

Blacket Newsletter - October 2013

COME ALONG TO THE AGM & SOCIAL ON 18th NOVEMBER

The Blacket Association will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Monday 18th of November at The Salisbury Arms (opposite the Commonwealth Pool). The formal business will take place between 7.45 and 8.30 and thereafter there will be wine and refreshments to be enjoyed with the other residents. Do come along if you can.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR

After a number of years in the role of Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator Alison Mowat has decided to stand down. Her successor is Ian Chisholm. Ian lives at 11 Dryden Place, and any incidents should be reported to him by phone (667 5909) or by email (ianchisholm@wordsense.co.uk).

SAVE THE DATE

We are delighted that Owen Dudley Edwards has agreed to give a talk to residents on Thursday 6th of February on the subject of 'Conan and the Other Doyles'. The venue has yet to be finalized, but will be dictated by the numbers attending. If you would be interested in hearing this very knowledgeable and hugely entertaining gentleman, please let Hazel Fletcher know (667 4790, hazel@poststreet.net) and we will let you know the arrangements.

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EMAIL TRIAL

Our Secretary receives a number of emails from organisations in and around Edinburgh that we feel may be of interest to residents. We propose for a trial period of 3 months to forward these emails to those residents whose email addresses we have. Based on the feedback we receive we will make a decision whether or not to continue circulating the messages. We plan to start the trial within the next week or so. Please email Bob Cupples (bobcupples@btinternet.com) with your views.

CLEAN UP OUR BEDS

We are fortunate to have a number of residents that look after the shrubbery in the Blacket Area. Hugh Mackay coordinates them and he is looking for some additional help. If you would be able to spare some time to help with a number of these tasks, not all of which require green fingers, please get in touch with him (667 6777, n_hugh_mackay@yahoo.co.uk). It should be said that all residents are encouraged to pick up any litter that they see, and prevent their dogs fouling the flowerbeds.

PLANNING MATTERS

As many of you will be aware, work has been ongoing at 23 Minto Street. The Association was very concerned that the work that was being carried out varied significantly from that detailed in the

plans. Despite repeated communications with the Council Planning Department detailing these discrepancies, we were disappointed to hear that the building had been granted retrospective planning permission on the grounds that the changes were 'not material'. We feel that a dangerous precedent has been set and are working to raise a complaint against the Council and if necessary take the matter to the ombudsman. We will keep you advised on our progress.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A number of committee members will be relinquishing their positions on the committee at the AGM, and we are keen to recruit replacements. If you feel that you might be interested, please get in touch with Hazel Fletcher (667 4790, hazel@poststreet.net). Those with a planning or legal knowledge would be particularly welcome, and anyone with secretarial skills would be a godsend!

Bob Cupples: Hon. Secretary