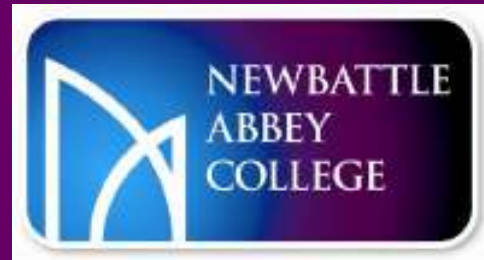


Newbattle News

The latest news from Scotland's
Life-Changing College

February 2008



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Hi,

Welcome to the February edition of the Newbattle Newsletter, and our first for 2008.

2007 was a very special year for Newbattle Abbey College. Our graduating class in July featured a number of award winners, with two of our students winning gold and bronze in the UK Sector Skills Creative Writing Awards. Another of our students, Nay Doon, who survived imprisonment and torture in his native Burma, won the Scottish Adult Learning Partnership Award in July.

We celebrated seventy years of providing life-changing opportunities at the end of last year, and have started 2008 on a high note, with an exciting new project in place with St David's High School, to deliver the first online ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) course - read on for more details.

If you would like to get involved with Newbattle Abbey College, or just find out more about what we do, please get in touch.

Warm Regards,

Ann Southwood

Principal, Newbattle Abbey College

Newbattle Abbey College Celebrates 70th Birthday

Newbattle Abbey College will culminate its 70th Anniversary celebrations with an Open Week from 1 - 7 March. Friends and neighbours of the College are invited to come and view a multi-media exhibition exploring the College's rich social, economic and cultural history, as well as explore the building and its grounds. Just pop in at any time during the week, between 9am and 5pm.



The College marked 70 years of providing life changing educational opportunities for adults in Scotland by hosting an anniversary reception in December, where David Hamilton MP, Midlothian Provost Adam Montgomery and Rhona Brankin MSP, all spoke.

Project Worker Rae McGhee and Historian Dr Neil Hargraves were appointed last year to gather long-forgotten stories of the College and track the history of staff and students since the College opened in 1937. The resulting multi-media exhibition, which has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, will allow locals to get involved and learn about the College's vast history, as well as demonstrating the unique educational opportunities available there.

The project has also produced resource packs for schools, community groups and tourist information outlets.

For more information on the 70th Anniversary Heritage Project, go to www.newbattle70.org.uk.

Going Green at Newbattle



Go Greener Week is the UK's first week of student action against climate change, running from the 16 - 24 February. Newbattle Abbey College will be marking the week with a series of events in partnership with the Forestry Commission Scotland, who have two wardens permanently based at the College.

On Monday 18 February, students built sculptures from recyclable materials, to form part of a sculpture trail in the College's woodlands for the public to enjoy for the remainder of the week.

On Tuesday 19 February, students worked with a professional harpist to create a harp from the Wych Elm in the College woodlands.

Pupils from Woodburn Primary School attended a woodland workshop on Wednesday 20 February, to learn more about conservation and sustainability.

For more information, call the College on 0131 663 1921.

Newbattle Gets Community Talking the Same Language

Newbattle Abbey College has teamed up with St David's High School to create the first online English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course to help members of the local Polish community learn English.

Using a grant from the Scottish Funding Council, the online ESOL course has been developed in association with The New Curiosity Shop, to cater for the parents of the growing number of Polish pupils at St David's High School,

Dalkeith.

With the help of pupils and their parents, a DVD has also been made in a range of languages for primary seven pupils and their parents across Midlothian and East Lothian to help them understand the Scottish education system and to welcome them as they prepare to begin S1 at St David's High School.

As part of the official launch celebrations, Sir Tom Farmer will join Cardinal Keith O'Brien to celebrate Mass in the Chapel of Newbattle Abbey College for the Polish community on 16 April, which will be followed by an evening of celebration of Scottish and Polish culture through food, song and dance.

Edinburgh Woman Shares Wartime Memories of College

An Edinburgh woman helped mark the college's 70th anniversary by sharing her memories of the College during World War II. Eighty six year old Elva Wilmot Allan (nee Smith), stayed at the college when it was used as a training base for the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS), a branch of the army open to Women during the war. Elva spent her days doing drills, going to lectures, mending clothes, and learning about the army and the King's regulations. Following her training, Elva was posted to various locations throughout the UK including an artillery camp in Wales and an RAF station in Yorkshire. Elva now has two sons and three grandchildren and lives in Fairmilehead.

Elva, pictured here during here time in the ATS, said: "The best thing about my time at Newbattle was that I met so many different girls from so many areas of life. I still keep in touch with one girl who went out to India after the war with her husband, as well as a shepherdess who worked there at the time."



Elva would like to call upon former ATS members and their families and members of the Royal British Women's Legion to donate towards a pink granite bird bath to be put in Newbattle Abbey's Italian Garden in memory of all those who trained at the College during the war.



Event Opportunities at Newbattle Abbey College

Newbattle Abbey College is a stunning venue for a variety of unique events. The College has several conference rooms and can cater for a small meeting for 2 guests to a group of 120.

The largest function room, The Drawing Room, was designed by the noted Edinburgh architect Thomas Bonnar and completed in the 1870's. Restoration of the Drawing Room was finalised in January 2007 and the room is used for meetings, conferences and private dining. The Drawing Room can accommodate a maximum of 120 delegates for a conference.

With 30 single and 7 twin en suite bedrooms the College is also a popular choice for accommodation - both for business and leisure guests.

Recently the College has held a number of successful events including conferences for delegates from the educational sector, a residential weekend for a creative writing group and a series of meetings for local authority representatives.

For further information please contact Sarah Thomson, Events Co-ordinator on 0131 444 9996.

Fully accessible

As Scotland's only adult education residential College, accessibility is incredibly important to us here at Newbattle Abbey College. We therefore are pleased to announce that Newbattle is now fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, meaning that the College is fully accessible.

A lift has been installed, connecting the basement to the second floor, along with internal and external ramps and handrails and toilet facilities for physically disabled individuals. We have also converted four en-suite bedrooms in the Residential wing.

As the College is a listed building, installing these facilities has been a challenging process, with planning permission originally granted in August 2005 and the work completed in January this year. However, the hard work has all been worth it, and we are delighted to now be fully open and accessible to anyone who would like to come to Newbattle to work, study or visit.

Study with us

We are recruiting now for the September 2008 intake into the Newbattle Abbey Arts and Humanities Award.

This qualification is designed to meet the needs of adult learners (20+) and is open to anyone - especially those with few or no previous qualifications. It is a year-long residential course, that can provide access to further study at College or University.

Spaces are limited, so apply now to avoid disappointment. For further information and to apply online, go to our website (details below).

Contact us

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