

# Regent, Royal & Carlton Terraces Association 'RRCTA'

## DRAFT - NEWSLETTER

January  
2012

### Happy New Year

..to all residents on the Hill. We hope that 2012 brings you health and happiness. Here are some key dates for your diary:

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** – **Annual General Meeting** of the Association, in the SCO Rooms at 3, Royal Terrace, starting at 7.15pm. Eric Graham speak on 'Playfair and the Terraces'. In his local history series accompanying the Newsletter, a volunteer writes about famous former residents – an author and a painter.

**April 23rd** – **Annual General Meeting of the Gardens.** All stanceholders and keyholders welcome. Time and place to be advised.

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** – a **beacon** will be lit **on Calton Hill** as part of a UK wide network, to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** – grand evening party in the **Big Garden** for all keyholders and their guests, to celebrate the Jubilee, followed by a **fete** during the afternoon of **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### *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](mailto:rrcta@live.co.uk).

Annual membership - £20 per household, or £10 for single occupant.

### Waste Modernisation – the way forward

In 2011 the City of Edinburgh Council ('CEC') trialled a number of options in streets across the World Heritage Site to reduce the mess caused by vermin attacking black bags.

The solution for many streets in the New Town is the introduction of large communal bins, 'sensitively' sited to minimise their visual impact on residents and visitors. However, it was agreed that palace-frontage streets (ie Royal Terrace) and streets that 'follow the contours of the geography of the New Town' (?Regent/ Carlton Terraces and the Mews?) may opt for gull-proof bags instead of the large bins. These bags have proved a very effective deterrent to seagull depredation. However, one drawback is that they can lie on the street all day.

CEC have stated that discussions will be held with individual neighbourhoods in 2012 to determine the best solution for each. We are trying to set up a meeting to check that our understanding is correct and that gull-proof bags will be issued to all households in the neighbourhood before the start of the gull breeding season.

In November CEC considered proposals to outsource the collection of waste and recyclables to a company that would accept comingled waste once a week (ie no need to sort into red and blue boxes, one box does it all).

However councillors voted against this proposal, and to work instead with the existing waste collection team, despite two years of industrial action. The option of collecting comingled waste has been dropped.

### A New Station at Abbeyhill?

Work to electrify the train line between Edinburgh and Glasgow is currently underway and includes the reinstatement of track from Waverley to Abbeyhill to create a spur for 'parking' trains. Local train enthusiasts are promoting the reopening of the station at Abbeyhill, to enable the parked trains to start and end their journey at Abbeyhill. Jim McCormack attended a local consultation meeting, on behalf of the Association, and reported back that there was support for the proposal, but residents living near the track were concerned about noise.

**Do you have a view?** If so, do come to the Annual General Meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup> or email us [rrcta@live.co.uk](mailto:rrcta@live.co.uk)

## Traffic Matters

***We ask all residents to observe a voluntary maximum speed limit of 20 mph on the Terraces***

### **Trams and Reinstating the Leith Walk/London Road Junction**

The route finally authorised by City Councillors will terminate at a new tram stop in York Place. A switchback, to enable the trams to change direction, will have sole use of two lanes on York Place and will be fenced along its entire length, to prevent public access to the points. We have been assured by representatives of the successor to *tie*, that there will be no knock-on effect on traffic delays at the junction of Picardy Place, Queen Street and Broughton Street.

The extension of the line down Leith Walk may not happen for decades. CEC is now planning the reinstatement of the Leith Walk/London Road junction (including Blenheim Place). This should be returned to the road configuration which existed before the tram works. Some changes have been announced - the London Road clock and the pigeons will be relocated to the southern end of Elm Row and the central reservation down Leith Walk will be retained. CEC are raising Traffic Regulation Orders for the reinstatement and these are due to be published in February, though we expect some slippage in the timetable.

Carol Nimmo, on behalf of the Association, raised the possibility of including a 20mph zone for the Terraces within the TRO covering Blenheim Place, as this could see a 20mph zone created on the Terraces at very little additional cost. However CEC responded that there is a prioritised list of streets awaiting speed management measures, and our suggestion would mean the Terraces 'jumping the queue' which would be unacceptable. Carol suggests that the Association and individual residents use the TRO consultation process to propose/request this cost-effective solution for **twentifying the Terraces**. *More on this topic once the TROs are published.*

### **Leith Biomass Plant**

Forth Energy has placed their application to the Scottish Government for planning approval on hold for six months until mid 2012. This follows the formal objections to the scheme lodged by Scottish Natural Heritage ('SNH') - relating, in particular, to the proposed 120m high chimney.

Forth Energy has stated that they are planning to discuss this objection with SNH, to see if compromise is possible. CEC will now comment on the application when Forth Energy restart the planning process.

In the meantime, Forth Ports are one of the stakeholders discussing the future of Leith Docks with the Council, as part of the consultations relating to the Local Plan for Leith. The current Plan shows Leith Docks being turned over to predominantly residential uses, but Forth Ports wishes to use it for industrial/commercial purposes relating to renewable energy, including a large biomass plant (ie power station), burning woodchips from Canada, Scandanavia etc.

We shall continue to keep you informed - no action needed at present.

### **2011/2012 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

### **Farewell from Greenside's Parish Minister After 30 Years**

*Dear Friends in the Terraces,*

*I retire from Greenside Church at the end of October, exactly thirty years after I was ordained, and all of these years at Greenside. I wanted to write briefly to thank you for your friendship and support, and to wish you well for the future.*

*As the parish minister I have been involved in many and various ways with local residents and families. There have been times of sadness, with a bereavement and a funeral service. But there have been good times also, weddings and baptisms. And my wife Hazel and I have been grateful for invitations to your homes and for your kind hospitality. In all this it has been a privilege to be able to serve the local community, and it has been a pleasure to be a part of it. What a remarkable community it is! We shall take away many happy memories.*

*As the parish church we have tried to take seriously our duties to provide what is rather grandly called 'the ordinances of religion'. Through our services of worship, through our outreach particularly to local children and families, through our uniformed organisations - cubs, scouts, brownies and guides - we have tried to be faithful to our calling as Christians living out the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*A number of you are members and have been involved in the life of Greenside. Many others have come from time to time to services, particularly at Christmas and Easter. For this support I thank you. Please continue! A locum minister has been appointed to take over from me for these next months, and the Kirk Session is in discussion with the Presbytery regarding long term arrangements.*

*My wife and I plan to retire to Oxford to be nearer our two married sons and their families, and hope to move in the New Year. As many of you know grandchildren are a strong attraction!*

*With all good wishes, and every blessing for the years to come.*

**Andrew Anderson**