



The Grange Association

NEWSLETTER NO. 61

AUTUMN 1996

STOP PRESS

Just as this Newsletter goes to press we hear that Historic Scotland has classified the revised Grange Conservation Area as 'outstanding' under section 10 of the Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1996-97

(all meetings at St Catherine's-Argyle at 7.30 p.m.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Wednesday 16 October | Dr AC Douglas on 'The History of the Rose' |
| Wednesday 13 November | Special General Meeting (see below) followed by PC Shane McKenna on 'Neighbourhood Watch'. |
| Wednesday 5 February | Annual General Meeting followed by Open Forum on 'Traffic Calming and Positive Conservation'. |
| Wednesday 26 March | Panel on property conservation on 'Do houses live forever?' |

Special General Meeting

As noticed in the Spring Newsletter the Association is seeking charitable status based on advice from the Inland Revenue.

Some changes are required to the Constitution. The proposals will be put to a Special General Meeting on 13 November 1996. Unlike the present wording, the new version relates to the 'area of benefit'. The objectives were set out in the Spring 96 Newsletter. The requisite powers to achieve the objectives are:

- (i) to advance the education of the public about the Grange particularly concerning the objectives;
- (ii) to encourage and stimulate active and well-informed public interest in the past, present and future planning and development of the Grange and its amenity;
- (iii) to encourage and ensure so far as is possible the application of the highest standards of planning, architecture, construction and design, including landscape design, in the area;
- (iv) to promote, assist, support or otherwise encourage the conservation and restoration of buildings, streets, stone walls, monuments, gardens, and other physical features which are considered worthy of preservation and/or conservation on account of their historic and architectural interest;

- (v) to organise events for the benefit of the public in the Grange in connection with cultural and social welfare aspects of amenity;
- (vi) to co-operate with and assist local and national authorities and any other associations, bodies, and societies and persons by whose or with whose assistance or interest the objectives of the Association can be carried out or furthered;
- (vii) to co-ordinate the efforts of associations, bodies, and societies and of the persons in the Grange interested in the objectives of The Grange Association.
- (viii) to raise and hold or contribute to funds which may be used or directed towards any of the Association's objectives; and
- (ix) to take such further action as the Association may consider conducive to the attainment of the objectives or any part of them.

WHO ARE WE?



The information about the Grange Conservation Area presented below is drawn from the 1991 Census as analysed by Sarah Hartop, City Development, City of Edinburgh Council. Any errors arising from compressing the full census into a brevity appropriate to this Newsletter are due to the Secretary or the Editor.

Population. At the time of the 1991 census residents, absentee residents and visitors numbered just over 4,200 persons, of which 42% were males and 58% females.

Age groups. 26% are less than 24 years of age; 39% are 25-59 years; 34% or roughly one third, are 60 years or over. Interestingly, nearly 10% are in the age range 40-44.

Of those persons 75-79 years of age, 76% are female

Of those persons 80-84 years of age, 77% are female

Of those persons 85-89 years of age, 81% are female

Marital Status

Of the males, 50% are married and 50% are single (unmarried, widowed)

Of the females, 37% are married and 63% are single (")

Country of birth (just over 4,200 persons)

91% were born in the UK

71% were born in Scotland

18% were born in England

1% were born in Wales

Ethnic group/other information

97% are white. Chinese, Indian and Pakistani each contributes about 0.5% of the population.

32% are pensionable age.

15% have a limiting long-term illness.

Migrants. (The 525 persons with a different address one year before the census.)

Address within City of Edinburgh	61%
Address within Scotland	12%
Address within England and Wales	14%
Address outwith Great Britain	13%

Economic activity. (The 3,535 residents aged 16 and over; 2,134 females and 1,401)

47% of this total are economically active; 37% of the females and 67% of the males.

Of the males economically active 21% are self-employed.

Of the females economically active 1% are self-employed.

Of the economically active females who are employees, 26% work part time.

Of the economically inactive, 489 are males and 1,383 are females. Of the males 27% are students and 67% are retired; of the females 12% are students and 48% are retired.

Types of dwellings (just over 2000)

Detached	11%	Owner Occupied	83%
Semidetached	14%	Private rented	9%
Terraced	8%	Local Authority	0%
Property converted to flats	29%	Housing Association	6%
Purpose-built flats	37%	Other rented	1%

Cars (About 1900 households; about 4,000 residents)

32% of households have no car. 16% of residents have no car.

