



November

NEWSLETTER

2013

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

Friday 6 December at Holy Cross Church Hall Quality Street
Choir will sing from 6.45—7.15 p.m with the lights being switched on at 7 pm by
Councillor Lindsay Paterson
Followed by mulled wine, mince pies, juice and biscuits in the church hall

CONCERT BY

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & DISTRICT PIPE BAND
Friday 6 December 7—9 pm at the Royal High School. East Barnton Avenue
Also appearing are Artists from the Amanda Kane School of Dance

WHAT KIND OF MAIN STREET?

A recent planning application for the shop premise at 44 Main Street, formerly Blockbusters Video and Rental, has generated much interest among residents. The application was for a change of use from category 1,f or normal retail, to category 3 which would permit the shop to be used as a hot food outlet of some description. The application has just been withdrawn because the Council Planners have requested more information but it is likely to be re-submitted in due course. This application struck a raw nerve with many residents who are very concerned indeed about the proliferation of hot food outlets in the village and the way this is having a negative effect on the locality. The Association supports choice and very much wants to see a vibrant village centre but we need different types of shops to provide variety. One of the present problems for small businesses is that they are unable to compete with the high rates and the levels of rent which fast food outlets seem prepared to pay and this is having a distorting effect on the market. We have recent anecdotal evidence that a bicycle sales and repair shop was interested in setting up in the village but could not compete on rent with competition from a hot food outlet. A bicycle shop would have been an excellent addition to the village but another food outlet is not.

An interesting recent development is that the Council appear to have come to recognise that centres such as Corstorphine and Stockbridge and others across the city desperately need to have more support if they are to prosper as lively social and commercial centres. The Council have set up a dedicated business team to support a project which, given that it applies to suburban locations is rather grandly called a " Building Stronger Town Centres Programme". It remains to be seen exactly what the team achieves but we will be taking a close interest in the project because we feel that the same type of support should also be given to village centres such as Davidson's Mains.

GOOD TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We welcome comments and suggestions from local residents about matters which concern you. Contact us either through the website www.dmsa.org.uk or through Charlotte our Secretary. Keep up to date with local events/issues throughout the year via our website

MORE ON 20 MPH ZONES

In our May newsletter we mentioned we were keen to promote a local 20 mph zone in Silverknowes as the first stage of trying to introduce such zones in all residential areas in our area. It is good news that these plans have quickly been overtaken by events because last month, following a trial in South Edinburgh which was deemed to have been a success, the Council took a decision in principle to roll out 20 mph zones to all residential areas in the city. It is generally accepted by Road Transport Research Organisations that reducing the speed of vehicles makes streets much safer for all pedestrians but particularly for children and the elderly and we know from our correspondence that the majority of local residents will be very supportive of the Council's decision.

The Association has been advised that a report is now to be put to the Council in the early part of the new year to describe the detail of how the programme will be planned and then the Neighbourhood Partnerships will be given the responsibility of deciding on the order of priority for the local streets in each residential area. It is likely to be into financial year 2013/14 before funds can be provided for the programme and clearly the rate at which the plans are progressed across the city will very much be dependent on the level of annual funding within a tight budget, but we would say there is a strong case for Silverknowes being in the van for this funding. Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes is one of the few parts of the city which currently does not have any significant 20 mph residential zones and as we have previously explained, the west side of Silverknowes has a particular problem with rat running and speeding vehicles when drivers are impatient to avoid the queues which build up Quality Street, Main Street and Lauriston Farm Road. With all the development planned around the Maybury and at Granton the situation is almost certain to get worse.

DAVIDSON'S MAINS GALA

Gala 2013 was a success both as a community event and thankfully financially. After several very wet years, although enjoyed by all participants, the cumulative loss was over £7000. In 2013 with a reduced programme, serious costcutting, and comprehensive fundraising a "profit" of £2490 was raised in the gala 2013 financial year. This sum will help establish Gala 2014.

The gala would not have been possible without the support of the community and the committee. Personally, I certainly enjoyed not having to climb ladders/clamber over cherrypickers to put up and take down the bunting before and after the gala and many thanks are due to Councillor Work for persuading the Council's Street Lighting Department and Road Services to assist putting up and taking down the bunting and to the men who carried out the work.

