

The Paddock

The Newsletter of Duddingston Village

Autumn 2012

COMMUNITY GARDEN AND FIELD OPEN DAY - a good time was had by all!

The sun shone on Duddingston's Open Day (September 22nd), highlighting the Field and the Garden at their best. Stories were told, 'treasure' was hunted, stones painted, the labyrinth walked and

much tea was drunk. The tea tent and donations raised over £80 towards the Garden Fund.

There was a lot of interest in the Golden Apple fund - a way to make

a personal contribution to the Orchard. We began some new relationships with groups who want to use the Field and Garden as a way to get fit or healthy through walking and working outdoors.



Health Benefits from Exercise in the Field and Community Garden

The Field Group has received a grant of £2,000 from the Scottish Community Foundation to fund the new Measured Walk.

Six distance marked benches will provide a 'destination' for walkers, to sit and rest a while and enjoy the spectacular views over Craigmillar Castle, the Pentlands and the Firth of Forth. Paths will be maintained and improved, old trees made safe,

entrances improved and leaflets produced for those who don't know the field well.

The aim is to encourage older and less physically active visitors and the Community Garden will provide a more sheltered environment and more gentle exercise. The two pieces of land complement each other very well and many of the people involved in each have been

working together on starting to encourage less able visitors.

Watch out for more news as the project develops over the next year. Why not consider getting involved through the Field Group and the Garden Users Group.

Field Group AGM
All are welcome to the Field Group AGM at 7.30 on Tuesday 15th Jan in the Millar Hall. See P4 for details.

New website: www.duddingston-village.org.uk

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Resident

You will be aware of the long struggle that we are having with the National Trust for Scotland. In short, they are trying to confiscate the assets in Ms McNiven's bequest including the Community Gardens which they actually purchased for us some years ago! As you know your Committee will not accept such actions which we consider to be illegal and immoral. Ms McNiven loved Duddingston Village, she was one of those who created our Society and those who knew her were very confident as to what she intended. It was not to feed the coffers of the NTS when they got into trouble!

As you may remember we decided that NTS were acting so inappropriately that we would make a formal complaint to the regulator of Scottish Charities (OSCR) and that we did in May. OSCR have said that they did consider that our complaint was something that they could investigate and we are awaiting the outcome of their investigation.

However, even nothing is better than the NTS threat that, unless we paid them for the Community gardens by the end of June, they would sell the land over our heads. Our MSP, Kenny MacAskill has been and is being very helpful and he invited the Chief Executive of NTS, Ms Kate Mavor and I to meet in his office. This we did and I impressed on her that we would not accept a solution imposed by them but that we were willing to negotiate with them on a fair solution to the issue. She listened carefully but did not indicate any softening in their position, (which is that they take everything and we get nothing), and so we pressed on with the formal complaint.

You will read elsewhere in this issue of other matters that your Committee has been working on and I would like to thank our Secretary, Lindsay Crofts for all the terrific work she does for us. I would also like particularly to thank Nick Marshall for producing *The Paddock* and Roger Crofts and his colleagues for what they do in the Community Garden. We are fortunate to have such dedicated people in our community.

Finally, on your behalf I was honoured to lay the wreath at the Remembrance Day service at the Kirk on 11 November and at the War memorial. I must confess that I rarely attend the Kirk but, this time, I was struck again by how very fortunate we are to have a Minister like Dr Jim Jack in our midst. He is eloquent, humorous, and very dedicated and passionate in his vocation. He was able to give his message about the significance of remembering those who died for our freedom in two World Wars, to the youngsters, in a clear and straightforward way. I am constantly amazed at how he gets the young people in the congregation to participate - when I was that age I am sure that I would have been terrified to speak out in Church!



BONFIRE NIGHT 2012

Christmas is not far away and

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I would hope that you will enjoy a Prosperous New Year..... assuming that I am allowed to wish you that in the Age of Austerity .