Gaelic speakers (Just over 4,200 persons)

1% of this total can speak Gaelic.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 16th February 1996 to 25th July 1996



There have been 44 planning applications since the last Newsletter and the list of applications below indicate the variety of works proposed for the Grange area. There have been large and important applications for flatted developments in the area and there has been considerable public comment. Application not noted below included 5 conservatories, 16 house alterations and 1 satellite dish. Unresolved applications in the last Newsletter are now noted.

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

- *19 Sciennes Road** (A 2714 95 FF) Change of use from butchers shop to residential. Approved.
- 28 Relugas Road** (A 2724 95 FF) Extension to dwelling house. Pending. *This application is still continued and GA lodged objections to the proposals as they were contrary to villa policy and occupied the major part of the rear garden area.*
- 35 Dick Place** (A 2934 95 FC) Form a run-in. Approved.
- 19 Strathearn Road**, Royal Mail Property Holdings (A 91 96 FL) Form new fire door, internal alterations, vent grilles and landscaping. Approved.
- Canaan Lane**, Prop, Woodville Court (A 2927 94 FC) Erect 20 flats. Refused. Later application A 547 96 has now been withdrawn.
- *Duncan Street/South Gray Street**, The Burrell Co. & CALA Homes (*A 2633 95 FL) Part new build of 44 flats & refurbishment of 5 flats. Pending.
- 19a Blackford Road** (A 2980 95 LE) Certificate of Lawfulness for residential use. Granted.
- Grange Road**, Grange Furniture (A 3027 95 FL) Alter retail unit to provide retail on 1st floor & fire escape stair. Pending.
- *20-34 Upper Gray Street**, Applecross Properties Ltd, (A 157 96 FL) Demolish offices & workshops, alter existing offices to form 10 new flats & erect 32 new flats. Pending.
- Kilgraston Road**, Elphinstone Homes (A 344 96 FL) Erect one block of 29 flats and one detached lodge. Pending. *Objections lodged to proposals.*
- Kilgraston Road**, Randolph Hill Group (A 376 96 FL) Alter & change of use from residential training college to nursing home. Pending. *GA made observations reference architectural details and increased traffic generation.*
- Kilgraston Road**, Randolph Hill Group (A 473 96 FF) Part change of use from training centre to nursery. Withdrawn. *GA lodged observations requesting details of proposals and objecting to traffic generation. An additional application has been lodged for a 3 storey building on the site of the existing building and containing 15 flats and 14 parking spaces. The case is made by the applicant that a 60 bedroom residential unit was approved previously.*
- Dick Place**, Randolph Hill Group, (A 1419 96 FL) Change of use from offices to 6 flats. Pending. *Objections have been lodged at the loss of family houses and increased traffic generation.*
- Mortonhall Road**, Stewart Milne Homes Ltd, (A 735 96 FF) Erect 5 detached flatted villas on existing allotment ground (44 housing units). Pending. *Objections have been lodged to the form and density on the site. There has been considerable neighbour concern expressed.*

Association has been assured by the City of Edinburgh Council that the dead trees will be replaced during the next planting season.



What do we make of the Leyland cypress? This hybrid between the Monterey (California) and Nootka (British Columbia) cypresses was not known until 1888 but has been hugely planted as hedging, screening and specimen trees. They grow at a spanking rate from a year or two after planting, have made over 30 metres in 50 years and are expected to grow to something around 40 metres - in a range of soils.

They can of course be trained as in the splendid long, curving hedge between Kings Buildings and the golf course. They can be given their head as in the well-spaced duet — previously quartet — in South Lauder Road. They can be an entertaining, vertical rectangle as in Mansionhouse Road or they can be the sort of screen to the front door that the Sleeping Beauty would have recognised.

As with Eucalypts and self-sown sycamores, there are a number of Leyland cypresses in the Grange likely to prove embarrassing not too far ahead. It is wise to imagine the tree taller by more than half a metre for every year that passes, and analyse the effect on overhead wires, light through your windows or, conversely, on the unwanted view.

The hybrid first occurred, or at least was first noticed, at Leighton Hall near Welshpool, which was then owned by a Mr Naylor. Six seedlings were taken to Haggerston Hall, Northumberland in 1892-93 where five still survive and are the parents, by propagation, of a very large proportion of all our trees.

