



Dean Village News

Issue 168 Summer 2014
www.deanvillage.org

The Schoolyard

The Old School Playground between Dean Path and Damside is now to be known as The Schoolyard. At the Annual General Meeting of 2012 the plan to upgrade this area into a children's playground, a rest area for residents and visitors and a source of information about the history of Dean Village had been approved. The project has now been placed with Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust (ELGT). The bulk of the funding will be borne by Edinburgh Council and the remainder will be raised by ELGT from other sources. A contractor has been appointed, and work will be started in due course.

There will be an elevated garden area along the east-facing wall of the Dean Path buildings. This will be planted with ground-covering plants and shrubs, in order to minimise the need for maintenance. However, if any resident wishes to look after a section of it to grow flowers or raise vegetables, then please contact the secretary of the Dean Village Association.

The Association has been awarded a grant of £2,436 by the North Inverleith Partnership to place an information board in the Schoolyard. This will be designed in co-operation with the Graphics Department of Edinburgh Council.

When the work is completed there will be a Grand Opening Ceremony to which all residents of Dean village are invited.

My Friends in the Cemetery XX by David Perry

Lord Henry Thomas Cockburn (1779 - 1854)

Henry Cockburn was born on 26th October 1779. His father was a sherriff of Midlothian and was a rigid tory. Cockburn was educated at the Royal High School and the University of Edinburgh. He particularly enjoyed participating in the academic debating societies together with Sir Walter Scott, Henry Brougham and Francis Jeffrey, with whom he formed a lifelong friendship. He became a zealous Whig, i.e. a supporter of the policy that King's governed with the people's consent, and was a supporter of the Hanoverian line. This led to some problems in his later life as the party was out of favour between 1800 and 1830.



Lord Henry Cockburn

He was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates in December 1800 and in 1806 was appointed advocate-depute by his tory relatives. He was dismissed from this in 1810 due to his political allegiances. However he continued as an advocate, specialising in criminal cases. Cockburn and Francis Jeffrey became leaders at the Scottish bar.

His style in court was remarkable for its clarity, simplicity and pathos. One of his most famous court cases as an advocate was when he defended the common-law wife of Burke, Helen Macdougall, found not proven.

In 1811 he married Elizabeth Macdowall. They moved to a house at Bonaly by the Pentland Hills and had six sons and four daughters. During their time there they greatly extended the house and grounds

Cockburn became a judge and in 1830, following the return of the Whig Party to power, Solicitor General for Scotland. He made several visits to London to draft the first Scotch Reform Bill. In 1834 he was raised to the Bench and on taking his seat as a Judge in the Court of Session adopted the title of Lord Cockburn.

He also demonstrated great literary talent. He contributed political articles regularly to the Edinburgh Review, a magazine that was opposed to the Tory publication - Blackwood's Magazine. He published the biography of his life-long friend, Francis Jeffrey in 1852, which was very popular and had to have a second printing after the first was sold out. His main opus was "Memorials of his time", published posthumously in 1856, which was an autobiography of his time up to 1830 when he became Solicitor General and also notes on Scottish social and political history.

Cockburn was a supporter of the architectural improvement of Edinburgh, and was vociferous against such projects as defaced the Scottish capital city. In particular he opposed the destruction of Dean House in 1845 to make way for the cemetery.

He died on 26th April 1854 and was entombed in Dean Cemetery in Gothic style, next to the grave of his friend, Francis Jeffrey who had died three years earlier.

Cockburn Street is named after him, an S-shaped street which runs down from the High Street to Market Street by Waverley Station. There is a building at the bottom of the street which has a stone relief of Cockburn in profile above the entrance.

In 1875 the Cockburn Association was founded, named after him as a campaigner for the protection and enhancement of the beauty of Edinburgh. Their website is cockburnassociation.org.uk. Each year they organise Doors Open days on the last weekend of September.

