

Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

Spring 2026



Springing into Action

With spring having well and truly sprung, we've been as busy as ever at **The Corstorphine Trust** and have lots of exciting updates for you. We delve into the Archives once more with a piece on The Corstorphine Fair which is just around the corner. There are also several calls for you to get involved - from researching projects to supporting The Trust in our next chapter. There are also updates from the wider community, as well as a reminder of our upcoming events you won't want to miss!

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

Hello everyone and welcome to the Spring 2026 edition of **Trust Talk**.

As I'm sitting here, there isn't a cloud in the sky, the very last of the daffodils are gently swaying in the breeze and there's just a hint of warmth in the sun. I think this is my favourite time of year.

As you know, the AGM scheduled for March was inquorate but I'm pleased to say that we had enough members at the rescheduled meeting in April for it to go ahead. My thanks to everyone who attended either in person or online and to the contributions you made to the various discussions we had. There is a huge amount of work that goes into keeping The Corstorphine Trust alive so it's great to receive support from the membership. Our proposed change to the constitution was adopted so if we find ourselves in the same position in the future, we have a solution.



In another packed edition Frances delves into the Archives, there is a reminder about upcoming events, we are looking for people who can help, an exciting update about the cafe and we have news about a survey that we will be asking all our members who live in the EH4 and EH12 postcodes to complete.

As always, I need to extend my thanks to those involved behind the scenes. The Trust simply couldn't run without your help.

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

Best,

Chair

All Change for The Cafe

For regular visitors to The House, you will have noticed that The Dower House Cafe has ceased trading. But fear not! We have new tenants.

We're delighted to let you know that the owner of Molly's Delicatessen (who currently trade in Juniper Green) will be opening a second outlet here at The Dower House around the beginning of June.

Watch this space!

Could This Be You?

As you know, The Corstorphine Trust is a busy place and it relies on its volunteers to keep it running.

We have some exciting opportunities coming up and we thought we'd reach out, in the first instance, to our members to see if there's anyone out there who would be willing to take on one or other of them.

Treasurer

Kathryn has decided to step down from the role. This is a key role that ensures the smooth running of The Trust. It's a busy one but would suit someone who perhaps has a financial background, knows their way around a computer and has a bit of time on their hands.

Events Organiser

We have two fantastic buildings in the heart of Corstorphine Village. We are looking for someone who can plan, coordinate and run events from conception to completion.

If you think you might be interested in either of the above roles, please contact Jane at:
chairman@corstorphinetrust.co.uk

Cycleway Completed

The new cycleway at the bottom half of the car park has been painted.

New removable bollards, to keep cars and children apart, and new seating have now been installed.



From the Archives

Markets and fairs have always played an important part in the social life of the people of Corstorphine. As far back as the 1660s Lord James Forrester was granted permission by Parliament to hold four fairs a year to sell horses, other goods and merchandise.

“The Estates of Parliament having heard a supplication presented unto them mentioning that Corstorphine had extreamlie suffered in the years 1650 and 1651 by the enemy forces as well as these belonging to the Kings Majestie.... doe allow....four frie fairs with all freedoms thereto belonging yeerly to be kept and holden,” so says an extract from the Acts of Parliaments of Scotland, 1662-1663.



Fast forward to the 1980s when a group of like-minded people got together with the sole purpose of reinstating a fair to be held biannually in St Margaret's Park, not because of any new suffering by Corstorphine but to support and foster the various activities, social, cultural and recreational, which are for the benefit of the community.

The fair is organised totally by volunteers who, as soon as one fair has taken place, begin the long process of organising the next one.

On fair day, The Dower House is a hive of activity with many visitors to the fair popping in to have a look round our archive and museum and often to reminisce about life in “The Village” in years gone by. It is wonderful to see the park full of people of all ages. I know from speaking to some of them that not only do they come for the fair but to meet up with people that they haven't seen since the last one.

The fair not only attracts people who live in and around Costorphine but from all parts of Edinburgh and beyond. It is a chance for local groups to showcase what they do and in some cases to attract more members and an opportunity to keep alive the village atmosphere and to foster the community spirit.



Festivals are expensive to run and the days of “Frie Fairs“ have long gone, the amount of money needed to put a fair on has increased year on year. I hope to see many of you on fair day, please pay a visit to The Dower House and if you can manage to climb the stairs pop in to the museum for a wee chat.

Frances MacRae
Archivist

Can You Help?

The Archive folk are pretty good at working out where a building stood or who someone was but the building in the background of this photograph has them stumped!

Do you have any idea where it might be (and if you recognise anyone in the photo, that would be a bonus!).

Please contact me at:
archivist@corstorphinetrust.co.uk



Dad & Grand Hall from left Corstorphine, Edinburgh Scotland around 1938

I have also recently been contacted by a PhD historian at the University of Strathclyde. He is currently conducting a project about the lives of Polish and Italian immigrants to Scotland and their children.

