



Let's Talk, about corstorphine

CORSTORPHINE TRAFFIC

CURLING

BEECHWOOD HOUSE

JIM CLARK

A magazine produced by **St Ninian's Church**, Corstorphine

Welcome to Corstorphine Churches

Carrick Knowe Parish Church

Church of Scotland Saughton Road North
www.ckchurch.org.uk
Main Sunday Service: 11am
July-August: 10.30am
Evening Services as intimated
Minister: Rev. Fiona Mathieson

Corstorphine Old Parish Church

Church of Scotland Kirk Loan
www.corstorphineoldparish.org.uk
Main Sunday Service: 10.30am
Minister: Rev. Moira McDonald

Corstorphine Craigsbank Parish Church

Church of Scotland (One Church 2 centres)
www.craigsbankchurch.org.uk
East Craigs Church Centre
(Bughtlin Market)
Worship at 9.30am
Craigsbank Church
(19 Craigs Bank)
Worship at 11am
Joint services as announced often at
major Festivals.
Locum Minister: Rev. Peter Wood

Corstorphine Community Church

Glebe Road
Sunday Service: 10.30am
Pastor: Duncan Whitty

St Andrew's Church

Church of Scotland
Clermiston View
https://clermistonstandrew.wixsite.com/ourchurch
Main Sunday Service: 10.30am
Minister: Rev. Alistair Keil

St Anne's Church

Church of Scotland
Kaimes Road
www.stannescorstorphine.org.uk
Main Sunday Service: 11am
July-August 10.30am
Minister: Rev. James Griggs

St John the Baptist

Roman Catholic
St Ninian's Road
www.stjohnthebaptist.rcstanded.org.uk
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Mass: 11.30am
Holy Days of Obligation:
As announced
Parish Priest: Fr. Jeremy Milne

St Ninian's Church

Church of Scotland
St John's Road
www.corstorphinestninians.org.uk
Main Sunday Service: 10.30am
Evening Services as intimated
Minister: Rev. James Aitken

St Thomas' Church

Scottish Episcopal
Glasgow Road
www.saintthomas.org.uk
Main Sunday Service: 10.30am
Rector: Rev. David McCarthy

St Kentigern's Roman Catholic

Parkgrove Avenue
www.stkentigernsedinburgh.co.uk
Sunday Morning Mass: 9.30am
Holy Days of Obligation:
As announced
Weekday Mass:
As announced
Parish Priest: Fr. Jeremy Milne

SPECIAL CHURCH SERVICES FOR ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Carrick Knowe Parish Church

Sun 2 Dec 11am Gift Service
Sun 9 Dec 11am Lessons and Carols
Sun 16 Dec 11am Nativity
Sun 23 Dec 11am Family Worship
Mon 24 Dec 6.30pm Christingle
11.15pm Carol Singing
11.30pm Watchnight Service
Sun 30 Dec 11am Worship/Communion
Sun 6 Jan 11am Worship in Hall

Corstorphine Community Church

Sun 23 Dec 10.30am Christmas Service

Corstorphine Craigsbank Parish Church

(One church, Two Centres)

East Craigs Church Centre

Sun 2 Dec 9.30am Advent Worship
Sun 9 Dec 9.30am Advent Worship
Sun 16 Dec Joint event at Craigsbank
Sun 23 Dec 9.30am Advent Worship
Tues 25 Dec 9.30am Joint Family Service
Sun 30 Dec 9.30am Morning Worship

Craigsbank Church

Sun 2 Dec 11am Advent Worship
Sun 9 Dec 11am Advent Worship
Sun 16 Dec 10am Christian Aid Breakfast
11am Gift/Nativity Service
Sun 23 Dec 11am Advent Worship
Mon 24 Dec 6pm Family Christingle Service
11pm Mulled Wine
11.30pm Watchnight Service
Sun 30 Dec 11am Morning Worship

Corstorphine Old Parish Church

Sun 2 Dec 8.30am Holy Communion
9.40am 'Wee Service' in Church Hall
for families with young children
10.30am Holy Communion

Sun 9 Dec 9.40am 'Wee Service' in Church Hall
for families with young children
10.30am Christmas Gift Service
Thurs 13 Dec 7pm Carols and Stories
Sun 16 Dec 9.40am 'Wee Service' in Church all
for families with young children
10.30am Festival of Nine Lessons
and Carols
(followed by mince pies and coffee)
Sun 23 Dec 9.40am 'Wee Service' in Church
Hall for families with young children
10.30am Children's Nativity Service
(followed by mince pies and coffee)
Mon 24 Dec 6pm Family Service
11pm Carols in Church
11.30pm Watchnight Service
Tues 25 Dec 10.30am Family Worship

