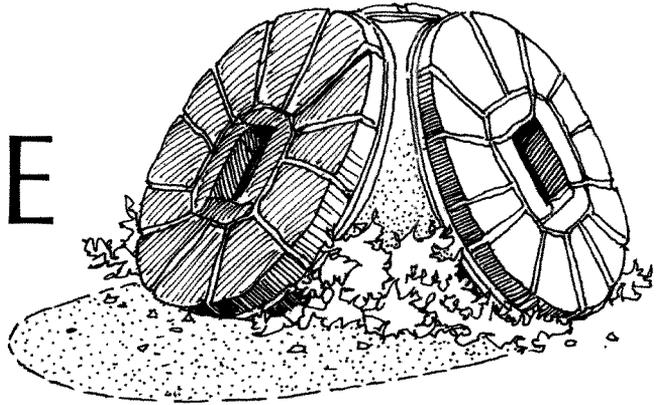


DEAN VILLAGE NEWS



No. 83 Winter 1985-6

RECOLLECTIONS OF NONAGENARIAN

from a pamphlet with this title (1978) by Mrs A.G. McCaul (née Lyon), who was born in 1882 and who lived in Lynedoch Place from 1888 till her marriage in 1910. Her mother lived on there till about 1950.

There was a nursery garden at the end of Lynedoch Place owned by a Mr Johnnie Stewart. (This is the site of Lynedoch House. Ed.) He grew daffodils in boxes and you could get a large bunch for sixpence. He also kept people's gardens tidy, cutting grass and planting borders of geraniums, marguerites and lobelias. Nobody ever worked in their gardens. That would have been an extraordinary thing to do. When you went on holiday, Mr Stewart looked after the indoor plants for you: the palm, the aspidistra and ferns. (p.51)

Cab ranks were plentiful in Edinburgh. Our nearest one was at Drumsheugh Place. It was owned by a Mr Stewart who lived in the Old Toll House at the end of the Dean Bridge. (There is no evidence that this was ever a toll house. Ed.) There was a sunken garden at the Toll House and in it were a couple of peacocks. When a sufficient number of people had collected on the Bridge the birds strutted about displaying their wonderful tails: surely among the wonders of the world. (p. 16)

Once we had the excitement of a fire in the stables in Bell's Brae. (presumably Cabbie Stewart's stables, where Cobb Blyth's office is now. Ed.) The horses were led out neighing and coughing and little two-year-old Constance Martin Hardie who lived in a house near the

stables (actually in the upper part of the same building. Ed.) was wrapped in blankets and brought over to our house for safety. (p. 8) (The house called Drumsheugh Toll was built for the artist Charles Martin Hardie in 1891. See DVN No. 66)

MUSIC

There are recitals every Saturday evening in the handsome first-floor concert-room of the Edinburgh Society of Musicians at 2 Belford Road — Drumsheugh Toll (of which the Waddell School of Music occupies the lower floor).

In spite of its name, membership of the Society is not restricted to musicians. Moreover, visitors are welcome to attend any of the concerts. Why not sample one? Just go along on a Saturday evening. If you would prefer to be introduced by a member, contact Miss Helena Reid, 5/2 Hawthornbank Lane (225 4026).

Saturday Evenings at 8pm

January 25 Anna Le Hair (piano) plays Beethoven, Liszt etc.

February 1 A rarity: a quintet by Ponchielli

February 8 Young musicians

February 15 A celebration of St Valentine's Day

February 22 A brilliant young Chinese pianist, Chizumi Hollingworth

Saturday afternoons at 3 p.m.

Do you prefer not to go out on dark evenings? There will be recitals on February 15 and 22.

OPEN SPACE

At the AGM of the Dean Village Association in 1981 there was some discussion about the future of the vacant ground between Belford Road and the Water of Leith (often referred to as High Green although originally that name was used only for the part between Hawthorn Buildings and the "Stinking Brae"). Some members wanted it to be kept as an open space; others thought it was appropriate for it to be built on.

In view of this divergence of opinion, the Association did not attempt to oppose what the District Council were about to do: offer the land to a developer. McTaggart & Mickel's bid was accepted, and they were expected to begin building in 1985 a scheme well designed but with a density twice as high as high as had been recommended in the planning brief. As our regular readers know, they have withdrawn, and the ground still belongs to the Council.

