



The Grange Association

NEWSLETTER NO. 70

SPRING 2001

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Sat. 12 May We are running a plant stall at the Carlton Cricket Club's annual coffee morning. You are all welcome at this friendly Bring and Buy morning from 10am to 12 noon. All plants, both indoor and outdoor will be gratefully received. If you have any plants you would like collected please ring Jean Duff on 667 0538.
- Sat. 16 June This year as a complete change we have organised an architectural walk. Graham Dickson has very kindly agreed to lead us through a small part of the Grange to look at some notable buildings. Please meet at the Dick Place - Findhorn Place corner at 2.15pm.
- Wed. 17 Oct After the summer break we can look forward to an illustrated talk by Katie Jackson of the John Muir trust. As you may know, John Muir was born in Dunbar, but left Scotland for America when he was quite young. He was largely responsible for the establishment of the Yosemite National Park in California. Katie plans to tell us about the current work of the John Muir Trust in Scotland, particularly in the Ben Nevis area which the Trust manages.
- Wed. 14 Nov Angela Chisholm, Convenor of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens has accepted our invitation to tell us about the work of the 'Friends' and about the three associated gardens. She will also show us some slides of Dawyck, Ben More and Logan Gardens to whet our appetites to go and see them for ourselves.
- Wed. 5 Dec This brings us to the fourth of our now well established Christmas evenings. Do try to come! You will enjoy the many talents of those who so generously give up their time as this busy time of year. More details will appear in the Autumn newsletter.

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.

Jean Duff and Betty Paul

REPORTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Please see centre pullout for our featured report on 'Design and Development in the Grange: A Forum'.

SCOTLAND'S GARDENS - 21 NOVEMBER 2000



Thomas Mabbott, secretary of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society helped us forget the miserable seasonal weather by transporting us to the colours of some of Scotland's gardens. His knowledgeable talk and beautiful slides were much enjoyed.

CHRISTMAS EVENING - 6 DECEMBER 2000

This evening has become a popular fixture in the Grange Association's calendar. Annemarie Hammond brought three of her pupils - Laura, Sam and Flora - to play for us. Also entertaining us were Inge Mantle, Rosemary Stewart and Anne Scott (with daughter Kathie to "turn the pages"). Nick Keir of the McCalmans and Ida Anderson, with her humorous and dramatic pieces, rounded off a very happy evening. We are extremely grateful to all these talented people.

Betty Paul

22nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 21 FEBRUARY 2001



Some 60 people attended our AGM on 21 February, including representatives of other associations, local councillors and our speaker Councillor Donald Anderson. The minutes of the 21st AGM were adopted as a correct record.

Chairman's report - in a wide-ranging report, Sheila Reid, our Chairman, mentioned the following:

- She thanked members for making known their planning views and for pre-planning applications and discussion
- A meeting with the Head of Planning has been requested to discuss local planning matters
- Reference to the briefing note "When Do I need Approval to do Something to My Property" distributed with the meeting's papers
- The presence of an Urban Task Force to keep the streets clean
- The "Adopt a Monument" scheme
- A plea for information on activities you are interested in
- Thanks to Alistair Higson for web design work

The accounts presented by our Honorary Treasurer Marion Cantley were adopted and new members of the committee were voted in. (See the committee list on the back page.)

Cllrs Pringle and Forest brought Cllr McLaren's apologies and both spoke of their continued interest in the work of The Grange Association. Moyra Forest brought our attention to the recently formed "Friends of the Meadows". We had a representative at the inaugural meeting and will continue to participate in the new Friends group.

The AGM was followed by Councillor Donald Anderson, the City of Edinburgh Council leader, speaking on "Local Services for Local People". This interesting talk with slides took the audience through the significant changes in community involvement and openness that has been introduced at all levels of the Council's business. He underlined the value the Council places on the involvement of local people at the public sittings of the Local Area Development Committees (LDAC). This is an opportunity to bring our concerns to the notice of councillors and officials, to be heard and to be answered. All are welcome and all have a right to be there.

With an annual budget of £600 million and 20,000 employees Cllr Anderson described Edinburgh as a successful city with low unemployment and a fast growing economy. It is a forward looking city and was the first authority in the UK to have email and internet access in all schools. A priority this year is for Edinburgh to be a cleaner city and extra resources are being dedicated to task force working.

