



Blacket Association Newsletter

May 2018

FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS

Open Gardens evening

Our annual Open Gardens evening will be held on Friday 15 June. For those who are new to the area, a number of residents allow us to have a look round their gardens, after which we adjourn for some light refreshment and chat. The event is open to current and former residents, and their guests.

We have four gardens signed up. We are grateful to the Clarks at 10 Blacket Place; the Cooks at 24 Blacket Place; the Fletchers at 32 Blacket Place; and the MacCormicks at 82 Dalkeith Road for opening their gardens this year. Their gardens are open from 6:30pm and the final party, which will be held at the top end of Alfred Place, starts at 7.30pm.

RECENT SOCIAL EVENTS

Architectural walking tour of the Blackets

On Wednesday 16 May, an architectural walking tour of the Blackets was conducted by Richard Scothorne and Hugh Mackay, our Blacket Association history and architectural experts. The tour was very well supported with more than thirty residents attending. We will therefore consider arranging other similar tours in the future. Meanwhile, an architectural trail guide of the Blackets, which was written some years ago, has now been revised by the Association. A link to a copy will be put on the website.

Another piece of local history is that the builder of Dryden Place, Adam Dryden, is buried in Newington Cemetery (see photo below).



DATA PROTECTION

As you may know, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on 25 May 2018. This is a positive step towards giving you more control over how your data is used and how you are contacted. It means that UK organisations will need to demonstrate that they have 'opt-in' approval from people whose personal data they hold. The Blacket Association has always used email communication only with residents who have willingly supplied their email addresses in order that the Association can use their data to send newsletters, subscription reminders, event invitations and similar items relating to the activities in the Blacket area. These are the only purposes for which residents' data is used. In our view we therefore comply with the requirements of the GDPR. If any resident wishes to remove their email address or any other information from our data please let the communications coordinator know. Conversely if any resident is not currently on our email distribution list and would like to be in order to receive more communications than just our biannual newsletters, please contact the communications coordinator.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We are once again deeply sorry to have to alert residents to yet more break-ins/attempted break-ins in the Blacket Area. In the early hours of 24 May 2018 burglars broke into a property in Mayfield Terrace. They gained entry through a basement window, took car keys and made off with two cars belonging to the household. In the same area, thieves broke into a garden shed and stole bicycles and other property.

Since then we have also had a report of an attempted break-in to a property in Blacket Avenue. Three young men wearing balaclavas and carrying small rucksacks managed to force open a ground-floor window. They ran off when the householder discovered them. The police did attend very quickly and had a dog and a handler to follow the scent, which unfortunately went cold after a couple of miles.

It does seem that right now the Blacket Area is vulnerable. The police are aware of these incidents and we understand that they are considering patrolling the area in unmarked cars during the night. However, we must ourselves be vigilant and ensure that our homes, garages/sheds, garden access and cars are secure. Do make sure that all doors and windows are closed and locked. Keep handbags/wallets, keys and other valuables out of sight. If you have one, make sure you set your house-alarm at night, as well as when you go out. A lot of these incidents are 'opportunistic'. If we make it difficult, these thieves/burglars may not take risks.

For advice on how to make your home secure, please go to [Police Scotland 'Secure Your Home and Personal Property'/.](#)

Calling the police

If you see anything suspicious, call the police. As you may know, there are now two numbers: 999 and 101. Call 999 in emergencies if you need a police response immediately: for example, if you see a crime being committed, a person suspected of a crime is nearby, or you or anyone else is in danger then 999 is the most appropriate number to call.

The 101 number is for non-emergency situations when the police need to be contacted. That could be reporting a crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response: for example, if your car has been stolen or your property has been damaged. Incidents should also be reported to your local neighbourhood watch coordinator.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COORDINATORS 2018

ALFRED PLACE	Victoria Gilmour, 15 Alfred Place	DRYDEN PLACE	Stan Bird, 4 Dryden Place;
BLACKET AVENUE	Barrie West and Jennifer Flueckiger, 46b Blacket Place	MAYFIELD TERRACE west	Alice Kruuk, 6a Mayfield Terrace
BLACKET PLACE north	Alison Mowat, 14 Blacket Place	MAYFIELD TERRACE east	Pina Lang, 32 Mayfield Terrace
BLACKET PLACE south, Nos 15, 46–48	Barrie West and Jennifer Flueckiger, 46b Blacket Place	BLACKET PLACE south, Nos 17–33, 50–62	Anna Regaard, 21 Blacket Place

SHRUBBERY

There have been one or two occasions of fly tipping in the shrubbery recently. Anyone seeing activity of this sort should note the van/car numbers and report them to the Blacket Committee and the police.

Trees

Council trees such as those in the public spaces in Blacket Avenue are managed by the Council's Forestry Service, while private trees are the responsibility of each owner. Trees may be protected by Tree Protection Orders (TPOs). In conservation areas, however, all

trees that are 7.5cm trunk diameter at a height of 1.5m are protected, and it is a criminal offence to cut down, lop, prune, uproot or damage them without Council authorisation. If a tree is dangerous or damaging a property wall, you must contact the Council for authorisation to deal with the problem.

HOLYROOD PARK TO RATCLIFFE TERRACE CYCLE ROUTE

In the May 2017 Newsletter the Council's proposals and our objections were set out. The Council has now produced an update and response to the consultation. A copy can be found at <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/design-cycle-walk-holyrood-park-ratcliffe-terrace/>.

Hidden in the voluminous report is a response to the Blacket Association's and other views, but essentially the proposed scheme is unaltered. The scheme is on hold because of lack of resources so nothing is likely to happen soon.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are seeking new members for the Committee. In particular, the Treasurer is leaving the Committee at the AGM and we also need a new Social Events Convener. Anyone interested in doing these jobs or joining the Committee generally should contact the Chair or any other member of the Committee.

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2018

CHAIR & NEWSLETTER	Ian Chisholm	MINUTES SECRETARY	Fiona Courtney
TREASURER	Becky Colegrave	NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Stanley Bird
WELFARE & NEW RESIDENTS	Arlene Doherty	COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR	Pauline Platt
PLANNING	Richard Scothorne, Hugh Mackay	SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY	Hugh Mackay
SOCIAL EVENTS CONVENOR	Phil Cullis	WEBSITE	Eric Thomson