

# Wester Hailes SENTINEL

NO: 25

DECEMBER 1978



## FESTIVE GREETINGS

Well Wester Hailes is another year older, and during 1978 the Sentinel has further established itself as an integral part of the life of this community. But what do we mean by the life of this community? What do we mean by the life of any community if it comes to that? What is it that makes the difference between a large sprawling housing estate where thousands of families live in suspicious isolation on one hand, and the experience of a caring community which people are proud to belong to and share in, on the other.

The answer to this question is elusive and it has tragically eluded most post war Scottish Housing Developments, which now lie neglected and decaying monuments of failure. In Wester Hailes, however, we are winning. The critical outsiders who had vultures circling overhead, have been proven wrong. In the last analysis it seems to come down to a feeling - a feeling either of belonging or of isolation. From the past year as reflected in the columns of this journal, the people of Wester Hailes can take great comfort from the developments which are taking place. Slowly, bit by bit, we are getting the tools and in increasing numbers the population are rallying to get on with the job. The job of constructing a caring community.

However, in our day to day experience a feeling of belonging does not come from the fact that we have dozens of various action groups in Wester Hailes. No, it comes from the relationship which people have towards people. Just people, and people in houses, in stairs, in streets, and in neighbourhoods. People speaking to each other, smiling at each other, welcoming each other. People feeling that they belong. At this time of the year the whole world envies the hospitality of the Scottish festivities.

The Chairman of the Sentinel Group and all the volunteers who help with the paper would like to wish all the peace and joy of the season to our readers. Please, if you can spare it, try and give a thought over the next few weeks to anyone living near you who may be lonely.

# AROUND THE AREAS

## MURRAYBURN ACTION GROUP TAKES OFF

The outcome of a four week door knocking campaign to revive the Murrayburn Tenants' Association saw an encouraging response from Murrayburn residents. Over twenty people turned up at the Special Public Meeting in the T. Units which was highly commendable, particularly since the evening itself was bitterly cold and wet.

Mrs Shona Wood, from Hailesland Tenants' Association chaired the meeting and endeavoured to offer encouragement and support to those present by illustrating Hailesland's T.A. Development. The meeting itself saw the tenants in good voice, raising a number of issues relevant to their area. Prominent in the discussion was the lack of a GP's practice within Wester Hailes. This was expanded on by the area co-ordinator, Lawrence De Marco who made the point that sufficient funds and lands were available to house a practice in a new Health Centre but so far the doctors have refused to man such a practice.

Councillors McCallum and Mulvey were also present to elaborate further on the local issues raised.

By the end of the discussions those present were quite adamant that a follow-up meeting should be held one week later. This second meeting on the 29th saw the formation of the Murrayburn Action Group, with thirteen committee members offering their services. The new title was adopted in order to avoid any confusion with the previous tenants' group who resigned in July this year.

As a first venture the Action Group have undertaken to organise an open forum with outside speakers from the Housing Department, Health Board and the Police Department. These officials will be invited to offer an outline of their Department's function within Wester Hailes and to answer any queries tenants may have. After further discussion attention was drawn to the lack of public telephones and postal facilities in the area. Previous plans for play areas within Murrayburn have also been neglected and the new Action Group would hope to revive these plans.

In the future this Action Group will gain in respect and energy from those people interested in the area they live in. They want Murrayburn to be a neighbourhood to be proud of but they need your help. Most of the group have never been involved in any type of community activity before but they are enthusiastic and willing to learn. Support is needed from

all Murrayburn Tenants so remember if you encounter any problems or have any suggestions for the Action Group to pursue, please contact: Mrs Coutanche (Secretary) at 444-1144, or The Community Workshop, 5B Hailesland Place.

## Hailesland — COMMITTEE MEETING

On the 21st November 1978 we held an Open Committee Meeting [all our meetings are open] with an offer of tea or coffee, and invited all of you to attend. We now have to report that only six of you accepted our invitation. We would like to thank Mr Preston, Mrs Mitchell Mrs Menzies, Mrs McNicol, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Miller for coming out on a wintry night to show their support. They certainly are public spirited citizens. But where were the rest of you?

