

Introduction

Craigmillar and Niddrie have a rich history to share. Sometimes that history has been a history of hardship and survival, but it's also been a history of creativity and hope. This is nowhere better expressed than in the work of Craigmillar Festival Society (1962-2002).

Taking our inspiration from Craigmillar Festival Society, but attentive to the environmental challenges of today, this is an invitation to walk in the footsteps of time; to celebrate the people of Craigmillar and Niddrie and to ask ourselves the following three questions: Where do we come from? Who are we? Where are we going?

While designed as a day's walk – starting and finishing at Bridgend Farmhouse – each walk and each event can be attended as a one-off activity. Participants are free to come and go throughout the day or to walk in the footsteps of time all day. (If walking all day, please bring sufficient food and water to sustain yourself). The Parade is the main family event. We encourage everyone in Greater Craigmillar to join us for the Parade. More details about each walk and related events can be found below.



WALK 1 Parade (11-11.50am – with face painting and costume making from 10.15am)

Join us at Bridgend Farmhouse for the Craigmillar and Niddrie Festival launch Parade. The Parade starts at 11am and will process through Craigmillar Castle Park, following a route down Craigmillar Castle Gardens, before joining Niddrie Mains Road to arrive at Craigmillar Library at approximately 11.50am. (The route is fully wheelchair accessible).

The theme of this year's Parade has been inspired by the subtitle of the 2010 *Craigmillar Arts, Culture and Heritage Trail* booklet: *In the Footsteps of Time*. We suggest that people taking part in the Parade use local Craigmillar and Niddrie history as a starting point to inspire costumes and props. Greater Craigmillar has a rich working history, both agricultural and industrial, including industries such as coal mining, brewing, and brick making, alongside the history associated with Craigmillar Castle itself. Come dressed to represent a trade or occupation, or arrive early (from 10.15am) for face painting and costume making inspired by the Niddrie Standing Stone and the Forager's Forest (see below).

Opening Event outside Craigmillar Library (12-12.30pm)

Join us for this year's Festival Opening Event, with short talks and cultural offerings by members of the community and community representatives.



Walking in the Footsteps of Time Parade and Circular Walk SATURDAY 1ST JULY

WALK 2 Hope's Walk (12.30-1pm)

From Craigmillar Library to Niddrie Standing Stone. This walk is an opportunity to share with others our concerns and hopes for the future we all share. The walk serves the practical purpose of guiding participants from Craigmillar Library to the site of the Niddrie Standing Stone. It also acts as an introduction to themes explored for the remainder of the day.

Niddrie Standing Stone and Natural Weaving Activity (1pm-2pm – with time for lunch)

Following work undertaken in collaboration with Edinburgh City Council, this event introduces the Niddrie Standing Stone and launches a community engagement project called Custodians of the Stone. The launch will be followed by a simple, all age, weaving activity, making foraging baskets from materials found near the standing stone. Weaving with natural materials connects us with the activities of the past and with the plants that grow around us. Baskets can be used on the next stage of the walk or taken home. (Note: weaving will take place in the grounds of Wauchope Cemetery, adjacent to the Niddrie Standing Stone). For more information about the Custodians of the Stone project contact jb4change@gmail.com or see CraigmillarCAN Facebook.

WALK 3 Forager's Walk (2-3pm)

Led by herbalists from Herbal Scotland and hosted by Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT), we will walk in the footsteps of our most ancient ancestors; the hunter gatherers who first made Scotland their home around 14,000 years ago; walking from the Niddrie Standing Stone through Little France Park to the site of the new Forager's Forest.

The emerging Forager's Forest will be a blend of the old and the new. It will encompass those vital heritage species that people have relied on for food, fibre and timber for thousands of years. However, climate change brings many challenges to us and also to the plants and animals that share the land with us. Many species are migrating and changing their habits to adapt. We will be exploring which new species are arriving, how we can support a rich ecosystem and offer habitat for these species, whilst also exploring what opportunities this offers in foraging. The Little France Forager's Forest is being developed by ELGT as part of their Craigmillar Woodland Engagement Project. ELGT will be holding a series of events to plan, plant and learn within Little France Forager's Forest, which we hope you will join. For more information contact elly@elgt.org or see Craigmillar Castle Park Facebook.

WALK 4 Deep Time Geology Walk (3-4pm)

From Little France Forager's Forest there are spectacular views of Arthur's Seat, standing proudly on the Edinburgh skyline. The form of the hill reflects the dynamic geological history that shaped the city, including ancient volcanic eruptions, tropical swamps and seas, and large glacial ice streams. Taking inspiration from Arthur's Seat and recalling the pre-history of the Niddrie Standing Stone, Alistair McGowan (geologist, palaeontologist and natural historian) will describe some of the key features of this geological history in Little France Park and Craigmillar Castle Park. We will also consider how this geological history might inform our understanding of today's changing climate.

