

CRAIGMILLAR ARCHIVES TRUST
Report



reg charity no:SC042596

**58-60 Niddrie Mains Rd.,Edinburgh
EH16 4BG**

Dear All,

Please find following this, our report on what the Craigmillar Archives Trust (CAT) has tried to achieve since we established ourselves and were registered with OSCR.

(19th September, 2011.)

Success has been slow, if steady, despite many challenges, the most devastating being the loss of two much loved and respect Trustees - Sandra George and Andy Weddell.

A range of initiatives was further delayed by the ill health of the founder, Johnni Stanton, who has suffered serious health issues, requiring long periods in hospital. Several key volunteers, regrettably, also found themselves facing serious health crises over 2012-13.

At times during this period, with no regular 'staff', as such, maintaining effective communications with all interested parties proved challenging and something that we are moving to rectify. We would therefore ask all Trustees to give us an up-to-date email address, as we aim to produce an e-newsletter, notifying all of plans and progress. Meantime, should any of you have any queries please contact Johnni Stanton, or for general enquiries via CAT's email.

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Thank you for your input.

In respect of the Archives activities, we do not have the funds to print a glossy annual report, nor do we have the means, to employ paid staff to help with day-to-day administration. CAT remains an organisation that relies on its volunteers.

Craigmillar Archives Trust (CAT) is new and thus still in the process of establishing itself. It therefore seeks some patience and forbearing along with an active and enthusiastic input from all its Trustees.



OBJECTIVES

In 2011-12 CAT volunteers achieved the following:

- establishing charitable status
- setting up a bank account
- raising funds
- making charitable applications for funding
- pursuing its management plan, aims and objectives and pursuing its charitable objectives.
- Worked to maintain administrative processes and record keeping
- Fulfilling its commitments in respect of OSCR, Companies House and HMRC

ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2012- 2013 (November) working to the objectives above, several volunteers and Trustees achieved the following:

- the **website** was set up, maintained and developed establishing links with the Craigmillar diaspora which in turn contributed to the materials we manage. Numbers of visitors to the site are just 200 short of 10,000!
- the **Archive continues to expand**. People continue to give us photos and documents for the Archive. In turn, we are working constantly to **scan** and **catalogue** these appropriately.
- **storage** for materials was sought and found, however further space is necessary and has to be found.
- **Rare film materials were saved and handed over to Scottish Screen Archive** (SSA) and Glasgow University for preservation for the nation and the community (SSA has been able to seek additional funding both to assist and secure this). Thirty plus years of neglect had destroyed much, but with SSA's grant of £5000 much has been secured for future generations' use.
- Our own **restoration work** on **old and damaged images**.
- a **calendar was created**, which engaged with the wider Craigmillar community and which raised funding to ensure further development – a process that also allowed us to inform people of our presence and our work.
- we **aided our local schools with local history** information, the most recent being Niddrie Mill, earlier this year.
- active **participation in the successful campaign to save our local Community High School** from closure.
- **providing College and University students with information and resources** for relevant essays and dissertations. (an on-going process through our website, personal consultations and use of the Archive)
- We are involved in **ongoing projects throughout the community**. CAT established links and relationships with:
 - youth groups
 - Politicians
 - local business
 - Archaeologists working at Edmonstone house - 2 trustees liaised with them, providing additional local information.
 - other community groups, locally and city-wide.

(In 2011 we worked with The Venchie and the Community Council to create a Halloween event)

LOSSES

Regrettably, and with considerable sorrow, some CAT aims were curtailed by the sad loss of two of our valued Trustees – Sandra George and Andrew Weddell; the ill health of its founder – Johnni Stanton and by additional health issues of key volunteers.

Accordingly, **an exhibition planned for the Scottish Parliament is to be rescheduled.** We will **also be working in partnership with the local library** on a major exhibition scheduled for early next year (2014).

CURRENT UNDERTAKINGS AND COMMITMENTS

More positively, CAT has pursued its **agenda in respect of the written and spoken word** of its community and its peoples' lives.

