

# Dean Village News

Issue 171 Summer 2015  
[www.deanvillage.org](http://www.deanvillage.org)

## Meet your Neighbourhood Police

There have been a number of break-ins into houses and flats in Dean Village in recent times. In one case an extremely valuable bicycle was taken. On a notice asking for any information on this theft a resident had added that such thefts are regular events. There have also been sometimes successful attempts to steal cars or motor cycles parked by the roadside. Meg at Café Braw has reported an attempt to break into her business premises, prompting her to put a notice saying that no cash is kept there overnight.

As a result of these intrusions the Dean Village Association has asked a representative of the Inverleith Neighbourhood Police to be present in the Schoolyard at the junction of Dean Path and Damside in the centre of the village on Saturday July 25th from noon till 3pm. This is your opportunity to ask the police about protection, prevention, crime reporting and detection. Perhaps you consider that CCTV cameras could be sited in appropriate positions. Maybe some residential areas are interested in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. These are points which could all be raised, depending on your own circumstances. There are a number of points raised in the recent Crimewatch series on

*(Continued on page 2)*

TV in the mornings. Here are some:-

Do not keep your car keys and house keys on the same ring. These days your car key locates your car, and there may be details of your address there, so that your house may be entered as well as losing your car. This is particularly important for the ladies, as having your handbag taken which contains car keys, house keys and personal details would be disastrous.

We tend to stuff all our important cards into one wallet. When going out take the minimum number of cards. Do not take your driving licence, unless you need it to prove your identity for some reason as this will give your address. Leave it at home.

Many of us walk about town with a haversack slung over our shoulder. Make sure it is securely closed, so that a thief cannot slide a hand in.

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## **Do you know this artist?**

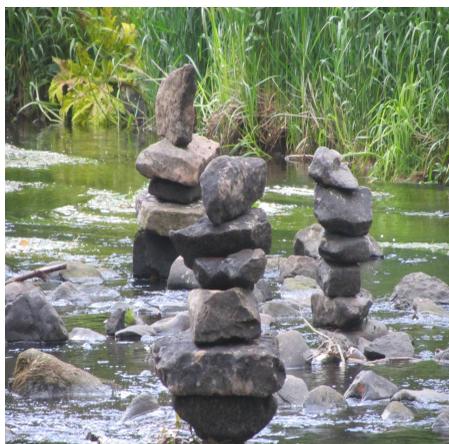
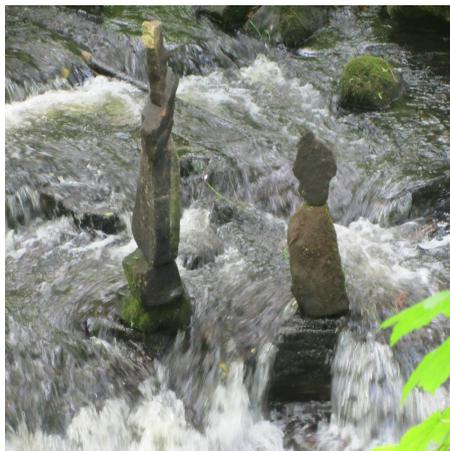
Your editor recently came upon an etching advertised for sale in a country auction house of "Dean Valley, Edinburgh". I managed to buy this for the sum of £35. It shows a view across the valley from the High Green, where now the Hawthornbank flats stand. The old bridge in the centre of the village may be seen between the Schoolhouse and the old Hawthornbank flats, with Telford's Dean Bridge in the distance.

The etching is labelled number 1 by John R. Gordon of 60, Boswall Drive, Edinburgh 5. The original price was £2 11s 6d framed and £1 15s and 6d unframed.

Please let me know if you know anything about this artist. My contact details are on the back page.

