



Dean Village News

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www.deanvillage.org

Dean Village Association – the early 80s

This was the time when major developments were occurring in the village.

High Green. At the end of 1982 negotiations were still not concluded between the Council and the contractors McTaggart and Mickel regarding the purchase of the High Green land between Belford Road and the river. No plans could be found regarding the ownership of the path across this land, called locally “The Stinking Brae”. The Council lodged a compulsory purchase order in order to gain ownership. Residents were concerned that this right of way might disappear under the new flats.

One year later these problems were resolved but there was a possibility that the development might not happen. A detailed survey of the land was conducted by the developers who were satisfied that the plans could go ahead. The sale of the land was completed. In 1985 the architects T. M. Gray and Associates started work on the design of the flats. The plans would be open for inspection to all residents.

Inner Damside. In 1984 Smart’s started work on their plans, originally approved in 1980, to build fifteen flats, twenty-seven maisonettes and sixteen houses in the area that once housed the Legget’s skinnery. The plan stipulated that a public footpath be created along the bank of the river. The developers hoped to have the first

residences for sale in the summer of 1985.

Burnside's shop had become vacant following the death of the owner and had not been included in the plans for the rest of the area. The Dean Village Association (DVA) were not successful in getting the shop reopened. Smart's leased it to Dryboroughs who applied to the Council for change of use to a pub. This application was refused. Smart's then applied for a change of use to a wine bar and bistro. So much nicer than a pub. The plan was to put an extra floor on the shop, and build an extension right out to the pathway up to 21 to 25 Dean Path from Damside. The ground floor would accommodate two hundred customers, and the upper two storeys would be a house for the manager. DVA vigorously opposed this plan arguing that the residents wanted a shop, not a bistro which would attract increased traffic and disturbance. The proposed size of the building would not be in keeping with others in Dean Village. The Cockburn Association put in a similar objection.

The plan was rejected. In 1984 the shop became the office of Smart's, and the DVA was satisfied that it was in no danger of alteration or demolition because a plan would have to be proposed and approved by the Council.

Miller Row. Elma Munro, a resident of the village, contributed an article about Miller Row. By 1870 most milling had ceased in Dean village. It had become more economical to move milling down to Leith, where grain from the incoming ships could be processed by steam driven mills. It was necessary to provide alternative work in the village. To the rescue came James Johnston of Glenpatrick distillery, Paisley, who purchased all the now redundant properties in Miller Row and established Dean Distillery. In 1903 he sold out to Robert Barr, a Glasgow iron master who had a grand house in West Calder. But the advent of World War I caused great problems for the whisky industry in Scotland as a whole. In 1915 Lloyd George proclaimed that "Drink is doing more damage than all the German submarines". The distillery ceased operation in 1922.

The largest building, Jericho, built in 1619, was taken over by Scottish

Malt Distillers to become a bonded warehouse. But now World War II became a problem. The government decreed that high strength spirits should not be stored near centres of population, in case of bombing causing a firestorm. Police, Fire Brigade, the army and civilians worked together to clear the warehouse one day in 1942. The whisky never returned.

The once again empty warehouse was now used by Fraser Neal, the owner of the wig-making firm of Mutries. After the war, the firm so prospered that it became the principal costume hire firm in the UK. In 1954 the business was described as the gateway to theatrical experience from John O’Groat’s to Land’s End. In its heyday it housed 90,000 costumes, 2000 wigs and employed 120 staff. Then on May 9th 1957 a great fire destroyed the warehouse and all its contents. A collection of theatre books belonging to Fraser Neal was saved.

The walls of the building stayed until 1983. Then Robert Matthew, Johnson-Marshall and Partners, who since 1973 had occupied offices in Bell’s Brae, the stables once used by Cabbie Stewart, wished to expand. They demolished the remains of Jericho, and built their splendid new offices.

To bring matters up to date, RMJM fell on hard times, and left Edinburgh in 2015. The offices were bought by Sundial properties, which converted them into houses and flats. The first occupants moved in the last year.

