



# The Grange Association

Covering the Grange Conservation Area

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1987

## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MP

**Mr Nigel Griffiths MP**

**Constituency Office, 93 Causewayside, Edinburgh  
662 - 4520**

**House of Commons, London  
01 - 219 - 2442**

Mr Griffiths is available for consultation by appointment, or at Constituency Advice Sessions held regularly on every third Saturday in the month as follows:

9.00 a.m.      Burdiehouse Community Centre, Burdiehouse Street

10.15 a.m.    Liberton High School, Gilmerton Road

11.30 a.m.    James Gillespie's High School, Lauderdale Street

No appointment is necessary for the 'surgeries'.

The Constituency Office is open all weekdays during normal office hours and will also be pleased to help with any queries.

## PARKING

There has been a good response from residents in Seton Place, Cumin Place and Dick Place (East) about the experimental white lines. The feeling is that the experiment has been successful on the whole, but some detailed improvements should be made. The Association has submitted a report to the Lothian Region Department of Highways. We have also recommended extending the scheme to other streets where parking causes problems to residents: Tantallon Place, Hatton Place, Palmerston Road, Chalmers Crescent, Lauder Road (North), Dalrymple Crescent, St. Alban's Road (East), Grange Loan (East), Fountainhall Road (East) and Mansionhouse Road (North).

## 'ENHANCEMENT SCHEME'

The Association is continuing to develop proposals for a systematic 'scheme' to enhance the Grange — from the protection of residents from increasing traffic, to the planting of new forest trees; from the control of parking, to the restoration of iron railings; from the 'listing' of many additional houses in the area, to the re-design of street surfaces. An important stage in this development is about to take place: between the 2nd and 14th November there will be an exhibition at Newington Library, Fountainhall Road, illustrating the main features of our proposals. If our proposals are eventually implemented, most streets will be affected. So please come and consider some of the results of our extensive investigations and consultations. While this exhibition is open, the AGM will offer all residents the opportunity to make comments or ask questions. After the AGM we will be gathering all our findings into a detailed Report for the consideration of funding institutions and appropriate political and administrative committees.

*"I would urge all residents to spare a moment to look at the exhibition and to make your views known to your Committee, preferably at the AGM where there will be an opportunity for a full discussion of the whole project." (Chairman)*

## PAVEMENTS

There is a plan eventually to re-lay all the pavements throughout the Grange (and in some cases lay them for the first time). The chosen materials are concrete kerb stones and asphalt surface enlivened by coloured chippings. Whether you get red or white chippings is a matter of chance. Apparently, and perhaps fortunately, this is the present limit of the pavement engineer's pallet. The Association Committee has made strong representations in favour of paving stones, but are advised that these cannot be afforded and are exclusively reserved for commercial areas.

Residents are reminded to spare a thought for the many elderly, blind or partially sighted people who need to get about the Grange without having their persons interfered with by overhanging branches. Intrusive foliage should be trimmed back. Any intention to prune substantial tree branches must be notified in advance to the Department of Planning 225 - 2424 (ext. 6571).

As was observed in the *Newsletter* of Autumn 1980: "... half the residents in the Grange suffer dogs gladly, and the others suffer...". Pavements fouled by dogs are certainly unpleasant and unhealthy. Owners of dogs are therefore all enjoined to be considerate, to encourage their pets to use their own gardens, and to prevent them as far as possible from fouling pavements, particularly around gateways which may be frequented by little children. Owners are also greatly encouraged to avoid walking their pets through Lovers' Loan which, sadly, though one of the features and amenities of the Grange, is often rendered impassable by all except the exponent of the hop, skip and jump.

## PLANNING

There has been an increase in the number of Planning Applications over recent months.

**Mortonhall Road Allotments** — an application for a large scale flatted development was refused permission last year after objections from the Association and many

local residents. A revised proposal for 10 individual houses was submitted this summer. This proposal retained some of the area of allotments. The Association again commented in detail. Many local residents objected to the loss of open space and the reduction in the area available for allotments. The application is due to go before the Planning Committee in the near future.

**Mortonhall Road/South Oswald Road** — a separate application for yet another high density flatted development was submitted recently. The site is beside the 'A' listed houses in the Mortonhall Road *cul-de-sac*. The Association has objected to the proposals on the grounds that such high density schemes are out of character with the area; that the increase in traffic and parking would have an adverse effect on the environment; and that valuable trees and landscape would be lost.