St. Andrew's Church

Sun 16 Dec 6pm Carol Service with Brass
Band
Tues 18 Dec 6.30pm Community Carol Service
Mon 24 Dec 11.30pm Watchnight Service
Tues 25 Dec 10.30am Christmas Day Service
Sun 30 Dec 10.30am End of Year Service

St. Anne's Church

Sun 2 Dec 11am Advent Sunday
Sun 9 Dec 11am Advent 2
Sun 16 Dec 11am Advent 3
Sunday School Nativity
Fri 21 Dec 7.30pm Longest Night Service
A Service of Reflection
Sun 23 Dec 11am Advent 4
7pm Carols & Lessons Service
Mon 24 Dec 4pm Christingle Service
11.30pm Watchnight Service
Tues 25 Dec 11am All-Age Christmas Day
Service with Holy Communion
Sun 30 Dec 11am Christmas 1

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church

Mon 24 Dec 5.30pm Carols & Crib Service
6pm Holy Mass
Tues 25 Dec 11.30am Holy Mass

St. Kentigern's Roman Catholic Church

Mon 24 Dec 8pm Carols
8.30pm Holy Mass
Tues 25 Dec 9.30am Holy Mass

St. Ninian's Church

Sun 9 Dec 10.30am Sun School
Gift Service
Sat 15 Dec 10.30am-3.30pm Quiet Day
- Church open for prayer and
meditation
Sun 16 Dec 10.30am Morning Service
Sun 23 Dec 10.30am Children's Nativity Service
6.30pm Lessons & Carols
Mon 24 Dec 8pm Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service
Tues 25 Dec 10.30am Christmas Day Service

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

Sun 2 Dec 10.30am Advent Sunday with
Communion
Sun 9 Dec 10.30am Café Church All Age Service
Sun 16 Dec 10.30am Morning Service with
Communion
Sun 23 Dec 10.30am Morning Service
Mon 24 Dec 10.30am Morning Service with
Communion
11.15pm Christmas Eve Communion
Service
Tues 25 Dec 10.30am All Age Christmas Day
Service
Sun 30 Dec 10.30am All Age Communion Service

Let's talk about

Corstorphine

Welcome to the forty-second issue of 'Let's Talk'- the magazine produced by the Enterprise Committee of St. Ninian's Church. The magazine is distributed to over 6,000 homes in the area.

The magazine contains stories of local interest and articles on clubs and organisations. Please regard it as your local magazine.

We are a small group of volunteers from St. Ninian's Church, and accept advertisements and feature material in good faith. The opinions expressed by contributors and advertisers may not be those of the Enterprise Committee of St. Ninian's Church.

Many thanks to our advertisers, to those who contribute articles and photographs and to the volunteers who produce and distribute the magazine.

Best wishes.

Ian Kirkpatrick,
The Convener, Enterprise Committee,
St. Ninian's Church, St. John's Road,
Edinburgh, EH12 8AY

Tel – 0131-316 4777 (Tuesday – Friday mornings only)

(Cover picture – Beechwood House)

Local a'cappella chorus wow Harrogate

The Rolling Hills Chorus, based in Clermiston, is the foremost male voice a'cappella chorus in Scotland. Our members come from within and around the Edinburgh area and two of them, Brian Curlewis and John MacPhail are also in the St Ninian's Church choir. Following their

highly successful Fringe 2018 show "From Monks to Boy Bands" the Chorus are thrilled to have improved on their 2016 success at the British Association of Barbershop Singers Convention at Harrogate. They wowed the audience with their romantic interpretation of the 50's ballad "London By Night" and the energetic swing tune "Just In Time". The a'cappella group came 14th against fierce competition from 35 of the best barbershop groups from all over the UK.

Musical Director Rosalind Johnson said "I am absolutely thrilled with our success at the convention and I can't wait to see what the future holds for the chorus. The guys work so hard and have so much fun in the process that our improvement is real vindication for the work we have put in to become the best singers we can be over the past 18 months, and this result is a great indicator of that." The chorus has various engagements closer to home over the next few months including their annual "Learn to Sing" course for budding harmony singers in January 2019. They will also be polishing up their popular Christmas repertoire for this year's carol concerts in December as well as preparing for their 2019 Fringe production...Watch this space! The chorus is open to new members at all times of the year. We would love to hear from any men who are keen to learn how to sing in harmony. Please check our website at rollinghills.org.uk/



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History of Beechwood House



Beechwood House is north of the stretch of Corstorphine Road between Pinkhill Road and Balgreen Road.

