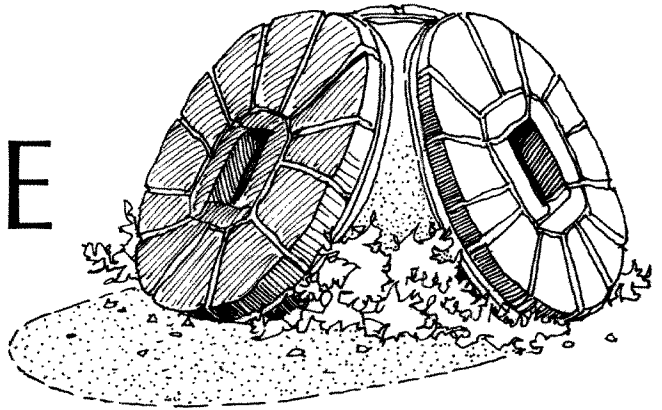


# DEAN VILLAGE NEWS



No. 85

Summer 1986

Friday, August 29th

OPEN-AIR CEILIDH IN WELL COURT

8 to 11.30 p.m.

We hope to have an alternative venue in case of rain

DANCING TO A LIVE BAND      BAR

**Tickets in advance £2.00** from Derek Johnstone, Belford Mews (226 7035, evenings), Betty Boyd, Randolph Cliff (225 3289, evenings), Liz Lumsden, Well Court (226 3945), or any other committee member.

*Money back if event is cancelled*

**Tickets at the door £2.50** (so it will pay to buy in advance!)

## GUIDED WALKS

For the first time we are offering guided walks in **September**, (when the competing attractions of the Festival will be over), and on **Sundays, the 7th and 14th. 2.15 p.m.** at the Dean Bridge (top of Bell's Brae). Charge 50p (25p for children).

We shall not be serving teas on these occasions.

## TALKS ILLUSTRATED WITH SLIDES

**Tuesday October 7**

A welcome return of **Douglas Lakie**, who showed us his pictures of Greenland last year:  
**On a Banana Boat to the Windward Islands**

**Tuesday November 4**

(or possibly the 11th — look out for posters):  
**Wilma Gladstone: Egypt**

These meetings will start at 7.30 and will take place, we hope, in a room in the offices of Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners, the entrance to which is in Miller Row, a few yards below the old bridge.

## A BONFIRE NIGHT?

We hope to have fireworks on **Saturday November 1**. Look out for posters.

## DEVELOPMENTS

### Belford Church

We have heard informally that the development company which is advertising it as available for short-term letting proposes to make it into offices, without spoiling the interior too much. They have in mind to instal balconies (not new floors going right across) so that the full height would still be apparent. We are happy to see that they have begun to repair the roof and windows and to clear the junk from the yard. We shall study with interest their application for planning consent when it is available.

**Belgrave Mews:** There has been an application to build a pair of houses on the west side of the Mews, where there used to be a sculptor's studio behind a house in Dean Path. The DVA adopted a neutral position on the question of whether a two-storey building should be allowed there, while making comments on the detailing and materials. Residents in the Mews have conducted an energetic campaign against the development, and apparently an effective one, for we hear that the application is likely to be rejected.

**The School:** The construction of flats is almost complete, and we understand that they have nearly all been sold. We appreciate the quality of the workmanship on the exterior, but the developer seems to have been obliged to build a concrete bin-holder for every flat (Will they really be used?)

Have you noticed a heart formed with granite setts in the middle of the back playground? We don't know the reason; surely they don't imagine that a car-park will replace Well Court as the heart of the Village! We had tried to have this area made into a garden, for the delight of both residents and passers-by; but plants and trees, like children, have been squeezed into corners: there are a couple of swings but no real **space** for play.

**Holy Trinity Church:** (Dean Bridge): The Electricity Board has put it up for sale. There is a rumour that it may be turned into offices, but there has not yet been any application for planning consent.

