

# Craigmillar Park Association



**NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023**

## **Craigmillar Park Association AGM**

**Thursday 19th October 2023**

**Craigmillar Park Church Hall 7.30pm**



## **Heat pumps and Solar panels**

What are the best Energy options for our Conservation area? Expert speaker.

**All welcome.**

**Meet local people who live in your community to discuss local issues.**

All residents in the conservation area are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Craigmillar Park Association which will take place on Thursday 19th October in the Church Hall of Craigmillar Park Church at 7.30pm. AGM Business will be followed by a talk by XKY Energy. Tea and coffee will be served after the meeting.

## Chair's Note

Since last year's AGM the CPA has been in good heart with an expanded committee.

There are a growing number of issues from planning to energy that are going to affect our neighbourhood and this Association gives a forum for people to raise issues and gives the community a voice working with the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council.

As a group we look at the planning applications for the local area and raise objections or support, however due to retirement of our local expert it would be really useful if someone with a planning background would volunteer to be part of the Association or be available to offer advice.

The CPA supports the volunteers who do a wonderful job maintaining and improving the nature strips between Craigmillar Park and Mayfield Road.

**Ian Wright, Chair**

### Useful Contacts

#### **MP for Edinburgh South: Ian Murray**

Tel: 0131 662 4520

[ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ian.murray.mp@parliament.uk)

Office: 31 Minto Street, Edinburgh, EH9 2BT

#### **MSP for Edinburgh Southern: Daniel Johnson**

Tel: 0131 541 2145

[Daniel.Johnson.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:Daniel.Johnson.msp@parliament.scot)

Office: 134 Comiston Road, Edinburgh EH10 5QN

#### **Local Councillors**

Tel: 0131 200 2000

Email: [Cllr.Firstname.Surname@Edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Cllr.Firstname.Surname@Edinburgh.gov.uk)

Address: City of Edinburgh Council,

City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

Southsde/Newington

**Tim Pogson**

**Pauline Flannery**

**Steve Burgess**

**Simita Kumar**

Craigmillar Park Association is a registered charity (SC027293) run by local volunteers. It was founded in 1997. The objectives of the CPA include the preservation of the qualities which contribute to the character of the Craigmillar Park Conservation Area as contained in the relevant Character Appraisal which may be downloaded from the Edinburgh Council website.

## Bus routes

A great asset to living in the Craigmillar Park Area is the number of bus routes available to us, but the loss of the 42 bus route has been a disappointment to many people. This was the only bus that took a direct route from our area through the middle of the city.

We contacted Lothian Buses and Angela from Customer Services replied.

*"Overall, Lothian's passenger numbers remain under 80% of pre-pandemic volumes and the recovery of service 42 between Craigmillar and the city centre was significantly lower and as such we took the difficult decision to withdraw the service in September 2022, with the Portobello, Craigmillar to Potter Row section of the route being replaced by service 12.*

*At the present time there are no plans to reintroduce the service 42.*

*We have a revised route and timetable change for the service 9 and buses will run Potterrow, George IV Bridge, The Mound, Hanover Street, Dundas Street from Kings Buildings.*

*As we recover from the impact of the pandemic, we acknowledge that there have been fundamental shifts in societal working trends and corresponding shifts in travel patterns. It is critical that Lothian continue to review and adapt your bus network to reflect current travel habits, match supply and demand and maintain commercially viable services to allow us to deliver a service for all of our customers.*

*It is vital that we stabilise our network and form a solid foundation on which to base our next steps in economic recovery."*

We can hope in the future that we could encourage Lothian Buses to reinstate the 42.

## King's Buildings

The facilities of King's Buildings are not just for the students.

The University welcomes locals to come into the campus, walk around the landscaped gardens, look at the artwork and use any of the various cafes.

Pictured is the bronze sculpture Egeria by Eduardo Paolozzi commissioned by The University of Edinburgh in 1995.



## *Nature Strips report:*

The five nature strips in Granby, Gilmour and Suffolk Road continue to be monitored and managed by 14 active local volunteers, in liaison with Edinburgh Council's South East Parks and Greenspace team. After Mike Shields retired, David Kyles, Park Ranger, was appointed officer of this team on a 6 month secondment.



He immediately agreed to inspect the five strips and was much impressed by the Conservation and Biodiversity Report commissioned by the CPA in 2016. This in-depth study by Sarah Sigsworth identified all the trees and other plants growing in the strips and recommended actions to improve biodiversity – mainly a programme to eradicate laurel which was stifling the growth of other species. About 50% of the recommendations have been carried out since then but there is still a preponderance of laurel in strips 1 (Granby Road), 3 (Suffolk Road north side) and 5 (Gilmour Road south, southmost end).

Residents living opposite or very near the strips have varying and sometimes opposing views on the removal of laurel which does provide evergreen screening. We hope that a gradual pruning and removal of dead laurel and replacement with varied native species will provide the most amicable way of fulfilling the recommendations of the Sigsworth Report. Our aim is to



encourage more biodiversity – more birds, insects and mammals.

