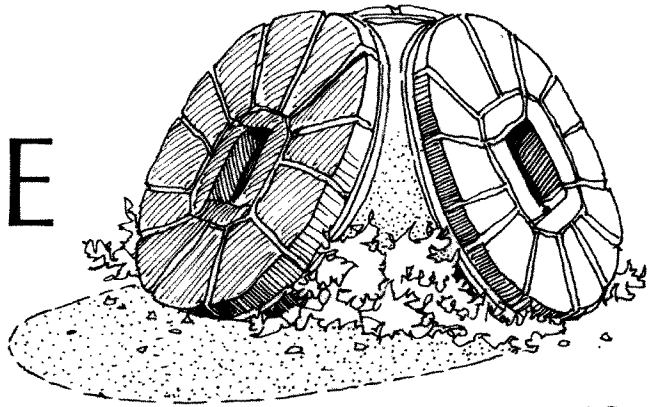


DEAN VILLAGE NEWS



No. 69 Summer 1982

10p

Issued free to members of the Association

THE BAXTERS' HOUSE OF CALL

At the top of Bell's Brae stands a building which in the eighteenth century used to be a public house. Part of it is even older, for a structure of some sort is shown on the site in Slezer's view of Edinburgh from the north-west about 1680. It was after the construction of Bell's Brae in 1673 that the pub really came into its own and it was used especially by the bakers of Edinburgh on their regular journeys to and from the mills at the Water of Leith. Hence it was referred to as "The Baxters' House of Call". At that time the building comprised only the square gabled block fronting on Bell's Brae, and so it continued until 1892. During this time it served different purposes — grocer's shop, sculptor's studio, private house.

It was the well-known figure James Stewart, who lived here for 40 years, who gave it its present form. "Cabbie Stewart" ran a hackney carriage firm in the West End of Edinburgh, keeping his horses and cabs beside his smithy further down Bell's Brae. With a small fortune that came to him on his marriage he commissioned the Edinburgh architect Fairlie to design a "Gothick" addition to the house on the north, and this gives it its tower effect seen from the river bank below. Stewart was an eccentric and a

collector. Into his house, both inside and out, he built whatever carved stones he could get. Hence you will find here the Baker's Stone of 1619 and the "Judgment of Solomon" dormer window from Old Dean House. There are other date stone and carved lintels round the building. The ground floor dining room, with bible boxes provided by Stewart for family prayers, has a quotation from the Gospel (the Road to Emmaus) painted round the ceiling.

After Stewart's death in the First War period, the house reverted to double use, part of it being used residentially, the other part as a shop. Many DVA members will recall the "sweetie shop" that was here before the last war. Today it has been altered for purely domestic use.

(Reprinted, with minor modifications, from DVA News No. 2, October 1971).

* * *

AGM 1982

The meeting, on April 27, was addressed by the Regional Councillor for Dean/Murrayfield, Ian A. Cramond, who avoided party politics in that week preceding the election. (He was re-elected). He spoke of the antiquity of the Village, of the "pre-history" of the DVA (there was a Dean Village Association in the late 1930's, to protest

against proposed demolitions), and of the role of the Regional Council since the division of responsibilities between District and Region in 1974.

The substance of the Annual Report had already appeared in instalments in the DV News.

The Treasurer's financial statement showed a small surplus on the year's working, after leaving aside special income and expenditure, such as the George Kirkwood Memorial Fund and the recent bequest (for the taxi service) from George Burns. He recommended a return to a contract arrangement with a taxi firm. Membership had increased to 140.

