

Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

Autumn 2024



Music and Memories

The changing seasons can certainly be felt with the days getting shorter and the frost setting in. This edition of **Trust Talk** brings more dates for your diary with several exciting concerts lined up to see you through the year. You'll also hear from our new Events Organiser who has been working to make them happen. We have reflections on this year's Remembrance Service, as well as our usual delve into The Corstorphine Trust archives, so get yourself a cup of something warm and read on.

We hope that you enjoy this Autumn 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 Autumn 2024 edition of Trust Talk. I hope everyone had a good summer (despite the very up-and-down weather!). I can't believe we're heading towards the end of another year.

It's been a busy one with concerts, talks, recitals and remembrance. All have been well received and attended. I hope you managed along to some or all of them but, if not, we've got lots coming next year for your delectation!

Our new Events Organiser, David, has written a wee bit about himself - welcome David - and he's definitely hit the ground running with lots of exciting events pencilled in for 2025.

We've another packed edition for you: dates for your diary, Grant gives us an update about the remembrance services, Frances dips into the archives to give us another fascinating insight into bygone days and much, much more!

And before closing, as always, I extend thanks to all our volunteers. We're very lucky to have you and couldn't keep the lights on with you.

It's probably a wee bit early to be wishing you all a merry christmas and a happy and healthy new year but I'm going to!

Best.



Chair



Festive Greetings and Opening Times

As we're galloping towards the end of another year, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a merry Christmas and a guid New Year.

The Trust will be closed from 3.00 pm on Saturday 21 December 2024 and reopen at 10.00 am on Tuesday 7 January 2025.

From the Archives

The following notices appeared in the 'Edinburgh Courant' on January 17th 1856.

CORSTORPHINE

On Monday evening, the first of a course of eight lectures on popular subjects was given in the parish school room of Corstorphine. The object is to raise a fund for establishing a library and reading room in the parish. The room was crowded with a most attentive audience of all classes. James Hope, Esq of Belmont occupied the chair and Dr Fowler of Corstorphine delivered the introductory lecture, which was eloquent, impressive and appropriate. The Rev Dr. Burns of the Free Church, Corstorphine is to deliver the next lecture on Monday evening on "Emigration".

Such were the reports carried by the "Courant" and when one realises that the contemporary news was of the siege of Balaclava and the arrangements for the subsequent armistice at the end of the Crimean War, it is apparent that the village of Corstorphine was in the forefront in providing for the intellectual and social improvement of its population. The village library was duly established and no doubt further lectures were given. Twenty years after this series of lectures The Literary Association was founded.

The writer of this is unknown but he/she goes on to write about the formation of The Literary Association, listing some of the lectures given over the years. Here are a few of the subjects and some speaker's names that I'm sure you will recognise.

January 8th 1934, Tom Curr, Drawing for the press (Cartoonist Evening News)

December 6th 1937, Rev. Dr Salis Daiches, Chief Rabbi on Place of the Jew in the world today

November 12th 1945, T.H. Gillespie, Private Life of a Penguin

January 7th 1952, Miss Mgt. Kidd, Advocate

January 21st 1952, Dr. Isabel Hutcheson, Venice Dolomites

October 10th 1960, Sir Compton Mackenzie, Authors I have known

October 16th 1961, Lady Morton, United Nations

February 26th 1962, Mrs H Bennett, An American looks at Europe

October 11th 1965, Dr J Cormack, Grenfell Mission, Labrador

October 21st 1968, Eric Davidson, Going for a Song

October 5th 1970, Mr Nigel Tranter, Putting the story into history

November 30th 1970, Willie Dey, Old Corstorphine

January 27th 1974, Sir Herbert Brechin, New Zealand Commonwealth Games

Frances MacRae

Archivist

Grub Up!

