



The Newsletter

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION SPRING 2011 | ISSUE NO.100



Spring Fever at 100!

Spring has sprung: enjoy the signs of seasonal renewal, especially in this colourful cover image taken for the 100th edition by Grange photographer Martin Mutch

www.grangeassociation.org

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Welcome to the 2011 Spring edition of **The Newsletter of the Grange Association** which marks an auspicious milestone: the 100th publication. You will note the larger format: if you like it let us know and depending on your reaction we may keep it. Your views already have helped to inform other aspects of the content. Not all articles represent the views of the Association. As well as keeping a watching brief on planning, conservation, environment and all matters of concern to residents the Grange Association organises events, talks and excursions throughout the year. Why not join or renew on the form enclosed with this issue and put a new Spring into your step.

Richard Mowe, Editor, The Newsletter

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Guardians of your heritage

By JOHN GRAHAM

As the new Chair of the Grange Association, succeeding Sofia Leonard, I have a hard act to follow. My predecessor is a qualified architect with deep knowledge of the area, whereas I am an interested amateur. The objectives of the association are set down in its constitution, and in due course I look forward to hearing from members how they think the Committee should pursue them. A key part of the Association's work is considering development proposals in its area. I offer three brief thoughts of my own about how the Association should approach these.

My first observation is that as the Grange Conservation Area has now been in place for around 30 years most of the residents have moved into the area in the knowledge that there are certain constraints on development within it. They have chosen to forego the greater freedom which owners outside conservation areas have to change and extend their properties. It seems reasonable for the Association to expect owners submitting planning applications to recognise these constraints, and not seek to defy them.

Secondly there is a distinction to be drawn between applications for development in a city centre conservation area and those in our area. The conservation of the fabric of a city centre is much easier to achieve if the centre has a healthy economy. That means that those considering development in a city centre often find themselves weighing the public benefit of the proposals, in terms of employment and



JOHN GRAHAM has lived in Grange Loan for nearly 30 years. He spent his career as a civil servant in Scotland and worked in a range of policy areas including industry, planning, local government, finance and agriculture. He retired in 2009 from the post of chief executive of Historic Scotland. He is married with three children and a grandson.

growth, against the public benefit of preserving the fabric as it is. Not an easy task, and some degree of change has to be accepted. In an essentially residential area, however, most development proposals are largely for private benefit, and it is usually the benefit to one owner or one household which has to be weighed against the public benefit of protecting the character of the conservation area for all the residents. I suggest this means that the Association can reasonably be quite robust in criticising schemes which detract from the character of the area.

Lastly, and perhaps obviously, the voice of the Association will be stronger with local elected members and the planning committee if it has a strong membership. Please join, or rejoin, if you support the objectives of the Association.

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

It's an exciting time to become Treasurer of the Grange Association. One of my responsibilities is to ensure the finances of the Association are managed, and an important part of that is the gathering of the annual subscription. For both existing and new members, we have included a separate membership form "flyer" with this issue. You are able to subscribe by cash, cheque (whilst these still exist!) and Standing Order. The Standing Order form is being amended, so if you plan to start paying by SO, please send a cheque this year, and request a form from me for 2012. I am delighted to say a total of 162 members already have renewed, either at the AGM, or through existing Standing Order arrangements. I have started a "data clean-up" of the membership records, so some of you may already have been contacted just to validate some details.

RICHARD BROWN, Treasurer, the Grange Association.

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An early rural panorama of the Grange landscape, looking across the Southern slopes to Edinburgh Castle.

A true sense of the past



Personal reflections by Sofia Leonard

A sense of place remains in the collective memory of its residents as well as in some physical relics still extant and this is why it is important to revisit history from time to time. The 100th edition of the Newsletter would seem an appropriate occasion.

Some people may not be aware, for example, that the curious pedestrian lane now known by the romantic name of "Lover's Loan" was "the kirk road through Bruntsfield Links" travelled by the Monks of St Geilies (St Giles) for their daily attendance at mass in the 12th century.

The name of Sciennes at the North East corner of the Conservation Area holds the memory of a convent in honour of St Catherine of Siena founded by a bull of Pope Leo X in 1517. It stood roughly in what is now St Catherine's Place. With the passing of time its name was corrupted to Sciennes. Later it gave rise to a village of weavers. In the vicinity you can find a Jewish cemetery and Sciennes Hill House, built in 1740, where Burns and Scott met.

