

IN & AROUND THE TERRACES

Information and news for Residents

Winter 2020-2021

Welcome to the RRCTMA winter newsletter From Archeology to Winter Snow (not quite A-Z), we are delighted to share the latest neighbourhood news. Despite the on-going pandemic-induced hiatus, we are surprised at how much there is going on! As always, please do contact us about any local matters at rrcta@live.co.uk

Good news for the Royal High School

At last, after the agonies of the last five years, the City of Edinburgh Council has severed its contract with the hotel developers and the Royal High School building is back on the market. The door on a 120 bedroom hotel is now closed and there is now a clear field ahead, with The Royal High School Preservation Trust (RHSPT) and St Mary's Music School (SMS) poised to take their plans to the next level.

In lengthy discussions behind closed doors on 21 January, the council's finance committee unanimously agreed to 'remarket this iconic building to identify the best value option for the city and our residents in the future'. A new tendering process will get underway in the spring.

In an open market there may be other interested parties, but RHSPT is confident that with planning permission



already secured, philanthropic funding in place and a strong team to deliver what would be a project of immeasurable benefit and joy to Edinburgh residents, its bid will be very hard to beat.

RRCTMA wishes RHSPT and SMS all the very best as they prepare for this next step and will continue to support the project going forward.

SANTU COFFEE - ethical coffee from two Terraces residents



Two of our Terraces residents, Erin and Washington Vieira, own local company Santu Coffee, a distributor of ethically sourced and perfectly roasted coffee beans! The beans are imported from Brazilian farmers known personally by the owners, roasted in Edinburgh and distributed across the UK. Many of our local haunts use Santu beans including The Lookout restaurant and kiosk on the top of Calton Hill and OQO at the top of Leith Walk.

Washington was born and raised on a coffee farm in Brazil so he certainly knows his beans! He and Erin have been roasting coffee here in Edinburgh for two years. We were delighted to read about the company's ethos and environmental impact initiatives, which include offsetting their carbon, using compostable bags and ensuring their farmers get paid a fair price. You can place orders online for delicious coffee beans to be delivered to your door. www.santucoffee.com

Street Lighting: Reporting A Fault

Almost all the streetlights around the Terraces and Mews have now been upgraded to the new energy-efficient versions and are generally working well. If you notice a light that is not working, or is coming on at the wrong times, you can report this to the Council on their website at Report a Problem (link on the RRCTMA website) or contact us by email at rrcta@live.co.uk



Christmas event - thank you for joining!

Thank you to all those who joined us on Zoom for a Christmas singalong in December. We were so sad not to be able to meet in person as usual but our Zoom event provided a short but jolly burst of seasonal fun. Huge thanks to Mary Birch for coordinating all the music and for leading us brilliantly through all the singing - thank you Mary!!

Upcoming AGM

Last year, our usual Spring AGM was delayed until September. This year we're planning to bring things back to the Summer at least. We're aiming for May or June and will be in touch with members once the date is confirmed. See you (but maybe only on Zoom) soon!

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Trams & Archaeology Updates

The Trams to Newhaven project continues apace with the first sections of new track laid in Leith. The section nearest us will be one of the last to be completed in mid 2022.

You may have read about the extensive archaeological excavations that have been undertaken on Constitution Street beside the South Leith Church graveyard, which has revealed a significant extension of the graveyard in the past and a number of unusual burials. Work on Leith Walk has also revealed some of the original road surface before the first trams were installed in the 19th century.

It is expected that there will be more discoveries as the project starts to excavate the southern end of Leith Walk possibly including evidence of

the grounds of a 15th century chapel and a later leper hospital that existed in the Greenside parish prior to the construction of this part of the New Town. If you are interested in archaeology, the Trams project team have been publishing updates on their website FAQs page.

www.edinburgh.gov.uk/tramstonewhaven



World Heritage guidelines: To Paint or Not To Paint

Edinburgh World Heritage publishes a series of guides to help people understand the proper maintenance of listed properties in the Old and New Town. One such guide is External Paintwork, which provides advice on the choice of paint colours for windows and doors. Windows should be painted white or off-white but never cream! Doors should be white or a dark strong colour but not pastel shades. We have a few copies of this and other guides available to members. Please contact us at rrcta@live.co.uk if you would like a copy.



Fire Alarms important compulsory changes - In 2019 the government introduced new rules requiring homes to have a minimum number of interlinked fire alarms. This means that the alarms must connect with each other: one goes off, they all go off.

This is now basic technology, but probably does require spending around £40 per unit. The original date for compliance has been pushed back to February 2022.

Despite applying to every home and requiring most of us to meet these costs ourselves – and in many cases needing an electrician to do the work – the publicity around the change has been weak. It would certainly seem best not to leave this until the last minute! The government guidelines can be found online, search for Fire Alarm Regulations Scotland.

Handicabs Lothian - free vaccine transport

Handicabs Lothian are offering FREE transport to help people with mobility challenges get to their Covid vaccine appointment.

Anyone who has challenges with getting out and about due to age, disability, health issues, additional support needs or geographic remoteness is eligible to use the service. Bookings are subject to availability so we recommend passengers book transport as soon as they have their vaccine appointment.

Call 0131 447 9949 to make arrangements.

Join the RRCTMA Committee!

We are keen to hear from neighbourhood residents who might like to join the RRCTMA Committee, in particular if you live in the Mews or Calton Hill. We take an interest in a huge range of local issues and help support residents wherever we can. The work-load is minimal but the warm-glow of satisfaction is long-lasting! If you're interested, please contact rrcta@live.co.uk for further information.



Snowman safety!

We've had some cold weather recently, but there have been some beautiful days too, and the snow has provided excellent Covid-friendly activities for many families - even the snowmen stayed safe. Fingers crossed Spring is not too far around the corner!