In Miller Row was Mar’s Mill, built around 1650, continually producing flour until 1869. James Lawson was the last miller to work there. The following year the Incorporation of Baxters sold all the mills in Dean Village to the Leith firm of John Hay who sold them on to James Johnstone. The mill passed to William Nelson, of the publishing firm, who took out a 38-year lease. He built a 40ft by 24ft rackets court on the site for his staff. The court was in use until the start of World War I. Since then the mill has been converted into offices and has been used as a store, a tailoring firm, knitwear factory, and then a chemical firm called Oxylitre, which made oxygen cylinder accessories. More recently it was used by Brown Paper Tickets, who left in 2017. The building has been empty since then.

My Friends in the Cemetery XXXV by David Perry James Buchanan (1785 - 1857)

James Buchanan was the son of a blacksmith and farrier who lived in the Stockwell district of Glasgow. As a young boy he spent much of his time in his father's workshop. At the age of fourteen he went to work in the warehouse of a West Indies trading company.

He impressed the owners, and one year later found himself in Grenada. He worked hard at learning his trade and after seven years became manager. He then moved to Jamaica where he was appointed managing director. Always on the move, he then worked in Rio De Janeiro and after several successful years was able to retire at the early age of thirty-one. He increased his fortune by investing in the developing American railroads, canals and in banking. Returning home to Scotland he married Jane Jack and settled in Edinburgh. They lived very comfortably with frequent trips abroad.

When he died in 1857 he left a great deal of money to found the Buchanan Institution, to be a school for destitute boys. A large house was purchased near Glasgow Green in which boys were educated and trained in such skills as joinery, tailoring, shoemaking and navigation. Buchanan's wish was that the boys would become men who could look after themselves, and go out into the colonies to make their fortune as he had.

One stipulation was that the boys lived at home, no matter what the conditions. The boys should appreciate their position in life. The Institution gave them three good meals each day - porridge for breakfast, soup for lunch and meat and potatoes for dinner. And all on threepence per day per child. As a result a Buchanan's boy was heavier, healthier and stronger than his Glasgow peers.

Some three hundred boys passed through the school each year. But by 1914 financial restrictions were causing problems, and the school closed in 1922. But the Institution had been successful for six decades and sent out some six thousand trained boys to make their way in the world.

The house was taken over by the Education Authority and then became flats. There is a statue of a schoolboy on the façade.

Buchanan also made bequests to the Merchants' House of Glasgow and the Trades House and the Royal Infirmary. Even today two Glasgow students benefit from his endowments each year.

This largely forgotten philanthropist and benefactor will be commemorated with a new housing estate on Glasgow Green being named after him.

James Buchanan is buried in one of the largest and most magnificent monuments in Dean Cemetery that may be found at the west end of the old part of the cemetery. During the dark hours the monument is floodlit from the Gallery of Modern Art 2.

The upper cupola is supported by six columns under which is the statue of James Buchanan. Around the monument is the legend: - *James Buchanan, founder of the Buchanan Institute Glasgow, born in that city 24th June 1785. died at Edinburgh 21st December 1857. Erected by his widow who waits in hope of their eternal reunion.*

The monument may be approached from the path to the south. There may be seen the figure of the grieving widow by William Brodie, who specialised in funereal sculpture. Beside her are two urns, one with the lid on, presumably holding the ashes of her husband and one with the lid off, resting by her feet, awaiting her ashes. The legend reads *Jane Jack the widow who erected this monument. Died 11th June 1883.* So she waited a long time for the longed-for reunion.



Improvements in Dean Village

Schoolyard: - This area is well used by families with young children. Some residents have noticed that dogwalkers sometimes go in and also that the gate is often left open. After representations to the Parks division, a “No Dogs” notice has been put up, and we have asked the Parks Division to put strong springs on the gate so that it closes itself.

