



Blacket Association Newsletter

May 2019

SOCIAL EVENTS

Architectural walking tour

Following the very well-attended Blacket Association historical and architectural walking tour of the Blackets in May last year, we will be running it again at 6:30pm on Wednesday 8 May. This will draw on the architectural trail guide of the Blackets (written some years ago and revised by the Association in 2018) supplemented by personal research by the two guides, Richard Scothorne and Hugh Mackay.

The tour will start at the Dalkeith Road entrance to Blacket Place. It's estimated to last about 90 minutes. All are most welcome.

Open gardens

Our annual Open Gardens evening will be held on Friday 21 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 already have three gardens on our list for this June, which is great: Susan Hezlet (30 Mayfield Terrace), Patricia Cacho (46A Blacket Place) and Penny Gower (48 Blacket Place). These will be open from 6:30pm; the final party, which will be held at 48 Blacket Place, starts at 7.30pm.

if anyone else would like to offer their garden, to increase that number, that would be even better. Remember, it's not about having a pristine garden – it's about sharing ideas, tips and advice about gardening and planting and having a sociable time with neighbours. So, don't be afraid to suggest your own garden. The only stipulation is that, for insurance reasons, we can only go to gardens that are accessible without going through a house.

PARKING ACTION PLAN

The Council has recently circulated a consultation paper TRO/19/29 on their city-wide Parking Action Plan. From Blacket residents' perspective, the most important issues are the introduction of shared-use parking places and residents' visitors permits. The Blacket Association has been pressing for these changes for many years and we therefore have welcomed the proposals in TRO/19/29.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Since the AGM, there have been fewer reports of criminal or anti-social behaviour affecting the Blacket Area. Unfortunately, however, at the beginning of March, there was an

outbreak of graffiti, which affected three properties in the area. These were reported to the police, and the Blacket Association issued an alert and provided information about responsibilities for the removal of graffiti from property.

As summer approaches and garden equipment emerges from sheds and garages, we should keep vigilant about leaving unattended equipment in view and about securing sheds afterwards. Similarly, windows and doors, opened for ventilation, should be shut and bolted at the end of what we hope will be long sunny summer days. If you see anything suspicious, contact the police.

BLACKET SHRUBBERY REPORT

Since the last newsletter, we have pruned the bases of the lime trees, maintained and watered young trees and bushes, weeded and cleared litter and builders' waste. It is a shame that the daffodil season was not more colourful, but the tree canopy blocks out much of the sun and rain. Periwinkle (*Vinca*) is our most successful flowering plant.

The main problem is ivy, which is climbing up trees, walls and fences – it has to be controlled. Initially, we saw it as good groundcover, but now it has become too successful! Therefore, ivy will be the target for the next working party. The request for volunteers will go out online. If you are not linked up and would like to be involved on a Saturday morning, contact Hugh Mackay.

Litter is a common problem in the shrubbery and, unfortunately, the recent gas repairs have made matters worse. Some residents may think that the streets are cleaned by the local authority, but this is incorrect, although the Council may send a lorry occasionally. The Blacket committee does take up the topic of street cleaning with our Councillors and doubtless they do try to help, but nothing much seems to change.

Therefore, if we want the five streets to look good, we have to take individual action by sweeping our pavements and picking up the litter others have discarded. Why not keep a polybag in your pocket or bag, so it can be conveniently used to help collect any litter you spot.

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2018–2019

CHAIR	Ian Chisholm	11 Dryden Place
TREASURER	Anne Henderson	4 Mayfield Terrace
MINUTES SECRETARY	Fiona Courtney	52 Blacket Place
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Stanley Bird	4 Dryden Place
PLANNING/SHRUBBERY	Hugh Mackay	42 Blacket Place
PLANNING	Richard Scothorne	7 Alfred Place
WEBSITE/CONTACTS	Mhoraig Blair	Arthur Lodge
NEW RESIDENTS/CARDS	Arlene Doherty	56 Blacket Place
COMMUNICATIONS	Pauline Platt	27 Mayfield Terrace
SOCIAL CONVENER	[vacant]	