



Summer Newsletter

www.carnbee.org

August 2014

TREASURER'S UPDATE 2014

The usual programme of planned maintenance has been carried out this year plus some small enhancements. As we have not had any tree damage or other unexpected costs we have managed to improve the path through the woodland at Area 7. There will be a second stage of improvements to the path this August which will use up about 16% of our reserves in the current financial year. A balanced budget for 2014-15 has been set up taking into account the planned expenses known to date. Please use the online method for paying fees as this reduces costs. Remember if you pay your fees before 31st December, you qualify for a discount. Why pay more?. All members of the Association are encouraged to attend the AGM and we always welcome ideas for improvements which would fit within our budget

Alan Graham
Treasurer

Notification of Carnbee Owners Association AGM Monday 22 September 2014

We're pleased to confirm that the Carnbee Owners Association (COA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Monday 22 September 2014 at 7pm in Gracemount High School, Lasswade Road. We encourage all residents to attend the AGM as this is your opportunity to let your committee know your thoughts.

If you're unable to attend the AGM you can still vote on any resolutions by completing the enclosed proxy form. Please note there is also a proxy form available on our website if you would prefer to email it to us. Returning a completed proxy form also helps towards achieving a quorum for the AGM. The committee is here to serve your collective interests so we encourage each of you to attend the AGM or submit a completed proxy form.

If you would like to propose any items for the AGM agenda, these must be submitted in writing to Cath Crosbie, 29 Carnbee Park, no later than 10 September 2014 for consideration. The proposed agenda is on the back page and the final agenda will be published on the COA website by 12 September 2014.

In accordance with the constitution, your current committee will resign at the AGM and an election will be held for a new committee. Some of the current committee have served for 5 years and we would encourage all members to fully consider joining the committee. New committee members bring a fresh outlook and new ideas, both of which are needed to maintain the momentum achieved in the last 5 years. We look forward to welcoming you along to our meeting on Monday 22 September 2014 at 7pm.

Carnbee Birds



www.rspb.org.uk

In January I decided to take part in the RSPB garden bird survey and recorded 15 species which visited my garden in Carnbee Park in a two hour slot one morning: Blackbird, Robin, Dunnock, Woodpigeon, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Goldfinch, Bullfinch, Greenfinch, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Treecreeper, Common (Mealy) Redpoll and Blackcap. Another 7 birds also come to the feeders or feed in my garden but were not seen during the census period - Starling, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Coal Tit, Wren, Chaffinch, Siskin and Feral Pigeon. All those species are resident, occurring throughout the year. Being a warbler, one would normally expect to see the Blackcap only in summer but it has been noted in the past thirty years or so that more Blackcaps are over-wintering in the UK, perhaps because of milder winters (and lots of people with bird feeders in their garden). They have decided they would rather stay in Edinburgh than go back to Africa!



Birds which have visited my garden only a handful of times in 15 years are House Sparrow, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Tree Sparrow, Willow Warbler (summer) and Brambling (winter). All of these can be seen in Edinburgh in the appropriate season if you know where to go. The drastic reduction in House Sparrow numbers over the past twenty years is of great interest as they had earlier been virtually omnipresent throughout habited areas in the UK and they appear to be suffering from some sort of competition. This is surprising as they were thought to be extremely adaptable, perhaps the best example of this being the introduction of the House Sparrow to South America probably from ships at Buenos Aires from where they spread to the high Andes of Bolivia more than a thousand miles to the west and 11,000 feet altitude.

Other birds which I have seen in the Area 7 Woodland between Carnbee and Southfield House are Chiffchaff (summer), Collared Dove, Goldcrest, Pied Wagtail, Rook, Waxwing (winter), Fieldfare (winter) and Redwing (winter). The Chiffchaff has been a regular singer here at Carnbee this year and I do not remember hearing it much if at all in earlier years.

Birds seen flying over the estate are Herring Gull, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Oystercatcher, Lesser Black-backed Gull (summer), Swallow (summer), Swift (summer), Pink-footed Goose (winter). The birds of prey are very unusual. To see the flocks of Pink-footed Goose flying over Carnbee can be a magnificent spectacle. Arriving from the arctic in October, they stay in Scotland until March, moving between feeding areas and roosts at Aberlady, Gladhouse Reservoir and other places in the region.



Author Alan Graham
Photos John Pendlebury

AGM 2014 Agenda



- Welcome & Apologies
- Minutes of the last AGM (held 23 September 2013)
- Matters Arising from the Minutes
- Chairperson's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Committee Elections
- Owner Proposed Items for Discussion
(Only items submitted in writing by 10 September 2014, in accordance with Constitution)
- Closing Remarks

Committee and Contact Details

Who are the Committee Members ?

Where can I find the most up-to-date information relating to the COA ?

John Pendlebury (Chair)
Paul Valente (Deputy Chair)
Alan Graham (Treasurer)
Cath Crosbie (Secretary)
Eleanor Grieve (Ordinary member)

Elaine Reid (Ordinary member)
John Shepherd (Ordinary member)
Denise Siegal (Ordinary member)
John Whitcelo (Ordinary member)
Joe White (Ordinary member)

You can find us on the web at www.carnbee.org

How do I contact the COA ?



Carnbee Owners Association
c/o Spring Professional
Services
8 Orchardhead Loan
Edinburgh,
EH16 6HW



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