

INVERLEITH NEWS

INVERLEITH NEWS Issue 29
Spring 2010

AGM NOTICE, 29 MARCH 2010

REPORT ON THE YEAR

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Bobbie Fraser (Hon Secretary)	21 Warriston Crescent
Alison Gordon	28 Inverleith Terrace
Michael Gregson	38 Inverleith Place
Peter Holland	18A Inverleith Row
Josie Inwood (Memb Secretary)	19 Howard Place
Marian McIntyre	8 Eildon Street
Alan Small	7 Howard Place
Bryan Wade	34 Inverleith Terrace

Contact The Inverleith Society by writing to
Mrs Bobbie Fraser (Hon Sec) 21 Warriston Crescent EH3 5LB,
email info@inverleith-society.org.uk or visit www.inverleith-society.org.uk

The Inverleith Society is very grateful for the assistance of Jim Gaffney of The Union Advertising Agency,
18 Inverleith Terrace EH3 5NS in production of this Newsletter.

Report on the Year

Annual General Meeting 30 March 2009

Our planned speaker, Moira Tasker, Director of the Cockburn Association, was unfortunately unable to fulfil this commitment due to her involvement in the Haymarket Inquiry. We were very grateful to Chris Minty, Head of Project Management at the Royal Botanic Garden, who agreed at very short notice to update the Society on the John Hope Gateway project, together with his colleague Hamer Dodds. As previously, Chris Minty's talk was so stimulating that many of the audience were moved to take up his offer of a further tour of the building.

Inverleith Society Social Evenings

We had two events this year. We are very grateful to Ben and Lucy Thomson for hosting the winter social evening in February at their delightful home in Inverleith Terrace. The occasion gave us an opportunity to see, at first hand, the radical and imaginative changes that had been made to the internal layout and design of the house, making it infinitely more suitable to meet the needs of a young family, who excelled themselves during the evening



Summer Social Evening 20 June 2009

with their skills in making the adult visitors entirely welcome in their own home! And in June we were invited back to Juliet Anderson's magnificent garden for the summer party. Once again, we were extremely lucky to enjoy a lovely summer's evening in beautiful relaxed surroundings, providing a wonderful setting for our members to meet up with old friends and, equally important, welcome new neighbours. Many thanks to Juliet for inviting us to share her 85th birthday celebrations with members of her family.

Roadworks January to December 2009

We hardly need to remind you that 2009 was the year of the roadworks. Preparation for the tram system seemed to engulf the whole city, while we in Inverleith suffered the impact of the replacement of the old Victorian services infrastructure. A major complication in July was caused by accidental damage to the gas and water supply pipes originating in Hanover Street and resulting in flooding of the gas pipes in the lower lying areas of North Edinburgh. Residents and businesses were severely affected by the loss of their gas supplies over a period of



Juliet Anderson

Report on the Year (continued)

two weeks. The extreme irritation caused by this extra inconvenience was mitigated by the Herculean efforts made by the contractor to remedy the situation, coupled with the offer of modest compensation.

Retiral of Bryan Wade from the Inverleith Society Committee

We have been very fortunate over the last few years to rely on Bryan Wade's invaluable professional advice on planning issues. As a retired senior Reporter within the Planning hierarchy he brought years of experience and detailed knowledge to framing our responses to local planning applications. His dry wit and practical contributions have been much appreciated by fellow Committee members, and also his generosity in offering his gracious house, ideal for entertaining, for so many of our social functions. We hope that he will stay available for consultation after his formal retiral from the Committee.

New Members of the Committee

The Committee has benefited from the addition of three new members who have brought particular skills to our work. In particular Josie Inwood has volunteered to take on the new role of Membership Secretary (see later). The Committee would welcome further new members, and in particular, someone with professional experience of town planning, to fill the vacancy caused by the departure of Bryan Wade.

Completion of the Refurbishment of Tanfield

On 'Doors Open Day' in September many of the Inverleith residents were to be found visiting the newly completed Tanfield office development. It was an eerie experience for some, as it was totally unoccupied, and appeared rather soulless. We are pleased to hear that they have secured their first major tenants who should be moving in shortly, and we look forward to them taking up an active role in the local community.

Marian McIntyre
Alan Small



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Treasurer's Report

Following several years of slow decline in revenues and membership, I am delighted to report that 2009 has brought an influx of both funds, and far more importantly, members. The increase is entirely due to active canvassing on the part of our current members (in no small part at the hugely successful social evenings) and so congratulations should be extended to all.

