Dear Members

Threats to our environment are likely to become much more serious over the next few months and years. I don’t mean climate change, I mean local development. I urge you to read pages 4-5 of this issue about the major planning process that Edinburgh Council is about to embark upon. It will plot the way ahead for many years.

This wide-ranging exercise could, for example, call into question the extent and status of our Conservation Area. The population of the City of Edinburgh is likely to increase markedly over the next decade so there are pressures on the Council to release land for housing, particularly affordable housing.

You can be sure that developers will be straining at the leash to build near us, and we are already aware that Duddingston Golf Club has floated plans to build housing along its perimeter. Stretches of Duddingston Road West could be built on, many trees felled. Traffic levels and access to health and social services would also be affected.

Our response will need to be timely and well thought out. The DCS Board is now initiating that process. We may need to call on you all to act if and when the time comes.

On a lighter note you will see reference to an exhibition by two of our residents. I am constantly impressed by the range of skills that reside in the Village, Cavalry Park Drive and Duddingston House. We might need them all for the battles ahead.

Malcolm Windsor. Chairman, DCS

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The Society’s 60th anniversary

The Society was set up in 1959, and although it has undergone a couple of name changes since its days as Duddingston Village Preservation Society, its main goals remain unchanged. It’ll be celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2019 with a series of events and activities: see page 8 for more details.

Outstanding women

Belated congratulations to the Rev Liz Henderson on her appointment in April as Chaplain to the Queen. This prestigious role dates back to the 15th century and is now largely ceremonial. Liz has served for 21 years as minister of Richmond Craigmillar Church and co-founded the charity Richmond’s Hope which provides bereavement support for local children.

Congratulations also to leading literary agent Jenny Brown, founder Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival. She was one of ten women inducted into Outstanding Women of Scotland in a ceremony at Glasgow’s Women’s Library in October. The list is maintained by the Saltire Society and expanded annually: see http://bit.ly/paddock31d. Previous inductees include Annie Lennox, J K Rowling and Nicola Sturgeon.
Dr Neils Garden Trust: the 2018-19 lecture series

The V&A, Dundee (Sandy Richardson)

On 3 October, Sandy Richardson spoke about the V&A in Dundee, a project in which he had been involved since 2011. The idea for the new design museum was, to many people’s surprise, hatched in 2007 by four Dundee organisations who invited the Victoria & Albert Museum in London to extend its reach and put culture at the centre of Dundee’s £1 billion waterfront redevelopment.

The vision was realised on 15 September 2018 when the museum opened to the public. Already it has attracted well over 100,000 visitors. This extraordinary building was designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, inspired by the cliff forms of northern Scotland. It sits on the Tay, projecting dramatically over the river. Its twisting concrete structure makes it unlike any other building, and it has been rapturously received.

This design museum celebrates the range, diversity and sheer historical depth of Scottish design in all its manifestations – the only place dedicated to such displays. It also has the largest temporary exhibition space in any of the country’s museums, showing (until February 2019) a fantastic exhibition about ocean liners. The museum is free to enter and has a café and restaurant with spectacular river views.

Photo below © copyright V&A Dundee

Scottish education: myths, hopes and realities (Keir Bloomer)

On 1 November, Keir Bloomer considered whether Scotland’s traditional pride in its education system was well-founded, either in the past or the present. He concluded that, for almost 100 years from the Enlightenment through the Industrial Revolution, Scotland had made a decisive contribution to the development of the modern world. That was the product of a largely literate nation, better educated than its neighbours and competitors.

Keir suggested that Scotland now has an education system that serves many young people well but cannot be described as world-leading. Scotland is slipping down the world rankings and there are legitimate worries about basic skills and a long-standing failure to tackle inequality.

He concluded by looking at the educational needs of the future, suggesting that no country is yet equipping young people to meet the complex demands of the 21st century. He expressed the hope that Scotland could yet be first.
The 2018 autumn equinox was marked by an exhibition of work by two Duddingston artists and neighbours, Tim Chalk and Saskia Gavin. The idea for a joint show was born 18 months ago when they noticed that although they usually work on very different scales, there was a similarity in their forms. There were some very strong shared themes, particularly an interest in Time – the forces controlling and registering its passage, and our perception of it.

