



October

NEWSLETTER

2015

TWO DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

ARMISTICE DAY SERVICE— SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

The annual Armistice Day Memorial Service will take place on Sunday 8 November 2015 at 1 pm at the War Memorial at The Green. Those wishing to take part in the procession should assemble at East Barnton Avenue at 12.30 hours. At 12.45 hours a procession will then be made along Main Street to the War Memorial at The Green for the Service of Remembrance which will commence at 1.00 pm. The Service will be conducted by the Rev. Douglas Kornahrens and will include the opportunity to place a wreath at the War Memorial.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON—FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

This year's Christmas Lights Event has been fixed for Friday 27th November and as usual the Association will be offering seasonal mulled wine and mince pies to those who come along to the "switch on". After some of the unintended pantomimes from the past with the process of switching on the lights - we have not forgotten the year the council rigged them up to be switched on one by one in turn from the far end of Main Street and it took about ten minutes for the nearest light to be switched on - so this year we hope to have a Christmas tree at the Church Hall which will light up immediately the magic button is pressed. We are delighted that the Davidson's Mains Primary School Choir and the local Davidson's Mains Pipe Band have agreed to take part so we hope that the weather is kind. Watch the Notice Board/Website for more information in a few weeks time.

LOCAL ACTION LIST

Our local action list has recently been updated and is displayed on our notice board and website. Recently members of the committee undertook a local walk-about with the Roads Manager to review all the outstanding current issues and to discuss possible additional projects which could be considered, based on comments and complaints we have received from local residents. This has resulted in a few additional new projects being added to the list. The practicalities and costs for these projects will be evaluated initially and they may then be undertaken in future as priorities and funding permits.

Two significant projects are worthy of mention.

The first is possible improvements to the junction and crossing for pedestrians on Corbiehill Road at the junction with Main Street. The crossing is quite wide and it has been suggested that the junction should be narrowed with a pedestrian refuge island being provided in the middle of Corbiehill Road. This has been considered in the past when Lothian Buses were not in favour but there is little doubt that the traffic is heavier now and the crossing presents difficulties for the elderly and parents with young children.

The other project which has been suggested is a "streetscape" type project to smarten up the area around Silverknowes Shops where the locality has a general appearance of being run down and is in need of some attention. This has been added to the list although there are some on the committee who think that priority should be given to the area around the Post Office and Chinese Take-Away on Corbiehill Road. Some will remember the "village project" a few years ago which significantly improved the appearance of Main Street. The north end of Corbiehill Road was initially included in that project but was removed to cut costs so there may be a case for considering it now.

We would be interested in knowing what residents think about these or any of the projects on the list. It may be that you think there is a local problem which is not on the list so please let us know about that too. For anyone interested in finding out more about the projects on the list, we will be providing a short summary and description of each on our website.

DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

Residents will remember that last year we provided details of a plan to create about ten new car parking spaces inside the entrance to the park. This had followed discussions between the Association, the Friends of the Park and the West Team in response to the regular complaints we had received about inconsiderate parking around the park entrance and on East Barnton Avenue and Gardens. It had seemed like an excellent proposal which we know had widespread support from local residents. In October 2014 the Local Neighbourhood team advised us that the additional car park proposal was not a preferred option due to concerns relating to separation of moving vehicles and pedestrians, particularly young children in the park. Following the recent completion of the Neighbourhood Environment Programme (NEP) project to improve the road layout and parking opportunities on East Barnton Avenue the Council have made the decision to install a collapsible bollard at the vehicular entrance. Under normal circumstance it is expected that unauthorised vehicles will not be allowed access to the park. This proposal has been discussed with representatives from the football club and the Friends group and keys will be issued to appropriate individuals for emergency, service and limited access for sports events. A new link footpath is planned to be installed to the west side of the East Barnton Avenue closure to improve pedestrian access in the park and a drop kerb is also planned to be installed at the access point at the west corner to improve cycle access and reduce conflict at the main gate. We accept that these are legitimate concerns and recognise that the decision to install the bollard has been taken on public safety grounds. It is not appropriate to question or challenge it. We have been assured that the West Team have spoken to the football teams and other users of the park about the need to consider the interests of nearby residents and to park responsibly, if necessary using locations such as Tesco's car park or Main Street.

