



The Grange Association

covering the Grange Conservation Area

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 58

SPRING 1995

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 9 April: One day course "Painting on Silk" — Morningside Arts Association.
Contact: (0131) 447 7809.

Saturday 27 May: Afternoon walk. A guided tour round part of the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital preceded by visits to two nearby gardens.

NOTES FROM THE AGM, 15 FEBRUARY 1995

In the chairman's review of the year he mentioned:

- the exhibition, held early in the year in Newington Library, dealing with 10 years of conservation in the Grange as well as with the up-do-date proposals for traffic calming in Kilgraston Road and Grange Loan;
- the results of the survey in 1993 were published in **Newsletter** No. 57, Autumn 1994, all due to the efforts of Mr Donald J R MacRae;
- the action taken, after full consultation with all concerned, to bring the Astley Ainslie Hospital estate into the Association's area, thus fulfilling the wishes of the 1993 AGM;
- the alterations to the constitution, made at the Special General Meeting on 2 November 1994, to make our Financial Year coincident with the calendar year, and to place the AGM in February or March;
- Historic Scotland's recommendation that the Astley Ainslie Hospital should be transferred to the Grange Conservation Area which, if implemented, would lead to outstanding conservation area status (see *Central Edinburgh Local Plan Written Statement* approved for public debate, September 1994: Appendix D6 with map);
- that the Grange Garden Group, which had been in existence for 12 years, and which had been very active with talks, visits and meetings in members' homes, now found that committee members, and particularly a secretary, were hard to come by, and so the group wished to merge with The Grange Association — all gardening meetings would be open to all members of the Association and would be serviced by the Association's administrative arrangements with, for example, notices of events in the **Newsletter** and posters, (and it being proposed to the AGM that the merger be approved and that Mrs Jean Duff should be co-opted to the committee to represent the appropriate interests, the AGM so decided);
- that Mr Donald MacRae had been pursuing during the year the traffic calming proposals and the associated design and landscape problems and that it was understood that all matters to do with local traffic calming would be dealt with, amongst other transport /traffic issues, in a new Neighbourhood Management

Group, set up by Lothian Region's Transportation Department, on which the Grange Association was to be represented (see Report on Forum: People, Streets and Traffic, elsewhere in this **Newsletter**);

- that a working group had been set up to look at the history and development of The Grange Cemetery, to record inscriptions on the monuments and to consider publishing informative leaflets about the cemetery;
- that the committee had adopted a *Policy for Trees* which would be published in the next **Newsletter**, that a booklet on Trees in the Grange was in course of preparation and it would contain illustrations by two Grange-based artists Fiona Reid and Anne Gilchrist;
- that, also on trees, two recent meetings between the Director of Planning, City of Edinburgh District Council and Association committee members had furthered the co-operation with the Department of Planning in ways which should be fruitful and that a questionnaire had been sent to Lothian-based tree surgeons asking about their experience, expertise, equipment, qualifications and where examples of their work could be seen;
- that in planning, seventy planning applications had been looked at on behalf of the Association — 2 were for certificates of lawfulness, 3 were for the building of flats, 3 were for run-ins, 17 were for windows, 19 for house alterations and 25 were for conservatories.

The treasurer's report included the following matters:

- a most appreciative word of thanks to David Douglas for auditing and producing a statement of our accounts and for all the advice and help he gives to the Association;
- that membership cards are no longer to be issued because they are expensive to buy and difficult to deliver at 50p per member;
- the decision of the committee to recommend that the subscription remain at £2 for full members and £1 for concessions, but that the 5 year membership be abandoned because it is too difficult to predict what our expenses, and thus needs, will be in 5 years time.

Then, in answer, to a question from the floor, the treasurer agreed to investigate recent changes in the law affecting the rules in relation to auditors and their payment for professional work and whether or not it would be proper for the Association to have an examiner of accounts, instead of an auditor, and to consider further whether or not the Association would benefit from becoming registered as a charitable organisation.

Elections to the Committee

Mrs Sheila Reid was elected as vice-chairperson.

The following were elected as ordinary members of the committee:

Mrs M E Logie, 53 Mortonhall Road

Mr P D Stewart 8a Kilgraston Road

Mr J J Watt 25 Findhorn Place

Questions arising from these notes may be put to the secretary who will be very pleased to respond or to arrange for committee members to make reply.

