"Goodbye to First X95, Hello to Perrymans..."

As of 25th March, Perrymans (owned by West Coast Motors) will be taking over the franchise for the whole Borders area from First Direct. They will operate under 'Borders Buses Ltd' livery. There will be a four week consultation period with passengers and then no changes until six more weeks have passed – so no changes until 10th June. The NACRA committee is writing to Perrymans to support them. There is particular interest in whether the bus fares and the frequency of service will remain the same. The consultation link will go up on the NACRA website once it is known.

A Very Local Venue for Social Events

The Kirkbank centre behind Newbattle Parish Church is available to rent for social events such as children’s parties, games nights, family gatherings, meetings and classes.

Contact Gladys Kidd – 663 3911 to find out more.

Residents Meeting
28th April at 7.30pm at the Kirkbank Centre
This is the planned agenda for our 2017 meeting:

- Welcome
- Treasurer’s Report
- Investigate Interest - Do we want a NAC notice board? (It could be used to advertise local events that occur in between newsletters.) Options include:
  - Yes, near the post box
  - Yes, near the bus stop
  - Yes, somewhere in the middle of the estate
  - No
- Do we want a NAC community event? Options include:
  - Yes, a summer picnic with a community bake-off
  - Yes, a fete
  - Yes, a BBQ
  - No
- Please think about what event/s you would enjoy meeting your neighbours at. Bring your ideas to the Residents Meeting.
- Front bed update - 'Weed & Seed' day
- Speaker – TBC, on a topic of local interest
- Planning Update
- Exchange of Information*:
  - Ask questions
  - Suggest ideas
  - Offer help...
- Any Other Business

* In the "Exchange of Information" section there is the opportunity to make suggestions about what would further enhance NAC as a place to live. You can raise concerns, ask questions, offer ideas or practical help. Do have a think before the meeting as your ideas will be valued.

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.
What’s been happening...

**Woodland Remedies...** Esk Valley Trust held a talk called “Herb or Weed?” Hamish, (from ‘The Secret Herb Garden’ on Old Pentland Road, just along from Lothianburn), spoke about his journey into working with herbs. He asked people to tell him which plants they think are weeds and without exception he was able to give the medicinal properties of them! It is fascinating to be aware of the heritage of natural medicine that surrounds us in the woodland.

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**Lots on locally...** One Dalkeith held their event (above), the 'Dalkeith Activities Fair' in January. There was a range of Dalkeith-based groups present. Some of the groups in Dalkeith are:

- Dalkeith Arts
- Dalkeith Singers
- Dalkeith Guitar Club
- Dalkeith History Society
- Dalkeith Horticultural Society
- Dalkeith Probus Club
- Dalkeith Rotary Club
- Eskbank Rotary Club
- One Dalkeith
- Esk Valley Trust
- Tyne & Esk Writers
- St Nicholas Buccleuch Art Club
- St Nicholas Buccleuch Scottish Country Dancers
- The six Dalkeith Churches
- MOPS Parent & Toddler Group
- South East Scotland Fuchsia Society
- Rough and Ready Choir
- Pink Ladies 1st
- MYPAS LGBT Youth Support Group
- Lothians Veterans Centre
- Horizons Recovery Cafe
- Midlothian Scouting Association
- Girl Guides
- Midlothian Growing Together
- Midlothian Older People’s Assembly

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**Eskbank and Newbattle Community Council**

Our area has a very active Community Council. Its meetings are always open to the public so residents can feel free to come along or get further involved. If you have ideas of how Newbattle and Eskbank environment and community life could be improved, the Community Council is the ideal place to share your thoughts with others. It is a supportive, empowering and pro-active group.

You can find out more by contacting: enccmailbox@gmail.com

News in brief from ENCC:

- **Police Report:** P.C. Pow said the main crime committed in Eskbank and Newbattle is home and garage break-ins. Crime prevention kits are available, priced at £20 per pack. P.C. Pow encouraged residents, “invite us round, we want to help you improve home security in the area”.

- **Dalkeith Rotary:** Chairperson, Albert Jaster said that 10,000 crocus bulbs have been planted along with clematis at Eskbank Railway Station. Further work will be done with ScotRail’s blessing. You can join Dalkeith Rotary on Wednesdays, 12.30pm at the Laird & Dog in Lasswade. (There is also Eskbank Rotary Club, with evening meetings)

- **Planning**

Aldi are no longer applying for the Mayshade site.

