

“Trust Talk”

News and Views from The Corstorphine Trust Spring 2020

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

As you will read in the Chairman's Letter the Corstorphine Trust is 50 years old this year. We were going to hold a 50th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 30th May in Astoria Centre at 7.30pm, but due to the current Coronavirus situation will be pushing this back to the 10th October. If you put your name on the list at the AGM, we will keep you informed. Tickets (£30 per person, including refreshment) will be available later in the year and sold on a first come first served basis. If you are interested and would like to be kept informed contact Douglas Ramsay (539 3773).



Trust Groups

History Group	17 th March, 21 st April - Both cancelled due to Coronavirus	7.30pm
Photo Group	14 th April Cancelled due to Coronavirus	7.30pm
Sunday Concerts	To be arranged in the autumn	3.00pm
Folk Concerts	Mar, Apr, May & June CANCELLED, 31 st July, 28 th August, 25 th Sept, 30 th October	7.45pm

STOP PRESS:- In view of the current Coronavirus spread, activities in the Dower House have been suspended. Some activities are currently going ahead in the Astoria Centre but could be cancelled at short notice.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Corstorphine Trust is 50 this year. We will celebrate this landmark by holding special events throughout the year including a dinner in October and special exhibitions.

We have achieved a great deal which may not have been envisaged by our founding members. The Heritage Centre houses a highly praised museum and archive which is the envy of other heritage societies. Our volunteers welcome visitors and school classes to view our local history displays, heritage walks and we also take that information to other venues in illustrated talks. The Dower House is also let to several groups and is the venue for both Classical and Folk music concerts.

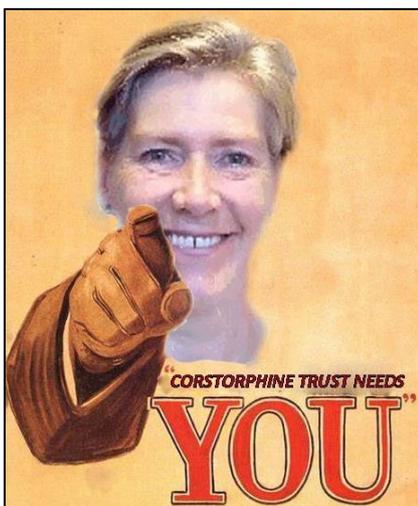
Our Benevolent Fund continues to award small grants to individuals and groups operating in our community.

Our activities expanded to include the creation of the Astoria Centre in Kirk Loan with the dual purpose of housing the 90 year old Astoria Cinema Organ and as a letting venue for local organisations and families.

We are supported by hundreds of subscribing members, for which I say thank you and can you recruit any neighbours or friends to join us? All of our activities are made possible by the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Hundreds have participated over the 50 years but of course we are always searching for the next generation to carry the Trust into the coming decades.

By coincidence, Corstorphine has been part of the City of Edinburgh for 100 years but it is as yet unclear how that will be marked by the City Council.

Ian Anderson, Chairman.



YOU can help the Trust go greener. Unless you've been living off-grid recently, you can't help but notice the amount of airtime being given to sustainability, recycling and green energy issues. At the Trust we are trying to do our bit by using low energy light bulbs, installing timers on heaters, fitting draught excluders to doors and where possible using the power of the internet to save paper, envelopes, etc. Besides reducing our carbon footprint there is obviously a cost saving as well. But **YOU** can help us be even greener. We currently have email addresses for just under half our membership, but we know that there will be more of you out there! If you would be willing to get future correspondence and copies of Trust Talk via email, then please drop me a line at treasurer@corstorphinetrust.co.uk Look forward to hearing from you.

Jane Kerr, Treasurer (treasurer@corstorphinetrust.co.uk)

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Our archive team continue to sort and catalogue many items which find their way through The Dower House doors.



An archive is an accumulation of historical records or the physical place they are located. Archives contain primary source documents that have accumulated over the course of an individual's or organisation's lifetime and are kept to show the function of that person or organisation. Archives can come in many forms such as: letters reports, minutes, registers maps photographs and films.