Gerald France

Forum: People, Streets and Traffic

Following the AGM a panel of experts chaired by Dr Derek Lyddon answered questions. The panel was:

- Councillor Mrs Moyra Forrest, City of Edinburgh District Council
- Councillor Mrs Marilyn MacLaren, Lothian Regional Council
- Mr Graham Duncan, Director of Planning, City of Edinburgh District Council
- Dr George Hazel, Director of Transportation, Lothian Regional Council
- Chief Superintendent Andrew Walker, Lothian and Borders Police

What is a Certificate of Lawfulness?

A person may find that they are using a property for a purpose that required planning consent — and this they do not have. The person may apply for a certificate of Lawfulness. The Department of Planning look for, and check, evidence that, since 1965, the property has been in use for the stated purpose for at least 10 years. If that fact is proved, a Certificate of Lawfulness in relation to the use must be given. It was noted that third parties have no role in disproving any evidence of fact. Also, it was said that the Certificate of Lawfulness is not a grant of planning consent — it cannot be quoted by another user as a precedent.

What happens to traffic fines?

Camera fines, for example, are paid to HM Treasury. If they were kept locally they could be used to improve and extend this method of law enforcement. Initial results from the use of cameras in West Edinburgh are very encouraging. If you think that traffic-related fines should stay in the locality write to the Secretary of State for Scotland.

Why are there problems with bus routes and changes to them?

Under bus deregulation, bus operators run businesses for profit, and not as a public service. There is little room for consultation about, and co-ordination of services. In general bus passenger miles are decreasing and bus miles are increasing. More empty seats are looking for passengers. A view from the audience was that car drivers would not transfer to public transport running to a half-hour schedule — that was too long to have to wait between buses.

What about care in the community?

There is more emphasis now on discharging people when they are ready. To place people in the community is not necessarily a cheap option — often it is more expensive. Usually there is good consultation.

Can we have double yellow lines to protect access/egress at Dick Place/Kilgraston Road?

(This question gave rise to a burst of clapping). First, note that the police do not have sufficient resources to be able to check all double yellow lines all the time. They do their best. Before double yellow lines may be used a procedure has to be followed. The matter will be taken up. It can be looked at, too, by the new Neighbourhood Management Group for the Grange, which is one of a pilot scheme of four Groups (Bonnyrigg, Grange, Morningside and Wester Hailes) set up by the Department of Transportation.

What is happening about smoke control?

The East Edinburgh Smoke Control Area Order 1991 comes into effect in June 1995. Its purpose is to protect public health and public buildings. Exceptions from the Order may be applied for. For example, someone living in a listed building having original fireplaces may obtain permission, in effect, to burn coal in them.

Questions about anything to do with smoke control should be put to the Director of Environmental Health, City of Edinburgh District Council, as soon as possible.

Gerald France

PLANNING

The Edinburgh District Council Department of Planning has produced the second edition of the *Development Control Handbook* first published in October 1981. This edition incorporates changes to development control policies and guidelines over the last 13 years. It is hoped that the booklet will guide prospective applicants seeking planning permission and will prove to be of general interest. The booklet is relevant to the Grange. Copies are available from the Department of Planning, 1 Cockburn Street, price £10.00 plus £2.50 for post and packing.

Planning Applications: 12 August 1994 to 5 February 1995.

There have been 27 planning applications since the last **Newsletter**. The list indicates the variety of works proposed in the Grange. Some applications were unresolved at the time of the last **Newsletter** and the decision is now noted. There have been some appeals to The Scottish Office as a result of refusals by the Planning Committee. In the main, in these cases, the Committee decision has been upheld.

Applications not within The Grange Association area but of interest to residents are marked by an asterisk.

19 Blackford Road (A 01698 93) Alter and extend dwelling house. Refused by EDC Planning Committee and the Inquiry Reporter for The Scottish Office.

