

# The Newsletter

THE GRANGE ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2011 | ISSUE NO.99



**Under wraps: *The heavy snow falls turned the Grange into a winter wonderland – and then an ice rink. This was the scene of the white-out on Lovers' Loan***

**[www.grangeassociation.org](http://www.grangeassociation.org)**

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# The Grange Newsletter | WINTER 2011

Welcome to the 2011 winter edition of **The Newsletter of the Grange Association** whose key members look after the best interests of your area. Make your views known by attending the annual meeting of the Association at 6.30pm on 23 February 2011 at Marchmont St Giles Church, 1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh EH9 2DW (full details Events Page 9). As well as keeping a watching brief on planning, conservation and other matters of concern there are events, talks and excursions throughout the year. Our website has just been revamped and provides a forum for you to express your views and keep up to date with the latest news and activities – [www.grangeassociation.org](http://www.grangeassociation.org)



## A driving force

Members of the association will be sad to hear of the death of Graham Dickson who was a member of the Grange Association committee for many years.

As an architect his expertise was invaluable in examining and assessing planning applications in our area and his explanation and interpretation of aspects of those applications enabled us to comment effectively when required.

As well as acting as convenor of the planning group Graham carried out the role of secretary for five years and involved himself in many aspects of planning policy responding to council and national consultations on numerous occasions.

Often he would attend meetings with local officials and other amenity groups in pursuit of the aims of the association to protect the character of the area and to encourage the highest standards of architecture. His meticulous approach to all his work on behalf of the association meant his input was always highly regarded.

Graham organised architectural walks within the Grange in Dick Place and the Astley Ainslie Hospital grounds and more recently was the driving force in the association's energy and renewables study (see also page 10).

Graham will be missed by us all but his memory will be kept alive in a memorial lecture in the autumn on an architectural theme.

**Andrew Bell**

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Watch out for the Spring edition of *The Newsletter*. Your contributions and feedback are welcome. Not all articles reflect the views of the Grange Association.

**Richard Mowe, Editor, The Newsletter**

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# Camera, lights, action!

A touch of Hollywood-style activity came to Dick Place when the BBC cameras arrived to start filming a new series.

**RICHARD MOWE** went on location

With camera cranes flying high, carpenters knocking up mock doors on to the walls of Lovers' Loan and that essential of any shoot the canteen van and other assorted vehicles parked in Dick Place there were plenty of clues that something seriously filmic was afoot.

Bestselling author Kate Atkinson's critically acclaimed crime novel *Case Histories* is being brought to BBC One as a six part series, starring Jason Isaacs (*Harry Potter*) as private detective Jackson Brodie.



*Transformation in progress: the film crew take over the garden at the Gate House in Dick Place and spilled in to Lovers' Loan*

Quite how the Gate House at the entrance to **East Grange Park Morningside** House will fit in to the bigger picture will have to await transmission later in the year. The owners of the property Donald and Ruth Naylor had just moved in when the BBC scouts knocked on their door asking if they would be agreeable to live with a film crew for a few days.

"We had just moved in and have not started in earnest on the renovations so we thought: Why not? In fact, we were away on holiday for most of the time they were here so we missed much of the activity.

"We have had our eyes on this house for some time and felt it looked neglected and needed some tender and loving care so when it came on the market we snapped it up even though there is a lot to be done," said Ruth.

The site which borders Lovers' Loan and runs from Dick Place to the edge of the Grange Cricket ground contains a new contemporary home on the verge of completion and the original arts and crafts house still awaiting renovation.

*Case Histories* has been adapted and written by Ashley Pharaoh (*Life On Mars, Ashes to Ashes*). Ruby Film & Television and Monastic Productions through BBC Scotland are producing the series. Filming took place in other parts of Edinburgh, where all six episodes are set. Lizzie Mickery (*Messiah*) is writing subsequent episodes.

Executive Producer, Alison Owen said: "*Case Histories* is a brilliant reinvention of the private detective genre with intriguing characters set in a vivid and entertaining world. We are thrilled to have assembled such an amazing team and cast to bring it to life."

Jackson Brodie, a tough Yorkshire man who combines a wry sense of humour with huge sensitivity solves the mysteries of a series of heart-rending and funny stories.

Writer/Producer Ashley Pharaoh adds, "I've been fascinated in Kate Atkinson's novels for years, so I grabbed the chance to adapt them for television. They're a funny, emotional, subtle take on the private eye genre."

When Grange residents try to match up the locations to the finished article later in the year will lend an added frisson to the air of mystery.



