

# **Dean Village News**

**Issue 156 Spring 2010**

## **Dean Hydroelectric Project (Yes it may be possible)**

The Dean Village Chairman, Barry Mackay, and DVA member Morris Bradley met Steven Downie, Senior Renewable Energy Engineer and Jonathan Webb of Renewable Devices Energy Solutions Ltd (RDES) on Friday 12th March at the lower Dean Weir adjacent to West Mills. RDES have been working on the project and have outline plans. The best option would be a cross flow turbine located discreetly in the embankment on the South end of the weir. The study being conducted by RDES is being fully funded by a grant of £6083.50 from Community Energy Scotland. The engineers are presently working on the report and assessing costings. We hope that the reports and costings will be available to present at the AGM of the Dean Village Association.

**Dean Village Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm in Dean Parish Church Hall**

## **Report on the Dean Village Public Meeting**

At a Public Meeting held in the Dean Village Church Hall on the evening of Tuesday 22nd September the Chairman of the Dean Village Association, Barry Mackay, gave a presentation on the feasibility study commissioned by the City of Edinburgh Council on possible hydro-electric schemes along the length of the Water of Leith.

In 2006 the Water of Leith Feasibility Study identified 33 sites which had potential for installing a micro hydro-electric generator. Of these, five had the greatest potential one of which, Dean2, was at the lower weir in Dean Village near West Mill. The head of water is 4.2 meters and the water flow is 1.5 cubic meters/sec to give a generation power of 213,000 kilowatt-hours per annum, which is equivalent to the production of 92 tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum by conventional means.

The cost of installation of such a generator is estimated to be £166,000. The return would be £15,900 per annum giving a profit after costs of £12,500 per annum assuming an income of 0.69p/kwh. Thus the payback time would be 13 years. (N.B. Recent price movements indicate that the payback time may be a lot shorter than this).

The Dean2 site is in an excellent location in the heart of Edinburgh which could attract grant funding. The site offers good operational efficiency, and would supply the equivalent of 40 homes. Disadvantages are that the installation is technically challenging and there could be problems with access to and ownership of the site.

The Chairman continued with a presentation prepared by Tom Young of Community Energy Scotland entitled "Hydro Electric Schemes on the Water of Leith"

The next step is a more detailed study of the schemes which could be taken forward.

Phase 1 of the study would look at the detailed system design, the cost of installation, the possible returns, the cost of attaching to the grid, the construction time, the seasonal variation of output, maintenance, land access and environmental issues. The North

end of Weir is known to be private land. The south end of Weir is more accessible from Miller Row and would be a showcase as a city centre site.

Phase 2 would involve the formation of a business plan to aid the communities to put in place finances (grant applications etc) should they wish to take forward a project. Phase 3 would need to clearly define all materials necessary for submission for planning permission.

Thus the first step is phase 1 after which the viability of the site will be clearly defined. If positive a group could be formed to take the project forward to the next phase by developing a business plan and raising funds. This group could be the Dean Village Association, or an entirely new organisation could be formed of all interested parties. There are many models available should the project progress]

The Chairman opened the meeting for general discussion. The following points were made at or after the meeting:-

- The Dean2 site is definitely being studied in phase 1 by Community Energy Scotland.
- How green is the project after considering the carbon debt of manufacturing the turbine and installation on the weir?
- How green is the project, after taking in manufacturing and environmental costs?
- How long is it going to take?
- The generation system is simple, the output is fed directly into the national grid.
- There is a guaranteed flow of water. Some systems have been operating for longer than 50 years with minimal maintenance.
- But modern generators are not built as robustly as those 50 years ago.
- And debris continually comes down the river as evidenced by the destruction of the goose sculpture by St. Bernard's Well.

- The 22 West Mill residents collectively own both sides of Weir? But who owns the water?
- What is defined as “the community” under these circumstances?
- Who is driving this forward? Phase 1 will be funded by Community Energy Scotland.
- Is there a charge for taking water out of the river for SEPA?
- What influence would the residents have on the project if a third party took it forward?
- At present the work being progressed is a study which will go ahead to provide information only. The next stage would only be implemented if the scheme looked viable and after the community in Dean Village so decided.
- Would the weir be broken open to accommodate the generator?
- What would be the effect on the weir at low flows of water?
- The issue of a fish ladder was raised
- Residents may not wish to commit to a scheme which may involve the ownership of land of other residents.