As always, our expenditure remains modest and largely unchanged from last year (approximately £1200) with this newsletter remaining our largest but most rewarding outgoing. As you may recall, we recently increased the membership fees and this has reversed the gradual decline in our funds (a full Income and Expenditure account will be available at the AGM). While acting as Treasurer is hardly a burden, I can say that the outlay of a few pounds remains a very modest

amount to support the time that the other committee members volunteer towards maintaining and improving the amenity of this wonderful part of the City.

Several of your committee members continue to attend meetings of the Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council and the Inverleith Neighbourhood Planning Partnership (see reports later). Attending public meetings is often challenging and usually rewarding in some unexpected way (besides the obvious reward of having your voice heard). In particular, the Community Council deserves our special thanks as they made a generous donation towards the cost of producing last year's newsletter and the associated membership renewal inserts.

Graeme Cook
Treasurer

Membership Secretary

A new position has been created on the committee for a Membership Secretary, who will take charge of the annual membership, for new and existing members. Invitations to join or renew membership of the Society go out in the spring with the Inverleith News. The membership year runs from January to December and the aim is to have subscriptions in by the AGM in March each year. The Membership Secretary will remind existing members that their membership is about to expire and encourage new members to join.

Once you decide to join the Society we would like to encourage you to remain with us.

If you would like to join the Inverleith Society, or if you are already a member and would like to renew your membership, please use the form included in this issue, sending it to Josie Inwood, 19 Howard Place, Edinburgh EH3 5JY. You can also renew membership at the AGM in March.

Josie Inwood
Membership Secretary

Inverleith Planning Issues

Similar to last year's report, there is very little development activity to discuss, presumably in response to the general economic climate. Major developments mentioned in last year's report are now complete. Tanfield is ready for leasing and occupation. We are pleased to see that there is still a pleasant roof garden, although somewhat different from the original garden. The John Hope Gateway is now open. A great gateway, but strait is the gate and narrow the way, although not straight through to the garden. The road elevation has come in for a certain amount of criticism because of its bulk, although the garden elevation has been found more acceptable.



John Hope Gateway, Arboretum Place

Other developments

The Newfield Recreation Ground on Inverleith Place is still a cause for some concern. A second application for floodlighting has still not been resolved and an application for five temporary portacabins, to which we objected, has received planning permission.

The Botanic Hotel, 27 Inverleith Row, is being returned to housing and the original main entrance reinstated. At present the front garden is being tackled with great gusto, resulting in earth and debris and damage to the pavement. We are keeping an eye on the situation.

Numbers 6, 7 and 8 Inverleith Terrace are being redeveloped from Abbeyfield sheltered accommodation to a whole house at No. 6, and two two-storey flats each at numbers 7 and 8. We are concerned to note minor but important divergences from the approved planning submissions, and the apparent loss of mature trees in the rear gardens. At the time of going to press we are awaiting responses from the Planning Department.

Our task of commenting on planning applications is made more difficult, as indeed it must also be for the Planning Department, by developers' actual building work not complying with their own agreed drawings, then submitting applications for post-completion approval. The developers know that in theory they build the unapproved work at their own risk - that if the amendments are not approved they will be forced to take them down and reinstate what was agreed. In practice what usually happens is that the amendments are eventually allowed to remain.

Marian McIntyre
Bryan Wade

Traffic and Parking

The major traffic problems in our area this year have been with the closure of the section of Ferry Road west of Granton Road, so that traffic from Inverleith Row wanting to turn left at Goldenacre was instead diverted via Inverleith Avenue. This was a 'temporary' measure while gas mains were renewed, though it seemed to last forever. The three way traffic lights led to considerable delays, but we were also exercised by the unsatisfactory arrangements for pedestrians. Fortunately all is now back to normal.

In general Controlled Parking Zone N2 is working well for residents, but we came across a curious anomaly this year. Warriston Crescent has two areas marked out, the north block of the street being permit holders only and the south half shared permit holders and pay and display, each being one long bay for maximum flexibility. Residents have taken this to mean that permit holders can park anywhere along the street. But one resident was very surprised to receive a Parking Ticket when his car was parked across the dividing line between the two bays, with his front wheels safely in the resident area (covered by the permit)



and his back wheels in the shared area (also covered by the permit). We were horrified when his appeal was turned down and took up the case as the Inverleith Society, writing direct to Dave Anderson in Edinburgh rather than to the PO Box in Worthing that deals with these matters. This time common sense prevailed and the penalty was cancelled. However the formal position was maintained that 'every part of the vehicle must be contained within the bay markings', and those parking across a bay marking are liable to a ticket. So, be warned, there are other places where the same situation might occur again, e.g. Inverleith Terrace. This appeal was eventually upheld, but with the proviso that it is not to be seen as setting a precedent if an overzealous warden strikes again!