A Tribute to Stan Wilson

Those walking between Dean Village and Stockbridge often look into the river as they pass under Dean Bridge to look at the otter basking on a rock in the river. This was sculpted by Stan Wilson, commissioned by the Water of Leith Trust, and placed in the river several years ago. It is secured in place by stainless steel rods. It often collects debris that floats down the river. Dean Village residents rescue it in the annual Water of Leith clean-up in April.



Another sculpture by Stan that was placed in the river by St. Bernard's Well several years ago only lasted a few months. This was the goothe, so christened by a young girl passing by, not, as Stan says, a goose, but a duck. It is shown spreading its wings, as in landing on the river. It was mounted on a steel rod, but was knocked down by debris carried down the river in full spate. It lay on the riverbed for a while, rescued by the ranger and housed in St. Bernard's Well. Stan then designed a more secure mounting, and the duck now resides by the river in Belgrave Crescent Gardens.

Both of these sculptures were cast by Powderhall Bronze, who then fixed them in the river. They were established in 1989, and have a gallery in West Harbour Road which features works by Kenny Hunter, Doug Cocker, Sue White-Oakes and many more.

Stan has had a varied career. Most of his working life was at Scottish and Newcastle Breweries. He took early retirement at fifty and went to Art College for four years. Then he was artist in resident at Heriot-Watt for one year, and three pieces of his work are exhibited there. Now aged 76 he is semi-retired. Perhaps he would take on a commission if persuaded. His website is www.stanwilsonart.com. Check it out.

Too True

How many times on the news have we heard people say, “yes, we have lessons to learn”? We have heard this mantra about problems in the National Health Service, the Saville and related enquiries, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, etc., etc. But do they learn?

A recent television program on the life and work of the comedy duo Peter Cook and Dudley Moore threw up this exchange at the end of one of their dialogues:-

Dud: And have you learnt from your mistakes?

Pete: Certainly, certainly. I have learnt from my mistakes.
Yes, I am sure I could repeat them exactly.

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Dean Village Annual General Meeting

The 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Dean Village Association was held on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at Dean Parish Church Hall.

As the Chairman had been called away on business, the Secretary gave his report.

AMA submitted a proposal of application notice (13/02767PAN) to the Planning Committee of Edinburgh Council regarding the development of Belford House and Douglas House. A community consultation was held on 28th August last year at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre. The company's representative said that a complete redevelopment was the preferred option. Retention of the Douglas House façade would cause great difficulty in the redevelopment and not make it financially viable.

A notice had been put up in Bells' Brae stating that Caledonian Trust was starting work on the site at 3/4 Belford road. In the planning permission given in May 2006, work had to commence within 5 years. In May 2011 work had not started, but permission was given to pursue the original application providing work started within the next 3 years i.e. by May 2014. (NB An application has now been placed to extend permission another three years)

The Secretary reported that three cemetery tours and three village tours were conducted last year and the same is planned for this year. The Water of Leith clean up has been arranged for Sunday May 4th. St. Bernard's Well has been completely refurbished. The DVA were able to open the Well to the public on Sundays in August and at Doors Open weekend. A Japanese TV film company had been in Edinburgh in October filming for their "Cities of the World" Series. A sequence at Well Court was included. The Secretary had been sent a DVD (in Japanese) available to all for viewing.

During the year our Treasurer, Dominic Guy, left for business reasons. The Secretary stated that this year there was £1872.82 income and £1104.36 expenditure. There were outstanding transactions to the debit of £376.10, leaving a credit on the year of £392.36. The end of year balance in the bank accounts was £8862.

The following were elected for the year 2014 – 2015: -

Chairman; - Barry Mackay, Vice-Chairman: - Javier Albert, Secretary: David Perry, Treasurer: - vacancy.

Committee members: Caroline Gerard, Conrad Hughes, Mignonne Khazaka, Pat Sinclair, and Wendy Taylor

The following amendment to the constitution was approved. The first sentence of item 5 to commence: - "The general meeting of the Association shall be held annually in April or May ...". The addition of the words "or May" gives greater

flexibility in arranging the date of the AGM.

Membership fees would remain the same, which are: -

Annual membership: £7 single, £10 couple, Concession £3 single, £5 couple, Life membership: £50 single, £75 couple. Corporate membership £75.