Councillor Lesley Hinds suggested that all interested parties present should indicate their interest on the attendance sheet. There were 50 participants at the meeting. 32 signed the attendance sheet. Of these 17 were members of the Dean Village Association. 31 wished to be kept informed. 17 expressed an interest in being involved in the project.

Thanks to MP Mark Lazarowicz, MSP Sarah Boyack, and Inverleith councillors Lesley Hinds and Tim McKay taking time off from their busy schedules to attend the meeting.

## **Events after the Meeting**

Tom Young of Community Energy Scotland has moved on and his place has been taken by Georgy Davis. Dean Village Association applied for and was awarded a grant equivalent of £6083.50 for our part of the feasibility study by the Scottish Government's Community and Renewables Scheme. This grant was taken up RDES who have carried out the initial survey. At the initial meeting of CES and RDES on 14th December two areas of concern for Dean2 Weir were that there were land ownership concerns, and that the area was sensitive to developments from a planning point of view due to listed building status of nearby properties and the conservation village status.

The results of the survey so far will be put before the Dean Village Association Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 27th April in Dean Parish Church Hall. Decisions will have to be made regarding carrying the project forward, and raising the finance.



***Area on the South side of the lower weir by West Mill below which the hydro-electric generator could be positioned.***



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at 1000 Leitham Park, Leith Development Office on 020 8375 4000 or [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk)



## Water of Leith Clean-up

The annual Water of Leith Clean-up will take place on the morning of Saturday May 8th. Volunteers will be very welcome. Equipment will be available in the Dean Path Buildings playground from 10a.m.

We usually gather two dozen bags of assorted debris, collected between Belford Bridge and Dean Bridge. Biggest prize last year was a decayed mattress.

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## Dean Village News

This issue of the Dean Village News has been delivered to all households within the Dean Village Conservation area. There will be a further two issues this year, but only members of the Association will receive these. If you have enjoyed reading this issue, or found it useful or helpful in any way, you can ensure that you receive all future issues by joining the Dean Village Association. Or keep up to date with our activities at [www.deanvillage.org](http://www.deanvillage.org).

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## **Wanted New Members, especially new committee members**

Dean Village is entering an exceptionally exciting time. Two major projects are in the offing. Firstly there is the fight to ensure that the building that replaces the soon to be demolished Douglas House and Belford House is a suitable addition to the style of the village and does not obstruct the view of existing surrounding dwellings. Secondly there will be the results of the viability study on the hydro-electric project being financed by Community Energy Scotland. And in the distant future there may be another proposal to erect a building on the derelict site next to the Drumsheugh Baths, at present owned by the Caledonian Trust.

To this end we need members to contribute to the overseeing of these projects. In particular we need committee members to help make appropriate decisions. Please attend the next Annual General Meeting of the Dean Village Association which will be held on Friday 27th April at 7.30pm in the Dean Village Church Hall. After the Village business has concluded the Scottish MP Sarah Boyack will give a short talk on her work in Parliament.

Yearly membership of the Association is £5 (£8 a couple) per annum or you can opt for Life Membership at £35 (£50 a couple).

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## **My friends in the Cemetery VIII by David Perry**

### **Robert Anstruther Goodsir and Lieutenant John Irving**

These two gentlemen probably never met, but they were associated with one of great adventures of the mid 19th century: the search for the NorthWest passage. A summer route from Europe to the Eastern countries without going round either cape would be a great trading advantage.

The Expedition set out on the 19th May 1845 with two ships; the “Erebus” and the “Terror” and 129 officers and men. Sir John Franklin KCB was chosen as the leader because he had had many previous voyages in this area and had much experience of Arctic conditions. He had three years of supplies and his ships were reinforced with iron to cut through the ice and had hot water piped through the cabins. They were last seen by whalers at the end of July but nothing more was heard from them.

