

The Dr Mary Noble Award



Dr Mary Noble
(1911 -2002)

Her Life, Achievements and Interests

The Dr Mary Noble Award

- Dr Noble was a well known and highly respected resident of Bonnyrigg
- She lived in Golf Course Road opposite the Clubhouse



- As you will hear throughout her time in Bonnyrigg she contributed widely to the activities of the local community

The Dr Mary Noble Award

- Dr Noble bequeathed a sum of money in her will to promote local history interests in Lasswade and Bonnyrigg
- The fund to be administered by the Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Local History Society who is hosting you this evening.
- It was decided to use the money to support projects in local history in the local Primary Schools
- A Cup and Cheque will annually be presented to the winning school



Dr Noble's Childhood

- Born in 1911
- Her father was a botanist and became the local pharmacist in Leith for over fifty years
- She was brought up watching her father preparing cures using potions, pills and ointments as prescribed by the local doctors



School and University

- She went to School at Edinburgh Ladies College in Queen Street in Edinburgh now Mary Erskine's School
- Her interest in science and botany was encouraged by her father
- Her first science lab is shown in this picture
- She studied hard and gained entrance to the University of Edinburgh to study Botany



Edinburgh University and Royal Botanics

- Mary graduated with an Honours degree in Botany from Edinburgh University
- She was then invited to undertake study for a PhD and produced an outstanding thesis on the effects of fungi on the health of seeds
- Her discoveries continued through working at the Royal Botanic Garden to improve crop production all over the world
- One assignment which was particular significance was improving flax production during the Second World War to create high quality linen to cover fighter aircraft



Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

- In 1958 because of the high quality and importance of her research she was elected to be a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh
- This is the Scotland's National Academy of Science & Letters
- She had researched into plant diseases and fungi (mycology) to understand the health of seeds
- She collected many other honours for her scientific work



Golf

- Having played golf with her father at Broomieknowe Golf Course in Bonnyrigg and became an enthusiastic golfer.
- She moved to live in Bonnyrigg very close to the Golf Club
- She became the ladies captain and because of her contribution to the Club the 6th hole is named Mary's Dyke.



Beatrix Potter



- I am sure you will know of the Tales of Beatrix Potter - Peter Rabbit, Jemima Puddle Duck,
- Dr Noble through a mutual friend Charles McIntosh from Dunkeld found that Beatrix Potter, had been very interested in mycology
- Mary became very interested in the life and works of Beatrix Potter and promoted her scientific and farming knowledge to a world wide audience.
- It is generally acknowledged that Beatrix Potter's reputation was greatly enhanced as a result of this patronage
- Unfortunately, Mary never met Beatrix who died in 1943



Local Historian

- Dr Noble had an enquiring mind and living in Bonnyrigg became very interested in local history.
- She was interested in and an authority on Memorials and Stones in the district
- She was particularly interested in the Burial Ground at Lasswade
- She was a founder member of the Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Local History Society

