

Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden
Action Note of General Meeting, Thursday, 10th September 2015.

Present:

Kirsty S, Sue, Kirsty L, Mizan, Gillian, Jonathan, Linda, Graeme, Laura, Mariana.
John Glover CLAS.

Christopher Dingwall – Garden Historian and Mushroom Trust representative

Morven Campbell from Community Shares Scotland

Chiara Ronchini of RCAHMS - from Scotland's Urban Past project

Apologies - Liz, Leigh, Dave, Isla & Ellie C.

Welcomed were speakers from Community Shares Scotland & Royal Commission

1 Last Action Notes from August

Circulated by e-mail to those attending meetings for agreement before publication online. One name change requested.

2 Updates since end of August

Our garden restoration and sustainable horticulture proposal went to the EDI/WEL Board in late August but a decision has been deferred to allow other interested parties to respond. EDI/WEL unlikely to decide until the end of October board meeting.

Bees – we have been approached about the possibility of having one or more bee hives, possibly kept as wild bees. It may be that several local groups would be interested in the training offered.

KS to follow up with Luisa and ask to give talk at next Friends Group meeting mid-Oct. Costs may be part covered by the Friends Group & Granton Community Gardeners who have members interested too

Access track - second site visit with committee to identify best route for path and steps. Follow up site-visit with structural engineer to ensure health and safety of work planned and condition of listed wall nearby. Fourth site-visit with landscape architect to discuss materials and quantities needed.

KS to follow up request to meet with EDI at end of Sept: to agree initial schedule of works, ask members questions & follow up the Heads of Terms proposal under 'serious consideration' by WEL/EDI.

3 Community Shares Scotland (CSS)

Morven gave a presentation and handed everyone a handout explaining community shares. See <http://communitysharesscotland.org.uk/find-out-more/what-are-community-shares> for more information. Morven also covered 2 recent case studies of very different enterprises which CSS had supported. It was agreed that at this stage community shares would not be appropriate, but useful to consider at a later more substantive stage of funding proposals. - Of note was the incorporated legal structure our group is considering, Community Benefit Society (BENCOM) now can register as a charitable organisation with OSCR.

4 Scotland's Urban Past (SUP)

Chiara went over for the benefit of those who had missed Peigi MacKillop's presentation earlier in the year the purpose of SUP – to support up to 60 different community projects over a 5 year period with training, advice, research and general support. They are not a funding body, but can lend equipment for, say, film/video making etc. They do not do restoration work or condition surveys.

There was discussion about what could be done just now in the lull until a decision from EDI is known and access to the garden permitted.

It might be that a non-invasive survey of the land beside the walled garden could be undertaken with the support and guidance of Danny Dutton.

It was agreed that permission would need to be sought from owners EDI even though land is publically accessible.

KS to liaise with Chiara and EDI once dates & numbers interested known.

Maximum of 20 people over two days of survey training.

It was also agreed that it would be good to document all the process, meetings etc – videos or films etc. Mizan started the process by taking some photos there and then which he will forward to Friends Group.

5 Visits to other similar projects

A number of Friends mentioned that the following sites would be of interest as some similarity to the GCWG project:

- Amisfield in Haddington (Gillean & Jonathan have visited and were impressed)
- Penicuik Walled garden (glasshouse restoration, foodgrowing and 30 year peppercorn lease)
- Ardentinnny in Argyll (not the house, the garden and policies)
- Blair Castle (estate lead, but similar horticultural aims)
- Acheson House garden, off the Royal Mile
- Dunbars Close (also off the Royal Mile- in the style of a 17th century garden)

6 Leaflet redesign

Mizan circulated a design he had printed off using the GCWG logo in a post card size format. Some discussion about the contrast of the print with the background, but otherwise excellent. Agreed that copies would be run off ASAP so they could be used at events coming soon.

7 Open Doors 26th/27th September

We have been invited to speak/staff a stall etc at St Stephen's Open Doors event at the end of the month. Agreed we would attend.

8 Mushroom Trust

Christopher Dingwall explained what this is and how it could be of use in the future to the Friends. He mentioned current Historic Scotland planning guidelines for historic gardens and designed landscapes, which is of great relevance to the walled garden situation.

9 Date of next meeting

Probably before the end of October.