



The Grange Association

NEWSLETTER NO. 65

AUTUMN 1998

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

May we remind you of some interesting meetings this autumn?

- Wed. 28 October:* Richard Murphy the multi-award winning architect will give us an illustrated talk on 'Architecture of its Time and Place'.
- Wed. 25 November:* Sheena Mackellar Gaulty will give an illustrated talk on suburban gardens 1850-1900, with particular reference to the Grange. Sheena is a landscape architect and consultant who specialises in historic gardens and estate policies. Currently she is working for the National Trust at Brodie Castle.
- Wed. 9 December:* We are planning a Christmas evening to round off the year. Annemarie Hammond, one of our members, has kindly offered to bring her group of young flute players to play some 'Christmassy' music for us at 7.30pm in the German Church Hall. What better way to start the Christmas season?
- Wed. 17 February:* AGM. Full details will appear in the January flyer.

Unless otherwise stated all meetings take place at 7.30pm in St Catherine's - Argyle Church Hall, Grange Road. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served after the meetings.

Betty Paul and Jean Duff.

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

In November of last year Gordon Davidson gave a most interesting illustrated talk on how to research the history of your house. Because of the appalling weather the audience was relatively small. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm and talk afterwards continued until we had over-run the permitted time.

Graeme Cruikshank's amusing and interesting talk on Scottish pottery in April this year took place amid a sea of colourful pieces of pottery brought along by members. Alas a number of people were disappointed that his booklet on the subject was quickly sold out and we have now got some extra copies.

Betty Paul and Jean Duff

A successful Bring and Buy plant stall was held as part of the Calton Cricket Club coffee morning on Saturday 9 May. Many thanks to all the helpers and those who bought and brought plants. We made £130.00 odd which was shared with the Cricket Club who were going to use the money to furnish their hanging baskets for the new season.

Garden visits - we had a very successful afternoon on Saturday 20 June visiting five local gardens in the Fountainhall Road area. The weather was kind and over 100 people

came to look around the lovely and interesting gardens. Very many thanks to all the garden owners of these splendid plots for a very enjoyable afternoon. A special thanks to the garden that accommodated us for tea and biscuits at the end of the afternoon, where a collection for the Sudanese Children's Disaster Appeal raised £40.00.

PLANNING



The main news in recent months has been the production by the City of Edinburgh Council of a draft "Character Statement" for the Grange.

The story starts with our Forum on Conservation which followed the AGM in February last year. One of the speakers, Graham Reed of Historic Scotland, noted that the Secretary of State had made local authorities responsible for producing Proposals to protect conservation areas. Will Garrett, Conservation Officer for the City, the other speaker, foresaw a partnership with the Grange Association to further that objective.

The first outcome of the Forum was that Councillor Forrest placed a motion before the Planning Committee,

...that this Council draws up and publishes proposals for the preservation or enhancement of Edinburgh's conservation areas ... noting that the Grange has already done a lot of work in so defining its area: and that the Council co-operates with the Grange Association to publish early proposals for the Grange.

This encouraged us to do further work on our notes on "Sustaining the Quality and Character of the Grange", referred to in the motion.

The City produced their Draft Character Statement for the Grange in May, and comments were requested by 30 June.

Your Committee generally welcomed the draft. However it hoped that more could be said to make certain that any new development would be "in character", and particularly suggested that proposals for major new developments should be accompanied by "a statement demonstrating what had been done to ensure that it was in harmony with the distinctive character of our area".

The next step was a public meeting held by the Planning Department on 17 August, including a small exhibition showing the content of the Character Statement.

Will Garrett said the Statement's purpose was essentially to define those characteristics which had led the local authority to declare the Grange a Conservation Area, and to provide a document with a status supplementary to the Local Plan which would be referred to as material consideration for development control. The Statement would be put to the Planning Committee in September with a recommendation that all applications for major developments should be supported by a statement showing how the proposals took account of the local character. It was intended that the Council's enhancement proposals would follow next year. In the vigorous discussion among the 50 - 60 people present, the two main concerns about the Statement were:

Did it adequately recognise the area as it is, particularly the internal problems of over-development and its consequences and externally imposed problems of commuter parking?

Was it strong enough to have a real effect on the development control system to prevent inappropriate development - did it have teeth and was it enforceable?

Councillor MacLaren, winding up, drew murmurs of approval when she spoke of the residents' obvious belief that the Grange is alive, and their sense of responsibility for it.

Graham Dickson

PLANNING APPLICATIONS MARCH - AUGUST 1998

SIGNIFICANT APPLICATIONS

*9 WHITEHOUSE TERRACE - erect two houses (as "lodges" near entrance to long garden). The Committee objected on the grounds of inappropriate development in the garden of a listed building and low quality of design and materials. APPLICATION REFUSED.