## But we do know this artist

A large number of impromptu sculptures have appeared in the Water of Leith in the Dean and Stockbridge areas in recent months. These turn out to be piles of stones taken from the river bed and cunningly built up to look like birds, plants or people. This was not Anthony Ghormley trying to revive his reputation, nor a group of enterprising youths. The artist's identity was revealed in the Evening News in June as Nick Horton, aged 51. He has been seen working late in the evening, dressed in waders, and is pictured thus in the paper. We will have to wait and see if they survive the river in full spate.



## **My Friends in the Cemetery XXIII by David Perry** **John Bellany (18th June 1942 - 28th August 2013)**

John Bellany, Scottish artist, is, sadly, one of the latest additions to the residents of the cemetery. His very distinctive stone may be seen by entering the main cemetery gate at the top of Dean Path, walking straight on for twenty yards and you will see it on your left.

He was born in Port Seton into a fisher family and was brought up as a strict Christian Calvinist.

He was regarded as an outstanding student at the Edinburgh College of Art in the 1960s under the care of Robin Phillipson. As a student he produced very large paintings on wooden panels, often depicting the fisherman's life. He and fellow student Alexander Moffat would

sell their paintings on "the Mound", storing them in the evenings in Milne's bar. There they met the poet Hugh MacDiarmid, who encouraged artists to believe in themselves and record their own personal experiences. Perhaps when we stroll over "the Mound" we should take greater interest in works of art presented there!

After travelling in Europe he married Helen Percy, and attended the Royal College of Art in London. Graduating in 1968 his diploma show was a great success. Paintings from this earlier period are shown in many art galleries. He was offered a position at Edinburgh College of Art, but preferred to work on as a painter with occasional teaching jobs.

In 1974 he separated from his wife and his work became darker and more symbolic. In the 70s he was head of the Faculty of Art at



Gravestone of John Bellany

Croydon College of Art, but was becoming increasingly dependent on alcohol. He met and married the artist Juliet Lister. In 1982 he had a successful show in New York, including his most famous work “Time and the Raven”. As a result of this exhibition he became financially independent.

But in 1984 he was diagnosed with liver disease resulting from his alcoholism. He abstained for the rest of his life, but considerable damage had occurred. In 1985 his father died and his second wife Juliet committed suicide. He remarried Helen in 1986, but his liver disease was becoming chronic. She nursed him through his sickness, during which he suffered from periods of delirium. But he continued working throughout, calling his pencil an analgesic. An exhibition of his work was held at London’s National Portrait Gallery which included a portrait of cricketer Sir Ian Botham. This painting earned him more fame and publicity than he had ever received before.

In 1988 he had a liver transplant, which was then relatively new. He started painting again while still in hospital and produced firstly a portrait of his nurse and then a whole range of pictures known as the “Addenbrooke” series. His surgeon was Sir Roy Caine who was impressed with the speed of Bellany’s recovery. Bellany later painted Caine for the National Portrait Gallery in London.

His paintings became more colourful, and he travelled extensively. Paintings may be seen in the London’s Tate Gallery and in the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum, both in New York. His painting of Billy Connolly is in the National Gallery of Scotland. He was made a Royal Academician in 1991. His work was chosen for the Scottish Parliament, and he received a CBE.

He finally succumbed to the damage he had inflicted on his body in 2013. He was buried with paintbrushes laid on top of his coffin. He is survived by his wife and three children.

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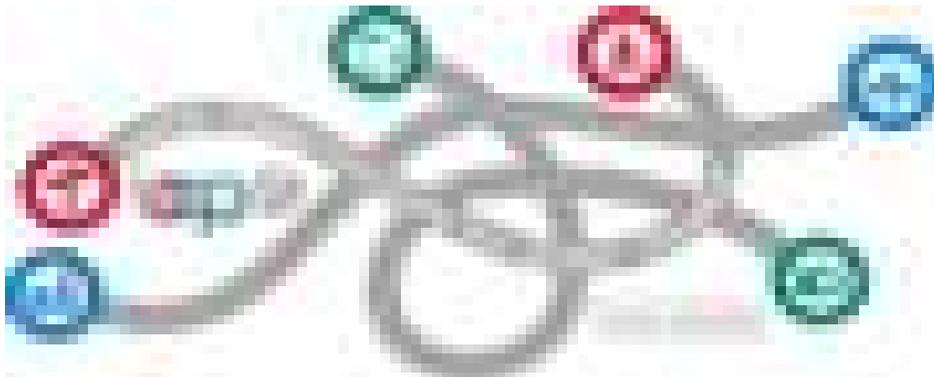
## Dean Village Events

