



Dean Village News

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www.deanvillage.org

Regeneration of the Dean Valley **by Robert Barnham**

Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd. has been set up by local residents with the aim of renewing and helping to maintain the environment of the Dean Valley between the Stockbridge and Dean Village, based on engaging the local community.

The renovation would include:-

- repair of the walls, bridges, railings and embankments
- removal of trees undermining their structures
- restoration of the walkway cum cycle path

The project aims to deliver carbon savings and develop green energy options. A business strategy will be developed to:-

- generate income to offset future maintenance costs
- establish statutory consents and agreements with interested parties
- conduct feasibility studies for a hydro-electric turbine and/or a café and/or a local history industrial museum and interpretation centre at the lower Dean weir.

(Continued on page 2)

Regeneration of the valley would create a community focus and improve the shared amenity, promoting its sustainability and self-sufficiency for current and future generations.

A Conservation Statement was prepared in 2015, available at Stockbridge Library or on-line at <http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/post/agenda/valley-of-the-water-of-leith-between-stockbridge-and-dean-village-update-2015>. Detailed proposals for the project will be available for consultation by local residents in 2016.

Community engagement is essential to the success of the project and must reflect the wider interests of the community. Presentations have already been made to the local Community Council, Neighbourhood Partnerships, the committee of the Dean Village Association, and local residents. We have also conducted walks with local schools.

The project was promoted at a public meeting on Saturday, 31st October, which attracted over 60 attendees. Some of those present completed feedback forms to allow for their views to be represented, and the overall feedback was positive.

Some survey work has been conducted to assess patterns of use of the footpath, and an additional survey may soon be accessed at our website, currently being developed.

Potential project partners include City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust, Dean Village Association, Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, Historic Scotland, Inverleith Neighbourhood Partnership, City Centre Neighbourhood Partnership, National Galleries for Scotland, Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, Stockbridge Community Council, West End Community Council, SPOKES, SUSTRANS and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust.

If you would like to get involved or would like further information about the project, please contact rbarnham@hotmail.com

Dean Valley Regeneration Public Meeting 31st October

The Secretary of the Dean Village Association reports that more than 60 people attended. Robert Burnham gave the initial address. At public meetings in 2013 stakeholders had given a mandate to form a steering committee to take the project forward. A company had now been formed and application had been made to gain charitable status. The area of interest extended from Stockbridge to the footbridge in Dean Village. He emphasised that the focus of interest was on the public domain, not the private gardens. It was essential to gain the support of the community. The various bodies that award grants for environmental work require that they have community involvement.

Kristina Taylor showed some photos of areas of concern. Self-seeded trees on the fringe of the walkway were causing damage. Walls were decaying, fences were warped, the walkway was disturbed. Historic mill areas were disappearing under vegetation and ivy. The arched retaining wall, particularly where the wall merges with cliff, was now totally hidden by ivy. Views along the Water of Leith were obstructed by trees. Poor drainage causes water to flood across walkway.

There were many questions from the floor. One questioner said that as the areas of concern were the Council's responsibility, they should pay. RB replied that this group would be able to assemble a wide range of possible grants and donations, not available to Council.

Another asked about the time scale of the project. This was difficult to estimate, but even the first plans would not be in place until the summer of 2016.

A contributor suggested that the group could benefit from the experience of groups abroad, particularly in France and in New York. As a result their efforts had resulted in a greater number of visitors. Others said that such visitors were not required,

Was a café necessary? Or a HE project? Commercialisation of the Dean Valley would not be appreciated. KT replied that many grant suppliers required that the recipients show that they have future intent by providing an income stream for continued maintenance.

There was concern that there was not enough interaction with the private gardens management. RB replied that there was no intention to interfere in the private domain. Co-operation with all parties was essential.

Others said that walkers appreciated the nature of the wilderness. KT said that there was a need for all sorts of cover, tall trees, small trees, bushes, and ground cover. This would increase the biodiversity of the area.

Whatever the proposals, the community and the council has to approve.

My Friends in the Cemetery XXIV by David Perry The Noel Patons

Joseph Noel Paton (1821 – 1901) was born near Dunfermline, went to school there and then attended Dunfermline Art Academy. At first he worked in his family's business of fabric designers and weavers. He studied at the Royal Academy, London in 1843. There he met John Millais who suggested that he join the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, which he turned down. Nevertheless he painted in that style: historical, fairy, allegorical or religious subjects. The most well-known are those of Oberon and Titania – “The Quarrel” and “The Reconciliation”. He became an expert in folklore, which was reflected in many of his fairy paintings. He illustrated an edition of Coleridge's “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” and Kingsley's “Water Babies”. Queen Victoria commissioned several of his paintings for Osborne House in the Isle of Wight. He also designed a stained glass window for the nave of Dunfermline Abbey. He was elected a full member of Royal Scottish Academy in 1850. He was appointed Queen's Limner for Scotland in 1866. Two years later he was knighted and also received the LL.D degree by the University of Edinburgh.

