

Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

Winter 2026



Looking Ahead

Though you may be feeling the nip of winter, we have plenty to warm you in this latest edition of **Trust Talk**. We're delighted to share with you our upcoming events for 2026 - from silent films to concerts, there's lots happening so be sure to pop those dates in your calendar! There's also a delve into our archives and the second part on the history of The Buttercup Diary. As always, there are updates from **The Corstorphine Trust** as well as work happening in our wider community.

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

Hello everyone. A very happy new year to you all. I hope you managed to have the Christmas you wanted.

2026! How did that happen?! 2025 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 so far for the year ahead. There will be more so keep an eye on our Events page on the website and on social media. We hope that you will be able to come along to, if not all, then some of them. There is a huge amount of work goes on in the background to make them happen so showing your support really makes it worthwhile.

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.

The museum stewards and executive members 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



Annual General Meeting 2026

As per our constitution we hereby give notification that the AGM will be held on **Tuesday 17 March 2026, 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. We will then send you an online meeting invite.

From the Archives

The following article was found in the archives, unfortunately there is no mention of who the author was, however, it makes interesting reading.

LIFE IN THE 1500s

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelt pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of brides carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of nice clean water, then all the sons and men, then the women and finally the children. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying **Don't throw the baby out with the bath water**.

Houses had thatched roofs - thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence **It's raining cats and dogs**.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying **Dirt Poor**. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. Hence the saying **a threshold**.

In the old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not eat much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite some time. Hence the rhyme, **Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old**.

Sometimes they would get pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests and would sit around and **chew the fat**.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or **the upper crust**.

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of **holding a wake**.

Who said History was boring?!

Frances MacRae
Archivist

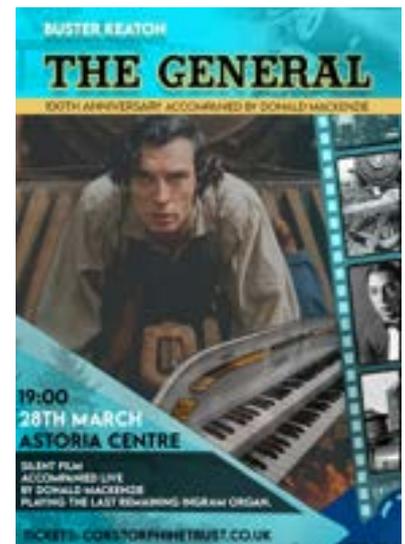
Upcoming Events

The General

Saturday 28 March 2026 | 7.00 pm

The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Tickets are £15.00

Donald Mackenzie returns to the Astoria Centre to accompany Buster Keaton's silent masterpiece *The General* in its 100th anniversary year. Performed live on the last remaining Ingram organ, this special screening revives the magic of silent cinema with an authentic and thrilling score, bringing Keaton's classic comedy and daring stunts vividly back to life.



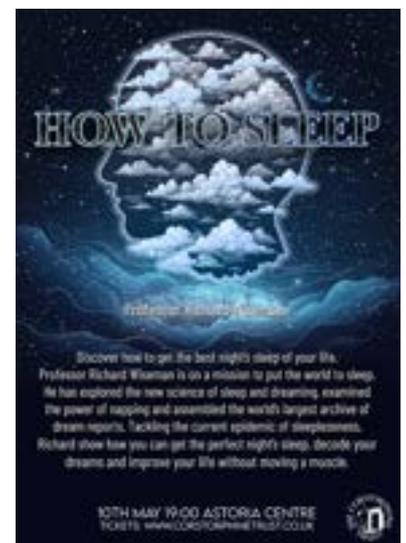
How to Sleep: Richard Wiseman

Sunday 10 May 2026 | 7.00 pm

The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Tickets are £15.00

Discover how to get the best night's sleep of your life.

Professor Richard Wiseman is on a mission to put the world to sleep. He has explored the new science of sleep and dreaming, examined the power of napping and assembled the world's largest archive of dream reports. Tackling the current epidemic of sleeplessness, Richard show how you can get the perfect night's sleep, decode your dreams and improve your life without moving a muscle.



