

Trust Talk

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST

Winter 2025



Moving With the Times

With the festive season behind us, we start to look forward to the year ahead. In our first **Trust Talk** of 2025, we're delighted to announce several upcoming events to get your year off to an entertaining start, so make sure you pop them in your diary and get your tickets fast! As we look forward, we also take time to reflect; you'll discover more about former local craftworkshops in **From the Archives**, as well as a piece on the changing faces of Corstorphine's business through the years.

We hope that you enjoy this Winter Edition of **Trust Talk**!



Stay in touch

For more updates on our opening times, you can follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages.



THE CORSTORPHINE TRUST



@THECORSTORPHINETRUST

Chair's Letter

Hello everyone

A very happy new year to you all. I hope you managed to have the Christmas you wanted.

2025! How did that happen?! 2024 was another busy year for The Trust and I'm sure that the coming one will be no different.

We've got another packed edition of Trust Talk for you with articles on what's been happening and what's planned for the next wee while. It's an ever expanding list so we'll be keeping you updated with new events as they get added to the calendar.

As written in our constitution, we are giving notice of our Annual General Meeting. The intention (at the moment) is to have a blended meeting where people can attend in person or use the live link. If you want to join us via the video link, please let us know.

The museum stewards managed a wee get together before Christmas for a cuppa and a blether. It was really nice to see everyone and I think a good time was had by all. As always, my thanks to you, our loyal volunteers, for everything you do. It really is much appreciated.

So, I'll close now and hope to see you in The Dower House soon.

Best,



Chair

Weather Here, Wish You Were...

This collage was created for The Corstorphine Trust by one of our life members, Diana Jackson.

An artist in her own right, she recreated The Dower House from postcards showing places from 'old' Corstorphine.

Sorry, it's not for sale but she accepts commissions!



From the Archives

Scottish Folk Fabrics was established in 1920 in Ladywell Road by James Morton. The site is now occupied by Ladywell House and Ladywell Medical Centre (West).

James Morton (later Sir James) was born in Darvel, Ayrshire on the 23rd March 1867. His father Alexander founded the weaving company of Alexander Morton & Company. James trained as a chemist at Morton Sundour Mills in Carlisle where his family purchased Denton Mills.

While setting up a new dye factory in Grangemouth, James and his family lived in Edinburgh. He bought the Ladywell Road site from the owner of The Corstorphine Estate to house small Handicraft Projects. This enterprise was run by Ronald Simpson. In the 1921 census, Ronald and his family are living in "Sunnybrae", Dovecot Road. A condition of the land sale was that the tenant, James Forrest, was to be compensated for "crop, manure, and labour".



Early products were: Torphyn hand-woven rugs, tapestries; high quality embroidery work; and the Panurge Company producing large scale stuffed felt toy animals - "beautiful horses, teddy bears and lambs". By the end of 1921, a show of products could be seen at Liberty and Company's London shop. At first, the operation was known as "The Huts" because the early buildings were army huts, but the Scottish Folk Fabric name was soon adopted. The site was surrounded by fields and the workers had a long walk to work until the tram line was extended to Corstorphine in 1923, the same year that an electricity supply reached the factory. During WW2, the factory made parachutes.

Sir James died in 1943 at Dalston Hall, Cumbria.

Frances MacRae
Archivist

Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held at 2.00 pm sharp on Saturday 8 March 2025, The Kilgour Room, The Dower House.

The plan at the moment is to hold the AGM in person and on Teams.

If you are attending in person you just need to turn up. If you intend to join online, please let us know by sending an email to Kim at info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk. We will then send you an online meeting invite.

Tea and coffee will be served after the conclusion of business. It will also be an excellent opportunity to have a look around the museum and archive rooms.

Parking will be available.

Jingle Bells and a Little Bit More

We were delighted to welcome Gordon Cree to The Corstorphine Astoria Centre in December for an evening of music and repartee.

The Ingram's sleigh bells were on overtime and he played several Christmas classics along with a melodious mix of other tunes.

The intermission saw a big queue for the hot chocolate (generously donated from The Chocolate Tree) with cream and marshmallows on top - well it was Christmas after all!

Gordon will be back so keep an eye on our socials and for posters appearing around the village.



Dates for Your Diary

Maps Through Time

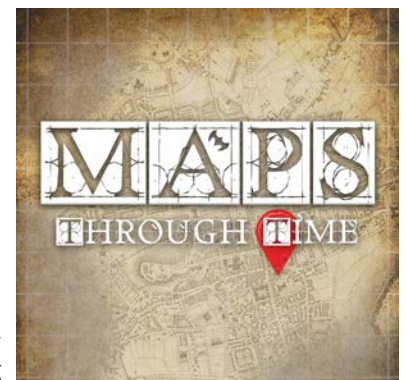
27 February - 2 March 2025 | The Dower House

Opening Night 27 February: 6.30-7.30pm

28 February: 8.30am-4pm | 1-2 March: 9am-4pm

Suggested donation of £5.00 at the event

We invite you to join us for the unveiling of the Corstorphine Archives of Maps, where we'll delve into the fascinating history of maps from Scotland's Central Belt. This special event will feature maps never before seen by the public, offering a unique glimpse into the region's past.