**Bell's Mills:** We have no further news of the proposal to extend the Dragonara Hotel.

**Sub-division:** Should permission be granted for three-storey Victorian terrace houses to be made into small flats? Are there not people who would pay a fair price for a family house near the centre of town and within yards of Stewart-Melville College? Is there room in Ravelston Terrace of Ravelston Place for the number of cars to be multiplied by three?

There have been two recent applications of this kind. In the case of 8 Ravelston Terrace, the DVA objected; for 5 Ravelston Place we missed the deadline for comments. The Secretary would have liked to find out what the neighbours think of these cases, but regrets that pressure of business left her no time. However, comments would still be welcomed, so that the Association can have a policy to apply to similar cases in the future. The Cockburn Association opposes all such applications.

## WALKWAY

**Belford Bridge:** Work will start "any time now" on the construction of a link under the bridge between Dean Bank Footpath and the Hotel.

**To Roseburn:** Don't be put off by the notice at the Dragonara footbridge: it is possible to go through to Wester Coates or Roseburn. Presumably, until that section of the walkway is officially completed, the Council just doesn't want to accept responsibility in the unlikely event of your having an accident.

**Sunbury:** We are trying to find out whether the District Council is responsible for maintaining the public footpath along the riverside behind some of the new houses.

**To Stockbridge:** Tired of picking our way round the patches of deep mud, three of us shovelled much of it away recently. However, St Bernard's Path is to be thoroughly renovated at last, within this financial year. Miller Row is to improve under another scheme, to be carried out by MSC labour. This too is likely to go ahead soon.

**Past Smart's site:** MSC labour will be used for this too — at least, for the lower level section, which will be surfaced with tarmac so that it will not be washed away by floods. Engineers are working on the problem of a structure to support a path from the lower to the higher level, past the weir. It would need to have an open frame so as not to obstruct the river channel when the river is in spate. We are reiterating that we want an additional access to the riverside by means of a substantial stile over the flood-control wall above the weir. This approach was allowed for by the planning of a pend at the far end of Damside.

## FLOWERS

We appreciate the window boxes and hanging baskets provided by several residents, and the extra planting done by the Mackays where a pend and steps lead from Damside to the river. We thank Mary Neilson for planting and tending the oak tubs which the Association provided for Well Court. As for the ones in the lane, we hope to have these better looked after in future. (A group of members did at least clear the weeds etc from that part of the "curtilage" of Well Court).

Last year members responded generously to an appeal for money to pay for the planting of trees and bulbs and for tubs of flowers and shrubs. There is still a surplus in that fund. It has been suggested that the Association provide tubs for the back of Dean Path Buildings. Would the residents there welcome this? Would one or two of them undertake to look after them?

## HIGH GREEN

There have been discussions about the possibility of labour provided by the Manpower Services Commission being made available to landscape High Green and repair the old walls which border it. Would we like a children's playground on the site of Hawthorn Terrace (the level area used as an unofficial car park)? The Committee — including two members who live very near the site — said "yes". We hope that these plans will come to fruition.

## DAMSIDE

For the benefit of newcomers we repeat the explanation of this street name. The "dam" is not the weir, but the lade which took the water from it across the haugh to West Mill. It ran in the open past a row of houses, which were of course "at the damsides". (In DVN 80 we quoted a vivid description of the scene from "The Miller of Deanhaugh".) Within living memory the weir was called "the damheid" (according to the Concise Scots Dictionary this word is now used only in Caithness); but it is labelled "caul" on an old map.

## ALEKSANDER ZYW II

We congratulate Adam and Jenny ZYW on the birth of their son (whose grandparents were founders of the Association).

We look forward to seeing his grow up in the Village, as his father did.

A work by Adam has been installed in the open air at the Gallery of Modern Art in Belford Road. Walk past the main building and you will come to it on your left — an oak bench. (You might take it for an abstract sculpture, but Adam assured us that it is meant to be sat on.)