They decided that their work would complement each other’s well. The result was “Marking Time”, held at the Dundas Street Gallery from September 22-29.

The final result was an interesting mixture of jewellery, drawings, sculptures and sundials in materials ranging from precious metals to wood and bronze. The exhibition was well attended and very well received. Tim and Saskia particularly appreciated the strong turnout from the village. If you didn’t see the show but want to view what you missed, the artists’ work can be seen on their websites: www.chalkworks.com and www.saskiagavin.com.

Tim Chalk and Saskia Gavin

Top image: Inside Dundas Street gallery © Tim Chalk
Middle: Sterling silver ‘planet’ necklaces’ © Saskia Gavin
Bottom: Winter Tree, Meadowfield Woods © Tim Chalk
How planning works

Over the next three years a new local development plan for Edinburgh, known as City Plan 2030, will be drawn up and approved. It will greatly influence all planning decisions over the years leading to 2030. Together with City Plan 2040 and City Plan 2050 it is intended to lead to the emerging vision of Edinburgh in 2050.

Planning is a tightly controlled system and is largely plan-led. Councils are not free to reach a decision on each planning application merely on the basis of its merits or demerits. Applications that are consistent with the strategic plan are likely to succeed. Those that are contrary to the plan are likely to fail.

For example, if in the strategic plan a piece of land is scheduled for housing, any application to build houses is unlikely to be defeated by objectors. It may be modified if the proposed housing density is too great or if adjoining existing houses would be deprived of their light. Once the strategic plan has been approved, objection in principle to any proposal that is consistent with it is likely to fail, albeit objectors may secure changes of detail.

The DCS must, therefore, do all that it can to ensure that the new City Plan 2030 embodies principles that help us to defend the conservation area. It is crucial to know what the Plan says about the supply of land for housing and the conservation of open space – just two examples.

Richard Inglis has kindly produced a series of notes that will help the DCS participate as effectively as possible in the two crucial consultations on the Plan which are identified below. The Board hopes that all Paddock readers will study these carefully, follow the links and contact us via richard@richardinglis.com.

The members of our group are:
Richard Inglis (Convenor)
Keir Bloomer
Tim Chalk
Martin Goldie
Iain Jackson.

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City Plan 2030 and our conservation area

Preparation of Edinburgh’s new City Plan 2030 has begun and it is expected to be adopted by 2021. This plan will identify areas for development and determine the approach to planning permission decisions for the decade. For more information, refer to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cityplan2030.

We expect the publication in January of the Council’s Main Issues Report, followed by two periods of public consultation: see diagram opposite (8 February to 5 April 2019).

DCS will seek to influence the draft plan, which is likely to specify which areas are to be available for development; how the Green Belt is to be treated and identified; and what the approach will be to planning permission in particular areas. A small group is working on these issues and we welcome hearing from any member of the DCS and/or any local resident: see foot of page 4 for contact details.

Two important documents


They embrace the concept of sustainable development, the main pressure being the need for more housing. Counterbalancing the need to release land for housing is the section A Natural, Resilient Place: see Scottish Planning Policy paragraphs 193 to 233.

Ultimately, the designation of land in our area is likely to be decisive when it comes to planning permission over the life of the City Plan 2030, so the consultation is very important.

Duddingston Conservation Area

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 requires planning authorities (in Section 61) to determine which parts of their district areas are of special architectural or historic interest – the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance – and to designate such areas as conservation areas.

Ours is one of 49 designated conservation areas in Edinburgh. Section 64 of the 1997 Act provides that in the exercise of any statutory powers the planning authority must pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area. Section 65 provides for publicising planning applications for development that would affect the character or appearance of the conservation area.