I draw this last information from the invaluable Bean's *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles*. Percipient as ever Mr. Bean says 'It is to be hoped that gardeners will not be tempted by its rapid growth into using it to excess.'

Alistair Scott

REMINISCENCES FROM DR. JA DEUCHARS

I have been asked to give some reminiscences of more than seventy years in the Grange, starting with gas street lighting, lit each evening by Leary the Gas Lighter who went round with a flame at the end of a pole.

Before the last war, the Grange contained many large, detached family houses, each with maids, gardeners and chauffeurs. It was not unknown for horses to be stabled in the area and used for recreation.

Three of the private schools in the area have recently disappeared: Craigmount at the Wyvern Park, Esdaile recently the Royal Bank College in Kilgraston Road and Grange Home School which started life in Strathearn Place. The first two of these being girls' schools were not without attraction to the youth of the district.

Esdaile was founded for the education of Ministers' daughters, but when the supply of these declined, it was opened to other girls. Well-remembered are the 'crocodiles' which used to wend their way up Kilgraston Road to the Robertson Memorial Grange Parish Church on a Sunday. The school playing fields are now the site of Grange Manor in South Oswald Road. Grange Home School was a residential preparatory school at the south east corner of Kilgraston Road and Grange Loan whose Principals were Mrs Morley Smith followed by her daughter Miss Joan Morley Smith (Auntie Joan).

The church at the top of Kilgraston Road is more than 100 years old. One of its ministers, Dr. Paul, was Moderator of the Church of Scotland. It started life as the Robertson Memorial Grange Parish Church, changed to the Grange Parish Church and is now Marchmont St Giles. The semi-circular drive in front of the church was to enable carriages to drive in and out. Three churches viz. Warrender Park, Argyle Place and West St Giles have all been replaced by housing complexes.

The site of Homeross House was once occupied by an imposing mansion house with an elegant interior and a basement, far too large for any modern family — in addition to being impossible to heat. It was later taken over as a college for the Congregational Church. In summer, an annual fete was held which featured a brass band, somewhat lacking in coordination.

At the south west corner of Grange Loan and Blackford Avenue stood Ashfield — a large house in its own grounds — now a flats complex. This was owned by the Trades Guilds of Edinburgh, each of which had the right to nominate one girl to reside at Ashfield and to attend one of the neighbouring schools. In a glass cabinet in the hall was housed the Blue Banner from Flodden. Each Christmas there was a party for the girls attended by the Lord Provost.

In South Oswald Road stood St. Raphael's Hospital, now taken over by Viewpoint Housing Association. This hospital was started by Lady Anne Keir to care for soldiers wounded in the First World War and later developed into a well known and respected medical and surgical nursing home, extensively used by the Edinburgh medical profession. It was run by the Sisters of the Little Company of Mary (Blue Nuns).

I hope that these few ramblings will bring back happy memories to the older residents and amuse the younger ones.

via Elsa Hendry

- *88 **Strathearn Road**, Ursulines of Jesus (A 830 96 LB) Dismantle & re-erect 2 stone piers in position of former piers. Approved.
- 18 **St Albans Road** (A 1084 96 FF) Change of use from hostel to dwelling house. Approved.
- 109 **St Albans Road** (A 1114 96 FF) Form run-in. Pending.
- 180 **Grange Loan**, Carlton Cricket Club Ltd. (A 1158 96 RT) Renewal of consent for nursery use . Approved.
- 64 **Fountainhall Road** (A 1261 96 FF) Renewal of consent for dwelling house granted 1991. Pending.
- *146 **Marchmont Road** (A 1426 96 FF) change of use from bank to coffee house. Pending.
- *91b **West Saville Terrace**. J Sives Surfacing Ltd (A 1458 96 FF) Erect Portable unit. Pending.
- ***Sciennes Road**, Edinburgh Sick Childrens NHS Trust (A 1513 96 LB) Alter lecture theatre. Pending.
- Grange Loan**, Astley Ainslie Hospital Edinburgh Health Care Trust (A 1604 96 FL) Construct extension to Balfour Ward. Pending.
- ***Sciennes Road**, Edinburgh Sick Childrens NHS Trust (A 1610 96 LB) Internal alterations.
- 38 **Blackford Avenue**, Caledonian Heritable Ltd. (A 1690 96 FF) Change of use from bank to public house. Pending. *GA lodged objections as the application is contrary to the predominantly residential use of the area and will create traffic and parking on the busy road and residential streets. The application has roused considerable neighbour concern and strong letters of objection lodged with the Planning Department.*
- 98 **St Albans Road** (A 1768 96 FF) Form vehicular access. Pending.