**St Bernard's Well:** The Well will open on the following Sundays from noon till 3pm:- 2nd, 16th, 23rd and 30th August. And also on Doors Open Sunday, 28th September, from 11am till 4pm.

**Dean Walks:-** There will be a village walk on Tuesday 21st July. Meet at the top of Bell's Brae at 7.15. £3 per person. And a cemetery walk on Sunday 26th July at 2,30. Meet at the cemetery gates at the top of Dean Path. £4 per person.

**Police Open Day:-** A representative of the neighbourhood police will be available for consultation between noon and 3pm on Saturday 25th July at the Schoolyard in Dean Village centre.

**History Festival:-** The Dean Village Association will be arranging village and cemetery walks between 13th and 29th November. Details will be available in the Festival brochure and on line.



## **New phone line launched for the over 65s**

In October the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh launched a new dedicated phone line for people aged 65 and over living in the North West and South East Edinburgh giving easy access to information on a huge range of activities open to them.

Using a dedicated direct dial number **0131 603 8311**, lines will be open from 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday with a call back service outside of these times. There are trained friendly volunteers taking calls and chatting through options along with an e-mail service on **loops@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk**.

The new phone line aims to help people to maintain a good quality of life by giving access to information on activities which can help keep us happy and healthy as well as giving us a great excuse to socialise.

The phone line is part of the Local Opportunities for Older People, or LOOPs initiative which is piloting a variety of innovative, new services across Edinburgh aimed at encouraging people 65 plus.

The phone line is hoping to reach out to as many as possible to tackle the effects of loneliness and isolation while improving the quality of life for as many as possible.

Should you require any further information, please contact

**Heather Yang on 0131 603 5144 or  
heather.yang@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk**

Many thanks

# 2015 Annual General Meeting

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015 At Dean Parish Church Hall.

The Chairman reported on the planning applications that were submitted this year.

- The application for the demolition of Belford House and change of use of Douglas House is pending consideration. The façade of Douglas House will be retained and refurbished.
- The conversion of RMJM offices into residential dwellings is pending consideration.
- An application was granted to extend planning permission at 3/4 Belford Road after excavation work was carried out which complied with the terms of a previous application.
- An application to erect a house on land adjacent to Belford Mews was granted

The Secretary reported that the transformation of the school playground between Dean Path and Damside into the Schoolyard was carried out in September of last year. The DVA wished to place an information board in the Schoolyard detailing the history of many of the buildings in the village for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership approved a grant to cover the cost. The original plan was for a free-standing board. Later, at a site meeting in August, it was considered better to fix the board to the railings by Damside. As a result there was a cash surplus. A further application was made for a lockable notice board, and this was recently put in place. We now have a lovely area for mothers to bring their children, for residents to meet, and for tourists to visit.

The Water of Leith clean-up was completed on Sunday April 26th. During the work on the ground by the river adjacent to the old

RMJM offices a pool of excrement was found which was spilling over into the river. There must be a break in a sewage pipe there. Helen Brown of Water of Leith Trust will be reporting this to SEPA.

The acting Treasurer reported that the income for this year was £3995.10. This amount included the grant of £2436 awarded by the Inverleith Partnership which had not been allocated at the year end of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014. The income excluding this grant was £1559.10. Expenditure for the year was 1491.99, and therefore the accounts for the year are closely in balance. The grant money has now been allocated. The end of year balance in the bank accounts was £8929.28, excluding the grant.

