



Blacket Association Newsletter

May 2023

OPEN GARDENS EVENING

After an absence of four years, our annual open gardens evening will be held on Friday 9 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 for some refreshment and chat. The evening is open to current and former residents and their house guests.

For insurance reasons we can visit only gardens that are accessible without going through a house. Some of the entrances to the gardens require going down steep stairs. While the Blacket Association offers you the opportunity to visit these gardens, you do so at your own risk.

We have three gardens on our list for visiting this June: 34–36 Mayfield Terrace, entrance at 34 (Anne Sturrock); 30 Mayfield Terrace (Susan Hezlet); and 13 Blacket Place (the Ross Stewarts). These will be open from 6:30pm. Drinks will be available at 13 Blacket Place from 7:30pm. As at the Platinum Jubilee party, the drinks can be paid for with cash or by donation direct to the Blacket bank account, details below.

If anyone else would like to offer their garden for a future year that would be great. The annual open garden scheme is not about having a pristine garden – it's about sharing ideas, tips and advice about gardening and planting and having a sociable time with neighbours.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual membership fee for the Blacket Association is £5.00 (although some residents choose to pay a higher amount). All funds go towards the activities that the Association undertakes for and on behalf of the residents of the Blacket area. There is no requirement to pay in order to take part in activities. If you don't currently pay a membership fee and would like to, you can set up a direct debit to the Blacket Association, Bank of Scotland a/c 00178862 sort code 80–02–24.

If you do not currently receive emails from the Blacket Association and would like to be added to the database, please notify us via blacket.association@gmail.com/.

To learn more about the Blacket Association and your local neighbourhood, visit our website at www.blacketedin.org/.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Fortunately, no major incidents in the area have been reported. The main risk continues to be from online scams and other forms of electronic fraud. The Association receives alerts via Neighbourhood Watch Scotland about new scams that have been detected. The advice is, if

you are unsure about any online approach to do with your bank account or other financial transactions, then DON'T DO IT. If you have:

✉ received an email that you're not quite sure about – forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at report@phishing.gov.uk;

📱 received a suspicious text message – forward it to [7726](tel:7726). It won't cost you anything, and allows your provider to investigate the text and take action (if found to be a scam);

🌐 visited a website you think is trying to scam you – report it to the NCSC Report a suspicious website – ncsc.gov.uk/.

GRANGE/PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Grange/Prestonfield Community Council is a group of elected local residents/volunteers who meet monthly to discuss issues affecting the local community. Blacket Association Committee members Ian Chisholm and Stanley Bird are also members of the Community Council, which meets on the third Wednesday of each month (excl. July, August and December), 7–9pm, at Cameron House Community Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue, EH16 5EU.

Each meeting includes reports from the local police force and city councillors and discussions of issues including:

- local planning applications;
- roads, transport and parking;
- reports from local interest groups, including Friends of Newington Cemetery.

All meetings are open to local residents, and the Community Council welcomes input from members of the public on issues affecting the community. You can find out more information, and view minutes of meetings on its website:

www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk/.

The GPCC member leading on local planning applications has retired and we are looking for someone to take over on this issue. Anyone interested should get in touch with Ian Chisholm or Stan Bird.

SHRUBBERY

Sweeping up leaves in early winter is a well-supported annual event. A large number of bags (provided and collected by the Council) were filled and the pavements were made safer and tidier to walk on. The summer project is to prune the limes in the Avenue. In due course, we will email to ask for volunteers. If you do not have a computer, ask a friend to pass on the date, when it has been notified.

Lately we have been working on tree and ivy maintenance. More than 25 trees have been planted since we restarted such maintenance.

The south-west side of the Avenue has obvious gaps in the prickly barrier. The problem is that we have to keep the pavement clear of growth, but this leaves pathways through the beds and so new plantings are trampled down. Meanwhile, the Shrubbery in Mayfield Terrace was cleared by the Council – a sad surprise was the spring flowers being chopped down in their prime.