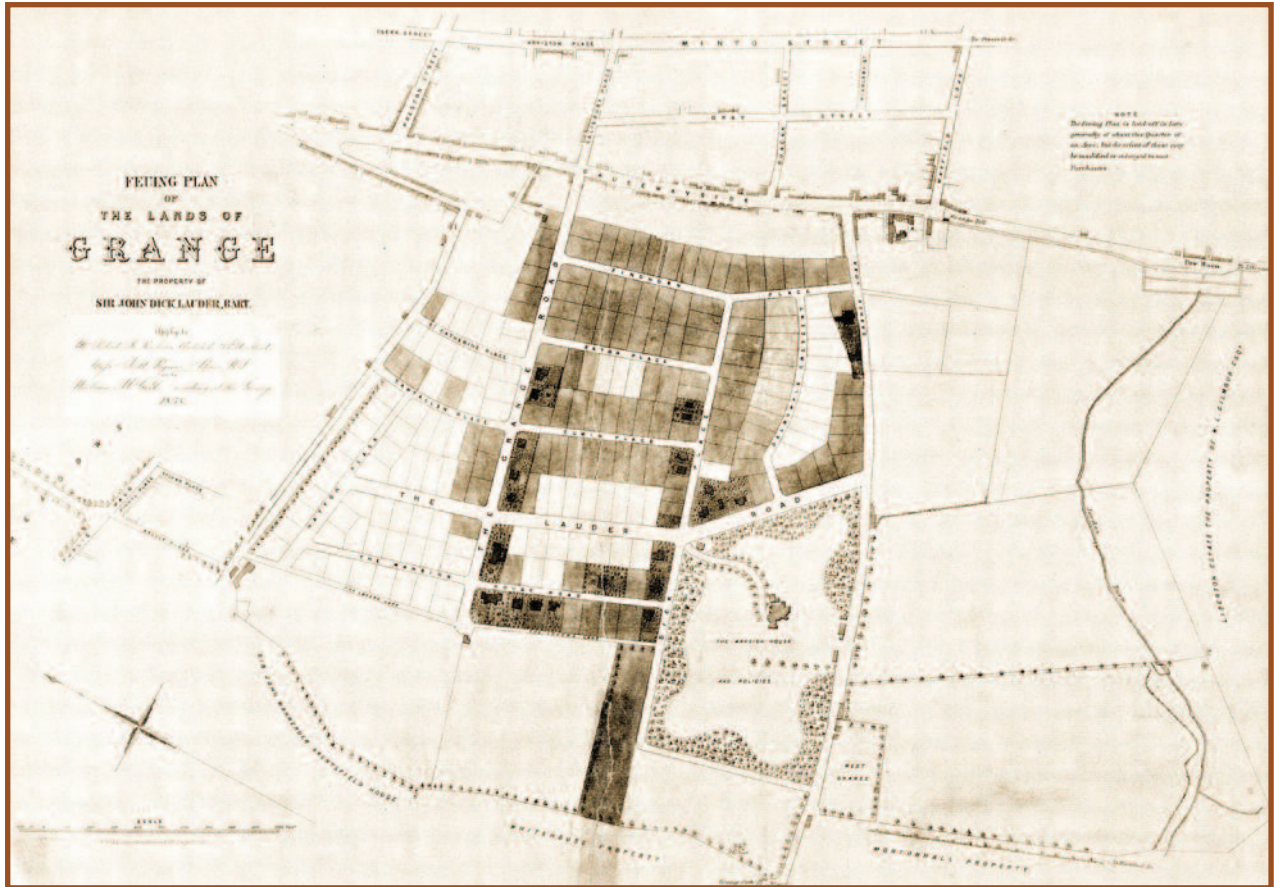
In 1631, during a game of golf on the "Furzy hills of Braid," William Dick, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, acquired the lands of the Grange including the Braids for 40 Merks Scot. The family, now the Dick Lauders, went on to build Grange House incorporating an old L-shaped keep. The house was enlarged by William Playfair in 1837. It was demolished in 1936, but some of its architectural features had been imitated in the surrounding Victorian villas so in a way the memory of the house still lives. The two gate piers surmounted by Wyverns now mark its site on the north side of Grange Loan.

Following an Act Parliament granted to Sir Thomas Dick Lauder in 1825 the lands of the Grange were subdivided to sell for the development of villas in gardens, under the first

feuing plan prepared in the same year by Granger and Miller. But the first comprehensive scheme for the Grange north of Grange Loan, was made in 1851 by David Cousin. Subsequently, the lands south of Grange Loan were included in a feuing plan prepared by Robert Reid Raeburn in 1858.

How was the Grange Association born? A perusal of *The Newsletters* brought back memories of the journey we have travelled together since the first issue of Summer 1974. On the 16 June of that year, a well attended meeting was held at the Hall of the beautiful Mayfield Church designed by Hippolyte Blanc. The assembled company decided to form an association of residents named *The East Grange Association*, chaired by Prof. Richard Scott, with the objective "to promote an interest in the character and quality of East Grange; to encourage high standards of Architecture and Town Planning by reacting to proposals affecting the area's development... and to foster public amenity and to promote good relations inside the community itself". These are the same objectives we still uphold in our 100th issue today.

My first involvement with the Grange came a few years after my family had moved to St Albans Road in 1975. Searching in all of Edinburgh for a family home, I had fallen in love with the area south of the Meadows gently sloping to face the sun in the mornings. Its stone villas and gardens and its long walls made us concentrate our search there, convenient also for the University where my husband was a lecturer and I was working with the distinguished planner, Percy Johnson-Marshall



The 1858 feuing plan of The Grange. From the City Architect's Map Collection.

A few years after we had settled in St Alban's Road, I enrolled as a mature student for the course in Architectural Conservation offered at the College of Art and directed by the well known conservation architect Colin McWilliam. I wanted to learn more about Edinburgh's architectural heritage and my mentor encouraged me to study the area we had recently moved into.

Dr Hale, Director of the Centre for Human Ecology at the University, and then Chairman of the East Grange Association, invited me to give a talk on *Conservation in the Grange* (reported in the East Grange Newsletter Issue 11, Summer 78). I was able to draw on my student research on the history of the Grange which showed, among other things, that the area of the Grange Estate was much larger than that of the East Grange Association. I was very conscious too that the villas were then under sustained pressure by developers for demolition and redevelopment as blocks of flats. I was well aware that Conservation can only be achieved by community effort, so it was urgent for the Association to involve the residents in a campaign for Conservation Area designation. The outcome was an appeal for volunteers made through *The Newsletter*.

