

Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

Summer 2024



Summer in the Village

Whilst we've had a spectacularly British summer this year, there has been plenty of activity in Corstorphine. In this edition of **Trust Talk**, we hear from the Friends of St Margaret's Park and their brilliant work in our community. You'll find reflections on a childhood tradition in **From the Archives**, as well as a piece on the life of Chrystal Macmillan. If that interests you, be sure to book your ticket for our upcoming talk - as well as several other exciting events taking place this year.

We hope that you enjoy this Summer 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

Hello everyone and welcome to the summer edition of Trust Talk. I hope you're managing to enjoy the sunshine when you're not dodging all the rain we're getting.

Since our last edition we've been busy as always. June saw us setting up stall at The Corstorphine Fair and keeping the museum and archive room open all day. All in all, I think it went very well and how lucky were we with the weather?!

June also saw a welcome return of North Sea Gas to The Corstorphine Astoria Centre. The gig was a sellout and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. More events are scheduled for later on in the year and you can find out more in this issue.

The organ has had new (to it) keyboards installed. Unfortunately, the originals were not in great condition and, despite the best efforts of the organ restorer to make good, did not play particularly well or have full functionality. Nicola has been testing the new ones out and has given them the thumbs up. Hurrah!

We've had the first of two history walks around the village led by Stephen Murray and Ian Anderson. It was well received and it didn't rain!

We've got some interesting articles in this edition for you which I'm sure you'll enjoy. Frances has provided a From the Archives which is a report from one of the attendees at the 1956 Corstorphine Primary School Qually Dance, Andy Wallace and his Friend's of St Margaret's Park co-chair Sabrina Bremner provide an update of what's afoot with them and there are some unashamed plugs of our up-and-coming events!

Well folks, enough from me. Thanks again to all our volunteers for your time and effort. I've said it before (and yes I'm about to say it again!!) we couldn't keep the lights on without you. Enjoy the rest of the summer and I look forward to seeing you at The Dower House.



Chair

From the Archives

Who remembers their “Qually Dance”?

This month’s article is a report, written by Susan Williamson, about the 1956 Qualifying Dance. Susan was a P7 pupil from Corstorphine Primary School and it was published in the school’s “Corstorphine Notes”. It has been reproduced exactly as she wrote it.

The Qualifying Party

Every boy and girl in the top two classes looks forward to the Qualifying Party which takes place every year near the end of the autumn term. It is perhaps the only time when they are eager to go to school. The party which took place just before the Christmas holidays in 1956, was very successful, thanks to Miss Jeffrey’s tuition and to all other teachers who worked so hard.



Sadly we do not have any images of this event but are fortunate to have one for the Qualifying Dance of 1960 which is produced above.

On the walls of the Assembly Hall were various types of colourful, cardboard fish, lobster pots, pictures of candles and others of certain objects on drawing paper. On the wall facing that on which the clock is, were silver moons. The Christmas tree, tall and stately, was festooned with bright lights, balloons, crackers and tinsel. At the top was a shining star. Garlands draped from the lights which had crepe paper shades, made a gay picture. Among the guests at the party were Mrs. and Miss Macdonald, Miss McAlpine, Mrs Wragg, Mrs Moffat, Dr and Mrs Franklin and Mr Shields. Many of the teachers were present.

The first dance was announced. The party had begun! Girls in gay dresses mingled with boys in white shirts and smartly creased trousers or kilts. The lights moved slightly and the garlands, in turn, moved, as people danced by to the dance tunes. When the next dance was given out, the boys collected their partners and went on to the dance floor. The ladies’ choice, which was the third dance, caused a slight confusion among the girls, somewhat flustered they assembled with their partners. After more dancing, the two classes paired off, one boy, and one girl, to gather for the “feast”, which some people thought was the best part of the evening. There were sandwiches which were made by the teachers and biscuits and fancy cakes.

After that came a hat competition, where there was a prize for a boy and one for a girl. At this point some pictures were taken by Mrs Cline. When more dancing had been completed, the pupils filed through to the Dining Hall, where they collected ice-cream and jelly, the latter of which the parents had supplied. The final dance was the Snowball Waltz. At the end, Mr Macdonald thanked the guests for coming and various people were applauded and cheered. After some more thanks had been expressed, among those, to the band the whole party sang “Auld Lang Syne” and the party ended as happily as it had begun.

