



## THE DEAN STUDIO

Only the gatepiers of the Dean Studio, the former Dean Free church of 1844, survive today. Situated at 4 Belford Road next to Drumsheugh Baths, the Studio was a centre of the Arts and Crafts movement in Edinburgh at the turn of the century, housing both classrooms and individual studios.

In early 1890 the building was made available to the Edinburgh Social Union, a philanthropic body founded five years previously by among others Patrick Geddes. By 1890 the art activities of the Union had included the mural decoration of Edinburgh schools, mission halls and hospitals, as well as practical art and craft classes. In June 1890 the Union's workbenches, tools and materials - and some plaster casts of antique sculptures presented by the director of the Glasgow School of Art, Fra Newbery - were moved into the Dean Studio. Daytime and evening classes in metalworking, woodcarving and design were held and were open to all. The studios were shared in the early- and mid-nineties with other bodies such as the more commercially-minded Scottish Industrial Art Association and also with the sculptor DW Stevenson who had negotiated the original lease of the building and sublet parts of it to the Union for a rent of £40 per annum. The craft classes held at the Studio became considerably more ambitious and professional with the establishment in 1891 of the Lynedoch School of Artistic Handicraft. This was set up on the lines of the Guild of Handicraft established in 1888 in London by the leading Arts and Crafts designer and theorist, C R Ashbee who advised the Union or their guild. The "productive workshop" at the Dean Studio produced silver quichs, shoe buckles and cloak clasps during its year-long existence.

The Edinburgh Social Union was less involved in the Dean Studio after 1900. Classes were fewer and the building now became an exhibition hall with individual studio accommodation. In 1902 the first of four triennial exhibitions of the newly-formed

Edinburgh Arts and Crafts Club were held in the centre of the former church. In 1909-10 (between the third and fourth exhibitions) the space was taken by the architect Robert Lorimer to build a full-size model of his proposed Chapel for the Order of the Knights of the Thistle, built in 1910-11 at St Giles Cathedral. Artists occupying individual studios here did work for the Thistle Chapel: Phoebe Traquair made the enamelled coats of arms, and Joseph Hayes did all the stone carving.\*

Elizabeth Cumming

\*See The Knights and Chapel of the Thistle, Edinburgh, by Stuart Matthew. (Eaglebank Publications, Edinburgh, 1988).

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### Burnside's Shop:

Smart's currently have an application before the Planning Department to demolish the building and landscape the ground.

### High Green:

A new planning application has been submitted, but with only a few very slight modifications.

### 3-4 Bedford Road:

Investigations are still under way to establish the economic viability of building on such a difficult site; a decision is expected in the near future.

### Holy Trinity Church:

The latest development came as some surprise: the building has been acquired by *Christian Centre Ministries* who wish to turn it into - a church!

## AGM REPORT

For the second year in succession, we were allowed the use of Melvin House, 3 Rothesay Terrace (one-time home of James Ritchie Finlay, proprietor of "The Scotsman", who commissioned the building of Well Court and Dean Path Buildings) by the Health Service Development Committee to hold our 17th AGM on 29th April.

After the completion of business and the election of Office-bearers and Committee Members (see back page), the Lord Advocate, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, was introduced. He gave a fascinating and well-received address entitled "The Dean Village - A Lawyer's Look", which included his own boyhood reminiscences and the history of developments in the Dean Village with particular regard to involvement by members of the legal profession, viz 5 Judges, 4 Lord Advocates, 1 Solicitor-General, 1 Sheriff and "the odd Lord Provost".

We are hoping to print a transcript of his address in full in the near future.

## CLEAN-UP

And did you notice how much cleaner underfoot Miller Row was for the Duke of Gloucester's visit to Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners' office earlier this year?

It's heartening to see an increased usage of "pooper-scoopers" by dog-walkers - but if you don't already, please start!

This May there was a more enthusiastic turn-out for the spring clean-up, not just 'locally' but from such far-flung parts as Stockbridge, including its newly-elected District Councillor. And by chance a party on a sponsored walk for charity came by and thought that next year joining in on a sponsored clean-up might be a very practical idea...