Those responding to the appeal included, Bill Rae, Robert Bartholomew, Dorothy Ryle, Caroline Fortescue, Sandra Carter, Alexander Law and Isobel Simpson, and myself.

To get started, I offered the new Conservation Group my recent essays on history, character, and means of protection for the Grange. Together we built on these and added new surveys of the area. Isobel Simpson offered her survey of

trees in the Grange which she had recently exhibited in Newington Library. The group carried out a survey of traffic and also a new kind of resident perceptions survey based on 'mental maps' of the area, with the help of Grange resident Dr Peter Aspinall. This involved children from Sciennes, teachers and parents and asked such questions as what residents regarded as landmarks and what children had noticed in their daily trip from home to school. Other socio-economic surveys using government sources were also made.

The outcome was that the newsletter (*Issue 12, Autumn 1978*) carried the decision of the committee, approved at the AGM of 7 November, to extend the boundaries of the East Grange Association northward to include the area of the Grange Estate up to Grange Road. A further extension of the boundaries north of Grange Road was reported in Issue 25, bringing together finally the whole area of the original Dick Lauder Grange Estate in the newly named "Grange Association".

A lengthy article, (*Issue 19 of Spring 1981*) reported on the success of a public exhibition we prepared in January that year called *The Grange in Danger* and shown in Newington Library. Opened by the Lord Provost it was attended by Michael Ancram MP, David Cameron of Edinburgh Council Planning Department, and representatives from the Regional Council, the Scottish Office and Historic Scotland. There was great community engagement including the participation of the children of Sciennes School and their parents.





Thomas Dick Lauder and his Lady...
“*The Dick Lauders built Grange House, incorporating an old L-shaped keep. The house was enlarged by William Playfair in 1837. It was demolished in 1936 but some of its architectural features had been imitated in the surrounding Victorian villas so in a way the memory of the house still lives.*”

Later the same year we completed work for *The Grange. A Case for Conservation*. Presented to the City Council and the Scottish Office and published as a book by the Grange Association in 1982, this report was in effect our application for Conservation Area status. As report coordinator, I was extremely fortunate in having a wealth of support from the members of the Group. As well as those who prepared the many more technical sections with great skill and care, I would recall Caroline Fortescue who edited the report and built the index. Also Bill Rae who as well as writing minutes of our frequent meetings – and typing them on a manual typewriter! – distributed agendas, arranged meetings and liaised with the Council, all invaluable help. And we were especially grateful for the generosity of John and Robert Bartholomew who donated paper and made their Geographical Institute presses available to print the report. Five of the original members of the Conservation Group are still members of the Grange Association today. Robert Bartholomew, Dorothy Ryle, Alan Jamieson, Bill Rae and myself.

To help with other publication costs an appeal was made in *The Newsletter (Issue 21, Autumn 1981)* for advance contributions: the first contributors are listed at the back of the book. *Issue 24, Autumn 1982*, reports that the book was selling well. The newsletter mentioned also that it had been favourably reviewed by Marjory Wilson in the *Scots Magazine* in a feature entitled *Around Scotland*.

The Grange achieved Conservation Area designation in 30 June 1983 when Robert Bartholomew was Chair. This was a major milestone for us, and for the city since it was the first Victorian area to be afforded this protection in Edinburgh. Issue 29, Summer 1984 reports that the Grange became an affiliate member of the Cockburn Association.

I became a member of the Grange Association Committee in 1984 and was elected Chair in 1989. Dorothy Ryle and Marion Cantley also joined the Association at about that time and have been in the Committee ever since, giving 21 years of continuous and dedicated service.

Our efforts now focused on securing further protection for our area in the form of a Scottish Office direction to the Council called an *Article 4 Direction*. This document, ‘tailor-made’ for the Grange, gives more specific and detailed protections and guidelines for the Council when considering planning applications in our area.

Soon after our success in achieving Conservation Area status, other villa areas of Edinburgh became active also in demanding the same protection. The Council responded by issuing a *Policy for Development in Villa Conservation Areas*. Generally known as the *Villa Policy*, and extensively reported

in a special Issue of the newsletter, no 43, Summer 1989. It was based very largely on our own work for the Grange.

The Green Book, as our Grange Conservation report is more colloquially known, had noted that there were very few listed buildings in our area. Our Association offered to the Historic Buildings Council to make a pre-selection of potential buildings for possible inclusion on the statutory List. Anthony Dixon, an architect previously resident in the New Town, had recently moved to Dick Place and offered to help me in this task. This work implied patient, but very agreeable perambulations in the spring and summer throughout the Grange, camera in hand, looking at each building and assessing its merits. The result was *The Grange a Case for Conservation Part 2: Inventory of Buildings*, Completed in November 1985, it described 116 properties. New listings followed.

Successive distinguished Chairs of the Grange, among them Derek Lyddon, Sheila Reid and Jon Oberlander have consolidated the gains and protected the Grange’s character from unsuitable development over many years. Newsletter editors including Caroline Fortescue and Jon Oberlander have been faithfully keeping open the all-important dialogue between residents and their Committee.

Several publications were issued by the Grange Association, most notably *Maps of the Grange, Character Appraisals, Trees in the Grange and Memories of the Grange*. Some copies of these are still available.

I was asked to be Chair of the Grange Association for the second time in 2009. I took on the post for two years conscious of the need to renew the Committee under new charity rules, and also to look again at our commitments and objectives in light of changing environmental issues. Our Association had already begun to explore these last through its *Grange Energy and Renewables Study (GEARS)* led by Graham Dixon and a sub-committee of the Association.