Are you all so happy and content in Hailesland that you see no need for a tenants' association, or do you prefer to discuss local issues in the comfort of your own home. If so, we will be only too happy to call on you and listen to any ideas, complaints or offers of help that you may have. We think that Hailesland should have a say in its future, a share of local resources and the support of the other areas in Wester Hailes. We are willing workers, but alone we cannot achieve it. WE NEED YOU. We are your representatives. So why not lift the phone and make contact with us through Mrs S. Wood [444 1474] or Mrs M. MacDonald [443 9701] or write to us c/o Community Workshop, 5B Hailesland Place. You don't even need a stamp, just hand it in when you are on your way to the shops.

## PANTO

After a slow start we are please to report that all the tickets for the Panto 'Sinbad the Sailor' have been sold, and the children are excited about their trip to the theatre. Watch out for January issue of the Sentinel for the raffle winner and a report of the outing.

## DOGS

You may have read in the 'Evening News' that we are

on the war path against stray dogs in our area. We would like to see a full time dog warden in Wester Hailes to combat this menace. We must stress that responsible dog owners have nothing to worry about. It is the large number of dogs that run around without supervision, that we want controlled. Some of these dogs are vicious, and when they begin to run in packs, the situation is far more serious, and dangerous. If you are one of the 'guilty' please try and see the other point of view and exercise more control of your family pet.

## XMAS

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Just in case you have too much to eat and drink we shall give you the details of the Keep-fit class run by Mrs C. Cameron in the January issue. Health, Wealth and Happiness to everyone in Hailesland for 1979.

## Westburn —

### FAREWELL TO MARGARET

The Westburn Action Group would like to thank Margaret Wood for the work she has done in the past year as Chairman. She has now resigned and a rotating chairperson will take over from the next meeting till the next A.G.M. next year.

### RESIGNATION OF KIM

Kim Pearce, the Westburn Sentinel Rep. has resigned from the post, and we would like to thank her for all she has done.

### NEW SENTINEL REP

Isabel Smart has now taken over as Sentinel Rep. for the Westburn area. Anyone with any information about Westburn please contact Isabel at 7/107 Westburn Gardens.

### LETTER TO BRITISH RAIL

A letter was sent to British Rail to ask if seats which were of old stock from Railway Stations being up graded, could be donated or bought for use in the Pensioners garden which is in the process of being made beside Block 2 near the school.

### WESTBURN SCOTS NIGHT

The Westburn Parents' Association organised a Scots Night for St. Andrews Day, it was very successful. It consisted of Highland Dancing from the Betty Brandon Dancers, and a variety of tributes from the Lennets, singing and playing of instruments and Folk Songs from Miss More our own Primary teacher. Mr Short did his little bit of recital of Burns and we all had a good laugh, all in all it was a very good night.

### WESTBURN TODDLERS PLAYGROUND

Anyone who will be willing to take the key for the Playground on a weekly rota basis please contact Isabel Smart to ask for details, otherwise the playground will have to close due to lack of co-operation.

### WOMEN'S AID

Anyone who has dealt with Women's Aid in the past, who may like to let the Women's Aid know they are getting on, would like to hear from you. Contact their new address at 88A George Street or at the Office beside F.I.S.H. on Thursday mornings.

### ACTIVITIES

Did you know that Badminton Courts, Table Tennis Tables and Squash Courts can be hired on many evenings and at weekends. Why not arrange a family outing. Details from Reception - Telephone 442 4217.

## Clovenstone

It is proposed that after Christmas there will be a Disco for the age group 8-14. More details will be available from any member of the Tenant Association nearer the time.

Members of the Clovenstone Tenant Association are to be selling Tote Double Tickets and we would appreciate your support.

We are also hoping for planning permission for a Toddlers Play area, which we are hoping to build ourselves and we will be looking for helpers. This will be in the green area next to the school, if permission is given.

### 1,500 TREES PLEASE

The Volunteers Environmental Resources Centre, known as V.E.R.C., have approached W.H.E.C. with the idea that every student in the school should plant a tree. In this way it is hoped to encourage the new generation to be concerned about their environment through direct involvement. It is understood that the school have welcomed such a project and initially it is intended that 1,500 small pine trees be purchased and planted around the area. If this goes well perhaps further more ambitious schemes can be undertaken.

AROUND THE AREAS Continued

CLOVENSTONE NEWS

CHARITY GALA TO OPEN POOL

Following a suggestion by the organisation of the F.I.S.H. Good Neighbourhood Scheme, the community education department in W.H.E.C. are proposing to stage a sponsored swim/swimming display, to coincide with the opening of the centre swimming pool. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of a special minibus for the handicapped, and mobile OAPs locally. If you have any ideas, or would like to participate, contact John Smith at W.H.E.C.