The Duddingston Conservation Area defines our area of interest, outlined in red in the map below. The Council’s Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas guidance helps us to deal with individual applications. We should not suppose, however, that our status will have great influence when it comes to designation of land in the City Plan 2030. For that we have to look at Green Belt, Green Space, and Flood Protection policies – the policies that will be most in contention in the coming process.

Richard Inglis

The map below contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right
Anne Bentinck Roger (1922-2018)

Anne first came to Duddingston in 1957 when she and her husband Glen bought 10 Old Church Lane. They had married at St Margaret’s Chapel, Edinburgh Castle in 1944, and this was their first home of their own.

Anne was the youngest of three sisters. Their father worked overseas which meant boarding school for the three girls – a small establishment in Sussex where Anne was very happy. She held fond memories of the weekly wildflower walks which laid the foundation of her extensive knowledge of flowering plants.

In 1940 Anne won a place at Edinburgh University and graduated MA in 1943. By then she had met Glen who was serving with the Army. She also served in the War as a nurse.

Anne had a series of short-term secretarial jobs until she found her niche in the Eye Department of the Medical School. In 1974 she embarked on her MA Hons in English Literature, and later she researched a doctoral thesis on Walter de la Mare.

In 1984 she completed her PhD under her maiden name. As a child spending holidays with her grandfather, the Rev Charles Bentinck, she had been deeply impressed by his doctorate from St Andrews University (Dornoch Cathedral and Parish 1926). Like him, she too wanted to publish a book, and this she achieved in 2001 with her thesis rewritten as Romantic Imagery in the Works of Walter de la Mare.

An active person, Anne played tennis and at university she also fenced. She and Glen enjoyed a number of happy surfing holidays. She was still skiing into her eighties!

About 1982 Anne and Glen decided to start afresh with a new-build house. Land was available in The Causeway and Guy Oddie designed a house to their specification. Here Anne created a garden which became a great joy and solace to her.

Glen died in 1999. When in 2015 a fire badly damaged her house, Anne went to stay with her nephew Peter. Sadly it became necessary for her right leg to be amputated below the knee. Her house was remodelled to allow a wheelchair and a carer, and she returned to the village in 2016.

Cheerful in the face of her many difficulties, Anne loved company and conversation, threw parties whenever she could, and kept up-to-date with local happenings. A neighbour to be treasured, she will be much missed.

Susan Mercer

Dr Neils’ Garden

The days are noticeably shorter and colder, and suddenly it feels like the threshold of winter. I saw fieldfares (thrush-like birds) overhead recently – a sure sign of approaching cold weather.

Frost will stimulate leaf drop from the trees, so the autumn colour cannot last. Great tides of leaves wash up against borders and walls in the garden.

This is the time to get your bulbs in the ground for a good display in the spring. I love this season: it fills me with optimism for next year: beginnings, not endings.

Claudia Pottier
The Field, vegetable garden and orchard

The Field
We have been busy in the field as usual. The student Dirty Weekenders group have been a tremendous help: they did masses of work on the new path, placed bricks for the labyrinth, cleared paths of brambles, raked grass, created an earth pile, weeded in the nursery and the orchard, ate quite a lot and generally cheered us up.

We have decided to have a blitz on dog mess: there are notices and free dog poo bags up in the field and on the community land. We really hope this works as it has become a problem.

You are most welcome to come and help on Field Workdays (second Saturday of month) and join us for lunch – a great chance to meet other locals and enjoy this lovely place.

Hilary Matthews

Vegetable garden
With hardworking volunteers and good growing weather, the garden produced bumper crops this year. Thanks to Edinburgh Tool Library, the byre now has a rainproof potting area with workshop and garden shop: see photo above. We also have some tables and chairs for events such as film nights and tool sharpening classes.

Each year ETL supports two community projects by providing tools, funding for materials and volunteers to make a difference in a local community. The Community Land Group pitched for this in September and were lucky to be selected for ETL help with the build weekend that took place on 27 and 28 October. Huge thanks to their hard-working team and volunteers.

We also joined the Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Association. We always need more volunteers: if you would like to be involved, please speak to an organiser or email garden@duddingston.org.uk.

