



November

## NEWSLETTER

2018

### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS GROUP - THE 2018 BIG EVENT

After last year's fantastic success, the Christmas Lights switch on event is back, even bigger and better for 2018. We're delighted that Jamie Lee Morley has again agreed to headline the show and he will be joined by some other exciting local acts and performers. This year we will have a Christmas craft market in the grounds of Holy Cross Parish Church where you will be able to purchase a variety of Christmas gifts and treats. We've also decided to go old school with our own tuck shop, traditional fun fair stalls and lots of novelty light-up pocket money toys to keep the kids entertained. All of our own stalls will be run by community volunteers so all the profits will go directly to our lights fund. We are providing a range of refreshments with hot food and drink, including our own mulled wine which proved so popular last year – guaranteed to warm your cockles! We are delighted that our recently launched community branded beer, D Mains Tap, has been such a success. This tasty IPA, created in partnership with Top Out Brewery, will be available on draft, and also bottled in Christmas gift packs to take away for presents.

Following the popularity of the 2017 event the switch on this year will be by ticketed entry to help control numbers. If you have still not purchased tickets, these can be ordered by emailing [Dmainsxmaslights@gmail.com](mailto:Dmainsxmaslights@gmail.com). We expect it may be possible to buy tickets on the gate but queuing may be necessary so it is best to purchase tickets in advance. We would love to see as many people as possible from the community attending on the night. For our "Nab a Neighbour" campaign, please consider if you know someone who is elderly or less mobile, and bring them along for some festive cheer. There will be a warm indoor seated area providing tea, coffee and entertainment in the church hall.

We are going to use a small part of our funds to purchase some additional decorations to make things even more colourful and festive compared with last year. These will be available for use each year and will have no impact on our plans for the targeted £10000 for the lights fund to be used to purchase replacement lamppost decorations after 2019. We are well on the way to reaching the target.

In the past few months we have received significant donations and offers of support from Tesco, Ye Olde Inn, Battison Dental, Bright Horizon's Nursery, Connoisseur Travel, Davidson's Mains Window Cleaners, the Norhet, Scotmid, Sky News and Top Out Brewery. This continues the amazing level of support which started last year and that, coupled with the remarkable generosity and goodwill of local residents and community organisations means that we are definitely on course to achieve our goal and let Davidson's Mains Shine for years to come. A complete list of all our donors from September 2017 onwards is listed with thanks on the DMSA notice board and website.

This year we have set local businesses a new festive challenge with our decorated shop window competition, and it is great that many of the shops have agreed to participate. We are hoping the bright window displays and our own new decorations will complement the traditional Christmas Lighting on the lampposts on Main Street and brighten up the whole area. We will announce which shop will have the honour of becoming the winner of the window competition at the switch on.

As the switch on night approaches we are still a little short of volunteers so if you would like to help please get in touch via the DMSA website page or Facebook or directly by email. You will be made very welcome and will have the satisfaction of helping out with a great community event.

Finally, please remember the Santa Dash in Davidson's Mains Park at 10.30 am on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December. It is only £5 to enter with all proceeds going to the Lights Fund. It is suitable for all ages and all finishers will win a Santa hat and receive a commemorative medal. Registration details and forms are available on the Barnton Bootcamp website ([www.barntonbootcamp.com](http://www.barntonbootcamp.com)) or in the registration tent at the switch on.

You can get in touch to volunteer, buy tickets, register for the Santa Dash, or become a business sponsor by email to [dmainsxmaslights@gmail.com](mailto:dmainsxmaslights@gmail.com) or on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

We look forward to seeing you at the switch on event on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 5 pm!

## NEWS FROM FUTUREDMS

FutureDMS is an informal group that was established in May 2018 to provide a forum for community discussion. It is set up as a Facebook group to promote local events and allow discussion of local issues. FutureDMS held consultation events in the summer and received feedback from young people (Primary school, Guides and Scouts). On 23 May, members of the community shared their opinions of the area using the Place Standard. This provided a simple framework to structure conversations about place. It allowed us to think about the physical elements of our community (for example its buildings, spaces, and transport links) as well as social aspects. A full report is available on FutureDMS facebook page and at the DMSA website ([www.dmsa.org.uk/](http://www.dmsa.org.uk/)).