With sincere best wishes
Malcolm Windsor
Chair

Join the DVCS

The DVCS can only represent your views to the Council and other institutions if we are all members. It costs nothing to join. Simply contact the DVCS secretary – secretary@duddingston-village.org.uk - or visit the website and download the membership form there.

DVCS NEWS

The Council moves on traffic

The City Council has urged Historic Scotland to lower the speed limit in Holyrood Park. Monitoring of the route has found the average speed is nearly 40mph.

Historic Scotland has agreed its management plan is outdated and Council transport officials said it was clear that regulations needed to be reviewed.

This is the first time the City Council has backed calls for lower restrictions along the whole

route, with transport leader Councillor Lesley Hinds offering to help put plans in place.

In a letter to Historic Scotland, Cllr Hinds wrote: "Staff at Services for Communities would be happy to support Historic Scotland in the development of proposals for a 20mph speed limit throughout Holyrood Park."

Following public consultation, new speed bumps are also to be installed in Duddingston Village in an attempt to improve road safety.

NTS and the McNiven Bequest

DVCS has formally submitted a complaint to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) over the actions by the National Trust for Scotland in relation to their handling of the McNiven Bequest.

After an initial assessment of the case presented by DVCS, OSCR has commented that the matter 'warrants further inquiry'.

That inquiry is currently being carried out and we await OSCR's conclusions.

The Village Party

There was much merriment at the village party in September – it didn't even rain. In typical Duddingston Village style, revellers enjoyed a yummy barbeque, kids ran around playing frisbee, the boys played boules, newbees were welcomed to the area with open arms, debates were won and lost over

the pub quiz and lots of us enjoyed a few glasses of vino.

Thanks to all those who contributed brains to the planning and organisation, brawn to the marquee moving, and culinary expertise to the delicious food for us to enjoy. The cakes & blackcurrant jam were particular favourites!

It's always good to involve more people in organising the party. If you want to help next year (or with any other village activities) please get in touch:

- email secretary@duddingston-village.org.uk
- visit www.duddingston-village.org.uk
- come along on a work day and speak to an organiser



FIELD NEWS

It is just a year since Edinburgh Council granted a lease on the 2.5 hectares of former grazing land above the Causeway. Since then, people from the village and further afield have enjoyed all the different tasks involved in opening up the space for healthy exercise and beautiful views, creating a more diverse environment for wildlife of all sorts. People walking through have also discovered the community garden, so that the two projects are thriving together.

Some of the things that have already been achieved:

- Drawn up maps of the field
- Planted over 1000 native woodland trees
- Planted 50 apple trees, and grafted 100 more for planting later
- Mowed paths and created a contemplative labyrinth
- Reclaimed the water tank
- Created a tree nursery

Christmas Tree Kennels

Bring your Christmas Tree with roots at the end of the festive season. We'll look after it in the tree nursery and you can have it for next Christmas. Contact jotait1@mac.com or put it by the chicken shed labelled with your name.

Plans for the coming year

- AGM on 15th January
- Measured Walk - benches and information sheets to encourage less able visitors
- Tree survey and tree surgery to make the veteran trees safe
- Plant more trees and hedges
- Build new gates at top and bottom of the field
- Plant more fruit trees, including plums
- Improve drainage and create wetland habitat
- Plant wildflowers in the meadow



Hens

Four new young hens - two white and two black - have replaced the old brown girls who had seen better days: some of us still miss 'Mrs Scraggy'. There are a couple in quarantine till we are sure they are clear of a nasty infestation of feather mite.

Please don't expect fewer hens to provide all your eggs till spring at least, when we plan to increase the size of the flock. But do pop by with comfort food - bread, rice, pasta and cooked root veg peelings.



Save your loo rolls

Please save your toilet roll cardboard inners to use for wildflower plugs in spring - bag in chicken shed.

How to get involved

- Sign up as a member (or a Golden Apple member) and come along to AGM on 15th January
- Consider volunteering for committee - talk to any of the steering group
- Come to Field Work Days - see page 8
- Walk the paths and notice the wildlife - write your observations in the Visitors' Book in the Chicken Shed

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 15th January at the Millar Hall* from 7.30 - 9.00pm, adjourning to the Sheep Heid

Agenda and supporting papers will be emailed to those on our mailing list

Please email jotait1@mac.com if you wish to join that list or are interested in serving on the new committee.

