

# Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

## Winter 2024



## Reflections and Remembrance

As we bid farewell to another year, we take time to remember, whilst we look forward to what is to come. In our first **Trust Talk** of 2024, we learn more about a very special new acquisition for our museum in **From The Archives**. There is a reflection on our recent Remembrance Day service as well as a remarkable figure at The Corstorphine Trust, whose life and achievements we commemorate. Finally, you'll find details of our upcoming AGM so make sure you make sure you save the date.

We hope that you enjoy this Winter 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,

A very happy new year to you all. I hope you managed to have the Christmas you wanted. 2024! How did that happen?! 2023 was another busy year for The Trust and I'm sure that the coming one will be no different.

We've got another packed edition of **Trust Talk** for you with articles on what's been happening and what's planned for the next wee while.

Unfortunately, due to illness we had to cancel the Christmas concert planned for the middle of December. We hope to be putting more events together this year so watch out for these.

As written in our constitution, we are giving notice of our Annual General Meeting. The intention (at the moment) is to have a blended meeting where people can attend in person or use the live link. If you want to join us via the video link, please let us know.

We sadly lost one of our much respected, retired presidents at the beginning of December. Eric Davidson was a friendly and familiar face to many of us and we pass on our sincere condolences to his family.

We've got the lowdown on Window Wanderland which is back this year after a short break. The Trust, along with Corstorphine Community Council, are delighted to be helping towards the supply of craft materials for some of our local families who are having to watch the pennies and, without a little help, couldn't take part.

The museum stewards managed a wee get together before Christmas for a cuppa and a blether. It was really nice to see everyone and I think a good time was had by all. As always, my thanks to you, our loyal volunteers, for everything you do. It really is much appreciated.

So, I'll close now and hope to see you in The Dower House soon.

Best,



**Chair**



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## Annual General Meeting

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**Tuesday 12 March 2024 | 7.30 pm | The Corstorphine Astoria Centre**

The plan at the moment is to hold the AGM in person and on Teams.

If you are attending in person you just need to turn up. If you intend to join online please let us know by sending an email to Kim at [info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk](mailto:info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk). We will then send you an online meeting invite.

# From the Archives

Memorial plaques were issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.

The plaques were made of bronze and were popularly known as the “Dead Man’s Penny”, because of the similarity in appearance to the somewhat smaller penny coin. A total of 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.

Before Christmas, an anonymous donor contacted myself offering the Memorial Plaque for Benjamin Hogg of Corstorphine Hill Farm. Benjamin was a Private in the 1st Lovat Scouts; he died on the 30th of May 1916 in Egypt, and is buried in the Cairo War Memorial Cemetery.

I was delighted to accept this on behalf of The Corstorphine Trust and the plaque now sits in pride of place in our museum.

After his death in 1916, Benjamin’s family continued to live at Corstorphine Hill Farm. His father, James, a Farm Servant, his Mother Jessie, a sister Elizabeth a Chemical Worker, a sister Nellie also a Chemical Worker, a brother Samuel who was a Green Keeper at Corstorphine Golf Club, a brother Alexander who was a plumber with T. W Beach, Plumber and a sister Jessie who was a Tapestry Worker with the Scottish Folk Fabric Company.

**Frances MacRae**  
Archivist



# Remembering Eric Davidson

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We were sorry to hear that Eric Davidson, our Honorary President from 2004 - 2019, had passed away at the beginning of December.

Eric was educated at Musselburgh Grammar School where he was captain of both cricket and rugby. His keen interest in sport continued throughout his life and he was a member of Turnhouse Golf Club.

On leaving school he started his apprenticeship in the office of the architect and builder Sir James Miller and, at the same time, started a part time course at the School of Architecture, part of the Edinburgh College of Art.

He continued until he was called up for military service in 1946 where he served with the Royal Engineers in the 8th Field Squadron (1st armoured Division) seeing active service in Palestine until 1947. He was then stationed in Egypt and Kenya until he was demobbed in 1948.