23 Dick Place (A 01800 93) Proposed vehicular access. Refused by EDC Planning Committee and the Inquiry Reporter for The Scottish Office. *Refusal stated the existing entrance is a very attractive architectural feature and worthy of preservation.*

23 Dick Place (A 00802 94) Alter and extend dwelling house. Approved.

42 Dick Place (A 00896 94) Erect a garage. Approved.

- 91 South Oswald Road** (A 01161 94) Erect residential development in outline. Approved.
- 7 Findhorn Place** (A 01240 94) Part change of use from residential to residential and nursery. Approved.
- 55a Grange Road** (A 01350 94) Part change of use from residential to Buddhist centre. Approved.
- 4a Sciennes Gardens** (A 01475 94) Form a run-in. Refused. *Subject to written appeal to The Scottish Office.*
- 30a Mansionhouse Road** (A 01512 94) Form off-street parking place. Approved.
- 1 Grange Loan** (A 01631 94) Change of use from shop to hot food take away. Refused.
- 133 Grange Loan** (A 01646 94) Remove planning conditions on consent granted 1994 for nursery. Approved.
- 2 West Relugas Road** (A 01714 94) Alter and extend dwelling house. Approved.
- 13a Palmerston Road** (A 01777 94) Alter and extend dwelling house. Approved.
- 2 Sciennes Gardens** (A 02106 94) Reduce height of chimney. Approved.
- *26 Sciennes Road** (A 02433 94) Change of use from shop to flat. Approved. *Concern at the loss of a small shop in a shopping group.*
- 1 Grange Terrace** (A 02450 94) Erect a timber and glass summerhouse. Approved.
- 4 Lauder Loan** (A 02451 94) Alter roof and erect extension to dwelling house. Pending.
- 9 Dick Place** (A 02513 94) Alterations Approved.
- 77 Grange Loan** (A 02610 94) Erect conservatory. Approved.
- 26a Mansionhouse Road** (A 02611 94) Alter and extend dwelling house. Pending.
- 45 Grange Loan** (A 02622 94) Alterations to form new window. Pending.
- 6 Lauder Road** (A 02624 94) Erect conservatory. Pending.
- *35 Ratcliffe Terrace** (A 02625 94) Demolish property. Pending.
- 8 Whitehouse Terrace** (A 2647 94) Erect conservatory. Pending.
- 21 Whitehouse Loan** (A 2677 94) Alter/extend existing coach house. Pending.
- Astley Ainslie Hospital Grange Loan** (A 2743 94) Create car parks and erect portacabin. Pending.
- *10 Argyle Place** (A 2758 94) Subdivide house into 2 flats. Approved.
- 36 Hope Terrace** (A 2778 94) Redesign front garden for parking place. Pending.
- 19a Blackford Road** (A 2808 94) Certificate of Lawfulness for residential use. Refused.
- **Mayfield Salisbury Church** (A 2877 94) Remove memorials. Pending.
- 16 Relugas Road** (A 2879 94) Replace window. Approved.
- 4f St Albans Road** (A 2892 94) Form new window. Approved.
- 41 Dick Place** (A 2915 94) Erect conservatory. Approved.
- Canaan Lane** (A 2927 94) Erect 20 flats. Pending. *Concern expressed regarding this application.*
- 31 Dick Place** (A 10 95) Replace windows with French doors. Pending.
- 25/1 Blackford Road** (A 58 95) Alter dwelling house. Pending.
- 12 Relugas Road** (A 84 95) Erect conservatory. Pending.

- 7a Kilgraston Road** (A 102 95) Enlarge existing rooflight over staircase. Pending.
- 4a Mortonhall Road** (A 109 95) Remove steps to French windows and form railings and plinth, internally form sound reducing partition at party wall and new door. Pending.
- 146 Marchmont Road** (A 167 95) Convert existing TSB building into Public House. Pending.

TRAFFIC

Number 18 Bus Service

Lothian Region Transport has amended the route of the number 18 bus service. Since December 1994, this service goes along Marchmont Road, Kilgraston Road, Grange Loan, Lauder Road and turns left onto Grange Road. Under current government legislation, decisions on the level and routing of bus services are taken with no requirement to consult local residents, community councils etc. The Regional Council only requires to be notified. The Association will monitor the situation especially since traffic calming measures are scheduled for part of the new bus route.

Edinburgh and the Car

The recently elected chair of Lothian Region's Transportation Committee, David Begg, has mounted a campaign to improve transport in the city. The last 10 years have seen an explosive growth in the number of cars in the Region. Parked end to end, an additional 250 miles of cars have appeared in Lothian in the last 10 years.