I have been contacted by the Edinburgh based charity, Nourish Scotland. They are looking for individuals who have first or second-hand experience of British restaurants between 1940 and 1950 and would be willing to share their stories with their fully trained volunteers. Their volunteers adhere strictly to ethical and data protection guidelines.

If you would like to take part please get in touch with me at archivist@corstorphinetrust.co.uk.

Meet the Team

Hello, my name is David, and I'm honoured to step into the role of the new events organiser for the Corstorphine trust. I'm a calm and thoughtful individual with a genuine passion for logistics and planning, always aiming to create experiences that bring people together in meaningful ways.

Outside of organising events, I find joy in outdoor activities, particularly rock climbing, which challenges me both mentally and physically. When I'm not scaling rocks, you can often find me in my workshop, pursuing my other passion: woodworking. Crafting pieces from raw materials gives me a sense of fulfilment and allows me to tap into my creativity.

With a background in organising and a love for the details that make events special, I'm excited to bring my skills and personal touch to the Corstorphine community. I'm committed to ensuring that each event not only runs smoothly but also fosters a welcoming and engaging atmosphere for everyone involved. I believe that events are about more than just logistics; they're opportunities for connection, growth, and fun.



I look forward to meeting all of you and working together to make our upcoming events memorable. If you ever want to chat about an event idea or share your own passion for climbing or woodworking, I'd be happy to connect. Here's to making great things happen!

David J.S.
Events Organiser

Remembering Dr Jim Gilleghan

Dr Gilleghan was a well known figure in Corstorphine thanks, in part, to his years spent in general practice at Ladywell Medical Centre.

Jim came to Edinburgh from Leeds to study medicine before completing his national service in Germany. Initially staying in Bathgate, Jim and his family moved to Corstorphine, living locally, quietly and became part of the community.

Jim was a builder of bridges, bringing together different groups of people to converse and share and for many years was involved with the classical concerts held regularly in Corstorphine. Many of these were held in The Dower House and the Old Parish and are still talked about to this day.



Nothing Quiet About Steamboat Bill Jr.

On the 9th of November we were treated to the latest in our series of silent film nights with accompaniment from the very talented Donald MacKenzie.

Long before health and safety was a thing, we watched as Buster Keaton stood as the facade of a house collapsed around him and six large wind machines (strong enough to blow a lorry over) blew to create a cyclone.

A real treat!



Date for Your Diary

Join us for a festive Christmas concert right at your doorstep! We're thrilled to host the talented Gordon Cree, who will perform live on the stunning 2/4 Ingram Cinema Organ. Enjoy all your Christmas favourite toe tappers with family and friends as we celebrate the season together with The Corstorphine Trust.

Indulge in delicious hot chocolate available for purchase from local Edinburgh company Chocolate Tree, renowned for their exceptional organic chocolate. For more details, visit www.choctree.co.uk. Don't miss this magical holiday event!

Our venue is fully accessible, featuring wheelchair-friendly entrances with no stairs. We also have designated seating at the front reserved for individuals who require it.



Tickets are £15.00 and are available on the **Events** tab of our website or by calling us on 0131 316 4246.

Sing Along A Christmas

Pupils from Corstorphine Primary School will be coming over to The Dower House on Wednesday 4th December between 10.00 and 10.30, with their band and choir, to entertain us with some Christmas music.

Please come along to support them.

Remembrance Day Services 2024

Remembrance Sunday this year was on 10 November and, as in previous years, The Corstorphine Trust Remembrance Service took place at the War Memorial in Kirk Loan. This year there were representatives from 30 organisations who wished to lay a wreath.

Apart from a few drops of rain before the service, the weather stayed dry and a good crowd gathered. Estimates vary but approximately 200 people were in attendance. Officiating at the service was the minister of The Old Parish Church, Moira McDonald. Shortly before 11:00 she led her congregation to the Memorial. At the same time a Colour Party was led out by Kevin Aitchison to stand behind the Memorial.