Returning to Edinburgh, he recommenced his studies at Edinburgh College of Art as a full time student and, after receiving the Andrew Grant Travelling Bursary, travelled to Spain, France and Italy. He graduated in 1954 and worked for a couple of different offices before joining the Architect's Department of the South East Regional Hospital Board in 1955 to pursue his interest in health buildings and hospital architecture in the developing NHS.

Over the years, Eric rose through the ranks and in 1985 he became Director of the Scottish Health Service Building Division with responsibility for the Scottish Health Service Capital Programme, the post from which he retired in 1989.

Throughout his career, Eric had several articles published in various journals (<https://historic-hospitals.com/tag/modernism/>; <https://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB52537>)

After he retired, he was instrumental in the rehabilitation and conversion of The Dower House on behalf of The Corstorphine Trust in 1991 with the official opening held in April 1992 and the external renovation (Phase 2) of The Dower House finishing in May 1999.

He and his wife June were married in 1956 and moved to Corstorphine in 1964. Family caravanning holidays in the UK were the order of the day but they did travel abroad once to Denmark.

For those of us who knew him, Eric had a great sense of humour and he kept this right until the end.

He is survived by their four children: Iain, Stuart, Suzie and Laura.



# Corstorphine Posada

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We, along with various other local organisations, were invited by Esther Elliott, Community Chaplain at Corstorphine Old Parish to take part in a posada.

Las posadas is a Mexican tradition in which the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem is reenacted.

We received the figurines from Corstorphine Primary School pupils and, after taking a photograph of them in the museum, we then handed the figurines onto Corstorphine library where they continued their journey around the village.



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# Corstorphine Window Wanderland 2024

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The Corstorphine Trust is delighted to be able to support the Corstorphine Window Wanderland with their wonderful community event again this February!

Window Wanderland will see residents, community groups, local businesses and schools decorate their windows to create a magical outdoor spectacle for families to enjoy.

On 24 and 25 February (6.00 pm to 9.00 pm), you'll be invited to follow the trail through Corstorphine, using an online map, to enjoy this special community event.

To find out more or to register, visit their website:

Website: <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/corstorphine-2024/>

Facebook: CorstorphineWindowWanderland



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# Morag McIntosh - 100 Years Young

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What's in a number?!

We heard on the grapevine that one of our long standing members has recently turned 100.

Morag McIntosh, many congratulations from everyone here at The Corstorphine Trust! We hope you enjoyed the celebrations.



# Corstorphine Trust Remembrance Day Services 2023

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On Friday 10 November 2023, children from primary and secondary schools in the Corstorphine area assembled with their teachers and head teachers at the war memorial in Kirk Loan. In what is becoming a regular event they arrived just before 11:00 to take part in an act of remembrance to commemorate the men of Corstorphine who died in the various conflicts of the 20th century.



The service was led by the minister of the Old Parish Church, Moira McDonald, who opened the commemoration with a short introduction followed by the two minutes silence. She then talked to the children about the meaning of the commemoration and why it is important to remember those men whose names are on the memorial. She also referred to the importance of the memorials, not only in Corstorphine but throughout the county and what they mean to people in an area and the need for them to be respected.

As happened last year, some of the pupils from Craigmount High School who are members of the pipe band played a number of tunes before and after the event. Pupils from some of the other schools also read out poems that they had written.

After Moira had finished she invited the children to come forward and lay their wreaths along with any cards they had written. At the same time the teachers present encouraged the children to look at the names and think about who they were.

One of the schools had carried out a project into some of the men whose names are recorded on the memorial. There were a number of short notes describing them, their family ties to Corstorphine and a brief account of their military service. Also a number of men were commemorated with a poppy being attached next to the person's name on the memorial.

The feedback from the schools following the earlier school commemorations has been positive and is something they wish to participate in in future years. I hope that in the future the school remembrance event is something that may develop with more participation from the children.