GARDENS AND GARDENING



Members might like to note the talk on roses on 16 October next. There will be a garden visit next summer. Details in the Spring Newsletter. Any suggestions welcomed by Jean Duff.

The Lothian Wildlife Information Centre would like to build up a wildlife profile of the Grange. Anyone willing to contribute should obtain a copy of 'The Secret Garden Survey' from the Secretary.

Jean Duff

WILDLIFE

The notes following are based on correspondence from Diana Buchan, Blackford Bank; Robert Donaldson, Mortonhall Road; Jim Henderson, St Albans Road; Isobel Miller, Dick Place; Josephine Pemberton, Grange Terrace; Christine Thompson, Grange Loan; Agnes Watt, St Thomas Road; Marjorie Wilson, Seton Place; and my own sightings.



Blackcap. A constant birdtable visitor was in Seton Place during the latter part of the 1995/96 winter and other sightings were reported in Fountainhall/St Thomas Road/Findhorn Place.

- Heron. Often seen flying, just above the rooftops, along Fountainhall Road and Grange Loan.
- Mallard. Seen in Dick Place, on a wall, and on the ground near garden ponds in Grange Loan.
- Siskin. Seen in Grange Terrace at the end of April 1996.
- Sparrowhawk. Recent sightings in Grange Loan and Fountainhall Road of a female sparrowhawk.
- Swift. First arrivals this year were reported 16-20 May; nearly a fortnight later than last year. They departed on or about 13th August.
- Waxwing. On cotoneaster hedge, nearby trees and houses, at least 60 were seen early winter in Seton Place. Thirty were seen at Blackford Avenue/West Relugas Road, on TV aerials and in trees, early in March 1996. The latest record to hand mentioned 20 waxwings in Blackford Bank on 18 April.

It would appear that only a few fieldfares and redwings were seen in the Grange last winter.

Animal reports received were about foxes, frogs, grey squirrels and newts.

The Lothian Biological Record Centre may soon do a survey of amphibians in its area.

There doesn't appear to be an easy way to deter grey squirrels from doing what you don't want them to do e.g. building a drey in a chimney cowl. However, if you know differently !

Sightings of a roe deer were reported from Mortonhall Road, and St Albans Road where even the postman did a 'double take'. These reports refer to observations mid-1994 or earlier.

Brimstone Moths were seen on 21/22 June 1996.

Reports on wildlife are always welcome: for instance, have you seen this season any unusual wildflowers in the Grange gardens or roadsides?

Gerald France

TREE NEWS



In June it appeared that 9 of the 14 fastigiata oaks planted at the eastern approaches to the traffic calmed area, had died. More recent examination shows that a few more are hanging on to life. There are also some vigorous young shoots from a few root collars; it is not yet clear whether these are from the stock or from the graft. The trees looked excellent at planting; the troubles probably have arisen from a combination of a hostile site and zero maintenance, particularly during long dry periods. The

FROM A PEAK IN GRANGE

Concerns of twenty years ago as reflected in the Newsletter

At a well-attended public meeting on 16 June [1974] in the Mayfield Church Hall it was decided to form an East Grange Association. This name appeared at the head of the organisation's newsletter, published almost from day one, and issued to all residents in the east Grange (the boundaries being Blackford Ave, Kilgraston Rd, Beaufort Rd, Grange Road, Causewayside, Ratcliffe Terrace, Mayfield Road, and the railway line joining the last mentioned road to the first mentioned avenue). The name *Newsletter* did not reach the masthead until issue No. 25, Spring 1983, by which time, from the autumn of 1978 in fact, the original body had become The Grange Association and there had been twelve issues under the name of the enlarged area. A complete series is held in our archives.

Apparently there had been some confusion about the streets/inhabitants covered by several associations. On 21 June 1978 a meeting of associations in and around the Grange, convened by the Local Associations Panel of the Cockburn Association, was held 'to sort things out'. The Grange and District Amenity Association appears to have asked the East Grange Association to take over the representation of its area and the decision that this should happen 'was endorsed by all the other local associations' and, of course, the boundaries were adjusted.