Beechwood House is the Jewel in the crown of Spire Healthcare Hospitals. This magnificent Georgian Building now houses consulting and treatment rooms for some of Scotland's leading surgeons and physicians, as well as a high-tech physiotherapy centre for members of the public and Scotland's elite sportsmen and women.

However, the house has a rich and peppered past. It was greatly admired by the Duke of Cumberland as he passed through Edinburgh in the years following the Battle of Cullodan. It provided residence to Lord Boothby, a dignitary, and in its later years, it was a boy's fee-paying school and has even been used in a penguin biscuit advert.

We take a look at a potted history of one of Edinburgh's oldest, most treasured houses.

Beechwood House was built in 1770 for the son of Sir Walter Scott of Hawick, Roxburghshire. It was one of three mansions built on Corstorphine Hill. It passed from the Three Lairds of the parish of Corstorphine in 1786 to Colonel Alex Leslie.

By the 1900s, the house had passed on to the family of Lord Boothby. In fact, Lord Boothby was born in what became the art room of the private boy's school some 53 years later and presently serves as a waiting room for the hospital. Lord Boothby studied at Eton, followed by Oxford University and was elected to the House of Commons in 1924. In 1926, Winston Churchill, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, appointed Boothby as his private Secretary.

In 1953, Beechwood House changed from a residential home to a school for boys.

When the Scotus Academy was opened by the late Archbishop McDonald and an Irish order of Christian brothers.

A former teacher of the school remembered 'The front field had not been levelled off as it is now, but it was still the only place on the hill where there was space to learn how to play rugby. There was a little burn which ran through the level stretch, and so the course of the burn was taken as the centre line of the rugby field. The result was that Scotus Academicians developed a style of play which was all their own...the object was to tackle your opponent so that he fell either into in a cowpat or in a burn; and, of course, your opponent had to develop a sort of jig and sidestep which avoided this fate.' (<http://www.scotusacademy.net/History.htm>)

The Scotus Academy closed its door in 1978 having educated over 1,270 boys and it should be acknowledged that, sadly, reports from former pupils have suggested that some non-conventional teaching methods may have been used.

In 1984, Murrayfield Hospital opened. Beechwood House lay empty until 1986 when it underwent extensive renovations to make it fit for purpose as a medical facility and to restore its former elegance. A recent refurbishment in 2014 saw £1.5 million being invested into the structure and decoration of this magnificent building – making it the doctors choice for consulting rooms. It is now an integral part of the hospital providing a subtle link between the rich history of medicine which is steeped in the hills and City of Edinburgh and the modern, state of the art facilities of the rest of the hospital grounds.

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A Memory of Jim Clark



(1936 – 1968)

(Picture from Internet)

This year marks the sixtieth anniversary of a notable event in my life which is associated with the border village of Chirnside. In October 1958 when I was a footloose-and-fancy-free bachelor of 25, a close friend named Johnny Prentice, a young farmer at

Grantshouse in Berwickshire who had been a comrade of mine during our National Service, announced that he was having a stag party in the Allanton Inn at Chirnside prior to his wedding, and invited me to go. Knowing that I had a driving licence but no car, and that the bus service to Chirnside from Edinburgh was infrequent, he offered to get a friend to give me a lift, and afterwards I could spend the night in his parents' farm at Grantshouse. The only thing he asked in return was that I should stay off the hard stuff at the party and drive him home afterwards in his own car, when he would doubtless be hungover (and was).

I accepted with alacrity and was told to be at the Golf Inn in Bruntsfield to be picked up by a farming friend of his at 6.30pm on the Saturday of the party. I duly turned up at the appointed time and sat for well over an hour until my driver put in an appearance, full of apologies. He had been taking part in a motor racing event at the Knockhill circuit in Fife and had been held up by long queues for the ferry at Queensferry on the way into Edinburgh.

We left the Golf Inn and went out into the night, and there was a Triumph TR3 sports car waiting to transport me on a whirlwind journey I can still vividly recall sixty years later. What made it so memorable was the fact that my driver for the evening was none other than Jim Clark who went on to be a famous world-champion racing driver.

The main statistic is that we covered the 40 miles to Chirnside in 40 minutes, and you don't need to be a mathematician to know that that means an average of 60mph. To achieve such an average you have to have long periods in excess of 60mph: you have to reach 80 or even 90 which I nervously noted from the speedometer were indeed achieved. In those days there was no maximum speed limit on our roads, so once you were clear of the 30mph limit, you could legally drive as fast as your skill and the road conditions would let you. We didn't have seat belts either – they came later.

