

# Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

Spring 2022



## Concerts and Community

In this issue, we're delighted to share the reopening of our museum and archive rooms which you can read more about in our **Chair's Letter**. There is a reflection on our **Rebirth Concert** at The Corstorphine Astoria Centre as well as information on an upcoming organ recital, so make sure you pop the date in your diary! We also have some exciting updates from the wider community, including the **Corstorphine Scottish Women's Institutes** and the **Cargo Bike Movement**.

We hope that you enjoy this Spring Edition of **Trust Talk!**



## Stay in touch

For more updates on our opening times, you can follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST



@THECORSTORPHINETRUST

# Chair's Letter

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Hello everyone and welcome to the Spring 2022 edition of **Trust Talk**.

Where does the time go?! It seems like no time since I was sitting down to put pen to paper for the winter edition.

The staff and volunteers at The Trust are always busy and this year, so far, has been no exception. We have more interesting articles for you in this edition including a bio from Helen, the cafe manager, and Sam from City of Edinburgh Council who, along with their team, have been helping us to tame the garden area around The Dower House. We also have reports on some of the activities that have been taking place and also what's coming up over the next few months.

As always, I need to extend my thanks to those involved behind the scenes. The Trust simply couldn't run without your help and if any of you, our membership, have a few hours to spare perhaps you would consider volunteering? If so, please get in touch.



We were delighted to be able to reopen the museum and archive rooms to the public in February. They are now open Tuesday to Sunday mornings from 10 am to 12 noon and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3 pm. A big departure from the pre-covid days! Although off to a quiet start, we're hopeful that by being open when the cafe is trading and the better weather coming that we'll see the numbers pick up.

The rebirth concert for the organ was held at the end of March and, from the feedback received from those who attended, it was much enjoyed. More on that can be found in this edition.

We also had our AGM at the end of March. It was well attended with people joining us online and in person. We hit a few technical snags but we've taken note of them and, if we use the same format again next year, should be able to iron them out for then. After the meeting closed we showed the Redrawing Edinburgh film first projected on the back of The Dower House in September last year. If you'd like to watch it you can by going to <https://vimeo.com/618405597/789a319bb5>.

I hope you enjoy this issue and we look forward to seeing you at The Dower House soon.

Best,

**Chair**

# Rebirth Concert

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And what a rebirth it was! It was good to see so many of our members at the concert.

It's hard to believe that the piles of wood and many boxes of bits and pieces delivered to The Corstorphine Astoria Centre in January 2018 have finally been put back together again and producing a spectacular sound.

I don't think the executive committee had any idea what we were taking on but thanks to the tenacity, hard work, perseverance and pure grim determination of The Trust, Kevin Grunill, Declan Poole and their colleagues in Barnsley we have brought this project to a very satisfying conclusion.



Will the organ ever be 'perfect'? No, probably not, but after what it's been through in its 91 years I think that would be expecting too much. What we do have is the smallest theatre organ in the UK and the last of its kind in the world. Pretty impressive I'd say.

I was delighted to be able to introduce Kevin and Declan to you. I felt it was only fitting that they were able to be there and put the organ through its paces. From the feedback received the afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone there.

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## John Kitchen Organ Recital

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We're delighted to announce that John will be giving an organ recital on the Ingram on Saturday 25 June 2022 at 3.00 pm. This will be the first public performance of the organ.

John makes no claim to being a cinema organist, but regularly includes some lighter music in his recitals in the Usher Hall and so is prepared to have a go!

John was friendly with the late Mike Thomson of Aberdeen, who was a skilled cinema organist, and who wrote and brilliantly arranged a great deal of lighter music, some of which will certainly feature in his recital. This will include Scottish dances such as the strathspey *Whirly Granny*, marches, and a brilliant *Tribute to Busby Berkeley*. Music by Arthur Sullivan and Albert Ketèlbey is also likely to feature.

He is looking forward to putting the versatile Ingram organ through its paces!



Tickets will be on sale from our website from 10.00 am on Sunday 1 May. For those of you who don't have access to a computer, we will hold some tickets in reserve. If you'd like to purchase these tickets please contact us in the first instance on **0131-316 4246**.

