



**Blacket Association Newsletter**

**April 2016**

## **BOWLING SUNDAY 24 APRIL, 2–4PM**

The members of Parkside Bowling Club have invited the Blacket residents and their friends and family to try their hands at lawn bowls, on Sunday 24 April, 2–4pm. The Blacket Association held its 2015 AGM at the club in November, and it was suggested that, as many of us had never tried bowling, we might organise an afternoon there. Parkside is located next to the Commonwealth Pool on the road leading into Holyrood Park.

Volunteers from the bowling club will provide instruction, and then let us loose on their hallowed turf. Participants are asked to wear flat shoes: for example, trainers.

The afternoon is open to all ages, and children are welcome. The club bar will be selling refreshments.

It would be helpful to the bowling club if they could have an idea of numbers in advance, so if you are interested in coming along please let us know with an indication of how many will be in your group (<mailto:blacket.association@gmail.com>).

## **BLACKET OPEN GARDENS EVENING**

Our annual Open Garden Evening will be held on Friday 10 June. 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 to the final garden of the evening for some light refreshment and chat. Gardens are open from 6.30pm. The event is open to current and former residents, and their guests. We have two gardens currently signed up (including David and Janet Jenkins at 18 Blacket Place who are hosting the refreshments) ) and would like one or two more offers. Please get in touch if you would like to suggest your garden (<mailto:blacket.association@gmail.com>).

Details of the participating gardens will be sent out nearer the date.

## **MINTO HOTEL**

You may have noticed that the hotel is currently on the market. Any offer will depend on planning permission being granted. If the application is refused, the property may not sell or only at a reduced price. If consent is granted, the conditions imposed by the Council will be of real importance. Here we hope our representations will be taken full account of.

The Blacket Association has circulated all residents, even those who are not immediately affected, the application for development on the Minto Hotel site. As you may be aware, the developers of the Minto Hotel withdrew the previous application and have since submitted a replacement application.

The new plans submitted are substantially the same, with largely cosmetic improvements:

- the Minto street frontage is improved by not moving the No 18 door and a more appropriate glass link between the existing buildings;
- the townhouses are to be faced in stone, including the gable wall;
- the townhouses have been stepped back a bit more from the east boundary wall (1.8m) and the second floor is further stepped back;
- the proposed garages have been incorporated in the townhouses, which have become deeper at ground floor level and have been moved slightly to the south of the site;
- the balconies largely remain: two in the roof of Nos 16/17 (No 18 now a dormer); and two in the second floor of each of the townhouses;
- the greater depth of the townhouses means the developers are proposing to create large terraces on the north side at first floor level , which would overlook many gardens;
- there is still no mention of the treatment of boundary walls.

The architects met with three of the Blacket Committee on Wednesday 16 March, which provided an opportunity to point out the residents' concerns. The proposed terraces are a particular worry as each is large enough to be a usable outside space, with more noise and privacy implications than the balconies, which are relatively small.

The Blacket Association is working closely with the West Blacket Association and the Grange and Prestonfield Community Council in dealing with this issue.

## **RESIDENTS' PARKING**

Last year the City of Edinburgh Council consulted on its Parking Action Plan. The most significant proposals from the viewpoint of Blacket residents was that there should be shared use of permit-holder and parking-meter spaces and that residents would have permits for visitors. This would greatly assist Blacket residents: we have too many parking-meter places in proportion to permit-holder places, and visitors' parking problems would be alleviated. The Blacket Committee has lobbied the Council over a number of years in support of these proposals, which already apply in the newer controlled zone parking areas. The Council has now agreed in principle the shared use of permit-holder and parking-meter spaces but has asked for an analysis of the financial implications. We will continue to press the Council on this issue.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

There have been a few suspicious incidents recently In Blacket Place. An attempted break-in was foiled by the burglar alarm going off and scaring away the intruders, while a successful break-in resulted in the housebreakers stealing car keys and the car. There has also been vandalism to cars' windscreens and windscreen wipers. The lessons are: do not leave valuables such as car keys and wallets on the hall table; closed shutters make entry more difficult; and burglar alarms are useful.

However, most property crime is committed not by housebreaking but online. This is a reminder to be aware of emails that appear to have been sent from a legitimate organisation:

- Fraudsters often use fake email addresses designed to encourage recipients to open attachments or links. You are advised that, if you are in any doubt as to the origin of an email, do not open it.
- Consider that emails can be spoofed and used to generate spam to recipients far and wide.
- If you receive a spam email, you **MUST NOT** open it. Instead, delete it from your email system to avoid infecting your device.
- If you have opened an attachment from a spam email, get your device checked over by a professional and change the passwords for all your bank, email and online shopping accounts.
- Fraudsters are also setting up high-specification websites advertising various electrical goods and domestic appliances. These goods are below market value and do not exist. The website will state you can pay via card; however, when the purchaser goes to pay, this option is not available and the payment must be made via bank transfer.
- The fraudster entices the purchaser and reassures them it is a legitimate site by displaying the widely recognised Trusted Shop Trustmark. They then use the Trustmark fraudulently and provide a link on the bogus electrical website to another bogus website (which purports to be Trusted Shops). This website shows a fake certificate purporting to be from Trusted Shops and provides thousands of reviews for the bogus electrical website. These reviews are all fraudulent. The website has not been certified by Trusted Shops and therefore the purchaser is not covered by the Trusted Shop money-back guarantee.