Our opening night on 27th February at 6:30pm will include insightful history talks, followed by a three-day exhibition showcasing the lost art of cartography. Don't miss the chance to explore the stories these maps tell and discover a hidden part of Scotland's heritage.

Richard Wiseman

Saturday 29 March 2025 | 6.00 pm | The Corstorphine Astoria Centre

Tickets are £10.00

Join magician, psychologist and writer Professor Richard Wiseman in a fascinating local history talk exploring the surprising and little-known magical history of Edinburgh.

Around the turn of the twentieth century, three remarkable magicians conjured up mystery and mayhem in the area. One was the most famous illusionist in the



world, another perfected a trick that revolutionised magic, and the third was frequently asked to appear in the Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Discover the strange but true tale of three intertwined lives and learn how to transform a tea towel into a chicken.

<https://richardwiseman.wordpress.com/>

The Sorries

Saturday 26 April 2025 | 7.00 pm | The Corstorphine Astoria Centre

Tickets are £15.00

THE SORRIES are **Douglas Kay** (vocals, guitar, bodhran, mandolin) and **Martin Philip** (vocals, guitar, bodhran, tres). The duo sing, play and banter their way through a show which features a host of traditional tunes from the much-loved Scottish songbook, as well as some songs gathered from the oral tradition and a few original compositions.



The two formed The Sorries following a conversation during a tour of the Highlands where both Martin and Douglas were performing as part of separate projects. Coming from very different musical backgrounds, Kay and Philip discovered a shared love for the music of The Corries. Over a bottle of whisky they decided that the duo is still an ideal format in which to present so many of the sensational folk songs in which Scotland is so rich.

The Stories Behind The Story

Saturday 10 May 2025 | 3.00 pm | The Dower House

Tickets are £10.00

The Corstorphine Trust is delighted to welcome Kate Foster, author of *The Maiden*, for a special event exploring the history and inspiration behind her novel.

The Maiden is a compelling historical fiction novel based on the real life story of Christian Nimmo, also known as the White Lady of Corstorphine. Growing up in Corstorphine, Kate was fascinated by this tragic tale and felt compelled to give a voice to the women involved. Join us as we uncover the story behind the story, delving into the history, mystery, and creative journey that shaped *The Maiden*.



Gordon Cree and Cheryl Forbes

Saturday 7 June 2025 | 7.00 pm | The Corstorphine Astoria Centre

Tickets are £15.00

After the very successful concert in December, we are delighted to announce the return of Gordon to The Corstorphine Astoria Centre but this time he'll be joined on stage with his wife Cheryl Forbes.

Enjoy an entertaining evening of music, Broadway hits, light hearted character songs and favourite melodies on instruments both conventional and less so..., as well as tales and reminiscences from two fascinating careers.



Tickets are available to purchase online for our upcoming events at:
<https://www.corstorphinetrust.co.uk/concerts/> or by contacting the office on 0131-316 4246 to reserve tickets. Tickets must be paid for within one week of reservation.

Changes in Corstorphine Shops and Businesses

A few local shops have changed or are changing. M. Gee convenience store (Hameeds), on the corner of Station Road and St. John's Road, has moved to 119b St Johns Road (formerly The Refillery). Many will remember they started around 2009 then, when the Post Office next to The Wee Shop closed on retiral of the owner, they incorporated the Post Office into their shop.

Across the road at the bottom of Clermiston Road, Philip Politi hairdressers' shop and Specialized Signs are vacant; Philip retired and Specialized Signs moved out to Newbridge. The estate agent sign has gone from Philip's old shop and workers have been doing some building work – so watch this space! On the corner of Kirk Loan, Porteous Family Funeral Directors have recently moved into the old Leslie Deans & Co, Leslie Deans & Co, Solicitors and Estate Agents (No 135-137).



Opposite the top of Manse Road, Pinkk hairdressers have moved out of No 140 St. John's Road. This has been acquired by Neilson's, so they now have the whole block here. Pinkk has moved into what was previously Zoe Brown, Nails (No 209). David R Murray & Associates, Consulting Engineers have vacated Nos 150-154 (next to St. Ninians), again a retiral – they have had an office in Corstorphine since at least 1986. Planning permission is in here to convert it to six holiday lets. Another shop vacated is Heaven Beauty, no 213 St. John's Road, it has recently opened as Ember.co, a financial/accountancy firm.

