**Winter Is Coming**
We are ready to call out our own snowplough should there be a particularly heavy snowfall this winter thanks to the £2 which households contribute to the "Snow Fund" along with subscriptions. As usual, the plan is to clear the T-junction at the A7 end of the crescent first, then the main street, then the cul-de-sacs, and finally the pavements. Final decisions are made when we see the actual conditions and difficulties people are facing. Special efforts will be made to deposit the moved snow on to places where it won't damage gardens, such as the open green spaces.
In previous years the council has delivered grit to both ends of the estate. As this hasn't arrived yet, a request has been made to the council.

**Neighbourly Newbattle**
Newbattle residents have often commented that the cold winter of 2010 when it snowed heavily and ice covered the roads and it was hard to get cars out of drives was one of the best for community spiritedness and getting to know one another. If the weather is like that again this year it will hopefully be a chance to look out for those who are vulnerable or who may need extra neighbourly support.

**Bonfire Night 2016**
Bonfire Night on 5th of November brought a fantastic evening in the form of a roaring bonfire, hot soup, sweets and the fairground organ. Huge thanks to everyone who helped make the night a success both on the day and clearing up the following morning - your help was very much appreciated.

**Check out the Newbattle Abbey Crescent Website:**
www.newbattleabbeycrescent.wordpress.com

Find a ‘Welcome’ leaflet online here, or you may collect a paper copy from Bill Elliott.
New Local Development Trust:

Over the last year and a half, the two local community councils (‘Eskbank & Newbattle’ and ‘Dalkeith & District’) collaborated in the creation of an entirely new organisation – a ‘development trust’ for Dalkeith.

The new organisation is entirely community led and operates independently of the two community councils. Community members chose the name ‘One Dalkeith’ to highlight that the many different areas of Dalkeith make up one community.

One Dalkeith aims to collaborate to develop community owned enterprise and facilities in order to regenerate Dalkeith socially, economically and environmentally. Profits from successful ventures will be put straight back into community projects.

One Dalkeith’s series of consultation events continues in 2017. The next event is the ‘Dalkeith Activities Fair’ that will be held in the Dalkeith Art Centre on Saturday 21 January, 10-12.30am. Go along to find out what home-grown community-led groups are in the area, and to have free tea, coffee, cake and live music. A community-led consultation will explore the community’s wishes for Dalkeith Town Centre.

Preventing Burglaries

Good advice on preventing burglaries can be found from MVA and Police Scotland.

Things to remember this winter – keep doors secure, don’t leave keys visible / hidden where they can easily be found / with your house number on. Using a UV pen to write your house number and postcode on your treasured possessions will help the police return them to you if they are stolen. Record details of your valuables on the national property register - www.immobilise.com. At Christmas particularly make sure you don’t leave presents around the tree that are visible from outside. Also don’t let there be an indication of whether your property will be empty over Christmas.


Be careful about leaving your car unattended when defrosting windows with the keys in the ignition. Many car thieves try to take opportunities to steal cars in this way.

Insurance companies may consider it driver negligence and it is illegal to leave a car unattended on a road with the engine running. Don’t leave paperwork with important personal information in your car.

Fire Raising at Hardengreen

Concerns have been raised about recent fire raising incidents at Hardengreen Steading and the cottages nearby. In the most recent incident a few days ago, a fire was lit near to a fuel tank that could have had serious consequences. Those involved are a group of 5 early teenagers (12/13) on bicycles. After the most recent incident they were seen riding down through the woods towards the Crescent. The Police are investigating the incident and would welcome any information regarding this. The Community Police Officer can be contacted on 101.
The NACRA Committee is a small, friendly group that have short meetings about 4-6 times a year, mainly to organise the Bonfire and to carry out any decisions made at the AGM. You are very welcome to come along to a meeting or join the committee. (Call Kate)

House / phone
Kate Taylor (chair) 140 660-1774
Bill Elliot (treasurer) 157 663-1369
Ali Bowden/Paul de Roo 224 654-0870
Pat Frankland 204 660-4920
Joy Godfrey 131 660-6145
Keith Miller 223 663-0567
Mick Wilson 219 07739-373210

NACRA - Next Meeting:
Mid February 2017 – come along and meet friendly residents for a warm, and meeting.