The next LDAC meetings are Monday 26 March at 7.00pm in Liberton High School and Tuesday 22 May at 7.00pm in James Gilliespie's High School.

PLANNING DEVELOPMENTS, AUGUST 2000 - FEBRUARY 2001

The Association among other community groups continues to be consulted on planning matters by both the City and the Scottish Executive. The most important recent formal responses have been to the Major Issues Report for the forthcoming revision of the Edinburgh and Lothians Structure Plan; the draft revised National Planning Policy Guideline on the Planning System; and Planning and Radio-telecommunications. In addition to taking part in the City planners' focus groups, we were also invited to lead a small internal seminar on the concerns of community groups in responding to planning applications.



If you would like to know more about these activities, please contact Graham Dickson.

SIGNIFICANT APPLICATIONS

15 FINDHORN PLACE

Revised proposals have again been refused, essentially on the grounds of over-development and unsuitable design and materials.

180 GRANGE LOAN: CARLTON CRICKET CLUB

With planning consent granted, a Lottery grant has been made but there is a need for further matching funding to be achieved to allow a contract to be let within the Lottery time limit.

58-62 ST ALBANS ROAD

This was another attempt at over-development. The conversion of the Bank of Scotland Training establishment villas to residential use was quite acceptable, but the ill-conceived proposal for 10 new flats on the car park behind was certainly not.

APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS FROM AUGUST 2000 TO MID-FEBRUARY 2001

All considered by Planning Group - * indicates comments made by Grange Association Committee

APPROVED

Alteration and/or extension to dwelling house at: 3 Chalmers Crescent, *9 Dick Place, 24 Mansionhouse Road, 23 Dick Place, *15 Sciennes Gardens, 4 Grange Loan Gardens
Conservatories at: 25/2 Oswald Road, 16 Grange Road

Others

31 Canaan Lane Remove chimney (retrospective)

*6 Mortonhall Road Remove front gate and path, infill wall and hedge

10 Grange Crescent Alter landscaping, form new entrance and carport (for disabled person)

171 Whitehouse Loan Erect double garage, form opening in existing wall

23 South Oswald Road Reconstruct window and form new door

*1-2 Strathearn Road Change of use from nursing home to 5 flats and 1 dwelling

*129 Marchmont Road ("Bottoms Up") sign boards inset in existing window frames

*6 Strathearn Road Alterations/ change of use from nursing home to house in multiple occupancy

*186-188 Causewayside Change of use from shop to form cafe

*72-78 Causewayside Alterations to frontage

Mortonhall Road Erect bin stores for new development, alter landscape proposals

(Gf) 7 Dick Place Formation of access

15 Dalrymple Crescent Erection of summerhouse

23 Hope Terrace Reversion of nursery to residential accommodation

21 Findhorn Place Erection of garden and bicycle sheds and garden railings

*48 Lauder Road Extend into roofspace, reorganise rear kitchen wing

REFUSED

29 Hatton Place Demolish existing garage and erect new garage, porch and conservatory

- 38 Ratcliffe Terrace Erect non-illuminated gantry sign
- *9 Whitehouse Terrace Erect new dwelling ("lodge house")
- 8 Mansionhouse Road Alter and extend dwelling to erect conservatory
- *15 Findhorn Place Demolish existing building except façade, erect 8 flats (scheme 4)
- *58-62 St Albans Road Demolish single storey extensions, convert outhouse, existing villas to 7 flats, erect 10 new flats

PENDING

- 13 Palmerston Road Extend pedestrian gate to take vehicle parking space
- 41 Relugas Road Proposed extension to dwelling house
- *54 Canaan Lane Change of carpark surfacing
- *129 Beaufort Road Reinstate window and install louvre grilles below
- *18a Hope Terrace Form fire exit, metal walkway and escape stair
- 4 Grange Loan Gardens Proposed conservatory
- (Gf) 15 Strathearn Road Alter and extend, remove former extension, greenhouse and shed, erect conservatory
- 6 South Oswald Road Enlarge 2 windows
- 50 Lauder Road Alter ground floor rear windows and add conservatory
- 51 Dick Place Internal alterations
- 42 St Alban's Road Internal alterations and new french doors to garden room
- 5 Cumin Place Replace existing coalshed with new garden room
- 5 Findhorn Place Single storey garden room, extension at rear

Graham Dickson

COMMUNITY NEWS

Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months in St Catherine's Argyle Church Hall, Grange Road at 7.30pm. The next meeting is on 11 April, when an invited speaker, Robin Harper MSP, will give a talk. The public is welcome at all meetings.