25 HOPE TERRACE - alter dwelling house to form three flats and erect three garages. APPLICATION REFUSED.

BLACKFORD ROAD - an application was lodged (mid-August) for the erection of a block of seven flats on the ground between nos 4 and 6. The developer (AMA New Town - who converted and extended the old Bruntsfield Hospital) approached the neighbours and the Grange Association Committee before committing the design to a planning application, an unusual and welcome move. The proposed design puts the cars in the basement of a building which does not pretend to be a Victorian villa but neither is it uncompromisingly modern. The Association's Committee has not yet taken a view about the application.

APPROVED

1 ST ALBANS ROAD - replacement windows

*19 BLACKFORD ROAD - alter and extend, regularise residential use of part of home

14 WEST RELUGAS ROAD - dormer extension

17 DICK PLACE - alter dwelling house

3 BLACKFORD ROAD - alter and extend dwelling house

19 CAUSEWAYSIDE - change of use from shop to extend tea-room

1 LAUDER ROAD - alter and extend dwelling house

25 DICK PLACE - alter garden wall and create steps

27 SOUTH OSWALD ROAD - formation of access

8 WHITEHOUSE TERRACE - erect signage (Grange Hotel)

5/5a HOPE TERRACE - reinstate metal railings on south boundary wall

90 GRANGE LOAN - alterations to rear elevation

10 STRATHEARN PLACE - internal alterations

200 GRANGE LOAN - erect a garden shed

11A CUMIN PLACE - alter and extend dwelling house

123 GRANGE LOAN - alter flat

PENDING

8 WHITEHOUSE TERRACE - alterations and extension

*13 DALRYMPLE CRESCENT - create additional hard surface area

17 HATTON PLACE - change of use from health board clinic and offices to private family residence

54 ST ALBANS ROAD - install french doors

3 SETON PLACE - erect new shed and greenhouse, replace existing trees, build up front wall

55 DICK PLACE - alter and extend dwelling house

31 BLACKFORD AVENUE - erect signage in retrospect

5 GRANGE ROAD - change of use from shop (class 1) to office (class 4)

*Denotes comment made by Grange Association Committee.

BUS SERVICES - GOOD NEWS



After the tendering process for bus services due to expire at the end of July, LRT have agreed to operate the 38, 41/41A and 42/46 on a purely commercial basis. The 24, however will be subsidised by the Council and offer an extended morning and evening service. The last departure from St. Andrews Square will now be at 23.06, which will provide a return bus from Lothian Road for theatre and concert goers to the Marchmont/Grange area.

The service 40/41A will revert to its former route terminating at Oswald Road. After a great deal of pressure from many parties, timetables and routes are now displayed at bus stops, which should help residents and visitors alike.

We do hope that the extra morning and evening services will be well supported by locals - use it or lose it - as the saying goes.

Dorothy Ryle

WILDLIFE

We need reports. Please be encouraged to give accounts of what you see. Consider, '... all nature is so full, that that district produces the greatest variety which is the most examined.' Gilbert White, letter 20, to Thomas Tennent Esq, Selborne, 8 October 1768. ^{Permant}



The swifts were first seen this year on 8 June. Did anyone see one before this date? The Lothian Records Centre indicates that the earliest recorded arrival in Lothian was on a 4 April. My fellow observers in this area say that the swifts arrive about 18 April and leave about 12 August. The brimstone moth appeared on 22 June this year.

Gerry France

The nuthatch has been officially recorded in Edinburgh for the first time after it was seen twice at the end of March 1998 and reported to the official Lothians Recorder of birds by a resident in the Grange. The first sighting was on trees bordering the Meadows on Melville Drive and on the second occasion a bird was seen in a local garden. If you see one in the coming months please let the Recorder, who is Ian Andrews, tel. 665 0236, know. He is also interested in sightings of other unusual birds and is recording, for example, the incidence of the blackcap which has been seen in local gardens.

From a resident in Findhorn Place

GARDEN PONDS



We would be interested to hear about the wildlife that visits your garden pond. Do you ever get a visit from herons or ducks? What about amphibians? Frogs, toads, newts? Can you identify any of the insects? Do mammals drink from it? Which plants have established themselves successfully? Approximately what is the surface area of your pond?

Perhaps you could start jotting down what you observe and we can include a questionnaire as part of the January flyer to collect interesting sightings.

