

You said it

The Voice of Wester Hailes

Total Anarchy Silence! Support

The root cause of vandalism is the total anarchy which prevails among the public servants who couldn't care less about the residents of Wester Hailes.

It should be made quite clear that all of these so-called public servants do not reside in the area so chronic vandalism in Wester Hailes is not important to them. But to most of the local residents it is a soul depressing environment. Some of the residents manage to get re-housed out of Wester Hailes, but most can't get out and it is all because of chronic vandalism.

If the public servants did the job we pay them to, 90 per cent of the existing vandalism would not be in existence.

Take for instance the police. Vandalism is a criminal offence, therefore it is a police responsibility.

So what actions do the police take? None whatsoever. Their attitude is indifference to the problem, yet they could solve the problem easily.

The graffiti kids write other kids names on the walls, doors etc., such as the picture in the Sentinel, e.g., *Susie, Peg Nicholson, Wayne McGrain, Michelle*. So it is obvious the culprit knows all these other kids, then of course all these other kids know who the culprits are. If the police questioned the named kids, then they would find out *who*

dunnil!

Then the police should do their duty and lay charges against the offenders' parents and when the parents get to court, the Sheriff will at least give them fair warning and hopefully the parents would then pass on this warning to their culprit kids.

Painting out the existing graffiti is an action of sheer simplicity. One painter could paint out all the offending graffiti in Wester Hailes in a couple of weeks at the most. It's a simple dubbing-out paint job, with matching paint.

Where I live in Wester Hailes all the housing is cream and brown. I have two tins of matching paint and for the past year or two, when the building or stair is covered in graffiti, I just dub it out in two or three minutes and that's that until the next time.

As regards the police and housing management officials, most residents have given up reporting anything to them, simply because all complaints have met with indifference.

I trust this letter will possibly give another point of view from a local resident who knows what is going on.

All the public servants who work here do not, and I emphasise this, do not live in Wester Hailes - that is why they are a useless lot to the people who do live here.

An irate Hailesland resident.

Mothers wanting to get out of the house during the day send their kids to Sighthill Library, therefore shifting their responsibility onto the shoulders of the library assistants. The kids don't benefit, they don't feel like browsing through books, and the peace and quiet of the library is not enhanced. When the assistants go to the extreme of putting the kids out, when their voices have topped the sound barrier the mothers are quite indignant. When you pay your childminder you can sack her.

Ian Beveridge.

It could be that some of your readers are in employment which involves them in repetitive movements or actions which are causing them some discomfort. Indeed it could be that they are suffering from identifiable injury. If they are looking for assistance, advice or information, etc. then I'd advise them to contact Lothian Trade Union and Community Resource Centre, 12a Picardy Place, Edinburgh EH1 3JT. (031-556 7318) without delay. They will find the Resource Centre staff extremely helpful and anxious to provide useful advice on prevention, diagnosis, benefits, compensation, treatment, etc.

If you are worried please don't delay, contact the centre now
Cllr Hugh Fraser (Balerno/Baberton).

Send your letters to The Sentinel, 22 Hailesland Place, EDINBURGH EH14 2SL

In Conclusion

"Late agen. What a life, ye ken."
A shrug, a suck, old man's teeth slipping.
Rain splashed over-shoulder words,
aimed across the Tuesday air, and missing
the windy bus-stop crowd.

Words meant for everyone-for no-one for God.
Like dropped dreams among eons littering blow.
Swan winged flutters the lost prayers,
Random philosophies, where do they go?
But along gutters and over rooftops.

Old one, unloved, from the bitten north,
Finds ears in a queue with time to sell,
Looked down at the contents of his soul, then
resigned and in conclusion chose to tell
a summing-up of everything.

With "Late agen. What a life, ye ken"

Catriona Newman

Clovenstone apology

In the last edition of the Sentinel (Issue 231) we printed the wrong number for the Clovenstone Neighbourhood Flat. The correct number to call is

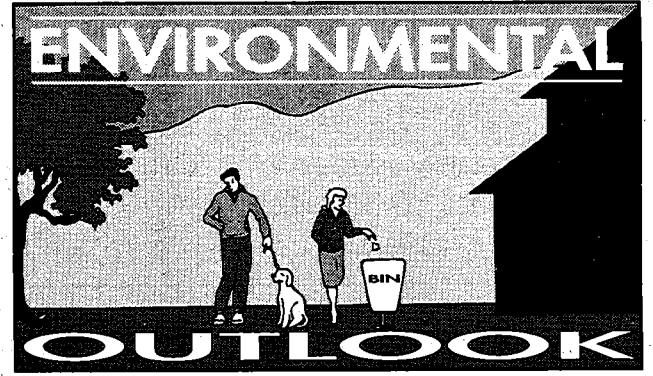
458 3048

Our sincere apologies for any inconvenience caused by our mistake.

It pays to advertise

in your local paper.

Call the Sentinel on 442 4588



ONE YEAR ON

IT'S JUST over one year since the Wester Hailes Environmental Ranger Service got off the ground. So if you've ever wondered what the Ranger gets up to apart from writing this column here's a quick re-cap of some of the last years activities.

Many of the projects undertaken have been with local primary schools. Pupils from Sighthill were involved in designing and constructing a wildlife garden for one of the schools courtyards, and Dumbyden Primary are busy doing a similar project right now. Classes from Dumbyden also helped plant the first shrubs to go in as part of environmental improvements in Dumbyden Grove. Westburn and Sighthill P7 pupils have been working together to come up with ideas to improve the Wester Hailes Wood (behind the site of the old Westburn high flats). Classes from all the local schools have been on guided walks, along the canal, through Colinton Dell, and around Wester Hailes looking at issues ranging from pollution to social history.

A first year Geography class from WHEC got £300 to improve the school grounds after entering a competition run by Lothian Regional Council.

The wildlife club for 8-12 year olds, now has about 15-20 regular members that take part in environmental games, activities, and trips, once a fortnight at the Westburn Community Centre. One-off trips, and activities have been provided for many of the other youth groups in Wester Hailes.

Valuable links have also been set up with other environmental groups that have since helped with projects in the area. An environmental information library has also been built up at the Land Use Unit for anyone to come in and use.

All in all it's been a busy year and future projects include an environmental short course at the Dove Centre, a litter campaign in conjunction with the Rep. Council's Environmental Spokesperson, and a project to develop more garden strips in the area.

For more information on the Ranger Service, please contact me on 458 5043.

Alexey Janes, Environmental Ranger

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Just another day

Shona with the red brown hair hustling in the Centre Laddies passing in a bunch tease her and torment her She has heard it all before each and everyday Insults jeers and bad names too obscene to say.

Eyes all dulled and circled, black shiny leather jacket Wondering how to make some cash to support her habit Once she had a home, a few bairns, a rich lover Then the lass got homeless when he got tired of her Now she rises weary, bedraggled every day To face the cold and hard world of sterile concrete grey Young yet in body but haggard and so old In a world of strangers with eyes hard, stony cold Many folk despise her but there are some who sigh And go their way saying 'There for the grace of God go I'

(Shona is just a name to cover a lot of wee lassies in her sad situation)

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