



CRAIGMILLAR ARCHIVES TRUST



The Future: Hopes & Ambitions





THE CRAIGMILLAR ARCHIVES TRUST CONCERNING CRAIGMILLAR

The Craigmillar Archives Trust (C.A.T.) arose through the interests, passions and enthusiasm of Johnni Stanton, which inspired others' interest, support and enthusiasms. From the first exhibition created from Johnni's own resources people have flocked to contribute, encourage and ensure the archive's continuation and development.

Now to safeguard the future of the archives, The Craigmillar Archives Trust is being established, with a Board of Trustees, a constitution and ambitions to use the archive materials to support, develop and enhance the area and its residents. We aim for the following and seek to work with other individuals and groups who share our vision:

- **Knowledge** – the involvement of those who know and love the area's history - from days long gone, but echoing on through buildings such as Craigmillar Castle, up to times more recent. We aim to stop them slipping away unrecorded.
- **Imagination and ambition** - to date, these have provided the drive to curate and to promote ideas generated by the archive and to create inspiring, informative exhibitions.
- **Entrepreneurial ambition** - spin-offs and merchandising (to date given investment limits - postcards and calendars and now our website.)
- **Enthusiasm** – the willingness and ability to engage with visitors, contributors and the community.
- **Vision** - an ambitious vision for the archive's long term potential and ways that it can promote the area; illustrate its

changes and be used to encourage cohesion and pride within the community.

- **Personnel** - locals, Johnni Stanton, brought the archive into being; Gus Meechan a committed ambassador is promoting the project's ambitions to politicians and local groups; while the Be All You Can Be project and Hilary Morrison secured seed monies through the Voluntary Action Fund (VAF), to manage and fund exhibitions and create creation an on-line presence (www.craigmillarcommunityarchive.org.uk).
- **Support** - the archive has grown and developed, (7 exhibitions to date!) the most recent at the newly re-opened, restored White House. We want to explore social enterprise, income generating initiatives and exhibitions, partnering up with other local groups - remini



science work, making old film footage available on-line, providing information for schools and colleges and to work with others' input and ideas.

THE FUTURE

The archive is at a crucial juncture. With small seed monies, we have been able to develop a little of its potential, whilst ensuring necessary administration and maintenance. Our vision is ambitious and with the right backing has the





potential to work on several levels.

1. **Re-brand** - the area is being redeveloped. To date, EH16 and its environs have suffered from negative press, gaining a reputation which is neither wholly deserved, nor wholly justified. The archives offer a view on the area which has seldom generated press interest: happy people; enjoyment of life; sporting and academic achievement; community bonds; a community at rest and play. In short, a formidable social history that belies the negative press.
2. **Pride and interest** - in the area; the community; its history and people. In less than a year, we have achieved unprecedented visitor numbers.

3. **An attraction** - we have been surprised and delighted at how far people were



prepared to travel to visit our exhibitions and at how far flung some sources of interest were. This only highlights the extent to which the early ambitions of the area, in respect of social housing provision, had succeeded. People have used the Craigmillar of yesteryear as a stable, secure launching pad for a diaspora on a global in scale.

4. **An educational tool** - local schools are keen and amongst the first to engage with

and contribute to the archive. We have responded and welcomed their input and the records which the schools offered. As schools close, merge, change – they too recognise the importance and significance of maintaining this vital social-history record. The Archive has already contributed significantly to the capacities of Curriculum for Excellence in local primary schools, particularly in relation to the development of responsible citizenship.

5. **Social Capital** - a health resource - a builder of bridges and bonds. Older people are increasingly marginalised and excluded. Our archive has seen many seniors become actively involved. Reminiscence has proven health benefits, particularly for those suffering from Alzheimer's, both in its early and latter stages. We are transcribing and scanning reminiscences of former and current residents who have provided extraordinary insights with unexpected perspectives. As a tool to bridge age-divides, at a time when many feel they are widening, the archive has potentials as yet barely tapped
6. **A shift in perspective** - on seeing archive materials, many younger people have been surprised and delighted. A younger generation (whose health issues feature strongly in social agendas) are surprised to see young men – fit and strong, participating in sport and labour. Older people are delighted to see records that show how chic, how elegant their style was - even when money was tight. Families under pressure draw strength from seeing the endurance of those who went before them.



PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL

We are seeking partners and participants who share our vision. If we are to fulfil the hopes of many who have contacted and contributed, we aim to have the archive established in a location that can promote and ensure:

- **Community engagement** - a tool in respect of social capital
- **Interactive access** - using ICT and encouraging its use
- **Ease of access** - locally sited
- **Distribution of images** - as appropriate
- **User input and contributions** - use of the archive to encourage social engagement
- **Continuity** - ensuring the archive is maintained, secured and developed.

Since the first exhibition (*Craigmillar Then...*) in July 2009, we have attracted interest from people returning to re-live memories and see what's changing. We have interest from Canada, South Africa and Australia (and more). The archive has the global potential to reach out to the memories of the Craigmillar Diaspora.

AMBITIONS

- **Website** - we have the Craigmillar Archives Trust (CAT) Website (a simple 'taster'). The next phase is to find monies to develop a searchable element, allowing visitors to access materials from anywhere in the world.
- **A book** - we want to create a **downloadable resource**, then find the means to publish a hard copy. There is huge potential to secure input from famous former residents and the **creation of a unique piece of 'coffee table' memorabilia - we have the pictures and records** to achieve this.
- **Film** - digital production has altered the potential for film production. We would like to link up with FE colleges, local film-makers, and broadcasters. There are numerous narratives that can be wrought from archive materials with on-line outlets as well as more conventional broadcasting for their dissemination. We are also busy digitising new, old and rare footage.

SOCIAL CAPITAL: SOCIAL GAIN THE ARCHIVE AS A TOOL

The economic landscape is rapidly changing and development of Craigmillar and its environs continues apace. Within this development, the archive is vital. The people's

lives within its records deserve recognition. CAT offer a record which shows that Craigmillar is a unique locale. Its history is rich and complex and as such can only benefit its present, its future and its future residents.

As the White House, or as it is affectionately known locally, the White Hoose, regains its place within the new Craigmillar, it seems fitting that its walls should give home to its people's record. Whatever role the newly developed White House/Hoose now takes for itself, its links with the past might best be forged from the lives, hopes, dreams and visions of those who came before. One way or another almost every visitor to our archive has contributed to its records. The most important next step is to ensure that the record of those whom history tends only to marginalise is not lost, but instead becomes the foundation of a new vision, a new Craigmillar, for Craigmillar people in which pride has a distinct and valid place

Blah blah info join
contact etc Blah
blah info join
contact etcBlah blah
info join contact
etcBlah blah info
join contact etcBlah
blah info join
contact etc

Blah blah info join
contact etc

Blah blah info join
contact etcBlah blah
info join contact
etcBlah blah info
join contact etcBlah
blah info join
contact etc

