

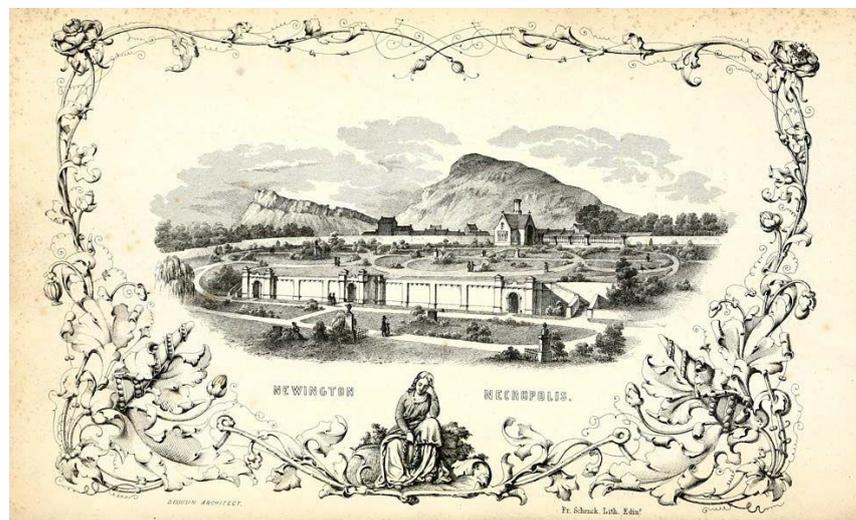
Vision for Newington Cemetery

Our long-term vision for Newington Cemetery is to see it returned to its former glory, with all the headstones and other masonry restored and in good order, and with well-maintained pathways. In addition, the cemetery would also have a substantial wild area, sustaining more (and more diverse) wildlife and plant life than it traditionally would. Information on important aspects of the cemetery, such as the profiles of interesting people buried there, would be available. All in all it would be an attractive welcoming public space in South Edinburgh for anyone to enjoy respectfully – and one where local people were important stakeholders.

In the medium term, we wish to make steady progress towards fulfilling this vision, in particular by clearing and improving a significant section of the cemetery and restoring as many of the headstones as proves possible financially. This area would include the catacombs and area round the war memorial. We also have shorter term plans such as facilitating another “Doors Open Day” and improving signage. Accordingly, we will develop prioritised action plans for this.

We are aware of possible changes to burial legislation and would modify the vision as appropriate if and when such changes take place.

The Vision and Action Plan will be reviewed each year.



Newington Cemetery in 1846

**Agreed by the Newington Cemetery Interest Group
of the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council
22nd April 2015**

PRIORITISED ACTION PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015

Our approach will be to work closely with stakeholders such as the lair owners, the Council, and local residents, so that all understand and support the project of restoring Newington Cemetery as a community resource while respecting the families of those buried there.

Objective	Progress
<p>Clearing overgrown areas: Phase One Priority is to use the monthly working party meetings to clear the overgrowth around the following clearly defined areas :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around John Howison’s headstone (i.e North end wall). • Around the catacombs and war graves. • The area between the West entrance and the catacombs. <p>Note: All clearance work is agreed with Mortonhall team in advance.</p>	<p>Significant sections on the North end cleared already.</p> <p><i>Outstanding actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaison with the Mortonhall team on the schedule of dates for the working parties to avoid conflict with the nesting season and/or Mortonhall priorities. 2. Chart the locations of flowering shrubs and bulbs this year to draw up a plan for planting bulbs and berry shrubs next year. 3. Where Mortonhall agree, consider obtaining tools such as strimmers, either outright or by borrowing from groups such as the Friends of the Pentlands .
<p>Restoring headstones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain use of Community Payback resources through Alan McKinney to restore at least a small number of headstones to make a start, gain publicity and raise our local profile. • Once this is done, assess opportunities to restore further headstones and estimate the costs. • If we cannot get CP resources then we will fund one restoration as a demonstration ourselves. 	<p><i>Outstanding actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Specific target on restoring headstones for 2015 is still under discussion. 2. Need to identify suitable graves (no lair owner known, right location, interesting design, etc). 3. Local MSPs & MPs to be asked to support CP involvement in small pilot scheme in Newington.

<p>Signage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority is to provide signage to identify the main pathways and points of interest (both graves and wildlife) and ensure sign is in place by Doors Open Day. 	<p><i>Outstanding actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liaise with Mortonhall over their signage. 2. Liaise with other local cemeteries over consistency of approach. 3. Get quotations etc for submission of funding proposal to next South Central Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on 8th June. 4. Get permission from GPCC to progress and submit this.
<p>Doors Open Day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be repeated on 26/27 September 2015 	<p><i>Outstanding actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission to be made by mid- June (or as requested by Cockburn Society). 2. Planning to be completed by July.
<p>Development of Website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website to provide the history of the cemetery, nature notes, and information on individual people buried there, updated as the Interest Group collects the information. 	<p><i>Outstanding actions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preliminary design to be agreed. 2. Content to be provided (initially history, biographies of interesting people, nature notes). 3. Ongoing funding to be agreed.
<p>Promotion and Media Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek ideas to raise our profile, thus help in gaining funding and new member recruitment. 	<p>To be considered when we have something to announce or celebrate such as the completion of cleared areas, restored headstones or newly planted areas.</p>
<p>Community Involvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with residents with property around the cemetery to explain what we are doing. • Invite visits from local schools, focusing on World War One . • Set up wild life projects for children and young people, e.g. putting up nesting boxes. • Invite local residents to visit on special open days, e.g. to the snowdrop display. • Have “special interest” tours, e.g. for partially sighted visitors. 	<p><i>These objectives will continue into coming years.</i></p> <p><i>2015 Objective:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop Information pack for schools. 2. Investigate installation of nesting boxes, depending on safety etc considerations.

PLANS FOR 2016 -2018

The following objectives are medium term (2 to 3 years) although they can be commenced earlier.

Objective
<p>Physical Environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish phase 1 and develop phase 2 of the clearing and planting exercise. 2. Place benches at strategic locations. 3. Identify each section of the Cemetery with the letters used by the Cemetery Identification system to make it easier for families and other visitors to find graves. 4. Install a water tap for visitors who bring flowers to their families' graves. 5. Plant bulbs and shrubs. 6. Investigate funding to restore the gravelled surface of the pathways and improve drainage to enable access for wheel chairs and (in wet weather) visitors without wellington boots
<p>Cataloguing the Graves:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Start cataloguing according to professions e.g. teachers, lawyers, ministers, soldiers, diplomats, merchants, trades, arts, etc. 2. Identify and map statuary and carvings of artistic note. If in need of repair, these stones should be initial targets for restoration. 3. Develop a glossary of grave stone symbols and their meanings: possibly in liaison with other local cemetery groups.
<p>Potential revenue streams</p> <p>Identify potential revenue streams from the cemetery for the benefit of the community.</p>
<p>Future Structure</p> <p>The group was created as a formal Interest Group which reports monthly to the Grange Prestonfield Community Council through its convener. Various options for the group's future are available, such as becoming a formally constituted independent group, with its own fund-raising capability, and a separate structure. Meanwhile the Interest Group will apply for any funding deemed appropriate, e.g. from the Neighbourhood Partnership, through the GPCC.</p>

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