## From The Buildings of Scotland — EDINBURGH

published by Penguin Books in association with the National Trust for Scotland, 1984.

After the decline of the mills, due to the rise of the giant flour mills of Leith in the late nineteenth century, the Dean Village "was kept alive by the tanery which closed in c.1970 and by repeated injections of picturesque architecture ... The character of the village depends less on architectural consistency than on purposeful siting and countless details from the skyline down to the iron railings and granite setts" (whinstone, actually).

The school was built in 1874-5 and extended in 1892 (apparently the flat-roofed, less Gothic wing).

There is an account of West Mill and of its history: "externally the best of the surviving Scots burgh grain-mills". Inside there were wooden floors on cast-iron columns and two breast-shot wheels, 18 feet in diameter and 12 feet wide.

Dean Path Buildings were to be continued eastwards. That blank gable was never intended.

"The restorer of the Dean Tannery shop" (27-29 Dean Path) "lopped off the big chimneys, and with them much off its character". (See the painting of the Village in 1878, of which the Association has post-card copies for sale.)

Just about every building in the Village, in Sunbury and in Belford Road is mentioned, even the ordinary Victorian tenements: the block next to Drumsheugh Baths was built in 1890, the one which includes the post office in 1893.

St George's Well — the little building dated 1810, a short distance below the Dean Bridge — was named in allusion to the jubilee of King George III.

In Holy Trinity Church, Dean Bridge, there are three 'superb' stained-glass windows by Henry Holliday. The rest are by James Ballantine (whom we know as the author of "The Miller of Deanhaugh").

With the building of John Watson's School (now the Gallery of Modern Art), the Dean Orphanage and Daniel Stewart's College, "the western half of the Dean estate became a territory of 'pauper palaces' and woodland, an entirely happy outcome."

## THE VILLAGES OF EDINBURGH

by Malcolm Cant. Volume 1.

It covers Corstorphine, Cramond, Davidson's Mains, Dean, Duddingston, Newcraighall, Newhaven, Restalrig and Stockbridge, telling the story of each village from its origins to the present day.

Published by John Donald, Edinburgh.  
Paperback £5.95.

## A GUIDE TO THE VILLAGE

A brief but detailed guide, published by the Association, can be bought for 15p from Belford Road Post Office; Alex Hastings, newsagent, Queensferry Street; the Secretary; and at Well Court, from Mrs Turner at No.44 or Mrs Kirkwood at No.19.

## COLOURED POST-CARDS OF THE VILLAGE

We have obtained a supply of this reproduction of a painting of the Village in the 1870's before the building of Well Court and Dean Path Buildings. It shows three buildings which still survive: 39 Dean Path, 27-29 Dean Path (Convening Court) and Burnside's shop. These post-cards can be obtained, at 10p, from the Secretary or at meetings.

## A LATE SPRING ... AND A LATE SUMMER?

We apologise for the late delivery of some copies of our "spring" number, which we had hoped to distribute completely before the end of May. That issue was delivered to every address in our area and to members further afield.

This one, which we hope to published by about August 24, will be delivered or posted to paid-up members only. If you know of some one who meant to pay a subscription, or who has in fact done so but has not received a copy, please ask him or her to contact Caroline Gerard (225 6071) or the Secretary, and, if appropriate, to send a subscription to the Treasurer, Mrs Betty Boyd, 10 Randolph Cliff (the house at the end of Dean Bridge). We regret that not every house has been visited by a committee member collection subscriptions.

When new people move in we are happy to give them a copy of DVNews right away, with an invitation to join the Association. Do tell us if you have new neighbours.

## 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:** Mrs Betty Boyd  
10 Randolph Cliff (225 3289)

## SUBSCRIPTIONS (1986-7)

Ordinary £2.00 (or £2.50 with postage)  
Senior Citizens £1 (or £1.50 with postage)  
Life Membership £20.00