Successive Planning conveners, especially Graham Dixon and later on Andrew Bell, have, with their teams, done sterling work over the years in planning, traffic and parking matters, commenting regularly on planning applications and sounding the alert if any were considered detrimental to the character of our Conservation Area. If the Grange is now still a very agreeable place to live it is because of patient and continued efforts over the years.

I am convinced that the success will continue, encouraged by our almost entirely new committee, now chaired by John Graham. This issue, the 100th Grange Association *Newsletter* together with our revamped and fully interactive website, represents a significant effort to celebrate our achievements so far. I am sure that such initiatives will propel our aspirations with renewed enthusiasm and energy into the future.

Blooming with a burst of energy



The most admired plant was the deliciously scented *Daphne Bholua Jaqueline Postill*.

By ALISON BRAMLEY

The first meeting of Grange Garden Exchange attracted about 20 enthusiasts. By the end there was a great feeling of energy, the sense that this was a really good idea and one that was much needed in the area.

Swaps and shares

Everyone was keen to swap and share seedlings, plug plants, surplus seeds and off-cuts when splitting perennials. Attendees were keen to borrow larger items of equipment such as a shredder – a resource will be prepared on what members are willing to lend.

There was a great interest in sharing information by meeting informally in each other's gardens. Some useful suppliers of compost were mentioned and can be circulated to the group.

Info, meetings and visits

Enthusiasm was expressed for visiting each other's gardens with the emphasis on this being take-us-as-you-find-us and that the garden must not be especially prepared for show. The idea is to share learning and for the garden owner to get informal advice as well as giving it. A list of possible nearby places to visit was drawn up including recommended gardens and also more interesting garden centres and the Braehead recycling centre.

Talks from specialists would be welcomed too, such as from the Botanic staff and could be combined with a visit. A recommended book is *Scotland for Gardeners: Guide to Scottish Gardens, Nurseries and Garden Centres* by Kenneth Cox which is in Newington Library.

Active gardening

The group discussed ways in which we could volunteer to help. A first priority is to support the Library Garden which needs a few volunteers to keep it tidy and plant it up. It is a sunny space through the double doors at the back with some raised beds and a real opportunity to make it pleasant and to grow some flowers and a few vegetables and fruit. One volunteer came forward on the night but we still need a few more people to share this. Please get in touch.

The Edinburgh Garden Share Scheme is currently run by Care and Repair Edinburgh Ltd. The team are applying for funds from the Climate Challenge Fund and hope to continue to match those with garden space to spare with people who would like to garden but have none. www.edinburghgardenpartners.org.uk We were able to put one pair together after the meeting.

There was some discussion and information sharing about the Edinburgh Transition South, town guerrilla gardening project which is currently active in Balcarres Street. <http://www.transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk/node/4> website includes garden guerrillas and support for the Bridgend project and the Royal Edinburgh project and developing the old walled garden in the Astley Ainsley.

The Community Garden at Myreside on land owned by the Royal Edinburgh Hospital is looking for volunteers who should go along on Saturdays between 12 and 3pm. This is a very sociable organisation providing community events as well as convivial gardening. <http://royaledinburghcommunitygardens.wordpress.com/>

A diary and lots of good photos on their website. Earthy on Causewayside has an organic garden, which welcomes volunteers and also teaches the participants about organic gardening.

Communication

It was agreed that we would communicate mainly through e-mail. Anyone who did not want to be on a circulation list could opt out and the list would be only shared with those who want to be part of this new group. A few members may not use e-mail and we will seek to find them a neighbouring buddy to keep them informed.

Getting started

In order to get going, I invited everyone on the mailing list (now over 30 members) to visit my garden to give an opportunity to try out some of the ideas. Eight people came and I was able to give away a few plants and to establish preferences for frequency of meetings. The most admired plant was the deliciously scented *Daphne Bholua Jaqueline Postill*. I have a volunteer willing to help me with the organisation. We will aim to meet monthly, either in someone's garden or on an arranged visit or for a speaker.

We will need to have some weekend, some daytime and some evening meetings. Our next meeting will be a visit in April and this is currently being arranged. Those on the membership list will also be circulated with information about equipment available to share and they will be able to post their own availability of plants.

