

NEWSLETTER

LASSWADE DISTRICT CIVIC SOCIETY



Welcome to this issue of the Lasswade Civic Society News Letter. It had been our intention to make this the Summer News Letter but we thought it best not to mention the summer! Let's hope for a better spell of weather, perhaps even an Indian summer to take us into

Autumn and beyond! Since our last News Letter Lasswade has "gone global" having witnessed the Olympic Torch on the High St. and being featured on You Tube in the Lasswade flood video. High profile indeed!

Why the Acorn?



Looking back through earlier News Letters an article was found explaining why the acorn was chosen as the Society Logo. The notion that 'tall oaks from little acorns grow' was very much in the thinking. Relatively small efforts of the Society and its members can influence the care and condition of our local environment.

It was also no coincidence that the Council's logo was (and still is) the oak leaf and therefore the two logos are complementary and signify a working relationship between the Council and the Society.

We look forward to continuing our working relationship with the Council in the future.

THE OLYMPIC TORCH

On June 14th the Olympic Torch travelled from Dalkeith, through Lasswade and on to Loanhead. Happily the rain stopped and the sun shone making it an enjoyable occasion for all those who turned out to watch and wave.



NEW RESTAURANT FOR LASSWADE



The Victorian mill in Westmill Road (formerly known as The Old Mill restaurant) which had lain derelict for a number of years has been revitalised by sensitive restoration and refurbishment. In a joint venture involving David Johnston and Karen Calvert of the Edinburgh-based firm Paper Scissor Stone Developments Ltd the appointed designer Jim Hamilton, known for his work as creative director of Graven Images, has, with the use of reclaimed materials, retained the character of the building and its former industrial heritage.

The Paper Mill opened its doors for business as a stylish bar and brasserie on Friday 6th July. Unprecedented rainfall overnight did mean a short

break in service for safety reasons on the Saturday when the River North Esk burst its banks and a car was washed down river floating past the restaurant! However normal service was resumed for Sunday brunch and after only a few weeks The Paper Mill looks comfortably established as a popular spot to enjoy anything from breakfast, a coffee, lunch, drinks on the terrace or a full dinner menu.

David Millar the Head Chef, formerly sous chef at Tom Kitchin's Michelin-star restaurant The Kitchin in Edinburgh, emphasises eating seasonally and where possible sourcing locally. The General Manager Hamish Holmes also comes with experience of working with Tom Kitchin.

As well as breathing new life into the village the new meeting and eating place has created a number of jobs for local Lasswade and Bonnyrigg residents.



THE VIADUCT



LASSWADE

One of our members recently brought to our attention the amount of vegetation that has now established itself on the viaduct and is now in danger of damaging the masonry. This is a listed building owned by BRB (Residuary) Ltd. The Society has raised the issue with the Council who has in turn contacted the owners. The 6-span viaduct was opened in 1867 for Esk Valley Railway and closed in 1963.

PLANNING MATTERS

1. Kevock Vale Caravan Park

Following an appeal to the Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals, the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Ministers has now allowed the appeal and granted planning permission in principle for the redevelopment of the Kevock Vale Caravan Park subject to 15 conditions and 3 advisory notices. The 15 conditions require detailed plans of the redevelopment to be submitted to MDC for prior approval including: the proposed number, density and type of residential units and storage facilities, and the specification of materials to be used which must be of a standard appropriate for a conservation area; the proposed ground engineering and anti-flood risk works, and hard and soft landscaping proposals; the proposed site access and internal roads, including road improvements to West Mill Road and the visibility splay at the entrance to West Mill Road; and detail requirements to safeguard the protected trees, otters and bats on the site. The document can be found on the DPEA website:

<http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/Documents/qj13782/A3320809.pdf>

2. Byways, 11 Church Road, Lasswade

The LRB have granted permission for work to be carried out subject to a number of conditions to keep the impact on the landscape to a minimum as far as possible.

3. Old Mill, West Mill Road, Lasswade

The Papermill is now open!