UNIONS SAY O.K. TO ADULTS IN DAY CLASSES

You may have learnt from the National Press that a negotiated settlement has now been reached between the teaching unions and the Education Committee on the matter of community schools. The Unions were asking for special payments to be made to teachers in community schools, because of the fact that they would have both adults and children in their classes.

There is no doubt that the development of this facility at W.H.E.C. has been held up by this dispute. The new agreement means that the Education Centre will probably mount a new recruitment drive to encourage more local adults to attend during the day. Details of available courses will, of course, be featured in your Sentinel.

Dumbryden

November has been another busy month for Dumbryden Association of Tenants and the month got off to a roaring start when we held a bonfire and fireworks display. This was one of the best attended bonfires held in Dumbryden. We would like to extend special thanks to all the children who collected firewood and all adults who turned out to make this night a success.

The D.A.T. dance held on the 11th November in Clovenstone Community Centre was very successful. The aim of the dance was to raise money towards the children's Xmas parties and

disco to be held in December. Thanks must go to all who attended and special thanks to Clovenstone staff and also the bar staff.

The Xmas parties have been organised to accommodate all the age groups of all the children in Dumbryden. The first party is for the 3-6 year olds and will be held on Saturday 16th December from 2 - 4.30 p.m. Santa will be in attendance. The second party is for the 7 - 11 year olds and will be held on the 19th December from 7 - 9.30 p.m. Santa will also be in attendance. These two parties will be held in the school. For the 12-16 year olds a disco will be held on the 29th December in the Holy Trinity Church hall. All tickets are priced 25p and are available from Mr A. Davies (Publicity officer) 444-1433 or any committee member. Due to lack of accommodation numbers are limited.

As all tenants will know a survey was carried out in Dumbryden during October to determine whether or not Dumbryden wants or needs a Community base. There was a very positive response. Most people in the area seemed to think there was a definite lack of facilities for toddlers, teenagers, one parent families and OAPs. Most people would like to see more sports facilities in the area. D.A.T. have been trying and will continue to try to get a much needed Community Centre.

One good point to note is that we hope to get a Youth Club off the ground in late February. Further details will be in the next edition of the Sentinel. Work will hopefully start on the kick-about-area in February or march.

Few people may not realise that the Sentinel is THEIR paper and are free to submit articles or letters for publication. Don't forget if you have any problems at all which you would like publicity on, please contact Mrs L. Jordan, 73/7 Dumbryden Gardens.

GOOD NEWS FOR ANGLERS

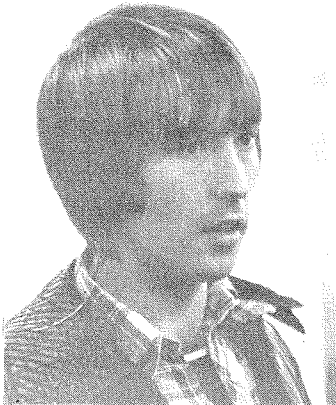
If you are interested in angling, you will be pleased to hear that in co-operation with WHEC the Edinburgh and District Angling Club has been formed in the area. The Club is open to people from the age of 12 upwards, and will be involved with course angling, sea angling and game fishing. The first meeting of the Club will take place in WHEC on the evening of Thursday 18th January at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing for further details in the meantime can contact Robert Mills, 9/1 Cobbinshaw House (16 Calder Gardens), 444-1931.

If you have any problems, e.g. maintenance, disturbances etc., please contact Mr W. Sutherland (Chairman), 3/7 Dumbryden Gardens, 443-8136, or Mrs L. McGregor (Secretary), 74/1 Dumbryden Gardens, 444-2460, or any committee member, who will endeavour to help.

Christmas is a time for giving and bearing that in mind D.A.T. are asking for donations towards food parcels for our OAPs. Anyone wishing to make a donation please hand it in at 74/1 Dumbryden Gardens. On the 22nd December the committee members of D.A.T. will be carol singing around Dumbryden. Anyone wishing to join in please meet at the back gate of the school at 7 p.m. prompt. This will only happen if the weather permits.

Finally from all the committee members of D.A.T. we take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THANKS JIM



A vote of thanks is due to Jim Armour the Moray House Community Work student who has just completed a 10 week placement in Wester Hailes. Jim has spent his time helping the residents of Murrayburn re-form themselves into an Action Group, and the way the group is looking, his work will bear fruit in the months to come. Students working in a community can either be a nuisance or an asset, depending on whether they are prepared to consult with local people in the project they take on. Thanks Jim, you were certainly an asset.