Volunteer now

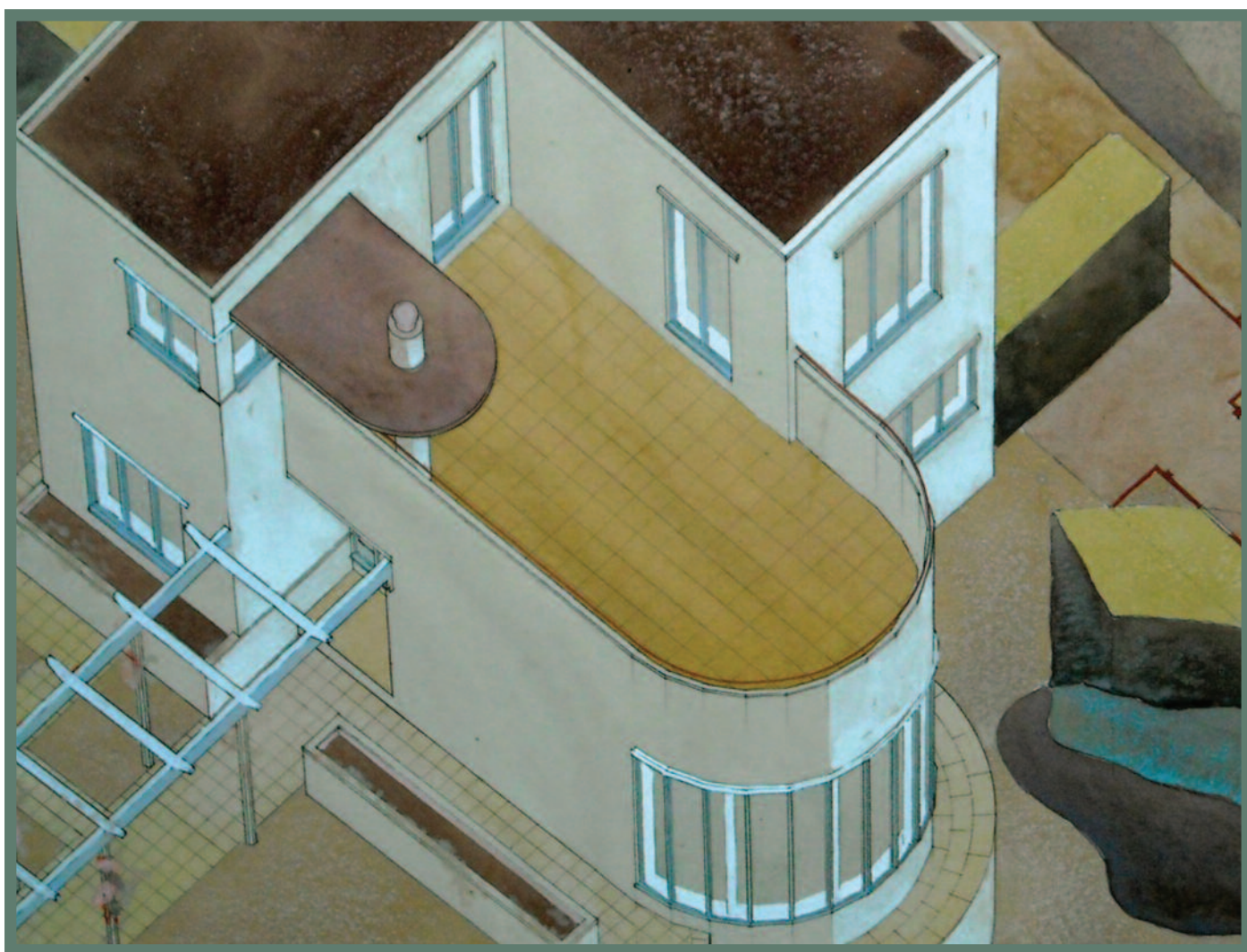
Please e-mail me to let me know if you would be prepared to work with one or two others to look after the Library garden.

HOW TO JOIN: CONTACT ALISON BRAMLEY gardens@grangeassociation.com 07890 313 430

HOUSE PROUD

The Grange contains many stunning and original houses – not all of them traditional stone villas. In the first of a series **House Proud** RICHARD MOWE finds a unique period piece from the Thirties, yet it's as modern and minimalist today as it was when it was first built as an early creation by the celebrated architect Sir William Kininmonth.

Where time and space stand still



A view from above – the original drawings for the house at 46a Dick Place display its clean-lined simplicity.



A hidden gem nestling in a sylvan setting on the West side of Grange Park House

Although feted and admired by architects the world over the unassumingly numbered 46A Dick Place is one of the best-kept secrets in the Grange, partly because it is tucked away discreetly from view in the westward lee of the gothic turrets of Frederick Pilkington's Grange Park House and approached by a nondescript red gravel driveway that seems to lead nowhere in particular.

The only full-on vista of the house is from the Carlton Cricket Grounds – gleaming white in the foliage and standing proud with its trademark curved window and large first-floor terrace. It sits on a raised perch, part of what used to be the big house's vegetable patch.

Built in 1933 by Sir William Kininmonth, when he was just finishing his studies, as a modest family home for himself and his bride the artist Caroline Sutherland, it has acquired international cult status

Renowned as one of Scotland's most significant architects for such edifices among many as the 1961 Scottish Provident Building in St Andrew Square, the 1966 Mary Erskine School and the 1967 Craigsbank Church in Corstorphine, it is Kininmonth's house in the Grange that still commands attention. Cited in a plethora of books it has become a mecca for architectural students and other interested parties.

The architect as a young man with a rebellious streak came across the plot when he was commissioned by a developer to design the two traditional white rough cast houses with pan-tiled roofs at 40 and 42 Dick Place, adjoining the grounds of Grange Park House. He spotted the vacant vegetable patch, negotiated its purchase and decided to break with tradition in the design of his own family home.

HOUSE PROUD



A view of the house shortly after it was built in 1933 and right Sir William Kininmonth and his wife Caroline Sutherland on the first-floor terrace before the walls were white-harled.



An entry in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland says: "Kininmonth's own home, exemplifying a 1930s preoccupation with visual contrast between rectangle and cylinder. Originally whitewashed brick, now white-harled. Open plan interior, featuring continuously glazed semi-circular bow."

Influenced by the work of Le Corbusier (the Swiss urbanist and designer) the original house cost £1,500, a considerable sum for the young Kininmonth whose father had died when he was an infant and whose mother succumbed to illness when he was only 14. His uncle took him and his two brothers under his wing and he was educating at Dunfermline High School where he was dux, and, thanks for a bursary at George Watson's College.

