



The Grange Association

Covering the Grange Conservation Area

SUMMER BULLETIN 1990

GREAT NEWS FOR THE GRANGE

Residents will remember The Grange Public Participation Exhibition in 1981, which preceded the designation of The Grange as a conservation area. This exhibition was, in May of this year, shown in Salonika, Greece, under the aegis of the British Council and Edinburgh University, as part of an international Conservation Exhibition. Our Chairman, Mrs Leonard, who has so tirelessly used her fine professional skills in the cause of conservation, both in The Grange and at the Patrick Geddes Centre for Planning Studies, supervised this part of the exhibition in Greece, and considers that the project has been extremely satisfactory. Far away from Edinburgh, The Grange has been noted as an important example of urban conservation, with good public participation.

WALLS, TREES, ETC

One of the most distinctive features of The Grange is the number of **stone boundary walls of the villa gardens** and elsewhere. Residents should realise that their normal house (buildings) insurance policies may not cover damage to garden walls. It is worth while to check one's policy and, if need be, special arrangements can be made to obviate the possibility of somewhat costly repairs. General maintenance (repointing etc.) is desirable, but the stone should *not* be cemented over.

Damage to walls by vehicles in accidents is always, and by falling **trees** usually, covered, though one committee member facetiously suggested that any storm-uprooted trees should have been organised to fall on the nearest house as in that case the insurance company would certainly pay! The anti-tree lobby will no doubt assert (as we have sometimes heard) that big trees have no place in town gardens; whereas the attitude of The Grange Association has always been that such trees are an essential part of the character of the area, and that they contribute to the welfare of the whole City aesthetically by their appearance, and practically by their function in absorbing both atmospheric and noise pollution. But, like all plants, trees should be properly maintained; consultation with an accredited tree-surgeon (names available from the Landscape Section of the Planning Department) can be reassuring and helpful. Uncontrolled or inexperienced lopping (even by some – so-called – professionals) has disastrous results; and remember that, in our area, all work on large trees must be referred to the Planning Department six weeks before the operation. Unfortunately, as far as we have been able to find out, it is not possible to insure the trees themselves, though damage by them to property may be covered.

Last summer, committee members received several complaints about **bushes and hedges, creepers and tree-branches protruding over pavements** below a height of eight feet – a tall man using an umbrella. By the spring, most of these appeared to have been cut back, so that the elderly, the infirm and anyone walking on dark nights might have an easy passage along The Grange streets.

Another regular subject of complaint is **dog-dirt**. We must note that, in The Grange, most dog-owners are scrupulously careful and no doubt always take their (regulatory!) small shovel

and plastic bag, etc. when dog-walking. It is a pity that one or two aberrant owners spoil the reputation of the considerate majority and of the animals, and also effectually spoil the ground "where angels fear to tread".

NEW LAMP-POSTS IN THE GRANGE

The Committee is monitoring the new street-lighting arrangements, and has been in touch with the Planning Department and Regional Councillor Mrs. MacLaren. Residents who may be concerned about the repositioning of lamp-posts (which are considerably taller than the old ones and of a different shape) should personally write directly to the Lighting Section of the Highways Department, King Stables Road, Edinburgh. In general, the illumination should be brighter.

OTHER POINTS

PROTEST? It is expected, at the time of writing, that weekly trains carrying flasks of nuclear waste will shortly be running on the South Side Suburban Railway. Anyone who is concerned about this matter, which is a complicated one, should write personally to our M.P., to local councillors and to British Rail.

BACK NUMBERS OF NEWSLETTERS Mrs Cantley is making complete sets of *The Grange Association Newsletter*, first published in 1974. She would be glad to receive spare back numbers, particularly old ones (59 Fountainhall Road; 667-8074). It is proposed to bind at least two sets, and give one to Newington Library; the National Library and the Edinburgh Room of the Central Library also receive loose copies.

PLANNING

15-17 Hatton Place: The appeal to the Secretary of State against refusal of permission to build laboratories in the back garden has been dismissed.

3 Sciennes Gardens: An extension to an existing extension in the garden of this semi-detached villa has been approved.

32 Findhorn Place: The Grange Association has objected to the proposed erection of a dwelling-house at the side of the existing property.

The Association hopes that the recently announced "Policy for Villa Areas" will not be contravened.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 24th OCTOBER, 1990. An illustrated talk by Mr John Bartholomew on **Old Maps of South Edinburgh.**

MONDAY, 19th NOVEMBER, 1990. Proposed date of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of The Grange Association.

Further details in the Autumn *Newsletter*.

