



The Grange Association

Covering The Grange Conservation Area

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1990

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of The Grange Association will be held on **TUESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER 1990** (note change of date) in St Catherine's-Argyle Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. After the Business Meeting, there will be a talk by Mr Andrew Kerr on "A Look at Title-Deeds; Find Out the History of Your House". Subscriptions will be taken after the meeting when tea and coffee will be available.

Subscriptions: £2; concession rate £1; the Committee is prepared to accept a five-year subscription of £10, concession rate £5. The annual subscription will remain, but the option of a five-year one may, it is hoped, appeal to long-term residents, and cut down administration.

1989-1990 IN THE GRANGE

The past year has seen The Grange Association prosper. The number of paid-up members has increased to 580; the Committee is most grateful for this support, and hopes that it will continue.

We reported in our last issue that in May 1990, our Chairman, Mrs Leonard, supervised the presentation of The Grange Public Participation Exhibition in Salonika, Greece. This contribution to an international conservation event was preceded by some publicity, for The Grange, in this country during the *Civilising the City* Conference here in Edinburgh at the end of March 1990. Planning officers from all over the U.K. included a guided tour of The Grange in their study of the Edinburgh scene, and showed a deep interest in our conservation aims, efforts, successes and problems. The introduction, in 1989, of the Policy for Development in Villa Areas has enhanced the efforts made by our Association over the years, though there is still much work to be done.

The Committee has continued its routine monitoring of every planning application for property in The Grange. It is also involved in discussions about the design and siting of the new lamp-posts (some have already been erected in West Grange), a question which indirectly has an influence on the Traffic-Calming Scheme, which continues to demand attention, and in which the Committee is co-operating with the Highways Department. The Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, established under the aegis of the Police, has been extended; we should like to set up a "Maintenance Watch" for The Grange houses, as indicated by the Chairman in her report last year; so far we have been able to compile a "friendly" (no guarantees) list of tradesmen, which information is available to residents.

More trees have been planted in the Cemetery so enhancing our "green" environment. The Association sponsored a cricket match (East League Division 1 v. Kirkcaldy) at the Carlton Club Cricket Ground. We should like to remind residents of the existence of the Club, which is based at its Ground in a delightfully rural setting in Grange Loan, and which is anxious to have more local support. The

Membership Secretary, for both playing and non-playing members, is Mr T. J. C. Dennis, Tel. 667 5818.

We had three very successful **Social Meetings** last spring. In March, we went to Murchison House, the University Department of Geology, to hear a most informative lecture by Mr Stewart Munro on *Geology and the Edinburgh Environment*. This was a scholarly presentation, complete with rock-specimens, which stimulated much interest and was followed by pleasant informal chatting over coffee, mostly on the given subject. In April, Dr Marchbanks received us at the National Library in Causewayside, where Phase I has been completed, but the final phase, of a large new wing, is now about to be constructed, extending southwards down Causewayside. We learned about the function of the Library and the work done in it, and were shown the extent of the future development. Both these evening outings were well attended, and we are extremely grateful to our hosts and their staff for giving us all so much pleasure, and for their interest and hospitality.

For our May meeting venue, we were once again indebted to Dr and Mrs Lyddon for making available their drawing-room in Grange Park House — a most suitable setting for the illustrated lecture on *Grange House and the Dick-Lauders* by Mr Ian Gow of the National Monuments of Scotland. Though Grange House vanished in 1936, its history continues to fascinate residents of The Grange, and Mr Gow convincingly re-created the auld hoose with its Victorian (Playfair) additions and embellishments, to the delight of a large enthusiastic audience. The unexpected size of this audience in a private house resulted in one or two people being turned away at the door; the Committee deeply regrets this and desires to offer sincere and embarrassed apologies to everyone concerned. To make amends, we might have another evening devoted to understanding the history of our surroundings; if you have any recollections or other ideas on this subject, please get in touch with a committee member.

