



# Newbattle News

## Principal's Welcome



Welcome to the Summer edition of Newbattle News.

This edition of Newbattle News specifically focuses on curriculum developments and new courses that will be introduced during the 2010-11 academic session.

The past few months have been very busy at Newbattle Abbey College and on Saturday 29 May we held our first Celtic Festival, officially opened by the Minister

for Justice, Kenny McAskill MSP. We welcomed over 3000 guests to our beautiful house and grounds to celebrate the launch of our Pan Celtic Culture Programme, which will raise awareness of Celtic roots and heritage through short courses and events. These short courses, championing Celtic Culture, will begin in September and our next event will be a Celtic music weekend in September, featuring the popular folk music group Battlefield Band.

Our annual Awards Ceremony is set to take place in September, which will give us an opportunity to congratulate this year's students and wish them the very best for their future. This year over 70% of our students are progressing on to university.

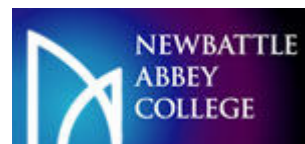
Summer can be one of our busiest times as more and more people, keen to turn their lives around by gaining new qualifications, approach us to find out

what Newbattle Abbey College can offer them. We look forward to welcoming our next intake of students after the summer, whether on our Arts and Humanities Award course, or on our range of short courses.

I do hope you enjoy reading our latest Newbattle News.

Ann Southwood  
Principal  
Newbattle Road  
Dalkeith  
Midlothian  
EH22 3LL

Telephone 0131 663 1921 or visit [www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk](http://www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk).



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## Student Recruitment

In June, we said goodbye to our full-time students of 2009-10 and look forward to welcoming them back to the Awards Ceremony in September. Recruitment is well underway for both our 1 year full-time Arts and Humanities Programme and our 2 year Blended Learning course, which is offered online. Interviews are continuing throughout the summer. For further details of both courses, contact:

[office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk](mailto:office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk)



## Newbattle's Celtic Festival Goes With a Swing

The sun shone on Newbattle's first Celtic Festival on Saturday, 29 May 2010. Over 3,000 people of all ages attended the festival, held in the main building, grounds and woodlands.

The festival, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Tyne-Esk LEADER and Midlothian Council, was a celebration of traditional music, dance, woodland heritage, Scottish culture and crafts. Workshops were offered in storytelling, local history, creative writing and traditional dance – Scottish, Irish and Breton. The Ceilidh Tent in the grounds offered a varied programme of music and dance, featuring local performers. Traditional arts and crafts were also on offer as well as displays from the Scottish Mining Museum and Butterfly and Insect World.

The Celtic Festival also celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity with a range of stalls and activities, involving Forestry Commission Scotland, Midlothian Ranger Service, Esk Valley Trust and the RSPB. A popular feature was the Beekeeping Activity, run by former Newbattle Abbey College Depute Principal, Norah Fitzcharles. Norah's Beekeeping Course will run again at Newbattle in September.

Minister for Justice, Kenny MacAskill officially opened the festival and David Hamilton MP also attended the event.

Both welcomed the festival's aim of celebrating Celtic culture and involving local communities in a family event.

Food and drink featured prominently throughout the day and the Hog Roast was a popular choice – we will need to double the order for next year. The event also highlighted the programme of short courses to be offered at Newbattle from September, as detailed opposite.

The festival as a whole was a great success and plans are already underway for our next Celtic Festival on Saturday, 21 May 2011 – a date for your diary.



## Battlefield Band's Tryst at Newbattle: 17 – 19 September

Newbattle is delighted to welcome the internationally acclaimed Battlefield Band to lead our first weekend folk festival in September.

Battlefield Band have been major proponents of traditional music for over 30 years.

The varied festival programme includes; Concerts featuring Battlefield Band, Guest performances from Archie Fisher, Christine Primrose, Alison Kinnaird and Peter Nardini, workshops in Scottish harp, fiddle, guitar, pipes, Gaelic song and song making, informal sessions in the Crypt,

children's shows, featuring Mr Boom, and a bar and café throughout the weekend

For tickets and further information please contact 01875 830328 or email [info@musictryst.com](mailto:info@musictryst.com). Alternatively visit [www.musictryst.com](http://www.musictryst.com).



## Student Success

Literary greats such as Edwin Muir and George Mackay Brown graced the corridors of Newbattle Abbey College during the 20th century. Hoping to follow in their footsteps are 21st century graduates Anthony Stevens (30) and Ross White (41).

Anthony graduated from Newbattle Abbey College in July 2007 and recently scooped second place in a national poetry competition for his poem entitled Bus Stop. Anthony, now a Social Housing Scheme Manager in Brighton, enjoys writing poetry in his spare time and Bus Stop has been praised for its insightful look into our day-to-day world through the eyes of a teenage narrator. His full poem can be viewed at [www.poeticrepublic.com](http://www.poeticrepublic.com).

Also achieving literacy success this year is 2010 graduate, Ross White, recently named as the Newbattle Abbey College Writers' Challenge Winner for his short story, *The Singing Kettle*.

His piece, drafted entirely in Scots, humorously reflected a day from his childhood when he thought a 'singing kettle' on the kitchen hob was going to blow up his house. Ross will be presented with his prize at our Annual Awards Ceremony in September.

## Short Course Programme to Suit All Tastes



From September 2010, Newbattle will be offering a varied 8 week programme of short courses, linked to the themes of the Pan Celtic Programme and Rural Skills.

These include; Beekeeping for Beginners Garden Design, Italian Renaissance Gardens, History of Newbattle Abbey, Family History for Beginners, Gaelic for Beginners, Storytelling, Fiddle, Traditional Dance, Slow Session Playing

For further details of all courses, contact [office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk](mailto:office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk) or come along to our informal Enrolment Evening on Monday 27 September at 7pm.

## Developing our Beautiful Environment

Newbattle has always been proud of its superb grounds and ancient woodlands. We are now running several programmes to develop our site in partnership with local and national groups.

Newbattle's Community Garden is now under development with support from the Climate Challenge Fund.

Our own students and pupils from Lawfield Primary School in Mayfield will be helping to create the garden and learning horticultural skills with the support of college staff.

The garden will feature a kitchen garden, an orchard, ponds and wildlife areas, a nectar garden and plenty of space for plants and flowers. All vegetables, herbs and soft fruit produced will be used in the college kitchen and in Lawfield Primary School. Kevoch Garden in Lasswade is also supporting this exciting venture and advising on the development of Newbattle's Italian Garden.

Newbattle has also launched an innovative Rural Skills Programme, supported by the Tyne-Esk LEADER. The programme offers basic horticultural and employability skills to unemployed adults and S3/4 students in local high schools.

Our first 7 week course ran from April-June 2010 in our grounds and community garden and was very well received by students. Our partners in this programme include Forestry Commission Scotland, Midlothian Council, Access to Industry and Living Solutions (Scotland), a social enterprise. Throughout next session, we will be offering 7 and 13 week courses and developing a full-time National Certificate in Rural Skills, in partnership with Oatridge College in West Lothian.



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## Calling All Students

Over the summer months, our Administration Team has been working hard to update our Alumni database and develop an Alumni section on the college website.

If you once attended Newbattle Abbey College, or are friends with someone who did, and would like to keep up-to-date with all of our most recent developments, please email your contact details to Jackie Kane

jackiekane@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk or call the Administration Team directly on 0131 663 1921.

Further details on the Alumni section of the website will be included in the next edition of Newbattle News.