The following officers of the Dean Village Association were elected: -

Chairman;- Barry Mackay, Vice-Chairman:- Javier Albert,

Secretary: David Perry

Treasurer:- to be filled

and the following committee members: Caroline Gerard, Conrad Hughes, Mignonne Khazaka, Pat Sinclair, Barbara Mackay, Jemima Barnes.

Jemima Barnes joined the committee with the possibility of taking over as Treasurer at the next committee meeting.

(Following the meeting Samantha Huber was co-opted onto the committee.)

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
Company membership:	£75

The meeting then discussed Dean Village Environmental matters.

**Schoolyard:** - It has been noticed by some residents that some dog owners are exercising their dogs in the Schoolyard. This practice should be discouraged as this is a children's playground.

**Notice Board:** - Any local business or resident wishing to place a notice on our new notice board should contact the Secretary.

**Dean Valley:** -The Garden History Society of Scotland has hosted several meetings with the object of improving the environment of the Dean Valley between Dean Village and Stockbridge. There are many self-seeded trees growing along the embankment of the river which impede the view and are causing damage to the walkways. Also there is considerable ivy growth which is strangling the trees and growing into the walls. A steering group has been formed with the object of applying for a Lottery Heritage Grant. The objectives have to be clearly defined and accurately costed. The group have identified the need to provide an income stream to maintain the valley subsequent to the hoped for successful reception of the grant. A possible source of income was defined as placing a micro hydro-electric generator beneath the lower weir by West Mills. This possibility was discussed at a Dean Village meeting several years ago, and was considered to be non-viable. There were also ownership issues. The details of were given to the steering group. They will report back to interested stakeholders in due course.

**Schoolhouse:** - Our vice-chairman Javier Albert has been in discussions with the Council about the tree that is growing out of a small patch of land in the river adjacent to the schoolhouse flats. This tree needs attention as it affects the building structure. The Council claims that this patch of land was included

in the sale to the Dean Apartments. But study of the documents reveals that this is not the case. It is possible that this piece of land was inadvertently omitted from the plans. The result of these deliberations is awaited.

The Edinburgh World Heritage convened a meeting of its supporters to promote work being carried out as a result of Edinburgh becoming a World Heritage site. David Leslie, Acting Head of Planning for Edinburgh Council, explained that a planning protocol had been established to meet the aspirations of EWH. The Secretary raised the problem of the hoarding at 3/4 Belford Road, which is far from the standards described. However the Council were unable to force private owners to do remedial work.

The City of Edinburgh is proposing to introduce a 20mph speed limit which encompasses all the minor roads, including all in Dean Village and Ravelston Terrace, Ravelston Dykes, Belford Road and Palmerston Place. The proposals will be advertised shortly, and then there will be a period for formal objections to be submitted. More information can be gained on the website **[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/20mph)**, or at the library.

In the past year the bench by the old bridge at the foot of Bell's Brae has been restored and the memorial plaque to George (d. 1980) and Elizabeth Burns (d. 1978) replaced. A large tree that was growing out of the wall separating Bell's Brae from Miller Row was removed and the wall rebuilt.

The Secretary had attempted to contact the company who did the annual maintenance around the Hawthornbank apartments with no reply. The fence along the south side of the river was badly in need of attention. He had drawn the attention of the Council to the degradation of the wall around Dean Path Buildings by Damside and the Convening Court with no result.

## **Planning Applications in Dean Village**

**Planning application reference number 14/05243/FUL:-** Conversion of existing office buildings and a separate garage/office into residential dwellings at 10 Bell's Brae. The application is pending consideration.

**Planning application reference number 14/02924/FUL:-** This application is for a dwelling house at the end of Belford Mews, past numbers 11 and 11a. This application has been approved.

**Planning application reference number 14/04512/FUL: -** Demolition of Belford House and conversion of Douglas House for residential development and other uses. This application was received on 30th October 2014 and is pending consideration.