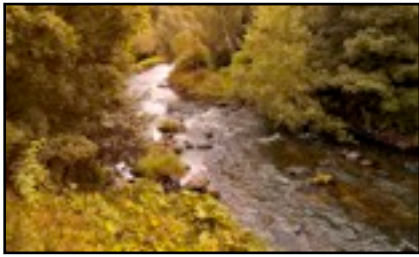
4. Mavisbank

MDC have agreed to go ahead with a compulsory purchase of Mavisbank House with ownership then to be transferred to Mavisbank Preservation Trust once sufficient project funding is in place. The grounds remain in the ownership of Historic Scotland. It is understood that the architect, James Simpson plans to raise £12million to complete the restoration and it is suggested that the Green Belt Trust may want to locate their offices there.

5. MDC Local Housing Strategy 2012-2017

An MDC strategy document proposes that 220 new affordable houses and 530 private houses be built in each of the 5 years in order to meet Scottish Government housing targets. And there could be a second phase with a further 1500 council owned houses being built in the period. LDCS await with interest the next stage document covering issues such as the location of the new builds and the ability of local infrastructure to support it.





Next Committee Meeting

Sept 24th 2012

Council Meetings

Much discussion has taken place with the Council exploring the possibility of improving the entrance to Lasswade village. Most of the suggestions put forward have proved to be not possible because the signs and speed limits as they stand at the moment are agreed by Cabinet.

The crash barrier has however been renovated although it cannot be painted any other colour than white.

It has been agreed though that an additional sign, making it clear that Lasswade has been entered, (as opposed to Bonnyrigg and Lasswade) will be considered. It might be that this is undertaken as part of a wider exercise to provide a clearer system of signage for Bonnyrigg, Poltonhall and Lasswade.



Contact Us

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An update was requested re Mavisbank and the following information was provided.

On 15th May this year a concordat was signed by Historic Scotland, Midlothian Council, the Mavisbank Trust and the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace

Trust in which each agreed to undertake certain responsibilities in seeking the restoration of Mavisbank House and Grounds.

In summary Scottish Ministers have pledged up to £500,000 and to transfer ownership of the Grounds to the Mavisbank Trust subject to certain conditions: the Council has confirmed that, if necessary, it will use its compulsory purchase powers to acquire the House for transferring to the Mavisbank Trust, once the Trust has secured sufficient external funding to undertake at least the first phase of restoration.

Bonnyrigg & Lasswade Community Council meeting minutes of 21st June 2012 advise that there are new traffic lights to be erected at the Lasswade Bridge end of Polton Road to slow traffic down. Since the meeting yet another car has demolished the wall adjacent to the bridge and on this occasion the car went through the wall and onto the river bank.

Rosslyn Chapel talk following our AGM

We were pleased to welcome Colin Glynne-Percy, director of the Rosslyn Chapel Trust to our AGM as our guest speaker. He entitled his talk 'Rosslyn Chapel, the Challenges through the Centuries'. He talked us through his role over the past five years in the refurbishment of the Chapel, the roof and the development of the new visitors centre. He astounded us with statistics about the revenue increases in the past years but reminded us that the building has always been a place of worship as well as pilgrimage and tourism. Modern "pilgrims" arrive by the coachful whereas William Wordsworth and his sister may have felt more intrepid when they visited the Chapel in the 1800s.

Rosslyn Chapel has been in the ownership of the St Clair family since its foundation in 1446. But it suffered during the Reformation when its altars were destroyed and then went through a period of neglect. Oliver Cromwell's troops used the chapel for their horses but then in the 1700s the Chapel received glazing for the first time and there were efforts to repair the roof. Mr Glynne-Percy returned to the subject of the roof as there have been long periods when the building has not been weather tight. This allowed the stonework to become saturated and even to support plant life and lichens. To have the building watertight and with under floor heating has been a huge achievement and has made the building whole again. He told us anecdotes about

the huge crane and other equipment that had to use millimetre accuracy to move stones and huge girders around such a small site and how the Chapel remained open with work being carefully scheduled to allow maximum access for visitors.

Colin Glynne-Percy showed us a number of beautiful slides as he spoke to us and answered questions after his talk. He told us that he is moving onto a role in the National

Trust for Scotland so we were lucky to have his view of the Chapel.