Kathleen White

The orchard
It’s been a prolific apple year everywhere, and our orchard has had the first heavy crop in its six-year history. At the Apple Day on 29 September 47 varieties were available for tasting, and over 100 visitors enjoyed the selection during the day.

The main period of planting is now past. We will try to obtain the last few old Scottish apples that can be identified, as well as any new ones that come to our notice. This year we had our first ‘Midlothian Blush’ apple.

Richard Inglis
**Village events 2019**

The Society’s 60th Anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2019 with a series of events and activities, including enhanced versions of the usual ones.

**Winter party** - 6 January from 5 pm: enjoy mulled wine in the festive surroundings of the byre, burn your Christmas tree on the bonfire and see the new shed and potting area.

**AGM** - late May

**Midsummer Breakfast** - 21 June

**Village Party** - early September

**Apple Day** - October

**Bonfire Night** - early November

There will be several other events including a Gala Dinner: details to follow.

The **Village Party** will be an extra special event with invitations to current and former residents to come together and celebrate this significant anniversary. If you are a current or former resident and would like to know more, or could help us to contact former residents, please email dvcsmembers@gmail.com

**Monthly workdays**

All are welcome to turn up and help. Workdays are held on the second Saturday each month at 10 am, and on the last Sunday at 11 am. Lunch al fresco is provided.

**Field Workdays (Saturdays)**
8 Dec, 12 Jan, 9 Feb, 9 Mar, 13 Apr

**Community Garden Workdays (Sundays)**
30 Dec, 27 Jan, 24 Feb, 24 Mar, 28 Apr.

**Lantern Festival**
5 and 19 January two Saturday workshops for people to create lanterns for the festival

2 Feb 2019 Lantern Festival with the theme ‘Things with Wings’. Contact Hilary Matthews: 07759 174240 or hilarymatthews52@gmail.com

**Dr Neils’ Garden**
All talks are at 7.30 on Thursdays in the Millar Hall: no charge, but donations welcome.

6 December
Elizabeth Cumming *The Scottish Colourists*

10 January
Ken Knowles *Bawsinch and Duddingston Loch Reserve*

7 February
Ian Archibald *A Revolution in Mapping: the Ordnance Survey story*

7 March
David Fleming *Travels in India*

**Christmas workshops (Saturdays)**
8 Dec 10.00-12 noon Anne McCrossan: Creating a table centrepiece to take home (£20)
8 Dec 13.00-16.00 Claudia Pottier: Making an impressive Christmas wreath (£30)
9 Dec 13.00-16.00 Wreathmaking repeated, as above.

All materials supplied, also refreshments included; £2 discount for Friends. For more information about Dr Neils’, visit www.drneilsgarden.co.uk.

**Holyrood Park**
The road is closed every Sunday from 08.30-16.00 from late October to March. Roads are also sometimes closed because of rockfall or planned events.

On 30 December there is a **torchlight procession** as part of the Hogmanay celebrations. For more events, visit: http://bit.ly/paddock-Park.

**The Kirk**
The Kirk holds Sunday services at 10 am and 11.30 am, and a weekly silent service (meditation) on Wednesdays, 10-10.30 am.

**Third-Tuesday Group**; Tuesday 20 November, 7.00-9.00 pm Chris and Doreen Jones speak of their recent travels around Great War battlefields.

Dec 24
11 am Service of lessons and carols
11 pm Carol singing and Watchnight Service

Dec 25
11 am Christmas Day Service

Dec 31
11 am Hogmanay Service

[www.duddingstonkirk.co.uk](http://www.duddingstonkirk.co.uk)

**The Sheep Heid**
The **Sheep Heid** hosts a weekly quiz night on Wednesdays from 9 pm; all welcome. Visit the pub on Facebook: @thesheepheid.

Renovation work means that the Sheepie will be closed from February 11 and is due to reopen on February 23.

**Scottish Wildlife Trust**
Ken Knowles will speak about the Scottish Wildlife Trust on 10 January: see middle column.

Membership costs £36 (single adult) or £18 per year (concession) [www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk).