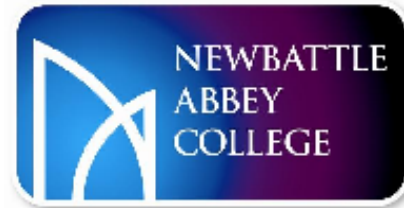


Newbattle News

The latest news from Scotland's life-changing college

May 2009



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Welcome to the May edition of Newbattle News.

We have had a very positive few months at Newbattle Abbey College. Our HMIe Annual Engagement visit was successful; we featured at Expo 2009; welcomed visitors from the USA; and we have also benefited from a number of welcome and generous donations.

We are busy preparing for the introduction of the Newbattle Abbey Arts and Humanities Award being available on a part-time blended learning basis after the summer. It is our vision and mission to reach out to as many adults with few or no qualifications as possible, and through this new delivery we hope this can be achieved.

We are currently recruiting for the part-time and full-time courses which will commence in September 2009. Please contact the College direct for a prospectus and further details.

Read on for more news and stories from Scotland's life-changing college, Newbattle Abbey College.

Ann Southwood
Principal

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For further information on Newbattle Abbey College please contact 0131 663 1921 or visit www.newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk.



HMIe Visit

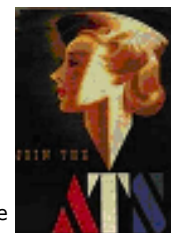
On 30 March we welcomed representatives from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) to carry out their annual review on the college's learning and facilities.

The report findings were encouraging, and noted that the college had made progress on all main points for action since last year's HMIe review.

ATS tree planting

During World War II, Newbattle Abbey College was used as a training base for the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), which was a branch of the Army open to women during the war.

A Cedar of Lebanon (*cedrus libanii*) tree was planted on the front lawn of the college grounds in March to commemorate the time ladies from the ATS spent here. The tree was bought with the help of a donation from a local lady, Mrs Miller, whose mother trained at the College during World War II.



Newbattle Abbey College Principal, Ann Southwood, welcomed the memorial and said: "Many women from the ATS spent a great deal of time here and we are very pleased to have a memorial in place to recognise this."

Furnishings donation

Earlier this year our Main House had a bit of a make-over thanks to Fairmont St Andrews Hotel and Scottish and Newcastle Brewery.

Both organisations kindly donated numerous soft furnishings, enhancing the look of the Main House and hugely adding to the comfort of our students and visitors.

We are very grateful to both organisations and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their kindness.



University of Wisconsin visit

In April we opened our doors to students from the University of Wisconsin, who are currently studying at Dalkeith Palace.

Since 1985, Dalkeith Palace has been leased to the University of Wisconsin as part of a study abroad programme for

students. Around 80 students are taking part in this year's Spring intake and all recently visited the college to learn about our fascinating history from the Iron Age to the present day.

The 11th Marquis of Lothian bequeathed his home, Newbattle Abbey, to the people of Scotland as a college and it is now Scotland's only adult education residential college.

Rae McGhee, Heritage Development Officer at Newbattle Abbey College, was instrumental in organising the students' visit to Newbattle. Rae said: "The University of Wisconsin has been bringing students to Scotland for many years and we were thrilled to welcome this year's students to the college.

"By spending time in such a historic building, students can learn first hand about much of Scotland's fascinating history. Dalkeith Palace was home to the Buccleuch family from 1642 through to 1914 and has welcomed guests including Bonnie Prince Charlie, and Queen Victoria in 1856.

"Down the centuries, Dalkeith Palace and Newbattle Abbey have developed many connections. In 1865, the 9th Marquis of Lothian married Lady Victoria, eldest daughter of the 5th Duke of Buccleuch, and made Newbattle Abbey their home."



Ben Lomond

On Saturday, April 19, 11 students and staff from Newbattle Abbey College successfully reached the peak of Ben Lomond.

The staff and students had a glorious day for their hike.

Jackie Kane was one of the walkers involved. Jackie said: "I found the day

very challenging, it pushed me to my limits. This is my first Munro and here's to the next 283!"

Expo 2009

At the end of April Newbattle Abbey College successfully teamed up with a host

of other unique Midlothian venues to showcase the best that the area had to offer at VisitScotland's Expo 2009.

Also representing Midlothian at Scotland's only business-to-business event for the tourism sector was Roslyn Chapel, the Scottish Mining Museum, Dalhousie Castle, Butterfly & Insect World and Snowsports Centre.

The Expo event took place between 22 and 24 April in the SECC in Glasgow, and showcased major companies from the tourism and business tourism sector in Scotland.

Heritage Development Officer at Newbattle Abbey, Rae McGhee, said: "The opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the tourism industry how great our facilities at Newbattle Abbey are was too good to miss.

"We were thrilled to be part of this year's VisitScotland Expo and are keen to showcase our excellent conference and events facilities, tours, and bed and breakfast accommodation.

"The ancient setting of Newbattle is also ideal for small weddings, christenings, funeral receptions and much more."

Arts & Humanities part-time 'New Course'

After the summer we will be offering our SQA-validated Arts and Humanities Award on a part-time blended learning basis for the first time.

Our award was previously only available to study on a full-time residential basis however, from October this year, the course will now incorporate face-to-face classroom learning with online distance learning and students will be able to study the same course part-time over two years.