NACRA Subscriptions
All our areas have now been collected. If you were out when the collector called they will have left an envelope. If you are able, please return it with your subscription to The Treasurer at number 157 or alternatively to the Committee member at number 223. Thank you!

NACRA Newsletter
Joy Godfrey, #131 is the new newsletter editor – if there are any sorts of news you would enjoy please let her know.

Local church Christmas services

NEWBATTLE PARISH CHURCH
Dec 23rd
6:30pm Messy Christingle Mayfield Church

Christmas Eve, Dec 24th
7:00pm Family Service Newtonrange Church
11:30pm Watchnight Service (carol singing from 11 pm) Newbattle Church

ST MARY’S SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(Palace gates at the Country Park)

Christmas Eve, Dec 24th
4:00pm Messy Christingle, with hot chocolate
11:30pm Watchnight Service with Holy Communion

Christmas Day
10:30am Family Service (St Leonards, Dobbies Road, Bonnyrigg)

Tuesday, Dec 27th
4:00pm Carols and Fellowship

New Year’s Day
10:30am Morning Service with Holy Communion

DALKEITH BAPTIST CHURCH

Christmas Day
10:00am Christmas Day Service

ST DAVID’S CHURCH

Christmas Eve, Dec 24th
8:00pm Carols
8:30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas

Christmas Day
10:30am Christmas Day Mass
Useful Contacts

Planning Permission (Did you know that special conditions apply to the estate because it’s a conservation area and it takes up to 2 months to complete?):
271 3302 or development.management@midlothian.gov.uk

Community Police Officer:
call 101

Lawfield Estates (owners of the land around the edge of estate, at King’s Gate, and along the river, regarding things like trees overhanging gardens, hazards on the river bank):
Davidson & Robertson Rural: 449 6212

Forestry Commission Scotland
(for Lord Ancrum’s Wood):
John Ogilvie, 07877-822525

Flooding from the estate’s mains drainage systems:
contact Eric Todd (on the estate) in the first instance 663 4781

Bus Shelter condition and information boards:
Travel Team 561 5445, or ptu@midlothian.gov.uk

Refuse Collection, bulky uplifts, special collections, street cleaning:
call 561 5284

Recycling Helpline:
call 561 5284

Roads, Potholes, Pavement, Street Lights:
call 0800 232323

Dog Fouling:
call the Environmental Warden: 271 3555

Did you know you may need Planning Permission?

Newbattle Abbey Crescent is part of ‘Newbattle Conservation area’ and certain features of gardens and homes are protected. So for example you need to apply for planning permission to pave over your front or back lawns or to have trees cut down. You also need it to change windows, doors, fences, driveways, patios, alterations to roofs, construction of ramps, and erection of certain sizes of outbuilding.

Works to Trees within the conservation area are also subject to control in the same way as trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order. This means that it is an offence for any person to lop, top, cut, uproot or wilfully damage or destroy any tree within the conservation area unless six weeks notice has been given to the planning authority. Any person found guilty of carrying out unauthorised works to trees whether they are within a private garden or a public space may be fined up to £20,000.

The green front lawns and trees are part of the overall look of the whole estate. If you are having trouble managing your lawn or the trees in your grounds please feel free to get in touch with a member of NACRA committee and we may be able to find a person on the estate who would happily help to keep your lawn cut. It is always worth asking!

Further information can be found on www.midlothian.gov.uk/planning or from the Planning helpdesk on 0131 271 3302.

There are fees for planning applications but work to trees applications are free of charge in both cases forms are required to be submitted and supported by appropriate plans and drawings.

If you suspect there has been any breach of planning control you can complete a planning enforcement enquiry form which can also be found on the planning pages of the Council website. Enforcement enquiries are dealt with in confidence.