On the corner of Featherhall Avenue and St. John's Road, The Centurion (since mid-1960s) changed hands recently and is now owned by Greene King; they have planning permission in to change the signage and rename it The Tarbet, a pub with "Great Beers, Live Entertainment, Live Events, Dart & Pool, TNT Sports, & Sky Sports!"



The old Neuk Post Office, which closed in January 2023, is currently getting shopfitting work done. This is going to be a convenience store called One Stop, a franchised subsidiary of Tesco, operated by private owners. Staying on old Post Offices, the Drum Brae Post Office, 26 Duart Crescent, which closed 2023, has just opened as a café, Urban Coffee.

As we go to print, Iceland, in Manse Road is closing; this shop first opened in a new building as Low Freeze around 1976, after the Astoria Cinema was demolished. Bejam was next here, around 1987, and after a buy out by Iceland in 1989, the Corstorphine shop was rebranded. Sadly, many non-profitable Iceland shops over the UK are in the process of closing.



The final shop to become vacant is Novella, Hairdressers, no 14 Glasgow Road. This has been a hairdresser since the 1970s - many will remember this as Turvey & Co, Hairdressers & wigs here until 2014.

Kevin Aitchison
Digital Archive Co-ordinator

Although the following letter states a closing date of 31st January, the committee will consider relevant applications throughout the year.



The Corstorphine Trust Benevolent Fund

www.corstorphinetrust.co.uk

THE DOWER HOUSE
ST. MARGARET'S PARK
EDINBURGH
EH12 7SX
☎ 0131 316 4246

Corstorphine Trust Benevolent Fund

Founded in 1902, The Corstorphine Trust Benevolent Fund aims to assist individuals or associations/clubs within the Corstorphine area by way of providing grants to enable them to further their activities. Many people have benefitted from this fund over the years by way of small grants, and continue to do so to this day.

The Corstorphine Trust is currently inviting applications to the Fund. The closing date for each financial period is the 31st of January each year. All applicants will be informed of their progress by March the 31st immediately following the closure date.

Applications should be sent to secretary@corstorphinetrust.co.uk or by letter to:

The Secretary
The Corstorphine Trust Benevolent Fund
The Dower House
St. Margaret's Park
1A Orchardfield Avenue
EDINBURGH
EH12 7SX

The Astoria Centre

The Astoria Centre continues to flourish, with a number of adult and children's activities running throughout the week. If you're interested in booking the hall, please send an email to contact@corstorphineastoriacentre.co.uk for more information.



MONDAY

09:45-11:45 The Sensory Sessions
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise

TUESDAY

13:30-15:30 Line Dancing
15:50-16:30 Tutti Tots: Pre-school
16:30-17:10 Tutti Tots: P1-P3
18:30-19:30 Clubbercise

WEDNESDAY

09:30-11.30 Christine Mills - Pilates Scotland
12:30-13:30 Realistic Pilates
16:00-18:00 Taekwon-Do
18:45-19:45 Clubbercise

THURSDAY

09:45-10:15 Tanya's Dance-Fit: Hip Hop Tots (2-5 years)
10:30-11:00 Tanya's Dance Fit: Hip Hop Babies & Movers (Newborn-2 years)
11:15-12:00 Tanya's Dance-Fit: Mum's Fitness Class
13:00-14:00 Easy Exercise
17:00-21:00 Taekwon-Do

FRIDAY

09:05-10:05 Realistic Pilates
13:00-13:45 Tutti Footy FC: 2-3 years
13:45-14:30 Tutti Footy FC: 3-4 years
14:30-15:15 Tutti Footy FC: P1 & P2
16:00-18:45 Capital Allstars
19:30-20:30 Dance Fitness

SATURDAY

09:30-11:00 Inspire Theatre Workshop
11:15-12:45 Inspire Theatre Workshop
13:45-15:30 Corstorphine Connect Sight Loss Grop (*third Saturday of the month*)
13:45-16:15 Corstorphine Community Centre Tea Dance (*fourth Saturday of the month*)

SUNDAY

09:30-12:30 Hong Kong Christian Church (*first/third/fifth Sunday of the month*)
13:30-15:00 Organ Practice

Get in touch

Corstorphine Heritage Centre
The Dower House, St Margaret's Park
Edinburgh, EH12 7SX
☎ 0131 316 4246
✉ info@corstorphinetrust.co.uk

We hope that you've enjoyed this Winter edition of **Trust Talk** and we look forward to welcoming you to The Dower House.

You can continue to contact **The Corstorphine Trust** via email, telephone and post, as well as following us on social media for updates on our hours.