COMMITTEE 1982-83

Chairman: Adam Zyw, 1 Hawthornbank Lane
Vice-Chairman: Mrs Peggy Valentine, 31/2 Belford Road

Secretary: Miss Dorothy Forrester, 13 Belford Road (226 5843)

Treasurer: Ian Cowie, 20 Well Court
and Mrs Dorothy Wheeler, 3 Hawthornbank Lane

Miss Frances McKail, 27 Well Court
Paul Harding, Well Court Hall

Jim Henderson, 20 Dean Path Buildings

Mrs Joan Brown, 8/4 Dean Path

Mrs Caroline Gerard, 6 Belford Mews

Michael Lawton, 28/1 Belford Road

Willie Temple, 10/2 Dean Path

Miss Esther Reid, 39 Dean Path

Rory Macdonald, 19 Dean Path Buildings

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TAXI SERVICE

For ten years the Association has provided a free taxi service to take any elderly residents up the hill to the West End (Hope Street Post Office), from where they go to whatever shops they want and make their own way back home. After consultation with regular users, the following times are confirmed:

From Damside at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays.

The Treasurer is arranging a contract with a taxi firm, so that the bill will go to him in

future. We thank those ladies who have had the trouble of handling payments until now.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday June 5th: Visit to Falkland

Details will have appeared on posters; or phone Dorothy Forrester, 226 5843.

Thursday June 24th: Dean Village Midsummer Barbecue in Well Court Rose Garden at 7.30 p.m. Food and Drink £1.50. Music and dancing till late.

Saturday July 24th or 31st We hope to arrange an attractive **Garden Opening** in the morning. Watch for notices.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Saturdays August 21st, 28th and September 4th: **Guided Walks** (from the top of Bell's Brae at 2 p.m.) and **Teas** etc.

We have a growing band of trained guides, and a few regular bakers and servers. Any more volunteers? Offers to Mrs Peggy Valentine, 31/2 Belford Road (225 8942) — or to the Committee member who calls on you.

There may be other HAPPENINGS...

DEAN DIARY

THE SCOTTISH WILDLIFE TRUST

Mr. C.P. Rawcliffe, on March 23, gave us an excellent illustrated talk about the aims and the work of the Scottish Wildlife Trust. We learnt a lot about their reserves, especially those in Lothian Region. The subject had attracted several new faces, young ones; both old and young enjoyed Mr Rawcliffe's style and humour, his beautiful slides and his enthusiasm for his subject. The flow of questions afterwards threatened to keep us late.

I have heard from Alastair Somerville, Conservation Officer of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, that they have a research worker currently investigating the activities of wild mink. It was feared that they would damage fisheries, but the effect seems to be trivial. On the other hand they may be causing serious disturbance, on and near water, to wintering and breeding birds. Reports of what mink *are*

seen to do would be welcomed by Leonie Alexander, Scottish Wildlife Trust, 25 Johnstone Terrace, Edinburgh (226 4602).

WILLIAM MURDOCH SMITH

We regret to report the death on April 27th 1982 of Bill Smith (of 10 Dean Path Buildings), who was born in the Village in 1903 and had lived in it all his life. He was one of the real village people, from whose full and vivid memory many of us learnt much about the old days. Fortunately, he was one of those whose memories were recorded by Basil Skinner at a DVA meeting 10 years ago, transcribed and printed in Nos. 10-13 of the "News".*

I well remember how he and George Burns came to the village meeting we held in the playground two years ago to decide whether the Association should oppose a proposal to turn it into a private car park. Certainly not! They recalled every detail about how it was laid out as a playground in 1913-4; they had played football there themselves and were determined that football should go on being played there.

D.L.F.

* His words will be reprinted in our next issue.

Stop Press: We have just learned that Bill Smith left £50 to the Dean Village Association.

* * *

DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

A Review of the Current Position

High Green and Hawthorn Terrace — all vacant land between Belford Road and the river — have been sold by the City to McTaggart & Mickel, who have been continuing their surveying of this difficult site. They have still to submit detailed plans, which will then be available for inspection and comment.

The Tannery Site (at the end of Damside and extending from Dean Path to the river): Smart's have full permission to build houses and flats, on certain conditions, which they

are apparently unwilling to accept, and they can't be *made* to build if they choose not to. Will they sell the site to another firm, as has been rumoured? Then that firm would probably start from scratch with new plans — the fourth set of plans for this site! If only the first, by Roland Wedgwood had been carried out! But the decision on that rested neither with the Planning Department, nor with the architect, but with the property firm which commissioned the plans, and later sold the site. The same happened to plans prepared (in consultation with the DVA) by the firm of Robert Hurd & Partners.