Belford Mews Pavement: - The pavement has been widened at the top of Belford Mews adjacent to the block of flats (sometimes referred to as the “Irn Bru” building) at 56 Belford Road. The overhang of the first floor over Belford Mews was causing problems to high-sided vehicles that were turning.

Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd: - Talks are proceeding with representatives from the Council to apply for a Heritage Grant, so that remedial work along the river between Dean and Stockbridge can proceed.

Wanted - Tour Guides

Each year the Dean Village Association host walks either around Dean Village or Dean Cemetery. The village walks are on a weekday evening and the cemetery walks are on a Sunday afternoon, usually in June and July.

We wish to recruit some volunteers to become tour guides. You would accompany one of our tour guides several times in order to gain experience. We can assure you that meeting people and taking them on these historic tours is a very rewarding experience..

Please contact the Secretary if you would like to join our team of guides.

Past issues of Dean Village News

We are starting to put back-issues on the Dean Village website. Issues dating back to 1980 may now be seen. Go to deanvillage.org/documents.

Problem areas in Dean Village

1) Lindsay's Mill. The area in Miller Row that was once Lindsay's Mill, marked by three millstones taken from West Mill, should be a pleasant stopping-off point for visitors. Here they are able to view the weir, the rear of West Mill where the arch marks the exit of water after driving the wheels, and the Belgrave Crescent Gardens on the opposite bank. Sadly the fence and wall bordering the river are in an advanced state of disrepair, as are the wooden benches placed there. This has been the state of affairs for more than four years, not made any prettier by the metal barriers placed there.

2) 3/4 Belford Road. This site was once a Free Church of Scotland, then an artists' studio, and finally a warehouse which burned down in the 1950s. It is owned by Scottish Caledonian Trust who has an authorised plan to develop the site. Some archaeological work was recently carried out as required by the terms of the planning permission. But there is no evidence of any work starting. In the meantime, the site is protected by an unsightly hoarding which frequently falls into disrepair. The latest problem is that the pavement is crumbling into the site, and metal barriers are in place. These are a hazard to the less able walking along Belford Road.

3) Dean Path Buildings washing green. To the south of numbers 1 to 25 Dean Path Buildings is an area used by the residents as a washing green. The concrete surface is crumbling, and weeds are proliferating. Trees are growing alongside the retaining wall and railings along Damside, causing the wall to become deformed. Indeed, one area at the corner of Damside and the path leading to the back door of numbers 22 to 25 has already crumbled. The responsibility for this area rests with the owners of the properties in the Buildings

4) Landslip by upper weir. DVA has been informed that talks between the Council and the owners of Broomielaw House are reaching a conclusion. Engineers will inspect the site to determine the best solution to restoring the pathway.

The DVA will be asking the Council to take action in these matters. But all of us residents have a responsibility to look after our village.

Changes in City of Edinburgh Governance

The Edinburgh Partnership organises overall community planning for the City of Edinburgh. Over the past year the Partnership has been discussing new ways of working to create a city where everyone can access jobs, partake in learning and training opportunities, and have a good place to live.

Recognising the importance of local communities, four Locality Community Planning Partnerships (LCCP) and thirteen Neighbourhood Networks will be set up. The aim is that each group will take charge of a theme or plan to achieve the goal of a city where poverty and inequality are reduced.

NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and other relevant organisations will have a representative on each Partnership. There will also be a councillor from each ward within the Partnership and a representative of each of the Neighbourhood Networks within their area.

Members of each Network will include community councils, residents groups, parents' councils, together with councillors and other voluntary groups. The final membership will be decided by each Network, and will reflect the diversity of the area.

Each Neighbourhood Network will decide how they will operate and how often they will meet. They must hold an annual meeting at which a member will be nominated to sit on the Locality Community Planning Partnerships.

The next step is to organise the initial meetings of the Neighbourhood Networks. The Dean Village Association has put in an application for one of the committee to be a member of the network.

