



# Damhead and District Community Council

## WELCOME

Welcome everyone to our first newsletter of 2012 and wishing you all a very happy and prosperous New Year.

How time has flown since our election in June! We have only managed two meetings since then but behind the scenes we have had many emails and phone calls. We would love to have a good attendance at our meetings as your opinions are always very welcome. So please put in your diaries the date of the next one which is the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at the Steading.

The web site is at last accessible so we will now be able to post the latest minutes and any other items of interest as well as our contact details should anyone have a query or issue.

We were delighted to see the Burnside at last having its potholes filled at the beginning of December after much heckling and calls to the Council.

I was also assured from Midlothian Council that the flooding near to the Pentland Cemetery had been sorted (3<sup>rd</sup> November) but I noticed the last time it rained water was still flooding the road so I will have to go back to the Council!

See you all on the 19<sup>th</sup>!

*Constance Newbould*

## NEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT

On 16th June 2011 elections, were held to reconstitute the Damhead and District Community Council. The inaugural meeting of the Council took place on the 29th June 2011 with members nominated and seconded to the following positions within the Community Council:

Constance Newbould	Chairperson	constance@pentlandhouse.com
Natalie Frankish	Secretary	frankishdamhead@gmail.com
Helen McKay	Treasurer	h.m.mckay@gmail.com
Joanne Gillies	Member	joanne.gillies@yahoo.co.uk
Neil Johnston	Member	neiljohnston57@aol.com
Matthew Marshall	Member	islamore@hotmail.com
Henry Marsh	Member	henry_e_marshall@yahoo.co.uk

## **FLYTIPPING IN DAMHEAD**

Fly tipping is a blight on our countryside and community. It is unsightly and can be dangerous depending on the nature of the rubbish that has been dumped. Fly tipping can become a recurring problem if not dealt with promptly, therefore it is important to remove rubbish as soon as possible and to break the tipping cycle.

There have been a number of instances of fly tipping recently on Old Pentland Road (and also previously at other locations across Damhead) and this is fast becoming a recurring issue. Rubbish has previously been removed, however, despite this and the positive actions of local residents, the issue persists. The DDCC will continue to liaise with Midlothian Council to ensure materials that have been illegally dumped are removed promptly and to explore what more can be done to deter fly tippers from the area.

## **MIDLOTHIAN AND THE OLYMPICS**

With the Olympics in London, 2012 will be a year of sport and Midlothian Council Provost Adam Montgomery is keen to ensure Midlothian is in on the action. The Provost has written to Lord Sebastian Coe, suggesting that Hillend would be an ideal location for the Olympic rings which could be visible from Edinburgh, West Lothian, Fife and East Lothian.

The Olympic Torch is also coming to Midlothian in June as part of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay and local communities are invited to cheer on the Torch Relay and welcome the Olympics next summer.

The Damhead and District Community Council will be discussing the Olympic Rings proposal at it's next meeting on Thursday January 19th.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF MIDLOTHIAN SNOWSPORTS CENTRE**

As you may be aware, the Midlothian Snowsports Centre at Hillend is to be given a £500,000 revamp. Chief Executive of sportscotland Stewart Harris said: "Seeing the plans for this project demonstrates the real potential of Midlothian Snowsports Centre. The enhancements will create more quality opportunities for people to get involved in snowsports and we are delighted to be working in partnership with Midlothian Council to ensure the long term sustainability of the centre."

The DDCC were invited to a presentation on the future of Hillend Sports Centre on 18th November and this will be discussed at the next meeting of the DDCC. If you have any comments on the proposed development that you would like to be raised at the next DDCC meeting, please let us know.

More information on the proposed developments can be found at [http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/news/200131/snowsports\\_centre](http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/news/200131/snowsports_centre)

## **THANK YOU!**

Damhead and District Community Council are extremely grateful for the kind donations anonymously made by two residents earlier this year. We would like to extend a very big thank you for the generous donations, which totalled £200.

The DDCC encourage residents to suggest ways in which these funds should be spent within the community. Perhaps residents would like to see more wooden signposts, such as those that already exist in some parts of Damhead? Or perhaps residents would prefer the funds to be used for a community event in the spring?

The DDCC hope to discuss how these donations will be spent at the next meeting on Thursday January 19th. We would therefore be extremely grateful for residents to get in touch with suggestions on how these funds should be spent.

## **WWW.DAMHEADCC.ORG.UK**

We are pleased to announce that the Damhead and Community Council website is once again online and can be accessed to find details of future meetings and minutes of meetings gone by.

We would like to thank you all for your patience whilst we dealt with access problems and extend a thank you to the domain holder who assisted us by resetting the website and access codes.

There will be ongoing development of the website over the spring and we hope to use the site to provide information on local issues, campaigns, news and events. We would also like to see the website being used as a forum for local businesses to advertise and showcase their work and for local residents to share their news.

Please do let us know your thoughts on what should be included on our website and we would be absolutely delighted if any residents would like to share any photographs of the local area to be used on the DDCC website.

## **LOCAL SPOTLIGHT**

Last September Henry Marsh's latest collection of poetry was published - 'The Hammer and the Fire'. Alexander McCall Smith observes, 'This superb collection of poetry is a major contribution to Scottish literature of the early twenty-first century.' It contains a sequence of poems on John Knox, following his work on Mary, Queen of Scots that appeared in his previous volume, 'The Guidman's Daughter'. As well as addressing historical themes, Henry frequently writes about local flora and fauna and has written extensively about his beloved South Uist in the Western Isles. He has read at various festivals including the Edinburgh International Book Festival. You can access the sort of work he produces on his website: [www.henrymarshpoetry.co.uk](http://www.henrymarshpoetry.co.uk)

Another of his interests is the cultivation of orchids. Please contact if you are interested, or have a problem of cultivation, or would like to see his collection. He and his wife, Jackie, live at the Schoolhouse, Old Pentland.

## CONTACT THE DDCC

Do you have any comments, queries, opinions or matters of concern that you would like to share with the DDCC? If so, please do not hesitate to contact us by post or email.

Post: Natalie Frankish, Secretary, Damhead and District Community Council, 31 Damhead Holdings, Edinburgh, EH10 7EA

Email: [frankishdamhead@gmail.com](mailto:frankishdamhead@gmail.com)

## GETTING INVOLVED!

Damhead and District Community Council are keen for all residents to get involved with the work of the Council. We welcome all residents to our meetings and hope to share our work with you through the Community Council website ([www.damheadcc.org.uk](http://www.damheadcc.org.uk)), our facebook page and via our quarterly newsletters.

We encourage all residents to share their thoughts, concerns, ideas and news with the Community Council. We hope to use future newsletters and our website to share local news and highlight local businesses. If you have anything you would like to share with the wider community and wish to be featured in our newsletter or on our website, please contact Natalie ( [frankishdamhead@gmail.com](mailto:frankishdamhead@gmail.com) ).



### NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

#### **DAMHEAD AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

will be holding it's January meeting at

**The Steading Restaurant,**

on

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at 7.30pm**

**All residents are welcome.**