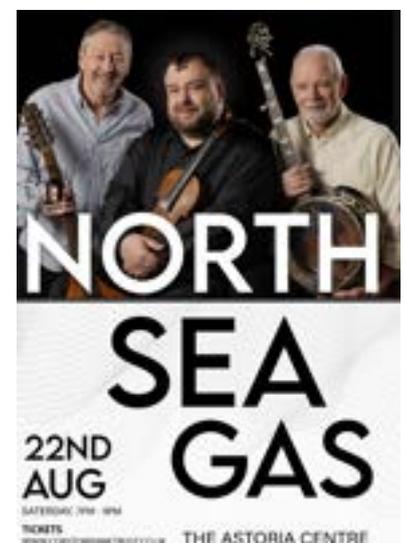
North Sea Gas

Saturday 22 August 2026 | 7.00 pm

The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Tickets are £18.00

The Corstorphine Trust are delighted to announce that North Sea Gas will be performing at The Corstorphine Astoria Centre on 22nd August 2026.

One of Scotland's most popular folk bands, the trio comprises Dave Gilfillan, Grant Simpson and Ronnie MacDonald. Since their foundation in the 1980s, they have released 22 albums and continue to sell-out shows across the world.



With fantastic vocal harmonies and incredible instrumentals (including guitars, fiddle, bouzouki, mandolin and bodhrán – to name a few!), the trio are renowned for their exceptional musicality and storytelling.

North Sea Gas remain a stalwart of the Scottish folk scene and this is sure to be a fantastic evening of song, music, and entertainment!

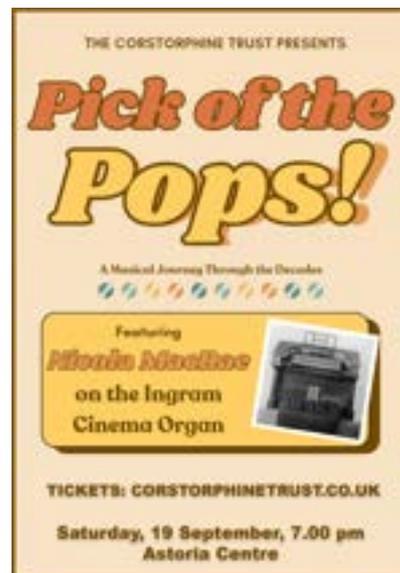
Pick Of The Pops

Saturday 19 September 2026 | 7.00 pm

The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Tickets are £15.00

The Corstorphine Trust is delighted to welcome back local organist and custodian of our own Ingram 2/4 Cinema Organ, Nicola MacRae, in Pick of the Pops.

A passionate advocate of the cinema organ, Nicola has played a key role in helping The Corstorphine Trust reintroduce the unique Ingram cinema organ to audiences. In this Pick of the Pops concert, she will demonstrate the instrument's remarkable versatility, performing much-loved pop favourites from across the decades.

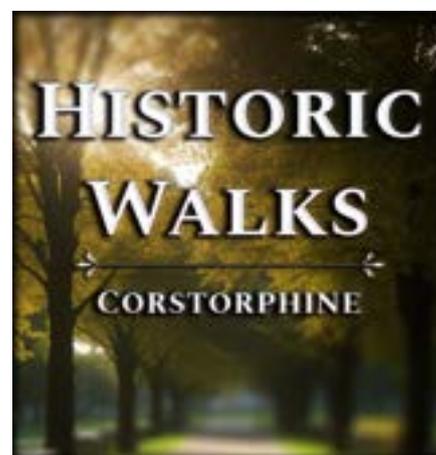


Guided Historic Walks

Saturday 23 May/25 July/19 September 2026 |

10.00 - 11.00 am

Are you interested in learning a bit about the History of Old Corstorphine, whilst taking in fresh air? The Corstorphine Trust is providing guided walks through the 'Old' village this year. With two Corstorphine Trust stewards as your guides, you can learn a little bit about the origins of Corstorphine, its churches, the Dovecot and some of the more colourful events that are part of the village tapestry.



The event costs **£5.00 per person** and starts at **10.00** prompt from outside The Dower House, St. Margaret's Park.