# Corstorphine Scottish Women's Institutes (SWI)

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Corstorphine SWI (previously known as Corstorphine Rural) celebrates its 100th year birthday in October 2022. The first meeting was held in an Ex-Servicemen's Hut, known as the Institute, where the Centurion is now. Other meeting places over the years have been the Public Hall, United Reformed Church (now the Community Church), The Dower House, Corstorphine Hub and currently The Corstorphine Astoria Centre. During its existence the Institute has been an integral part of the local community participating in many local initiatives, most recently collecting bed linen and sewing scrubs for the NHS and masks for our members. We are currently knitting, crocheting and sewing items as part of the National SWI 'Stitched with Love' project for Ukrainian refugees. Corstorphine SWI is the only remaining branch of the Scottish Women's Institutes in West Edinburgh.

Our centenary year is a significant milestone for the Institute and a number of events and activities are being organised to celebrate this achievement. An exhibition to show the history of Corstorphine Scottish Women's Rural Institute and how it has developed over the years to become Corstorphine SWI is being held, with support from The Corstorphine Trust, in The Dower House from 31st May – 4th June, 10.00 am- 4.00 pm. Members of The Corstorphine Trust are also giving a talk on 'Corstorphine in 1922' to the Institute in September.

A successful application for funding from the West Edinburgh Neighbourhood Network Community Grants enabled us to restart our monthly handcrafts group with visiting demonstrators, organise a centenary meal for our members and to plan a bus trip to Galashiels to the Great Tapestry of Scotland. Also, a successful application to The Corstorphine Trust allows us to hold a couple of meetings or workshops later in the year which will be open to non members.

Corstorphine SWI meets in The Corstorphine Astoria Centre, Kirk Loan, on the second Thursday of each month (except July and August) from 2.30 – 4.30 pm.

**Why not come along and give us a try?**

Women of any age and ethnicity are welcome to join us as visitors at any of our meetings. You may like it enough to join the SWI or you can join us as a visitor before deciding to become a member – or not. We have meetings with speakers or sometimes a chat and cuppa with quizzes, social outings, a monthly craft group restarting with some demonstrations being planned and support for members with tablets and iPads by a friendly SWI Digital Champion.

Our ladies did not meet face to face for two years during the pandemic but many embraced new technology to learn Zoom so we could continue our meetings virtually. We also, when restrictions allowed, met for walks and coffees to keep in contact and have a blether.

Please come and say hello at our stall at The Corstorphine Fair, and also at the exhibition in The Dower House. Our members will be happy to answer any questions and explain what we do.

For more information, contact Brenda on 07833122943.

## Bike Curious

On Sunday 6th March, a Bike Curious cargo bike day was held at St Margaret's Park. This event was a collaborative effort between Cargo Bike Movement, Corstorphine Primary School Travel Action Group (STAG) and Low Traffic Corstorphine, and supported by Hart's Cyclery, The Bike Station, Spokes, Laid Back Bikes, EdFoC, Soul Cycles, SW20, amongst other members of the cycling community.

The event offered members of the public the opportunity to try a variety of bike-based options for transporting children, adults and all manner of other stuff! Having a range of models and options all in one place allowed individuals and families to make direct comparisons in the moment, and speak to experts to gain advice on their specific needs.

Over 60 people joined us in the park to try a mix of cargo bikes from Tern, Raleigh, Urban Arrow and Nihola, to name just a few, as well as set ups with tandem and trailer attachments. We had some great feedback and have been told of at least two families who have gone on to purchase a cargo bike following the event:

*"Amazing to try out the bikes which has really helped us decide which one we should buy."*

*"Everyone was really welcoming and engaging, making it easy to try bikes out and ask questions."*

This event and similar ones across Edinburgh have been made possible due to funding that Cargo Bike Movement have received from both Paths for All's Smarter Choices, Smarter Places fund, as well as Cycling UK's Shift Grant.

If you would like to work with Cargo Bike Movement to set up a similar event in your area, please go to [www.cargobikemovement.com](http://www.cargobikemovement.com) for more information.

**WHAT DOES YOUR SCHOOL RUN LOOK LIKE?**

If you've ever wondered how to make "The School Run" more fun, efficient, and sustainable for you and the kids, then this event is for you!

Try out a range of bikes fit for the family commute, such as:  
cargo bikes, trailers, adapted child seats, and more!

St Margaret's Park, Corstorphine  
Sunday 6th March 2022  
10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Get support and advice from Cargo Bike Movement, The Bike Station, Hart's Cyclery, Soul Cycles, Laid Back Bikes, EdFoC, and more...