His mother Catherine McDiarmid claimed to be a descendant of Malcolm III of Scotland, also known as Malcolm Canmore (1058 – 1093). Malcolm's father was killed by Macbeth who Malcolm in turn slew to become king. Malcolm married Margaret (later canonised), who had escaped from England following the Norman invasion, in 1070. On the front of the old school built in 1875 in the centre of Dean village is a sculpted panel of Queen Margaret teaching a child. Sir Joseph painted “Queen Margaret and Malcolm Canmore” in 1886 which hangs in Dunfermline City Chambers.

In 1858 Joseph married Margaret Gourlay Ferrier and they had seven sons and four daughters. Their eldest son, Daniel became professor of physiology in Glasgow. Their second son, Frederick (1861-1914), studied at Edinburgh Academy and University, and was a noted illustrator. He was an editor, published a novel (Body and Soul), and contributed to leading magazines. He travelled extensively, eventually

settling in India as Director-General of Commercial Intelligence to the government. Another son Randal was also a painter, and exhibited a portrait of his father at the Royal Academy in 1895.

Joseph is buried in the lower level of Dean Cemetery. Nearby are his daughter Hamilton Lora (1868 - 1921) and her husband Robert Scott Moncrieff (1862 - 1923).

Joseph's brother Waller Hugh Paton (1828 - 1895) was a painter, sculptor, illustrator and engraver. He also worked in his father's firm as a teenager, and then trained as an artist. He became a full member of the RSA in 1865 and in 1878 a member of the Royal Society of Watercolourists. He loved painting landscapes, particularly the Perthshire countryside and Arran, which he finished "en plain air", in the comfort of his studio. He was afflicted with pleurisy in his later years and died at his home in George Square. He is buried in Grange cemetery.

Joseph also had a talented sister, Amelia Robertson Paton, later Hill (1820 - 1904). She was the foremost female Scottish artist and sculptor of the 19th century. She carried on working right up to the age of 82, exhibiting at the RSA. Her most notable works are the statue of David Livingstone in Princes Street Gardens and of Robert Burns in Dumfries. She also sculpted three of the statues on the Scott Monument.

In 1862 she married David Octavius Hill (DVN 150), his second wife. He was a well-known artist, and Secretary of the RSA. His four-year collaboration with Robert Adamson between 1843 and 1847 was the highlight of his career, as they used the new art of photography to show the architecture and working people of Edinburgh. Amelia and David set up home firstly in George Square and later in Rock House on Calton Hill. He died in 1870, and was buried in Dean Cemetery. Amelia sculpted a bronze head of David Hill, which she signed on the back. Amelia died in 1904, aged 83, and was buried next to her husband under her own sculpture.

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Planning Applications in Dean Village

Planning application reference number 15/03322/OTC:- on 14th July an application was put in for the residents of 13 and 14 Belford Mews to remove trees on the slope from the Mews houses down to the river. Evidence was supplied that the trees were causing problems for the stability of the houses and the wall bounding the Water of Leith. Permission was given by Delegated Decision and the trees have been removed.

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. Pending consideration.

Planning application reference number 14/04512/FUL: - Demolition of Belford House and conversion of Douglas House for residential development and other uses. Pending consideration.

What? Scotland Play Cricket!

Your editor is a cricket fan. Every year a group of us venture into England to attend a five-day test match. This year is Ashes year: a much looked-forward-to series of five matches against Australia. The last such series was in Australia some two years ago when England was sent packing with a five-nil defeat.

Usually our group attends matches at Old Trafford or Headingley. However, Australia did not seem to want to come so far north, so we had to go to Trent Bridge. This was extremely serendipitous, because this was the fourth match of the series of five, and England was already in the lead with two matches won against one match lost. This Trent Bridge match could ensure that England once again regain the Ashes.

These occasions are very social affairs, and a great deal of chatting goes on with your neighbouring supporters. As soon as we say that we have come down from Scotland they say “But you don’t play cricket up there, surely?”

So we have to inform them that there are a great many cricket clubs in Scotland, and also a county system. AND Scotland has a national team that regularly plays in the shortened forms of the game. They have beaten English county sides in the fifty-over format (including my own birth county of Somerset). They recently played in the world series of twenty-over matches, and did at least as well as England in that neither qualified for the final stages. Scotland’s most recent triumph was winning the qualifying round of non-test playing countries so that they will play in the next twenty-over world cup series against the big boys. Several of these matches were played at The Grange in July.