The Region's targets are (accidents) to cut accidents by a third and halve the number of children injured, both by 2000; (environmental) to monitor traffic pollution; (traffic) to reduce car traffic in Edinburgh below that existing in 1991 and ensure that car traffic throughout Lothian grows more slowly than the national average.

Plans include giving pedestrians priority in areas such as Princes Street and developing the cycle route network. Bus reliability and journey times to be improved by introducing GREENWAYS and building a special busway between South Gyle and the city centre. Car parks near the city bypass linked with public transport to the centre are planned along with more off-street car parks. Traffic calming measures will be used in residential areas. The introduction of road pricing (a fee for car access to the city centre) seems unlikely. More information can be obtained from CLARENCE on 0800 23 23 23.

Donald J R MacRae

ROYAL MAIL

Given recent difficulties in postal district EH9 it may be helpful to know the following:

Although it is not a commitment in the Code of Practice RM 19194B, there is an agreement between the Royal Mail and the Post Office Users National Council that the Royal Mail will endeavour to achieve a first delivery between 7-9.30 a.m. and a second delivery. Copies of the code may be obtained from (0131) 550 8232. The Post Office Users Council for Scotland operate from 2 Greenside Lane beside the Playhouse (0131) 224 5576. The Managing Director of the Royal Mail for Scotland is John Mackay, West Port House, 102 West Port, Edinburgh EH3 9HS (0131) 228 7218.

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION: POLICY FOR TREES (Adopted February 1994)

Preamble

There are about 10,000 trees in the Grange. Over 90% are in individual private gardens. The remainder are owned by The City of Edinburgh District Council, The University of Edinburgh, The Royal Bank of Scotland, The Carlton Cricket Club, Scottish Natural Heritage, Church of Scotland, The Abbeyfield Edinburgh Society, and the like.

The Grange Association has no official status in relation to trees, whether privately, corporately or publicly owned, so must endeavour to achieve policy by working closely with the statutory planning authority, and giving advice, encouragement and persuasion.

Policy

- 1 To encourage the retention of healthy trees of all ages which are or will become contributors to the amenity of the Grange.
- 2 To encourage the management of those trees to the ends of maximising their amenity value and minimising their potential nuisance value.
- 3 To encourage the establishment of new trees of species appropriate to the chosen site.

Means

- 1 By giving advice, on request, to members and others in our area who may be interested in trees.
- 2 By proffering general advice on trees through the **Newsletter**, talks, walks and exhibitions.
- 3 By publicising the planning powers vested in the local authority in respect of Conservation Areas and Tree Preservation Orders.
- 4 By maintaining co-operation with the Landscape Section of the Department of Planning, and the Forestry Unit of the District Council.
- 5 By maintaining a list of competent tree surgeons and sources of trees.
- 6 By drawing up a booklet and using other publicity as may be relevant from time to time.

LOOK AT YOUR TREES AGAIN

Question. What tree was important to Virgil, Chaucer, Shakespeare and the Cistercians; is beautiful in flower and full of character in bark and winter twiggery; is capable of producing excellent fruit and living for 400 years? Answer. The cultivated pear. We have lost interest in what was a significant Scottish industry and pastime. In 1812 an Edinburgh nurseryman stocked 65 varieties of pear including Orange Bergamot, Muirfowl Egg, Jargonelle or Cuisse Madame, Yair, Great Mouthwater, Green Chisel and Uvedale's St Germain.

The pear tree in your garden may be as old as the house and good for another century, so it may justify a little loving attention. In 1799 Sir Thomas Dick Lauder (soon to

inherit the Grange) measured a pear tree at Restalrig as 12 feet in girth at 2½ feet above the ground. That is big.

The tallest pear in Britain now is nearly 70 feet; the fattest is nearly 9 feet in girth — at the conventional measuring height of 5 feet.

