

THE DRUMMOND CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER 2019

www.drummondplace.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENT

Thursday 31st January 2019 at 7:15 P.M. in the Garden Room of
Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Bellevue Crescent.

Andrea Simpson, resident of Drummond Place will talk about her pamphlets that illustrate the life and work of carefully selected and 'significant' residents of each of the properties in Drummond Place.

Some of you may have been fortunate enough to see her work at last summer's garden party.

Residents of Drummond Place and adjoining streets are cordially invited to this annual meeting at which issues affecting the neighbourhood will be discussed. Please see agenda below. We particularly welcome new residents who we hope will join the Association.

AGM - AGENDA

1. Minutes of the previous meeting
2. Summary of the year
3. Financial Statement
4. Questions
5. Election/Constitution
6. AOB
7. Speaker: Andrea Simpson
8. Social Evening



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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The constitution of the Drummond Civic Association is published on our website. Perhaps new and newish residents would value a primer - even old ones might!

It begins:

Aims: The Association is formed to conserve Drummond Place as a place to live in and an area of high architectural value, and to maintain close liaison with similar Associations within the New Town.

Membership: is open to all residents in Drummond Place and to others who share the Association's aims. The Membership clause reinforces the Aims. We are cooperative in purpose and style, seeking always to work with others and anyone who agrees with us can join. We are not just an organization of people domiciled in Drummond Place; we have subscribers outside of Scotland, let alone in neighbouring streets. It is useful that we have a wider reach, because there is no single overarching residents' group in the New Town, and many streets have none at all – often to their detriment, because Council officials are from time to time instructed to talk to the people, and it helps a lot if they can find them. Representatives duly elected or co-opted, with a website will be consulted.

In the past year we have made representations to the Council principally on planning, traffic and bins. Traffic is being reported on separately by Elizabeth Napier.

We were closely involved in the argument over the outline application to develop the RBS site on Fettes Row and Dundas Street, arguing strongly against over-development of the site. The application hit major planning obstacles from Historic Environment Scotland and was duly withdrawn. Councillors were lobbied, our Chair representing us in the Community Council spoke on the topic at every public meeting and twice met the developers' agents in person for detailed discussion. The site is now being marketed without outline permission, at a significant cost to RBS (and therefore the taxpayer, as the bank's principal shareholder). In time the new owner of the site will bring forward their own proposals and the process will resume, although not from precisely the place it started last time.

Restrictions on the height of buildings opposite Royal Crescent are surely likely to be imposed in the light of HES's objections.

We have maintained Drummond Place opposition to the imposition of 'containerisation' – an ugly word for the ugliest of things, the placing of rubbish skips every fifty metres or so along the pavement edges of the New Town. This is financially driven and has crept to the edges of our square. It is likely that the Council will bring forward proposals to complete 'containerisation', despite the successful operation of the Gull Proof Bag system only introduced a few years back.

The saga of the Royal High School rolls on at epic length, Wagnerian in scale but with music and lyrics by Gilbert & Sullivan. We have reached Act 3, scene 4, in which sundry lawyers in wigs debate impenetrable truths at vast and inflated expense. The Community Council has been looking on, closely consulted by the Cockburn Association which is directly represented by counsel. Stalemate, in other words, prevails, to no public good. A photographer recently permitted access to the building told our Chair of its appalling internal condition. There are forms of dry and wet rot everywhere. He even found a plastic bag containing what once, some years before, must have been a wet towel. You can imagine what it now looks and smells like. Is it merely ironic that the ultimate arbiter of the fate of the building, the City Council, is an appalling custodian of its own property? Or does it tell us something of what that fate might be? **CRC**

TRAFFIC AND PARKING

We continue to seek clarification on the following which have been rumoured and we fully support.

Crossings/Traffic Calming

Proposed London Street Crossing and our request for similar action to be taken about the dangerous situation at the Great King Street end of Drummond Place – perhaps with the support of Sustrans (the cycling and walking charity).