The Secretary stated that the old school playground between Dean Path and Damside will be developed into a garden area, a play area for children and a rest area for residents and visitors and will be called Damside Park. The original plan had been agreed at the AGM of 2012, following an earlier consultation with all Dean residents. Of the cost of £43,000, £40,000 will be borne by the Council and the remainder will be raised by Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, who will oversee the project which has now been put out to tender. There will be a garden area on the west side of the playground, against the east wall of Dean Path Buildings. Residents will be invited to adopt an area of ground to grow vegetables or flowers.

The committee of DVA would like to place an information board in this area describing the history of many of the buildings for the benefit of residents and visitors. The cost will be around £2500, to be borne by DVA. DVA have applied for a grant to cover the cost from North Inverleith Partnership. However, the grant is unlikely to cover the full cost of the board. The meeting approved the installation of the information board, and that DVA would cover any shortfall in funding.

A member asked who had called the area Damside Park. The Secretary replied that the name had originated from the Council. The Schoolyard was suggested as being a name more relevant to the history of the area.

Barbara Mackay described a possible hazard in the steps that lead down to the basement area in front of Dean Path Buildings. These should be securely gated to prevent children falling there.

A member asked who would be responsible for the upkeep of the area, in particular the garden area if no-one took up the option to use it. The Secretary replied that the Council was responsible for upkeep, and the DVA committee would look after the garden area if necessary.

The Secretary was asked when the work was likely to start, and how long it would last. A definitive answer could not be given, but it was expected to start in July and last for three months.

The meeting went on to discuss matters relating to the environment of Dean Village. At the AGM of 2013 members described some deterioration in certain areas of the Village. Consequently a walk through of the village was conducted with Councillors

Nigel Bagshaw, Gavin Barrie and Lesley Hinds with Barbara Mackay and the Secretary representing the village. It immediately became apparent that there were two separate issues: - problems that arose in areas which are the responsibility of the Council, and issues on private property.

The Secretary first described the work that had been done so far: -

- The hoarding that protects the site of 3/4 Belford Road, owned by Caledonian Trust, has been painted white – a slight improvement.
- On the south side of the river by Hawthornbank Lane there are two triangular areas of neglected ground, the responsibility of the flat owners there. These areas were tended by the gardeners two weeks ago.
- Cars have been trying to get through Hawthornbank Lane to the centre of the village from Belford Road. A No Through Road sign has been placed in the Lane
- On the north side of the river the iron gates that were in position on the slope from Damside to the river have been replaced.
- A new handrail has been placed down the centre of the Convening Court steps leading from Dean Path to Upper Damside. Down from the steps a hole in the concrete has been filled. And a rocky kerbstone onto Upper Damside has been stabilised.
- In the centre of the village setts unsightly tarmaced areas have been replaced by setts.
- The leaning telephone box has been righted by BT, albeit untidily. However it does not work.
- In Bells' Brae the seat outside Keppies has been repaired.

The Secretary listed work that remains to be done in the Council's remit.

- The memorial bench by the old bridge at the foot of Bells' Brae is in need of attention. It has been there for more than 20 years. The memorial plaque named George (d. 1980) and Elizabeth Burns (d. 1978). Last year the plaque was removed. The bench should be rejuvenated and the plaque restored.
- A large tree is growing out of the wall separating Bells' Brae from Miller Row causing the wall to warp and become unsafe.
- The handrail has broken away from its fittings at four positions towards the top of Bells' Brae.
- The paving stones up the Brae are broken and need replacing.
- A drainage channel across the pavement has been filled with tarmac.
- Belford Road needs to be weeded on both sides, and walls stripped of growing plants.
- The Broad Steps by 10/11 Belford Road down to Hawthornbank Lane should be swept. Also down Hawthornbank Lane from Belford Road to the new flats and up by the river and the Convening Court.