Alistair Scott

GRANGE GARDEN GROUP

In 1982, about the same time as The Grange Association took shape, a group of keen gardeners, led by David and Isobel Simpson started to plan a programme of visits and talks, aimed at improving skills and knowledge of gardening and gaining pleasure from seeing what grows in other countries. A good relationship grew up with the Royal Botanic Garden, and it was sometimes possible to follow up a talk with a visit to the Garden led by the same expert. There were also talks during the winter on subjects such as soft fruit growing at the Bush, and flowering and the weather by Professor Fred Last. As well as some gripping accounts of plant-hunting expeditions, there were several illustrated talks on historical aspects of gardening, such as Connie Byrom's account of New Town gardens, Kitty Cruft's Listing of Historic Gardens and Landscapes in Scotland, and Lydia Skinner's documented story of the 17th century planting at Ravelston.

We were not slow to take advantage of Alistair Scott's arrival in the Grange, and he opened our eyes to the many rare trees in local gardens. Iris Strachan showed us her wonderful new woodland garden carved out of a valley in Peeblesshire; we both visited it and saw its development on the screen. Other spring and summer visits included the very successful organic garden at Preston Mill Cottage. We did some plant-hunting ourselves, and came back laden from Mrs Nacnaughton's gardens at Pencaitland. A wealth of charming gardens were revealed in the Grange when the owners threw them open, and annual plant sales benefited charities as well as gardeners.

To begin with our members were small enough to fit into private houses, but when the membership topped 40 we had to move into somewhere larger, and Homeross House offered us their kind hospitality. Our last Secretary, Audrey Henshall, retired in 1993, and unfortunately we have been unable to replace her. So we propose to run a modified programme under the auspices of The Grange Association, which has kindly offered us its assistance and facilities. We hope to run the annual lecture on a garden topic which will be open to all members of The Grange Association.

Margot Butt

MAGPIES

Magpies are one of the interesting resident birds in our Grange area. They make themselves most conspicuous in late autumn and early winter, when in twos or little groups they flirt from one tree or house top to another, calling noisily. They are attempting to sort out new pairings and territories. Before trees are in leaf their nests are obvious; large twiggy masses with twig ends sticking out in all directions, and with a domed roof which may help to prevent Carrion Crows from stealing their eggs or

chicks. Squirrels' nests of which there are several in the Grange, differ from Magpies' by being densely packed with leaves as well as twigs, and are usually attached mainly to one stout branch or trunk or in a fork. Magpies' nests are usually high in a prominent tree or may be hidden in an evergreen: at least one Grange pair nest in a monkey puzzle — do readers know of any other birds nesting in monkey puzzles?

There is much concern about whether Magpies affect the numbers of songbirds. It has now been shown that nationally Magpies have no effect on the numbers of songbirds surviving from one year to the next, although in very limited areas such as an urban park or garden there might be an effect. A recent study in Lothian has shown that the density of the Magpie population here is much lower than in some English cities. It is very unlikely that present levels of Magpies depress songbird numbers here. That could change if Magpies continue to increase.

Harry Dott

WILDLIFE

The Association, through Gerry France in the first instance, will be pleased to receive information on all wildlife in the Grange — animals, birds, beetles, butterflies and moths, flowers, fungi, mosses. We are in touch with the Scottish Wildlife Trust — Lothian Biological Record Centre, and can tap into a roll of experts in all natural history fields if necessary.

After the note on birds appeared in the last issue Aileen Fox, Cumin Place, reported 2 male and 2 female blackcaps had been seen all through the 1993 winter; David Muir, Findhorn Place, reported a blackcap at his birdtable on two occasions in the 1993 winter, Douglas Falconer, Mansionhouse Road, told of seeing a male blackcap at his birdtable in February - April 1994; and Jean Fairlie, Relugas Road, said that she had seen a blackcap in spring 1994 and thought that it was still around in November 1994. Professor Falconer also commented that he used to see redpolls in the Grange but had not seen one during the last five years. Also, he indicated that swifts had nested in the roofspace of his neighbour's house.

We would be particularly interested to receive reports from people who hear or see barn owl, redpoll, treecreeper — thought to be decreasing here, blackcap, jackdaw, rissin — thought to be appearing in rather larger numbers than in the past in the Grange.

All reports, records will be gladly received by GHF who will co-ordinate any activity to verify observations and who will report from time to time.