After three years expeditions were mounted to search for the missing ships. The disappearance of the Franklin Expedition had captured the public imagination and at one time there were ten British and two American ships in the Arctic looking for survivors. Two of these were financed by Lady Franklin on which Robert Goodsir was surgeon but they came back with no further information. Goodsir had a special interest because his brother Harry was on board the Erebus. On Robert’s monument there is a relief showing survivors with sleds pulled by dogs leaving the ships which were imprisoned in the ice.

In 1854 the land explorer John Rae met an Inuit who told him of a group of about 40 white men who had died of starvation. Rae was shown objects that belonged to the men. Lady Franklin commissioned another expedition to verify this report. In the summer of 1859 this party found a document left by Lieutenant John Irving reporting on the abandonment of the ships and the death of Franklin on 11th June 1847.

The Expedition on arrival in the area of King Williamsland had spent the winter there and then sailed on up the passage but met unprecedented arctic conditions. The ships were frozen in for the next two years. They were ill equipped for the ferocious cold, and later research has shown

that the food was contained in tins which were sealed internally with lead solder. Consequently many died of malnutrition and lead poisoning. In addition this was a naval expedition and not a land one, so they did not have suitable polar clothing. On their trek they carried inappropriate gear such as crystal glasses and silver plates. Sir John Franklin, several officers and 15 seamen died in the first year. The 105 survivors led by the senior officer Lt. John Irving set out to cross the ice to King Williamsland and then on to Canada.

Several years later Lt. Schwatka of the USA Navy led an expedition to try and discover the final fate of the survivors of the Franklin expedition. He found some Inuits who said that they had seen men pulling sledges but had perished soon after. Schwatka was led to the burial site of Lt. Irving and the last of the survivors. As a result the remains of Lt. Irving were brought back to Scotland and re-interred in Dean Cemetery. There is a relief on Irving's monument again showing survivors with sleds leaving the ships, but this time with no dogs. At the base of his monument are rocks containing the mineral gneiss brought back from the original grave. The inscription on this monument reads: -

*In memory of Lt. John Irving RN of HM ship "Terror" born 1813 died in King Williamsland 1848/49. Her Majesty's ships "Erebus" and "Terror" left England in May 1845 under the command of Sir John Franklin KCB to explore a new passage to the Pacific. After wintering 1845/6 at Beechey Island they sailed South down Franklin's Strait and entered the new passage. Having been there beset with ice for two years Sir John Franklin and other officers and 15 seamen having died the survivors 105 in number Lt. Irving being one landed on King Williamsland and attempted to march to Canada but all died from cold and want of food.*

*In 1876 Lt. Schwatka of the American searching expedition discovered Lt. Irving's grave. Through his kindness the remains of this good and brave officer were brought away and were deposited here on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1881.*

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ shall tribulation or distress or famine."*

However that is not the end of the story. A statue of Sir John Franklin

was erected in his hometown of Spilsby, Lincolnshire with the inscription “Sir John Franklin - Discoverer of the North West Passage”. There are similar statues outside the Athenaeum in London and in Tasmania.

Latest research indicates that it was in fact John Rae, when exploring on behalf of the Hudson Bay Company, who discovered the Passage. His account of meeting up with an Inuit who described the last camp of the survivors is now accepted. There were indications that some degree of cannibalism had taken place. This suggestion was rejected by Lady Franklin although there was considerable debate in the newspapers at the time. She could not countenance the idea and under pressure from her Rae’s contribution was ignored and forgotten.

There can be no doubt that the men who took part in the Franklin Expedition were brave men who suffered a terrible fate, and thoroughly deserve recognition. But now at least we can also recognise the expertise of the medical man and explorer from Orkney, Dr. John Rae.

## Dates for your Diary

Dean Village Association’s **Annual General Meeting** will be on Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm in Dean Parish Church Hall

**St. Bernard’s Well** will be opened from 12 noon till 3.00pm on the following dates:-

Sundays May 2nd, June 6th and July 4th,

During the Edinburgh Festival Sundays 8th, 15th and 22nd August.