Meanwhile Smart's plans for the Tannery site were amended to increase the density. (Don't be misled by the openness of their site at present: they intend to build a high block of flats on Dean Path and to fill up the middle with garages and houses). And there are going to be more flats than we would have liked in the school.

Opinion seems to have moved in favour of keeping High Green as an open space. The District Council has passed a motion proposed by Councillor Ian T. Campbell which calls on the Planning Committee to consider carefully the granting of consent for any future development in the village. More specifically, he is trying to persuade the Planning Committee to refuse any building on the site vacated by McTaggart & Mickel and to have it landscaped when funds become available. We await a report from the Director of Planning.

However, part of the area on which McTaggart & Mickel were going to build does not belong to the District Council. The car park near the Post Office and the fenced area beside it are the property of Messrs Morris and Steedman, Architects. The site has planning consent for a block of 38 flats. We are informed that this project will go ahead without McTaggart & Mickel (bad news for some residents in Belford Mews!), but no starting date can be indicated.

So the area which may be left as an open space is the rest of the vacant ground, from the wooden fence to Hawthorn Buildings. The Association has already made suggestions for its treatment in the short term (See DVN 82). Those suggestions still stand. But now that a permanent open space is a possibility, we can consider long-term options. Would we tolerate, even welcome, a few houses? (That's what there used to be.) Some one has suggested a pub on the site of Hawthorn Terrace (near the footbridge).

Opinions please! Letters to the Editors welcomed! And the topic is likely to be dealt with at length at our Annual General Meeting, which Councillor Campbell will address, on Monday, April 28.

WILDFLOWERS

In the meantime we attempted to encourage a natural beauty by clearing a small patch of High Green and sowing wildflower seeds, generously donated by Mr. David Simcox, Curator of The Butterfly Farm. The seeds include 40 varieties of self-germinating flowers — hopefully in a couple of years' time we will have an enviable blaze of colour all across High Green and beyond!

We must thank Mr. Simcox not only for the seeds and advice but also for his physical assistance; the planting was arranged at very short notice and many would-be volunteers had already given of their time to the Clean-Up the previous day.

We hope to organise another sowing in the Spring.

Allotments

The Dean Village Association has had the tenancy of garden ground at the Dean Education Centre for two years now. One of the 12 plots may become vacant shortly. Apply to Bill Myles, 12 Douglas Crescent (337 4781).

Water of Leith Walkway

The path from the Dragonara Hotel to Roseburn is due to be completed about Easter.

We have asked again for St Bernard's Footpath to be provided with lights.

AN OFFICE BLOCK?

A new plan has been put forward for the site in Belford Road adjoining Drumsheugh Baths. The Dean Village Association was formed in 1971 in a wave of protest against the proposal to build an office block there, but planning consent was granted. The new plan involves for the first time access from Bell's Brae for car parking in the basement. (This would be achieved by demolishing Cobb Blyth's reception area.)

As we go to press, the Association's formal comment on the planning application is still to be considered, but there will undoubtedly be very strong objection to a car park opening off Bell's Brae; and the building is probably too high and too bulky. The plans will be on view to the public at 18 Market Street (corner of Cockburn Street) until 7th February. The reference number is 11/86. Any one can go and see them. Any one can lodge and objection. A large number of individual objections would strengthen the case against the proposals in their present form.

The School

James Potter Construction have been granted planning consent for 19 residential units, subject to certain conditions concerning landscaping, natural stone for all external alterations, traditional style sash windows, granite setts for the front area and the treatment of various walls. An unauthorised change to the Water of Leith boundary wall was begun, but promptly reported to the Planning Department by vigilant neighbours. The wall has been reinstated. It may eventually be lowered, but no work is to be done on it until the detailed treatment has been approved. An effort is being made to ensure that the sycamore by the riverside is not felled or lopped.

QUIZ

Where can one see these inscriptions? What do they mean?

1. O H 1832
2. J R F 1889 S L
3. J NEWTON D
F MACLAREN M
1805

A LOGAN D
H NIMMO M
1806

DEAN PARISH CHURCH 150th YEAR

Wednesday February 5 EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE PARISH Robert T.D. Glaister Ph.D., Staff tutor, Open University. (He is a former pupil of John Watson's School). Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday February 9 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING The Rev. Alastair Morton M.A., B.D., Dip Ed., General Secretary, Education Department, Church of Scotland, at the morning service, 11 a.m.