Jean Duff and Lucy Richardson

HEDGES AND TREES OBSTRUCTING THE PAVEMENTS

Those of us who walk along the pavements of the Grange, know, depending on age or eyesight, the nuisance or peril of bushy hedges or overhanging shrubs. What can we do to persuade or cajole their owners to take the unselfish, the sensible action? Pleas in the Newsletter have little effect - there have been half a dozen in so many years. Should we or you phone Clarence (0800 232323) to register a complaint? Views please!

Under Section 91 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984, 'Where a hedge, tree or shrub overhangs a road so as to endanger or obstruct the passage ... of pedestrians ... the roads authorities may ... require (the owner or occupier) to carry out such work ... as is necessary to remove the cause of danger, obstruction or interference.' Usually the authority will first issue warnings. Perhaps we should form a working party or two to help those who need the help?

Alistair Scott

PLANTS OF THE COMING SEASONS

Autumn - *Eucryphia x nymanensis*. This wonderful evergreen can grow up to 20 feet or so and has upright branches covered in white flowers from the end of August onwards. It will thrive at the back of a wide border and likes lime-free soil which is reasonably moist and is in sun or semi-shade.

Winter - *Viburnum x bodnantense* 'Dawn'. This shrub with fairly stiff upright branches will grow to approximately 8 feet tall and has lovely pink sweet scented flowers, which, depending on the severity of the weather, remain open from September until March. Leaves appear in the spring after flowering has finished and are bronze turning to dull green.



Winter - *Iris unguicularis* (formerly *stylosa*). This enjoys dry soil at the foot of a sunny wall. It displays grassy leaves all year. It is a good idea to cut these back in early September to allow the flowers to show when they bloom from November until March. The delicate looking but robust flowers are a blue violet colour and make excellent cut flowers when there is not much else around. Don't feed or disturb them.

Jean Duff

TREE NOTES



Most Grange trees have relished the cool wet summer. Exceptions have been some of the hawthorns and laburnums already under pressure in the past couple of years. There are new problems this year with many of the purple crabs and some willows and ornamental cherries. In most cases the cause seems to be fungal attack on the leaves and/or small twigs, leading to partial, or near complete, defoliation. Vigorous, otherwise healthy trees can usually shrug off one year's loss of leaves; more serious is when fungal damage appears in the twigs. Worst is when brown rings appear in the wood of the branchlets. It is always worth exploring with clean secateurs or a sharp knife. At that point the question becomes how much do you love the tree? Does it give you a frisson of delight every time you pass? If the answer is 'yes', cut out all wood with the least sign of decay, feed the tree and, if you are feeling particularly energetic, give it an anti-fungal spray in the backend. If not, cut your losses and give yourself a treat with a new tree which, in bark or structure or leaf, or preferably all three, will deliver the aforesaid frisson. Amongst small trees my current top 20 are:

Pere David's maple	<i>Acer davidii</i>	Carberry; RBG
Moosebark	<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i>	Suntrap
Paperbark maple	<i>Acer griseum</i>	Pollock; RBG
Hybrid Strawberry tree	<i>Arbutus x andrachnoides</i>	Perthshire
Himalayan birch	<i>Betula utilis</i>	RBG
Tansy hawthorn	<i>Crateagus tanacetifolia</i>	Malleny; RBG
Nyman's Eucryphia	<i>Eucryphia x nymanensis</i>	Dick Place
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	Dalrymple Crescent
Black mulberry	<i>Morus nigra</i>	Dalrymple Crescent; Luffness
Antarctic beech	<i>Nothofagus antarctica</i>	Preston Hall
Chinese necklace poplar	<i>Populus lasiocarpa</i>	Carberry; RBG
Tibetan cherry	<i>Prunus serrula</i>	Findhorn Place; Pollock
Manchurian cherry	<i>Prunus maackii</i>	Pollock
Silver willow	<i>Salix alba 'SERICEA'</i>	South Lauder Road
Pagoda tree	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	RBG
Japanese rowan	<i>Sorbus commixta</i>	Findhorn Place
Service tree	<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	Pollock; RBG
Deciduous camellia	<i>Stewartia pseudocamellia</i>	Dalrymple Crescent
Snowbell tree	<i>Styrax japonica</i>	Branklyn
Mongolian lime	<i>Tilia mongolica</i>	RBG

By the standards of, say, Somerset, I think lamentable the range of trees available from Lothian nurseries. So you have to take vigorous action to get what you want, but worth it for years of pleasure.

Alistair Scott

REMINISCENCES

Miss Catherine Fairley who now lives at Northwood House, Lauder Road has kindly agreed to share with us her reminiscences of her childhood days:

'I was born in 30 Gilmour Road, Newington on 11 November 1909 and remained at that address until 1986. I went to St. Margaret's School, East Suffolk Road, Newington, which was a sister school to St Margaret's School, Morningside - (now Cluny Lodge Nursing Home). The school Boarding House was Sherwood in South Lauder Road where Mrs Buchanan and her family lived.