His circumstances dictated a certain economy of scale in the design. Upstairs there are two bedrooms and a bathroom and the curved terrace. Downstairs, all open-plan, comprises the living room connecting to the dining area, the fitted kitchen and a small study. The single car garage is connected to the house by a wooden pergola. In those days the house was heated by the single open fire in the sitting room with a chimney that ran through the second floor and

emerged above the curved canopy over the rear of the terrace, almost like the funnel of a ship.

Most of the interior fittings, such as cupboards and alcoves and some items of furniture, including two white pigskin capacious armchairs, were designed specifically for the house. Because of his tight budget he chose square plywood floor tiles for the main living area rather than real wood.

For the current owners Richard and Thelma Ewing the building now known as Kininmonth House but previously The Lane House has particular personal associations. She is the Kininmonth's only daughter and grew up in the house as a child and went to school at nearby Esdaile School. The met at Edinburgh Art College and afterwards he worked as an architect in her father's practice.

"When it was built it divided opinion with some opinions suggesting it was pretty awful while others admired it hugely," said Richard Ewing. "It was really quite a small house, but a self-contained extension was built at the rear for Thelma's grand-father although in the end he decided to stay put in his house in Grange Road. A studio also was built outside as well as a laundry room.



On the inside looking out of the continuously curved window and reflections from the inside on the glass which unusually is flush with the exterior wall.



“When it was built it divided opinion with some suggesting it was pretty awful while others admired it hugely.”

Controversy is no stranger to the grounds of Grange Park House. The advent of a new large family house on the eastern corner of the site over three floors as well as a basement in part of the large garden of the Stables House equally has provoked comment for and against.

The architect at the planning stage Malcolm Fraser drew comparisons with Kininmonth House suggesting: “It is now possible to offer the reading of the new villa as a late Modernist brother to Kininmonth House that frames and enhances Grange Park House and enforces the southern boundary of the site.”

Richard Ewing acknowledges the new neighbour has provoked a similar stir to his home when it first appeared. “Sir William broke all the rules. He wanted something very stark with clean lines, whereas I think my wife’s mother might have preferred something with more embellishment. Because Thelma grew up here and is so accustomed to it perhaps she does not recognise exactly how special it is.”

The Ewings held their wedding reception in the house and the extensive terraced grounds which once contained a tennis court for Grange Park House. During the Edinburgh International Festival the house was always thronging with famous artists, partly because of connections forged through Sir William’s presidency of the Royal Scottish Academy for which he received his knighthood.

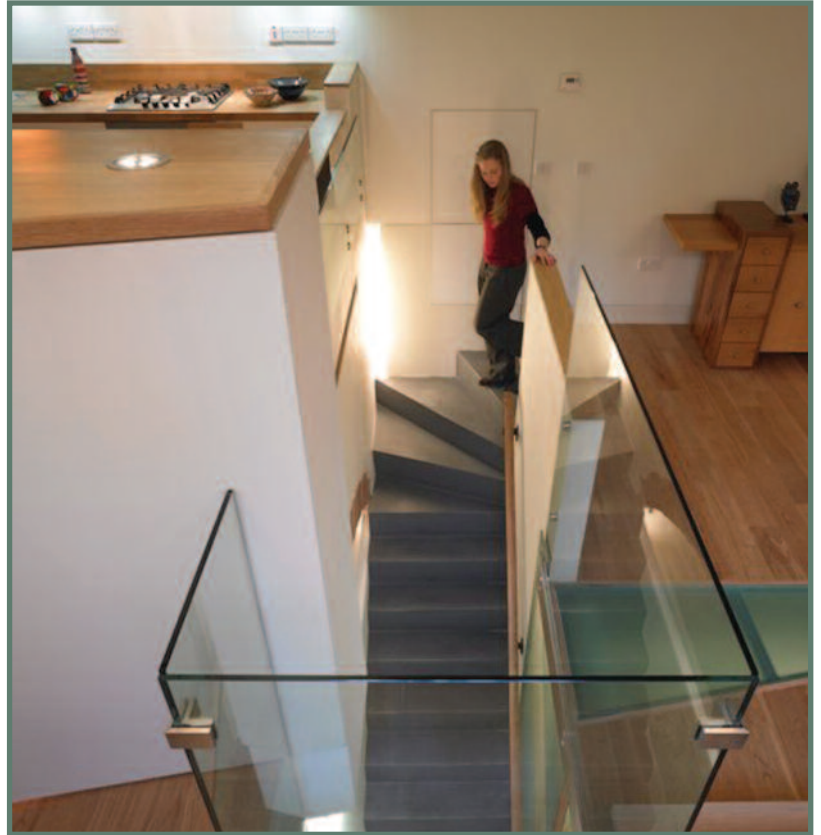
Thelma Ewing admits to being drawn back inexorably to her roots. “It’s just so quiet and peaceful, like so much of the Grange, and yet we can walk to the city centre in 20 minutes.” She recalls that her father had a coterie of friends and admirers.

“Yet there were also a lot of people who did not care for what he did. When you get to 40, he used to say, people begin to believe what you have been saying for the past 20 years. He rattled quite a few cages. He wasn’t at all conventional – if he had been he could not have designed a house like this.”

FROM THE BOTTOM UP

Boldly going... with due care and attention

They may not sound as cool and trendy as architects and designers but structural engineers are a crucial part of the process. In the latest of our series of Meet the Experts DOMINIC ECHLIN explains why...



Design solutions should be innovative ... and practical (image Andrew Lee)

Engineering change in or around an existing building – especially in such an historically-important area as the Grange in Edinburgh – is a specialist discipline and requires a different approach to one that might be adopted if working in more ‘run of the mill’ situations. A great deal of care is required at the outset of a project and throughout the design period if an inappropriate, insensitive or uneconomic solution is to be avoided.