*Sign of the times in Dick Place when the cameras stopped the traffic*

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# INSIDE OUT

# Best of all worlds

**HELEN LUCAS, in the first of a regular feature by diverse architectural and design experts, faces up to the challenges of bringing harmony to the contemporary and the traditional**



*"Families generally live with their kitchens at the heart of their home and use their back gardens as an asset enjoyed from both inside and outside the house"*

For us, the starting point with a commission is understanding the existing building and protecting the high quality architectural features. Our work in the Grange focuses on the challenge of uniting the historic formal front rooms with new contemporary family spaces in a language worthy of houses of this scale and quality. Families generally live with their kitchens at the heart of their home and use their back gardens as an asset enjoyed from both inside and outside the house. We seek to give a better connection between the kitchen and the garden by blurring the threshold between the two. The ability to sit warm inside behind a large window whilst the weather lashes outside means the garden and its wildlife can be enjoyed all the year round.

A contemporary language of generous windows which open up for the odd warm day sits happily alongside the Victorian and Edwardian architecture of stone walls and astragaled windows, our approach would always be to compliment rather than mimic with a poor match. Technology developments enable large areas of glazing to offer better daylight and thermal properties than the traditional single glazed sash and case windows. To maximise natural light, to capture the warmth of direct sunlight and enhance the spiritual benefits of sunny sheltered external spaces should be the ambition of any modernisation.

These modern materials pose other challenges for designers. When choosing materials for these new extensions consideration should be given to their quality in comparison to the existing historic fabric, how they will look in the future, their maintenance, and also their sustainability.

It is true to say that residents can quite strongly oppose any change in the area particularly if it presents itself in modern clothing. Occasionally, and quite rightly, they feel precious about their environment and want to keep it just as it is.

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*Generous windows open up for warm days and sit happily alongside Victorian and Edwardian architecture*

The Planning Department too has been guilty of attempting to undo mistakes of the past. But designing today in a Victorian style is not truthful to history and it does not always meet the needs or desires of the home-owner. Good contemporary design should not be dismissed just because it looks modern. Residents should feel confident in the government frameworks (namely the villa policy, conservation area status and the listing of notable buildings) that are currently in place to retain the beautiful elements of the Grange.

Change is inevitable, and just as architecture has adapted to provide for the way that we choose to live today, it will adapt to cater for future challenges, changing attitudes and social mores. We believe in designing with the future in mind. By touching the existing building lightly with extensions that are of modern materials and designs that are of our time, architects of the future can do the same, preserving quality, and only upgrading where necessary and with respect.

The present challenge for all conservation areas is how to embrace the demand for micro generation of electricity and other environmental pledges to see these buildings remain viable over the next 150 years.

The Grange affords as many great opportunities to an architect as it does challenges. We strive to ensure that the work that we undertake in the today is very much in-keeping with the spirit of the design and development of the Grange area from the 1860s.

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t: 0131 478 8880 [www.helenlucas.co.uk](http://www.helenlucas.co.uk)

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Number 1 Dalrymple Crescent around 1900, Malcolm Grant Collection

# On the trail of Victorian residents

1 Dalrymple Crescent, Edinburgh

### Joanne Lamb has unearthed a fascinating patchwork of life in a Grange street more than 100 years ago

Little did I realise, four years ago, that my curiosity about the previous inhabitants of our house would lead to the publication of a book.

Having started on my own house, I became intrigued by the histories of the surrounding houses, and soon found myself investigating the whole street. What I found was so fascinating that I decided to follow up some of the stories both of the people who built the street, and of its residents.

The Grange Estate was put up for feu in the 1860s, and the building of Dalrymple Crescent began in 1862, although the last of the 27 houses was not completed until 1886. Most of my information came from published records, and I decided to limit myself to the 40 years between the initial feuing and the year that Queen Victoria died, which coincided with the date of the last available census.

In total over 140 families lived in the street during those years, and here I can pick out just a few of them. No 1 Dalrymple Crescent was one of the first houses to be built, and William Gorrie was one of the first residents. He had a chequered career. About the time he rented No 1, he started up a clothier and tailor business with his partner William Anderson. However, the business did not prosper, and was declared bankrupt in 1869. William Anderson went on to run a similar business with his son, but William Gorrie emigrated to Canada, and was recorded as a clerk in the Canadian 1881 census.

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Number 1 Dalrymple Crescent around 1900, Malcolm Grant Collection

Two years later, in 1883, another resident of No 1 was in the news. George Sibley Hicks was a medical student at Edinburgh University, living with his uncle, Wallace Hicks. He made the columns of *The Scotsman* newspaper in June that year, when it reported some 'Rowdiness at the Theatre Royal'. 'A number of noisy youths' had gone to the theatre with the intention of creating a disturbance – singing and shouting, and then throwing peas and gravel on the heads of the people in the seats below them. Nine young men were arrested, eight medical students, and a law student.