Shared Parking

Proposal that we would get shared parking i.e. Shared between residents and metered parking.

Sheltered Housing and the RBS site

Apply pressure to ask that future proposals include sheltered housing for the elderly so that those in need of it can remain part of the local community. **EN**

STREET FURNITURE

Further to last year's article relating to the removal of the unsightly and unnecessary grey poles around Drummond Place we were delighted recently to make contact with an individual at the Council planning department who is keen to assist. These poles currently hold the parking information signs and in some instances fire hydrant information. Our contact tells us that that they would be keen to just push on with this since it is in line with the Council's policy of decluttering the streets wherever possible'. This is excellent news but will of course require the consent of those most impacted since the signs will be repositioned on the railings nearest to where the existing poles can be found. The fire service will also have to be consulted but it is hoped that a similar arrangement can be found. DCA representatives will be in touch to seek views of those most impacted over the coming weeks. DW

DRUMMOND PLACE POLICE BOX



Maidie is the only High Constable with her own police box

Work has now been carried out on the repair of the cast-iron police box owned by Maidie Cahill. The DCA assisted with some of the cost of this including the splendid new paintwork in British Racing green and gold. Ideas for the renovation of the inside of the box and indeed for community use will be gratefully received.

POP UP BOB



Look out for the above in the spring who has been enlisted to assist with the observation of the 20mph in our area

BINS AND WASTE

There has been much confusion recently with regard to bin collections in Drummond Place. In late September the Council wrote to inform us that our gull-proof bags were to be collected on a Wednesday rather than a Tuesday although this did not seem to reflect the actual collections. We then had a letter through the door on the 03 Dec to say that the previous letter had been an error and that the collections would revert to a Tuesday. On the 04 Dec a telephone call to clarify matters resulted in two more changes. The bags should be put out on a Tuesday on time for 17:45 and then on 06 Dec an email stated that this should be Wednesday by 17:45. This has now been confirmed and Wednesday it is. The time change is welcome since this means that we are less likely to be forced to put bags out the night before thereby encouraging interference by local wildlife and inclement night time weather.

Timings at time of writing as follows:-

Gull-Proof Bags (From 05 Dec 2018)

Wednesday by 17:45

Recycling Bins Blue (Glass & Small Electricals)

Fortnightly from the 04 Jan 2019

Recycling Bins Red (Mixed) and Brown (Garden)

Fortnightly from the 11 Jan 2019

Food Waste (Cooked and uncooked food)

Wednesday of each week

[Recycling in the City Centre](#) – Further information from the Council website

As many of you know it has long been the view of the DCA that we should oppose wheelie bins wherever possible – hence the gull-proof bags. It is therefore important that we use them correctly (see link below) and resist the temptation to use the wheelie bins belonging to surrounding streets since this might well play into the hands of those wishing to introduce containerisation to our area.

[Gull Proof Bags](#) – Proper use of Gull Proof Bags from the Council website

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GARDEN



DRUMMOND PLACE GARDEN



2018 has been a good year for the Garden and it continues to be a delightful space in the heart of the city. We had a very good warm summer (at least until August) allowing us to enjoy the Garden at its best and our key holders made the most of it. Our team of gardeners have continued to put a lot of work in, and their hard work over the past 12 months has delivered a significant amount of colour and contrast to the Garden. This has been much admired and remarked upon. There seem to be more birds this year. Perhaps it



is something to do with the bird feeders which are now more regularly replenished as we have squirrel-proof storage for replacement material adjacent to the feeders. These containers were built by our previous chairman so that anybody could top up the feeders when they were getting empty. We appear to have had less problem with intruders this year, though they are still forcing their way through gaps in the hedge despite the gaps being filled with old branches. This year's AGM of the Proprietors agreed to replace the spikes around the whole of the parameter and we now have planning permission to do this. It will be done in the spring of next year. Determined individuals will still try to find a weakness with no concern about damaging hedges or plants but the spikes should provide a significant deterrent.