- **In partnership with Adult Learning Link (ALL) writing workshops** were established
- **Social media groups were established** to link participants and raise awareness of the Archives
- Our **on-line presence has a total membership of over 3,000** (still growing) which a trustee (Billy McKirdy) and Johnni Stanton administer. In addition, an online **Memorial group**, which has won much praise for its sensitive handling, was established.
- **In partnership with other city community writing groups** a series of **public reading events** were successfully organised and well-attended.
- We have **successfully expanded the Craigmillar Creative Writing project** in partnership with Inky Fingers, Tyne & Esk Writers and now run a successful venue (The Persevere) on a monthly basis – open to local, city wide and national writers and performers.
- We have also with ALL and the local library **actively regenerated the annual Festival writing event**, securing judges from a range of other organisations thus ensuring on-going interest in the communities writers and their work. Entries for this event have not only **greatly increased in number**, but in **quality** and the range of **demographic participating**.
- CAT is now **publishing a series of booklets**, in a magazine format, to showcase:
 - Craigmillar writing
 - Reminiscence work, illustrated with Archive images

(ISSUE 1 Will be out by the end of 2013 - FEATURING THE WORK OF AWARD WINNING LOCAL WRITER - Heather Turner, with ISSUE 2 -REMINISCENCE COLLECTION - BACK IN THE DAY following. Both feature writing from local people and images from the Archives.)

In respect of our reminiscence work, this letter, sent to Johnni Stanton, received in October this year, exemplifies the positivity of our work. (a facsimile of this letter can be made available in PDF form on request)

*“A few years ago I took my Mum to see and exhibition at the Craigmillar Art Centre where we met yourself.
When Mum told you she had been writing down all her memories from growing up in Harewood Dr. and Newcraighall and Niddrie Marischal you very kindly offered to print this up for her and delivered it to her home. That*

couldn't have been easy as Mum wasn't the best of spellers or writers. You made such a good job of doing this.
Why I decided to write you was to let you know just how special this has been not just to close family but also many other family members and friends. We lost Mum in August at the age of 88 to cancer.
Mum's funeral was held in Richmond Church and the minister Liz Henderson as able to quote directly from Mum's "Memories" and was a really lovely service.
We've since passed copies of this to quite a few people.
I just wanted you to know Mr Stanton that your act of kindness had meant so much to us all and brought great comfort.
Thank you most sincerely."

Other current commitments.

- **Funds have been allocated** to ensure that the Archive is precisely that – a resource available to the community. We are **undertaking the professional cataloguing** of the materials we hold digitally to ensure that they can be **searchable and accessible** to all. Without this, in effect, there is no Archive.
- We have invested in a **lap top, and a printer** as our previous ICT resources were donated and had reached the end of their life - as ICT is an essential element of our work, this was vital.
- We also invested in **software** to catalogue the Archive; maintain the website and help with restoration work.

Craigmillar Archives Trust is in its infancy. All achievements to date would not have been possible without the hard work, determination and skills of our dedicated volunteers and Trustees – this latter group being sadly diminished by untimely deaths. Nevertheless, several locals have now sought to join CAT and to offer their time and skills. CAT cannot operate without such input. The role of Trustee requires a degree of commitment. In respect of our progress and hope, we hope this report shows the nature of our undertakings as we become established. All work has been challenging and under-resourced, but, nonetheless has wrought considerable gains and development. We now hope that work achieved without any public assisted funding will now place us to achieve such funding and assure the future of the Archives.

We would like (in no particular order) to offer a special thanks to the following:

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|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| ● Rose and Blair Ritchie | ● Fiona Evans and Sandra at ALL | ● William Golding |
| ● Heather Turner | ● Juliet and Paul Cheetham | ● The Scottish Screen Archive |
| ● Diane Heron | ● Inky Fingers Writers Group | ● Everyone who has provided materials for the Archives. |
| ● Hilary Morrison | ● Kevin Cadwallender | ● Ron Carthy |
| ● Sean Saez | ● Colin Will | |
| ● David Turner | | |