Andrew Fraser



Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council (SandICC)

Stockbridge and Inverleith Community Council meets for an hour every third Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in Stockbridge Library. The meetings are open to the public who are encouraged to attend, particularly if there are any issues they would like the council to discuss. The meetings are usually attended by members of the community council, the local city councillors, the community police officer and representatives from local organisations, such as the Inverleith Society and the Friends of Inverleith Park.

There are regular contributions from the chair, secretary and treasurer, various planning and licensing issues, a report on local crime statistics and there always seems to be something concerning parking and rubbish.

This year the community council has been involved in Sainsbury's attempt to move into the old Woolworth's in Stockbridge, lending its

support to the campaign to protect local shops from the power of the supermarket. There is an ongoing debate about how to solve the traffic problems in Leslie Place and in Monmouth Terrace. Trying to represent the views of all parties can be difficult as there are almost as many points of view as there are people expressing them. An issue that is coming to the fore in the coming year is the question of how public parks are used. The City of Edinburgh Council has begun a consultation process to examine the use of public spaces for a variety of sport and leisure activities, from Saturday morning football to large organised events like Tree Fest and Taste of Edinburgh. The community council is keen to be involved in this process and if it is an area that interests you, please come along to the meetings and get involved.

Josie Inwood

Inverleith Neighbourhood Planning Partnership

The Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership is made up of Councillors from the City of Edinburgh and local Community Councils alongside representatives of local business, police and NHS bodies. As such, the Partnership continues to represent one of our main paths for influencing decisions on how and when City funds are spent in Inverleith on issues such as pavement maintenance and road safety. Recently, those in attendance at the group's meetings were

able to question officials on subjects as diverse as the allocation of particular health services to (and from) the Western General Hospital and local crime statistics. Although not within the remit of the Inverleith Society, these remain matters that affect us all and it is heartening to see them being taken seriously by our various groups of officials.

As well as influencing decisions of the City Council (and to a lesser extent, the other

organisations listed), the Partnership receives funding from the City which it allocates to local worthy causes. Known as Community Grants, it is in the award of this funding that the Partnership wins my most hearty commendation. Recent awards include contributions towards replacement of furniture and equipment for playgroups, refurbishment of the hard court area of Ravelston Park, a summer programme of leisure, recreational and educational activities for children and families, a grant to the Water of Leith Conservation Trust to fund a new set of steps from Belford Road to the Water of Leith Walkway, and a volunteer-led project for tree planting. Projects like these have measurable impacts on our community and I am glad to see our taxes being spent on such worthy causes.

Those with good memories will recall my initial doubts regarding the Neighbourhood Partnership and its mission to bring the decision-making process closer to the residents of the city. In last year's report this scepticism was fast reducing and I am now happy to say I was quite wrong. While I remain frustrated by the smothering bureaucracy that comes with all public sector business, having seen the results of the Partnership's work I would encourage all readers with an interest in local issues to pop along to the group meetings to make their voices heard (details of meetings are available from the Council or from their website).

Graeme Cook

A Cautionary Tale

Renewing our home insurance recently, we decided to shop around and in obtaining quotes from various companies we were asked a question we have not been asked before. Is your home listed? For many residents of Inverleith the answer to that question will be yes and it may surprise you to learn that some insurance companies are not interested in insuring a listed building.

As a responsible home owner you will have taken out adequate home insurance with a reputable company. If you have been with the same company for years you may never have been asked the question. If you have not declared to the insurance company that your property is listed, you may be under-insured. They may even take the view that you have concealed a material fact which may lead them to refuse to pay out a penny in the event of a claim.

I wonder how many residents are aware that their house is listed as being of special architectural merit? This leads to difficulties with any restoration having to use expensive materials to replicate the appearance of the house or terrace. Any fire or flood would need a full restoration to include boundary walls and railings. Make sure your buildings insurance covers this.

Howard Place and Warriston Crescent are Grade A listed, the highest classification. Many properties in Inverleith Terrace, Inverleith Place and Inverleith Row are either A, B or C listed. You can find out if your property is listed by searching the complete list of historic and listed buildings on www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/historicandlistedbuildings.htm.