The Garden has had some wonderful colours this autumn including our Royal Oak which was only a twig when we got it from Sandringham to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 2012 and it is now flourishing. Finally a reminder that the Garden website drummondplacegarden.co.uk has information about access to the Garden and some general information and photographs. **The Chairman, The Drummond Place Garden Committee**



This beautiful photograph of Drummond Place Garden's West Gate was taken when Elizabeth Napier and family were out relishing the great snowfall on the evening of 17 January. Who would have thought that the deluge of snow at the beginning of the year would herald one of the most celestial summers for many a year?



No breath of wind,
No gleam of sun,
Still the white snow
Whirls softly down

Twig and bough
And blade and thorn
Whispering, rustling

Through the air
It heaps its powdery
Crystal flakes –

**Extract from 'Snow' by
Walter de la Mare**

THE COLONEL AND THE BLUE POPPY



Of the myriad local admirers and keepers of Drummond Place Garden since its origin in 1823 – including the novelist Compton Mackenzie, the poet Sidney Goodsir-Smith, and, more recently, the physicist and Nobel laureate Peter Higgs – several made valuable contributions to both the garden and the nation. One such was Colonel Frederick Marshman Bailey (1882–1967). Bailey lived at 7 Drummond Place in his early life, and having previously attended the Edinburgh Academy, served on the Garden Committee in 1909. He progressed to a highly colourful career as a high-ranking British Intelligence officer, and his clandestine work earned him many plaudits. His last appointment was as ‘His Majesty’s Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Kathmandu’. Apart from his sometimes hair-raising undercover work, his travels to then unknown parts of Tibet with the equally redoubtable Colonel Sir Francis Younghusband whetted Bailey’s appetite for photography and butterfly and plant collecting.



During his second mission to Tibet, he discovered the blue poppy which grows wild there. He duly brought back seeds to Kew Gardens and our own Botanics, thus introducing the flower to this country where it is now named after him: *Meconopsis Baleyii*. All gardeners owe him a huge debt of gratitude for bestowing upon us this most exquisite of the great family of poppies, which flourishes to this day in several areas of the Botanics. The Colonel was also instrumental in introducing the Lhasa Apso breed of dog to Britain.—JRM (Sources: Connie Byrom, *The Edinburgh New Town Gardens* [Birlinn, 2005]; Lettice Milne Ray, *The Story of Drummond Place* [s.p., 1952]; Wikipedia.) *The Spurtle Issue* 278.

DRUMMOND PLACE DRINKS

This summer a group of students from Heriot-Watt University visited Drummond Place Garden to collect pollen samples. They are all studying the Brewing and Distilling course and are huge admirers of former Drummond Place resident and Professor of Brewing Anna Macleod (mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter). Having collected the pollen their intention is to develop cultures for use as flavourings in beers and spirits created in memory of Anna. Perhaps a *Drummondii* ale will be served at next summer’s garden party? **DW**

2018 GARDEN PARTY

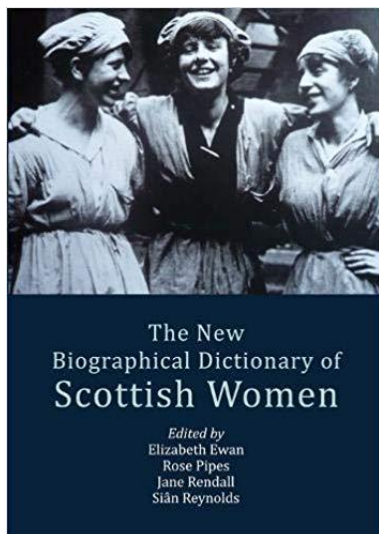
The 2018 garden party took place on the last day of June in sublime warm weather. This heralded that glorious July of virtually unbroken sunshine when the city basked in a Mediterranean glow. The joyous group photo taken by Chris Collins (top of previous page) reflected this and what became one of the DCA’s truly memorable occasions. We again welcomed Mr Peter Verity’s musical ensemble (The New Town Garden Buskers), and as ever the cornucopia of donated food and drink was sans pareil; a particular highlight was an ‘out of the blue’ delivery of boxes of luxury cupcakes by the proprietor of Cuckoo’s Bakery in Dundas Street. For the first time, willy-nilly, we became the focus of Society news – check the Sept/Oct edition of *Edinburgh Life!* Also special thanks to Andrea Simpson for showcasing her booklets on the history of notable residents of Drummond Place, more of which can be seen at this year’s AGM. Heartfelt thanks to all contributors and friends of the garden. May the sun shine on us again in 2019.