Fortunately it was a calm starry night with dry frost-free roads, and Jim took full advantage of that. We zipped past cars over Soutra as if they were standing, and each time we did so Jim would snap his reversing light on and off as if to say "Thank you and farewell" – at least, I think that's what he meant. But everyone who knew Jim agrees he was a gentleman, and that flashing your reversing lights

to someone you had passed was merely an accepted courtesy in those far-off days.

At some point Jim switched on the radio which was playing Scottish Dance Music. The combination of whizzing through the night at unbelievable speeds while listening to the band playing toe-tapping reels above the roar of the engine is a memory which has stayed with me over the years. I quickly realised that the driver had uncommonly good driving skills (something of an understatement) but as we approached Chirnside I realised that all was not well with me.

"Stop!" I commanded. Jim looked surprised but swiftly brought the car to a controlled halt on an isolated stretch of the road. I almost fell out of the car into the ditch and was violently sick, while Jim looked to the heavens and went "Aaaaargh" in great disgust. At least I wasn't sick in his car. Never a good traveller as a child, the speed and excitement of the run had proved too much for me. But we arrived in good order for the stag party where, in accordance with my promise to Johnny, I was an observer rather than a participant.

The entire party was composed of young male members of the Borders Young Farmers Club of which Jim and Johnny were office bearers; plus, of course, me - a townie - who felt more than a little out of his depth. Put it this way, it was a cheerful evening, and I successfully managed to drive the hungover prospective bridegroom home without incident.

Jim Clark was killed instantly in an accident at Hockenheim near Heidelberg on 7th April 1968, exactly 50 years ago. Not long after that stag party in 1958, he was Johnny's Best Man and I was an usher. Aged 22 then, Jim would have been 82 this year.

Remembered as young, good-looking, polite and modest, Jim was like you and me until he got behind the wheel of a racing car. Then his fierce competitiveness and extraordinary driving skills took over. I have always felt privileged to have been the sole passenger in a car driven for 40 miles to Chirnside by this superlative racing driver when he was just on the brink of a glittering career.

Andrew Broom

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Have you heard of Dystonia?

While growing up, Corstorphine resident Gavin Hamilton had a different experience of life to those around him. Labelled ‘clumsy’, he often fell over his own feet. Because of an unusual gait, Gavin was ridiculed by his classmates for ‘walking funny.’ He experienced pain while writing, assuming this to be normal and was astounded by others who could scribble away for extended periods of time without being in agony. Uncontrollable shaking made people think he was cold when he wasn’t. Sudden spasms plagued everyday life (and still do). A wide range of physical problems were not addressed until he was in his early twenties. It was then that he was diagnosed with a condition called Generalised Dystonia, which relatively few doctors had even heard of. Muscles developed abnormally. He was incredibly strong, but his fine motor skills impaired – in other words the large muscles were faring far better than the small ones. He refused painful injections to help control the small muscles, preferring to ‘tough it out’. Despite intermittent pain and the inconvenience of uncontrollable spasms, Gavin kept fit though his twenties, cycling, hiking and generally enjoying life.

It was during his twenties that he met me. We travelled together, fell in love and decided to get married. Our wedding was during the wet summer of 2007, but thankfully our day was one of the few sunny ones. It was sometime after Gav’s thirtieth birthday the following year that things began to get difficult for him. He had a bike crash in December, shattering his collarbone. During recovery, he blacked out and had a fall. More problems followed as his ankles, which had always been a trouble spot, began to really give out. Multiple surgeries followed. It was through these that we discovered years of unnatural postures had put strain on both ankles and wrists. Yet more surgery for carpal tunnel syndrome followed, with only very limited success. Pain became less intermittent and more constant. Dystonia exacerbated these physical problems, inhibited the healing process and became a painful feature of everyday life.



One of the Edinburgh support meetings of the Dystonia society

That’s when Gav discovered the Dystonia Society. It is a charity set up to help sufferers cope with their condition. Offering support in the form of meetings and a helpline, they also give out advice about healthcare and treatment. Dystonia is a neurological condition caused by the brain sending faulty

signals to the body. There is no cure, but in some cases it can be managed. Through the society, Gav discovered there were many different types of Dystonia, some that appear in childhood like his, and others that develop in later life. With those who have adult onset Dystonia, it normally affects one area, not all over the body like Gav. The most common are 1) Neck Dystonia where the neck twists or is pulled down to one side or shakes 2) Eye Dystonia, also known as Blepharospasm, which can involve the involuntary closing of the eyes, twitching or uncontrollable blinking. There are many other types affecting the vocal chords, hands, jaw, tongue and mouth and other parts of the body.