Devising solutions for such situations as this demands of the engineer a broader range of knowledge, understanding and appreciation of buildings than perhaps is required in regular practice. The engineer needs to understand not only modern materials, but also traditional building construction and repair techniques. Building and engineering practice have evolved over the centuries along with the changes in building types and materials, and the engineer must understand this evolution and change.

All projects must start from an understanding of a building’s fabric, its form and condition, its origins and evolution, its materials and the forces of decay acting upon it (the importance of regular maintenance is too often overlooked!). When considering the adaptation of an historic building, the sympathetic engineer’s expertise is perhaps in ‘engineering out’ the interventions and alterations required, or at least mitigating their effects, making them sensitive – even if an intervention appears bold – to the form of the original building and its environment. Information to support this approach is gathered from historic drawings (for example, The City of Edinburgh archive, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and so on) and site records, through to targeted investigations and opening up.

The contribution of the structural engineer is not restricted to producing a design which will perform under all reasonably-foreseeable loading conditions. The engineer should add value by working closely with the design team in understanding the aspirations of the client, the vision of the architect and the requirements of the end-user. The design solutions can be innovative but must be practical to build within the budgetary constraints of the project. The design solutions can be bold but must be robust and maintainable.

Good design is not simply about designing a building or intervention which wins awards. A well-designed intervention has a presence and an aesthetic quality, can be operated with modest energy consumption, requires little maintenance and fulfils the expectations and requirements of the building user and operator.

Like all things, buildings must be maintained, and this maintenance has a cycle. Regular maintenance – keeping rainwater gutters clear, painting window frames etc. – keeps things manageable whilst in time it will be necessary to carry out larger works, for example overhauling roof finishes (slate roofing tiles need to be overhauled every 150 years or so, not necessarily because the slates are failing but because their fixings are). This is akin to the care and maintenance of the car – regular oil changes with major components needing replacement every 70,000 miles or so (depending on the car of course!). Larger buildings have an extra dimension to this in that their role can change over time, and typically one would expect a major intervention every 100 years or so to allow it to meet the demands of modern society: think of the conversion of the Georgian or Victorian warehouse to modern loft living or studio space – has any other building type proved to be as robust or adaptable as these?



Marchmont Road transformation: "Too often the significance of the engineer's contribution is undervalued..."

So with intended alteration comes repair, and with it conservation. Practical conservation is a process of value judgement. Any proposed intervention or alteration should be measured against the fundamental value of original fabric and context. Where possible, repairs and alterations should be reversible and any impact on other fabric appropriately minimised. Original fabric should be preserved in situ, and repair materials and techniques that are compatible with the existing fabric of the building used.

A 'helping hand' approach is preferable, preserving the possibility of future adaptation or change. This is a fundamentally sustainable approach. Equally, bold interventions are sometimes justified as they can transform the functioning and use of an existing building.

Again, this is achieved through understanding the form, condition and capabilities of the existing structure, and thus maximising its adaptation. Successive alterations degrade the original fabric of a building, limiting potential for retention and repair. Conservation in this instance preserves the possibility of future adaptation or change. In addition to this fundamentally sustainable approach, where possible the engineer should try to specify materials which can be locally sourced, require low embodied energy in their production, are durable or which can be easily recycled following demolition.

All of this is not easy to achieve, and it becomes harder if the engineer is not on board at the outset of the project. It is not cheap either, and shouldn't be so. Too often the significance of the engineer's contribution is undervalued and too often it is too late.

We can have little sympathy with the client who baulks at the cost of full engineering advice but does not stop to think of the money that will be saved in the long run; the educated client is as important as the educated architect.

**Dominic Echlin is a Conservation Specialist
with David Narro Associates
www.davidnarro.co.uk**

Planning watch...

By **GRAHAM C BELL**

The work of the planning committee of the Grange Association revolves round a weekly check of planning applications which may or may not affect the amenity of the Conservation Area and surrounding streets.

For the past eight years Andrew Bell has overseen the scrutiny of planning applications and decisions affecting our area. He has prepared regular reports on planning activities and chaired the Association's planning group. We are greatly indebted to him for the time and effort he has expended on our behalf.

It is important that the Association keeps an eye on what is happening in our area. I expect many of the issues of the past years will continue to threaten the conservation of the Grange. No area can stand still and times change.

A constant threat to the amenity of the area comes from the conversion of garden ground into hard standing for parking cars. The most recent application affects a front garden in St Albans Road. There is an existing concrete path leading to the front door but now it is proposed that most of the attractive front garden be concreted over or covered with stones to form off street parking. Not only will the garden ground be lost but the removal of the wall in front and replacement of a run in from the street will restrict further the available on street parking.

Planning guidelines issued by the Council for the city generally create a presumption against such development unless it is in an area where a substantial number of adjacent properties have been so developed. It is to be hoped the Planning Department will continue to be vigilant and refuse consent for such developments.

As always it is important to balance would be objections with the reasonable enjoyment of properties. Currently an application to erect a mast for mobile phones on the cricket pitch is envisaged. Many residents use mobile phones and masts have to go somewhere. They are a source of income to property owners where situated. A balance has therefore to be struck between objections to development of this nature and the need for a mast to serve the need of residents generally. Nevertheless the placing and design of any mast will require to be given careful consideration.

A piece of good news is the creation of an island refuge in Grange Road at the end of Lover's Loan to make a safer crossing in the face of ever increasing traffic which will not be affected by the proposed 20mph speed limit on roads in our area.