JRM



Neighbours gather for another successful garden party.
Photo courtesy of *Edinburgh Life* magazine – Sept/Oct 2018

MAJOR WOMEN'S TITLE



On 5 November Edinburgh University Press launched the 'The New Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women'. This new extended edition of the superb 2006 Dictionary which embraces the worldwide Scottish diaspora includes entries on at least two former Drummond Place residents. Anna MacGillivray Macleod FRSE of No. 25 Drummond Place was a highly distinguished professor of brewing in a male dominated industry. Elizabeth Girling, nee Jean St Clair Aytoun from No.33 was a Spanish Civil War veteran, co-founder of the Lothian Allergies Group, and well-remembered for running the renowned Partisan Café in Victoria Street in the 1960s. The work also features the painter Anne Redpath ARA OBE who lived at number 7 London Street. This indispensable reference book is an absorbing work of local and universal interest. To quote Lesley Riddoch, the writer and broadcaster, it 'clothes the lives of Scottish Women with vivid detail and rich, sympathetic storytelling'.



Anne Redpath – Self Portrait

WINDOWS ON THE PAST

This striking display in the window of Apple Pharmacy in Broughton Street is a cornucopia of pharmaceutical charms. In the late 20th century, Lindsay & Gilmour operated here, and from 1900 to 1950, No 19 housed John T. Coats & Company, Manufacturing Retail Chemists. Ghostly vestiges of the original signage are visible from across the road (Issue 211). The fascinating items in today's window were certainly stocked by Coats. Here are weighing scales, mortars and pestles, and a wooden box with nests of brass weights for processing potions and powders.



Here too are products that have survived into more recent times: Pears soap, Fisherman's Friend lozenges, and the marvellous Proctor's Pinelyptus Pastilles which have 'long been used for loss of voice, and especially valuable for singers, public speakers and actors; the late great Maurice Chevalier was noted for his recommendations of the product'! An impressive library of 17 books, includes Wootton's Chronicles of Pharmacy, vols 1–2, 1910, and The British Pharmaceutical Code, 1934. Also present are two splendid plates, one advertising Mather's Fly Paper for 'poisoning flies, wasps, ants and mosquitoes'. Another print bowl posits 'Taraxacum or Dandelion cocoa, especially recommended to invalids, and to those who suffer from Weak Digestion, and Nervous and Dyspeptic Affections, Flatulency, Distention and Biliary Obstructions, in all cases of which it will be found invaluable'. Many Broughton Street window displays have caught the eye over the years, but this is surely one of the most inspired. **JRM (Reprinted with permission from the Broughton Spurtle No 271).**

A FOND FAREWELL....

ANN HARTREE APRIL 8, 1933 (London) – Oct 28 2017 (Edinburgh)

Ann's mother Nancy Thornton bought the flat at 4/2 Dundonald Street (overlooking Drummond Place) in 1971 and lived there until her death at 94 in 1993. Ann made a few improvements and rented it for several years before moving into it herself in 2001 (from 5 Northumberland Street). She loved her well-proportioned flat with views across Scotland St Lane W coach houses to the sunrise from her kitchen window, the sunset and view of Fettes College from her bedroom and enjoyed the trees changing with the seasons and warmth, even from the winter sun, from her south facing drawing room.