From time to time speakers are invited to discuss topical issues such as the siting of mobile phone masts. However the usual format are Police and Planning Reports, followed by a discussion of any road or traffic issues; tenement problems, with particular discussion of House in Multiple Occupancy and the recent City Council regulations; issues regarding the Meadows and tree planting and the new umbrella group "Friends of the Meadows".

The boundaries of the Community Council overlap with The Grange Association west of Lauder Road and south of Beaufort and Strathearn Roads taking in the Cricket Ground and the wedge of the Astley Ainslie complex. The Grange Association liaises with the Community Council on joint concerns.

Dorothy Ryle

TREES

There are over 500 species of Eucalypt, none native outside Australasia, but extensively planted and regenerating in many of the warmer parts of the world. The species are often variable in appearance and performance across their area of natural distribution. Moreover they hybridise readily. So, if anyone gives you a definitive name for any particular Eucalypt he or she will be either one of a very small band of experts or chancing his or her arm. You will find a fair number of different Eucalypts on the west coast of Scotland, at places like Logan, Crarae, Inverewe and, particularly, Kinlochhourn. You will find even more and bigger in Ireland. Conditions on the Scottish east coast are not so favourable and you are unlikely to find any but the hardiest species which are generally reckoned to be, *E.gunnii*, *E.pauciflora*, *E.niphophila* and *E.perriniana*. But all rules are there to be broken and over the years I have found some trees that do not appear to fit into this simple framework.



When in doubt I tend to reach for Celyn Vale Nurseries (at Carrog, Corwen, Clwyd LL21 9LD, tel 01490 430671) They specialise in Eucalypts, growing, so far as possible, from native-collected seed so that they can be sure, for example, of high altitude provenances which are more likely to be hardy in our conditions. In my experience they have a knowledge of the genus, in the context of the British Isles, unrivalled outside the Research Branch of the Forestry Commission. They produce a 16 page catalogue which is a mine of copious and cogent advice.

Some Eucalypts are slower growing and eventually, smaller than others but most in Edinburgh have the capacity to become too large for the space available. They are likely to require fairly regular treatment, be that trimming or pollarding or coppicing. The Celyn Vale nursery catalogue is particularly strong on exactly what to do and when. In essence cut the tree in April, at about 3 feet from the ground if you want foliage, or at 4 to 5 inches if you want several regrown stems. There will be a degree of self selection as the stems grow but you will usually need to assist the process. Favour those that 'grip' the top of the stump and those on the windward edge.

It is possible to keep a tree to a lollipop shape by an annual trim. This is to treat the tree as you would a vigorous hedge with the obvious consequences if you let the tree get away from you. It is advisable to keep in mind the

Whittinghame Eucalypt. It was planted by the Balfours in 1853 and was 100 feet tall and 29 feet girth when it blew down in the 1950s. Some authorities thought it was a hybrid but weight of opinion now regards it as a high altitude provenance of *E.gunnii*. Numerous seedlings were grown and widely distributed. One at Whittinghame is approaching the size of the parent and would fill most Grange gardens from wall to wall.



Alistair Scott

BIRD NEWS FROM THE BLACKFORD AND GRANGE AREA

WOODCOCK YEAR

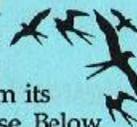
For me, this winter has been the year of the woodcock. I don't know if they are becoming more numerous or just more visible during the cold weather, due to feeding difficulties.

Many years ago I came across a woodcock nest at the foot of a tree on Dalmeny Estate. I marvelled at the four beautiful eggs, their points turned inwards and so well camouflaged. It was only because the bird flew off in front of me that I found them.