Gerald France

REMINISCENCES — WWII CHILDREN AT PLAY

The Grange must have seemed a safer place than blitz-threatened English cities: many evacuees with strange accents filled up the spaces in our classrooms vacated by friends now removed to Pitlochry, Elgin or even Canada for the “duration”. There was less and less traffic as petrol rationing became more stringent so we could cycle in almost car-free streets. We walked up the busy thoroughfare that was Lovers Loan and chose to spend our Saturday pennies riding on the wooden slatted seats of the little utility buses. No one warned us not to speak to strangers — it was fun asking an American soldier “Any gum chum?”

Photographs show me in nurse’s uniform tending my dolls in pram, cot and cradle and my brother in Indian headdress looking out of the wigwam pitched in the back garden. Around the house we absorbed the rhymes that were an integral part of skipping and ball-against-the-wall sequences. Peevers, played with a Horlicks tablet tin on a course marked on the garage drive, had a ritual of its very own. But I remember better the activities in less domestic surroundings. One of my friends lived in a house adjoining what was Esdaile School’s playing field in South Oswald Road. This had been taken over as an exercise ground for the firemen stationed further up the street. Soon we made friends with them and were climbing over the wall, persuading them somehow to leave their football to help us build a hut, out of sight, as we imagined, of family supervision. We were determined to rival ganghuts put up by two groups of older boys in the field to the west of Blackford House. If we weren’t considered worthy of their gangs, then we’d beat them at their own game.

Cricket matches played across the street, with stumps drawn in chalk on the wall at one side and a single stump stuck into a convenient crack in the pavement on the other, might be interrupted by one army van or a taxi. On one occasion an older cousin claimed a boundary when he sent the ball over the house into Glenisla Gardens, but a less satisfactory result came when a neighbour convalescing in his garden was hit on the head. The Mortonhall Oval had to close down.

We would range over to the back of Blackford Hill to play hide and seek and have picnics by the Braid Burn in frogspawn season. Winters somehow were always snowy enough for sledging and icy enough for sliding on Blackford Pond. I never had the courage to career down the front of the hill and stuck to the nursery slopes of the field between Charterhall Road and the Observatory.

Did we have more freedom than today’s ten year olds? What will they remember in 2044?

Lorna Mill

NEWSLETTER

Most of the contributions come from members of the committee reporting the affairs of the Association. There will often be room for additional contributions from members. Those in this issue from Margot Butt, Lorna Mill and Harry Dott are very welcome. Contributions proffered for the Autumn **Newsletter** no later than end of August please — much better to write as and when the thought arrives.

Editor

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription to the Association is £2 — £1 for senior citizens. If you have not yet paid, now is the moment — to the treasurer, Mrs Marion Cantley.

POSTSCRIPT

Do please imagine what it would be like walking along the pavement outside your house if you were partially sighted. If that might involve getting a smack in the face from your overhanging tree, shrub, Russian vine etc, please do something helpful.

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

- Derek Lyddon, 38 Dick Place (667 2266) **Chairperson/Planning**
Sheila Reid, 108 Findhorn Place (667 4876) **Vice-chairperson/Social/History/Posters**
Gerald France, 67/6 Grange Loan (667 5891) **Secretary/Wildlife**
Marion Cantley, 59 Fountainhall Road (667 8074) **Treasurer**
Mary Cunningham, 18 Dick Place (667 4174) (Co-opted) **Social/Trades list**
Jean Duff, 13 Dick Place (667 0538) (Co-opted) **Gardening**
Richard Ewing, 46a Dick Place (667 2724) **Planning**
Elsa Hendry, 146/6 Whitehouse Loan (447 0368) (Co-opted) **Reminiscences**
Maureen Logie, 53 Mortonhall Road (667 7259)
Donald MacRae, 31 Blackford Road (667 2842) **Traffic**
Donald Millar, 8 Seton Place (667 5071) (Co-opted) **Planning**
Lesley Robertson, 21 Blackford Road (447 5019) **Planning**
Dorothy Ryle, 33 Mansionhouse Road (67 1444) (Co-opted) **Community Council**
Liaison
Alistair Scott, 26 Dalrymple Crescent (667 9577) **Newsletter Editor/Trees**
Peter Stewart, 8a Kilgraston Road (667 0973)
Michael Walsh, 17 Tantallon Place (667 1708) **Newsletter Distribution/Trees**
John Watt, 25 Findhorn Place (667 0572)