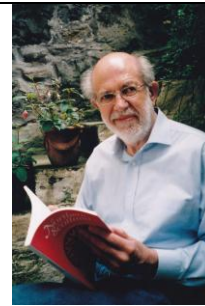
She learned piano and viola from childhood and at 18 she won a place at the Royal College of Music. Then, only a few weeks after her graduation, pupils of Gresham's school for boys in Norfolk were treated to the arrival of "Miss Eddy".

Later with her close friend Anne Crossman (wife of Labour MP Richard), she launched the Gallery and Buttery project, Prescote Gallery, at the Crossman's Manor in Cropredy, Oxfordshire. Ann assembled a stable of studio practitioners while Anne C provided food for as many as 300 visitors a day. In the mid-1980s she based Prescote at 369 High Street, Edinburgh on this same concept. Her particular focus was showcasing young furniture makers, but she also included glass and ceramic artists, jewellers, bookbinders and textile artists. More than 125 craftsmen are said to have had their careers launched from the Hartree springboard.



Ann has been described as a 'mother' figure to literally hundreds of people from the worlds of both classical music and the crafts. Her spacious and effortlessly elegant drawing room was made available as a rehearsal space for ensembles, even whole orchestras. The Hebrides Ensemble (under the guidance of William Conway) rehearsed for their concerts in both of her flats and continued to do so until shortly before her death. There are stories of practice sessions and performances where everyone got a good feed afterwards. Pianists were encouraged to come and play the Steinway which had originally belonged to Dame Myra Hess.

I didn't know Ann very well, having only met her in the last year of her life, but fully support the following observation made at her funeral. 'She'd sit you down, pour you a drink and, with a twinkle in her eye and a giggle, tease out of you your inner self, sympathising with your problems and rejoicing in your successes. She said she didn't mind going in the least, having achieved all the things that she has in her full and interesting life' Ann is survived by her children Rachel, Justin and Alex. **DW with thanks to her family.**



JIM ADAMS 27 OCT 1937 to 12 MAY 2018

A well-known figure around the east end of the New Town, Jim served as our treasurer for many years. He was born and brought up on a farm called Egypt near Fraserburgh - a fact that led to some misunderstanding when, as a student, the police asked him for his address. He gained two first class items whilst at Aberdeen University - his degree and his beloved wife Betta. Married in 1965, their children, Janet and Richard, arrived three years later. He became a highly respected marine biologist at Aberdeen's Marine Laboratory and latterly with the Scottish Government. He moved to Edinburgh in 1991, setting up home at No. 2 Drummond Place where he retired in 1997 maintaining an active interest in the history of marine research and almost anything else you care to mention. As a keen gardener, with a scientific mind, he knew the Latin names of all that grew in his garden and was a member of several organisations including the Society of Antiquaries, the Scottish Arts Club and The New Club. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him. **DW**



ISEABAIL MACLEOD (1936–2018)

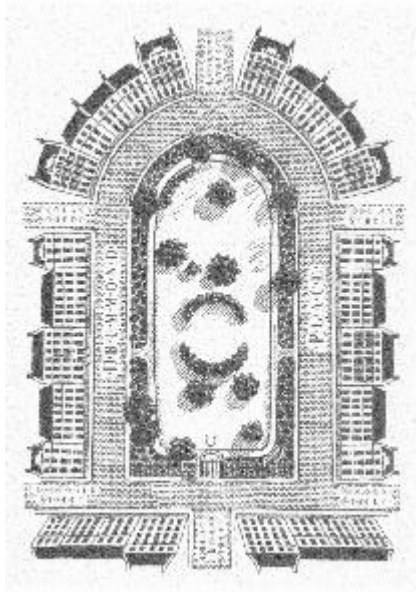
Principally known as a distinguished lexicographer and co-editor of the Concise English-Scots Dictionary (CESD) Iseabail received the MBE in 2001. She hailed from the West, having been born in Dalmeir, West Dunbartonshire. In 1957 she received her MA in language studies from Glasgow University. After a period of teaching languages in Austria and several Glasgow schools, she was appointed Editor at Europa Publications in London in 1965. After this stint, she moved to Edinburgh where she settled in Scotland Street and took up employment with the great publishing houses of Collins and Chambers. Apart from the seminal CESD, she was a freelance editor of five other significant lexicographical works. Iseabail was honoured in this sphere by her selection as Editorial Director of the Scottish National Dictionary Association (1986–2002). Iseabail was a convivial 'hail-fellow-well-met' lady of great charm, becoming modesty and independent spirit. She relished life in the city and the open air, and was an enthusiastic walker. She loved music and the theatre, regularly attending Lyceum productions with her friends Mona Macleod and Gaby Holden. It was always a joy to meet Iseabail in Broughton Street and say hello again. As one of her many friends said of her, 'She was an angel passing through'. **JRM Spurtle 272**

