



LASSWADE DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2007

SCHOOL GREEN - NEW PLANS

School Green lies in the heart of the Lasswade Conservation Area, where the 18th century road bridge crosses the river North Esk; it is a key component of the village, which itself lies in an Area of Great Landscape Value.

The Green provides an important and welcome open space adjacent to the river and backed by a row of interesting 19th century houses. Yet, its layout, with a utilitarian small pump house at one end and a clump of Japanese Knotweed at the other and dominated by a regimental line of black bollards and by the four-square setting of the benches, gives it a rather forlorn and institutional appearance.

It has been felt for some time that its contribution to the attractiveness of the village could and should be improved.

In the Spring of 2006 an audit was made of good and bad features of the Green and an attempt was made at listing things that might be done to enhance this area.

The Committee agreed in principle that this would be a suitable project for the Society to pursue. Midlothian Council were also highly supportive of this initiative and a process of

consultation was launched to find the views of local residents and of our membership.

An outline plan embodying some initial ideas was developed by the Council's Land Services team and was circulated,

posted on the society website and put up in the local Post Office. A meeting was also held to give local people the opportunity to discuss these initial proposals.

The Committee and the Council have been encouraged in that no adverse comment has been received and the process of sourcing funds for the project is now in hand.



Although there could be some work associated with the roadway, the initial scope of effort will be restricted to the enhancement of the grassed area.

At our Talk, on 22nd October, there will be a further opportunity to view the plans and to make any comments or suggestions before and after the speaker.



OCTOBER TALK

This will be held on
Monday, 22nd OCTOBER
at 7.45 for 8.00 pm in
Lasswade Park Pavilion
our speaker will be **Dr Ken Bogle**



from
Midlothian Local Studies.
Ken will tell us about
his book
"Images of Scotland
MIDLOTHIAN"

(there will be an opportunity
to buy a copy at £12.99)

Autumn Visit & Walk

on Saturday, morning
3rd NOVEMBER
our guide will take us on a tour around
Dalkeith Palace

This will be followed by
a picnic and
walk within the Palace
grounds.

Details
are given
overleaf

RSVP



The Committee, Local Representatives and a "Member to remember"

At our AGM in April our Chairman, Tom Delaney, presented Margaret Workman with the Society Silver Acorn Spoon and Tim Tuke, with a more practical gift (photos p. 3) to say thank you for the major contribution they had both made to the Society. Margaret, as past Treasurer, Chairman and latterly Committee Member took a huge interest in the Society and in furthering our aims. Tim, as Secretary, then Treasurer also created and continues to maintain our website (see page 3); he 'sorted out' those of us who were electronically challenged.

We are now pleased to welcome to the Committee: Sheila Barker (our new Treasurer) and David Sugden. Tom also presented Sarah Barron with the Society Spoon in recognition of the design and laying out of the new Community Garden. It is said that "the bridge and garden have given back the heart to the village of Lasswade". For yet another year we thanked Clive Gairn for diligently



auditing the Society books. Local Representatives: We sadly report that Alpin MacGregor from Cuguen Place, died in March. Alpin was a great supporter and is much missed. Isabella Goldie has readily agreed to look after this important area. Thank you to Andrena and Bill Ingram, who looked after part of the village. They have moved away but we are fortunate to have a kind offer from new residents Jan and Bill Jerome to fill their shoes. Jan, is already using her photographic skills to help us.

Nicky is 90 years young!

Nicky Ross, a highly decorated Wartime pilot and resident of Lasswade for over 50 years, recently planted a Rowan tree in the Community Garden.

The tree was given to him by his Kevock friends to mark the occasion of his 90th Birthday on 1st August and to honour "our own local hero".



Mills of Old Lasswade

So, Lasswade is a delightful place to live, isn't it? Idyllic rural setting, nice flowing river, good clean air. But it wasn't always like this. As recently as 1971, Lasswade was said to be a "dump" suffering the last remaining scars of an industrial past.

The landscape of Lasswade was for many years one of tall factory chimneys and industrial activity. The river was toxic and filthy, the air heavy with smoke.

The first paper mill in Lasswade was opened around 1750 and by 1861 there were four paper mills – Springfield, Polton, Kevock and St Leonards, all belching smoke across the Lasswade river valley from their tall mill chimneys. Eventually there were nine paper mills along the North Esk. The water from the river supplied not only the paper mills but also a corn mill, and a gunpowder factory at Roslin. As a result, the water was heavily polluted for many years and covered with foam and scum. The smell of caustic soda blanketed the whole neighbourhood.

Another industry arrived in Lasswade in 1828 when St Arm's Distillery opened on the North bank of the Esk on land belonging to Lord Melville. By 1834 the distillery had closed and the buildings became a carpet factory, employing 100 local people. By 1851 over 370 people were employed at the factory, with production estimated at 10,000 yards of carpet

per day. Such was the demand that a new carpet factory was built in Bonnyrigg in the 1870's and was in existence until 1978.

There were also 25 coal seams mined near Loanhead and many others at Rosewell. It was estimated that the parish of Lasswade, which included these areas, sent around 30,000 tons of coal a year to Edinburgh, as well as supplying all the local domestic and industrial use.

As we look around today at our fresh flowing river and pleasant environment, it is worth remembering it wasn't always so. A lot of hard work has gone into regenerating our area, and many of the improvements are thanks to the Civic Society and its many dedicated members. RosMacK



Two of Lasswade's chimneys
seen from Elm Row.



Dalkeith Palace Tour, Picnic and Walk.