PROPOSED NEW LISTING OF BUILDINGS IN THE GRANGE

The Historic Buildings Council has now begun in-depth research on buildings in The Grange. This is being based on an inventory of those buildings, considered to have special historic and architectural merit, which was compiled by Mrs Leonard and Mr Anthony Dixon, and is recorded in an unpublished book containing descriptions and photographs of over one hundred buildings. The basis of this inventory may be studied in Chapter 8, pages 65-67, of the Report, *The Grange: A Case for Conservation*. It is to be expected that some residents in houses of special distinction may be approached this winter by investigators from the Historic Buildings Council, who will no doubt first contact the owners if they want to discuss any points of particular interest.

PAVEMENTS, LIGHTING, TRANSPORT, ETC.

Councillor Maclaren has informed us that:

(1) Our **pavements** have been, or are being, repaired by the various public utility companies to replace temporary surfaces where underground work has been carried out. The companies are supposed to put the pavements back into shape within six months, but this time-limit is frequently exceeded. Councillor Maclaren is pressing for prompt action. (2) Double yellow lines will be painted at the **Grange Road/St Catherine's Place junction**. This has now been done. **The Grange Road/Findhorn Place junction** has also received attention.

The Committee is considering the costs of alternative designs of **lamp-standards** suitable for a conservation area. Special attention, with consultation amongst residents, could be given in the case of certain streets.

Following a campaign by local residents and councillors, the **18A bus route** is being restored with a Lothian Region subsidy.

Reminder: Satellite Dishes (Microwave Antennae) (See *Newsletters*, Summer and Autumn, 1989, and Planning Department Leaflet.) These are best located in gardens in situations where they do not obtrude on the views from windows of neighbouring houses. Planning permission is essential, but there is no fee involved.

Reminder: Branches, bushes, creepers, hedges (See *Summer Bulletin*, 1990.) If these stick out over pavements below head-height, and especially at eye-height, they are a hazard for pedestrians. Massive protruding hedges restrict pavement-room for prams and wheel-chairs.

Since our last issue we have learned that South Edinburgh has an **Environmental Dog Warden**, Mrs Ann Shearer, Tel. 225 2424 Ext. 5719.

THE COMMITTEE

There will be one vacancy at the end of 1990. Nominations of prospective new members should be sent, as soon as possible, to the Secretary, Mrs Ryle, 33 Mansionhouse Road, for proposal and seconding at the A.G.M. Mr Rodger Deans, a retired lawyer and former Solicitor to the Secretary of State, has been co-opted on to the Committee which will be glad to be able to draw on his expertise. Mrs Sheila Reid, about whose husband we write below, is being co-opted in place of Mrs Maria Forbes who is resigning.

OBITUARY

The Committee has suffered a most unhappy loss with the sudden and untimely death of Mr Archie Reid on 10th August 1990. He was a founder member of the Association who was first elected to the Committee in 1977, becoming Vice-Chairman a year later, from which time he assisted three Chairmen: Dr Hale, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Miller, until 1983. He re-joined the Committee at the end of 1988, and this present group mourns the loss of such an invaluable member with his quiet calming presence, his experience and ability in anticipating and solving all kinds of problems and his great concern for the welfare of The Grange.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

31 Grange Loan: The Secretary of State has upheld the appeal of the developers; permission has been granted to build a much reduced development.

19 Blackford Road: An application has been submitted for an extension to the existing house. The Grange Association has objected because of various irregularities in the normal process of application, which should involve consultation with neighbours, and because plans for the proposed extension appear to constitute a new dwelling-house.

36 Manshionhouse Road: An application has been submitted for a large conservatory, in Victorian style, and an adjoining swimming-pool with a traditional slated pitched roof.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 24th OCTOBER, 1990, at Grange Park, 38 Dick Place, at 7.30 p.m. An illustrated talk by Mr John Bartholomew on *Old Maps of South Edinburgh*.

NOTE: numbers are restricted to 65; doors open at 7.15 p.m.

TUESDAY, 27th NOVEMBER, 1990. The Annual General Meeting as noted at the beginning of this newsletter.