LIVING IN A WORLD HERITAGE SITE EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE

Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) works to promote, conserve and enhance the city's World Heritage site. It is dependent upon the generosity of donors and funders to deliver their projects, from the repair of historic buildings and monuments to delivering learning programmes for visitors and schools, and improving the streetscape.

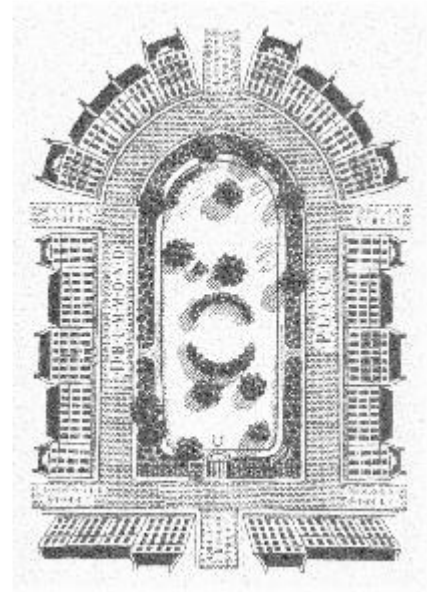


It is possible to become a Member of EWHT for a fee of £30 p.a. (discounts available). Friends are kept up to date with the work of EWH and are invited to occasional events. Find out more by contacting EWH on 0131 220 7720 or email info@ewht.org.uk.



**MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE
2017-2018**

Maidie Cahill (Secretary)
Daniel Cohen
Christopher Collins (Chair)
Fraser Duff (Treasurer)
Anna Girling
John Ross Maclean
Elizabeth Napier
David Watt
Lorna Willocks



SUBSCRIPTIONS	MERCHANDISE
<p>Subscriptions will be collected at the AGM - £7 per household or can be paid at 21 Drummond Place for those who can't make it. Your support is invaluable for the work we do on behalf of our community, and of our precious oasis in the New Town's eastern quarter.</p>	<p>The DCA has a selection of notecards, with various images of Drummond Place (including some of those within these pages), along with Lettice Milne Rae's 'The Story of Drummond Place'. These items will be on sale at the AGM, or via our website.</p>
DRUMMOND CIVIC ASSOCIATION WEBSITE	E-MAIL ADDRESSES
<p>Please take the time to visit our website. You can find out about the history of Drummond Place, purchase beautiful photographs and cards and be kept up-to-date with the bulletin board. www.drummondplace.org.</p>	<p>To save printing costs and to reduce the amount of paper posted through your letterbox, it would be helpful if you could send your e-mail address to David.Watt10@yahoo.com so that we can alert you to developments throughout the year.</p>

THE DRUMMOND CIVIC ASSOCIATION (DCA)

DCA has several meetings each year and serves the interests of Drummond Place and immediate environs. Major subjects include planning, traffic, environmental issues and The World Heritage Trust.

Local residents are most welcome to join the DCA and report concerns or voice opinions which the Committee will make plain to the powers- that-be. We also celebrate at an annual midsummer garden party and hold social events to which all members and friends are warmly invited.

Edited by John Ross Maclean and produced by David Watt with thanks to all contributors.



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