On another occasion, on Mortonhall Estate, I witnessed another unusual incident. I was walking along a narrow path in a damp wood during early summer when a woodcock flew up from under my feet, only inches away. I could see quite clearly that this bird was carrying a chick, gripped firmly in both feet. I had heard of woodcock carrying their young away from danger but was very pleased to see the proof for myself.

Late one summer evening I found a dead, still warm woodcock on Blackford Avenue, by the kerbside. I could only guess that it had been killed by a vehicle as it jinked out from one of the gardens.

One very severe winter, several years ago, when the ground had been frozen for about three days, I was walking towards the Hermitage, past the allotments at Midmar. I noticed a crow sitting on a low branch in a sycamore tree not far from the path. From its behaviour I suspected mischief and went to investigate the cause. Below the tree, sitting quietly on the frozen, icy ground, was a woodcock, its camouflage quite useless. I approached it, expecting it to fly off at any moment, and was surprised to be standing only feet away. In the snow nearby I could see where the bird had unsuccessfully attempted to thrust its long beak through the snow and ice to find food, but the ground was solid. I picked the bird up quite easily and could feel the keel bone through its emaciated body. I wrapped my scarf around it and started home with my dog, Finn, who didn't seem too happy with his shortened walk.



What to feed it on was my main concern. The compost heap was frozen solid so I couldn't get the obvious worms and grubs that were needed. I decided on a tin of dog food mixed with egg yolk. With the help of my wife, my daughter and a single chopstick we managed to force feed the bird and give it plenty of water. The long beak made things difficult to begin with, but we became more confident as our patient seemed resolved to be helped. Immediately after feeding, the bird was put into a large cardboard box, with shredded newspaper and water to drink. The box was then put into a dark, cool room where it was left in peace. We fed the bird about every four hours and as late into the night as feasible to match its natural feeding pattern.

After two days there was a marked improvement and our by now frisky bird ran round the skirting board and along the full length of our bemused dog's back, up the tail and down the nose. Fortunately, the dog behaved well under provocation. On the third day, the bird flew up to the ceiling and round the kitchen, piercing our polyball lightshade with his slender bill. On the third evening I was happy with the woodcock's body weight and also with the weather, which was beginning to thaw, so I took him up to the woods where I had found him. I put him gently under a beech tree and left him in the darkness among the leaves.

Two days later, my dog flushed a pair of woodcock near to the release area, by the wooden bridge over the Braidburn, and they circled above. One of them looked fairly dishevelled, so I suppose this could have been ours.

I've always had a special affection for woodcock since that time, and always get a buzz when I see one.

Tom Breheny

BATS

Do you have bats in your house or garden? The local bat group is interested in mapping the presence of bats in our area. Give Joan or Stephen Carter a ring on 667 0592 with details.

Marion Cantley

REMINISCENCES AND LOCAL HISTORY

Esdaile School

In September 1946 the people living in Kilgraston Road were faced with a great change in the neighbourhood. Instead of the army occupying Esdaile School, which they had done since the beginning of the war, schoolgirls once again clattered round the building. We were back from our evacuation to Ayton Castle.



As far as the girls were concerned, the return was a mixed blessing. Most of us had loved the freedom of Ayton Castle. We had huge grounds to wander in, hayfields close to the castle to play hockey and lacrosse on and classrooms in interesting places such as boudoirs and billiard rooms. The castle was full of character.

When we returned to Edinburgh, we found ourselves in a uniform colour scheme of chocolate brown and mint green. Everything was freshly painted after the army's occupation and I think our staff must have nursed a secret longing all the war for chocolate mint creams.

Of course domestic arrangements were much improved. Fuel rationing was becoming a little more generous and we were now in a building designed for us. We no longer had to post our dirty washing home very week for our unfortunate mothers to wash and send back. Instead of one bath a week, we

got two and instead of one hairwash every three weeks, we got one every week. (How today's teenagers would have coped with this, I cannot imagine!)

Senior girls, I was one of them by then, were allowed on Saturday to take the number six tram down to Princes Street and meet friends. I seem to remember this often was a group of boys from Loretto. We had trips to the theatre and to concerts and of course the fun of playing other schools in matches.