If anyone has any information they would be happy to share with him, please contact Benjamin Harris at b.harris@strath.ac.uk

Frances MacRae
Archivist

Hall Survey

You may or may not be aware that we rent The Corstorphine Astoria Centre (previously known as the Kirk Loan Hall) from Corstorphine Old and New Church (formerly Corstorphine Old Parish Church). The main reason was to give a home for the Ingram 2/4 Organ. An opportunity has arisen for us to purchase the building which would ensure that the Ingram would have a forever home. This would be dependent on three factors:

- You, the membership of The Corstorphine Trust, agreeing to it
- The congregation of Corstorphine Old and New agreeing to it
- We can secure funding

We have found one possible source of funding but a precursor to moving through the various vetting stages is that we can prove the people in the locale of the first two points above have agreed.

For those of you who receive their copy of **Trust Talk** online, we will be sending a link to the survey via email.

For those of you who receive a hand or postal delivered copy and live in the EH4 or EH12 postcodes, there should be a paper copy of the survey and a SAE enclosed with it in this edition of **Trust Talk**. We would ask that you take a couple of minutes to take part in the survey and then send it back to us.

At this moment in time, we are asking one in principle question. For our online participants, your answer is anonymous and you will only be able to answer once. We would really urge you to participate in the survey. It will take you less time than it would to make a cuppa.

Thank you in advance!

Upcoming Events

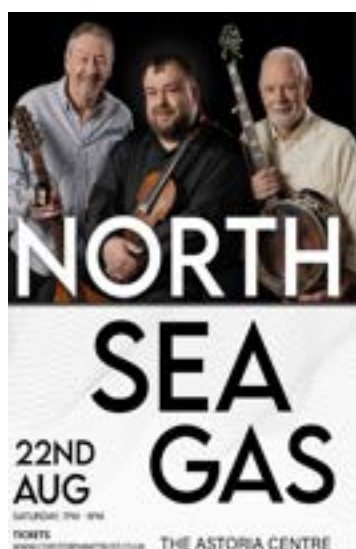
Mighty Music from the Movies

Featuring the maestro himself, Kevin Grunill, and our fabulous Ingram Cinema Organ

Saturday 18 July 2026 | 7.00 pm

The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Tickets are £18.00

We're delighted to welcome Kevin back to The Astoria Centre where he'll showcase his and the Ingram's unique talents by playing classic film themes spanning the last 70 years of popular music. Not to be missed!



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!

POPTASTIC PIPES

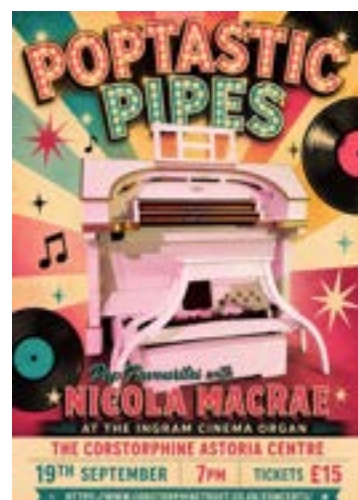
Featuring Nicola MacRae on the Ingram Cinema Organ

Saturday 19 September 2026 | 7.00 pm

The Corstorphine Astoria Centre | Tickets are £15.00

Following the success of last year's Magic Moments concert, we are delighted to welcome Nicola MacRae back to the Astoria Centre on the world's only surviving Ingram cinema organ.

In POPTASTIC PIPES, Nicola will showcase the remarkable versatility of this unique instrument with a lively selection of pop favourites spanning the decades. From the 50s to the 80s and beyond, this concert promises an evening packed with nostalgia, melody, and musical flair.



Get ready for a truly poptastic, toe-tapping evening at the Corstorphine Astoria Centre!

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.

Corstorphine In Bloom

A new community action group has been set up. Their aim is to enhance the streets of Corstorphine and Clermiston, encourage volunteering, improve health and increase footfall for businesses by planting flowers. It aims to minimise bureaucracy and maximise fun.

The five parks within the Corstorphine and Clermiston Community Council area are working together on this. Eleven shopping areas have been identified whereby planters and hanging baskets may be installed.



(Artist's impression)

Some areas have planters in various states of maintenance. The intention is that the 16 areas will have animals associated with them and early discussions have taken place with the zoo about being involved. There is an opportunity to highlight endangered species and provide wildlife information to a wider group.

The initiative fits with many council strategies on greenspaces, community and environment.

So far approximately 125 people and 50 businesses have registered to help throughout Corstorphine with 40 people willing to attend planting days as well as 70 happy to help weed and water. If you'd like to get involved you can contact them at: <https://corstorphineinbloom.com/>

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

10:00-12:00 Costume Cubs Baby Class
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 Group (*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 Spring 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.