Max and Josie Inwood

Friends of Inverleith Park

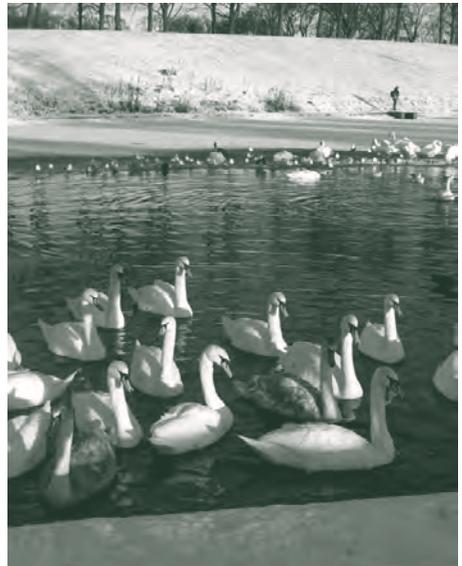
The Big Freeze brought a whole new world to Inverleith Park. The second weekend of January was a winter sports wonderland, with an ice hockey pitch in the middle and a speed skating circuit around the outside. Meanwhile, confined to the only unfrozen corner of the pond, white swans taught the younger brown ones how to keep the ice at bay by rubbing their chests against the edges. The Park has also seen some unusual visitors - curlews, pink-footed geese, tufted duck, redwing, redshank, oyster catchers, woodcock. One of the Park Rangers spotted a water vole beside the pond, a snipe hit the greenhouses in the Botanics, goosander and cormorant have been seen on the Water of Leith. All in all, Inverleith seems more popular, not less, in the inclement weather!

Friends are consulting with the Council on several issues relating to the Park. The Edinburgh Park Events Manifesto is a draft strategy in

response to concerns about over-use of Edinburgh's premier parks for events. Inverleith hosted Taste of Edinburgh, Tree Fest and the Moon Walk over the summer months, and we are concerned that the Park should be seen not as an events venue, but as a public green space. Events, preferably, should be open to all, and any rent for use of the Park should be earmarked for Park maintenance. Friends are also helping draft the Inverleith Park Management Plan. This will, hopefully, set out clear goals for the Park, with timescales and costs for maintenance, so that Park management have clear, achievable goals with the aim of making Inverleith a 'Green Flag' park of nationally recognised excellence.

At time of writing, the Friends website is down, but please join Friends by emailing Gerry Paton: user@paton02.freeserve.co.uk.

Fiona Houston: Fiona@fionahouston.com



The Edinburgh Academy Nursery

Richard Murphy Architects were appointed to design a new Nursery and After School Club facility within the grounds of the existing Junior School. The new building would bring together the school's existing nursery facilities that had previously been separated on our Kinnear Road and Arboretum Road sites. The aim was to provide a new safe environment for the children, and one that would allow for expansion of our existing facilities in order to cope with the School's change to co-education status. At present the Nursery accommodates 90 children.

On Friday 19 September 2009 Dunne Building and Civil Engineering joined pupils at the Edinburgh Academy to hand over formally the keys to the school's new Nursery and After School Facility.

The new modern flexible facility comprises a large ground floor with four classrooms, and a first floor which houses an After School Club for

children from the Junior School. The development is complemented by fully landscaped gardens and an external play area. The whole now forms an integral part of the Junior School campus.

Throughout the design and development phases the School worked closely with the architects and the contractors, part of the Bathgate-based Dunne Group, to create a modern building which provides a stimulating and welcoming environment for staff and pupils. We now have a carefully designed structure which allows the school to maintain the highest standards in Early Years Education.

Over the last twelve months, my nursery colleagues and I have thoroughly appreciated seeing the building used to full capacity, and providing such a wonderful learning environment for young children.

Caroline Bashford, Junior School Headteacher



Inverleith Place Names

Canonmills.