It was not all good news however. On weekdays if we were not on the games list, we were dragooned into "croc walks". Some unfortunate member of staff had to accompany us down Blackford Avenue, along St Albans Road, or wherever. Two poor girls also got the job of "sharing" this member of staff, that is walking with her and thinking up conversation all the way round. The "croc" of girls, wearing navy blue coats, berets, itchy black stockings and the school scarf of navy, yellow and white must have been a familiar sight in the Grange.

Another drawback was that the games field was down Oswald Road, and after a strenuous session of lacrosse or hockey, it seemed an awfully long way to straggle back to school to get milk and a bun, which is what we ate before "prep".

Perhaps the strangest aspect of our coming "home to Esdaile was the fact that none of the girls had ever been there. The prefects, therefore, were asked to come back a day early so we could learn our way around the building and show it to the others when they arrived.

Esdaile has a graceful curved stairway in the front hall and only staff were allowed to use it. This meant that 120 girls, usually in a hurry, had to scramble up and down the narrow, back, winding stairs where there was hardly room to pass one another. Although we didn't question much in those days we were amazed at this. I remember one girl, who stumbled and fell in a head-on collision on those stairs, gasping, "It's funny how we pay to be here and we get the back stairs, and the staff are paid to be here and they get the front stairs." Again, what would today's teenagers make of this?

Lynne Gladstone-Miller via Elsa Hendry Reminiscences Editor

PLANT SALE AT THE CRICKET CLUB

The cricket club holds a coffee morning in May each year to which everyone in the Grange is invited. The Grange Association is again organising a plant bring and buy stall. This is a special year for the cricket club as they need to raise funds to contribute towards building their new pavilion and you are specially asked to support this event to make it even more successful than usual. If you are able to help by bringing along plants, perhaps you could consider starting now by sowing some extra seeds in the next month or so, making houseplant cuttings and lifting and dividing garden plants. Herbs and herbaceous plants are always very popular.



PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN

In the last few years I have become attracted to a group of plants I hadn't grown before except as vegetables! I speak of the onion, garlic and chive family - the Alliums. I find them a most interesting group that can be fitted into any herbaceous border with a sunny aspect and a well-drained soil. Some are tall for the back of the border and some are short. They also come in a wide variety of colours. Two good yellow varieties about one foot tall are *A. moly* flowering in June and *A. flavum* flowering in July and August.

A. caeruleum is blue and about two feet tall and blooms in June - it does need a lot of sun though. The pink *A. cernuum* is a charming plant with flowers, deep rose, hanging down and is about 18 inches tall and flowers in July. Purple coloured varieties such as *A. hollandicum*, 'Purple Sensation'; *A. schubertii* and *A. aflatunense* are much later growing up to 3 feet at least and their flowers appear as large round balls covered with small flowers. Others that deserve a mention include White Allium - *A. nigrum* (the ovaries are black!), *A. triquetrum* which is scented and *A. karataviense* which has pale lilac ball shaped flowers and deep reddish green leaves. Give them a try!

Jean Duff

Editor's note: seeds for many of these can be obtained from Chiltern Seeds, tel: 01229 581137, website: www.childternseeds.co.uk, email: info@chilternseeds.co.uk

WEB SITE

We're on the Web! Many of you have done so already but if you haven't yet, come and visit us at www.grange-assoc.co.uk. If you really want to know what's happening in your area, why not make us your homepage?

The purpose of the website is to provide you with a means to access information about the current work of The Grange Association and to find out about recent events between Newsletters.

Future developments to the website being considered include a map of the area highlighting points of local interest and a bulletin board where you can make your views known.

In the meantime, if you have any views or enquiries about the site, I'd like to hear from you. Please contact me at law_macdowell@hotmail.com.

Lawrence MacDowell

GRANGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT AID

Have you all remembered to send our Treasurer your subscription for 2001? It's never too late!

If you are a tax payer and wish to use a Gift Aid form to allow the Association to reclaim tax, you can obtain one from the Treasurer. Please remember that signatories of this declaration must currently be paying income tax of at least 22p in the pound for the Association to be able to reclaim a minimum of 28p for each pound received.

LETTERS FROM RESIDENTS



Helicopter Nuisance

"I am sure I am not the only Grange resident to consider that the nuisance caused by sightseeing helicopter flights over this part of Edinburgh has become intolerable. Last Saturday, for example, we suffered in excess of twenty return trips directly overhead at fifteen minute intervals throughout the day. The route never varies and flies immediately over the Grange, round Arthur's Seat and back.