Secondary sources are created by someone who did not experience first-hand or participate in the events or conditions they are researching. For a historical research project, secondary sources are generally scholarly books and articles. A secondary source interprets and analyses primary sources. We are extremely fortunate to have a wealth of both primary and secondary sources in our archive.

Just recently we were contacted by the Edinburgh author Malcolm Cant. Mr Cant kindly offered us 35 Volumes of the "Book of the Old Edinburgh Club" (BOEC) 1908 - 2014. The volumes make up a substantial body of historical articles and source material about Edinburgh's history. There are some very interesting articles about Corstorphine contained within the volumes.

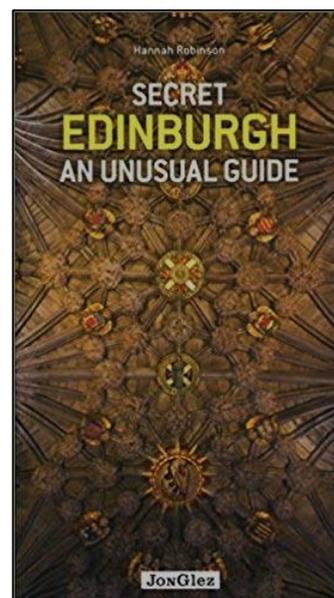
Our archive is open to anyone to view during our opening hours Wed /Sat between 10.00 am and midday.

Frances MacRae, Archivist

SECRET EDINBURGH

The Dower House has featured in SECRET EDINBURGH - AN UNUSUAL GUIDE since the book was first launched by author Hannah Robinson in 2016.

During a revision for the Second Edition, which will be published in the Spring, the Trust was asked for details of the Ingram organ. We hope that the Astoria Centre will be included in the listing but unlike the Heritage Centre which opens regularly to the public every Wednesday and Saturday morning, the Astoria Centre is only open to hirers or when the Trust arranges a specific event.



RESEARCH BY FACEBOOK



Can you remember a shop at the top of the hill in Carrick Knowe Avenue, just before the path over the railway? In a 1986 business directory it's recorded as Centra - New Fairway Stores, a General Store owned by J.D.Combe. Carrick Knowe Avenue was a street named on a plan in 1928, but I'm sure it was not built on until a bit later.

The houses are on a map surveyed in 1947 (published 1949), but not the shop or lock-ups. They appear on a map surveyed in 1961. I can remember as a child being in the shop 1970s/80s. I don't think it was an independent shop it was more a franchise possibly MACE.

The Edinburgh Council Atlas online, is a wonderful resource and the images used here are taken from it. It shows this land as unbuilt on in the 1940s aerial photo then show buildings (the shop and lock-ups), on an aerial photo in 1996, and map in 1997, but by the aerial photo of 2000 the shop and lock-ups have been replaced by new flats.



1940s Aerial Photo

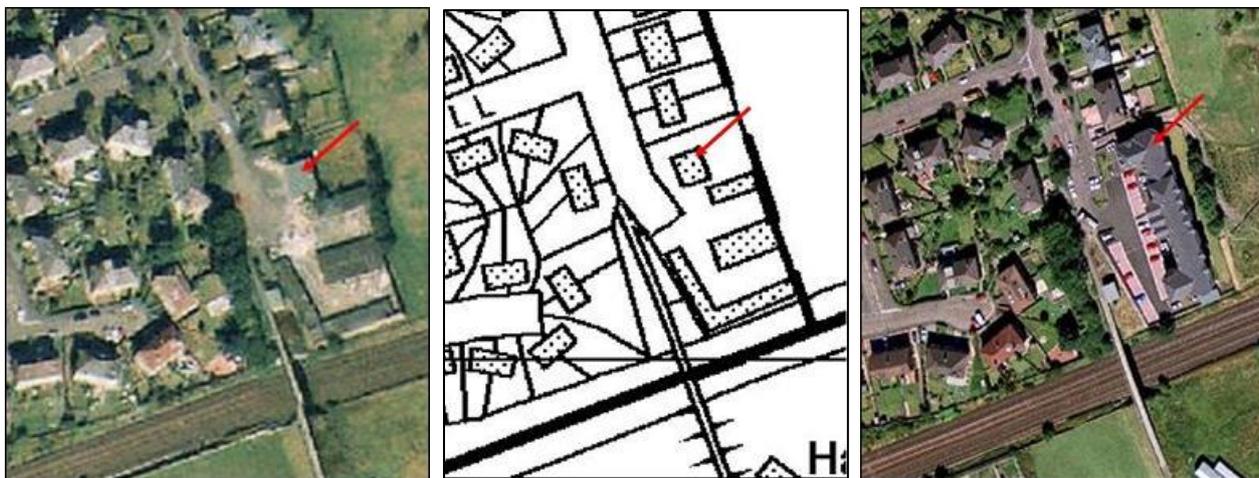
I asked if anyone on the Corstorphine Memories Page on Facebook had any information and 49 people joined a conversation with 106 comments and 26 likes.