- The concrete walkway along Damside is breaking up and patched with tarmac.
- Dean Path Road above the setts is in an extremely bad state of repair. There are three tarmac areas in the setted area of Dean Path which should be replaced by setts.
- Dog bins would be appreciated.

The Secretary now turned to work that needs to be done by owners of private property: -

- The wooden fence along the south side of the river is in an advanced state of decay and needs replacing.
- There is a semicircular seat on the south side of the footbridge. The surrounding wall and the wall leading to the footbridge is crumbling away and needs re-harling. (Flood defence work had been proposed to raise the bridge one metre and rotate it through several degrees, but this has been abandoned.)

3/4 Belford Road

Between the Society of Musicians building and the Drumsheugh Baths on Belford Road is a big hole in the ground protected by a hardboard hoarding. This was once a Free Church of Scotland, then a warehouse which burnt down in the 1960s. The site is now owned by Caledonian Scottish Investments Ltd.

On the 7th of March 2005 the company submitted a planning application for the development of twenty flats with underground parking. Permission was granted on the 19th January 2006, on the condition that work was started within five years.

The site remained dormant until 23rd August 2010 when an application to extend planning permission for a further three years was submitted. This was granted on 2nd May 2011.

A flurry of activity was noticed by passers-by in April of this year when vegetation was cleared from the site and a trench was dug down by the baths and covered over with hardboard. The company then applied for a further three-year extension for their planning permission. The details of the plans may be seen by going on to the City of Edinburgh website, and clicking on “Comment on a planning application”. On the next page click “view and comment on planning applications online”. In the search area enter the reference number 14/01450/FUL and press search. To see previous plans click on “Documents”. There will appear a list of documents and plans which you can view.

Residents with an interest in this development should visit the planning website from time to time to see when the development becomes active, so that they may submit any objections that they may have.

Douglas House and Belford House

AMA (New Town) Ltd had originally submitted a plan to demolish Douglas House and Belford House and replace them with residential and office development. These plans were refused by the Planning Department due to loss of privacy of neighbouring properties, inappropriate development for the Dean Conservation area and that no case had been presented for the demolition of Douglas House.

On appeal in April 2011 the Reporter confirmed refusal on the grounds that, although Douglas House could not stand on its own and that its facade was difficult to retain, insufficient evidence had been supplied for its demolition.

A consultation was held in August 2012, which sought views of interested parties on some suggested plans and concepts. As a result AMA have now come up with a new plan, which retains and restores the facade of Douglas House (see facing page). There would be eight apartments within the existing shell, an extension to the rear, and a commercial element on the ground floor. Belford House would be demolished and replaced with apartment blocks along the edge of Belford Road, with various heights related to neighbouring buildings. There would be townhouses stepped down Sunbury Mews. The corner of the development would be set back to reveal the top of Sunbury Mews. Hidden parking would be underground. High quality materials would be used throughout. And a stepped landscaped courtyard would be available at the centre of the site.

These plans were shown to the public at a consultation meeting at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre on Thursday 25th May. The general opinion of those present was that they were a definite improvement on all previous plans, and would be acceptable with some minor modifications.

All the exhibition boards and the previous history may be seen on the website belfordroad.gva.co.uk. Detailed plans will be drawn up and submitted to the planning department in due course.

**Proposed Development of Douglas House and Belford House
South Elevation to Belford Road**



**Douglas House with restored façade to contain
8 large flats and a commercial element**

**Belford House replaced with
high quality apartments**

Sherlock Caminada – Master of Disguise

Recently, Sherlock Holmes (a modern incarnation played by Dominic Cumberbatch) was voted the most popular television detective. The original stories were written, of course, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, based on his knowledge of the work of Professor of Anatomy Joseph Bell, under whom he studied at Edinburgh University.

Now a book by Angela Buckley (*The Real Sherlock Holmes*) has suggested that some of Conan Doyle's later stories could be based on the life of a real life Holmes – Jerome Caminada.

Son of an Italian father and Irish mother, Jerome Caminada spent most of his career with the Manchester police. He became a national figure in the mid 1980s, about the same time as Holmes was being created, due to a number of high profile cases.