Wednesday March 5 THE INDUSTRIES OF THE PARISH Mr Morrison Gill (S.A.I.), Mr Robin Legget, Mr Reid (Whytock & Reid) Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday March 9 CHRISTIANS AT WORK The Rev. Donald Ross, M.A., Industrial Chaplaincy Organiser, Church of Scotland, at the morning service, 11 a.m.

Wednesday April 9 HOSPITALS AND CARING CONCERNS IN THE PARISH Dr Martin Eastwood, M.B., Ch.B., FRCP, (Western General Hospital) Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Sunday April 20 THE SOCIAL WORK OF THE CHURCH The Rev. Frank S. Gibson, B.L., B.D., S.T.M., D.S.W.A., Director of Social Work, Church of Scotland.

Sunday May 11 SERVICE OF THANKS-GIVING AND DEDICATION The Rt Rev. David M.B.A. Smith, M.A., B.D., D.Univ., The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. 11 a.m.

Saturday May 17 EXHIBITION in the Church Hall
Morning coffee 10-12 Afternoon Tea 2-4.

Sunday May 18 THE WAY AHEAD The Very Rev. William B. Johnston, B.D., Minister of Colinton, at the morning Service, 11 a.m.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE 6.30 p.m.
followed by coffee in the Church Hall.

PARKING

Officials have prepared amendments to the regulations. The proposals will be formally advertised to the public; but the Dean Village Association has already been given an opportunity to comment on them.

The points which interest us are:

Zone 1 will be divided into two zones by a line down Queensferry Street to the Dean Bridge.

Zone 5 will be divided into two zones by a line from Falshaw Bridge (at the Colonies), along the Water of Leith to Stock Bridge and up Gloucester Street to Doune Terrace.

More spaces for residents

Dean Path - 3 more.

Belford Road - 4 more, near Drumsheugh Baths.

Randolph Crescent - 8 more.

Sunbury: We shall point out that Sunbury Mews and Place must be included in the new regulations. (These private streets are likely to be taken over by the Regional Council during 1986) Informally, an official has said that they would like to treat Sunbury Place in the same way as a mews, so that there need be no painted lines to mar the road surface. Holders of special zone 5 permits would be free to park anywhere in Sunbury Place. Can they be trusted to do so sensibly? There have been many reports of obstruction; neither refuse vehicles nor fire engines could get past. Will yellow lines, even double yellow lines, be needed?

Miller Row: We shall appeal for Miller Row to be controlled, but there may be no hope, for it is not in the care of the Highways Department.

Local History

The DVA has affiliated to the Scottish Local History Forum, who send us three copies of their journal. If you are interested ask Dorothy Forrester for a copy.

And who would like to investigate the history of Sunbury (alias Coates Haugh)? D.F. can offer some leads: a bleachfield, a distillery, a "neat cottage residence" (Sunbury House), Moncur's Riding Academy ...

THE DEAN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Tuesday January 28 THE OPEN UNIVERSITY
Dorothy Forrester and other students.

Tuesday February 25 OTHER VILLAGES OF EDINBURGH — Newhaven, Cramond, Davidson's Mains. Malcolm Cant.

Tuesday March 25 THE ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY H. Anthony Wheeler, President of the RSA.

These three meetings will take place in Dean Church Hall, Ravelston Terrace, at 7.30 p.m. A charge of 20p will be made, but no further payment will be asked for tea and biscuits.

Monday April 28 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Venue to be announced.

Answers to quiz:

1. Above the small gate to the Dean Education Centre, opposite the Dragonara Hotel. It was built as the Orphan Hospital in 1832.
2. John Ritchie Findlay and his wife Susan Leslie. Their initials appear on Well Court with the date 1884. This inscription is on 4 Douglas Garden Mews (on the side facing Belford Road). That house was occupied up to the 1930's by the Findlays' chauffeur, and earlier no doubt by Sir John's coachman.
3. On the wheatsheaf roundel on West Mill. J. Newton and A. Logan were presumably Deacon of the Baxters' Corporation in 1805 and 1806 respectively; but what office does M stand for?

THE DEAN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Chairman: Mrs Peggy Valentine
31/2 Belford Road (225 8942)

Secretary: Miss Dorothy Forrester
13 Belford Road EH4 3BL (226 5843)

Treasurer: Mr Michael Lawton
28/1 Belford Road (226 5197)

SUBSCRIPTIONS (1985-6)

Ordinary £2.00 (or £2.50 with postage)
Senior Citizens £1 (or £1.50 with postage)
Life Membership £20