



Blacket Association Newsletter

May 2026

OPEN GARDENS FRIDAY 29TH MAY 2026

We will be holding our annual open garden event in the early evening of Friday 29th May. 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 refreshments and chat.

The evening is open to current and former residents and their house guests. Dogs are not welcome.

We have three gardens on our list for visiting.

From 6.00 – 7.00 pm:

- Newington Lodge, 38 Mayfield Terrace, (Neil and Lorna Sharp).
- 17 Blacket Place, (Sir Bill and Lady Gammell).

From 7.00 pm:

- 13 Blacket Place (Caroline, Charles and Sue Ross-Stewart) will host the refreshments.

A suggested donation of £5 per adult would be welcome, and payment can be made by cash on the day or directly to the Blacket Bank Account:

The Blacket Association, Bank of Scotland a/c 00178862, sort code 80-02-24.

Please mark your payment as 'Open Gardens'.

PLANNING

A number of notable local houses have changed hands recently and planning applications are now coming forward, mainly for internal changes, which we usually support. Good to see the thought and care behind these plans!

Following the dismissal of the appeal against refusal of planning permission for the demolition of the historic and rather elegant Edwardian Lad's Institute on Ratcliffe Terrace and the construction of student housing, Historic Environment Scotland have confirmed its C category listing. This will add another layer of protection but we will keep a close eye on this to try to ensure that a developer doesn't just retain the façade in a rather meaningless

way. The Blacket Association and local residents played a key role in this campaign, working with Andy Arthur and The Cockburn Association – so thank you to everyone who contributed. You can read the full listing document [here](#).

NEW RESIDENTS AND CARDS

I trust all newly-arrived proprietors have received a prompt “Welcome Pack” from The Blacket Association; also hoping that there will be an opportunity to get to know your neighbours now that the weather has improved and gardeners appear outside in the sunshine! Another opportunity to introduce yourselves is at the Open Gardens evening where we will introduce you to those who are also there.

I will bring the Blacket Greetings Cards for sale on that occasion so pop some cash in your pocket and stock up. See you there!

Anne Sturrock

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Neighbourhood watch is pleased that there have been few incidents within the Blacket Area. The main concern is still on-line fraud and scams of one sort or another. As ever, the watchword is “vigilance.” Do not give away your passwords or security information to callers; legitimate representatives from banks etc. will NEVER ask for them. And again, if you feel something is not right, call the police!

SHRUBBERY WORKING GROUP

We are planning a Shrubbery session on Saturday 9th May from 0930.

If anyone is free on the day for an hour or two it would be great to see you for some general weeding/trimming and clearing up. As usual we would plan to meet at the west end of Blacket Avenue. If you could come armed with some secateurs and simple gardening tools that would be great.