Frances MacRae
Archivist

Now Hiring: Event Organiser

Job Summary

We are seeking an Event Organiser with a passion for creating and running events to join our team. The ideal candidate will be responsible for planning and executing events, ensuring exceptional guest services, and maximising revenue through effective upselling.

Responsibilities

- Plan and coordinate events from conception to completion
- Communicate effectively with clients to understand their event requirements
- Manage event budgets and ensure cost-effective planning
- Coordinate with artistes, vendors, caterers, and other suppliers
- Provide excellent guest services throughout the event
- Utilise organisational skills to ensure smooth event operations

Experience

Required Skills:

- Upselling expertise to maximise revenue opportunities
- Strong time management abilities to meet event deadlines
- Guest services experience to provide exceptional customer satisfaction
- Fundraising knowledge to support charitable events

Nice-to-Have Skills:

- Background in the events industry
- Excellent communication skills
- Organisational proficiency in managing multiple tasks simultaneously

Job Type: Freelance

Pay: £15.00 per hour

Expected hours: No less than 10 per week

Benefits:

Flexitime

Work from home

Schedule:

Weekend availability

Experience:

Event Management: 1 year (preferred)

Expected start date: 02/09/2024

Please apply with a resume of your experience to chairman@corstorphinetrust.co.uk.

Friends of St Margaret's Park

Friends Of St Margaret's Park has been registered with the council. Our purpose is to give a voice to all users of the park and facilitate improvements in our community park.

Our ethos is fun, no bureaucracy and friendship. Our committee has two people for each role (co-chair, co-treasurer, etc.) and most work is done online with face to face chats on a Saturday morning. This reduces stress as we all have busy lives. There are 82 members and people are working on a number of projects dear to them. Joining is free and you get a newsletter.



Communication with the council is important and we were keen that the bowling green redevelopment proposals got as wide a coverage and input as possible from the community. We have published notes from every meeting held with the council so there is maximum openness.

What more to say? One thing is that there are many people in our community who want to contribute and we are keen on that. Treating everyone's opinions with respect is important. If you have a good idea please get in touch, we are all in favour of good ideas.

In the coming year we hope to get the flower beds in good shape, a children's cycleway painted, an enclosed dog play area and take forward the sensory garden and bowling green redevelopment. We welcome all input. Why not have some fun and join us?

Sabrina and Andy (co-chairs)



With thanks to Alastair McKay for these lovely photos of Corstorphine Fair!

Who was Chrystal Macmillan?

Chrystal Macmillan was born in the Victorian era (1872) but the things she fought for are still relevant today.

Her father was a partner in Melrose tea and the large family lived in Corstorphine. Chrystal, who was an early graduate of Edinburgh University, campaigned all over Scotland for the vote for women.

In 1915, during the First World War she organised an international women's Congress at The Hague to discuss the causes of war and then with other women travelled across Europe urging political leaders to end the war by negotiation.

After she moved to London in 1913, she participated in national and international campaigns for women's equality, bringing to public attention the way in which the law was biased against women and girls. Among the issues she tackled was women's right to equality in the workplace, the nationality of married women, the civil rights of prostitutes, the protection of the female child in court and the guardianship of children.

She campaigned for women to be allowed entry to the professions, and once the law was changed in 1919, she became a barrister, moving to a flat in Middle Temple.

During her lifetime, she was a well-known figure, a campaigner for equality, justice and peace. A new book published this year will acknowledge her contribution.

Helen Kay

Chrystal Macmillan 1872-1937

Campaigner for Equality, Justice and Peace

Helen Kay and Rose Pipes

The first biography of Chrystal Macmillan, a leading figure in the women's movement of the early twentieth century.

- Charts the life and work of one of Scotland's most prominent campaigners for women's equality, justice and peace.
- Explores Macmillan's rise to fame in the Scottish Women Graduates' Case, her role in the women's peace movement during the First World War, her work as a barrister and more.
- Provides a personalised history of the central issues in the women's movement of the late 19th and early 20th century: women's suffrage, women's right to equality in workplace, the status and nationality of married women, civil rights of prostitutes, protection of children in court, and guardianship of children.