*through the Manse Garden Gate from Old Church Lane and turn right towards the Kirk

COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS - Progress and Produce Despite the Weather

Despite the poor summer weather and a mature Scots pine falling into the vegetable garden, we have had a productive season. New crops did well: Jerusalem and Globe Artichokes proved popular, salad vegetables did better than expected, tatties were lifted prior to getting the dreaded blight which comes with heavy rain, runner beans served us well into October, and the herbs and soft fruit did well. All this shows a degree of resilience to the unseasonable summer and the help of the pleasant autumn weather.



If you visit the garden, you will see that next year's broad beans are already sprouting and the brassicas

are coming on well, and there is still spinach and chard to be picked. Claudia's innovation of listing what's available on a board at the top of the steps and labelling each crop makes everything so much more accessible to us all. The Vegetable Club has worked very well in its first year. Thanks to all dozen participants. I hope that you will continue your membership and others will join. At £25 a year it is a snip*.

If you want some pleasantly scented wood for your fire, then come and get some pine logs (for a donation of £3 a barrow load*). The tree fell over in the middle of the night probably because the soil around the roots was super saturated and could not hold the trunk up any more. And, if you would like a bonfire of the brush just carry it up to the tennis court and set it alight as it burns well. We have now reinstated most of the damaged area but help with further clearance would be welcomed.

The marquee turned turtle one dark and wet Sunday evening and had to be rapidly dismantled. It was so badly damaged that it would have been more expensive to repair than to buy a new one. It has served us well and we were grateful for loan of the smaller marquee from the Kirk.



We have now applied to the People's Post Code Lottery for a new marquee, two gazebos, a composting toilet, the remembrance ring, and a watering system. We shall keep our fingers crossed for a positive outcome as these facilities will greatly enhance participation from the village and further afield.

*contact treasurer@duddingston-village.org.uk

The Remembrance Ring

For some time there has been a desire to bring a commemorative element to the Community Garden. This suggestion came from ideas developed round a picnic table one evening.



One inspiration for the idea was a cairn in Galloway where a commemorative carved stone was found on top of the pile. A stone circle set in the ground with a suitable inscription (the illustration shows a



quote from T.S.Eliot as an example) creates a special enclosed space into which people can place stones, carved or plain, to commemorate all sorts of



events; births, deaths, marriages; everything that makes up the fabric of the life of the community.



As the years pass the pile grows; a tangible symbol and a moving reminder of significant people and events.

LOCAL NEWS

Farewell

We are all sad to see the departure of long term village residents, Mike and Phyllis Godman, and Eric and Anna Paterson. We wish them well in their new homes.

Hello

Bethany Honeysett at 41 The Causeway writes: "Ildris was born on the 24th May 2012, weighing 7lb 11oz. He was two weeks overdue and arrived on our wedding anniversary with his eyes open. Ever since he has been small, strong and very awake. Here he is enjoying Dr Neils garden.

**Thank you**

Anne Roger writes: "An enormous bunch of pink roses arrived for me on my 90th birthday from "My Village Friends". Thank-you all very much.

I have loved living in this friendly place since coming to 10 Old Church Lane in the 50's and then to 31 The Causeway. Though I am not able to walk far now, I am very interested in all the Village Enterprises and wish you luck for the future."

Dr Neils Garden

It's been an amazing autumn at Dr Neils. The wet summer followed by this long, warm, dry autumn has provoked the most intense colour I have seen for some years. Acer palmatum, Cercidaphyllum japonicum, Cornus mas and Metasequoia glyptostroboides all displayed their colours ranging from a bright red, through gold, butter yellow, soft pinks and rich russets. Bright days, sparkling water and soft air.

