form window and door to lower apartments.8
 Erect porch.
 Alterations incl. enlarge external openings, replace roof infill, new opening/gate in front wall.
 New bay window, deck and steps, install 3 rooflights and form porch.
 Alter and enlarge rear window, replace outshoot door with new glazed door.
 New en-suite bathroom, enlarge existing bathroom and kitchen, to restore to original.
 Convert window in ground floor flat to French doors.
 Alterations. Upgrade kitchen/dining/bathroom/attic bedroom. Replace roof light.
 Erect single storey rear extension.
 New conservatory, remove garage, new carport, greenhouse, gates & railings, widen entrance
 External ramp for disabled use.
 Form new bedrooms to attic of 1st floor flat.
 Resurface drive-in, replace wrought iron gate with wooden gate.
 Change of use from commercial to residential and alterations/extensions.
 Demolish side extensions. Form single storey side extensions 2 storey rear extension.
 Vehicle run-in parking. 3 Velux windows.
 Demolish garage, construct 2 storey extension on gable and new kitchen to rear.
 New side window, single storey extension, velux and french doors.
 Install cupola, remove chimney.
 Dormer window with balcony.
 Solar water heating to rear of roof.
 Erect summer house.
 Erect second satellite dish.
 Erect 2 metre high fence with gates to side.
 Install 2 'windcatchr' ventilators on roof.
 Create off road parking.
 Alter and extend existing dwelling house.

Refused:

5 LAUDER ROAD*
 8 RELUGAS ROAD

Erect 1½ storey gable extensions incl garage, rear extension with pergola, porch, shed.
 Form new dormer extension to rear.

Mixed decision:

6 LAUDER ROAD

Timber gates and fence. Velux windows and rooflight.

Withdrawn:

38 FINDHORN PLACE

Alter and extend dwelling house.

Permission not required:

122 CAUSWAYSIDE

Replace Vodafone aerials with similar.

Pending:

CAMERON TOLL
 65 GRANGE LOAN
 160 – 162 WHITEHOUSE LOAN
 35 – 39 NEWBATTLE TERRACE
 41 LAUDER ROAD
 23 HOPE TERRACE
 7 HATTON PLACE
 13 CUMIN PLACE
 33 DICK PLACE
 Flat 1, 2 LAUDER ROAD
 131 WHITEHOUSE LOAN
 141 GRANGE LOAN

Extend to include cinemas, restaurants and retail outlets on 3 floors to south of existing centre.
 Non material variation of permission 07/03719/FUL.
 Demolish cottages erect two 3 storey blocks and one 4 storey block of flats/townhouses.
 Conservatory and alterations.
 Remove and replace garage, new boot room.
 New windows and doors to rear.
 Demolish rear of existing building. Form new extension including conservatory.
 Remove chimney stack.
 New window in sunroom.
 Single storey side extension.
 Erection of single storey flat roof extension.

ENERGY BRIEFING

Savings for your purse – and the planet

The GEARS (Grange Energy and Renewables Study) Group did not receive a further grant from the Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) to continue the work started by committee member Graham Dickson to provide information to householders (writes Sue Tritton).

There were many applications for this final round of grants and GEARS was advised to work with Transition Edinburgh South (TES), another group working in the area.

Recently, I have had insulation installed on the flat roof of my flat (done as part of replacing the roof) and also had slim-line double glazing windows installed in two bedrooms. I am not sure how much these have helped to reduce my fuel bills or whether I have been more conscious of energy being used (helped by using my Energy Monitor). Over the last year (which included the coldest winter for some time) I used about 75% of both gas and electricity than in the previous 12 months.

Monitors available for loan

The original CCF grant for GEARS provided funds to buy several Energy Monitors I still have some available for long-term loan. If you would like a monitor please get in touch – 667 8027 or suetritton@btinternet.com.

Committee member Marion Cantley who has had a smart meter since February reports: “I find it fascinating to see the differing amounts of electricity my various appliances use. I now boil just enough water for what I need and think twice about switching on my oven.”

Water Saving Advice from ChangeWorks

Reducing the amount of water and energy in your home will save you money and reduce your impact on the environment. The average household spends around 30% of their gas bill on heating water – as much as £200 a year. Log on to <http://www.changeworks.org.uk/water.php> to complete our online Water Energy Check and we'll send you a free, personalised report in the post advising you of a number of easy ways to save water, energy and money.

Note from Transition Edinburgh South

To help celebrate and strengthen our community, TES is planning an Eco-Festival in October. We hope to create a space for people young and old to enjoy local food, music, crafts & arts, with talks and practical workshops on environmental and social issues. If you would like to get involved in organising this event, please email info@transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk or call 07949730994.

Double Glazing for Listed Buildings

The City Council is relaxing its policy on double glazing for A and B grade listed buildings and in many cases permission will now be given to allow slim-line double glazing in these properties.

Events calendar

Everyone, member or not, is welcome to attend these events which have been co-ordinated by organiser Tony Reeves. Admission is free with a modest charge for refreshments.

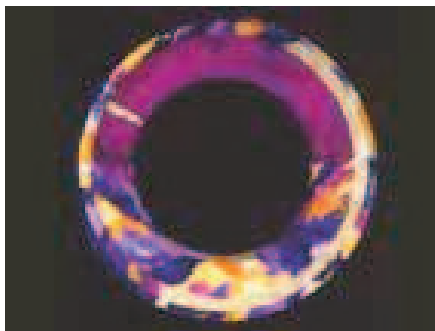
27 October: Made in the Grange – From Concept to Creation featuring design and manufacture of ceramics by Tony Franks and Ann Marie Shillito. Franks, who was born in Birmingham, initially studied geography before training in ceramics at the Wolverhampton College of Art (1962 – 1966). He was influenced by Ruth Duckworth and initially worked in organic abstraction. He maintains his interest is in landscape and geology and transposes this in to his work. He won the international porcelain prize the Poisson d'Or in 1995 and has been President of the International Academy of Ceramics. Shillito works on locally-produced jewellery and is a research fellow in the Department of Design and Applied Art at Edinburgh College of Art and a manager and researcher. She is a designer-maker in the fields of jewellery and metalwork. Time and venue.

24 November: From Plagues to AIDS, a talk by Dr Jim Gray (an expert in tropical medicine). From medieval leper houses and plague pits to AIDS, Dr Gray charts the history of infectious diseases in Edinburgh, and looks specifically at the Colinton Mains Farm City Hospital for infectious disease, opened by King Edward VII in 1903. Time and venue.

15 December: Festive Concert. Programme in preparation – watch the website for details. Time and venue.



Small gold leaf bowl, porcelain, 2007, by Tony Franks



Bangle with three rotating rings by Ann Marie Shillito who presents her work on 27 October



Blooming lovely: Grange Association members enjoyed a summer coach trip to gardens in Fife

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