Such was England team’s dominance in the test match that they won in two days and forty minutes. There followed a great celebration, for England’s supporters anyway. So we came home two days early, hopefully having educated some fans that cricket is alive and well in Scotland.

Filming in Dean Village

In mid-July households in Dean Village received a letter from FREAK-films informing them that a film unit would be present in the centre of the village on Friday and Saturday, 7th and 8th August. Consequently the road through the village would be closed and parking down Bell's Brae, along Damside and at the lower end of Dean Path would be prohibited. There would also be support vehicles present along the west end of Belford Road, mainly to supply refreshments for the considerable number of operatives. Yellow parking lines were removed and replaced at the end of filming, and a street sign was taken down.

This follows a successful previous filming in February 2013 (reported in DVN 164) for a brand of bottled spring water to be marketed in China as Ganten. Glenburn produces this water from springs near Lennoxburn in the Lenzie hills.

The action centred around the old house at the bottom of Bell's Brae, transformed into "The Corner Café". An open carriage drawn by two splendid white horses came down Bell's Brae and drew up outside the café. The two principal actors, a very tall man in period clothes and a young girl in a full-skirted white dress, got out and refreshed themselves with this mineral water. Filming was done not only by hand-held cameras but also with a drone.

There were four horses used in the filming, taking it in turns in pairs to pull the carriage. There were specialised pantechnicons which supplied the lighting equipment. It was altogether a very professional affair. On the following day, Sunday, the clean-up had been so successful that there was no evidence that anything of consequence had taken place, other than a faint smell of horse.

Information about the film company may be obtained at www.freak-films.com.

Principal actor getting a make-up adjustment outside “The Corner Café”



Principal actress waiting for her big scene by the old bridge



Two white horses pulling an open carriage with actors down Bell's Brae



Dean Village Matters

Police Consultation Event: - Following a number of thefts in the village the Dean Village Association arranged with the local police in the Inverleith area to attend at the Schoolyard for a couple of hours on the afternoon of Saturday, 25th July. On a very pleasant afternoon police constable Emily Grimwood obliged, and up to thirty residents came along to meet her. All present agreed that it had been a valuable community exercise which would be worth repeating. Another such event will be held in the spring of next year.

That evening, around midnight, a number of hooded youths standing on the Convening Court steps, threw stones and broke windows at numbers 21 and 22 Dean Path. The resident at number 22 phoned the police who attended quickly, but the culprits had disappeared. We have contacted the police about placing a CCTV camera in the area, but apparently this would be a Council matter. So no progress was made on this. There have been no further incidents of this nature.

The Schoolhouse Tree: - There was a tree growing out of a small patch of land on the river bank right by the southern aspect of the Schoolhouse flats. The branches of this tree had been causing problems for some time. There was disagreement between the Council and residents of the flats as to who owned this land, and was therefore responsible for the tree. Both disclaimed responsibility, and no evidence either way could be found. Some residents thought that the land was the Council's responsibility, and others thought that the deeds showed that it was.

However both sides agreed that the tree should come down, and all owners chipped in to pay for it. So down it came in September.

Rubbish Bins: - Residents in the flats at 2 to 10 Dean Path are greatly inconvenienced by rubbish bins that are placed immediately outside their properties. The residents have to look down on these bins, see the rubbish that sometimes surrounds them, and are inconvenienced by the noise resulting from the clanging of lids, especially at night. This is a particularly difficult problem in the centre of the village, as bins are

needed, but there are very few places to put them. One possible solution is to place both bins further up Dean Path, up past the flats at number 10. But they would then be opposite flats 1 to 10 Dean Path Buildings, but at least on the other side.

One characteristic noticed is that some residents do not like to walk too far to dispose of their rubbish, leaving it beside their nearest (full) bin when others further away have space available. The gulls then descend, scattering debris in the centre of Dean.

The Secretary sent an email from the Council website to try and find a solution to this ever-present problem. There has been no response.

River Sculptures: - It seems that Nick Horton has started something when he started to place his “statues” in the Water of Leith between Stockbridge and Dean Village. Youngsters have thought this a good wheeze, and have started to add their own contribution.

Not everyone is getting pleasure from these efforts. One resident complained that the habitat of dippers is being disturbed, as they like to hop from stone to stone as they forage for food. On the other hand, a grey wagtail was observed that seemed happy to flit between “statues”

There has been relatively little rainfall in the summer, so the river flow was very low. But now the winter rains have arrived. The increased flow has meant that the river has reclaimed its own.