Some forms of Dystonia are inherited, while others can be the result of an adverse drug reaction or a stroke. Some Dystonia has no known cause. It is a frustrating, often painful condition that can be difficult to explain to others. Much of the medical profession remain unaware of it, despite Dystonia affecting more than seventy thousand people in the UK alone. The medical consensus on it was only reached in the 1970s – around the time when Gav was born.

The Dystonia Society understands that sufferers not only face pain and awkwardness with Dystonia, but often depression, stress and anxiety too. These mental health problems can make Dystonia symptoms worse, so it is vital to address them if you’re affected. It’s important to remember that Dystonia is a neurological illness and not a mental one. Like the rest of us, those affected by Dystonia can help themselves and others by trying to keep a positive frame of mind. This can be difficult but is possible with the necessary support. Gav finds solace in the garden.

For some people, especially where Dystonia affects one specific region such as the neck or an arm, Botulinum toxin (Botox) injections can help to control their symptoms. Others have very invasive surgery called Deep Brain Stimulation, where electrodes are planted into the brain and batteries implanted into the chest. Gav, on advice from doctors, has chosen neither of these courses of action, as they are not guaranteed to help his situation. He has found specialist physiotherapy and regular visits to a neurologist to be of most help so far.

Research into Dystonia is still at a relatively basic level, so funding is always required. The Dystonia Society joins with other charities to raise money, often liaising with Parkinson’s charities. We are still quite far from finding an answer to neurological movement disorders.

It can be very challenging indeed to live with pain every day. Gav puts a brave face on it and enjoys gentle gardening and short walks. It’s a far cry from the active life of his twenties, but there are good days as well as bad ones. (He is currently laid up with broken ribs and torn oblique muscles due to a dystonic spasm.) If you know anyone with an unexplained movement disorder, contact the Dystonia Society for help at www.dystonia.org.uk

Christine Jardine M.P.

Traffic. Parking. Pollution. Sometimes it seems it's all about the roads.

As a resident of Corstorphine – as well as your MP - I am only too aware of the impact these issues have on all our lives. Not often in a positive way.

I frequently hear from constituents who are frustrated that the area feels polluted, potholed and used as a park and ride for the airport.

Frankly I feel we deserve better.

From my constituency office on St John's Road it's rare to see the road clear. It's little wonder that it was the second most polluted street for nitrogen dioxide in Scotland in 2017.

The machine for monitoring air quality is right beside my office so when the results come out I know exactly what myself and my staff are breathing.

But it's not just us.

I worry about those with asthma or children going to school and having to make their way through the pollution.

The air we breathe is something we tend to take for granted. We can't see it, but we know it's there and trust that it's clean enough for us to take in safely. Here that's not the case.

I know from speaking to friends and when I'm canvassing around Corstorphine these three issues -Traffic, parking and pollution are raised in one form or another by most people I speak to. And they are all interlinked.

The council has started to make small steps towards positive action with its Low Emission Zone the proposal for pedestrianised areas in the city centre and consultation into parking in Corstorphine, but they do not go far enough and are they the right steps.

I'm concerned that if parts of the city centre were to be pedestrianised, even more traffic might be forced into the West of the city, where we already have problems with commuter and holiday maker car dumping.

I'm sure you will all have your own opinions and hope you've made them clear in the council's consultation

exercises... both on the Low Emission Zones and the parking.

One other issue that's been raised with me is the loss of disabled parking spaces in St Margaret's Park.

Almost overnight the council seemed to have removed the spaces without adequate provision to replace them.

I'm pressing the council to make sure that is rectified.

On a separate note I'd like to congratulate the residents of Pinkhill Park on their success in defeating the proposals for a new development.

John Kerr has worked hard on this issue and must be delighted with the outcome.

I know they had support from several local politicians, including myself, but without the residents it wouldn't have happened.

Well done.



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Golf in Corstorphine!

The following little story is culled from an article I found in the Archives of The Corstorphine Trust at the Dower House. It was written by a Mr WJ Walker in 1927 about a club he founded at the top part of what is now the Zoo.

I was at the time writing my book "Golf in West Edinburgh" In the book I was able to include a picture of Mr Walker's opening shot and a picture of their club house.

Among other things here is what he said about Corstorphine:-

"I should like to say a word about the Corstorphine Golf Club. In the year 1900 a few kindred spirits and I formed the New Century Golf Club and in 1902 we secured ground for a nine holes course on Corstorphine Hill, and formed the Corstorphine Golf Club. I was the Club's first Captain and had the pleasure and honour of driving the first ball – a Haskell – on Corstorphine Hill on 11th October 1902. The weather was superb, a regular summer day.