Email: [cargobikemovement@gmail.com](mailto:cargobikemovement@gmail.com) for more information



# Meet the Team

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I am Helen, The Dower House Café manager. Euan and I have been friends for a long time, we met back in primary school. The Dower House power couple asked me to get involved (how could I say no?) I have always worked in hospitality, I had a catering company, worked in management in many cafes and restaurants across Edinburgh and Glasgow. I am a trained barista and have developed a passion for coffee. I love it. Having said this, I am studying something completely unrelated. At this moment I am attempting to get a master in psychology through the Open University. I could not confidently say, I know why, but that is not important.

**Helen Doig**  
Manager of The Dower House Café

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My name is Sam Williamson and I work for the City of Edinburgh Council as an Unpaid Work Supervisor. Our aim is to help charities and local community based organisations in and around Edinburgh. I very much enjoy my job and love to see the wonderful transformations throughout the various projects that myself and the people I work with have taken on, including The Dower House garden area. It is a wonderful way to give back to our local community, and to hopefully encourage more people to get involved with local community projects. I have been in Edinburgh for almost 14 years and it immediately felt like I was home. I hope that positive changes continue for many years to come by doing this job.

**Sam Williamson (they/them)**

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# Shop with a Smile

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As well as our online store, we also previously shared another way you can support The Trust when you shop online. When you purchase items through Amazon, you now have the ability to donate to a charity of your choice each time you place an order - including The Corstorphine Trust. By placing your order through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your order (which may not sound like much but, in these difficult times, every little really does help!) will be donated to us at no additional cost to yourself.

To register, simply visit <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC000913>.

Recently, Amazon announced the ability to use AmazonSmile through their mobile app as well so you no longer have to navigate to their web store each time you want to take advantage of their charitable donations.

To activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app:

1. Open the Amazon app on your phone
2. Select the main menu (=) & tap on “AmazonSmile” within Programmes & Features
3. Select Corstorphine Trust as your charity
4. Follow the on-screen instructions to activate AmazonSmile in the mobile app

# Corstorphine Fair 2022 - Saturday 4 June

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After the postponement of the fair in 2020, it will be full steam ahead in June.

The Trust will have their usual stall at the north-east entrance to the park. We look forward to seeing you there.



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## Membership Fees

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Just a wee reminder to our members who don't pay via standing order, there's a good chance your membership has lapsed. Because of the pandemic and the various lockdowns, etc we have given you longer than usual to pay and renew your membership.

If you're not sure when you're due to renew then please contact us at [info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk](mailto:info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk), by calling us on 0131-316 4246 or why not pop in and see us?

Thank you!

# The Astoria Centre

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The Astoria Centre continues to flourish, with a number of adult and children's activities running throughout the week. If you're interested in booking the hall, please send an email to [contact@corstorphineastoriacentre.co.uk](mailto:contact@corstorphineastoriacentre.co.uk) for more information.



## MONDAY

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13:15-16:45 Bumblebee Sports  
19:00-20:15 Yoga

## TUESDAY

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10:00-12:45 Music Bugs  
13:30-15:30 Line Dancing  
18:00-23:00 Lodge St. John Corstorphine No.788 (*2nd and 4th Tuesday between October and April*)

## WEDNESDAY

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09:30-11.30 Christine Mills Pilates  
12:30-13:30 Pilates  
14:00-16:00 Versus Arthritis (*second Wednesday of the month*)  
16:00-18:00 Taekwon-Do

## THURSDAY

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09:45-11:00 Tanya's Dance Fit – Hip Hop Babies/Tots  
13:00-14:00 Easy Exercise Class  
14:30-16:30 SWRI (*second Thursday of the month*)  
17:00-21:00 Taekwon-Do

## FRIDAY

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09:05-10:05 Pilates  
15:00-18:00 Capital Allstars

## SATURDAY

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09:30-12:45 Inspire Theatre  
14:00-15:30 Corstorphine Connect Sight Loss Grop (*third Saturday of the month*)

## SUNDAY

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09:30-12:30 Splat Messy Play (*last Sunday of the month*)  
13:30-15:00 Organ Practice

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## Get in touch

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### Corstorphine Heritage Centre

The Dower House, St Margaret's Park  
Edinburgh, EH12 7SX

☎ 0131 316 4246

✉ [info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk](mailto:info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk)

We hope that you've enjoyed this Spring edition of **Trust Talk** and we are delighted to be able to welcome you back to The Dower House.

You can continue to contact **The Corstorphine Trust** via email, telephone and post, as well as following us on social media for updates on our hours.