One was dubbed “the Mystery of the Four-Wheeled Cab”. One man was found dying in a cab after another man had leapt out. There was no obvious cause of death but Caminada, in a series of Holmes-like deductions, identified the man who had left the cab, after he had drugged the other in an attempt to rob him.

Like Holmes, who used the Baker Street Irregulars as helpers and informants, Caminada had a network of underworld contacts that he would often meet at the back of a church.

He was also a master of disguise. He would walk through the roughest environments perhaps disguised as a drunk, or as a local artisan, gathering background information. He once tackled a band of thieves at the Grand National, dressed as a labourer.

Caminada also had a Moriarty equivalent in the shape of Bob Horridge, with whom he had a 20-year feud. Caminada arrested him for stealing a watch for which he spent 7 years in jail. Horridge vowed vengeance and, on release, plagued Caminada for the next 13 years, committing numerous offences and often effecting dramatic escapes. Finally Caminada tracked Horridge down in Liverpool after he had shot two policemen. Caminada beat Horridge to the draw.

Caminada also had his Irene Alder counterpart – Alicia Ormonde. She was a well-educated and aristocratic woman who was an expert forger. She was wanted for fraud and theft. Caminada arrested her but was fascinated by her. This all took place in 1890, one year before the Irene Adler story was published.

Jerome Caminada died in 1914, the year of the last Holmes exploit. Angela Buckley believes Caminada's cases would give Conan Doyle a greater insight into the behaviour of criminals and the science of detection. But Joseph Bell was the original inspiration, and his deduction techniques were basic to Holmes success.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North
& Leith



Weekly Surgeries (Friday)

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Dean Village Matters

St Bernard's Well: The Well will be opened on Doors Open Days Saturday, September 27th, and Sunday, September 28th from 11am till 4pm. Entry free.

Damside Park: the newly created Damside Park (at the junction of Dean Path and Damside) will be opened at a date to be determined.

Flood Defences: At a meeting of the Water of Leith Flood Prevention Scheme stakeholders, the convener said that the original budget was £35.4m, but only £19.9m was available. Consequently the flood defence plans had been reduced. In Dean Village the metal foot bridge across the Water of Leith would remain in place. The only defences would apply to Well Court, where the air bricks facing out to the river would be fitted with non-return valves to prevent flood water penetrating into the lower areas.

Belford Mews Handrail: the hand rail that had been missing at the corner of Belford Mews and Bedford Road due to a traffic accident has been replaced.

Bell's Brae Handrail: the handrail up Bells' Brae which had become loose near the top of the hill has been safely secured.

Refuse Bins: The centre of Dean Village has now been supplied with rubbish bins so that the practice of putting out black bags has now ceased. The collections are still made on Mondays and Thursdays. Residents may now dispose of their non-recyclable rubbish at their own convenience as they used to do with their recyclable material. Glass may be disposed of by placing in red boxes for collection. Larger objects will be uplifted by application to the Council.

Tarmac patches: Setts will replace the tarmac patches on Dean Path when the necessary resources become available.

The Burns Bench: The missing plaque on the bench by the old bridge will be replaced, and the bench restored



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Summer Nature Notes by Barbara Mackay

June 1914 was hot and thundery, downpours drenched many parts of the country. At Carrbridge on the edge of the Cairngorms, the Highland Railway climbs over the hills to Inverness. Just to the north a small stream, often low or dry, was transformed by storms into a raging torrent, bringing down rocks, trees and part of the road on to the line. A train was due. It could be heard approaching. As it drew near it began to sway and became derailed, causing many injuries and some fatalities. This minor tragedy was followed by an assassination of an Archduke and his wife in faraway Bosnia- Herzegovina, which had enormous consequences and which brings 1914 to our minds this centenary year.

Much has been happening in the natural world. We have had two baby squirrels visit; I think their drey is above the riverbank opposite us. We have seen numerous jackdaws, unknown in the garden before, and many noisy blackbirds bringing their young to be fed. We watched the gradual change of two young blackbirds into almost fully-grown males as their brown feathers steadily turned to black. They also found nourishment and, presumably, lining for nests from the guttering which they cleaned very thoroughly.