With 2024 being the 110th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI it has been suggested that the schools, in conjunction with The Corstorphine Trust, repeat the 2014 memorial event. At that commemoration, individual crosses for each of the names on the war memorial were laid by the children. It is hoped that some details of each of those commemorated will be investigated and recorded by the children involved.

As well as the children, some of their parents and other members of the public also attended.

*Article photographs courtesy of Alastair McKay*

Sunday 12 November was Remembrance Day and again, the day dawned bright and sunny with only light cloud present during the service. Although a number of those who have attended the memorial service for many years are no longer able to take part, there still seems to be a desire from people to participate and lay a commemorative wreath.



Just before 11:00 a Colour Party, led by Kevin Aitchison, and formed from members of the local Air Cadets, Scouts and Guides lined up behind the war memorial.

At the same time, the minister of the Old Parish Church, the Reverend Moira McDonald, led her congregation out and officiated at the service.

Following the two minute silence, with the end marked by the bugler and piper, Moira led the service in prayer before inviting those with wreaths to come forward in turn to lay them at the base of the memorial. During the playing of the pipes a slight breeze caused the leaves on one of the trees in the churchyard to shed its leaves in a scene reminiscent of the falling poppy petals seen during the RBL Service of Remembrance held at the Albert Hall each year.



The service finished with the customary blessing and an invitation to all those attending to participate in the service being held in the church for the uniformed youth organisations.

As in previous years, a good sized crowd attended the event. The feeling is that the service is attracting numbers similar to those seen before the pandemic in 2020.

My thanks go to all those who helped both before the event and on the day. Stewards, first-aiders, photographer, the colour party participants, police and those laying wreaths.

Particular mention must go to the staff of the roads department for organising the road closure and for the work of the team-leader who was able to arrange for the team carrying out white-lining to be off-site for the duration of the service.

**Grant Donaldson**  
**Corstorphine Trust Remembrance Service Co-ordinator**

We're currently busy behind the scenes working on a series of events for 2024!

If you would like the latest updates on what happening at **The Corstorphine Trust**, make sure you've signed up to our mailing list. Get in touch with us at [corstorphinetrustevents@gmail.com](mailto:corstorphinetrustevents@gmail.com) to be added.

# 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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10:00-11:00 The Sensory Sessions  
13.30-15.30 Dog School Edinburgh  
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise

## TUESDAY

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13:30-15:30 Line Dancing  
16:05-16:50 Tutti Tots: 2-4 years  
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise

## WEDNESDAY

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09:30-11.30 Christine Mills - Pilates Scotland  
12:30-13:30 Realistic Pilates  
14:00-16:00 Versus Arthritis (*second Wednesday of the month*)  
16:00-18:00 Taekwon-Do  
18:45-19:45 Clubbercise

## THURSDAY

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09:45-10:15 Tanya's Dance-Fit Hip Hop Tots: 2-5 years  
10:30-11:00 Tanya's Dance-Fit Hip Hop Babies & Movers: 0-2 years  
11:15-12:00 Tanya's Dance-Fit: Mum's Fitness Class  
13:00-14:00 Easy Exercise  
14:30-16:30 SWI (*second Thursday of the month*)  
17:00-21:00 Taekwon-Do

## FRIDAY

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09:05-10:05 Realistic Pilates  
10:30-11:30 Realistic Pilates  
13:00-13:45 Tutti Footy FC: 2-3 years  
13.45-14.30 Tutti Footy FC: 3-4 years  
14.30-15.15 Tutti Footy FC: P1 & P2  
16:00-19:00 Capital Allstars

## SATURDAY

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09:30-12:45 Inspire Theatre Workshop  
13:45-16:15 Corstorphine Community Centre Tea Dance (*fourth Saturday of the month*)  
14:00-15:30 Corstorphine Connect Sight Loss Grop (*third Saturday of the month*)

## SUNDAY

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09:30-12:30 Hong Kong Christian Church  
13:30-15:00 Organ Practice

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## Get in touch

### 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 Winter edition of **Trust Talk** and we look forward to welcoming you 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.