



Blacket Association Newsletter

31 October 2015

AGM – 23 NOVEMBER, PARKSIDE BOWLING CLUB

The 46th Annual General Meeting of the Blacket Association will be held on Monday 23 November 2015 in Parkside Bowling Club (adjacent to the Commonwealth Pool) from 7:30pm, with the AGM starting promptly at 7:45pm. The formal AGM will be held first, to be followed about 8:30pm with an opportunity to socialise with other residents.

Copies of the minutes of last year's AGM and the reports from the various committee members will be issued by email before the meeting. If you do not receive the email, let a committee member know. We may not have your email address or have it incorrectly. Please bring these with you, although there will also be a limited number of printed copies available at the AGM.

All members, prospective members, friends and residents in the Blacket area are welcome – new members particularly so. All are invited to raise any points of interest that they would like to discuss.

Agenda

- Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting (17 November 2014);
- Election of committee members and office bearers.
Sheila McLeish and Richard Seligman have indicated that they wish to demit office. Ian Chisholm has reached the end of a term of office, and is seeking re-election. Pauline Platt, 27 Mayfield Terrace, and Arlene Doherty, 56 Blacket Place have been nominated to join the committee and further nominations are invited; these should be notified to the Acting Secretary, preferably in advance of the meeting;
- Chairman's report;
- Planning report;
- Treasurer's report;
- Neighbourhood Watch report;
- Blacket Avenue working group report;
- Any other competent business;
- Social event with refreshments.

Committee 2014–2015

CHAIR	Hazel Dunn	32 Blacket Place
TREASURER	Becky Colegrave	12 Alfred Place
ACTING SECRETARY	Richard Seligman	21 Mayfield Terrace
MINUTES SECRETARY	Fiona Courtney	52 Blacket Place
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH	Ian Chisholm	11 Dryden Place

PLANNING/SHRUBBERY	Hugh Mackay	42 Blacket Place
PLANNING	Richard Scothorne	7 Alfred Place
WEBSITE/CONTACTS	Johnny Kruuk	6a Mayfield Terrace
NEW RESIDENTS/CARDS	Sheila McLeish	9 Dryden Place

DEVELOPMENT WITHIN CONSERVATION AREAS AND OF LISTED BUILDINGS

The following website gives a file that can be downloaded to find detailed information concerning development of Listed Buildings and within Conservation Areas:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/4510/listed_buildings_and_conservation_areas/

Development within a Conservation Area will attract more restrictions than most other places and is more likely to require planning permission. Development of a Listed Building will be likely to require planning permission, but the City of Edinburgh Planning Department will be able to offer guidance: ring 0131 529 3550 or email: planning@edinburgh.gov.uk. The download above refers on pages 9 and 10 to railings and states ‘... it is important to establish what the original railings were like’. There is a record of the styles of railings within the Blacket Conservation Area and this can be viewed on the Blacket Association website: www.blacketedin.org/. Within that website, click on ‘Planning & Conservation’, scroll down to ‘Making Changes to Your Property’ and, in the last line of the first paragraph, click on ‘railings’.

Listed Building consent must be obtained where proposals will alter the character of the Listed Building, regardless of its category or whether the work is internal or external. If you are not sure whether you live in a Listed Building or are unsure as to the extent of the Listing, go to:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20065/conservation/244/listed_buildings/. Note that Listing may include more than the house itself: for example, boundary walls.

Use the map to click on the property concerned and a ‘text square’ will appear, which includes a link to Historic Scotland’s detailed information. Use of the address panel to identify the property on the map is not recommended as this appears to give limited information.

The Character Appraisal for the Blacket Conservation Area identifies the essential character of conservation area. A copy of this Character Appraisal can be viewed by entering the following URL and opening the downloaded pdf:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/1092/blacket_conservation_area_character_appraisalpdf.pdf/.

BLACKET WEBSITE

Following the overhaul to the www.blacketedin.org website earlier in 2015, we have recently updated the history section. It now contains further details of how the area changed over the years, former residents, as well as observations from a resident who has lived here since 1936. We hope you will find this informative. Our thanks go to Hugh Mackay, Joanna Chisholm, Alisoun Morton and Alison Bradley. More content coming soon on developments in the 20th century. If you are able to add anything to this section, or any other part of the site, then we would love to hear from you.

BLACKET SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY

It was decided that we should have a further go at growing spring flowers in the Shrubbery. This has resulted in almost 3,000 bulbs being planted. We shall see what happens in 2016. A fuller report will be in the papers for the AGM.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

As a relatively prosperous area, we are a high-risk target for property crime and there have been some serious recent incidents in the Blackets. In one case, a house was broken into while the owner was away on holiday. In another incident, the owners heard housebreakers attempting to break in and as a result they ran off empty-handed. Most housebreaking is opportunistic. The August Neighbourhood Watch report set out some advice on making your houses less attractive to potential housebreakers.

In a rather more unusual incident, a resident and her two children were seriously harassed by a motorist who followed them home and threatened them verbally. Eventually, the man drove off but not before his car number had been noted. The police were informed but some weeks later have not got back to our neighbour on the outcome of their enquiries. Nonetheless, most modern property crime is committed not by housebreaking but online. The dangers have been highlighted most recently by the TalkTalk cyberattack. Be very suspicious of attempts to obtain cash from you online, over the phone or on the doorstep.

BLACKET CARDS

The last newsletter indicated that a second edition of the 'Blacket Cards' was now available for purchase. Each card with envelope costs only £1.25, with five cards costing £5. A free copy of each card is enclosed with the Newsletter. Anyone who wishes to buy cards can place an order with a committee member.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Currently, fewer than half of Blacket residents fund the activities of the Blacket Association, which works hard on behalf of all residents. Membership costs only £5 a year and a membership form is attached for those who now wish to contribute.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name

Address

.....

.....

Email*

Please enrol me as a member of The Blacket Association

Please enrol me as a member of The Blacket Association Neighbourhood Watch

I wish to pay my £5 annual membership:

1. by standing order

standing order instruction for The Blacket Association subscription

Bank

Bank address

Branch sort code

Account number

With immediate effect and on 1 September annually thereafter, please pay £5 to The Blacket Association (Bank of Scotland A/C 0017 8862; sort code 80-02-24)

Signed..... Date

or

2. by cheque payable to The Blacket Association

Please return this completed form (with cheque if option 2 selected) to Becky Colegrave, Honorary Treasurer of The Blacket Association, 12 Alfred Place.

* I authorise the Blacket Association to hold the above information for the purposes of communicating with me including Neighbourhood Watch (if ticked) and other relevant notifications. I note that personal details will not be passed on to third parties