The shop building on Damside (also belonging to Smart's) It was not included in the plans for the Tannery site for which permission was given. The Association will go on doing all it can to defend it and to have the shop opened again, but there is nothing we can do to force this on an unwilling owner, who would no doubt prefer to let it fall down and thus extend the scope for more profitable development or sale. (It cannot be demolished without permission, since it is in a Conservation Area).

27-29 Dean Path — The Tannery Shop and the rest of the building opening off Convening Court and until recently used as offices: The Association has not opposed the application to change it to flats, but has asked about car parking, since an area for this purpose was included when the building was sold recently.

Car Park on Belford Road: Morris & Steedman have withdrawn their application to extend it. We hope that the day is not too far distant when these distinguished architects will build on their property a group of buildings which will enhance the scene.

Sunbury: Construction is proceeding apace of houses and flats towards the river and of offices on Belford Road, for which the best part of Sloan's building is being renovated, with a new wing being added to it.

PLACE NAMES

(See *DV News* No. 68)

The Association has made the following

firm proposals to the District Council (Architect's Department):

The Broad Stairs (beside Drumsheugh Baths). **Damside** as the address for new houses on the Tannery site.

High Green for new buildings on all of the vacant site south of the river.

KEEP THE DEAN CLEAN

Reading the "Bye-Laws for cleansing of Common Stairs, Etc." dated 5th March 1925 proved interesting reading. Perhaps there are some residents who need to be reminded of their responsibility to the general upkeep of common property?

To quote the bye-law "The tenants of the houses or premises in a flat or storey having entrance by a common stair, in or outside any tenement shall in weekly rotation, cause the landing of such flat or storey and the stair below leading downwards to the next flat or storey which shall be occupied to be swept on every lawful day not later than one hour before sunset, and washed at least twice a week."

We are all liable to take our turn in cleaning common property. This is after all to our mutual benefit. Those who fail to keep the stairways etc. clean to the satisfaction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector are liable to a fine or failing payment to imprisonment.

Let us all make a concerted effort to Keep the Dean Clean".

A TRAFFIC DANGER

Some of us were already worried by the prospect of traffic from a redeveloped High Green driving past uncomfortably close to the doors of 31-32 Belford Road (the recently renovated stone tenement behind Hawthorn Buildings). But it has started already: drivers going to or from the unofficial free parking area at Hawthorn Terrace are making increasing use of this route, and once they are used to its narrowness they go alarmingly fast. We think that this branch of the roadway is already officially a cul-de-sac — there's a sign indicating that at the top — and we have asked for a bollard to be set up at the lower

end. This first request has been turned down, but we are not letting the matter drop.

ALLOTMENTS?

Negotiations continue for the use of a site within the grounds of Dean Education Centre, Belford road. Will those interested please contact the Secretary of the DVA? There may be some outside the Village, for example in flats in the West End area or the New Town. Pass the word around.

ARE YOU A MEMBER?

Some years ago the Committee of the Association conducted a survey of non-members to find out why they had not joined. Conclusion: "The biggest reason... is that we don't *go round* once a year and meet them and ask them to take part. Most people are too little motivated to go out of their way to join. The NEWS is all very well, but written announcements cannot beat personal contact."

This issue of the Dean Village News is being delivered to every household in our area by members of the Committee, who will invite you to join, or to renew your subscription if you have not already paid it for 1982-83. If they don't succeed in contacting you, please pay it to the Treasurer or to any other member of the Committee, whose names and addresses appear in the report of the AGM.

Future issues, in autumn, winter and spring, will be sent only to paid-up members.

DEAN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1982-83

Ordinary membership: £1.00

Senior Citizens: 50p

Life Membership: £15

If you receive the quarterly DV News by post, will you add 50p to cover the cost?

Treasurer: Ian Cowie, 20 Well Court
Secretary: Miss Dorothy Forrester,
13 Belford Road, EH4 3BL

Editor: Miss Frances McKail, 27 Well Court.