Unfortunately there appears to be few restrictions on these flights. I am in correspondence with the City Council to see what might be done to stop, or at least curtail, these flights. Perhaps we might also learn other residents' views through the pages of the Newsletter?"

EC Jacobs



Deterioration in Boundary Walls

"I read with interest IF Baillie's article on Stone Walls in the Grange in the Autumn Newsletter. With regard to the condition of the wall on the north side of Strathearn Road, in which the stones in many places are severely damaged, I believe this has been caused by a combination of very soft sandstone and the use of excessively strong mortar in pointing the masonry. This has resulted in water trapped in the stones freezing and causing their disintegration. The stones in this wall vary considerably in their properties and not all have been affected in this way. Salt crystallisation below the surface of the stones can result in somewhat similar damage but, in the Edinburgh climate, is less likely to occur than that caused by frost.

Free standing walls are exposed to very severe environmental conditions from rain and frost whilst house walls are kept slightly warmer by the heat from inside. Garden walls in the Grange are often damaged by the close proximity of large trees. In most cases repairs can be effected but occasionally a section of wall has to be rebuilt at considerable expense."

A W Hendry

Editor's Note: adieu, but not goodbye! This is my last newsletter - I hope you have had as much pleasure reading it as I have in collecting the articles and putting it together. Welcome to the new editor who will take on the autumn newsletter.

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 2001

Sheila Reid 108 Findhorn Place EH9 2PB	667 4876	Chairperson
Hamish Logan 19 Hatton Place EH9 1UB	667 4232	Vice-Chairperson
Marion Cantley 59 Fountainhall Road EH9 2LH	667 8074	Hon Treasurer
Graham Dickson 5 Glenisla Gardens EH9 2HR	667 2738	Honorary Secretary Planning
Jean Duff 13 Dick Place EH9 2JU	667 0538	Gardens
Frank Johnson 67/5 Grange Loan EH9 2EG	667 7418	South Edinburgh Crime Prevention Panel
Derek Lyddon 31 Blackford Road EH9 2DT	667 2266	Honorary President Planning
Angela McFee 23 Mortonhall Rd EH9 2HS	667 4043	Planning, Newsletter Distribution
Jon Oberlander 22a Findhorn Place EH9	667 9551	
Betty Paul 18a Dick Place EH9 2JL	667 1240	Social
Judith Reeves 125d Grange Loan EH9	667 5770	Gardens
Dorothy Ryle 33 Mansionhouse Rd EH9 2JD	667 1444	Community Liaison
Alistair Scott 26 Dalrymple Crescent EH9 2NX	667 9577	Trees
Christina Somerville 111 St Albans Road EH9	667 9797	Web Site

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The Grange Association

DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE GRANGE: A FORUM - 25 OCTOBER 2000

This meeting was arranged to provide an opportunity for members to speak about and explain their preferences for design and development in an open discussion. To provide a context, invited architects and developers living or working in the Grange each summarised briefly what they saw as the character of the area and how they responded to it in their designs. **Charles Prosser**, Secretary of the Royal Fine Arts Commission for Scotland was the chairman for the evening

Richard Ewing, an architect living in the Grange, spoke of continuity and change in the area. He and his wife, her father and grandfather had all been married in St Catherine's Argyle church – three generations over a period which had seen change from early electric trams and the first trains to commuter parking, from family houses to subdivision of those houses to blocks of flats. Society changes, with internal and external influences, and we are part of it. Ideas about design also change: when Richard's father-in-law built his house it was possibly not much liked but it is now one of the Grange's listed buildings. When designing, an architect has to satisfy the client's needs and consider the character of the site. Each age must make its contribution to a living area if it is not to be a museum. It is important that we are interested and involved if we are to understand and possibly influence the change around us.

Colin Cumberland, of Applecross Properties Ltd, said the developer, working in a competitive situation, had to find a balance between ground costs, development costs and sale prices. Only in wealthy areas, as parts of Edinburgh had become, were high quality design and materials affordable. Planning consents for development were usually conditional on the use of materials considered suitable for the area. He was keen on modern design but considered the council's policy for "villa areas" to be constricting, inhibiting good design and encouraging pastiche.