The service followed the usual pattern with an introduction by Moira followed by the two minutes silence announced by the playing of the Last Post. At the end of the silence the Piper played the “Flowers of the Forest.” This was followed by a prayer and a recital of the verse beginning “They shall grow not old” from the poem ‘For the Fallen’ by Robert Laurence Binyon read by an army veteran.

Moira then invited people forward to lay their wreaths. Those laying wreaths for the Royal Navy & Royal Marines, the Army, the Royal Air Force, the Merchant Navy and the Royal British Legion Scotland were all invited forward individually. Following them, wreaths were laid by representatives of many different organisations who came forward in small groups. Moira then invited any members of the congregation who wished to lay their own wreath to do so.



The service then concluded with a blessing followed by the playing of the Reveille. Members of Youth Organisations and any others who wanted to attend were then invited into the church for a service.

When talking to some of the participants after the service, they thanked The Trust for organising the event. They were also very appreciative of the opportunity to take part in an act of Remembrance.

Corstorphine Schools Remembrance Service

Monday 11 November, Remembrance Day itself, saw a second service held at the Corstorphine War Memorial. Staff and pupils from nine local schools gathered in the sunshine to take part in a short commemoration to remember those killed in both world wars and more recent conflicts. At the same time a few members of the public gathered on the pavement for the service.

As 2024 is the 110th anniversary of the start of WW1 it was decided to commemorate some of those whose



names are listed on the Corstorphine War Memorial and also some of the Polish forces personnel buried in the cemetery on Drum Brae. For this event, 100 crosses were obtained from The Lady Haig Poppy Factory in Edinburgh and each was labelled with the name of a person who had a connection with Corstorphine or is buried nearby. At the same time, a short biography of the person was produced from various sources and presented to the schools along with a cross.



The commemoration was again led by Moira McDonald who talked about the importance of the event and its relevance to contemporary events. The two minutes silence was held marked by the playing of the Last Post and Reveille. Afterwards the pupils were invited by school group to place their crosses in the grass. At this point, three pipers from Craigmount High School played. Moira then concluded the service and the pupils were invited to place their wreaths in front of the memorial alongside those placed the day before.

My thanks go to all those who helped in the preparations for the events on both days. These include members of The Corstorphine Trust, the Stewards, the Police, the First-aiders, the Photographer, the Piper, the Trumpeter and the Council staff who arranged the road closure and dealt with the parked cars on Sunday morning.

I would like to thank the staff and pupils from the schools who participated in the School Remembrance Service on Monday 11 November. I am particularly grateful to the pipers and trumpeter for their contribution to the event. Again, the feedback from the school staff was that they appreciated having the chance to take part and hoped to do so again.

Grant Donaldson
Remembrance Service Co-ordinator

Pick of the Pops

On Saturday 14th September, we were joined by local organist Nicola MacRae for a wonderful journey through the musical ages in “Pick of the Pops”. From the 60s to the 00s - as well as a brilliant Eurovision medley - Nicola demonstrated the extraordinary range of our Ingram cinema organ, and it was wonderful to hear how much everyone enjoyed it! Who knew how good “YMCA” would sound on a 100-year-old organ?!

After lying silent for over 40 years, it’s wonderful to have the organ returned to its former glory and we would like to thank Nicola for giving us a truly memorable evening. If you’ve enjoyed our recitals - or if you’ve yet to hear it action - make sure you follow us on social media or visit the **Events** section of our website to be keep updated with the latest concerts.



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
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise

TUESDAY

13:30-15:30 Line Dancing
15:50-16:30 Tutti Tots: Pre-school
16:30-17:10 Tutti Tots: P1-P3
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 (Newborn-2 years)
11:15-12:00 Tanya's Dance-Fit: Mum's Fitness Class
13:00-14:00 Easy Exercise
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
16:00-18:45 Capital Allstars
19:30-20:30 Dance Fitness

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/fifth 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 Autumn 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.