PARKING PROBLEMS VIVIAN TERRACE/CORBIEHILL CRESCENT/CORBIEHILL ROAD

The Association continues to get complaints from local residents about inconsiderate and obstructive parking on Vivian Terrace, Corbiehill Road and Corbiehill Crescent and it is easy to understand the frustration of residents who are wondering when something will be done. It is now over two years since the local Roads Manager undertook a full survey of the parking problems around the Primary School and Jen's Den and after discussion it was agreed that double yellow lines would be painted at the junctions of Vivian Terrace and Corbiehill Crescent with Corbiehill Road and on the bend on Corbiehill Crescent at the foot of what is known locally as "Store Brae". The final decision to introduce these 24 hour restrictions at the junctions was taken over a year ago and since then we have been waiting for the statutory public notices to be drawn up and published before the lines can be painted. However nothing has happened. It is embarrassing for us but when we complain about the delay to the West Team Manager, we are told that the problem is due to a serious backlog of work in the Council Department that produces the statutory notices and that it is a city wide problem. Recently the committee discussed this problem in detail and decided to make a formal complaint to the Council Leader. Meanwhile the wait for action goes on and on.

PROMOTING NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES IN DAVIDSON'S MAINS AND SILVERKNOWES

Neighbourhood Watch is a community led initiative to bring local people together to address crime and other community safety issues; basically, people in a street concerned about safety and security deciding to talk and work together to improve the situation. Neighbourhood Watches can be large, covering most of the households on an estate, or they might involve just a few houses. In the DMSA area, there are currently fourteen watches registered with the national coordinating body Neighbourhood Watch Scotland, each covering a small area, ranging in size from part of a street to a few streets. The spate of housebreaking crime in Edinburgh earlier this year encouraged the formation of new neighbourhood watches across the city, and the DMSA encourages residents to join existing neighbourhood watches or form a new one where one does not exist in their street, and is encouraging more communication between the area's neighbourhood watches and with DMSA. As Neighbourhood Watch Scotland says, the benefits of Neighbourhood Watch include:

- Areas of local concern can be addressed so your problem becomes a shared problem
- people work together to make communities safer and with other NW Schemes, the police and other partners
- opportunity to know your neighbours, local police officers and other service providers
- being a member of NW may secure a discount on your house insurance

The DMSA receives a police report at its monthly management committee meetings, and is represented at Almond ward community safety meetings, so can partner with the neighbourhood watches in the area to ensure information and advice reaches residents quickly. For information on setting up a neighbourhood watch, see the Neighbourhood Watch Scotland web site at <http://www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk/> , or e-mail Tim Mitchell at timmscot@hotmail.com .

LOCAL BOUNDARY ISSUE

As everyone knows the Association is strictly non-political under the terms of its Constitution but there are times when it is impossible to avoid getting involved in political issues. A major difficulty in representing the interests of the residents of Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes arises from the fact that our area is split into three parts by Community Council and Council Electoral Ward boundaries, with the Barnton Avenue area being part of Barnton and Cramond Community Council, and the Corbiehill Avenue and House O'Hill area being in a separate Council Electoral Ward, Inverleith, from the rest of our area which is in Almond. Most residents' eyes glaze over at the very mention of these things, but we are afraid the issue of the local boundaries has arisen again. The Local Boundary Commission for Scotland have proposed boundary changes for the 2017 Council Elections. Within these changes it is proposed that Almond Ward should be extended eastwards to include Muirhouse. We are neutral on that particular detail, but our concern is that this is an opportunity to re-draw the Electoral Ward Boundary between Almond and Inverleith Wards to eliminate the boundary between Davidson's Mains and the Corbiehills/House O'Hills and allow that area to have the same representation as the rest of Davidson's Mains within Almond Ward. Historically, the Corbiehills and House O'Hills have always been part of Davidson's Mains, and the village is the centre for shopping, schooling, religious, social and other activities for the residents. We know, because we have asked many, that the residents consider themselves to be part of Davidson's Mains. The Association has made a formal submission to the Boundary Commission in which we make the argument for Corbiehill and House O'Hill to be included in Almond Ward. Under its terms of reference the Commission is obliged to consider social factors in determining Electoral Ward Boundaries, although their first priority is always to achieve electoral parity in the size of each ward. We can be no more than hopeful that our arguments achieve a positive result but we had to try .