He believed the Council described the Grange in its Character Appraisal as they wished to see it, not as it was – flats as well as villas have become typical residential forms. To meet the demand for homes it would be sensible to find more and less expensive land, which is not easy in the Grange, or to rebuild on the sites of less interesting, low density terraces.

Roland Wedgwood, an architect who has worked in the Grange, recognised the main characteristics of the original feus in this “a good place to live” – south facing, allowing large windows to the sun and big gardens, with walls at the pavement edge giving privacy. He described how he had approached the design of the sheltered housing at St Raphaels, positioning the building to avoid overshadowing and loss of neighbours’ privacy, and holding a public meeting before applying for planning consent. It was important to build with good manners, relating the new design to its surroundings. Siting and form were possibly more important than materials. Developers’ housing was often recognisable anywhere, and is not site-specific.

He disagreed with Colin Cumberland about design constraints. With no personal clients, developers can design for their own market, within the constraints of planning, building control and cost. There could be problems with interpretation of planning guidelines by planners who were not trained in design.

He suggested a radical solution to effect some local control on land values and design in the Grange might be a residents’ property company using the Grange Association as client.

Mike Afshar, of AMA (New Town) Ltd, developer, lives in the Grange and has been working on a development there. He considered the Council’s Character Appraisal brief but accurate and noted particularly the effects of boundary treatment and very high proportion of large garden trees. The architectural integrity of the original Grange feus remained despite changes in use and transport and the removal of railings. Acceptance of change was necessary if residential properties are to be retained.

AMA, most of whose projects were in conservation areas, worked to promote good design, although the clients' prime interest was usually living space. The company has looked for a niche market for quality, and expects ultimately to recoup development costs.

The Blackford Road development is a single house in a large garden, similar in scale to others in the area. It will add a contemporary design to the variety which already exists in the street.

Malcolm Fraser, an architect working in the Grange, used slides to illustrate his lively summary. He described three essential qualities of the best older buildings of the Grange: solidity, integrity and craftsmanship. These were typical of their age in the choice and working of materials, and true to the social patterns of the life of their day - family houses in large enclosed gardens, well attended churches etc. The way we live now is much changed and the earlier materials and craftsmen are costly and not readily available. Contemporary materials are lighter and differently handled, and the good contemporary design can offer three contrasting qualities: openness, engagement with the landscape, and the use of sunlight. This design too should be true to the way we live and work now, and to add to the character of the area. Many buildings, both old and new - but particularly new - in the Grange did not meet these criteria.

He referred to another area of intense development activity where old and new buildings came together, Holyrood North. Here a master plan had been very helpful to planners, conservationists and designers. The principle of an overall approach might also be helpful for a "villa area" under pressure.

We should also remember that all buildings were modern once!

DISCUSSION

While few members declared their own views about the character of the Grange and its development, many took up points raised by the speakers.

Aspects of change in the Grange dominated. There is a cycle of approval (we value it, while Robert Louis Stevenson thought it "monstrous"). There are structural questions: existing buildings will be repaired and modified over the years, at a price, by careful owners. Some subdivided houses are now being returned to single family use. This fabric change needs as much care as the introduction of new buildings. More drastically, climate change and sustainability should be anticipated.

The Planning Department had come under fire for allowing some projects and preventing others, and for the interpretation of some of its own policies. **Will Garrett**, Conservation planner, outlined the purpose of the Council's Grange Character Appraisal which gave a feel for the "grain" of the area and was used in assessing planning applications. Involvement with the Grange Association had been a great help in its preparation. He could not agree that the planning system encouraged pastiche or inhibited good design; the Council wished to see architecture of our time. The Department was developing an urban design policy for the city, of which the Grange was a part. **Aileen Grant**, Development Control, said the planning policies helped achieve consistency in dealing with applications. Prior discussions between architects, developers and planners gave valuable understanding of intentions, standards and policies in advance of an application. An assessment of the spatial character of a site's surroundings was important in this early work.

"What is the place of the Grange Association in all this?" asked **Sheila Reid**, our own chairman. The answer seemed to be "Carry on as you are: active, vigilant, communicative, and co-operating with members, Councillors and Council officers."

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Graham Dickson