Saturday, 3rd November. Meet and Park 10.45 outside Main Gate.

Time for tour: one hour. Walk: approximately 3.5 miles.

Bring: Picnic. Waterproofs. Strong shoes or boots. Dogs: Only on lead.

NB: Some steps and slopes. If wet the route may be muddy and slippery in places.

After our picnic, we will visit "Watersmeet" where the North and South Esk Rivers join together before they flow, as The Esk, into the Firth of Forth at Musselburgh.

RSVP: Names are required for the Palace tour by Saturday, 27 October. (Picnic/walk decide on day)

To: LDCS Membership Secretary, 33 Broomieknowe, Lasswade, EH18 1LN or e-mail: anna@broomieknowe.f9.co.uk

PROJECT DAY May 2007 OH!! That



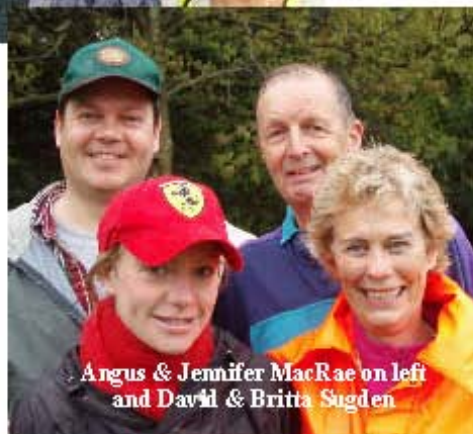
Jenny Kerr



Paul & Moira Haynes



Neil & Bridget MacKay, Euan, Lorna & Gregor.



Angus & Jennifer MacRae on left and David & Britta Sugden

We scooped from the river, lugged rusty old fridges, moved litter and more litter. Then there was School Green, Haverall Wood, Springfield Old Peoples' Home, Kevock Steps and improving drainage problems.

The common denominator - wellies

Rosemary MacKay provided her much anticipated feast in the dry, in the Pavilion. A reward for all our hard labours and a real chance to catch up.



Robina Brown

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



Tom with from left, Anna Dobson, Jennifer MacRae, Judith Bingham & Margaret Workman



Rosemary MacKenzie, Tim Tule, Cameron MacKenzie, Pat Agnew, Judith Bingham & Sandra Dunn

Chairman, Tom Delaney, and his wife, Ann hosted the Summer Garden Party to say thank you to our Local Representatives, who do a great deal to support the Society. They were joined by the Committee and husbands and wives. The weather lived up to expectations. It rained non-stop all afternoon. Umbrellas make for cheery photos. However, it was most enjoyable, and, along with 'rice, but naughty cakes' provided by 'our Rosemary', the time flew past. What a very beautiful garden!

Society Website Can YOU help?



The Committee are keen to upgrade the Society's Website, in particular to enhance communication with our Membership. To implement this, we are looking for technically proficient volunteer(s) to look at future development of the site and then (possibly as a separate task) to manage it on an ongoing basis. If you feel you can help, please contact Tom Delaney see page 4.

We would also like to receive Members' comments on the Website: www.lasswade.free-online.co.uk



Planning and Associated Matters



Further to the round-up given in the February 2007 Newsletter, the Table gives a summary of the current position on the following sites.

| Site | Application No. | Proposed development | Flats or houses | Approval status | Implementation | Comment | Update |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|--|
| Old Mill and adjacent former garage | 06/00259/FUL | housing | 22 | in review | pending | Objection submitted on amenity and associated grounds | This application now refused. New application under review. |
| Mavisbank Gardens | 06/00487/OUT | Outline application for erection of a dwelling house | 1 | in review | | | Planning Committee minded to approve (18/01/07) |
| Jenny Lasswade | 06/00326/FUL | housing | 5/6 | in review | pending | Proposal to increase to 6 houses was rejected by MC and appealed by applicant. | Appeal remains to be determined. |
| Kevock Nursery | 06/00298/FUL 06/00299/FUL | remove old bridge abutment, new access road, seven more poly tunnels | n/a | approved | | Objection submitted on amenity and associated grounds | Application granted subject to special conditions |
| Lasswade School | n/a | housing | 6 | | | Site cleared ready for development | Site now being marketed by MC |
| Polton House | n/a | advertising signs | n/a | | | Representations were made on various development proposals for the site and on the clutter of signs at the entrance. | MC asked site owner to submit planning application for signage. No news since April. |
| King's Acre | n/a | advertising banners | n/a | | | Representations were made concerning the banner signs recently hung on the walls on Lasswade Road | Signs were removed after approach by MC |
| Wading Burn | 04/00937/FUL | land engineering | | in review | pending | Objection submitted on amenity and associated grounds | SEPA are maintaining their objection, as do we. |



Nazareth House

New Applications: 07/00643/FUL & 07/00644/FUL

Construction of 'care village'

Proposals have been submitted to develop a 'care village' on this site. It would comprise a new **40-bed care home** plus a new chapel and convent. The existing buildings (except the listed main house and entrance lodge) would be demolished and replaced by new buildings, housing **87 'care' apartments** and cottages, plus associated services and facilities. The existing listed building would be converted into **six apartments and 'cottages'**.

Members are encouraged to inspect the plans now in Bonnyrigg Library.

Contact Details

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|
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| | DAVID SUGDEN | 0131 663 7605 | | Kevock |

Society Website: www.lasswade.free-online.co.uk

Newsletter Editors: TD, AD & RosM Photographs: © Lasswade District Civic Society 2006 - 07
Thank you to Margaret Graham for letting us use her postcard of Elm Row.