The aim is that local groups can influence their Network, which then feeds into their LCCP and on up to the Edinburgh Partnership. Details about the new structure may be seen on the website: -

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/edinburghpartnership

48th Annual General Meeting

The chairman had attended a meeting of Belford Road residents concerning planning applications relating to 14 Belford Road.

These are: - 19/00031/FUL (change of use to domestic residential for two flats), 19/00555/FUL (change of use to self-centred holiday apartments), 19/00550/FUL (change of use to 28 bed hostel). Concern was expressed over the noise and pollution likely to be caused by these applications. Subsequently many objections were sent to the Planning Committee. *DVA has since been informed that all the applications have been rejected.*

The pavement at the top of Belford Mews was being widened by one metre. Lorries and vans turning there sometimes had impacted with the first-floor overhang of the flats at 56 Belford Road, causing damage to both.

The Acting Secretary reported that Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd. has completed two surveys of the area along the Water of Leith between Stockbridge and the Dean footbridge, and identified many changes that are deemed necessary. Both surveys may be seen on their website. A joint committee with the City of Edinburgh Council has been set up. Discussions are on-going as to the best way forward.

After discussions with Link Housing and property owners along the riverbank, the vegetation along the south bank has been cleared from the western end as far as halfway through the Link land. One thousand snowdrops had been planted. Further planting of natural indigenous species will be carried out. Don Jardine has carried out much work in the area of Hawthornbank, including reharling the Turret and replacing coping stones and installing a green street light.

Regarding the landslip, discussions between the property owner and the Council were nearing completion. Then engineers will carry out further tests and the best way forward will be decided.

The Treasurer reported that the income for this year was £2020.33 and expenditure was £1096.80. The end of year balance in the bank accounts was £11050.92, an increase of £923.59 from the previous year.

The following were elected for the coming year: Chairman; Barry Mackay; Vice-Chairman, Javier Albert; Secretary, Don Jardine; Treasurer, Bob Morley; committee members: Caroline Gerard, Charlie Hughes, Conrad Hughes, Patrick McCole, David Perry, Pat Sinclair, Evelyn Whitfield

Membership fees would remain the same. Annual memberships: Single £7; Couple £10; Concession Single £3; Concession Couple £5, Life memberships: Single £50; Couple £75, Company membership: £75 p.a.

There are soon to be changes in local government. Dean Village is on the western edge of the Inverleith Partnership. Until 2015 the Partnership held meetings locally at either the Blackhall or Stockbridge Libraries. Dean Village residents could attend these meetings. During that time Dean Village benefited with many environmental improvements. But in 2015 the Inverleith Partnership was merged with Forth to form the NW Locality, which covers a huge area. Meetings were now held in the City Chambers, and local contact has been lost. The City of Edinburgh Council is considering a change so that small localities may be heard.

Councillors Mitchell and Whyte were present and invited to address the meeting. The NW Locality area was huge and encompassed a population almost as much as the City of Dundee.

The needs of the various groups within this area differed widely. The Council must provide community planning fair to all. A plan was being considered to introduce a network which would provide communication between local groups and their Locality.

Members took the opportunity to bring the problem of overflowing bins and erratic collection schedules to the attention of the councillors. People had complained on the website, with no result. Max Mitchell said that any complaints could be directed to him, and he would take any appropriate action.

A question was raised regarding the legality of estate agents placing their notices on public properties. This practice is forbidden, but action is rarely taken.

Some members had noticed that visitors often leave the gate of the Schoolyard open, which could allow dogs to get in. The Secretary had put up "No Dogs" notices from time to time, but they soon get torn down. The Parks division will be asked to provide appropriate signs.

DVA had received notification that Zone 1 parking along Belford Road would be changed to Zone 5, giving residents better parking facilities.

A member has suggested that DVA hold a village fair in the summer. The committee would welcome a volunteer to oversee this project. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary.

After the main business of the evening, Don Jardine showed photos of the work he had done in the village and within the Hawthornbank estate. Patrick McCole entertained the members by relating his memories of Dean Village, illustrated by his own photos and some obtained from Capital Collections.

