



Blacket Association Newsletter

May 2022

PLATINUM JUBILEE PARTY

As may you know, on Sunday 5 June we are holding a party for Blacket residents to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The party will broadly follow the approach adopted in 2012 for the Diamond Jubilee. The event will take place in Alfred Place between 2:00pm and 6:00pm. Permission has been sought to close Alfred Place to traffic between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm to enable set-up and clear-up. We would be grateful if Alfred Place residents removed their cars before 12:00pm that day. Some bunting and balloons will be provided by the Blacket Association to decorate Alfred Place, and residents are encouraged to decorate their own houses. If it rains, residents should bring a brolly.

Tables

A limited number of tables have been sourced by the Association for food and drink. An even more limited number of chairs will be available, and we recommend that residents take along their own garden chairs, to increase capacity.

Food

As in 2012, residents are invited to bring food on a communal basis. We suggest residents from **Alfred Place and Blacket Place bring savoury finger food** while residents of **Mayfield Terrace, Blacket Avenue and Dryden Place focus on cakes and puddings**. Those making food should bear in mind common-sense food safety advice about preparing food for others. In particular, no nuts should be used in food, and someone with an allergy should stick to food brought along by themselves.

A limited number of biodegradable plates, forks and spoons will be available, but residents are encouraged to bring along their own. It is worth noting that finger food requires no cutlery.

Drinks

Beer and wine will be provided, along with soft drinks and water. Wine glasses will be supplied, as well as a limited number of biodegradable cups for soft drinks and beer. Again, residents are invited to bring their own beer glasses/tankards.

Costs

The Blacket Association need to cover the costs incurred by the party. Rather than seeking donations in advance or charging for drinks (for which we do not have a licence), we will have a bucket on the bar for donations in cash. An amount of £10 per adult is recommended. This can also be paid through a transfer to the Association bank account (Account name Blacket Association; sort code 80-02-24; account number 00178862). For

those not paying electronically, cash in an envelope can be given to the Treasurer (Anne Henderson at 4 Blacket Place), too.

BLACKET SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY

Late autumn 2021 meant the second prune of the bases of the lime trees in the Avenue. For this, as in the past, we had a good number of volunteers for a Saturday morning working party. We also planted more daffodils in conspicuous areas. Then in late November, after the AGM, we swept up dead leaves from the pavements and gutters. This time the Council helped us by providing bags, brushes, shovels and even yellow gloves. The bags of leaves were then collected by the Council in two instalments.

In February 2022 a further stock of bulbs were planted. While too late for them to bloom this year, they will be evident next spring. The next working party will be held in about June, to do more to the bases of the limes.

LITTER

It is sad that the Litter Bin on the corner of the Avenue and Minto Street has been removed by the Council. Many residents used to pick up litter in the knowledge that it could be dropped into the bin at the end of the Shrubbery. It remains in our interests to control litter there and throughout the Five Streets. It would be good if the Council cleaned the streets. But if we take pride and pleasure in this part of the city, we all have to do our bit.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There have been no reports of physical 'skulduggery' within the Blacket Area, but Police Scotland has had reports of DUBIOUS door-to-door traders in some areas of Edinburgh. Such traders may be trading lawfully, but please note that any person at your door attempting to sell goods requires a current Pedlars Certificate, as per the Pedlars Act 1871. If unknown people come to your door, use your door chain (if available) and ask to see their Pedlars Certificate on every occasion. Should the pedlar not be able to provide a certificate when asked, he may be committing an offence. Please contact Police on 101, or 999 in an emergency, if you have any concerns.

The major problem, however, continues to be cyber-crime – not just for local residents but also across the country. During lockdowns, many of us have got used to dealing with financial institutions online. Therefore, when interacting on the internet particularly with online banking and shopping, we should all be extra careful and vigilant. If in doubt, DON'T DO IT. Call your bank /building society/credit card provider directly on numbers given on your statements.