Tickets are available to purchase online for our upcoming events at: <https://www.corstorphinetrust.co.uk/concerts/> or by contacting the office on **0131-316 4246** to reserve tickets.

Tickets must be paid for within one week of reservation.

The Buttercup Dairy Company



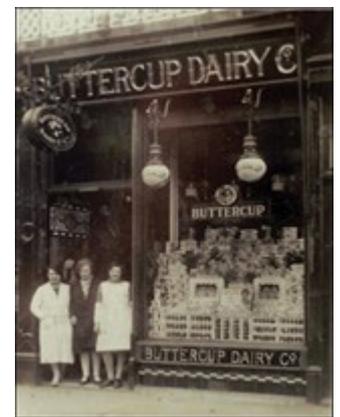
This is part two of the story of the Buttercup Dairy Co. Ltd.. Part one explained how the Buttercup Dairy came about, its Buttercup Farm of Clermiston Mains Farms (late 1920s to 1950) and its chain of 250 shops. All this came back to Corstorphine when Bill Scott, researched then published his book on The Buttercup in 2011. Being born and brought up on the farm in the 1950s and many of his family working on the farm, he realised there was a story to be remembered and told.



Our local shop was at 6 Ormiston Terrace, St. John's Road, between 1918 and 1951. The photo is a little earlier than this but the shop would be approximately the middle of the row of shops under the tenements where the vape shop currently is. If anyone has a photo covering this time, The Corstorphine Trust would love a copy. Since the last article I have researched this location and, as all Buttercup shops were similar, what we would now call corporate signage and branding, I can now say the Corstorphine shop would have

looked something like the shop below, with the door on the left.

The Buttercup Dairy Company, had its farm at Clermiston, Headquarters and Depot, at a few locations in and around Leith, but for most of its years it was at 380-382 Easter Road, and its shops needed to be supplied with goods. Some of these needed to be collected at the docks. Shops also delivered. Some of these deliveries would be on foot, but others would be by van. The Buttercup needed a fleet of different vans, lorries and farm vehicles. Here are some of these photos.



The Buttercup book by Bill Scott is to buy either online or in person from the Archive Room.

Kevin Aitchison
Digital Archive Coordinator



From left to right: Buttercup van at Easter Road / James Paterson by Buttercup Cold Store Morris J-Type van c1950s / Buttercup Poultry Farm, Half-Track, probably a Citroën Kégresse, and at Easter Road HQ, dressed for raising money for Leith Hospital.

Corstorphine Winter Wonderland 2026

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

Window Wonderland will see residents, community groups, local businesses and schools decorate their windows to create a magical outdoor spectacle for families to enjoy. Between 6 pm and 9 pm on Saturday 28 February and Sunday 1 March you'll be invited to follow the trail through Corstorphine, using an online map, and enjoy this special community event.



To find out more or register, visit their website:

Website: <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/corstorphine-2026/>

Facebook: [CorstorphineWindowWonderland](#)

Earth in Common



We are a charity based in Edinburgh working to tackle the broken food system, climate change and social inequality. The charity has its roots in Leith, where we set up our pioneering urban croft. Last year, The City of Edinburgh Council appointed us to redevelop the former bowling green and pavilion in St Margaret's Park into a place for the community to grow food.

We have recently secured funding to start a community kitchen garden and will be running volunteering sessions to build the necessary infrastructure on Tuesday mornings. These sessions will take place throughout January and February, and we need volunteers to help make this happen! From the springtime, we will also be running weekly drop-in gardening sessions led by a member of staff.

More details, along with dates and times, of the volunteering sessions and gardening sessions will be posted on our social media pages (Instagram: [earth_in_common](#); Facebook: [Earth in Common](#)). We welcome people of all experience levels. Come along and join in!

Natasha Saw - She/Her
Urban Croft Development Officer

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

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

10:30-11:00 Tanya's Dance-Fit: Hip Hop Family (babies and under 5s)
11:15-12:00 Tanya's Dance-Fit: Mum's Fitness Class
17:00-21:00 Taekwon-Do

FRIDAY

09:05-10:05 Realistic Pilates
16:00-18:45 Capital Allstars

SATURDAY

09:30-11:00 Inspire Theatre Workshop
11:00-12:30 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 (*last 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 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.