

Blacket Newsletter: 23 Sept 2011

Blacket Party and AGM 24 November 2011

Remember, the AGM and Blacket Party is coming up on the evening of Thursday 24 November. Following the success of last year's event, we shall again be gathering in the Earthy Café, Ratcliffe Terrace - from 7pm for drinks and a talk by Dawn McDowell of Historic Scotland about Edinburgh's post-War Listed Buildings, as well as half an hour's formal business from 7.30. Further details and papers for the AGM will be circulated nearer the date.

Calling new residents

All new residents, and indeed all residents within our 'five streets' within the Conservation Area, will be very welcome to come along to the 24 November meeting and party. Further information on the Blacket Conservation Area and the activities of the Blacket Association, may be accessed via our web-site – www.blacketedin.org

Calling all drivers

The Association has expressed concern in the past that, following the development of the Alfred Place site, there might be an increased risk of accidents, given higher traffic flows through the Mayfield Terrace junction with Alfred Place, particularly as the latter has often been used by local children as part of their play area.

All of Blacket's five streets will shortly become part of the South Central Edinburgh 20 mph speed limit zone, and the installation of a 'traffic calming feature' at the junction of Alfred Place with Mayfield Terrace – which the Association has supported in the past - may become even less likely. We are not in a position to stop short-cut drivers using streets such as Mayfield Terrace and it is difficult to catch the speeders. It would however be a desirable addition to road safety in our area if all local residents, whether long-established or recent, could try to see they do themselves observe the 20mph maximum regime.

Blacket, Signage and 20mph

As all of the streets in our area, with the exception of the main traffic corridors, become subject to the 20mph limit this will involve the installation of a significant additional number of road signs. The Blacket Association has been working in association with our local Grange and Prestonfield Community Council to try and ensure the consequent extra signage – both at entry/exit points to Blacket and along our five streets - is kept to the minimum, to limit potential damage to visual amenity.

Sighting rare birds

One or two of our local residents have expressed an interest in monitoring and exchanging information on the sighting of rare birds in our area. If you are possibly interested in this, please inform our Secretary, Ian Carter, so we can determine whether there is sufficient support for a local group who could then be publicised via our website.

A good Open Gardens Evening

Despite the rain, there was a good turn-out on 17 June and thanks go to all who made their gardens available to other local residents and visitors that evening. Planning is already in hand for the 2012 event and Committee member Hazel Fletcher, or other Committee members, would be glad to have offers of gardens for next year.

Alfred Place houses and 'the fallen pillars'

Given the relatively rapid progress of sales for the new properties, it presently appears the heavy site work (and associated heavy lorry volume) may be complete before the end of 2011. That being the case, Blacket Secretary, Ian Carter, is currently in discussion with the Developers with a view to seeing the damaged Gatepiers on the Mayfield Terrace/Dalkeith Road junction are reinstated as part of the 'dilapidations process' within the same time span. Arrangements are also in hand with the Council for comparable action at the Blacket Avenue/Dalkeith Road junction.

Ray Footman: Chairman

Ian Carter: Hon. Secretary