Tree down: - Over the first weekend in November, a large bough of a tree broke off and fell across the Water of Leith path opposite the tennis club, severely damaging the river boundary wall. The tree bough was cut up during the week, but at going to print the wall had not been repaired.

Missing Mushrooms: - Two of the stepping stone “mushrooms” over “the Water of Leith” in the new Schoolyard went missing during the summer. They were restored to their rightful place at the end of October. One wonders what possible use they could have been to anyone that borrowed them.

Another filming in Dean Village.

Dean Village and its environs seem to be a very popular venue for filming, particularly for Far Eastern countries. Two years ago, the Japanese film company NHK Japan came to Edinburgh to film an episode for their series called "A City Walk". They filmed at Well Court and St, Bernard's Well (See Dean Village News Issue 166).

This must have been well received in Japan, because a rival film company came in September to do much the same thing. Their approach was slightly different in that they employed a young student, recently graduated, Sophie by name, to wander about the village and along Miller Row, asking questions about the various buildings and views along the river. Answers would be given in a voice-over.

Filming took place on a rather dull day on the afternoon of Friday, 18th September. Sophie was asked to walk down Bell's Brae, stop at the bridge and ask about the history of West Mills, the Schoolhouse, the Great Granary and the Old House opposite. (This last was used in the advert for Ganten Spring Water. reported on page 8).

Sophie was asked to walk down Miller Row, and was then informed about Lindsay's Mill, Mar's Mill and Dean Bridge. At this point a rain shower interrupted proceedings, so shelter was taken under the Bridge for half an hour.

The company then proceeded along to the perennial favourite - St. Bernard's Well. The Museum section of Edinburgh Council had given the Dean Village Association permission to open the Well for this filming. Unfortunately, because of the very dry spell recently, the reservoir under the pump was dry, and no water could be pumped up. So the company had to be content with filming the interior and exterior of the Well.

After the filming was finished, and the company departed, the pump was tried one more time before locking up. And lo!, water gushed out. Rain from the recent storm had percolated through the earth, and filled the reservoir!



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Winter Nature Notes by Barbara Mackay

Would you like to have a sex change? Say from male to female when you are almost 5000 years old? That is what is happening to our oldest surviving tree, the yew in Fortingall churchyard. It has developed red berries on its crown. Imagine all those hormones coursing around its ancient, battered trunk (now protected by railings from visitors taking little nibbles from it).

Another snippet from the highlands: pine martens are on the increase again and apparently leave a trail of violet-scented droppings over invaded territory. At home we have had an interesting summer enhanced by our resident river sculptor who cleverly and patiently builds statues from riverbed stones. His sculptures, although transient in the current, usually last at least a few days, and seem to take on a variety of shapes and colours at different times of the day and evening.

The Dean Village heron is very proprietorial and, as he fishes, stands guard rightly between two of the larger statues, wondering why they don't move. The mallard drakes are now in full brilliant plumage, looking like males once more. The female goosander appeared on her own, her partner possibly exhorting her "Don't be long". But she sailed swiftly upstream through the mallard drakes and looked as if she was away for the day. Magpies are frequent as are blackbirds and robins who, of course, are still with us all year and not just at Christmas, perched on a twig of holly. Grey squirrels scurry about on the ground and then perform acrobatics in the trees, some of which are broken or look sadly neglected along the riverbanks. I thought squirrels hibernated but they go into a deep sleep when it is very cold, sheltering in their big bulky dreys made of twigs and leaves. It seems that animals are not hibernating as normal this year, perhaps confused by the mild weather and the plentiful shoots and berries, so they stay up like naughty children and raid the plant cupboard for goodies. Bees have had a rough time in the past few weeks, blown off course by the strong winds; in these conditions they do not leave their hives to gather pollen. Their inactivity could mean honey will be more expensive at Christmas. Have a good Christmas and Best Wishes for the coming year.

It's a *Braw* Café

Winter is well and truly with us, so we're whipping up a storm of delicious seasonal food. Try our spiced plum cakes, hearty Scotch broth, or steak and mushroom pies. Have a peek at our Facebook page for each day's fresh menu (facebook.com/cafebraw).

We're open Mon-Sun, and 'till 4.00pm on weekdays for hot suppers and sweet treats. So when you're running late and starving, or just in need of a pint of milk, we'll be delighted to see you

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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.

Dean Village Association

Committee 2015 - 2016

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

14th March 2016

If you would like to submit an article for the News
please e-mail the Secretary

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