The blackest day in the history of the Crescent occurred on 5 October 1865, when John Hunter, 'a maniac ...erratic in disposition' murdered his mother and sister in the street outside their house at No 6. He made little attempt to escape, and was arrested, and subsequently declared criminally insane. The tragedy attracted widespread publicity, being reported in the local papers, and even making the columns of the *Brisbane Courier*.

The history of the Crescent, however, is not all gloom and disaster. A number of eminent men lived in the street, some for many years. On either side of No 6, two doctors, Dr Henry Newcombe and Dr Charles Wilson lived nearly 20 years.

Across the street, Sir John Sibbald rented No 16 for four years, before moving to St Margaret's Road. He was Commissioner in Lunacy for Scotland for 20 years, and contributed greatly to the improvement of the care of the mentally ill. Nearby at No 14 lived Donald MacKinnon, a crofter's son from Colonsay who became the first Professor of Celtic at Edinburgh University.

These are just a few of the stories from the Crescent, which give a glimpse of life in middle class Victorian Edinburgh.

***Dalrymple Crescent a snapshot of Victorian Edinburgh* will be published on 27 January 2011, price £15.99. Joanne Lamb thanks the Grange Association for their generous contribution towards publication. Further details from [Joanne@dcedin.co.uk](mailto:Joanne@dcedin.co.uk), tel 668 4280**

**There will be a presentation and book signing at Newington Library on Wednesday 2 February 2011, from 7 – 8pm**

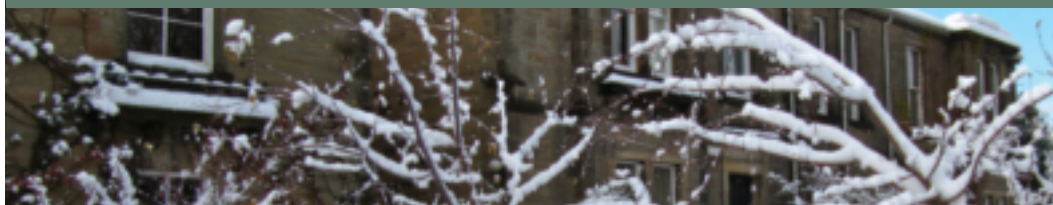


*Sir John Sibbald, MD, FRCPE, FRCSE, FRSE, reproduced by kind permission of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh*



*Professor Donald MacKinnon, reproduced by kind permission of Professor John W Sheets*

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# GRANGE GARDEN EXCHANGE

## The seeds take root

By Allison Bramley

There is growing interest in setting up a group in this area which will enable people with an interest in gardening to meet and exchange tips, plants, seeds and so on. The idea is to get together to share ideas for mutual self-help.

Here are some ideas for sharing and doing which people have suggested:

- > We would like to welcome people with an interest in gardening but do not expect them to be knowledgeable or to have a big garden or any garden.
- > We can make arrangements with each other to share excess seeds, produce and plants
- > We can arrange to make bulk purchases for example of plug-plants, bulbs, seed potatoes, manure
- > We may be able to identify local tradesmen
- > We can learn from each other, sharing knowledge of plants that do well locally, managing diseases, composting, propagation and so on.

### Practical help

- > The Newington Library garden needs help. A tidy up has already been done, so go through the double doors at the back of the Library and see for yourself. Can you help?
- > There may be other public gardens which need support such as bowling clubs.
- > Do you know of anyone who cannot take care of their garden who would like some help – perhaps in exchange for a bit of space to grow vegetables?  
You can contact the Edinburgh scheme at **0131 220 7636**  
<http://www.careandrepairedinburgh.org.uk/services6.htm>
- > The Royal Edinburgh Community gardens at Myreside are an important community resource which always looks for voluntary help.  
<http://royaledinburghcommunitygardens.wordpress.com/>

### Finding out

- > We can be a source of information about local gardening organisations such as the Botanics, Royal Caley Horticultural Society, Garden History Society and so on
- > When are the garden open days, plant sales etc
- > We can arrange informative talks or visits



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### Exchange means sharing

- > Being involved is active
- > Everyone can bring their own ideas, enthusiasm and time
- > Be willing to help arrange some of the ideas identified

I am looking forward to Spring and all the new opportunities it will offer. I have arranged a first meeting for the Garden Exchange by booking the Marchmont St Giles cafe space for Tuesday 15 March at 7.30pm. I have identified a local volunteer from Changeworks Zero Waste Scotland Volunteer Project who will come to tell us about home composting and answer your questions. Then I would like everyone who comes, to discuss the ideas in this article and work out how we can take them forward.