I am sorry to say that I have seen a great number of changes during the past twenty-five years, and the original members I regret to say, are sadly reduced in numbers. On 26th November 1925 Mrs Walker and I had the good fortune to celebrate our golden wedding. The members of Corstorphine Golf Club, in the goodness of their hearts, took occasion to present us with a handsome grandmother's clock, which we prize very much indeed and it will always be cherished as an heirloom.

The Zoological Gardens are, unfortunately, acquiring the course in 1928 in order to extend their premises. It is fervently hoped that another piece of ground in the district will be acquired, as it would be a distinct calamity if the Club was to be broken up. I will always look back with pleasure on the games I have had over the hill and I certainly will never forget our regular Saturday afternoon four-ball foursome.

There is no doubt but that golf has made rapid strides during the past thirty years or so. The game has indeed a fascination which is quite unique, hence its great popularity.

A good deal has been said about the strong language which is occasionally indulged in when a ball does not go exactly where it is wanted, but it must be borne in mind that it is merely one of the golfer's safety valves, and does not mean anything, and we hope that the recording angel will omit to debit us therewith so that it will not appear as a black mark against us in the great hereafter. In this connection, I think the following lines are very appropriate, not only to golf, but for the Game of Life.

***And when the last Great Scorer comes,
To write against your name,
He'll ask not if you won or lost,
But how you played the game.!"***



In 1927 Mr Walker did not know that, not one, but two, golf clubs would be created when the Zoo took over the land. Ratho Park Golf Club, which still retains the original trophies and the Corstorphine 8.30 Golf Club, a non-course owning club. Both of which are still operating very successfully today.

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Community Asset Register

Back in October 2017 the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service launched the Community Asset Register (CAR).

Essentially this is a register of volunteers who have a particular asset or skill which they feel could be used to support emergency services and responders at an incident.

Examples include someone with a boat who could be called in times of flooding to assist evacuate people from houses to a place of safety. Similarly, someone with a 4X4 may be used in times of severe snow to transport vulnerable people to a community hall.

Further information about the CAR can be found on the link below:

[http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2017/10/sfrs-launches-community-asset-register-\(1\).aspx](http://www.firescotland.gov.uk/news-campaigns/news/2017/10/sfrs-launches-community-asset-register-(1).aspx)

Unfortunately, it is impossible to gauge how often a volunteer will be requested.

Mobilisations can be determined by severe weather, a specific type of asset/skill required for the incident, the emergency services availability and resources in the area and the location of the volunteer.

It must be stressed that even when someone has registered, they are under no obligation to mobilise when they are called by the Operations Control centre.

For anyone to register an interest and request a form they would be required to email:

SFRS.CommunityAssetRegister@firescotland.gov.uk and a registration form will be sent to be completed along with guidelines on how to complete the registration process.

Thank you.

A Cautionary Tale about Dampness

Over nearly fifty years in our iconic “Corstorphine Bungalow”, my wife and I have been annoyed and puzzled by dampness occasionally putting in an appearance in one of our rooms, and no obvious reason for it. Matters came to a head a recent summer with mould appearing behind a picture midway up the wall: previously the dampness was only showing low down in a corner.

A look at the external wall directly behind where the mould had appeared showed that the downpipe in that position appeared to be blocked, as rainwater could be seen flowing down the outside of it – clearly the source of the mould.

Local builders W T Thomson soon had the blockage cleared, but in response to my request, they dug down to expose the underground section of the down-pipe.

The picture shows the result: the bottom end of the pipe had never been connected to the main drain, leaving a 6-inch gap between them. It has probably been like that since the house was built in 1928! The labourer responsible must have said to himself, “Ach, it’s below ground, fill it in and forget it” – like the architect of the Tower of Pisa who is said to have whispered slyly to a friend, “I skimmed on the foundations, but no-one will ever know”!



If you have unexplained trouble from dampness in a ground-floor room, and a downpipe on the outside is suspiciously close to it, you could do a lot worse than make an exploratory dig to see if the pipe has never been connected to the main drain, as in our case. We are confident that the source of our problem has been found, and we expect a long drying-out period to ensue with no recurrence.

Andrew Broom

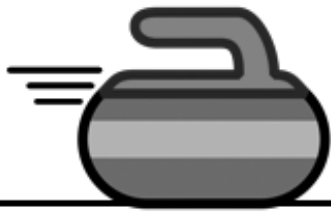
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The Roaring Game

Since Rhona Martin skipped the winning women's team at the Winter Olympics in 2002, curling has become increasingly popular! The current Scotland teams are professionals, training hard and with various degrees of success. But ever thought of trying it yourself?

