

DEAN VILLAGE NEWS

No 100 Summer 1991

MIDSUMMER CEILIDH

**In Well Court
Saturday June 22
From 8 To 12**



PRICE £4.00 (Concessions **£2.50**)
includes supper (stovies)
and 50p off your first drink at the bar.

TICKETS from John Kelly, 10 Well Court
225 4915 (24 hours)
or Dorothy Forrester, 13 Belford Road
226 5843

BUY THEM IN ADVANCE, for numbers will be limited.
We hope to have a covered venue in case of rain.

Any profit will go towards lights for Well Court.

THE WATER OF LEITH

The water quality is good, well able to support huge populations of fish and invertebrates in excellent health. There is, however, a danger from unpredictable incidents, when a pipe bursts or a drain is blocked or when, through ignorance or evil intent, dangerous oil or liquor is diverted into the river. If you see unnaturally discoloured water, an oily discharge or dead fish, you should telephone the Forth River Purification Board on 449 7276 or, for emergencies outwith office hours, 449 7292. (Both numbers are in the phone book).

A Water of Leith Management Plan is being drawn up by a steering group involving the Regional and District Planning Departments, the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the Water of Leith Conservation Trust.

The above information has been taken from the Newsletter of the Water of Leith Conservation Trust, whose base is at the old school in Slateford (24 Lanark Road). The Dean Village Association is a member, but individuals are also invited to join. Subscription £5 (£2 for OAP's). Their enthusiastic Administrator, Su Millar, co-ordinated a large number of groups for a major clean-up on May 12. (Why did so few turn out in the Dean Village?)

On Saturday, October 6, there was a most impressive spate. The footbridge at Bell's Mills was awash; much of Dean Bank Path was flooded and a torrent rushed down the metal ramp at the weir. The River Board reports that the rate of flow was the highest recorded during the 27 years of records. It is calculated that this level is likely to recur only once in a 100 years. (That does not totally exclude the possibility of its happening this year or next.) An octogenarian thinks that the level was exceeded in about 1930, when Hawthorn Terrace was under water. For the new development the level of Hawthornbank Lane has been raised, to guard against that.

The Water of Leith, edited by Stanley Jamieson, is an excellent, attractively illustrated book which was first published in 1984 (see DVN79), but it sold out so quickly that some of our readers were unable to buy a copy. It has now been reprinted. The Secretary has hard-back copies for sale at £5.95 - no increase in 7 years. A very good buy!

FLOWERS

The strikingly pretty lilies which have been flowering beside Dean Bank Footpath in the spring are not exactly garden escapes: they were planted by a lover of birds and flowers who has identified them precisely as *Erythronium tuolumnense* (pale yellow) from the Yosemite National Park in California, where it grows at about 8600 feet; *Erythronium "Pagoda"*, rather deeper yellow and taller; and *Erythronium "White Beauty"*, which probably comes from the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, where it flowers right on the melting snow-line at about 5000 feet. In America these flowers are known as "Cascade lilies", or "Trout lilies" because some of them have spotted leaves. On Dean Bank and on West Coates Haugh near the Cauldron he has planted some aconites, large-flowering and double snowdrops, and the native *Erythronium dens-canis* (the dog's-tooth violet). Look out for all these next spring!

Gallery of Modern Art: The access from the new footbridge has been closed because people were taking their dogs into the grounds of the Gallery. We have been told that it will be reopened when "no dogs" notices are put up on that side.

St. Bernard's Well: Have you seen inside the lower part, where the mineral water used to be served? It will open every Sunday afternoon in July and August from 2 to 5, if a few more volunteers come forward. Contact Councillor David Guest (225 6263).

MONEY

The Association has about £4500. I understand that the original purpose was to pay for the legal costs of any planning enquiry. When the Association was founded in 1971 there were several areas which were likely to be redeveloped: 3/4 Belford Road, the Tannery, Sunbury, Bell's Mills and High Green. The only case over which there has been a public enquiry is the proposed office block between Belford Road and Bell's Brae. (It is the only case where planning consent was refused; when consent is granted, the objectors cannot appeal.) For that enquiry we did not need to engage an advocate: our case was put by Oliver Barratt, secretary of the Cockburn Association, to which the DVA made an ex-gratia payment of £100.