CYCLE ROUTE PROBLEMS

With the N1 national cycle route from the city to the north passing through our area it is hardly surprising that the Association gets lots of comments, suggestions and complaints about various aspects of the route and those who use it. This has certainly been the case recently with firstly the construction of a new crossing on Cramond Road South which " happened" without any local notice or consultation, and then more recently some chaotic events associated with the Pedal for Scotland event. Again there was no local consultation. Those who planned it had decided it would be satisfactory for the main route from Glasgow to Edinburgh to be directed along Cramond Road South, where at the new crossing there would be direct conflict with cyclists on the local event from Kirkliston to the city along the usual cycle route. The resulting chaos was predictable but a positive result from all of this is that the Association has been assured that we will be included in the pre-planning for all future cycle projects and events to ensure the interests of local residents are taken into account. Most local residents are supportive of the cycling initiatives being promoted by the Council but just want things to be properly planned and organised. During the next few months we can look forward to lighting being installed on the cycle path between the golf courses at Barnton and discussions are to commence between interested parties regarding the possible extension of the cycle track from Silverknowes Road Bridge via Tesco's car park to Cramond Road South.

LOCAL POLICE NEWS AND NUMBER 101

At our most recent meeting the Police were keen for the DMSA to advertise to local residents that the performance and response times for the 101 service is now much improved. It has in the past been the subject of many complaints but the significant improvement is reflected in anecdotal comments we have been receiving from residents. The 101 number should always be used for routine and non-emergency calls to the Police to leave the 999 number free for real emergency situations. Regarding communication, the two local community police constables for Almond Ward are content for us to advertise their direct email addresses for residents to use if they want to report non-urgent local community issues or to seek advice. These are:

PC Aidan Douds: Aidan.Douds@scotland.pnn.police.uk and PC Jim Kelly : Jim.Kelly@scotland.pnn.police.uk

The committee are very pleased that the general crime levels in the area are continuing at a relatively low level following the arrest of a number of individuals a few months ago, although with the dark nights coming in residents should take particular care with security.

NORTH WEST HERITAGE – OUR LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Talks for the Session: all 7.30 pm

Wednesday 18 November 2015: Granton's Industrial Past Ken Williamson St. Columba's Church Blackhall

Thursday 21 January 2016: Enemy Submarine Detection in the Forth WW1 Eric Graham D'Mains Parish Church

Wednesday 17 February 2016: The History of Muirhouse Estate—Muttonhole Revealed—Bill Weir—St. Columba's Church

Thursday 17 March 2016—Old Leith—John Dickson D'Mains Parish Church

Wednesday 20 April 2016: AGM followed by A Walk through the Old Town—Jack Aitken—St. Columba's Blackhall

For further information contact the Secretary Charlotte Cowe, 336 2494 or charlotte@dmain.co.uk

FRIENDS OF DAVIDSON'S MAINS PARK

Wild flower planting by the Council has been very successful and appreciated by residents with one area of the park enlivened by a variety of semi-wild species. It is hoped that this initiative could be sustained and extended to other parts of the park, perhaps with extension into the more natural area of woodland. The annual Himalayan Balsam pull was carried out again by Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV), supported by members of the committee and some local residents. This effort is important in slowing the spread of this non-native invasive species, but its presence in the park is a continuing problem, and more concerted efforts are needed in the future. Recently completed work in the wetland area at the east end of the park has provided improved drainage to avoid flooding of the path. Members of the committee have also been involved with the council initiative in creating a Friends of Parks Forum, which encourages Friends Groups around Edinburgh to share ideas and experiences, and to act as a conduit for liaison with the council. It is intended that the Committee will plan activities and events throughout 2016, to encourage wider involvement and enjoyment of the park using initiatives coming from the local community.

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 by contacting Charlotte our Secretary. Keep up to date with local events/issues throughout the year via our website and also with direct emailings on matters of importance in the community. We also welcome suggestions and comments with regard to the website for example if it is not up to date or there are items/links/addresses/events which are missing or you feel should be there. Perhaps you just wish to say you are happy with it!

CAN YOU HELP THE COMMITTEE?

We are always interested in receiving help to support the management committee of the Association. Over the past couple of years some new members have joined to replace older committee members who have moved on but we are still a relatively small group and it would be really helpful to have more support. We have said before that many residents tell us they appreciate the work that we do to represent the interests of the local community but nevertheless we find it difficult to attract residents who are willing to give some of their own time to act on the committee. The duties are not onerous and it is an opportunity to become actively involved in decisions which can make a difference to our local area. If you are interested in the local community and the local environment, the only other attributes required are a bit of common sense, an ability to understand different points of view and an ability to work with other people. If you would be interested in becoming a member of the committee please contact Charlotte or Rod for more information.

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Ms. J. Chapman
Mrs. J. Lowther

Mrs. S. Edgar
Mr. T. Mitchell

Mr. B. Flanagan
Ms. Laura Thomson

Mr. Henry Lennox