There is a Gala website at www.dmainsgala.org.uk and a face book page (like Davidson's Mains Children's Gala) to keep up to date with the fundraising activities throughout the year. Both provide an easy way to get in touch with the organising committee (Facebook particularly reunited all 2013 Gala lost property with their owners). If anyone would like to help with organising gala 2014 or has any fundraising ideas, suggestions for attractions, stalls or sponsorship sources please get in touch with Susan Robertson, (retiring) Gala Chair.

DAVIDSON'S MAINS & DISTRICT PIPE BAND

Davidson's Mains & District Pipe Band was formally established in March 2012 and currently have 60 members aged 7-14. The band is run by Pipe Major Clare Miller and competes at the Novice Juvenile level. Clare has been teaching the pipes and drums at Davidson's Mains Primary School since 2010. The children spent the summer travelling to various local and Major competitions, including the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. Band members are now firmly focused on their annual Christmas concert where they look forward to showcasing their talent to the local community. Tickets are available from band secretary Fiona Forsyth, tel: 07784 226616. The band would like to take this opportunity to thank their 2013 sponsors for their kind donations; Primecare Health Ltd, Davidson's Mains Dental, and McCallum Bagpipes. The band were also delighted to receive a grant from the Almond Community Partnership for £2250 which is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. Finally, thank you to all those who voted for the band to hopefully be awarded a grant of £3000 in the Bank of Scotland Community Fund, the result of which will be announced soon.

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FRIENDS OF DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

The 'Friends of Davidson's Mains Park' are pleased to announce that planning is well underway for three Interpretation Boards to be constructed and installed in the Park. The boards should be in place around the turn of the year. At long last attention has been given to trees which had branches overhanging the Queensferry Road and obscuring road signs. Several new standard trees are now becoming established within the main area of the park. The 'Friends' group have been awarded a grant from Almond Neighbourhood Partnership to support events to celebrate 90 years of local authority ownership of the park. In early 2014 an exhibition has been planned of artwork by pupils in the local schools where the items displayed will focus on different aspects of the park. Watch the noticeboards for opportunities to become involved in the Anniversary events.

SNOW WARDENS

We have been asked by the West Neighbourhood Manager to remind local residents of the Volunteer Snow Warden programme which was introduced after the very severe winter of 2010. Snow wardens help to support individuals and groups, providing basic equipment to clear snow and spread grit in areas such as access footpaths around community centres, churches, doctor's surgeries, local shops and on steep slopes in residential areas. Essentially their role is to act as a link between the Council and a group of local residents, distribute equipment and monitor progress. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Jemma Blackwood at jemma.blackwood@edinburgh.gov.uk or on 0131 469 5124. More information about snow wardens is available on the DMSA website.

SEAGULL MENACE

Many residents complained in the Spring/Summer with regard to the number of nesting seagulls causing a serious nuisance. There is no statutory responsibility placed on the Council to deal with seagulls and consequently the Council does not provide a service to either control gulls or to remove nests from properties, nor does the Council have any powers to require owners or occupiers to remove nest on their land or take any other form of action. Residents concerned about nesting gulls on their property can employ the services of a commercial pest control contractor (including the Council, whose pest control service is provided on a purely commercial basis) provided that the contractor is licensed to provide that service under the terms of a General Licence issued under the Wildlife and Countryside Act and that any gull control activities comply with the requirements of that licence with respect to justification, the method of control and animal welfare considerations. The Council have a lot of information on their website about controlling seagulls including access to advice leaflets. Go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk and search on the index for Pest Control. Alternatively phone Pest Control on 529 3030.

BECOME A COMMITTEE MEMBER

We are a relatively small group on the Management Committee and we could do with the help of one or two new members. Many residents tell us that they really appreciate the work that we do for the local community but we find it difficult to attract residents to the committee who are willing to give a little of their own time. The duties are not onerous and it is an opportunity to get involved in decisions which can make a difference to the area. All that is required is an interest in the local area, the ability to get on with people, and a bit of common sense. If anyone is interested please get in touch through our secretary.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson:	Mr. Rod Alexander	336 3856
Vice-Chairperson:	Mrs. Aileen Venables	476 2085
Treasurer:	Mr. Gordon McGregor	336 5875
Honorary Secretary:	Mrs. Charlotte Cowe	336 2494
151 Main Street, EH4 5AQ email: charlotte@dmains.co.uk		

Ms. M. R. Caden Ms. J. Chapman Mrs. S. Edgar Mr. B. Flanagan Mrs. E. Smith