Growing talent

Freda O'Byrne began the Scatterbox project in 2008, from her home in Old Church Lane. The group aims to develop independent film making and associated skills particularly, but not exclusively, with young people. The village has proved a good backdrop for many of their short films.

Since 2011, a core group of three young people and two adults have continued to work with young actors, local people - anyone who has skills to share. The work is useful to other groups in the local community and, to share the fruits of their labours, Scatterbox has an annual showing of the year's work



and has created their own YouTube Channel (<http://www.youtube.com/user/scatterboxfilms>).

In the past year, the work of Scatterbox has been highly visible. For example, 'The Ornate Lie' a music video, was projected on huge screens at Wembley Stadium and 'An Accurate Man', was shown at Edinburgh's FilmHouse and at Bo'Ness. Educational videos about woodland management and wood storage have had over 1200 views on YouTube and the Scatter TV video of Dr John, double digging in Duddingston, has been favourably compared with Monty Don's gardening programmes.

MESSAGES FROM OUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Alex Lunn

Let me start by wishing you all Merry Christmas. As we approach the festive season there is much happening in our community from Christmas Fairs to Nativity Plays and of course the traditional walk in the park followed by a drink in the Sheep Heid!

Whatever you are doing this holiday season please take every opportunity to show kindness to others and wherever possible to help out those that are less fortunate than yourself. Happy 2013 to everyone when it arrives.

Surgeries

1st Wednesday of the month 7-7.45pm - Duddingston Primary School. (school term only)
2nd Wednesday of the month 7- 7.45pm - Piershill Library.
3rd Wednesday of the month 7- 7.45pm - St Ninians primary school. (school term only)
4th Wednesday of the month 7-7.45pm - Craigentiny community centre.

Cllr Stefan Tymkewycz

Dare I mention traffic issues in The Village but at the last meeting of the Council's Transport Committee on 11 October progress was made. A report was submitted to the Committee, which the Duddingston Village Traffic Working Group(DVTWG) had been discussing with key stakeholders for the last two years.

I was pleased to Chair the most recent meeting of the DVTWG where a consensus was reached and I must thank all those involved who gave up their time, especially the Duddingston Village Conservation Society, council transport officials and the police. Further traffic calming measures will now be installed in the village, Historic Scotland have been asked to consider 20mph speed limits within Holyrood Park and the DVTWG will monitor the impact of the proposals.

Surgeries

1st Monday of each month - Meadowbank
2nd Monday of each month - Craigentiny Community Centre
3rd Monday of each month - Piershill Library
All surgeries are 6.30pm, during school term.

Tea with your MSP - Kenny MacAskill

Kenny MacAskill MSP invites representatives of local community groups to an event at Craigentiny Community Centre in conjunction with STV Local on Friday 7th December at 12 noon. STV's Head of Community Engagement will deliver a presentation showcasing STV Local and provide information on how community organisations can utilise STV to promote fundraising, events and information free of charge. Please call 0131 348 5012 should you wish to attend.

Surgeries

Last Wednesday of each month - Portobello Library – 6.30 - 7.30 pm
2nd Friday of each month – 16a Willowbrae Road – 2 - 4pm
1st Saturday of each month - Hays Business Centre, Craigmillar – 10 am - 12 noon
3rd Saturday of each month – Gracemount Leisure Centre - 9 - 10 am
3rd Saturday of each month – Moredun Library - 10 - 11 am
2nd Monday of each month – Gilmerton Library- 6.30-7.30 pm

Sheila Gilmore MP

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish *Paddock* readers a peaceful and joyous festive period. While we take a break and pay thanks to our loved ones, remember some friends and neighbours may be less fortunate; please keep them in mind during the holiday season.

Surgeries:

Second Friday of every month:
Central Library - George IV Bridge - 10 – 11am
Restalrig Lochend Hub - 11.30am – 12.30pm
Portobello Library - 2 - 3pm
Or call for an appointment on 0131 661 7522

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL BEER FESTIVAL July 7th & 8th
Cask Ales from Caledonian and Harviestoun Breweries plus many more!