**36 Mansionhouse Road/Dick Place** — The Association objected to plans to build a house in the rear garden, fronting onto Dick Place. The application has been turned down by the Planning Sub-Committee.

The Grange Association does not automatically object to any proposals for development within the area. However, it is aware that developments such as 'infill housing' in gardens or large scale flatted developments can seriously affect the character of the area. The Association will continue to urge the Planning Department to restrict the density of new developments, to ensure that the design and materials used are suitable and that mature trees, stone walls and other features are maintained.

The Association also looks at many other minor Planning Applications and is heartened to see that residents are increasingly aware of the need for approval for many types of alterations.

## RECENT EVENT

The Association is most grateful to Mr and Mrs A. Campbell, Dr and Mrs A. Law and Mr and Mrs D. Macaulay not only for allowing such a large number of people to visit their beautiful gardens on 20th June, but also for dealing so patiently and helpfully with such a great number of questions! So many favourable comments confirmed how much these visits provided inspiration to both jaded and would-be gardeners.

## PROGRAMME OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Scottish Society and Architecture of the 1930s:** Charles McKean, FSA, FRSA, Secretary of the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, will give an illustrated talk on Tuesday 29th September at 7.30 p.m. in the Church of the German Speaking Congregation (1 Chalmers Crescent). This event is being held jointly with the Blacket Conservation Association. Wine and coffee will be available. Admission £1.00 for both members and non-members.

**Autumn Plant Sale — Bring and Buy:** Propagating, dividing, thinning out? Bring along some of your surplus plants and buy from a wide range of attractive varieties at very reasonable prices. Carlton Cricket Club, Saturday 3rd October, 10.30 a.m. Admission free.

**'Enhancement Scheme' Exhibition:** This important exhibition illustrates the main features of the proposed 'enhancement scheme' for the Grange. 2nd to 14th November, Newington Library, Fountainhall Road. Admission free.

**Annual General Meeting:** This year's AGM will feature a short talk and video presentation on 'Neighbourhood Watch' schemes by Chief Inspector A. Naylor of Mayfield Police Station. Regrettably the ancient profession of house-breaking is much practised in the Grange, but its practitioners not much prosecuted. Successful 'Neighbourhood Watch' schemes offer potentially tremendous benefits – from better protection to reduced insurance premiums – but they do depend upon residents' interest and commitment. Are you interested? Do come and find out more about the schemes.

The meeting will offer the opportunity for further discussion about the developing 'Enhancement Scheme' as exhibited at Newington Library. Please come and put any questions or comments you may have.

Three members of the Committee must retire this year. The remaining members are eligible for re-election and willing to serve. Nominations for the Committee with the names of the proposer and seconder and signed by the nominee should be with the Secretary by Monday 2nd November.

The Meeting will begin at 7.30 p.m. in Mayfield Church Lower Hall on Monday 9th November. Admission by membership card. Subscriptions may be renewed in the Hall from 6.45 p.m. Membership remains at £1.00 (50p for OAPs).

**Musical Evening:** A popular annual event featuring a variety of local musical talents to bring cheer to the dark days of December. Thursday 3rd December, the Church of the German Speaking Congregation (1 Chalmers Crescent). Refreshments will be available during the interval. Admission £1.00 for both members and non-members.

**Arts and Crafts Exhibition, Bring and Buy Sale:** An excellent opportunity to show one or two of your latest creations: drawings, paintings, photographs, pots, knittings, rug hookings, stained glass windows, Venuses de Milo etc. At the same time there will be a 'bring and buy' sale for bakings and preserves, books and portable household objects. There will be coffee and biscuits. Please contact any Committee member in good time if you would like to contribute either to the exhibition or to the 'bring and buy'. The provisional date is Saturday 13th February, 10.00 a.m.; at Mayfield Church Lower Hall. Admission 50p for both members and non-members.

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**To: Mr R. Cavaghan, 19 Tantallon Place, Edinburgh 9.**

I/we wish to join/rejoin the Grange Association and enclose a remittance of £.....  
(Membership is £1.00; OAPs 50p)

Name: .....

Address: .....