Doors Open Day Saturday September 25th (11am till 4pm)

**Village Walks:** Tuesdays June 8th, July 6th and August 3rd at 7.15pm

**Cemetery Walks:** Sundays May 30th, June 20th & 18th July at 2.30pm

The annual **Water of Leith Clean-up** will take place on the morning of Saturday May 8th. Volunteers would be very welcome. Please assemble at the playground on or after 10.00 a.m.

## Winter Nature Notes by Barbara McKay

Snow! We had a lot this winter, covering up our potholes, eventually leading to great troughs in a lot of roads. It started around 17th December and just seemingly went on and on. In Essex I saw and heard a Thunderstorm - this occurs when there is heavy snow falling accompanied by loud thunder and seemingly "blue lightening" as it strikes the snow covered ground.

A cold Christmas; a lot of weather folklore starts with Christmas rituals. The Yule log - oak was used as it was slow burning and economical; snow and ice on Christmas night will bring good crops and "stars that shine on Christmas Eve will lay good eggs". I'm sure you will know some more! Snow is beneficial; it makes us slow down, stop and chat to people we had previously only nodded to, complaining even more loudly about THE WEATHER.

And now to the birds, many of which I'm sure have struggled to survive. Thank you to all people who have taken time and thought to feed these birds - you will be rewarded! A constant supply of food e.g. bird seed, fat, nuts, raisins and fine breadcrumbs will be devoured and the birds will return again and again. Tits are always frequent feeders. A pair of bullfinches visited in early February. We had a fleeting call from a bird I have never encountered before although it is widespread in Scotland south of the Great Glen, namely a Blackcap. This caller was a lady with a brown "hat" in tasteful contrast to her pale grey slim body. In some ways she was the perfect guest: ate little and stayed but a few minutes. How I wish she would call again and maybe with her mate.

Three pairs of Scaup were spotted at Cramond. These ducks used to appear in large flocks in the Forth but as the Firth got cleaner and the shoreline depleted as a source of interesting food the Scaup has become fewer. At a quick glance they resemble the mallard: closer inspection reveals a large round head and a broad flat grey bill. Again on the shoreline are the Oystercatchers with their black and white bodies, red bills and pink legs poking away in the wet sand. When these birds mate they can have the same partner for thirty years. They may get split up in the winter, but by some wonderful instinct meet up again in the summer. Some may think what a great idea!

In the countryside the grass remains a dun colour due to the long lying heavy blanket of snow but soon with warmer weather we can enjoy the first signs of spring.

# Planting at the Haugh

Recently there was a break in the structure of the weir below the back entrance to the Modern Art Gallery. During the course of repair works, plant was driven across the wild open area known as the Haugh behind the commemorative benches, the latest of which was dedicated to our late Chairman Lawrence Walker. This process caused a large area to be churned up.

The Water of Leith Conservation Trust had previously surveyed the ecology of the area in 2008 and found it largely covered in rank and overgrown vegetation. They decided to take the opportunity of using the now exposed earth to plant and seed with wild flowers.

Consequently on Friday 20th November some 30 volunteers turned up to cultivate, plant, seed and fence off the area. Unfortunately this day came after a long sequence of very wet days, rendering much of the area a sea of mud. However over 500 seedlings were planted, both perennial and annual. One advantage of such wet ground was that the plants did not need any watering in. Species planted included; Giant Bellflower, Oxeye Daisy, Purple Loosetrife, Millien, St Johns Wort, Hawkweed, and Cowslip. Within the seed mix there was poppy, cornflower, corn marigold, yellow rattle, yarrow, Knapweed, Birds Foot trefoil, buttercup and scabious among others. Hopefully the area will look great next spring and summer. Thanks are due to Scottish National Heritage for their funding of this event and Jupiter Wildflower Nursery for growing on wildflowers for the Water of Leith Conservation Trust.

## **The planted area of the Haugh fenced off to protect the seedlings**



## **Belford House and Douglas House**

Plans have been submitted by property developer AMA to demolish the two large buildings on the northwest corner of Belford Road, Belford House and Douglas House, and replace them with a modernistic building containing 48 flats. For those who would like to see for themselves the planning application numbers on the Council's planning website are 09/01803/CON and 09/01803/FUL.