There is unlikely to be another major case. So what is the money for now? Invested, tax-free, it produces a useful income; but members of the new Committee suggest that we **spend** a substantial part of it on visible improvements in the Village, e.g. a display board giving information and a map for visitors; explanatory plaques on buildings; repair of the low wall at the west side of Well Court, (that is really the responsibility of the proprietors of Well Court, but there is little hope of their having it done); handsome lamps. We already have an agreement with the Lighting Section of the Regional Council that, when our street lights are due for replacement, we'll pay the extra cost of special lights for Well Court.

Reactions please - especially from the people who worked to build up the fund in the early years. Would you agree to the spending of a fair amount of it? What should we spend it on?

Don't suggest tubs of plants: we have been unable to get residents to look after the ones already provided by the Association at Dean Path Buildings. Some of these are being moved to where they will be tended.

The bench recently installed at Hawthorn Buildings was given, in memory of her parents, by Miss June Ross, who is well known to some elderly residents as one of the volunteers who take turns to drive them to the supermarket on Friday mornings. The Association might provide one or two more (at about £500 each).

THE POST OFFICE

The decision to deprive the shop in Belford Road of the Post Office business was vigorously opposed, but in vain.

"Although we recognise that as far as most of our customers are concerned, post offices provide a social service, Government regards us as a commercial undertaking. We therefore have to strike a balance between what our customers would like and what can reasonably be afforded."
(The District Manager of Post Office Counters Ltd.)

But the shop remains open, and Stuart McCormack will widen the range of goods on sale.

Guided Walks: Sundays, July 7, August 4, September 1. Meet at "Cabbie's Antiques" Dean Bridge, 2.15. £1.00 (children 50p). On August 4, **teas** will be served in the garden off Bell's Brae.

Neighbourhood Watch: There is now a scheme for Douglas Crescent as well as in Sunbury Place. What about Dean Path? Well Court? Damside? Remember that schemes already in operation may divert the burglars in your direction! For information and guidance, contact the Community Involvement Officer at West End Police Station (229 2323).

Dean Bridge: There is no truth in the report that it was to be flood-lit. A report commissioned by the Scottish Development Agency had suggested a subtle system of lighting which would create a "visual gateway" to the inner city; but there is no intention of putting this into effect in the near future.

PLANNING MATTERS

High Green: Since the treatment of the river front opposite Well Court departed from the approved plan, there was an application for planning consent in retrospect. This has been granted, on condition that the vertical timber boarding on the river wall be replaced within 3 months by natural stone to match the quality and appearance of the existing walling.

The office block (between Bell's Brae and Belford Road): The revised plan, for a lower but still bulky building, has received planning consent.

The shop in Damside: The proprietors, J. Smart & Co., were forced to make the building weather-tight, but they cannot be forced to renovate it. The late Mr Smart said that this would be profitable. Previous offers to buy have been refused, but will someone try again?

Balanced flues: The Planning Department now has a stated policy about those metal vents on walls, for central heating systems. Anyone who wants to have one installed in this Conservation Area should consult the Planning Department of the District Council. For listed buildings (such

as Well Court and Dean Path Buildings) the guide-lines are very strict.

HELP

I am happy to say that there were two responses to my appeal in DVN99 for volunteers to take over some of the jobs currently done by the Secretary. As a result there is now an Assistant Secretary. But certain tasks and errands could well be delegated to others. Would someone organise a coach trip for pensioners this summer? Who would like to edit the DVN News? (There is no lack of material.) Or make and distribute posters? Could someone with a car or a bike go to and from Broughton School (for photocopies) or to and from the Community Printshop at Drummond High School? Would you deliver DVN to members in a small area, and collect subscriptions there? Or organise all the deliveries?

And will you consider filling one of the half-dozen vacancies on the Committee? It has never been so small (and perhaps weak.) Most members want to get things done. That is what the committee is for - not a talking shop. What do you want done?

Dorothy Forrester.

THE DEAN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Committee for 1991-92

Chairman:	Mrs Barbara Mackay	8 Damside (226 2512)
Secretary:	Miss Dorothy Forrester	13 Belford Road (226 5843) Edinburgh EH4 3BL
Assistant Secretary:	Miss Mary MacDonald	5 Rothesay Terrace
Treasurer:	Mr R.J.C. Parkin	1B Belford Park (332 3726) Edinburgh EH4 3DP
	Mr Ted Fisher	29/1 Sunbury Place
	Dr Karin Froebel	6 Dean Path
	Dr John Handlay	13 Sunbury Place
	(six vacancies)	
Subscriptions:	Ordinary:	£2.00 (or £2.75 with postage)
	Senior Citizens:	£1.00 (or £1.75 with postage)
	Life Membership:	£25.00