



April

NEWSLETTER

2011

AGM

Wednesday 27 April 2011 at 7.30 pm

at Holy Cross Church Hall Quality Street

How To cut rising energy bills - advice on home insulation .

Sarah Bromley from Energy Saving Scotland

Question and Answer Session - Your chance to raise local issues.

Put your questions to:

Natalie Hoy - West Team Manager

Inspector John Cooper, Sector Inspector , Lothian and Borders Police

From 6.45 Davidson's Mains Primary School pupils will be on hand to discuss their "Woodland Project" which will be on display . Come along early to have a look.

Refreshments provided courtesy of the Association

DIGITAL SWITCH OVER EVENT THURSDAY 21 APRIL

Are you unsure of what the switch-over means for you? See article on page 2

IS YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT? Information about this on page 4

Question slip for Q & Answer Session

This is a big opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of local council services or the local police and receive a reply directly from those who have responsibility for how these services are provided. If you would like to submit a question in advance of the meeting please send this form to the Secretary, Charlotte Cowe, 151 Main Street, Edinburgh, EH4 5AQ, 336 2494 or email charlotte@dmain.co.uk .

Name

Address.....

Contact details phone/email.....

INFORMATION EVENT THURSDAY 21 APRIL 2011 10AM – 1 PM

HOLY CROSS CHURCH HALL, QUALITY STREET

DIGITAL SWITCHOVER JUNE 2011

In June 2011 the traditional TV signal will be switched off in the STV Central region, which includes the two main transmitters serving Edinburgh. The analogue signals from the Craigkelly and Blackhill transmitters will be switched off in two phases and replaced with a stronger digital Freeview signal.

Are you unsure what this means for your TVs and recorders?

Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association have organised an information event to help local residents make the switch to digital TV. This event is open to everyone. Drop in anytime to speak to **Colin Scott**, the local co-ordinator for the BBC Switchover Help Scheme. Colin will be available to offer friendly, impartial advice about how the switchover will effect your TV equipment and the help available from the Help Scheme. Alternatively, visit the official switchover website at www.digitaluk.co.uk or call their Scottish call centre on **08456 50 50 50**.

FRIENDS OF DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

The "Friends of Davidson's Mains Park" group was formed in 2009 by a number of residents who were concerned about the preservation and conservation of the park woodland and wild life, and the maintenance and development of facilities enjoyed by the visiting public. Regular committee meetings are held, to which all are welcome (see the park and DMSA notice-boards), and there has been good co-operation with the various council departments involved (of which there are many!), and particular help from Douglas Cruickshank (Community Parks Officer). In the last 18 months, all the existing benches and litter-bins have been replaced, with some additions, and a path built up to the play area for the benefit of parents with toddlers and buggies. New railings have been erected at the main entrance, and it is hoped that the vandalised installation in the play area will be replaced soon.

The Friends have supported and been involved with development plans, surveys and initiatives aimed at enhancing the park's biodiversity, including the "Earth Calling" project, involving the Davidson's Mains Primary schoolchildren. A guide to plant and animal life in the park has been produced, and pupils will display the results of their project at the AGM of the DMSA on 27th April.

Any enquiries about the Friends of Davidson's Mains Park may be directed to the Chair, Tina Woolnough (0131 337 3486 – or tina@kristina.org.uk).

YOUTH GROUP

Moving the youth club to Davidson's Mains Primary School has been a great success with on average sixteen P7's attending on a regular basis. Funding has been sourced to continue for another term after the Easter holidays starting on the 26th April. If you would like more information about the club please contact Joan Best at Community Learning and Development on 0131-339-5351.

Question for members of the panel

SEVERE WEATHER REVIEW — UPDATE

Some residents have been asking about the outcome of the meeting organised by the West Team a few weeks ago to discuss the response by the Roads Department to the severe winter weather. The meeting was attended by all the Community Groups in the Almond Partnership area and resulted in a very frank and constructive discussion about the problems and what might be done to avoid a re-occurrence if the same exceptionally bad weather happened again. At the meeting the DMSA made a number of points based very much on what local residents had been telling us about their experiences. There were some really difficult individual stories from residents who had problems getting help but from all our communications there were two particular problems which accounted for a high proportion of the complaints. The first was the problem of very slippery and icy surfaces due to compacted snow on footpaths which left many older people stranded at home. Even in the main shopping areas around Main Street and on Quality Street on the approach to the Medical Centre the footpaths were dangerous for several days. This problem applied across much of the city and has been taken on board by the review team.