Interestingly, in the Constitution of the East Grange Association, the words 'to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means but not otherwise' have come down to the present day. However, with only infrequent enquiries over the years, no real progress was made to attain recognition as a charity in Scotland. Recent efforts, stemming from the 1995 AGM, appear to be proving more successful.

Although a complete series of the Newsletter from 1974 is held we have no information at all about the Grange and District Amenity Association. Please get in touch if you can give details about its officers/members and if you have any of its minutes, accounts, notices, papers which you are willing to donate to, or allow to be copied, for our archives.

NEWSLETTER TOPICS

Issue No. 1, Summer 1974

Traffic Problems. The Corporation is reviewing the situation ... It is likely that a special working party will be set up to deal with longer term traffic problems; the east-west flow of traffic; environmental traffic management schemes; the parking of commercial vehicles and so on. May we have your views?

Issue No. 2, Spring 1975

[Planning: Cumin Place] ... a planning application has been lodged for holding a play group on the premises.

St Alban's Road — ... between 61 and 63 Viewpoint Housing has applied for permission to erect sheltered housing up to three storeys high.

Ratliffe Terrace — Opposite the end of Grange Loan — this property lies just outside the Association boundary but it obviously affects the East Grange area. The old cottages are in the 'C' grade of building ... which has no practical effect on development. ...The Cockburn Association pressed the Corporation to put a Building Preservation Order on them: this prevents demolition for six months whilst their future is decided.

New Library ... is now open ... The EGA is considering arranging a book-changing service for housebound people: names of volunteers ... please.

Issue No. 3, Autumn 1975

Traffic ...Since the introduction of parking restrictions in neighbouring streets, there has been all-day parking on both sides of Grange Loan, even at the narrowest point. The road is reduced to one lane and for pedestrians and vehicles leaving the kerb to the north, oncoming traffic from the west is entirely masked by parked cars. ...Police inspected the road and agreed that this is dangerous; but say that they can do nothing until some person is injured ...Residents know of a succession of minor accidents to cars, ... it seems something might be done if every such incident is reported to the police, and a definite entry made in the accident file.

Trees The City of Edinburgh District Council have placed a Tree Preservation order on two groups of trees comprising cedar, walnut, cherry, sycamore, horse chestnut and birch situated within the grounds of 95, Grange Loan.

Community Councils Many EGA members attended the public meeting on April 14 ... to submit proposals for the Newington/Grange area to the District Council.

Christmas 1975

... The District Council have decided, by a small majority, to recommend to the Secretary of State that there be no Community Councils in the old city area.

Community Concerns:

...branches of trees and shrubs which overhang the pavement [a danger to passers-by].

... the fouling of the pavements by dogs.

... there are volunteers willing to exchange library books and records for residents who are housebound or who find it difficult to get about in the cold and slippery conditions.

[A voluntary service is available] to transport residents to and from meetings of the Association [ega].

Spring 1976

The Committee have wanted for some time to produce a short leaflet giving some information about facilities in the neighbourhood which could be given to newcomers to the area.

Autumn 1976

The junction of Kilgraston Rd and Grange Loan is well-known as a danger spot ... Now however the pattern of vehicle accidents is being re-examined ... Meanwhile the Chief Constable is considering the provision of a school crossing patrol and we understand that a survey will be made this term.

EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S PAINTINGS

Saturday, October 30th Dunard House, Grange Loan (formerly Grange Home School). Profits in aid of Save the Children.

GRANGE HOME SCHOOL

... (Autumn Term 1976) ... St Margaret's School (Newington) Ltd. is leasing the building [formerly] the Grange Home School. It will be used as a boarding house for the senior girls ... and will also provide accommodation for nursery classes for children aged 3 to 5 years.

GHF

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER

Michael Walsh is still in need of some more distributors. Do please consider if you could spare an hour or so, two or three times a year and contact Mike.

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Derek Lyddon, 31 Blackford Road (667 2266) **Chairperson**

Sheila Reid, 108 Findhorn Place (667 4876) **Vice-chairperson**

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**

James Fleck, 38 Dick Place (667 3176)

Maureen Logie, 53 Mortonhall Road (667 7259)

Lucy Richardson, 31 Fountainhall Road (662 4992) (Co-opted)

Lesley Robertson, 21 Blackford Road (447 5019) **Planning**

Dorothy Ryle, 33 Mansionhouse Road (667 1444) (Co-opted) **Community Council Liaison**

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