

THE GCRA AND GREENSCAPE

The Committee have had considerable discussion with Hall of Greenscape, our gardening contractor, and we have agreed the detail of what is expected in our current general contract with them for which we are paying £1256.66 a month. They will keep the grass cut and tidy, they will keep the borders which residents do not wish to tend themselves tidy where possible but not replant, the hedges will be kept trim and they will keep an eye on the trees in the communal areas, pruning where necessary. We have agreed an additional sum for replanting the 'bamboo' area beside the picnic table at the end of the Liddesdale car park and this work is currently going ahead. We've attached some pictures to show you what an amazing job they've done!



They will also deal with the trees in the communal areas. There are also trees needing urgent action in areas belonging to specific blocks, which are the block's own responsibility and we would appreciate it if they could be attended to before they become a hazard to residents, buildings and paths.



We are grateful to Carol Notman and other volunteers who have been working to tidy up one or two of the beds that have been totally neglected and hope you agree that our Estate is looking good as Spring arrives. We would welcome your comments.

ON OUR DOORSTEP

ARTICLES EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF OUR LOCAL AREA

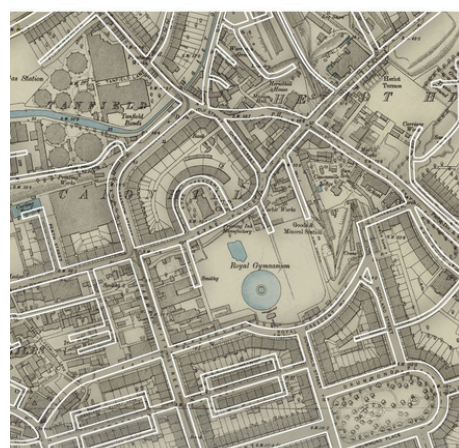
In this issue we are looking at the history of our nearest play park, King George V park. Many of us will have taken our kids to play on the swings here, or used the tunnel in it as a short cut to Tesco's. The park as we know it today was established as a memorial park for King George V. He had died in 1936, and funds were raised for playing fields in his memory, but the second world war delayed the opening of the park until 1950.

The area was originally a low hollow just to the north of what would later become the New Town. At the centre of this hollow, roughly where the "The Yard" adventure playground currently is, was Canon Mills Loch, a small loch, only 4 feet deep. It was here, from the 12th century, that the Augustinian canons of Holyrood Abbey operated a mill, giving the area the name Canonmills (not from the artillery style of cannon as I had thought, up until writing this article). Two mill "lades" or streams fed into the loch from the Water of Leith at roughly where Stockbridge library is, and a lade left the loch, allowing water to flow back into the Water of Leith, approximately where the Tollhouse restaurant is on Brandon Terrace. Over the years, more mills were built around this loch, including the "baxters" or bakers, of Edinburgh who were compelled by law to have their corn ground at Canonmills, as well as tanneries, distilleries and even a playing card factory.

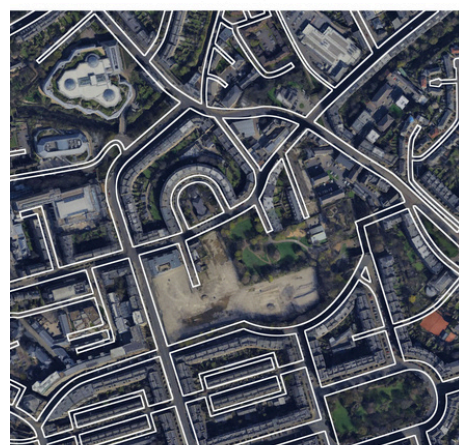
Eventually though the loch grew marshy and polluted from the mills, and, as the new industrial and steam age replaced the old age of mills and tanneries, the loch was drained and levelled in 1847. Train lines were starting to spread across Edinburgh, and in 1842 a new line was started. This line ran northwards from Canal Street station (situated right next to Waverley Station, where the Waverley Shopping Centre is now), passing through where the drained Canonmills loch was, and then on to Granton harbour, where roll on roll off ferries would carry the trains over the Firth of Forth to Burntisland and beyond. A station was built on the site of the old loch, called Scotland Street station, that covered the eastern side of King George V Park.



1759



1896



NOW



The section of line between Scotland Street station at Canonmills and Canal Street Station near Waverley was through an underground tunnel. The tunnel is now blocked up, but when it was open it was quite a steep section of railway line. Trains travelling from Scotland Street Station to Canal Street had to have their engines decoupled, and be attached to a rope winch to pull the train up the steep gradient. This system proved to be too expensive to maintain as a passenger service, and Scotland Street Station became a goods station until its closure in the 1960s. The track northwards from King George V Park is now a pleasant pathway, including a tunneled shortcut between the park and Tesco's.



The tunnel connecting Scotland Street and Canal Street stations had a number of uses after its closure. It was an air raid shelter during WW2, an emergency headquarters for LNER. It was also used for growing mushrooms in the 1970s, and leased to a car dealership to store cars. The bricked up entrance to the southern tunnel is still visible today, and the smaller northern tunnel is a handy shortcut to Tesco's.

Next issue, the crazy open air Victorian gymnasium that was on the western side of the park.

SOURCES -

<https://kgvsy.wordpress.com/>

<https://threadinburgh.scot/2023/09/17/the-thread-about-the-construction-of-the-scotland-street-tunnel-a-challenging-and-occasionally-fatal-engineering-endeavour/>

<https://www.subbrit.org.uk/sites/scotland-street-tunnel/>

GLENOGLE COURT UPDATES

THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER!

We'd love to have some contributions from the children and young people on our Estate. Send us your drawings, paintings, stories and articles and we'll try and include them whenever we can.

Also our residents and tenants, any comments or information you think others may find interesting – please let us have them.

SUMMER SHINDIG AND GCRA AGM

A couple of dates for your dairies. We are planning on a get together this summer. The planned date is 17th July, weather permitting. Further details will be announced, once we finalise the details.

Also, we have provisionally booked the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Club for the AGM this year, for the 17th of November.

GENTLE REMINDERS ABOUT ESTATE ETIQUETTE

We would remind you all that any change of ownership or letting agency contact details should be notified to the Committee immediately so that we have an accurate record of our Residents and who is responsible for payment of our subscription.

It has been brought to our attention that some blocks have bicycles stored in the common stair areas. The Scottish Fire and Rescue website advises that all stairways and passages should be clear of obstructions in order that escape routes in case of smoke and fire are clear, safe, and usable for all residents in the block.

We would also remind you all, that large items should not be left at the bin areas. If you wish large item to be removed, you must contact Edinburgh Council, and they will only collect from the kerb-side in Glenogle Road not the bin areas.

The GCRA Committee have been working hard to deal with various matters. Whilst we apologise for the lateness in the issuing of the invoices for the subscription this year, the Treasurers now have a new accounting system up and running. We really appreciate that most people have paid their invoice within the 30 day payment term. It is now more than 2 months since the invoices were issued and all invoices should now have been paid. Any further late payments are unacceptable, and our Treasurers will now take the necessary steps to obtain the payments due.

Let us have your comments, opinions and any ideas for future newsletters. Our contact details are below.

GCRA: www.glenoglecourt.com
Secretary: gcra@hotmail.co.uk

Up to date information about events, activities and city attractions can be found on the Edinburgh Council site.

Best of all, the monthly "Resident Rewards" scheme gives money off selected food and drink around the city, cheaper days out and exclusive events from city businesses. All you need to do is register giving your EH postcode.