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2022

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| CHAIR | Ian Chisholm | MINUTES SECRETARY | Hazel Clark |
| TREASURER | Anne Henderson | NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH | Stanley Bird |
| SOCIAL CONVENER | Hazel Clark | COMMUNICATIONS | Susan Hezlet |
| WEBSITE | Mhoraig Blair | NEW RESIDENTS/CARDS | Arlene Doherty |
| PLANNING | Richard Scothorne | SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY | Hugh Mackay |

SUSTAINABILITY IN THE BLACKETS

At our recent AGM, following the positive promise of the COP 26 in Glasgow, a group was formed to explore how we all can help reduce 30% of our carbon footprint by 2030 and seek a complete reduction by 2050. The Sustainability Group – (Anne Starsmeare, Peter France, Jenny Dunbar, Lindsay Johnson, David Starsmeare and Fiona Courtney) plan to produce a Sustainability Newsletter twice a year. Chosen topics so far: Low Carbon Heating, Local Grocery Businesses, Insulation, Recycling, Food/Gardens. Here are our first thoughts. We look forward to your response

OUR SUPERMARKETS.

Supermarkets were examined for: their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, use of plastic, and food waste. We found that **WHICH** magazine had, after extensive research, published an **Eco Tables score** comparing major supermarkets:

| Supermarket | Overall Score | Supermarket | Overall Score | Supermarket | Overall Score |
|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Waitrose | 74% | Lidl | 74% | Sainsburys | 71% |
| Tesco | 69% | Co-op | 65% | Aldi | 66% |

For further information click onto [store's name/sustainability](#). Some supermarkets with a low score excelled in a particular category. It is apparent that all the grocery companies are making great efforts to improve their sustainability as people grow more aware of climate change. AS

TWO LOCAL STORES

If you prefer to shop local we have a couple of great grocery stores on our doorstep who have sustainability at the heart of everything they do.

THE CITY FARM SHOP, Radcliffe Terrace is like an old fashioned corner shop reborn. It's packed with tasty products from local farmers and small producers. Fresh bread is delivered daily and their fruit and vegetables are in season, organic and actually taste like fruit and vegetables.

THE REFILLERY, on Newington Road is a plastic-free and ethical goods store. It has rows of dispensers containing a huge choice of wholefoods, oils, herbs & spices, and chocolate treats as well as detergents and bathroom products. Take along your own containers, or buy reusable ones there, then help yourself to as much or as little as you need, so there is no waste. They also sell delicious organic bakery goods and fresh fruit and vegetables. JD

LOW CARBON HEATING

A valuable source of information is the pioneering CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) – ([cat.org.uk](#)). They advise 'for heating we would see either heat pumps or 'heat networks' (district heating) as the main low carbon options.' For our purposes this would essentially mean air source heat pumps, though these are not without problems (e.g., cost, noise, need for good insulation). Solar could be a good supplement for hot water but is not sufficient for central heating. Direct central heating (e.g. storage heaters) is much less efficient than heat pumps. Hydrogen (which British Gas is promoting) is described by CAT as a red herring (see their journal 'Clean Slate' no 121, p30 on the CAT website) For independent local advice on low carbon heating, renewable installation and on the rapidly changing situation for grants and planning permission consult [Changeworks \(changeworks.org.uk\)](#) and Home Energy Scotland ([www.homeenergyscotland.org](#)) PF

Reduce your Landfill by 80% - Recycle Plastic Wrappers

We are sure everybody is aware of the kerbside recycling scheme for:

- Green bins
- Blue Boxes
- Brown Bins
- Food caddies

For recycling locations please see following links:

edinburgh.gov.uk/bins-

recycling/recycling-plastics-edinburgh

edinburgh.gov.uk/recycling-3/recycling-plastic-bags-

wrappers?documentId=13164&categoryId=20295

But have you noticed how much plastic wrapping is filling your landfill bin?

Currently plastic wrapping is not part of the kerbside recycling scheme, but you can recycle it at larger supermarkets, including:

- baby food pouches
- biscuit and sweet wrappers
- bread bags
- carrier bags
- cheese wrappers
- crisp packets
- fruit and vegetable wrappers
- pet food pouches
- salad bags
- toilet roll wrappers
- wrappers for cereal, pasta, rice, etc

Experiment

The Blacket Sustainability Team carried out an experiment. We put plastic wrappers for a family of four into a separate sack to be recycled by Sainsbury's, behind the tills. After two weeks we had reduced the Landfill by about 80% - which was surprising.



Landfill with plastic wrappers



Landfill without plastic wrappers

L.J

The Sustainability Team hope you found this first newsletter useful. We'll try to include some of your ideas and suggestions in our next edition in the autumn. Contact annestarsmeare@btinternet.com