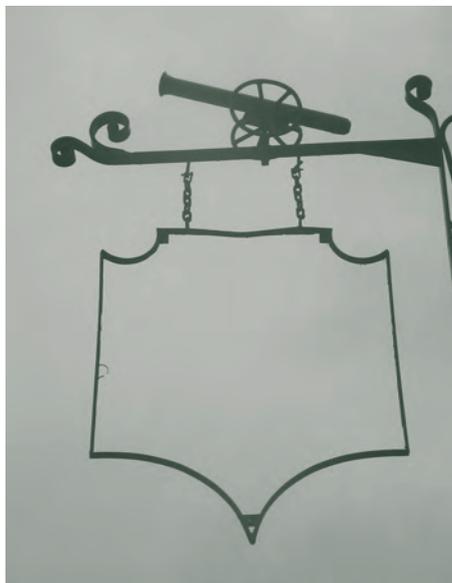
The name relates not to warlike (triple-n) cannons but to the peaceful (double-n) canons of Holyrood who were granted the lands of Broughton by David I in the twelfth century and later built mills on the Water of Leith here. The first bridge at Canonmills was not built until 1768, replacing the stepping stone crossing a little downstream at Puddocky, and opening up a new road that became Inverleith Row. **Puddocky** is thought to reflect the abundance of frogs (puddocks in Scots) in this marshy area.

Inverleith.

The name, which appears in 1128, signifies the mouth of the river Leith. The river was later called the Water of Leith, presumably to distinguish it from the port of the same name that developed at its actual mouth. The present Inverleith House was built in 1774, probably close to the site of its mediaeval predecessor, near the centre of its extensive lands. The eastern part of the grounds eventually became the Royal Botanic Garden, and the western part Inverleith Park. The estate belonged to the Rocheids of Inverleith from the 17th century, and their name is remembered in the **Rocheid Path** along the north bank of the river.

Warriston.

The lands of Warriston lay between the lands of Inverleith and those of Bonnington on the north side of the Water of Leith. The original house was at the site of the later East Warriston (now incorporated in Warriston Crematorium);



The little cannon on this signboard reflects a common mistake in the derivation of Canonmills!

West Warriston was a new foundation in 1784, just east of Inverleith Row, at the end of what is now Eildon Terrace. Warriston Crescent was developed in the grounds from 1817. West Warriston House itself survived till 1966.

Eildon Street, developed in the 1870s, records the Borders estate of the Henderson family who owned West Warriston.

Tanfield.

If the name records the use of this corner of land as an industrial site it is unlikely to have been before the erection of Canonmills Bridge in the 1760s. In the 1820s it was developed as one of Edinburgh's early gas works, and the hall

that was built here housed the first meeting of the Free Church of Scotland at the Disruption in 1843.

Howard Place, along with Brandon Street and Huntly Place on the other side of the river, may reflect connections with the Marquis of Huntly family, but the links are obscure.

Summer Place may have been named after the builder of the tenement in the 1840s.

Arboretum Avenue, originally the southern approach to Inverleith House, is named after the arboretum (tree garden) developed in the grounds of the house before its incorporation into the Royal Botanic Garden in 1877.

Fettes Avenue, developed when the College was built (1864-70), is named after Lord Provost Sir William Fettes (1750-1836) who owned the land here and endowed the school.

Kinnear Road was apparently named in 1901 for Lord Kinnear, a member of the Fettes Trust.

Goldenacre was an outlying portion of arable ground belonging to Easter Granton House

and was presumably named for its profusion of yellow flowers. **Montagu Terrace** was built in the 1870s and named after one of the titles of the Duke of Buccleuch, who owned Easter Granton. **Monmouth Terrace** also recalls a Buccleuch title. **Royston Terrace** takes its name from an alternative name for Easter Granton House.

Bangholm Terrace is named for a neighbouring farm on the north side of the Ferry Road.

Ferry Road, in its present form, dates from the late 1750s, when a network of local tracks and roads was rationalised to form a direct link from Leith by Davidson's Mains to South Queensferry.

*Note: The most comprehensive source of information is the hardback volume by Stuart Harris, **The Place Names of Edinburgh** (1st edn 1996; republished in paperback without the illustrations 2002).*

Andrew Fraser



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THE INVERLEITH SOCIETY

AGM NOTICE

MONDAY 29 MARCH 2010

AT 7.00PM

LECTURE THEATRE,
ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
20A INVERLEITH ROW

The 36th AGM of the Inverleith Society will be held on Monday 29 March at 7.00pm (doors open 6.45pm). Copies of the accounts and the minutes of the previous AGM on 30 March 2009 will be available before the meeting begins. After the AGM there will be a talk by

PETER MacMAHON

ASSISTANT EDITOR, THE SCOTSMAN

(and local resident)

Newspapers: Heading the way of the Dodo?

The committee would like to thank the Regius Keeper for allowing us to use the Lecture Theatre.