Scotland's oldest surviving public house Est 1360

Food and Drink served all day

The Sheep Heid Inn, 43-45 The Causeway, Duddingston, Edinburgh, EH15 3QA
Tel. 0131 661 7974



DUDDINGSTON DIARY

December

Sat 8	11am - sunset	Field	Hedge, plum and woodland tree planting
Sat 8	7.30pm	Kirk Hall	Tempo presents - "Classic Christmas" popular festive songs
Sun 9	2 - 5 pm	Kirk Hall	Christmas Wreathmaking
Thurs 13	12 noon	Kirk Hall	Lunch Club Carol Singing
Sat 15	2 - 3.30 pm	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Volcanoes: From Edinburgh to Outer Space
Sun 23	12 noon - 3pm	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Within These Walls: Route 2

January

Tues 15	7.30 - 9.00pm	Millar Hall	Field Group AGM
Sat 19	11am - sundown	Field	Apple tree pruning, Xmas tree potting & more
Sun 20	12 noon - 3pm	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Within These Walls: Route 3
Sun 27	10am - 3pm	Community Gdn	Garden Work Day
Sun 27	9am - 12 noon	Holyrood Pk	Hot Rocks

February

Sat 16	11am - sundown	Field	Naming and Planting - fruit and woodland trees
Sat 23	9am - 12 noon	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Coolest Walk on Earth
Sun 24	10am - 3pm	Community Gdn	Garden Work Day
Sun 24	1pm - 3pm	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Holy Ruins of Holyrood

March

Sat 2	11am - 1pm	Field	Grafting demonstration and practice
Sun 10	9am - 12 noon	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Military History March
Sat 16	11am - 3pm	Field	Propagate / plant willows and other trees
Sun 17	11am - 3pm	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Kings and Queens of the Royal Park
Sat 30	8 - 9.30pm	Holyrood Pk Ed C	Dark Skies
Sun 31	10am - 4pm	Community Gdn	Garden Work Day
Sun 31	2pm	Church Gdns	Easter Play "To the Cross" See Notes

April

Sat 20	11am - 3pm	Field	Building gates, meadow planting
Sun 28	10am - 4pm	Community Gdn	Garden Work Day

May

Sat 18	11am - 3pm	Field	More construction and general maintenance
25-2 Jun	tbc	Thomson's Tower	'A Splash / Dash of Red' exhibition
Sun 26	10am - 4pm	Community Gdn	Garden Work Day

June

Sat 15	11am - 3pm	Field	Meadow planting
15 - 25	tbc	Thomson's Tower	'From Straw to Gold' exhibition
15 - 16	2 - 5pm	Dr Neils Garden	Scotland's Garden Scheme Open Weekend
Sun 30	10am - 4pm	Community Gdn	Garden Work Day
Sun 30	2 - 5pm	Dr Neils Garden	Summer Picnic in aid of Freedom from Torture

Kirk Services

Sun 9 Dec	10am & 11.30am	Gift Service
Sun 16 Dec	10am & 11.30am	Third in Advent (Baptism at 10am)
Sun 23 Dec	11am	Nine Lessons & Carols
Sun 23 Dec	5pm	Sunday Club Nativity Service
Mon 24 Dec	11.30pm	Watchnight Service (Kirk open from 11)
Tues 25 Dec	11am	Christmas Day Service
Sun 30 Dec & 6 Jan	11am	Morning Services
Sun 13 & 20 Jan	10am & 11.30am	Morning Services
Sun 27 Jan	10am, 11.30am, 3pm	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Notes

Holyrood Park Education Centre - Booking essential - E: hs.rangers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk T: 652 8150
 The Community Garden entrance is between 54 and 58 The Causeway (just across from the Sheep Heid)
 Field entrance - go up through the Community Garden, past the green shed and the chicken shed
 To the Cross - booking essential - see <http://duddingstoneasterplay.weebly.com/>

The Paddock is published by Duddingston Village Conservation Society. Editors: Lindsay Crofts, Nick Marshall, Roger Mercer and Jo Tait. Layout: Nick Marshall.

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