The generally positive perception of open space in Davidsons Mains and Silverknowes was reflected by the large number of comments. The ideas related to The Green, D'Mains Park, Lauriston Castle and the Foreshore. There were many ideas relating to improving outside space, a community garden, recreation and use for community events. Also there were negative comments related to poor care and maintenance, litter and anti-social behaviour. The large number of ideas were recorded and need to be managed and individual, manageable projects taken forward. The streetscape in the heart of the village was noted as an area where many people would welcome improvements. This includes widening pavements and improved streetlighting. In addition residents would welcome a different mix of local shops and, in particular many called for a restaurant. The Tesco store was seen as being an important asset for the community. There were a significant number of ideas generated in relation to traffic and parking. This was the greatest priority identified in the Place Standard. The ideas were focussed around three principle areas:

- The improvement of safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists in the area, including traffic calming and shared spaces with vehicles;
- Improving traffic flow (including preventing rat running) and safer interaction with pedestrians – notably around routes to school;
- Encouraging and enforcing appropriate car parking on Main Street and dropping off at the school.

An idea emerged for a series of projects that place specific focus on the connection between Davidsons Mains and the waterfront. This would seek to give pedestrians priority when crossing Main Street at the junction with Silverknowes Road. It would look at the streetscape on Silverknowes Road including the shops and consider further ideas to improve connection between Silverknowes and the waterfront. A member of the group, Sandy Morrison, has developed a sketch of these ideas which are on the DMSA noticeboard, at Facebook group FutureDMS and on the DMSA website. They will be further consulted on over the winter – we would very much welcome thoughts/comments on these ideas. For more information or to comment please contact us via Facebook group FutureDMS or at [future.dms.2018@gmail.com](mailto:future.dms.2018@gmail.com).

## LOCAL BUS SERVICES

It would not be difficult to assert with justification that residents of Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes have had a pretty poor deal with changes to local bus services over the past couple of years. It started with the withdrawal by Horsburgh of service 64 and was followed last year by the cancellation of the 32 and 42 services from the village. More recently the 29 service has been reduced in frequency from 15 to 20 minutes and this happened at a time when the reliability of the service has been subject to an increasing number of complaints. The only positive change has been the extension of the 29 service to Silverknowes Foreshore which came about after a long campaign by the Association, the Councillors and the proprietor of the Boardwalk Beachclub Cafe. It is a bit of a problem that the service extension was introduced towards the end of the summer holiday period and after a number of events at the Foreshore which would have demonstrated the potential of the bus link so it is hoped that the service will continue to operate next year for the full season from April onwards.

A recent development is that we have learned that the developers of the new housing area at Cammo have indicated to Barnton and Cramond Community Council that they may be willing to provide a subsidy to support the reinstatement of the former Horsburgh service (the 64) between Cramond and the Gyle shopping centre. The DMSA views this as an opportunity to campaign for the full route to be reinstated to also provide the link to Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes. There were elderly residents from Silverknowes who relied on the service for travel to the village, and residents of our area and Cramond appreciated the link that the service provided between the two communities, not least for Cramond Kirk and the health centre which has a number of patients who reside in this area. It is recognised the service would still require a subsidy but there is a chink of light in all of this that makes a campaign worth while.

In the longer term the Association would like to see more frequent and better bus links provided round the north west of the city by Lothian Buses to connect this area with Cramond and Barnton, the tram /rail interchange at Gogar, and the shopping centre at the Gyle. The amount of new housing development will help to make bus services more economically viable and additional services would be of benefit in reducing traffic congestion on overloaded roads.