The college was able to incorporate the blended learning approach into its curriculum after receiving a £200,000 grant from the Scottish Funding Council to develop its ICT infrastructure and support from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) Regional Support Centre (RSC) Scotland North and East. RSC staff were closely involved in the design of the development programme and in the delivery of training to all college staff, as well as transforming the college's paper-based learning materials into high quality online materials.

As well as traditional classroom teaching, the new course delivery sees lecturers utilising a range of electronic and interactive resources to engage students through distance learning including, blogs, podcasts and digital storytelling.

Hugh Dailly, Curriculum eLearning Adviser at the JISC RSC Scotland North and East, said: "Working with Newbattle to develop their part-time blended learning course was a great opportunity to introduce 21st Century learning to an impressive 16th Century setting.

"The process offers a different dimension to the course delivery at Newbattle Abbey College; a dimension which enhances the college's traditional focus on individual students, and makes learning more accessible to many more potential students."

For further information on the part-time course please contact 0131 663 1921 or email office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk.

CSI course

Last month, our hugely successful CSI course once again launched with 13 students all eager to become the next Inspector Frost!

The 12-week course, which was introduced in 2008, is run in partnership with Access to Industry and places students in the role of investigative officers at a 'crime scene'. Through the process of solving the 'crime', students develop skills in effective reading and writing, observation, creating questions, writing reports and presenting information.

The CSI Newbattle Course is a creative way to help adult returners enter further employment or education. On successful completion, many past students have gone onto further crime study or have applied to the police force.

Course tutor Claire Coleman believes the secret of the course's success is how it taps into popular culture. She said "I think part of the reason why the course

has been so popular is that it piggy backs on the popularity of TV programmes like Waking the Dead and CSI: Miami. It gives students a real hook to get involved and sparks their imaginations."

For further information on the CSI course please contact Anthea Chan on 0131 226 3006 or email admin@accessstoindustry.co.uk.

Scotland's Garden Scheme

On 31 May the college will take part in Scotland's Garden Scheme 2009 in partnership with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS).

FCS rangers will be helping visitors explore Lord Ancrum's Wood from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm, while Newbattle Abbey College will be offering guided tours from 1.30 pm to 3.30 pm.



Rae McGhee, Heritage Development Officer at Newbattle Abbey College, said: "The tours are an excellent opportunity for people to come along and learn all about our exciting historical past as well as explore our ancient woodlands. The day is set to be a huge success and is ideal for all of the family!"

To book a tour or find out more information, please contact Rae McGhee on 0131 663 1921 email office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk.

Bailey Bridge Funding approval

We are thrilled to announce that our application to the Landfill Communities Fund, distributed by Environmental Body WREN, to enable the development of a new state-of-the-art bridge in our grounds, has been approved.

The granting body has awarded us £44,445 and plans are already underway to replace the original bridge, which was constructed in the 1940s by The Army when they occupied the Newbattle estate, with a new state-of-the-art stress laminated timber bridge.

The new bridge will allow greater access to the neighbouring Lord Ancrum's Wood. Lord Ancrum's Wood is one of Scotland's best preserved ancient woodlands and is currently managed by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS).

Principal Ann Southwood, said: "I am delighted that our funding application was successful. Our partnership with the Forestry Commission Scotland is invaluable and together we will work hard to bring the benefits of Lord Ancrum's Wood to the local community.

"The new bridge will replace the original bridge in order to provide even greater public access to the unique woodlands in the College grounds."

John O'Keefe

Published author and former student of Newbattle Abbey College, John O'Keefe, recently donated two of his works to the college library.

John, who left Newbattle in 1975 to further his studies at the University of Warwick and University of Leeds, currently lives in London, and worked in the theatre and film industries before turning his interests to research and writing. His current research is in the area of the materiality of theatres and the experience of the spectator.

His donations to the college library are two publications on Physical Theatre, co-written by Simon Murray and published by Routledge in November 2007. The books explore the notion of 'physical theatres' by looking politically and culturally at the history, theory and practice of the 'physical in theatres'.

John said: "I presented copies to the college as a mark of thanks for all that my two years there gave to me; an initial formation of ideas, especially the physical and experiential nature of theatres, that remains with me."

Sunday Openings

From 31 May, Newbattle Abbey will be opening its doors to the public for guided tours on Sundays for the first time.

Until 23 August, guided tours will be offered every Sunday at 1.30 pm and 3.30 pm. The guided tours take visitors through the college's fascinating history including the Abbey's connection to the Declaration of Arbroath, Mary Queen of Scots, the Knights Templar and much more.

Rae McGhee, Heritage Development Officer, said: "Newbattle Abbey is steeped in history and this is a very exciting opportunity to let visitors know the story of the house and the estate over the centuries. By opening on Sundays we hope many more people will be able to come along and enjoy this historic setting."

Tours can be booked by contacting Rae McGhee on 0131 663 1921 or email office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk

Midlothian Walking Festival

This year the College is taking part in the four day Midlothian Walking Festival.

A circular walk of Dalkeith has been planned for 15 August which will take in the Newbattle Abbey Estate. The House will be open for tours and Forestry Commission Scotland will help visitors discover Lord Ancrum's Wood.

In the evening, the College is hosting a ceilidh in the Crypt. Tickets cost £15 and the price includes one of the College's renowned buffets. Contact the office on 0131 663 1921 for more details.

Events at Newbattle Abbey College

The historic backdrop of Newbattle Abbey makes the perfect setting for christenings, weddings, funerals or blessings.

The small, intimate Chapel seats a maximum of 50 people. For more information on booking a ceremony or a tour please contact 0131 663 1921 or email office@newbattleabbeycollege.ac.uk



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