LAUNCH DISCOUNT
SAVE 30%



Visit edinburghuniversitypress.com

Use code **NEW30** at checkout



EDINBURGH
University Press

Connecting people and ideas
edinburghuniversitypress.com

THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST PRESENTS



Pick of the Pops!



**A Musical
Journey Through
the Decades**

Featuring

Nicola MacRae
on the Ingram
Cinema Organ



The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Saturday 14th September 2024 | 7pm

<https://www.corstorphinetrust.co.uk/events/pick-of-the-pops/>

Upcoming Events

We're delighted to share several upcoming events this year which are available to book online now. Make sure you pop the dates in your diary and get your tickets today!

To book tickets for the following events, please visit: www.corstorphinetrust.co.uk/concerts/ or contact the office on 0131-316 4246.

Pick of the Pops: Nicola MacRae and The Ingram Organ – A Musical Journey through the Decades
Saturday 14th September 2024 | 7pm | The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | £15

As a fan of the cinema organ, Nicola MacRae has assisted The Corstorphine Trust in bringing the unique Ingram cinema organ back to audiences. In this 'Pick of the Pops' concert, Nicola will showcase the versatility of the cinema organ by performing pop favourites from across the decades!

From The Beatles to Wham! and Abba to the Pet Shop Boys, you'll be taken on a musical journey spanning the 60s through to the 90s, in a concert quite unlike any you've been to before. Expect an evening of brilliant entertainment which is sure to get you tapping your feet!

CHIVALRY: The Knights of Edinburgh – Presented by Donald Smith
Sunday 13th October 2024 | 3pm | The Dower House

Hosted in the historic locale of the Forrester knights and lairds, Donald Smith, director of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival, introduces the theme and stories of chivalry. What was the reality in Scotland, and how did the Crusades figure in 'knightly values' in Edinburgh and Scotland? Was anyone chivalrous?

This event is hosted as part of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival. It is free to attend but donations in support of The Corstorphine Trust will be welcome at the event.

Chrystal Macmillan: Campaigner for Equality, Justice and Peace – Presented by Helen Kay
Sunday 27th October 2024 | 3pm | The Dower House | £7

A leading figure in the women's movement, this historical talk will introduce Chrystal Macmillan's remarkable career, enduring legacy, as well as her familial connection to Corstorphine.

Helen Kay has conducted extensive research on the women's suffrage movement, including collaborative exhibitions with the University of Edinburgh on Chrystal Macmillan's work. Her forthcoming volume with Rose Pipes, *Chrystal Macmillan: Campaigner for Justice, Peace and Equality*, will be the first biography of Macmillan's remarkable life.

Silent Film: Steamboat Bill, Jr. – Accompaniment by Donald MacKenzie
Saturday 9th November 2024 | 3pm | The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | £15

We're delighted to announce the return of Donald MacKenzie who will be providing accompaniment to the 1928 Buster Keaton classic, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*. Regarded as a masterpiece of its era and featuring one of the most famous stunts in all of cinematic history – the incredible house facade collapse scene – Steamboat Bill, Jr. presents Buster Keaton at his very finest.

If you'd like the latest information on our upcoming events, please get in touch to be added to our mailing list: events@corstorphinetrust.co.uk.

The Astoria Centre

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 for more information.



MONDAY

09:45-11:45 The Sensory Sessions
13.30-15.30 Dog School Edinburgh
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

09:30-11.30 Christine Mills - Pilates Scotland
12:30-13:30 Realistic Pilates
16:00-18:00 Taekwon-Do
18:45-19:45 Clubbercise

THURSDAY

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

09:05-10:05 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

09:30-11:00 Inspire Theatre Workshop
11:15-12:45 Inspire Theatre Workshop
13:45-15:30 Corstorphine Connect Sight Loss Grop (*third Saturday of the month*)
13:45-16:15 Corstorphine Community Centre Tea Dance (*fourth Saturday of the month*)

SUNDAY

09:30-12:30 Hong Kong Christian Church (*first/third Sunday of the month*)
09:30-14:30 Hong Kong Christian Church (*second/fourth Sunday of the month*)
13:30-15:00 Organ Practice

Get in touch

Corstorphine Heritage Centre

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

☎ 0131 316 4246

✉ info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk

We hope that you've enjoyed this Summer 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.