Here are some of the memories people added: -

- I remember, someone robbed it around 1997/8, and it never reopened
- Called "The Top Shop" - I used to enjoy going there for my football stickers
- Think it was still there when we moved away in 1996
- I remember that shop, 60s/70s? can't remember the name though !!!
- Nothing there in late 50s when we lived near the bridge over the railway
- Remember nipping into the shop for supplies when golfing
- Just at the back of the 3rd green or from the 8th tee.
- I remember the shop and lock ups being built - must have been early 60s
- I think the original lock-ups were demolished to make way for a block of flats
- For a while it was owned by a Mr Bellamy
- I remember it in the early to mid 90s
- The Top Shop, good for Jubblies, and 5p crisps 1980s - early 90s
- I used to go in there and get my pork pie and a paper for my morning break
- I used to get parts for my Mini from a chap in the lock-ups
- The owner had a face like thunder when I came with bottles wanting deposit back
- Before the lockups there used to be a cycle speedway track for bikes - 1950/60s
- Bought my first loosie (individual cigarette) there
- I remember it was the only shop open on Sunday afternoons

As you can see many interesting snippets of information on one tiny area of Corstorphine. If you have any memories or photos of this shop, or any Corstorphine related memory that you would like to share please sent them to our archivist.

Kevin Aitchison



1996 Aerial Photo, 1997 Map and Aerial Photo 2000

GALLERY ART CLUB

Those talented members of the Gallery Art Club are holding their annual exhibition, 14th-18th April in the Old Parish Church, High Street Hall, an event worth finding some time to visit. Come along, browse and enjoy tea and coffee, as well as tasty home-bakes. There will be a children's drawing and colouring corner for younger guests. Make it a date for your diary and give them your support.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Thank you to all our members who have sorted out their standing order, most arrive in our account in in the first three months of the year. Our statements show that many of you have not given your bank new instructions.

Single member: the rate increased from £12 to £15.

Couple or Family members: increased from £20 to £25.

If you did not make the appropriate change then please inform your bank of the increase for the next payment. We recommend that you make it clear that this new instruction replaces an existing order, or you may end up making two payments next year.

A number of people have visited the Heritage Centre or written to us to acknowledge the shortfall in their subscriptions and pay the difference.

It is our intention to work gradually through the membership list and contact by email, 'phone or letter those whose payment has come through at the wrong rate. You can reduce our work if you inform us that you have corrected the payment yourselves.

Thank you,

Ian Anderson, Chairman.

ASTORIA CENTRE - OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2019

The Centre was included in the "24 Days of Advent" event organised by Underbelly Ltd., whereby a different building was opened to visitors for several hours who could at no cost view the venue. Of course, in our case, the attraction was to see and hear the Ingram organ.



We were delighted to welcome Charles Davidson, one of the last to play the Ingram in the Astoria cinema, to render a selection of melodies for an estimated 150 visitors.

Some local people already had knowledge of our unique instrument and simply wanted to hear it in action, but others had come from other parts of the city and beyond. Many visitors left contact details in order to be kept in touch with the progress of the installation and to be informed when we begin the concert programme.