## **PROPOSED UPGRADE OF DAVIDSON'S MAINS ROUNDABOUT**

During the summer the Association was asked to comment on suggested design proposals for an upgrade to the roundabout at the west end of Main Street in advance of the design being put out for public consultation. The design included the zebra crossings being put onto raised tables, high visibility beacons, improved markings on the roundabout, on the approaches and at the pedestrian crossings, all of which was supported by the committee. The proposals also included removal of the central island on Main Street which is in line with the general view that the twin crossing is not needed and can at times cause confusion. This was supported as were proposals to narrow the carriageway at the approach to the crossings on Cramond Road South and Quality Street on safety grounds. Of more contention was the suggestion to reduce the carriageway on Main Street down to a single lane. This was being proposed on safety grounds for pedestrians using the crossing but some of the committee had concerns that the reduction in road capacity on the approach to the junction would lead to an increase in congestion and queuing in the village, already a serious problem at peak times. A drawing with these proposals is available on the DMSA website. At present the upgrade is on hold pending traffic monitoring and analysis being undertaken to see if there is an alternative case for a traffic light controlled junction. A commitment to consider the question of traffic lights had been made by the Council after the fatal accident on the crossing on Main Street last year. There are quite stringent criteria which would need to be met to justify the cost of traffic lights, but ultimately the final decision will be made on a detailed risk assessment following the traffic analysis. Whatever is proposed will now be put out for public consultation early in the new year. Meanwhile we are pressing for the markings at the roundabout to be re-painted. These were done immediately following the accident, but the paint now in use appears to be less durable than previously, and re-painting is needed again.

## **ACTIONS ON ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

We have said previously in our Newsletters that it is very sad that anti social behaviour can at times be such a problem in our area. It can make the lives of residents such a misery when it occurs on the doorstep. During the early part of the year residents in Cramond Road South and East Barnton Avenue were frequently the victims of delinquent behaviour by groups of youths looking for trouble and the Police found it a challenge to keep the situation under control. The grounds of Lauriston Castle and Davidson's Mains Park were focal points for youths to congregate and misbehave. Fortunately these things tend to come and go in cycles and at present it would appear that Stockbridge and Inverleith Park are the current favoured locations for some young people to meet up to cause trouble. This leads on to two separate actions which it is hoped will help the local situation.

The first is that we have just been advised by the local Police that the Council's mobile CCTV camera has been made available for use in our area on the lead up to Christmas and into the New Year. The intention is to use it on rotation as required at the west end of Main Street at the Costa building and at Silverknowes Road Bridge. At Costa it can monitor the approach to the park, the approaches to Tesco, and the locus around Ye Olde Inn, while at Silverknowes Road Bridge it can act as a deterrent to trouble on the cycle path. The camera has proved to be successful at these locations in the past and it is certain that this will be welcomed by residents. The other action has been the setting up of a working group to look at ways of countering trouble in the grounds of Lauriston Castle. Representatives from the Police, Councillors and the DMSA met with the Steward of the Castle and Grounds Manager to look at options to make the grounds more difficult to enter in the evening and less attractive as a location for youths to congregate.

Some of the ideas under consideration are pretty basic such as more patrols by Police and Council Wardens with others being more radical such as a warden in the gate house, but the common factor is that these and other similar initiatives cost money in challenging times for budgets. We will put some of the ideas on to our notice board and website. There will be much more discussion on this with an opportunity for the public to comment.

## **NORTH WEST HERITAGE – OUR LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

Talks are held alternately at St. Columba's Church, Blackhall and Davidson's Mains Parish Church, Quality Street at 7.30 pm and are open to everyone. Cost is £2.00 per talk. The remaining talks for this session are:

24 January 2019: "The Edinburgh of Burke & Hair". Speaker Eric Melvin. St Columba's Blackhall.

20 February 2019: "Archaeology Discoveries during Edinburgh Tram Project". Speaker John Lawson, Davidson's Mains

14 March 2019: "History of Riddles Court". Speaker Russell Clegg. St. Columba's Blackhall

17 April 2019: AGM followed by a talk on "Elsie Inglis and The Scottish Women's Hospitals",  
Speaker Iain McIntyre. Davidson's Mains.