The suburban railway was a constant asset to communication. Newington pupils travelled by train to Morningside for science and tennis, and Morningside children travelled to Newington for singing and art. We all played hockey in Carlton Cricket ground, so Blackford Station was available for schools and Boarding House.

We also used the train to go to Portobello Baths and, as a family, to visit my grandparents in Wardie Road, Trinity. Trains gave access to many districts in the city at that time. In addition to the South Suburban there were services to Leith, Barnton, Corstorphine and Colinton.

There were also cable tramcars - Newington Station was the terminal on the South Side in those early years with trams to and from the Post Office at the centre of the system. Other lines went to places such as Pilrig, Canonmills and Murrayfield. For a visit to the zoo we had to transfer at the end of the car lines to the Zoo Bus a small, horse-drawn black vehicle shaped like a high hearse which we entered from the rear and sat on wooden benches on either side.



The cable trams also went from Salisbury to Morningside via Churchill and from Morningside to the West End. The original transport plan is still reflected in some of the present day bus routes. When the trams were electrified the Newington line went first as far as Liberton Dams, and some years later, up to the top of Liberton Brae.

The South Side of the city had many private schools in addition to St. Margaret's, mostly in the Grange, and no doubt the excellent public transport gave easy access to them for children.'

Elsa Hendry

ENDPIECE

In a world of constant change
Laws of static seem quite strange
Yet what is static
Makes you ecstatic in the Grange

The unsinkable can sink -
It's time to think, and then re-think:
Don't be like the Titanic
It's time to be dynamic in the Grange

by Sebastian Tombs

(following his thought provoking talk at the February AGM on Change in the Grange).

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 1998

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Marion Cantley 59 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH	667 8074	Hon Treasurer
Jo Scott 43 Grange Road EH9 1UG	667 3386	Minutes Secretary Sales
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Jean Duff 13 Dick Place EH9 2JU	667 0538	Gardens
James Fleck 38 Dick Place EH9 2JB	667 3176	Trades and Maintenance
Frank Johnson 67/5 Grange Loan EH9 2EG	667 7418	Planning
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THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION QUESTIONNAIRE ON GARDEN PONDS

We know that there has been a great increase in water features in Grange gardens recently and would be very interested to hear about them and the wildlife that inhabits and visits them. If we get sufficient replies we intend to run a feature in the next newsletter and will be careful not to mention your name or house number, just the street name. Please answer as many questions as you are able. Questions 2-8 relate primarily to ponds, but please answer them if they are relevant to your water feature.

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Tel Date

1. What water features do you have in your garden?

- a) Pond
- b) Fountain
- c) Bog garden or area of wet ground
- d) Other

2. Dimensions - what approximately is the:-

- a) Surface area?
- b) Length and breadth
- c) Maximum and minimum depths?
- d) Approximate capacity in gallons?

3. Location and Age

- a) Is it in full sun shade both?
- b) Is it in a secluded position surrounded by shrubbery
or unprotected and in the open?
- c) Date when the pond was first dug?

4. Physical Attributes

- a) Is your pond above (eg in a barrel) or below ground?
- b) Is it fed by running water rainwater garden hose?
- c) What is the pond constructed from?
 - i) Puddled clay
 - ii) Preformed plastic/fibre glass
 - iii) Rubber/butyl liner
 - iv) Concrete or real rock
 - v) Other

5. Plantlife - indicate plants which live in the pond or round its margins

a) Name the wild or naturally occurring plants

b) Name the cultivated plants

6. Wildlife - what visits or inhabits the pond?

a) Mammals - eg fox hedgehog squirrel other

b) Birds - eg heron duck garden birds other

c) Amphibians - eg frog toad newt other

d) Fish - eg goldfish carp stickleback other

e) Insects - eg water boatman dragonfly other

7. Problems

a) Does it ice over in winter?

b) Has the surface ever become covered in pond weed?

c) Does it leak or overflow, or dry out?

d) Is it too big, or too small?

e) Is it dangerous for small children?

f) Other

8. Benefits - why have you got a pond?

a) I enjoy the wildlife

b) It enhances the garden

c) Stretches my gardening skills

d) Other

.....

9. Points of Interest

Is there anything interesting, or helpful you could tell us about your pond or water feature? For instance, you may have noticed that running water is beneficial to the wildlife, or that you would not site a pond within 10 metres of a tree again.

Please attach an extra sheet if there is not sufficient room on the form.

Thanks very much for your help. Please return this form to:- Jean Duff, 13 Dick Place, or Lucy Richardson, 31 Fountainhall Road by Friday 30 April.