A lone song thrush visits which is earlier than usual. The unmistakable goldfinch was also spotted and there are coal tits and blue tits in abundance. What marvellous little acrobatic fliers they are. Two herons fished and "kwacked " up river one evening. And, of course, the " Gorgie Road Gang" (my collective name for a group of scavenging seagulls) is alive and shrieking. How will they cope with the change from black bin bags to large secure bins? Has the " Seagull Officer " in the Council considered that in his plan?

Wild flowers are plentiful. Cowbane on the riverbank; masses of yellow corydalis can be seen if you lean over the old stone bridge. Water crowfoot is growing downstream from the iron footbridge where the old ford used to be. Apparently this delicate plant favours such places.

I am trying to find out more about another visitor, a Pipistrelle bat, I think, which flew over us in the early evening recently, a creature we had not seen before except as a vague outline in the evening gloom. More about this bat in the next issue.

Until then enjoy the summer of 2014.

It's a *Braw* Café

We've got even more seats this summer, so come down and lounge in the sun on Belford Road. We're open 'til 8.30 every night until October, when we'll be starting closing at 4pm weekdays and 3pm weekends.

We serve breakfast all day, and our lunch menu changes daily, with soups, filled rolls, hot suppers, home-baking and lots more. We also stock a wee selection of grocery items for when you're stuck. Have a peek at our Facebook page for each day's fresh menu (facebook.com/cafebraw).

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the Dean Village Association

Join the Dean Village Association

Yearly membership is £7 (£10 per couple) or life membership at £50 (£75 per couple). There is a concessionary annual rate of £3 single and £5 couple. Membership Secretary - Caroline Gerard.

Water of Leith Walkway

A serious landslip occurred just up from the upper weir by Dean Village two years ago, which resulted in the Water of Leith walkway being closed between the steps down from Dean Path to the bridge across the river to Sunbury Place for safety reasons. Consultant engineers, Halcrow Group Ltd., were engaged to assess the situation. They concluded that there was an unacceptably high risk of a further landslip and therefore this section of the walkway remains closed.

Walkers and cyclists using the Water of Leith walkway were surprised in early July to find that the barriers between Sunbury Place and Dean Village had been put to one side and all the notices had been removed. However, this was an act of vandalism.

Planning permission has been granted for works to be undertaken at 61 Dean Path, including the erection of retaining walls. The City of Edinburgh Council has commissioned further survey work which will be undertaken by consultant engineers. Decisions will be made thereafter. Meanwhile the walkway remains closed, and all users, for their own safety, must use the diversion which is clearly marked.

INVITATION

All residents of Dean Village are invited to the Grand Opening Ceremony of the newly created Damside Park. We welcome everybody to this great new amenity in Dean Village. The date is to be determined but will be a Saturday afternoon. The date will be announced on the website (www.deanvillage.org) and notices will be displayed throughout the village

Please come and support your local community. It would be helpful if you would inform our social secretary Mignonne Khazaka at mk@greenincap if you intend to be there.



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Life in Dean Village in the 1950s

Residents old and new in Dean Village might like to read “The Lewisman” by Peter May (the second book of a trilogy). The author has one of his characters relate his experiences in Dean Orphanage and Dean Village School in the 1950s.

The author notes that the Orphanage actually closed in the 1940s, but “extended” its life for dramatic purposes. The somewhat grim life the character relates was taken from real-life experiences of a one-time resident. The village itself then was in a pretty poor state, with some abandoned mills still evident.

The children from the Orphanage were marched down Dean Path to attend the village school. The character describes the stone roundel of Queen Margaret teaching a child to read or write. The school closed in 1960, after which Orphanage and Dean children went to the Flora Stevenson school in Comely Bank

Dean Village Association

Committee 2012/2013

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Dean Village News

The deadline for articles for the next edition of
the News is

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If you would like to submit an article for the News
please e-mail the Editor at dav12per@btinternet.com

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