Minute of Edinburgh graveyard friends group

2.04.19 6.30pm

Present

Susan Buckham Convener (Greyfriars and Old Calton)

Caroline Gerrard (Warriston and Dean)

Pat Storie (Grange)

Vanessa Habib (Morningside)

Gareth Edwards (Mortonhall)

Barbara Blows (Newington)

**Royal Scots**

CG reported Royal Scots are setting up an inventory of Royal Scots graves within Scotland. They have identified potentially 60 graves within Warrison and Dean Cemetery. We anticipate contact with Newington Cemetery to ask about the number we might have on our CD.

BB to contact Dennis Smith to respond to any contact from Royal Scots.

**National Cemeteries Week**

Warriston and Old Calton Cemeteries are holding events for National Cemeteries Week (Warriston event is on Thursday 16.05.19). Grange Cemetery has no plans for a Cemetery tour event, but thought it was worth doing. They had talked about joining the Grange Fair and might do so next year.

**Grange Spring Fair 11/05/19 1pm-4.30pm**

Newington Cemetery will be participating in Grange Fair as part of National Cemeteries Week. Application has been made for a table at event. SB suggest Newington Cemetery contact RSPB Society for leaflets etc to display on the day.

**Scottish Heritage**

SB reported that Scottish Heritage have no money for investing in cemeteries, as they don't present good value for money.

Archaeology Scotland might be worth trying. Although they also have no money, if they find a project they might get involved.

SB has decided to incorporate the name "Treasured Remains" as a sub heading for collective projects within the Fof GG.

Edinburgh Royal Heritage liked the project.

**Glasgow University App**

Glasgow University have created an App for Greyfriars Cemetery which will identify common sounds heard around the cemetery (local birds, traffic, etc). Could we perhaps promote this on our website?

**Greyfriars Project**

SB is holding a focus group on 24/04 at 6pm to discuss the project. For further information contact is with P.O Researcher Lauren in Bakehouse close.

For the moment it’s aspirational to share information about the graveyard however funding is an issue.

**Memorial Safety**

Appropriate guidance can be had from Scottish Government.

Work is currently in place by Mortonhall to include Newington Cemetery on the Scottish Government webpage for burial and cremation.

SB is looking into investigating funds to acquire an A frame for lifting/raising memorial stones and flipping them.

Alan McKinney has done this at Liberton Cemetery using payback workers but availability can be limited given more urgent roles within the Parks Department.

BB responded that Newington Cemetery felt the onus and liability would then be the Friends Group financially should they break. Would propping up at top end of stone not be more acceptable?

GE agreed that this would likely be an issue yet to be explored in law, pointing out that the lair and stone plus ground around the base is owned by family if traceable.

Even propping up could incur liability. The cemetery only has a limited responsibility in upkeeping the ground which the council owns.

GE shared that there is a membrane you can get for protecting stones lying flat.

**Snowdrop Walk**

BB reported that successful Snowdrop Walk workings parties have met to clear weeds, plants shrubs and wash benches. They are awaiting tools for the new tool shed yet to be erected but on order.

Grange Cemetery reported on research they are currently following up on prior to publishing another booklet.

Old Calton Burial Ground is planting out shrubs where appropriate.

SB announced that funding for her position was not being extended and therefore she would not be carrying on after next meeting, and we would have to elect another

convener within our small group, if it were to continue.

Meeting closed at 9pm.