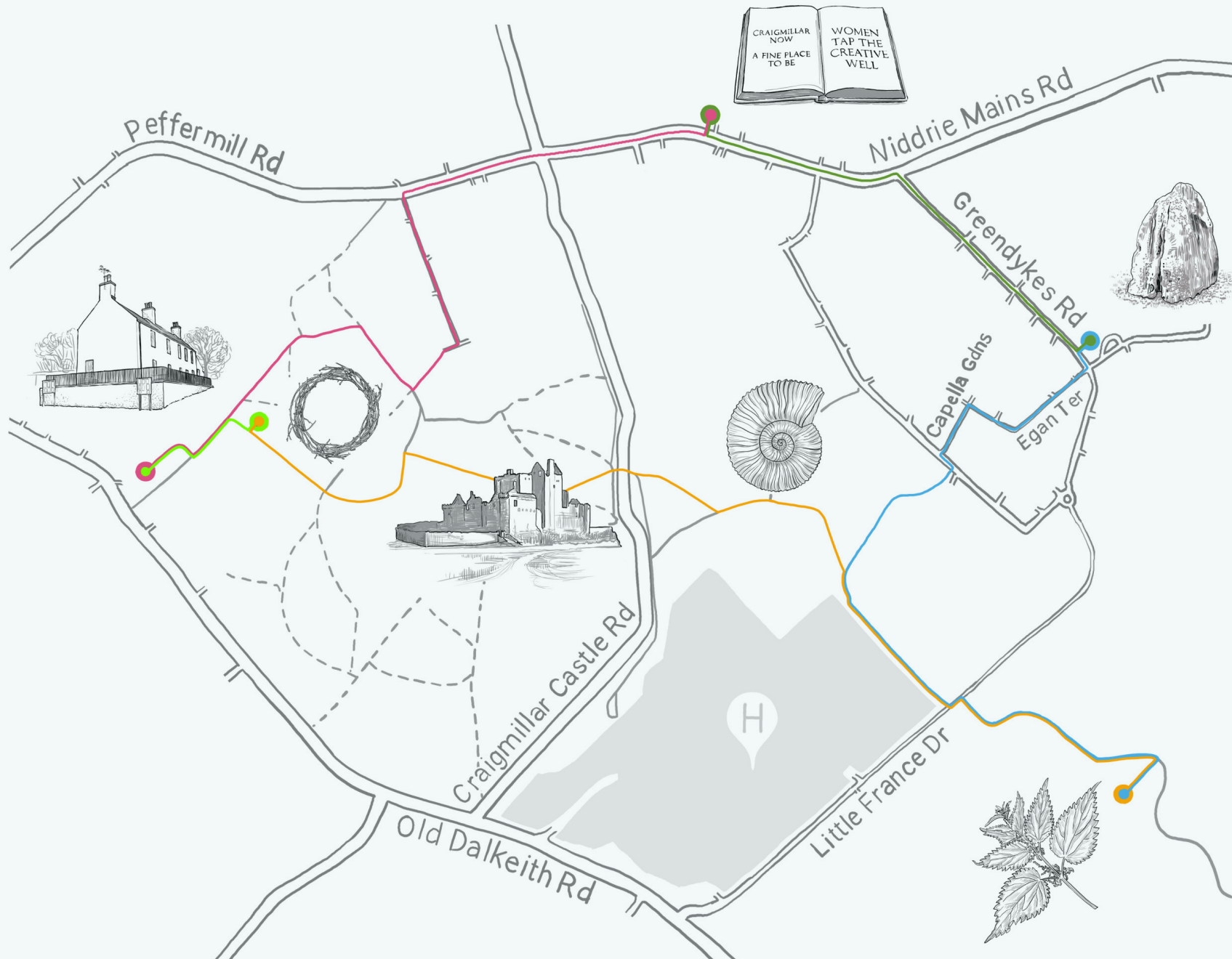
Meeting in Mutual – woodland installation (4-4.30pm; otherwise open from 11am)

Located in a corner of Craigmillar Woods, artists from Mutual Studio will create a temporary site-specific installation, weaving together members' practises with the history of Craigmillar woods, using found materials to create a surreal resting place as we approach the conclusion of our walk.

WALK 5 Full Circle (4.30-5.30pm)

Following a short walk from the Meeting in Mutual site-specific installation back to Bridgend Farmhouse, participants will have the opportunity to reflect on the day's themes by creating a temporary, collaborative artwork. (Participants are also encouraged to take part in Bridgend Farmhouse's evening programme. For more information see Bridgend Farmhouse Facebook).





KEY

WALK 1

Parade (11-11.50am)
From Bridgend Farmhouse
to Craigmillar Library

Opening Event outside Craigmillar
Library (12-12.30pm)

WALK 2

Hope's Walk (12.30-1pm)
From Craigmillar Library
to Niddrie Standing Stone

Custodians of the Stone
and Natural Weaving
(1-2pm - with time for lunch)

WALK 3

Forager's Walk (2-3pm)
From Niddrie Standing Stone
to Forager's Forest,
Little France Park

WALK 4

Deep Time Geology Walk (3-4pm)
From Forager's Forest,
Little France Park,
to Meeting in Mutual
woodland installation

WALK 5

Full Circle (4.30-5.30pm)
From Meeting in Mutual
to Bridgend Farmhouse,
followed by a reflection
on the day's themes

A collaboration between Art Walk Projects, Bridgend Farmhouse, Creative Action Network, Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust, and Mutual Studio - part of Craigmillar and Niddrie Festival 2023.



MUTUAL

Facebook: @ArtWalkPorty
@BridgendFarmhouse
@CraigmillarCAN
@CraigmillarCastlePark
@CraigmillarFest
@Mutual.Cooperative