

# West Blacket Association

## NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2013



WEST BLACKET WALKERS  
INVERESK JULY 2013

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For more information see our website  
[www.westblacket.org.uk](http://www.westblacket.org.uk)

# Annual General Meeting

November 25th, 2013

The Minto Hotel, 16-18 Minto Street

**All Residents Welcome**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 730pm | Welcome (tea/coffee provided)                        |
| 800pm | Chairman's report                                    |
|       | Treasurer's report                                   |
|       | Election of Office Bearers and Committee members     |
| 815pm | <b>Peter Wright</b> will talk on 'Urban Bee Keeping' |
| 845pm | General discussion (cash bar available)              |
| 930pm | Close  |

## West Blacket Committee 2012-13

- Chairman:** Richard Grant, 3 Duncan Street  
**Treasurer:** Evelynne Hill, 37 Upper Gray Street  
**Secretary:** Mike Hunter, 40 Upper Gray Street  
Ian Carter, 12 Duncan Street  
Alice Foster, 18 Upper Gray Street  
Kate O'Brien, 9 Minto Street  
Maggie Stevenson, 8 South Gray Street  
Rosemary Wake, 9B Middleby Street

## Election of Committee for 2013-14

Members are invited to stand for election at the AGM.  
Please submit nominations in writing to Mike Hunter, Hon Sec, before the AGM  
email: dr.m.j.hunter@gmail.com

## Join Us

Membership details and forms are available from Evelynne Hill, Treasurer, or from our website -

[www.westblacket.org.uk](http://www.westblacket.org.uk)

## West Blacket Neighbourhood Watch

The Watch was established more than 15 years ago and is less active now. However we receive regular information from the Scottish Association of Neighbourhood Watches by email. If you would like to receive these emails please let us know

email: [kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk)

## West Blacket Walking Group

This year saw our fourth series of summer walks. It was cheering to have mostly good weather and to see an encouraging number of our members joining us.

Jo Doake (Convener of the Friends of Hermitage of Braid and Blackford Hill) gave us her time and guided us on our visit to Blackford Pond and the Hermitage. She gave us an insight into the ongoing restoration of Hermitage House's walled garden.

We had a wonderful afternoon exploring Gardens of the Royal Mile with Jean Bareham (the speaker at our last AGM). Jean even managed to show us some private gardens along the way!

Two walks close to home were led by committee member Maggie Stevenson, taking us to Bawsinch Nature Reserve by Duddingston Loch and on an exploration of the Grassmarket area. We also went further afield, following the Water of Leith between Roseburn and Canonmills and visiting Inveresk village and garden. Most of our walks included a welcome refreshment and time for a chat with neighbours. Come and join us next summer.



Belford Bridge – Water of Leith

## WBA Visits to the National Library's Bartholomew's Exhibition.



Around 20 members took part in 2 guided tours around this exhibition on the Bartholomew's map business, focussing particularly on their Duncan St premises.

The exhibition was excellent and we were very fortunate to be guided round it by the curator Karla Baker whose enthusiasm and knowledge greatly added to our enjoyment.

## South Gray Street Resurfaced



Four years ago, we applied to the South Central Neighbourhood Partnership, which is part of the City of Edinburgh Council, for funds to repair the abominable surface of South Gray Street.

We were turned down on the grounds that it was already 'in the pipeline'. In subsequent years, the pipeline appeared to get longer and South Gray Street resurfacing remained in it.

Until this year!

## HISTORY GROUP

Two meetings, in February and in October, provided opportunities to contribute to the picture of how things used to be.

The starting point in the spring was Ron Hill's work round the 1911 Census. 1911 was an important year in West Blacket: Bartholomews opened in Duncan Street and began eating into the central green square.

In October Richard Grant extended the focus to include Causewayside and invited us to consider the past 50-ish years. He also encouraged us to speculate as to how the area might develop in the immediate future.

It became clear, as we collected our impressions, that if Causewayside is included, the local area has retained a valuable mix of shops and businesses; and also that Minto Street, with its large stock of what were once family villas and passing flow of traffic, faces a challenge in balancing viability with ensuring a pleasant environment for residents. Which is of course a key aim of our association and of concern for all of us in West Blacket.

We are grateful to our speakers and also to our hosts for providing stimulating venues.

*For information about the group or a copy of Issue 2 of its newsletter, email me at [erwake@btinternet.com](mailto:erwake@btinternet.com). Rosemary Wake*



Shedding a Light on the Past



## The Singing Hedge on Salisbury Place

It is well worth looking out for this hedge - first pointed out to us by Alice Foster - on the corner of Upper Gray Street and Salisbury Place.

On the right day, there is a joyous cacophony of bird song. A short video of the hedge and bird chorus can be viewed using Richard Grant's YouTube link

<http://youtu.be/C88ZcwncZvc>

## Glut Group



Has the season of mists left you wondering what to do with all that mellow fruitfulness? Are you reluctant to throw away the offcuts from your rampant perennials? Hate to waste leftover seeds in the spring? Or would you like to share in someone else's green-fingered good fortune?

The WBA **Glut Group** can help. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kate O'Brien

[kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk)  
tel: 667 4362.