My life in Dean Village by Brian Adair

My first experience of Dean Village was in the 1950s when I walked my girlfriend home. She was a nurse who worked at the Officers' Nursing Home in Belgrave Crescent, and had lodgings in a cottage in Belgrave Mews. Walking home afterwards at the dead of night down into the village through fog and smoke made me somewhat apprehensive, and so I was relieved to emerge onto Belford Road and into the bright lights of Queensferry Street.

In 1970 I joined Kenneth Ryden in the office in Hanover Street. One of my tasks was to search around Edinburgh for suitable properties for redevelopment. With the help of a young apprentice we scoured the streets of Edinburgh on his motor bike. No crash helmets in those days! The paintwork of a property revealed whether it was ripe for potential development. Dark brown and peeling or a very dark green.

We found such a property in Dean Path, opposite the cemetery. Here were two derelict flats and two adjacent occupied properties with the tell-tale paint. One flat may have been a shop selling bridal wear. But the cost of redevelopment of the two flats for the company was far in excess of their potential market value. However a private person such as myself could get a £500 grant for creating a property, and so I took on this project to provide myself a place to live.

There followed a lot of hard work - mixing cement and other labours. I had the help of old Jock Marcus, a slater from the Orkneys. Jock was a wonderful tradesman, and his slating and harling are still there as a tribute to his expertise. As a general dogsbody it fell to me to light a fire and boil water in Tate and Lyle Golden Syrup cans to make tea for ourselves.

In 1966, my wife Ann and I, newly married, moved into one of our flats and let out the other. We soon outgrew the flat, and moved to an upper flat in Belgrave Crescent. This property had been converted from a house into flats by an excellent contractor.

By now I had acquired a taste for redevelopment. I had spotted a ruin adjacent to the Zyf house overlooking the river on Hawthornbank Lane. The owner was an architect who had partially renovated the property, but sold it on with the provision that three flats be created. He would own the topmost flat and the other two by the developer. The Belgrave Crescent contractor and I came to an agreement where he would do the redevelopment in return for owning the lower flat, and I would own the middle one. These properties are in a very lovely position, overlooking the Water of Leith as it rushes by, with the continuously changing scene of wild-life along the river banks. One of my great regrets is that after many years of letting the flat I sold it.

Over the years we lost Legget's Tannery with its overpowering smells. Was there any truth in the suggestion that the odour led to the villagers' longevity? And we lost the last remaining shop - Burnside's.

The village has developed hugely over the years for which we should be very grateful.

Editor's note:- My thanks to Brian for his article recounting his experiences of property development in Dean Village. I hope he is the first of many to respond to the request of Patrick McCole for Memories of Dean Village.

Archivist wanted

The Dean Village Association, in collaboration with the Central Library, wishes to gather together any memorabilia which village residents may like to pass on to us for safe keeping. The Library itself has no room for such items, and therefore the archivist must have sufficient storage. The Library is prepared to give training to the archivist. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary or Chairman, addresses on the back page.

Congratulations - University of Edinburgh

To their team which won the 2018/19 and 48th series of University Challenge. There was a pulsating final on Easter Monday, which Edinburgh won at the last gasp. In a typical Paxman tribute he said at the end: - “Thanks to all the teams who took part and so convincingly demonstrated that young people know lots of things, despite what you might read in some newspapers”.

Their opponents were St. Edmunds Hall, Oxford, repeatedly referred to by Paxman as “Teddy Hall”. There was an international line-up. For “Teddy” - Augusta Pasharody, originally from India but latterly in Basle, Mateline Bresson from the Netherlands, their captain Freddie Leo from Berlin and Lindy Fry from Worcestershire. Their average age was 19.

For Edinburgh: Matt Booth from Bristol, Mic Malusa from Italy, captain Max Fitz-James from Burgundy (resplendent in a burgundy jacket), and Robbie Cambell-Hewsom from Edinburgh. Average age 23.