If you cannot come to the first meeting, you can still influence how this venture develops by getting in touch with me, preferably by e-mail. I will then be able to keep you informed about what happens next. I look forward to meeting you.

**Alison Bramley**

g.bramley@btopenworld.com 07890 313 430

## events

You do not need to be a member of the Grange Association to attend or book any of our events and friends are also welcome. More details in the Spring Newsletter.

**19 January, 7.30pm to 9.00pm:** Butterflies Café, Marchmont St Giles Church, 1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh EH9 2DW. *Winter Wine and Song.* Featuring: Peter Green's favourite winter wine (a glass for everyone). A tasting to be led by Michael Romer of Peter Green and Co. Swinging Songs from Suzanne Bell, accompanied by Wendy Sutcliffe; David McCardel entertains at the Piano; Folk Songs from Dan Cronin; Mince Pies and socialising

**23 February, 6.30pm:** Marchmont St Giles Church, 1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh EH9 2DW, annual meeting of the Grange Association, followed by the following illustrated talk on The History of the Hermitage of Braid. and the work of the Friends of the Hermitage of Braid: Jessica Morgado, Countryside Ranger with FOHB

**Saturday 2 April:** Plant lovers may like to put this date in their diary, as it's the Scottish Rock Garden Club Annual Show, held at Fairmilehead Parish Church. The day's events include a magnificent display of alpiners, plant sales from a range of stalls from specialist growers at very reasonable prices and a mouth-watering selection of home baking and teas. If you've never visited this annual event, make sure you don't miss out next year!

**Saturday in early May (probably 7 May):** Our annual bring and buy plant sale, with our usual wonderful range of summer bedding plants, will be held at Marchmont St Giles. Please remember, when you're sowing flower or vegetable seed this spring, to sow some extra seeds for us to sell. More details will be in the next newsletter.

**Gardens coach outing:** As these trips are always popular we are planning another outing for next summer. However, as the garden we have in mind is famed for its herbaceous border, the best time to visit is likely to be in late June or early July.

Tony Reeves (Events) / Judith Reeves (Gardens and plants)

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# ENERGY & TRAFFIC BRIEFING

## An inspiration for our future

### Energy and Recycling

Everyone associated with the GEARS (Grange Energy and Renewables Survey) project, would want to pay tribute to the contribution of the late Graham Dickson (an appreciation appears on page 2).

He was the inspiration behind this project and the final GEARS report (being compiled by Grigor Mitchell) will be available early in 2011. Readers will also be able to access the report via the website.

I still have a few energy monitors available for loan to residents in the Grange Association area – these are easy to use and show the electricity used by the various different items of equipment we all have in our homes. The useful information shows which items are expensive to run both for the energy used and the expense.

**If you would like to borrow a monitor please contact** [suetritton@btinternet.com](mailto:suetritton@btinternet.com) or telephone 667 8027.

### Compost Bins

I only a very small front garden where it is not really practical to have a large compost heap. So I was delighted, a few years ago, to have the opportunity to obtain a small compost bin. Since getting the bin I can now ensure that nearly all my biodegradable waste is kept out of landfill – the exception being meat and fish bones.

Most of the garden waste goes into my brown Council bin (although I do put some into my private compost bin) and all kitchen waste such as vegetable peelings, eggshells etc. (which cannot be put in the brown bin) go into my compost bin. It compacts surprisingly quickly and I have never found that the bin is overfull although large families might fill it more quickly.

After a few months I can remove the compost from the bottom of the bin and use it to improve the condition of my garden soil.

**Subsidised bins (two per household from £8) can be obtained from Waste Aware Scotland at** [wasteawarescotland.org.uk](http://wasteawarescotland.org.uk) or phone 0845 076 0223.

### Loft Insulation

Transition Edinburgh South provides the following information for any local residents who have not yet insulated their loft. Installing loft insulation saves an average household about £145 a year. It's not just money you'll save; by cutting down on wasted energy you'll also be doing your bit for the environment. Typical costs (with discounts) are between £140 – £199, and if you are over 70 years old, or on certain benefits, you're entitled to free insulation.

**To find out more, arrange a free survey and get advice on grants and special offers, email** [jamie@transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk](mailto:jamie@transitionedinburghsouth.org.uk) or telephone 07949730994.