Dean Village residents have lodged objections: from Sunbury Place, Belford Mews, Sunbury Mews, Douglas Gardens Mews, Douglas Gardens, Belford Place, and Water of Leith Trust. Residents were annoyed because they were not consulted until 5<sup>th</sup> May, yet on 9<sup>th</sup> May the developer said that consultation had occurred throughout the planning phase.

There is a body called the Edinburgh Urban Design Panel, a consultative body of experts, including representatives of the police, Historic Scotland and the Council's planning officer. The forum was set up in March with the intention of being a sounding board for planning developments so as to arrive at schemes mutually acceptable to planners and residents. However the above plans were lodged before the forum set up.

The Council's planning website will be continually monitored for future developments. The next stage is that the plans go before the planning committee.

To search for planning applications first get onto the council web site which is [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) and once here scroll down and select from the menu on the left Planning and Building Standards. On this page in the centre there are several groups: click Planning and Building Standards Portal. Here the top option is planning, so click on Public Access on right. This is a Public Access page with a black area on the left with options: click planning. This leads to another similar screen with a black menu on left: click application search. This brings up a table which requires information about the application in which you are interested. Put in the four figure number of the application only, then scroll down and click search. This gives a list of applications with this

number. To see more choose your site and click the “to view” arrow on the right hand side.. This brings up a screen with various tabs on it. The important one is labelled “Associated documents”. Click on this, and then on “view associated documents”.

Now a list of the relevant documents appears which can then be accessed individually. The actual plans may take some time to appear so patience is required. You may need to download some form of Adobe to view the thumbnail documents. Normally the application itself, relevant drawings, reports and objections will appear as the application progresses. Once a decision is made the relevant letter will be shown giving details of conditions attached to an approval or reasons for rejection.

Its a great way to keep up with developments and a visit to the planning committee meeting (which is open) normally could be worthwhile so that the application progress may be followed first hand.

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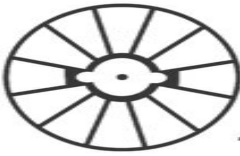
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## Scottish Food Guide

*Award-winning Scottish Food Guide and its associated initiatives Scottish Cheese Trail and Scottish Farm Shops, make the positive connection between Scotland's finest producers, suppliers, and best places to eat and stay in one highly effective website, providing a showcase for all seekers and providers of good food. All recommendations are indepently researched and listed solely on merit.*

*[www.scottishfoodguide.com](http://www.scottishfoodguide.com) is funded and published by Wendy Barrie Ltd., Drumsheugh Toll, Dean Village. Well known contributor to Scotland's food scene, Wendy is an*



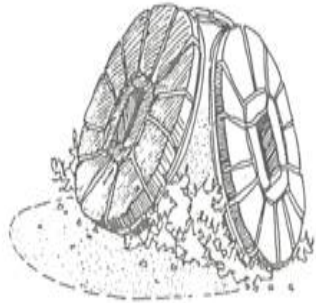
*Dean Village  
Association*

# **Notice of 39<sup>th</sup> AGM**

Tuesday 27th April at 7.30pm  
in the Dean Village Church Hall

**Main item of business; the Lower Dean  
Weir Hydro-electric project.**

After the conclusion of the  
business of the AGM there  
will be a short break. Then  
Sarah Boyack MSP will  
address the meeting on the  
subject of her work in  
Parliament.



**[www.deanvillage.org](http://www.deanvillage.org)**

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## Doors Open Day

On Saturday 26th September, St Bernard's Well was opened to the public on Doors Open Day. There was a fantastic response. The Well was continually mobbed from opening time at 11 in the morning till closure at 4.30pm. The Well, of course, is owned by Edinburgh Council, and it is supervised by the Museum's Section whose headquarters are in Broughton Market. Members of the Dean Village Association are permitted to open the Well to the public on certain agreed days throughout the year. On this occasion the volunteers were Caroline Gerard, Evelyn Whitfield and David Perry. Suffice to say that they were all weary at the end of the day.

However it is the Cockburn Association who organise and run Doors Open Day. Since its inception this Day has been a roaring success. Many public and private buildings are open to the public and staffed by volunteers. The general public flock to see the interior of these buildings. Such has been the success that in 2009 Doors Open Day was extended to both the Saturday and Sunday of the last weekend in September. CA hope to continue this in future years.