For further information contact the Secretary, Charlotte Cowe, 336 2494; email: [charlotte@dmains.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@dmains.co.uk)

## LOCAL PARKING PROBLEMS

Traffic congestion and local parking problems in our area are continuing to get worse and the topic features regularly in complaints to the Association. Regrettably the problem is inevitable with the increasing traffic arising from new developments to the west and north, and the pressures on the A 90 corridor which is already operating at the limit of its capacity at peak periods. Areas such as ours are increasingly being seen as a location for out of town commuters to leave their cars during the day to get cheap travel onwards into town to avoid expensive city centre parking charges. Locally we have requests to the Council ongoing for traffic monitoring and surveys at a number of locations where double yellow lines are needed to prevent congestion. At the top of our list is Corbiehill Crescent, where we have requested that priority should be given. Inconsiderate parking on the bend is so bad that at times it is almost impossible to get in and out of the area. We have a thick file of complaints and lots of evidence of the difficulties for residents but the Council have a long back log of requests and it is not clear when a restriction can be introduced. Another action over the past few months has been the completion of the requested survey at The Green into the idea for a residents' priority parking scheme. The results showed a significant majority in favour of the proposition and the Association will now be pursuing this with the Council. Again, there will be no quick fix and the process will take time.

## NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF THE PARK

Recent activity has seen the award of grant money from the Almond Neighbourhood Partnership to facilitate repainting of the football container which, for practical reasons, will be carried out in April 2019 by pupils of the Royal High School. Further grant money was awarded by the Orchard Project to enable mulching and watering of the recently planted apple and plum trees in the North West corner of the park. This work will be another community based activity, as a move towards establishing a community garden, and should be implemented before Christmas. The local Cub pack have bird boxes to install in the park and this project will be planned and executed shortly. The recent BatWalk evening, organised by the Edinburgh and Lothians Greenspace Trust, was very well supported by local residents, and some bats were actually detected! ELGT have also organised another inclusive project of bulb planting for the 25th November - posters are up in the village and park notice boards, so come along - all kit supplied and there will be some catering! Stronger links with the DMSA are being established to encourage more community involvement with park projects and activities, and to increase membership of the Friends Group. The park website is currently being restructured and should be accessible shortly. Finally, a Facebook link is being considered to facilitate communication and sharing of ideas.

Contact the Chair, Dan Smith, on [dmainspark@gmail.com](mailto:dmainspark@gmail.com) [e-voice.org.uk/dmainspark](http://e-voice.org.uk/dmainspark).

## NEWS ON LOCAL PROJECTS

Two significant projects for our area have been delayed until the Spring of next year. The upgrade to the cycle path through the park had originally been planned for 2017 and then for this year, but the project was put on hold until the layout and configuration at the Queensferry Road end could be reviewed in conjunction with improvements to the pedestrian crossing on Queensferry Road. It is now anticipated the work on the path will definitely go ahead in 2019. The path is an important link on the national N1 cycle network and yet is in places little more than an unmade track through the trees which becomes very muddy in wet weather. The upgrade will provide a tarmac surface and also provide much needed lighting along the route.

The other major project which has been deferred until 2019 is the re-surfacing of Silverknowes Drive. The Council undertook preliminary patching work in July in preparation for final re-surfacing, although at that time they did not make it clear to residents that it was only the first stage of the works. Some residents thought that this was another example of cost saving and cuts with patching instead of full re-surfacing but that is not the case. The condition of the road surface is such that the full works are essential. The deteriorating weather now means that the work cannot be done until the Spring but it will definitely be going ahead then.

## HOW TO CONTACT THE DMSA

We are always very interested in hearing from residents on local issues and welcome relevant comments that any resident cares to make. The best way to contact us is via our website, or contacting Charlotte or Rod by whichever method suits. We have been circulating members of the Association with email communications about important local issues which appears to have been welcomed. If you are not a member and would like access to our communications it is still possible to join the Association for the modest sum of only £2 per annum. New members would be very welcome. If you are interested or just want to support the work we do you can apply for membership by downloading the form through our website, completing the comment slip on the website or by contacting Charlotte directly. Contact details are as follows:

Via the website [www.dmsa.org.uk](http://www.dmsa.org.uk)

Chair, Rod Alexander, Tel: 0131 336 3856

Secretary, Charlotte Cowe, 151 Main Street, EH4 5AQ. Tel: 0131 336 2494 email: [charlotte@dmains.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@dmains.co.uk)