'The Roaring Game' – so called after the noise of a stone as it glides down the ice – has been popular for centuries. It is now played indoors but in the past when lochs and ponds froze villagers from Iceland to the Low Countries took to the ice and played their own form of the game. On cold winter nights, with nothing to do, people warmed themselves by hurling stones or clods of earth across frozen water. Many of Bruegel the Elder's paintings depict winter scenes with curlers discernible on frozen lochs in the Netherlands in mid 1500s.

However, Scotland is generally credited with being the home of curling. The many lochs around Edinburgh were curled upon – the Nor' Loch (now Princes Street Gardens), Canonmills, Duddingston, Dunsapie, Gogar, and Corstorphine lochs. Indeed any frozen pond or marshy piece of ground was utilised. There were no set rules and stones, although smooth, were of different sizes and shapes, and didn't have handles. They were known as loofies. Gradually they progressed into the stones that we have today - beautifully dressed Ailsa Craig granite, all the same size and weight, and with coloured handles! Brushes also are more sophisticated. Instead of corn brooms today's brushes are synthetic fibre pads. Although curling was played long before, Duddingston is one of the oldest clubs, established in 1761. In 2017 Musselburgh celebrated its 200th anniversary; Currie was instituted in 1830 by local gentry and next door Balerno was formed for ordinary folk in 1895! C&B combined in 1928 and is now one of the most prestigious clubs in Edinburgh. So popular did the game become it was decided to form a governing body to oversee all curling clubs in Scotland and in 1838 the Grand Caledonian Curling Club, was established, the first of its kind, for "regulating the ancient Scottish game of curling". (Even before the 'Beautiful Game's' SFA!). 'Grand' was changed to Royal (RCCC) in 1844 after Queen Victoria showed an interest in the sport and the present Queen remains the patron. A set of rules and etiquette was devised and today it is a prerequisite that all those who play must join the RCCC. Women were not permitted to play and it wasn't till the beginning of the 20th that women started to fight their way in. By this time curling occurred at over 50 locations in Edinburgh. Of course no trousers were allowed! Today most clubs are mixed although there are Ladies Clubs and Men's Clubs.

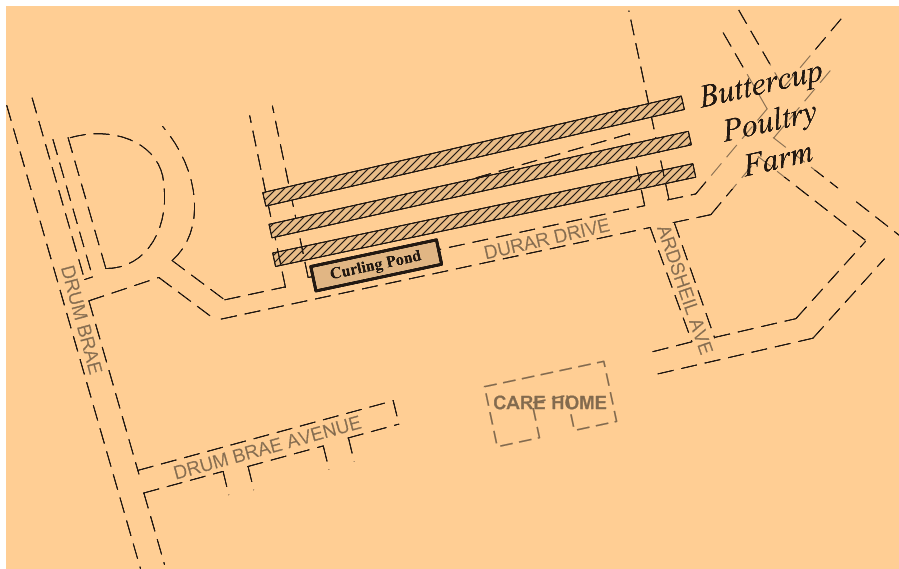
Every few years a Grand Match is played. This is a fun competition held in all the ice rinks across Scotland for curlers from all airts and pairs – the North v the South! The

first Grand Match took place in 1848 on Linlithgow Loch and a famous painting of the game by Charles Lees can be seen in the National Portrait Gallery in Queen's Street. This gives us an insight into how the game used to be played. And note the role of the woman!



The first recorded meeting of Corstorphine Curling Club was on Christmas Day 1829 with 20 members though there is evidence that folk met before this. Originally the curlers were from the farming community but as Corstorphine grew local tradesmen joined. The first match against another club was on 28 February 1838. Currie won by 3 shots! By 1837 Corstorphine Loch had been completely drained and curling took place on any available frozen piece of water. So it was decided to build an artificial pond. Located on farmland between Clermiston House and the Parish Road (Drum Brae) which belonged to Sir Robert Keith Dick, it was fed from the Bughtlin Burn (now covered over) and a building was constructed to store the stones. In 1864-65 the Club built a new pond at the same location with permission of William Sanderson, who had just leased Corstorphine Bank Farm (the farm buildings were where 'The Spice Kitchen' is now) and on whose land the pond was situated. Twenty years later another new one was added at "the south end of the present one".

