

The Cramond Association

*Promoting the amenity of the community of Cramond,
Barnton and Cammo and safeguarding its heritage*

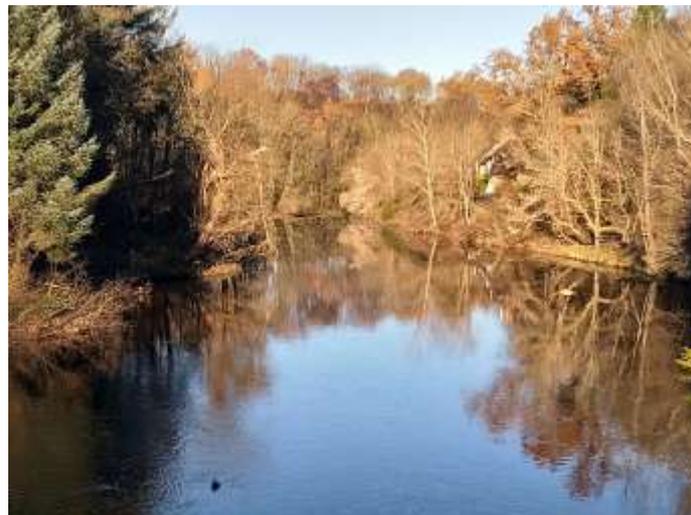


The Cramond Association Annual Report 2019-20

Introduction

The Cramond Association is a thriving community association, with about 600 subscribing households. It is dedicated to the preservation, sound development and improvement of Cramond, Barnton and Cammo and to safeguarding their heritage.

Cramond is a very attractive village on the outskirts of Edinburgh, located at the mouth of the River Almond, where it meets the Firth of Forth. The Association encourages residents in Cramond, Barnton and Cammo (the surrounding communities) to take an active interest in the local area so that they have more knowledge, pride and understanding about their very attractive environment. The Association also works to enable visitors to enjoy and appreciate the area's social, industrial and natural heritage.



Its activities include:

- Regular meetings with presentations on topics such as local interests, social topics and natural history.
- An active History Section with its own programme of talks.
- An events programme, including, Carols by Candlelight, and conservation projects, e.g. woodlands restoration and commenting on airport and planning activities.

- The adoption of a newly formed group, the Friends of Cramond Walled Garden to help develop new social facilities in the village.
- The adoption of the Friends of Cramond Campus to more effectively help support the campaign to have the promised sports facilities on the site of the Dunfermline College of Physical Education
- Working closely with other local organisations such as Friends of the River Almond Walkway (FRAW), Cramond and Barnton Community Council (CBCC) and Cramond Heritage Trust (CHT).
- As a registered charity we are now able to benefit from the advantages of that status and from the additional revenue brought in by Gift Aid.
- 2020 sees our 60th Anniversary and we intend to mark this with appropriate celebrations and events during the year.

The historic village of Cramond



During 2019-20 we worked with other organisations to maintain and enhance the special nature of Cramond by:

- Continuing to improve the woodland areas and paths around the Kirk
- Developing new community facilities.
- Opposing inappropriate planning developments as they arose including around the River Almond
- Working with others to support management of aircraft noise as part of the Noise Advisory Board and Airport Consultative Committee.
- Supporting the Cramond and Barnton Community Council (CBCC) in improving the quality of life for residents in the village, eg around traffic management and planning applications.
- We attempted to hold a social evening in November with a ceilidh, but lack of support led to its cancellation.



Access and enjoyment by all

The Association promotes access and enjoyment of Cramond by all, including members of the public, local residents, walkers, cyclists, families, community groups and picnickers as well as day visitors and tourists, sightseers and foreign visitors. We did this in 2019-20 through meetings, notice boards, electronic postings on Facebook and our website, and in our monthly newsletter by:

- Promoting the Cramond Heritage Trail, a waymarked trail around the village, river and shoreline. The Trail showcases and interprets key archaeological, historic and wildlife features, such as Cramond Tower and the Roman site.
- Working with the Cramond Heritage Trust and the CBCC over access to and maintenance of the harbour, eg parking and repair of walls
- Working with the Friends of the River Almond Walkway to debate the proposed changes to Dowie's Mill Weir and working with them to support the planned replacement on the Salvesen Steps with a path.



- Promoting activities of the Friends of Cammo.
- Promoting beach clean-ups and other shoreline projects arranged by other organisations
- Supporting the improvement of the Cramond Walled Garden, through support of the Friends organisation.

Orientation and interpretation

The Association, together with other local organisations in the Interpretation Group, has organised a number of ways for people to learn about the area by:

- Arranging for the installation of orientation boards and interpretation boards around the village.
- Examining novel ways of publicising Cramond through information technology and other options
- Attracting funding, eg from Edinburgh Airport and the local organisations for our activities
- Working in partnership with other organisations such as the Edinburgh Shoreline Project and EcoLarder through promotion of beach cleans.

