

Blacket Newsletter: 22nd November 2012

Come along to the AGM & Social on 22 November

The Blacket Association will be holding its 43rd Annual General Meeting on Thursday of next week at The Salisbury Arms (opposite the Commonwealth Pool). The business part of the evening will take place from 7.30pm and thereafter there will be a wine and refreshments social. Do come along if you can make it.

Piers Progress

As members may recall, the restoration work on the two gate-piers (or pillars) at the junction of Mayfield Terrace and Dalkeith Road, damaged by lorries during the Alfred Place development, was due to be carried out in early September. The work had been commissioned by the Council, with funding from the vehicle's insurers, but obviously did not happen on schedule (allegedly because of delays to masonry repair work caused by the summer's heavy rainfall).

The Association has continued to lobby the Council for the job to be carried out without further delay and now work has begun on reconstruction of the southern pier, with the hope that the lesser work to the other damaged pier can also be dealt with at the same time. The restoration, expected to take 2 or 3 days, also involves the closure of the east end of Mayfield Terrace over that period.

Keep Fit at our local 'Olympic' facilities

The two-year refurbishment programme for the fine Commonwealth Pool building – originally developed for the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh – was completed this Spring. It is now splendidly renewed. Although an obvious draw for swimmers, not all people living locally will be aware of the associated gym and exercise facilities – for young and old. There is a wide range of classes and new enrolments are welcome.

Open Gardens 2013

The Association plans to revert to an evening open gardens social event next summer and, with that in mind, it would be helpful, if you might be willing to let neighbours from the Association visit your garden on that occasion, please notify Hazel Fletcher.

Parked Cars

Just a brief reminder not to leave any items on display in your vehicles if you are parking, day or night.

Chairman's Report - Ray Footman

This will be my last Report as Chairman; it will also be a brief one. The major happenings of recent years, namely the redevelopment of the Alfred Place site and the changeover within the 'five streets' (as elsewhere across the South Side) to a 20mph speed limit, dealt with in some detail last year, were completed over the course of 2011-2012. The main outstanding item has been the repair of the Pugin gate-piers at the east end of Mayfield Terrace where getting some action from the relevant part of the Council and then a job slot within the mason's work programme took up a good

deal of our Secretary's time. As I write this, work has begun on the southern gate-pier and hopefully will be closely followed by restoration of the less-damaged northern one.

The new event of 2011-2012, which proved to be the highlight of the year was the 3rd June street party, held in Alfred Place, on the occasion of the Queen's Jubilee. The weather was kind, the numbers attending were high and a good time was had by all. In short, the afternoon was a great success, and that was in large part thanks to the planning and hard work put in by Hazel Fletcher and her team.

I have enjoyed my years as Chairman and the work this involved with my volunteer colleagues on the Committee - in particular, former Secretary Ian Carter and current Secretary Bob Cupples - who have stood the Association in good stead over a period which involved the most significant development within the boundaries for many years past and, hopefully, for very many years to come.

Ray Footman: Chairman

Bob Cupples: Hon. Secretary