**Planning application reference number 14/01450/FUL:-** This application by Caledonian Scottish Investments Ltd was withdrawn because their archaeological excavations carried out last year were deemed to be in accordance with the conditions of a previous application, and hence their planning application was automatically extended for a further three years.

### **The Dean Valley Renewal Project**

A meeting of stakeholders in the Dean Valley between Stockbridge and Damside was held in January 2013. A steering group was appointed to work towards the renovation of the natural and built heritage of the Valley. A Conservation Statement was drafted, commissioned by Edinburgh World Heritage and partially funded by Historic Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council, and circulated to stakeholders in February. The final version will be published shortly.

The Secretary of the Dean Village Association has been invited to join the steering group and a Development Trust is to be formed. Support will be sought from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and the possibility of a hydro-electric scheme at the lower Dean weir is being explored. If any member has issues that they would like raised, please contact the Secretary (details on the last page).



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## **Summer Nature Notes by Barbara Mackay**

It seems like only yesterday when I last put pen to paper to record the flora and fauna happenings in Dean Village.

“Our” Goosanders reappeared, a more graceful landing could not have been made by a streamline jet, scattering mere mallards and driving them to the river bank. The heron glides by effortlessly and silently to his breakfast bar. Small birds are at the feeders. Many fledglings (young birds recently out of the nest with true feathers that enable them to fly) such as Goldfinches, Sparrows, Tits and Wrens appear. There was a young Blue Tit who seemed to think that the railings on our balcony were parallel bars and hopped from one to the other. There are more Crows, Jackdaws and Magpies in evidence.

Flowers on the river bank are abundant this year, possibly because of the heavy rain and the sunny spells. It always seems to me an unnecessary and harmful labour when the Council hack the low vegetation on the bank along the footpath the ground which they often expose in their cutting. Buttercups (in my memory there were always masses of buttercups and warm sunshine at picnics) have spread with their interesting names such as Bermuda, Woolly, Hairy and Goldilocks. Yellow Cordyalis is sprouting from old, crumbling walls. Red Campion is scattered about and Sweet Cecily is in heavy growth along the river. Reeds and Sedges are appearing and the Wild Garlic has gone. The Hawthorn tree, sometimes called the Marshmallow or the May tree has enjoyed a magnificent flowering. Yesterday and today the sun shone with real warmth. Enjoy it when it comes.

### **Dean Village News**

This issue of the Dean Village News has been delivered only to members of the Association. If you have enjoyed reading this issue, or found it useful or helpful in any way, you can help by recommending joining the Dean Village Association to others and thus assist in looking after our village.

## **It's a *Braw* Café**

Open 7 days till late with sunny pavement seating. Eat in or takeaway. Big beautifully filled rolls and lovely fresh scones. Delicious soups, tray bakes etc., many of which cater for food intolerances.

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We have now been here for three years! Thanks for your continued support - we are always happy to see you. Email us at [cafebraw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cafebraw@hotmail.co.uk).

## **Advertise in the Dean Village News**

Rates per issue

Quarter page £4

Half page £8

Full page £16

## **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.

# Dean Village Association

## Committee 2015 - 2016

**Chairman:** Barry Mackay, 3 Sunbury Place  
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**Vice-Chairman:** Javier Albert,  
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**Secretary:** David Perry, 22 Damside  
Tel 226 7544 e-mail:- [dav12per@btinternet.com](mailto:dav12per@btinternet.com)

**Treasurer:** Jemima Barnes

**Membership Secretary:** Caroline Gerard, 6 Belford  
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**Committee members:** Pat Sinclair, Conrad Hughes,  
Barbara Mackay, Samantha Huber

## Dean Village News

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

14<sup>th</sup> November 2015

If you would like to submit an article for the News  
please e-mail the Editor at [dav12per@btinternet.com](mailto:dav12per@btinternet.com)

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