Protect yourself:

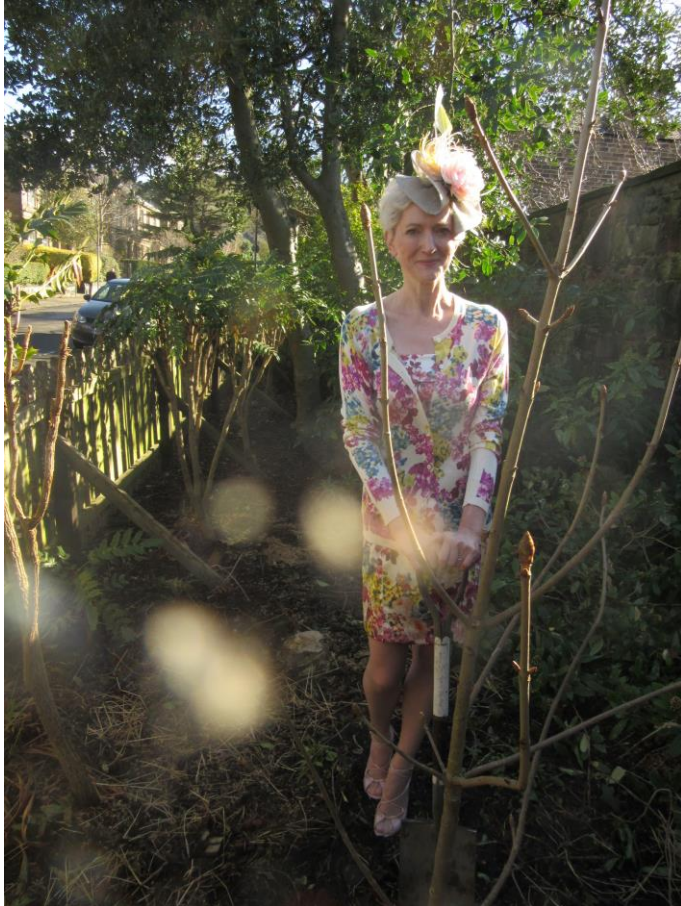
- do not click or open unfamiliar links in emails or on websites;
- make sure you install and use up-to-date anti-virus software;
- have a pop-up advert blocker running in the background of your web browser;
- If you have opened an attachment and 'enabled macros' it is very likely that all your personal data will have been breached. You **MUST** immediately change all your passwords for personal accounts, including your bank accounts;
- ensure Adobe, Flash and any similar software is up to date on your computer.

## **SHRUBBERY WORKING PARTY REPORT**

The daffodils have been very visible this year. As to whether they will perform next year, keep your fingers crossed because the tree cover makes flowering unpredictable.

In the main North Blacket Place shrubbery we lost three trees because of disease. These have been replaced with a horse chestnut (*Aesculus x carnea* 'Briotii'), a *Sorbus* 'Chinese Lace' (the one to the west) and some shrubs including viburnum. The horse chestnut was generously donated by Hazel Dunn pictured (overleaf) at its planting.

The collection of litter in the shrubbery is of great service to the community, and we cannot expect the Council to do this. Fortunately, routine work is carried out by a small number of volunteers. However, occasional larger efforts are required for, e.g., weeding and mass planting. If anyone might be able to assist on these occasions, please let Hugh Mackay know.



## HISTORY OF BLACKETS PROJECT

As you will know from accessing the Blacket website, Hugh Mackay has been active in writing up the history of the conservation area. He is now seeking memories of people living here from current residents.

For example one of the residents of the Blackets in the late 1960s was the late great [David Bowie](#). He was at 13 Dryden Place. At that time the house belonged to [Lindsay Kemp](#), the brilliant mime artist who was hugely influential on David Bowie both professionally and personally.

This is the sort of small nugget we seek for a social history of the area.

Hugh Mackay has written specifically to a number of you and made a general plea to all of you, but so far has received not that much in response.

If you would like to see such material on our website, please contact Hugh (<mailto:blacket.association@gmail.com>). Sources will be kept secret.

## OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE 2016

CHAIR	Hazel Dunn	MINUTES	Fiona Courtney
TREASURER	Becky Colegrave	NEIGHBOURHOOD	Ian Chisholm
MEMBERSHIP	Arlene Doherty	WATCH/NEWSLETTER	
PLANNING	Richard Scothorne & Hugh Mackay	WORKING PARTY	Hugh Mackay
COMMUNICATION CO-ORDINATOR		WEBSITE	Johnny Kruuk
		Pauline Platt	