Thanks to all those who gave up some of their Saturday to take part in the clean-up.

## CRICKED NECKS...

On 12th May a group was privileged to visit the R Aux AF's No. 2 Maritime HQ Unit at No 25 Learmonth Terrace - not in the interests of the defence of the Dean Village, but to marvel at the glorious decoration inside the house itself.

The house was built in 1891 for William Sanderson, the whisky magnate, and is described as having "the most sumptuous interior in the city" by Colin McWilliam in "The Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh".

And sumptuous it most certainly is: leather mosaic ceilings, painted embossed canvas, wrought iron railings, delicate marquetry doors, elaborate fireplaces and dog-irons, a scaled down replica of the Parthenon frieze, gold-leaf Greek inscriptions, stained glass and intricate wood-carving almost everywhere...

We were taken round three of the six storeys and treated afterwards to drinks in the Sergeants' Mess, once the Billiard Room, which extends the entire width of the 2nd floor at the rear of the building (clearly visible from S. Learmonth Ave. - 4 windows and a "turret")

## GARDEN CENTRE VISIT

By the courtesy of Mr Gault, a small group visited Mortonhall Garden Centre on May 10th and was treated to an informative and expert demonstration on how to plant out window-boxes, tubs and hanging baskets - and then was served coffee and biscuits.

We expect to see a more floral Village soon!  
Thanks to those who supplied lifts to others.

## DISTRICT ELECTION

On May 5th, Paul Martin was elected as Conservative District Councillor for Dean Ward. We hope that he will continue and build on ex-Cllr. Sir Ian T. Campbell's interest in, and work for, the Village.

Tom Ponton remains Regional Councillor for Dean/Murrayfield.

Don't worry about the stone dated 1690: we have it safely stored away and will offer it to be incorporated into any future building on the site. One of our members is similarly keeping safe a dated stone from Hawthornbank Terrace, which stood until a few years ago at the end of Hawthornbank Lane, near the foot-bridge.

### **Picnics:**

"I remember Mrs Lee; in the summer-time she used to take us away down to Royston for a picnic, and there were all sorts of prams and go-carts and everything. The night before we used to peel potatoes, and when we got down to the sea-side, just beside the gas-works at Granton, we lit a fire and we used to roast the potatoes. If you didn't behave yourself you weren't going to go the next day. That was some threat! We used to walk all the way down and sing "Danny Boy" and all the songs of the day, and pinch turnips from the fields down the Crewe Road and eat them raw."

## **THE WALKWAY**

**Beyond the Dragonara:** Does everyone realise that it is now possible to walk up the riverside to Roseburn Cliff, and across the railway viaduct at Roseburn to Craigleith, Telford Road, Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains? There are additional access points at the top of Magdala Crescent and from Wester Coates Gardens.

### **St Bernard's Well**

A group of people are arranging to have the Well reopened, perhaps on one day a week, this summer. Are you willing to help man it occasionally? If so, contact Bob Clark, 22 Dean Park Crescent (332 3672).

## **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)

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Ted Fisher  
29/1 Sunbury Place (225 1123)

### **COMMITTEE**

Miss Helen Callum  
1/7 Dean Path (Schoolhouse) (225 5848)

Mr Leo Cunning  
26 Sunbury Place (225 2523)

Mr Alasdair Fergusson  
22 Sunbury Place (226 5656)

Ms Caroline Gerard  
6 Belford Mews (225 6071)

Dr Alison Kerr  
31 Well Court (226 3406)

Miss Liz Law  
20 Dean Path Buildings (225 1928)

Mr Callum McCulloch  
47 Well Court (225 3163)

Mrs Barbara Mackay  
8 Damside (226 2512)

Mrs Jenny Zyw  
17 Bell's Brae (225 3213)

Mrs Isobel McKee  
3/1 Dean Path (Schoolhouse) (226 3471)

### **SUBSCRIPTIONS (1988-9)**

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