Liberton Hospital is closing with patients being reallocated to Midlothian Community Hospital

The continued building of new housing coupled with the desperate lack of health care provision is a huge concern voiced by a number of Community Councilors.

- **New Notice Board** – ENCC have a new notice board made by the Grassmarket Project in Edinburgh. This primary favoured location is at the Justinlees roundabout.

- **Midlothian’s walls** – A working group will be proposed at the next federation meeting to begin tacking this.
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Garden with your neighbours at a 'Weed and Seed' event on 22nd April, 2pm
Residents are gathering to dig up the wild flower bed at the front of the estate. It will be re-seeded with grass seed this April and in the autumn bulbs will be planted. Bring your trowels and come along to do some gardening with your neighbours. All ages are welcome.

Esk Valley Trust ♦ Talk on Prehistoric things in the Valley (& very brief AGM):
- 2 May, 7.30pm, St David’s Church Hall

Community Council Meetings:
6.30pm at Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus, third floor, far end)
- 4th May
- 1st June

The Dalkeith Singers ♦ Spring Concert
On 13th May, at 7.30pm, at St Nicholas Bucleuch Church The Dalkeith Singers’ hold their Spring Concert. Tickets are £8 (£5 children) and are available from Bill at #157, or David Richardson on 01875 320041.

Coffee with Friends – monthly!
On the first Saturday of every month ‘Coffee with Friends’ is held from 10-12am in the Kirkbank Centre, behind Newbattle Parish Church. It is an opportunity to meet other local people from the estate and its surrounds. Everyone is welcome.

Bat walk
Would you like to do a bat walk on Newbattle Abbey Crescent? This can be arranged via Midlothian Ranger Service who have the gismos that pick up the echo sounds that bats make and can identify them. If you are interested, please register your interest with Pat Frankland (#204, 6604920) who will look into arranging it. It would be an evening later in Spring and would be for children and adults.

Litter pick ♦ If you would be interested in doing a community litter pick followed by tea & coffee outside please contact Joy Godfrey, by 10 April.

OTHER NEWS:

Newly Tarmaced Lane

The lane between Kings Gate Arch and the far end of Newbattle Abbey Crescent has been asphalated recently.

Care for Frog Spawn
On 27th March a large amount of frog spawn was found outwith the still water areas beside the river – on dry pebbles and on the path towards Barrondale Cottages. Much of it was picked up and returned to the small pools, however much was stuck in between pebbles and irretrievable. Please help to look out for the frog spawn / tadpoles / frogs.

NACRA Committee
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 Resident’s Meeting (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
Susan Dalglish 220 07729922403
Joy Godfrey 131 660-6145
Keith Miller 223 663-0567
Mick Wilson 219 07739-373210

NACRA - Next Meeting:
Mid June 2017 – come along and meet friendly residents for a warm and low-key meeting.

Newsletter
Joy Godfrey, #131 is the new newsletter editor – if there are any sorts of news you would enjoy please let Joy know.
Local church Easter services in Holy Week – April

Newbattle Parish Church

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Maundy</td>
<td>Newbattle Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Newbattle Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Easter Day</td>
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Dalkeith’s Town Centre Churches
Holy Week Evening Services:

All: 7.30pm, April

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10th</td>
<td>St David’s Catholic Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Full Gospel Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Dalkeith Baptist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maundy</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>St John’s King’s Park Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>St John’s King’s Park Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>14th</td>
<td>St Nicholas Buccleuch Church</td>
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‘Walk of Witness’

Beginning at **10am** at *St Mary’s Episcopal Church (in the country park)*, travelling to Jarnac Court, and ending at St David’s Catholic Church, this service stops at all Dalkeith’s town centre churches before the chance to enjoy tea, coffee & hot-cross-buns in St David’s Church hall.

Early Morning Easter Outdoor Service:

At **7.30am** at *King’s Park Playing fields* – a sunrise service to celebrate Easter

Dalkeith Easter Day Services:

**All: In the morning, 16th April**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>St Mary’s Episcopal Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>Full Gospel Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30</td>
<td>St Nicholas Buccleuch Church</td>
</tr>
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<td>11.00</td>
<td>St John’s King’s Park Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 the 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**

NAC Estate Paper Delivery

If you would like your favourite paper delivered to your home please contact Alan at Eskbank Trading Centre (663 3442). Dalkeith High student & NAC resident, Ewan Martin is keen to make more local deliveries.