**Graham C Bell (667 1547)
planning@grangeassociation.com**

Sue Tritton's ENERGY & TRAFFIC BRIEFING

Why we want to support and encourage all your efforts

Saving begins at home

We note, from checking the weekly Planning lists for applications in the area, that many residents have applied for planning permission to introduce energy saving measures in their houses. These include applications for slimline double glazing in listed buildings and installation of solar panels. We have generally supported such applications and only made very minor comments on a few occasions.

We would be interested in hearing from residents who have installed energy saving features – in particular about any problems with obtaining planning permission and the energy savings achieved.

The Climate Challenge Fund was given additional funding for groups to bid for. The GEARS group decided not to apply this time but provided a letter of support for an application submitted by Transition Edinburgh South who cover a wider area and have similar aims to us. We are still waiting to know if this has received funding.

Energy monitors: There are still some available for loan to residents in the Grange Association area – I would very much like to put these to use so if anyone would like a monitor please contact me.

Parking dilemmas and speed restrictions

Parking south of S1

The parking problem south of zone S1 has been a subject of much debate and consultation for several years. It now seems that the Council has come up with a scheme which has general support – this is to “Residents Priority Parking” whereby parts of each street will be designated for residents only for a limited time in the middle of the day. The formal consultation (TRO/10/31) finished on 12th April and, if there are not many objections, should be implemented later this year. The Grange Association has commented on the proposals and stressed the need to minimise signage and said that there should be protection for local shops.

20mph Area

The proposal is to create a pilot 20mph limit for the area bounded by the Meadows, Holyrood Park, Blackford Hill and Morningside Road with main bus routes remaining at 30mph. Again the Grange Association commented on the proposals and are pleased to note that some bus routes (which include Kilgraston Road/ Blackford Avenue and Causewayside/ Ratcliffe Terrace) are now included in the 20mph area. Formal consultation is expected shortly and, if generally supported, might also be implemented this year.

Catalogue of concerns...

To celebrate the 100th issue I have been checking through the collection of previous Newsletters which date back to the first (issued by the East Grange Association) in 1974. Many of the issues highlighted in these early Newsletters are very similar to those which concern us today. These include, as would be expected, details of planning applications in the area and the comments and objections made by the association. Less (to me) expected were the many reports of parking problems in the area – particularly in Grange Loan and Fountainhall Road. Another issue which still concerns many residents in the area is the Kilgraston Road/Grange Road junction. The early concerns were partially addressed by improving sightlines at the junction; however, the difficulty of crossing the street at this point is one reason why many parents do not allow their children to walk to school.

Some other matters have been raised in many newsletters and these will surprise no-one; these include trees and their preservation and, of course, dog fouling. Successes, due to the hard work of many people, include the designation as a Conservation Area. However, reading these old newsletters convinces me that there is still a need for an active association in the area and I am very pleased to be able to play a small part in helping to ensure that Newsletter No 200 will appear in due course.

Events calendar

Everyone, member or not, is welcome to attend these events which have been co-ordinated by organiser Judith Reeves.

7 MAY: The Association's Annual Plant Sale will take place on at Marchmont St Giles Church, in the Church Hall if wet (entered by the door to the south of the church) or outside the hall, if the weather is fine.

There will be a wide choice of summer bedding plants, hanging basket plants, vegetables and herbs so please come along and stock up for the summer. All the plants are fresh from East Lothian and delivered the same day.

All donations of indoor and outdoor plants are very welcome (as are volunteers with garden knowledge who are happy to help sell the plants) after 12.30 that day or, if you have difficulty with transport, please telephone any time the previous week to arrange collection.

3 JULY: We are very pleased to invite you to our annual Gardens Visit. This year we will be visiting Craigieburn near Moffat (<http://www.craigieburngarden.com/>), a five-acre garden with lots to see. They also have a plant sale. On route, we will make a short stop to visit two smaller gardens in Broughton.

As Craigieburn is highly recommended, we hope you will be able to join us and bring interested friends. The coach will leave Lauder Road at about 9.30 and return before 6pm.

The team at Craigieburn can provide Ca buffet lunch, or you may buy lunch at their café (home cooking and home baking) or bring sandwiches. The cost is likely to be about £20 per person and include coach fare and garden entrances, but not lunch.

The gardens visits are very popular and as we have a fixed number of places, please contact Judith Reeves if you would like to book places or would like to know more.

Judith Reeves 667 5570 or plants@grangeassociation.org



Craigieburn Garden near Moffat – five acres of glorious plant life. Make a date for 3 July

SHORT CUTS

Girlguiding Scotland is working with Women's History Scotland and the Glasgow Women's Library to record memorials to women in Scotland. As such, we're all tasked with finding out about local women, and if, or why, local place names, etc are named after them. We're obviously very lucky in Edinburgh to have several notable females already known, but we're keen to try and find out if there are any undiscovered – particularly in our local area – and wondered if your readers and members may be able to help! Any local knowledge would be most appreciated.

CONTACT: Nicola Stewart reid_rainbows@yahoo.com

Your Newsletter needs you: If you'd like to help with distributing the Newsletter (three issues a year), please get in touch with the head of the team, Dan Cronin. At the moment there is just one distributor vacancy, for the round that covers Newbattle Terrace (part only), Eden Terrace, Eden Lane and Canaan Lane. Please come forward and put your names on our reserve list.

CONTACT: 0131 667 5279 or by e-mail at distribution@grangeassociation.com

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