The other issue on which we had a lot of complaints was around the whole operation of grit bins. This included missing bins, requests for new bins and queries about them not being re-filled. One thing that came to light on review was that there are many fewer bins in this area than in other parts of Almond. Also it transpired the records were out of date with a number of bins previously recorded no longer existing while other bins were in situ but not recorded. We must thank all the residents who made comments and provided us with information and constructive suggestions about grit bins and we will be passing a summary of this information on to the West Team shortly. The whole regime for operating and maintaining grit bins is to be considered as part of the review.

The present situation is that the review which started in Almond has now been extended to cover the whole city, with a consultation period running up to the end of May. A report is likely to go to the Council in September or October with recommendations for improvements before next winter.

MEMBERSHIP

Last year at this time we made a special plea to all our members to re-new their subscriptions for another year and to continue to give us their support. We know that most of our members do this year on year but it is easy to be forgetful and we hope you do not mind getting another reminder. We also made a similar plea for new members to join us and we were greatly encouraged by the response from the locality.

The Committee are greatly indebted to all our members for the support we get throughout the year. It is just not possible to overstate the importance to the Association of having a representative spread of members across the community. It gives us the necessary justification to claim to represent the interests of local residents and the credibility to try to exert some influence in dealings with the Council and other local organisations. Without the support of our members none of that would be possible.

We keep the cost of membership very low so that it is not a barrier to participation and we hope as many as possible will join up for the new session.

PLEASE SIGN UP - WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & SILVERKNOWES ASSOCIATION

Subscriptions to Charlotte Cowe, Secretary, 151 Main Street, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, EH4 5AQ

NAME(S):.....

ADDRESS.....

POSTCODE..... EMAIL.....

PHONE.....

Would you be willing to deliver newsletters on an occasional basis? yes/no

Membership for 2011-2012 (minimum £1 per household) £1/ £2 / £5 / £10

Your details will be held on a confidential and secure database solely for the purpose of maintaining records of the above Association.

IS YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT?

We have just experienced one of the coldest winters in Scotland for decades and many people will be finding paying their fuel bills difficult as a result. Hopefully many home owners in Silverknowes and Davidson's Mains have already benefited from energy saving measures provided by the Scottish Government's Energy Assistance Package and have a warmer home and lower energy bills as a result. If you have not accessed this service yet – give them a call—0800 512012. You will be given advice about energy saving in your property, information about benefits and social tariffs and for some you can access funding to help you with the costs of insulation and other energy saving measures in your property.

TESCO PATH

The DMSA welcomes the initiative of Jim Arnott, Tesco's new manager, in improving the maintenance of the path from the store car park to Silverknowes Bridge, where litter has been a long-standing problem. New stone-built bins have been installed at either end, and contractors are undertaking a monthly clear-up of the path and mowing of the verges. Plastic bags have been removed from trees, and two members of the Tesco staff are also undertaking a weekly litter-pick. Sadly, the problem still recurs - litter and dog fouling remain the commonest complaints to the Environmental Wardens. As ever, the watchwords seem to be "education", "prevention" and "responsible disposal".

For the past few months the Safer Neighbourhood Team , on which the DMSA is represented with the police and council staff , has been giving priority to preventing anti-social behaviour on the path following a series of incidents. This included the installation of mobile CCTV cameras at Silverknowes Bridge for a few weeks and extra police patrols. The initiative has had some success and is continuing for the present .

WEBSITE

Visit the website www.dmsa.org.uk. This is a website for our community so we welcome items of news or events for the calendar. We endeavour to update it regularly. If you have any comments or suggestions about it we would be delighted to receive feedback.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson:	Mr. Rod Alexander	336 3856	
Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. Keith Hannay	312 8513	
Treasurer:	Mr. Gordon McGregor	336 5875	
Honorary Secretary:	Mrs. Charlotte Cowe	336 2494	
151 Main Street, EH4 5AQ		email: charlotte@dmains.co.uk	
Dr. J. Butt	Ms. M. R. Caden	Mrs. E. Edgar	Ms. J. Chapman
Mrs. P. McCulloch	Ms. H. Macnaughton	Mrs. E. Smith	Mrs. A. Venables

You can make comments or suggestions here and send to the secretary. Alternatively send an email or visit the website www.dmsa.org.uk