

Regent, Royal & Carlton Terraces Association 'RRCTA'

NEWSLETTER

February 2013

The Association is holding its 2013 Annual General Meeting on **Monday March 18th at 7.15pm** in the SCO Rooms at 4, Royal Terrace. All are welcome.

This year the guest speaker will be Ros Davis of the City's film unit; her role is to encourage the use of Edinburgh for filming and she will share her experiences in a talk entitled '**Edinburgh as Film Set**'.

We hope that a representative of Lothians and Border Police will also attend. If you have any questions you would like to put to the police, please email them to rrcta@live.co.uk

Following the Meeting, drinks will be served.

The AGM provides a good opportunity for new, and longer standing, residents to join the Association, learn about current issues and get to know your neighbours. All are welcome, come and join us!

Welcome to the Newsletter

It's designed to provide information and news on matters affecting life in and around the Terraces and Calton Hill and to let you know what the Association is doing on your behalf.

What do we do?

The Association was formed in 1966, to protect the architecture of the area and its general amenity. Today we are also actively involved in a wide range of local issues.

Who can join?

Anyone living on or around Calton Hill can join.

How can I join? Contact Claire Tait on 556 7565 or email us on rrcta@live.co.uk.

Annual fee - £20 per household, £10 for Single Occupant

Film Crews on Regent Road

In recent years the City of Edinburgh Council ('CEC') has been encouraging film crews to come to Edinburgh, in order to promote the City to potential visitors from the UK and from across the world. These film crews require the support of large convoys of vehicles, including a food vehicle and a separate large generator.

One of the sites around the city which is promoted to film crews, at very low cost, is Regent Road. In 2012 several different film units were based in Regent Road for a total of 25 days (and nights), in order to support crews filming within our neighbourhood and across the city centre. This was a significant increase on the previous year, when Regent Road was used by film units for a total of 15 days/nights.

Issues identified with film units on Regent Road

The 25 days usage in 2012 was spread across the year in blocks of up to 4 days/nights. Each visit means a convoy of large vehicles, including a noisy generator parked on the north side of Regent Road – just below the same group of houses each time. The generator runs day and night to provide power for all the required facilities, including 24 hours refrigeration for the food vehicle, which feeds all those on location.

In addition the food lorry has to be linked to a water supply and this has been achieved by taking water from a stand in Regent Terrace through a hose crossing the Front Bank to link up with the food truck.

Some production companies have contributed small sums (in the context of the filming budget) to compensate for the nuisance caused by this activity. However the documentation provided to production companies (none of which are Edinburgh based) implies that Regent Gardens had given permission for the hose to cross the Front Bank.

Reducing the impact of Film Units on Residents

We have been discussing possible solutions to these issues with the City's film marketing unit. These include:

- *Rewriting guidelines for film crews on Regent Road, requiring them to seek permission to take a hose across the Front Bank*
- *Providing water from stands on Regent Road. Scottish Water have agreed to look at reopening these, but the timescales are likely to be protracted*
- *Requiring film units to use much quieter generators, and other possible solutions to reduce the noise which can be a real nuisance for residents, particularly at upper levels.*

Unfortunately, during these discussions the film marketing unit underwent a reorganisation and our point of contact will now change. Before leaving her current role, Ros Davis has kindly agreed to talk to residents at the AGM about 'Edinburgh as a Film Set' so that we can understand the wider picture.

If you have issues with film crews on Regent Road, please email us on rrcta@live.co.uk

Traffic News

York Place was closed to traffic in September 2012 to accommodate the construction of a new tram stop and switch. This work is due to finish in the autumn, when York Place will reopen to traffic – hopefully before the schools return from their summer break.

Once York Place is reopened, work to restore Picardy Place and the London Road/Leith Walk junction will start. This work will proceed in stages and will not be finally completed until well into 2014.

As part of this work the clock which used to stand in the centre of the roundabout at the top of Leith Walk will be relocated towards Elm Row. The official explanation for this new site is that the Council does not want to have to move the clock again when the tramline eventually extends down Leith Walk!

News in Brief

Waste Collection

CEC is due to distribute **gull-proof bags** to the Terraces well before the 2013 gull-breeding season. When this happens, the collection will drop from twice a week (currently Tuesday and Friday evenings after 6.45pm) to once a week. To date we have received no further news.

Major Developments

Construction work at **10 – 15 Princes Street** (formerly Woolworths and Burger King) is due to be completed by September 2013, which should reduce pedestrian congestion and pave the way for the new Apple Store and budget hotel.

Planning consent has been granted for a revised scheme at **1 – 5 Baxter Place**, to provide a hotel which will be operated by the Marriott Group. The changes remove the outside bars, which were opposed by nearby residents.

Permission has also been granted to remove the redundant structure covering the forecourt in front of number 5, which used to serve as the entrance to a cinema. This should reveal the original frontage of number 5 and remove an eyesore!

The company proposing to redevelop the **former Royal High School** as an art hotel has until the end of 2013 to obtain full planning permission for their scheme, under the terms of a current agreement, whereby CEC would grant a 120 year lease on this building.

Given that the art hotel scheme would have to go through a formal consultation process, and detailed planning discussions with relevant bodies, it is looking increasingly probable that the proposed art hotel may not materialise.

Calton Hill – Noisy Events

Since the recession the City Council has focussed more and more on 'Events' to attract tourists and visitors to the city centre.

We have told the Events Unit at the Council, on numerous occasions, that Calton Hill is not suited to events that involve amplified music or sound, as the prevailing wind magnifies the noise and carried it right into our homes.

When the wind is blowing from the south west the noise can be ear-splitting and even make the windows rattle.

However noisy events continue. If you feel the noise is too much the recommended course of action is to contact the Environmental Officers. However the worst noise often coincides with other festival events and the Environmental Officers are usually busy and not available.

If you experience unacceptable levels of noise from an event, and you can't contact the Environmental Officers on 200 2000, please email (within 24 hours) your name and address, together with the nature and time of the nuisance, and how it affected your household to:

events@edinburgh.gov.uk

The Association does work with the organisers of the **Beltane** celebration, which is held on the night of April 30th each year. The drumming is not amplified and stops at 1am.

We are more concerned about the number of events involving amplified pop music and disc jockeys.

2012/2013 Committee

Chairman - Ian MacIntyre;

Secretary - Anne Casson;

Treasurer - Claire Tait

Maidie Cahill,

Jim McCormack,

Libby Morris,

Carol Nimmo

New Members Welcome

contact rrcta@live.co.uk