The OS map of 1894 shows 2 curling ponds located on the north side of Durar Drive approximately opposite the Drum Brae Care Home (formerly the site of Drum Brae Primary



School) and calls them “Corstorphine Curling Ponds”. In October 1908 the then land owner, Mr Andrew Ewing of Buttercup Dairy, wanted the ponds repaired and restored and donated money for the purpose. Again in 1930 he paid for electric lighting to be installed. He was a generous man who ran grocers shops all over Scotland and in 1922 established a poultry farm remembered with the Buttercup Play Park, opened in 2014 (the old Drum Brae PS playing field).

But the game relied on the weather and, for example, the winter of 1881-82 was too mild so there was no curling! With the warming of the climate the need for indoor facilities became apparent and in 1912 the first indoor curling rink was opened at Lochrin. It closed in 1915 but by then one had opened at Haymarket on land acquired from John Swan & Sons Cattle Market (now the site of Roseberry House) who agreed to move to Gorgie. Clubs at Murrayfield still compete for the ‘Swan’ Trophy.

Corstorphine, however, continued to play on its own outdoor ponds off Drum Brae. The minutes of its AGM in October 1913 declare “Owing to the want of frost several matches had to be played at the Ice Rink”. By the winter of 1918-19 due to a “less favourable climate” the club applied for a regular booking. But it wasn’t until 1953 that the club gave up the lease on its outdoor ponds which suggests they continued to be used when the weather was favourable. The two curling ponds were still shown on the OS map of 1954.

The 1930s saw a large increase of participants in the sport and the main rink at Murrayfield was completed in 1939. Both skaters and curlers used it, though not until 1951 as it was requisitioned for war use as soon as it was opened! Haymarket closed after the 1978-79 season and was replaced in 1980 by the purpose built curling rink at Murrayfield adjacent to the main ice rink. Several curling rinks across Scotland have closed in recent years, including Gogar Park’s rink at Gogarburn in 2005, after it had been taken over by RBS! Today around 100 clubs play at Murrayfield coming from places such as Peebles, East Linton, Livingston and Uphall, as well as Corstorphine. There are just 22 curling rinks left in Scotland.

We are fortunate at Murrayfield in that we have a dedicated curling rink which means the ice does not get cut up by skating boots. Some rinks still share the facilities.

Corstorphine Curling Club moved to Murrayfield when Haymarket closed but before that in 1962 the ladies of the club, led by Elspeth Young, pushed for the formation of a Ladies Section. “That this club form a Ladies Section” was passed “unanimously” by the men! However the ladies still could not attend meetings, nor vote. In 1983 the ladies decided to break away and form their own club and so Corstorphine Ladies Curling Club was born. Though now played inside, the curling season still runs from approximately the end of September to the end of March.

At the beginning of every season Corstorphine CC (the men) play an opening bonspiel against Corstorphine Ladies CC, an enjoyable, fun occasion. However in recent years the men have welcomed lady members.

It’s a great sport and, like golf, can be played by all ages. It is also very sociable. Unlike golf it is not weather dependant! Now, curling clubs would love to hear from you! More players are always welcome, especially youngsters! How to get involved? For youngsters, go to the Gremlins where you will be taught by RCCC Qualified Coaches. Ok, so they meet on a Sunday morning at 8.15 at Murrayfield, but it’s a great opportunity to play whether you’ve never tried before or not. Check out the web site for details – Gogar Park Curling Club Gremlins.

For older folk, there are ‘Virtual Clubs’. These are clubs you can join for 2 years and the one at Murrayfield is called New Stones. Again RCCC qualified coaches will instruct you and you’ll be able to play with folk of a similar ability. Ice session times vary but you pay-as-you-go. Find out more at New Stones Virtual Curling Club. Edinburgh Curling Club also runs Beginners Courses so visit www.edinburghcurling.co.uk for more information. And you can join any club! Any age remember! If an old codger like me can start when retirement looms, then so can anybody!! Go on give curling a try!

RMC

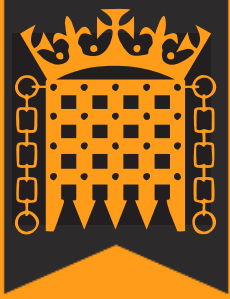
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