### Giving priority to residents

**There are three separate, but related, proposals for traffic and parking in the Grange Association area.**

#### Parking south of S1

Parking in the area south of zone S1 has been a problem since that zone was implemented. Following various consultations the Council has now produced a scheme which has the support of most residents; this is to create "Residents Priority Parking" whereby parts of each street will be designated for residents only for a limited time in the middle of the day (perhaps one or two hours). The aim is to limit commuter parking in the area but to retain some free parking for all road users. Permits (at a reduced cost) will be required to park in the restricted areas during the hours of operation. The Grange Association welcomes these proposals with two provisos; that the number of new signs is minimized and that there is protection for local shops.

#### Quality Bike Corridor

A second proposal, at an earlier stage of consultation, is to create a "Quality Bike Corridor" along the Mayfield Road, Causewayside route from KB to George Square. This will restrict parking, except at designated parking bays, from 7.30am to 6.30pm on every day except Sundays. A cycle lane will be marked in both directions on most of this route (the exception being narrow sections around Causewayside).

#### 20mph Area

The third proposal is to create a pilot 20mph limit for the area bounded by the Meadows, Holyrood Park, Blackford Hill and Morningside Road. The main bus routes would remain at 30mph but on all other streets the traffic speed would be limited by signage only. Existing traffic calming features would not be removed but no new features would be added. The Grange Association generally welcomes this suggestion (with some concern that it may not be enforced and that the money might be better spent on improving pavements) and again has two suggestions: that signage is limited and that the Kilgraston Road/Blackford Avenue stretch and the Causewayside section should be included in the 20mph area.

**Formal consultation (the publication of Traffic Regulation Orders) is expected for all three schemes in early 2011 with the schemes likely to be implemented (depending on the numbers of objections) in late 2011.**

*Sue Tritton*

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# short cuts

CLEPHANE HUME was amazed by the sight of a sparrow hawk tearing into a victim on her lawn. But afterwards she found a sad, yellow, beak. she had rather hoped it would be a pigeon. She has also seen one perching on a neighbour's pergola. She has noticed when working in the garden, that everything goes quiet and then there is the swoop ... the silent assassin has arrived. On a brighter note she saw two grey wagtails on the phone line the other day: a first!

RESIDENTS of Dalrymple Crescent held a very successful Street Party in the summer. Of the 40 properties in the crescent, 100 people were at the party from 33 of the properties. It was a great social occasion across all generations, helping to develop the community spirit in the crescent. Proceeds from the event raised £100 for the Sick Kids Friends Foundation. Council permission was sought and barriers erected to close the street on the day. In addition to bouncy castle, bicycle and scooter races, a silent auction of paintings donated by three local artists, raised £1,071 for the Pakistan Flood Relief Appeal.

**YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU: If you'd like to help to distribute the Newsletter (three issues a year) please get in touch with the head of the team, Dan Cronin. For information about what's involved contact him at 0131 667 5279 or by e-mail at danjcronin@btinternet.com**

## CONTACTS IN THE COMMUNITY

### They're here to help

If you want to raise issues of community and local concern here is an updated list of people who will be able to help:

Acting Local Environment Manager: Shaun McGrath 0131 529 5187 Shaun.mcgrath@edinburgh.gov.uk

*Shaun has responsibility for the management and development of Environment Services in the South area.*

*This includes maintaining roads, parks and green spaces.*

Community Parks Officer: Mike Shields	0131 529 5189	mike.shields@edinburgh.gov.uk
Area Roads Manager: John Gill	0131 529 3487	John.gill@edinburgh.gov.uk
Task Force Manager: Jim Monaghan	07786 110 377	jim.monaghan@edinburgh.gov.uk
Task Force Manager: Jim Curran	07786 110377	james.curran@edinburgh.gov.uk
Local Community Safety Manager: Kathy Evans	0131 5295106	kathy.evans@edinburgh.gov.uk
<i>Kathy is responsible for managing those services which make South Edinburgh a safer community, including Environmental Wardens, Community Safety Concierge, tackling antisocial behaviour and joint working with the Police.</i>		
<b>Community Safety Team</b>		
Senior Officer: Greig Henderson	0131 529 5138	greig.henderson@edinburgh.gov.uk
Environmental Warden Team Leader: Mohamed Demnati	0131 529 5204	mohamed.demnati@edinburgh.gov.uk
Senior Environmental Warden: Brian Mills	0131 529 5204	brian.mills@edinburgh.gov.uk
Council services – Contact Centre	0131 200 2000	
Stair lighting faults	0131 529 5757	
Road and lighting – CLARENCE	0800 23 23 23	
Anti-social behaviour and how to end it	0131 529 7050	
Litter and dumping on public land – Rapid Response Team	0808 100 33 66	

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