Apologies to the anonymous lady in Dumbryden for omitting to mention her kind donation in October.



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# MUSIC SCENE

Recently, one of my friends came up with a great idea, an idea which would tear the country apart and give the record buying public back their sanity. It was to start a John Travolta hate club. Secret talks have been going on for weeks, in a quiet corner of Wester Hailes, to try and look at all the points for and against such an organisation. Bob Geldoff of the Boomtown Rats Pop Group said he would be honoured to be our chairman. Someone else suggested a class on how NOT to dance like John Travolta. It was even suggested that we could ask Toni to use margarine to fry his chips with, anything as long as we could wipe THAT film and THAT person totally from our minds. If you have any suggestions, why not write in and let us know. We'd be glad to hear about it. In the meantime, look out for next month's column when I should be able to give you the final details.

Apart from THOSE singles from THAT film, there isn't much else in the charts to talk about. I suppose a pat on the back (or something similar) would be in order for the Boomtown Rats. After all they did point HIM and HER in the right direction, i.e. down the chart. And I'd personally like to thank Rod Stewart for a brilliant new album (your money's worth here), not forgetting his brave attempt at having a disco hit. "Da' Ya' think I'm Sexy" deserves all the success it gets.

Another certainty for the No. 1 Spot are Boney M and their Christmas offering "Mary's Boy Child". To be number one over the Christmas period puts you among the greats, so they say. Boney M will be pleased of course. After all Clive Dunn and Rolf Harris didn't get where they were today without being No. 1 at Christmas. "Mary's Boy Child" is an old hymn and, to be honest, should have been left that way. Maybe a Boney M hate club would also be in order.

Finally, here's your chance to say what your own personal tastes in music are, in the form of The Wester Hailes Pop Poll. Get yourself a piece of paper

and jot down who you'd pick to win the following categories. Next month we'll print the overall winners of each section and find out what kind of music is the rave in Wester Hailes.

1. Favourite Group
2. Favourite Singer (male)
3. Favourite Singer (female)
4. Single of the Year
5. LP of the year
6. Live Band/Artist
7. Bore of the Year
8. T.V. Programme
9. Disc-Jockey
10. Brightest hope for the future



# THIS MONTH'S NEW BOOKS

- FICTION**
- Amis, Kingsley—Jake's Thing
  - Bishop, S.—Long Summer Shadows
  - Blond, A.—Family Business
  - Burgess, A.—1985
  - Coover, R.—The Public Burning
  - Creasey, John—A Sharp Rise in Crime
  - Cussler, Clive—Vixen 03
  - Darcy, Claire—Cressida
  - Denuziere, M.—Plantation
  - Duke, M.—The Bormann Receipt
  - Edgar, J.—Countess
  - Follett, K.—Storm Island
  - Jones, James—Whistle
  - Lewis, Hilda—Heart of a Rose
  - Longstreet, Stephen—Strike the Bell Boldly
  - MacInnes, Helen—Prelude to Terror
  - Selfert, Elizabeth—Two Doctors on Eden Place
  - Shears, S.—Black and White
  - Tranter, Nigel—MacBeth the King
  - Tripp, Mileo—The Wife - Smuggler
  - Weidman, Jerome—A Family Fortune

## Youth Clubs in W.H.E.C.

In the New Year we are planning to start two Youth Clubs in W.H.E.C. one junior (12-14 years); one senior (from 15 years).

We'd like local adults to get involved with the youth of Wester Hailes and Calder to try to improve and develop youth provision in the area.

If you can spare one or two evenings a week to help in either or both of these clubs we'd be very pleased to hear from you.

We have also had a couple of suggestions to start a club for younger ones (primary school age) and a family club, but we'd like to know if these types of clubs are wanted in the area, and if so what day is best to run them, types of activities wanted etc. If you have any suggestions ideas, or would like to help at any of the clubs mentioned above, please phone John Smith or Christine Mackay - 442 2201.

- NON-FICTION**
- Batty, E.G.—International Football Book, No. 20
  - Beckwith, L.—Bruach Blend
  - Belchem, D.—All in the Day's March
  - Fawkes, R.—Fighting for a Laugh
  - Fido, M.—Shakespeare Guinness Book of Records, 1979

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