Positive achievements of the volunteers have been the purchase (thanks to CPA) of hardy shrubs to fill in gaps in strip 4 (Suffolk Road south) and the regular maintenance of the strips – weeding, pruning back from the pavement, trimming, litter picking and sweeping of pavements.



It is disheartening that some members of the public throw dog waste and litter into the strips from time to time and there has been dumping of garden waste and other rubbish near the lane off Suffolk Road. We have installed several nesting boxes and bee hotels in the strips and noted more butterflies there.

We are grateful to the Council's team for removing the old, sagging fencing round strip 4 – a very hard job we volunteers were contemplating and thankfully didn't have to do ourselves. The result is very pleasing, especially as we have planted new shrubs in some of the entry gaps. The main project for this autumn is the complete removal of laurel



from strip 1 in Granby Road and replanting with varied shrubs. There will also be leaf gathering and general tidying.

We are always pleased to have more volunteers on our team. Work tends to be concentrated between end of August to mid-May when we leave nesting birds in peace. Please contact me by email: [wilmaelton@gmail.com](mailto:wilmaelton@gmail.com).

It's worth noting that neither we volunteers nor David Kyles' team can do anything about pruning or removing trees. (Laurel is not considered a tree.)

All trees in the nature strips have a preservation order and privately hired tree surgeons have to obtain permission from the Council to carry out any pruning or other remedial work.

If you are concerned about any aspect of tree safety – loose, overhanging branches, trees growing against your house or diseased trees – please contact the Council's tree department: [john.morrison@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:john.morrison@edinburgh.gov.uk)

*\*For more information on the nature strips please see the full Biodiversity report in the link below:*

<https://craigmillar-park.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/NatureStripReport.pdf>

## ***Craigmillar Park Bowling Club***

The club has had a great Summer Season with some lovely sunny days. We have regular club sessions three times a week as well as playing in Edinburgh Leagues. Our members have also participated in individual Edinburgh competitions, getting through to Semi Finals in the Women's Singles and Woman's Pairs and the Men's Pairs.

Bowling on the green ends in October, however the club becomes a social hub for members during the Winter Season.

There is Table Tennis in the Tea Room as well as a Craft Group and Soup and Sandwich Saturdays on the first Saturday of every month. We have applied for funding for a Petanque/ Boules pitch for outdoor play all year round.

We welcome new members, if you are interested in joining drop by the club on a Sunday afternoon between 2.30 pm and 4.00 pm.

***34 Gilmour Road , Edinburgh EH16 5NT***



Are you interested in Craigmillar Park Conservation area's history and knowing more about some of the important local landmarks in the area? Check out our website to know more:

<https://craigmillar-park.org.uk/area-history/>

### **Overhanging trees, bushes and foliage**

Trees, bushes and hedges can create a hazard for passers-by at any time of the year if they spill over from public or private spaces. You can report overhanging branches and foliage to the council at

<https://www.Edinburgh.gov.uk/overhangingfoliage>

## *Student accommodation development (Developer's newsletter)*

Dear Resident,

We are writing to you to provide an update on our development at Mayfield Road. We have now successfully diverted the uncharted HV cables allowing the commencement of works to the second building. Piling works are due to commence in the coming fortnight, with the reinforced concrete works following.

The successful occupation of the first building is now complete, with further students set to move in aligned with the university's first semester at the beginning of September.

We appreciate your continued understanding as we strive to deliver this project during these challenging times.

The aim of this newsletter is to continue to provide you with information on the progress of the project and maintain our goal of ensuring the construction works progress with minimal disturbance to the neighbouring properties in the area. Further newsletters will continue to be issued throughout the works to update you on upcoming site activities and the progress of the project.

We look forward to continuing to work within your community and our Project Manager, Easton Arthur can be contacted on 07485 348691 or by emailing

[easton.arthur@clarkcontracts.com](mailto:easton.arthur@clarkcontracts.com)  
should you wish further details.

Alternatively, to find out more about Clark Contracts you can contact our Head Office as below:

Head office: 23 McFarlane Street,  
Paisley, PA3 1RY

Telephone: 0141 847 2787

Website: [www.clarkcontracts.com](http://www.clarkcontracts.com)



# Craigmillar Park Association



## Please join/rejoin the Association

Fill out this form and bring it with you if you are attending the AGM or tear off and send to:

*Elizabeth Philp, Craigmillar Park Association, 8 Crawford Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5PQ.*

Please note that there is currently no subscription fee for the members.

I/We would like to become a member of Craigmillar Park Association

Title(s):..... Forename(s): ..... Surname(s): .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Telephone: .....

Email: .....

By providing the above, you agree to the CPA contacting you concerning your membership and CPA-related work and nothing else. The information shall remain strictly confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party.

Would you like to subscribe to our mailing list to receive an electronic copy of our quarterly newsletter and keep informed about matters arising at the Craigmillar Park Conservation area that may be relevant to you? (You can unsubscribe at any time.)

Yes ☐

No ☐

Date: .....

Signature(s): .....

Notes:

You can cancel this declaration at any time by notifying the Association.

Please notify the Association if you change your name or address.

Visit our website for more information or to sign up for our quarterly newsletter: <https://craigmillar-park.org.uk/>