Edinburgh started off with a wrong interruption to the starter question, earning them -5. Then St. Edmund’s went further into the lead answering two questions. Back came Edinburgh with two of their own. (40/40). Then two from Teddy (40/80). A great run from Edinburgh followed, four in a row, giving them a 125/70 lead. After one more each the opposition had three in a row, and gained the lead at 140/135. With seconds left the final starter question came. Edinburgh must answer correctly to win. The question: - “What two digit number is equivalent to the roman numerals that form the first three letters of the city that was the birthplace of William Gladstone, Beryl Bainbridge and Wayne Rooney.” After a wait of a few seconds, Campbell-Hewson gave the right answer, just pipping Freddie Leo on the buzzer. (Answer p17)

So Edinburgh won by 155 to 140. Both sides sportingly applauded each other enthusiastically. The Trophy was presented by Sebastian Faulks C.B.E., celebrated novelist, himself a University Challenge participant in the 1970s.

Water of Leith Clean-up

Thanks to the volunteers who participated in the river clean-up on the afternoon of Sunday, 2nd June. Some donned waders and wellies in order to remove debris from the river itself. Others used clippers and secateurs to cut back ivy, foliage and undergrowth. The clean-up was a little later this year, so that the river banks were more overgrown than usual. Over a dozen black bags were filled for the Council to remove.

The Gormley Men

In June 2010 six statues by Antony Gormley were placed along the Water of Leith. The first is at the lower entrance to the Modern Art Gallery buried up to the chest and the final one is on a disused pier at the Port of Leith. The other four were placed at various locations: - paddling by the Bell's Mills falls to the rear of the Gallery, on the Dean side of the Stockbridge, at the Powderhall bridge, and lastly by the walkway through the Bonnington industrial area.

The artist claimed that the statues will last 1000 years. Each statue weighs three-quarters of a ton and should be able to stand up to the rigours of the variable flow of the Water of Leith. But the river in full flood soon accounted for the four statues in the river.

The men have now been replaced, presumably with a stronger anchorage. They did manage to withstand the flash flood that occurred in Edinburgh on Monday 24th June, although emerging adorned with vegetation. One wonders if Antony Gormley's 1000-year prediction will come to pass.

Belford House and Douglas House

AMA (New Town) Ltd does not seem to be in any hurry to convert these buildings into town houses and flats. A notice advertising that Douglas House is available for let has been displayed for some time.

The first plan in April 2011 was rejected by the Reporter. After a consultation, a new set of plans was produced in October 2014 with variable roof heights and retention of the Douglas House facade. This was accepted by the community, and approved by the planners.

Rat Race Ultra Tour of Edinburgh

A mass participation event that involves a run around Edinburgh is being planned for Sunday, October 20th. The event is not a race, although all will be timed to keep track of the participants.

There will be a mass start at 7.30am by St Giles Cathedral. Then the route will be The Royal Mile, Holyrood Park, Duddingston, Craigmillar, The Inch, Blackford Hill and the Hermitage, Braidburn Valley Park, Swanston, Pentlands, Bonaly, Water of Leith, Saughton, Granton, Newhaven, Leith, Warriston, Stockbridge, Dean Village, The Meadows, and finishing at the Royal Commonwealth Pool. The Ultra Tour is therefore 55 km around Edinburgh on roads, paths and trails.

The route will be waymarked and set up on Saturday, 19th October. There will be guides placed at regular intervals. There will be no closure of any roads, paths or parks. There will be “pit-stops” at three points along the route (Swanston, Saughton Park and Newhaven). There will be a full risk assessment. A professional medical team will provide cover. Participant’s belongings will be conveyed to the finish at the Pool, where there will be showers and changing rooms. The Parks and Greenspace officers are still gathering comments from the local areas.

Four hundred participants are expected. The fastest will be expected to take about four and a half hours. The course will remain open until 5.30pm, allowing a full ten hours for those who are taking things more easily. The waymarkers will be removed immediately after the closure of the course.