However there is a problem. It costs the Cockburn Association a considerable amount in time, effort and money to run Doors Open Day every year. But their main activities are in many other areas, including promoting the conservation and enhancement of Edinburgh's landscape, historic and architectural heritage (e.g. winning the Haymarket Enquiry); encouraging high quality contemporary design for buildings; improving public squares and streets; protecting the green belt; encouraging proper use of transport systems including cyclist. and pedestrians; and encouraging public interest in planning, conservation and design.

Consequently they, as do many other charitable bodies, would like increased participation by the public and increased membership to swell their rapidly diminishing funds. Membership is £10.00 for students, £22.50 single and £37.50 joint membership per annum. There are also life membership rates. Contact the Cockburn Association at Trunk's Close, 55 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

## **Dean Village Matters**

### **The Wooden Hoarding, Belford Road.**

This stretch of fencing between the Drumsheugh Baths and the Society of Musicians is in a constant state of disrepair. Sometimes holes are kicked in it, revealing the drop the other side into a derelict site adjacent to the Baths. This is a danger to all passers by, particularly young children. The North Edinburgh Neighbourhood Manager has informed the Secretary that the site is owned by the Caledonian Trust, who are preparing a planning application. The Secretary of the Trust has replied assuring the Dean Village Association that repairs would be made. Watch that space!!

### **Hawthornbank Lane.**

A complaint has been made about cars trying to get through this lane, unsuccessfully, and about cyclists speeding down the cobbled way to the danger of residents. The Accessible Transport and Clarence departments have been asked to address these problems.

### **The Playground**

Residents have approached the committee of the Dean Village Association with the request that the playground associated with the Dean Path buildings on the corner with Damside be improved and act as a more pleasant amenity within the village. In addition to the old mill wheels and the information board already there, we would wish to establish areas for plants and small bushes.

One problem is that the area is partly Council owned and partly privately owned. The Council are progressing with investigations into obtaining ownership from the estate of the late owner.

The West End Community Council have agreed to support this proposal and the Water of Leith Trust have also given the project their support.

### **Convening Court**

Some time ago a request was made to the Environmental Department of the Council to provide a handrail down the steps leading from Dean Path into Damside, and to do something about the unsightly black pipe

that runs about head high along the side of the building. A job number was issued more than a year ago, but as yet no work has taken place. A reminder will be sent to the appropriate department.

### **A bouquet for Barbara McKay**

The editor came across one of our most dedicated residents, Barbara McKay, sweeping the pavement along Damside opposite Well Court. Apparently she does this quite regularly as she cannot bear to see the rubbish that regularly accumulates along there.

And that is not all that Barbara does. She weeds the gardens, trims the flowers and prunes the trees that are around and about in the Damside area. On behalf of the residents of Dean Village the committee of the Dean Village Association would like to offer their heartfelt thanks to Barbara for the hard work she does to keep the village clean and tidy

### **Annual General Meeting**

Please come to the Dean Village AGM. The committee would like to feel that the work we do on your behalf is appreciated.

### **A sadly frequent scene in Damside, opposite Well Court**



# Dean Village Association

## Committee 2009/2010

**Chairman:** Barry Mackay, 3 Sunbury Place Tel: 226 5219,  
e-mail:- barrymackay@tiscali.co.uk

**Vice Chairman;** Caroline Gerard, 6 Belford Mews, Tel 225 8879,  
e-mail:- caroline.gerard@tinyworld.co.uk

**Secretary:** David Perry, 22 Damside Tel 226 7544,  
e-mail:- davper@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Vacant

**Other Committee members:** Dorothy Forrester, Pat Sinclair  
Catriona Douglas, Irene Conway, Beckie Kerr

## Dean Village News

The deadline for articles for the next edition of  
the News is

2nd July 2010

If you would like to submit an article for the News  
please e-mail the Editor at davper@aol.com

**David Perry, DVN Editor**

Visit the Dean Village Website at  
[www.deanvillage.org](http://www.deanvillage.org)  
for the history and activities within  
Dean Village

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