Education

The CA continued its active engagement in 2019-20 in promoting education and learning about the area and the wider world through:

- Continuing to run its successful programme of monthly talks



- Promoting the History Section which has about 50 members and often many more people attending its monthly talks. It also runs an annual outing.

Maintaining and improving the quality of the environment

The CA continued in 2019-20 to:

- Work hard to improve the paths in the Kirk Woodlands with regular work parties
- Place increased emphasis on the Cramond Walled Garden
- Represent local residents in response to Edinburgh Airport's renewed consultation on flight path changes
- Work to reduce the noise level of the planes overflying Cramond through active participation in the Noise Advisory Board.
- Participation in the Edinburgh Airport Consultative Committee

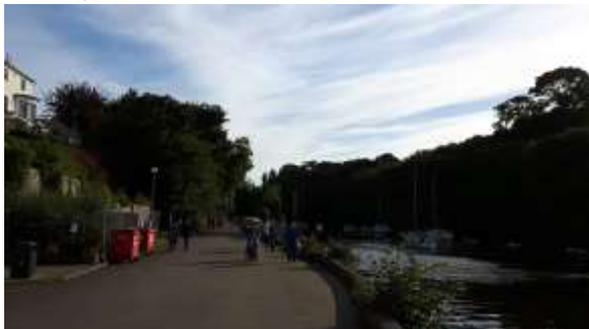


- Check all planning applications to the Council, focusing on the ones relevant to us, as well as liaising with the CBCC about proposed developments
- Oppose inappropriate developments in the Cramond Conservation Area such as proposed care homes in Cramond
- Actively supporting the development of the Friends of Cramond Campus, which is campaigning to ensure that sports facilities are provided on the former playing fields of the Campus, instead of being used for further housing.

Community Engagement

Through the CA's activities, local people should have more knowledge, pride and understanding of the area's social, industrial and natural heritage and can participate in activities to maintain and enhance the special nature of the area. Involving the community in 2019-20 was done through:

- The coordination of activities with other local organisations through the Cramond Collaborative
- Working to broaden the range of activities to encourage all-age involvement
- Representation on significant local organisations, such as the Cammo Management Committee
- Supporting links with other organisations such as Friends of the River Almond Walkway and Cramond Heritage Trust.
- The Association's e-newsletter (monthly, circulation of 550 households) and regular articles in Cramond Kirk's *Grapevine* (quarterly; 3,500 households)
- The CA's website, the two CA notice boards and the CA Facebook page
- Giving financial support to local organisations and events, as agreed by the CA Committee.
- Publicising to our members the work of the various groups engaged in working in our community.
- We attempted to arrange a ceilidh but it lacked support. We will continue to discuss possible events/



Built Features

While the CA does not have direct responsibilities for any built features, it continued in 2019-20 to:

- Support FRAW in its work on maintaining and improving the River Almond Walkway and the replacement of the Salvesen Steps
- Monitor the RAFTS RiverLife Project to ensure the visual attractions of the mill buildings, ruins and weirs at Dowie's Mill, Cramond Brig, and Fair-a-Far are maintained and lobbying with others for a proper enhancement to the weirs.
- Support the CHT in its work in the Maltings Exhibition Centre.



Long term plans

We aim to continue the activities described for 2019-20.

We aim to continue to seek ways to broaden our range of activities to support the community in Cramond. These will include seeking broader involvement from all ages etc.

In 2019-20 the Association continued to work with representatives of local organisations to implement the City Plan for Cramond which sets out how the area can be improved in new and inspiring ways and this will continue.

The Association plans to continue working to maintain and improve the special quality of our environment in 2020-21 through supporting the Community Council on planning, and through supporting proper and active discussion of new Flight Change Proposals for the airport

Acknowledgements and thanks

We need to thank Cramond Kirk and David Haggarty, the hall manager for his and his teams support for our activities. That support is much appreciated.

The committee wishes to thank many people who have supported the work this year. In particular we must thank Gena Wylie, who is standing down as Treasurer. Gena supported by Tom have managed our finances with skill and dedication. This has included the changes caused by GDPR and gaining charitable status as well as modernising the approach and records! We are all grateful for all she has done.

We must also thank Jennifer Shearer and Lois Brydon who are retiring. Jennifer led the planning of the successful Roman Day and other events, and Lois has been a stalwart support to both the Committee over many years as well as to the History Section.

We also need to thank Lesley Cumming for her editing of our Newsletter.

We must thank Margaret Wilson of Links Design for the management and support of our website. Her willingness to respond quacking and efficiently to changes and to news has helped maintain our electronic presence!



The Cramond Association Committee

27 February 2020