Those wishing to participate, or merely wish to access more information, the website is ultratourofedinburgh.co.uk.

As far as Dean Village is concerned (at the 51km mark), we would expect the leaders to come along Miller Row from Stockbridge about 11.00 am, and runners (or walkers) would continue till 4.30 p.m.



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Events in Dean Village

St Bernard's Well:- The Arts Festival has installed an exhibit in the Well which will be open to visitors each week from Thursday to Sunday until August 25th. The Dean Village Association will open the Well to visitors on Sunday 1st September from noon till 3p.m.

The Cockburn Association will be opening many public buildings to the public on the last weekend of September. The Dean Village Association will open St. Bernard's Well on Doors Open Sunday, September 29th, from midday till 4.00pm.

Holyrood Palace:- An exhibition of eighty drawings by Leonardo De Vinci will be held here, starting 22nd November and continuing until the middle of March.

Edinburgh University's winning answer

The city is Liverpool. The number - 54

Nature Notes by Tim Steiner

We must start this edition's Nature Notes with mention of the storm on the 24th June. Very heavy rain in West Edinburgh led to localised flooding there - and a huge deluge of water coming down the river. Normally such a calming influence on village life, the river reminded us that it made this valley - we are not its masters.

All the hard surfaces of our city mean that much of the rainwater drained immediately into the river, whilst (understandable) efforts to control flooding upstream ensures that almost all of it runs straight downstream. Within an hour or so of the rain starting, the river level had exceeded normally seen highs. By its early evening peak, the water level was at its highest for at least fifteen years. The sight of it barrelling over the Damside weir was a sobering one, and its ominous noise made for an unsettling night.

Thankfully there appears to have been little lasting damage to property and structures, though I fear for many of the ducks and other waterborne creatures. Many of them, or their nests, must have been swept away.

It was earlier in June, on a much calmer day, that the river provided my favourite nature moment for years. Ambling upstream on the path towards the weir, I was overtaken by a female goosander on the river - with seven babies in tow. Three or four of the seven were able to travel on her back, and there was constant squabbling between them to be able to do so. Those that were looked very smug while the rest were struggling to keep up with her in the water.

I watched with some alarm as she led them towards the top of the weir - and straight over it! What, to me, looked like a huge drop for them all didn't seem to faze any of them, and a moment later they were continuing their scurrying downriver. I lost sight of them in the village; so don't know their destination. It was a charming sight, but also an enigmatic one. I saw how the ducklings can get downstream, but how could they get up the weir, long before they could fly?

It's a *Braw* Café

As Braw is well into her eighth summer serving Dean Village, I write to remind residents and visitors that we are open until 19.00 hrs. We serve up lots of fresh food ready to go.

In this great summer many customers have been taking advantage of basking in the sun in our outside area.

Please remember to order whole quiche (any size) and scones at least the day before as these items often sell out as soon as I take them from the oven. Just text Braw on 07436803521 with the details of your order.

All the best, Meg

cafebraw@hotmail.co.uk

14 Belford Road

The Planning Committee of the City of Edinburgh have refused all three applications for change of use at the above address to either two flats, a hostel or self-centred holiday apartments. The plans included making extra windows in the gable end, a bicycle park and a smoking area.

A review of the plans will be conducted by the Planning Committee on 15th August. Members of the public may attend, but not take part.

Dean Village News

This issue of the Dean Village News has been delivered only to members of the Dean Village Association. If you have enjoyed reading this issue, or found it useful or helpful in any way, you can help by recommending joining the Dean Village Association to others and so assist in looking after our village. Yearly membership is £7 (£10 per couple) or life membership is £50 (£75 per couple). There is a concessionary annual rate of £3 single and £5 couple.

Dean Village Association

Committee 2019 - 2020

Chairman: Barry Mackay, chair@deanvillage.org

Vice-Chairman: Javier Albert

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If you would like to submit an article for the
News please e-mail the Editor

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