Watch Trust Talk and local notice boards for details or add your name to the contact list by emailing friends@corstorphineastoriacentre.co.uk

WHATS ON AT THE ASTORIA CENTRE



Mondays

- 10:00-12:00 Sing in the City
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise with Kim

Tuesdays

- 10:30-12:00 Music Bugs
13:30 Line Dancing
19:00 Lodge St. John's 788 (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)
19:00 Corstorphine Community Council (3rd Tuesday)

Wednesday

- 10:15 Toddler Sense
16:15 La Belle Arts - Ballet
17:15 La Belle Arts - Jazz
19:00 Sing in the City

Thursday

- 9:30 Zumba with Tanya
17:00-21:00 Taekwon-do

Friday

- 9:00 Relax Kids
10:30 Relax Kids



WHATS ON AT THE DOWER HOUSE



Mondays

- 13:00 Patchwork (fortnightly)
19:00 Bridge Group

Tuesdays

- 19:30 Photographic Group (2nd Tuesday)
19:30 History Group (3rd Tuesday - winter only)

Wednesday

- 10:00-12:00 Dower House Open (Coffee & Archives)
10:00-12:00 Waverley Craft Group (2nd and 3rd Wednesdays on the month)

Thursday

- 19:00-21:00 Alcoholics Anonymous

Fridays

- 09:00 Pilates
10:30 Mindfulness
19:45 Folk Concerts (once a month Jan-Oct)

Saturdays

- 10:00-12:00 Dower House Open (Coffee & Archives)
14:00-16:00 Sight Loss Group (3rd Saturdays of the month)



Out with these times our buildings are available for hire. If interested, please email contact@corstorphineastoriacentre.co.uk or make an enquiry at the Dower House on a Wednesday or Saturday morning (10:00am-12:00noon).

SITUATIONS VACANT

Administration Assistant

Do you have previous Administration Experience? Are you seeking part time employment? Can you multi-task in a busy environment? Can you work on your own initiative? If the answer to all those questions is yes, The Corstorphine Trust could have the ideal role for you!

We are seeking an experienced Administration Assistant to help organise our growing number of activities in the heart of the Corstorphine village. The successful candidate will provide confidential administrative support to The Trust.

Duties and Responsibilities Include:

- * Monitoring inboxes
- * Invoicing
- * Updating online/desk diaries
- * Liaising with caretakers
- * Arranging maintenance appointments
- * Showing prospective clients around buildings
- * Maintaining membership database
- * Maintaining key holders list.

Key Skills and Experience:

- * The ability to multi task in a busy environment
- * Excellent organisation skills
- * First class communication skills and the ability to deal with colleagues and clients at all levels
- * Good IT skills.

This is an ongoing position starting at 10 hours per week but with the distinct possibility of increasing over time. We can be fairly flexible regarding specific days and parts thereof worked.

The role offers an hourly rate of £10.00.

If you think this job is for you, please apply to treasurer@corstorphinetrust.co.uk with your name and 'phone number. Closing date Thursday 30th April 2020.

Caretaker

Salary: £200 per month for 15 days (rotational - five days on/five days off)

As caretaker of two buildings in the heart of the Corstorphine village, you will be part of a team helping to ensure the smooth running of The Corstorphine Trust's growing number of activities.

Providing high standards of customer care, you will open and close for casual lets where some evening and weekend work will be essential. You will monitor the external areas around the properties for defects and report on any found. You will help ensure a good standard of tidiness of internal and external spaces. Your duties will also include laying out/storing of equipment, alarm tests, defibrillator monitoring, ensuring bins are put out in time for pick up, setting heating timers, reading utility meters.

Working on your own initiative, good time management and organisational skills will allow you to manage priorities while on shift. Basic IT skills are essential.

Please apply to treasurer@corstorphinetrust.co.uk providing your name, 'phone number and a short paragraph telling us why you're the person we're looking for. Closing date Thursday 30th April 2020.