

IN & AROUND THE TERRACES

Information and news for Residents

Autumn 2019



Welcome to the Autumn issue of the RRCTMA newsletter!

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness is just about upon us, so it is time for our Autumn Newsletter! In this issue we hear about a couple of interesting exhibitions at Edinburgh galleries, provide an update on the Royal High School and the ongoing road situation emanating from the St. James Quarter redevelopment and Mike Birch gives us a first instalment on his local history project! **Thank you to everyone who completed our recent electric car survey; we will report on the results in our next newsletter.** As always, we welcome feedback and contributions, so please contact us at rrcta@live.co.uk.

LAST CHANCE TO SEE VICTORIA CROWE AT THE CITY ART CENTRE



This marvellous exhibition on the 50-year painting career of Victoria Crowe, OBE, FRSE, RSA, who is widely considered as one of the UK's most distinguished artist, is on until Sunday 13th October at the City Art Centre.

The exhibition is the first major survey of her work and shows over 150 paintings ranging from her youthful student work to the masterful landscapes and portraits of more recent years and is arranged chronologically and thematically over three floors of the City Art Centre.

Victoria Crowe taught at the Edinburgh College of Art for three decades and lived for many years at Kitleyknowe near Carlops in the Pentland Hills, and features characters from this landscape in the paintings on display. Interestingly, Victoria had a studio in Carlton Terrace for some time, so there is every likelihood that some works were painted in our midst!

There is an accompanying book illustrating and describing the works on view on sale at a 20% discount (£20) at the shop on the ground floor (also available from publisher Sansom).

**Exhibition at the City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, EH1 1DE
Until 13 October - Single-entry ticket £6, concessions and season tickets available**

"Blue Snow and Fiery Trees, 2011, oil on linen; below "Reflected Drama, San Giorgio, 2017, oil on linen; images courtesy of Kate Bouchier-Hayes.

DISCOVERING OUR LOCAL HISTORY WITH MIKE BIRCH

Like many people moving into a new area I have been curious about the history of where I now live. Fortunately, there are many resources available to consult, as well as several books including "The People of Calton Hill" (out of print but available through Edinburgh Libraries) and "Calton Hill : And the Plans for Edinburgh's Third New Town". There is some excellent information available on Wikipedia that a number of local residents have helped compile and can be accessed through the History page on www.rrctma.com.

The National Records of Scotland on Princes Street hold many records pertaining to the formation of the Terraces. You can find the original contract of feu by which Heriot's Trust allowed the development of the land to the east of Calton Hill including the formation of the "pleasure gardens" now known as the Regent Gardens. There are also records of subsequent changes as the original houses were converted into businesses and flats due to fluctuations in the Edinburgh economy.



HOLD THE DATE...

Our Annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place on Tuesday 10th December at 6pm; more details to follow nearer the time. As customary, this will be held on the Leibenthal lawn in the Gardens, and mulled wine and mince pies will be provided. All are welcome.

If you want to delve further, the University of Edinburgh library holds a large collection of original drawings by William Henry Playfair including his designs for the three Terraces and Mews. Apparently when he died, Playfair bequeathed all his drawings to the University but it refused to take them unless they were properly catalogued. A clerk was then engaged by Playfair's executors to go through the drawings and he decided which were worth retaining. Thankfully sufficient were retained to provide an important historical and architectural record of Playfair's work. The drawing shown of 1-4 Carlton Terrace (or Place as it was originally designated) from 1821 clearly illustrates the care that Playfair took in specifying the detailed design that subsequent developers were required to follow.



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RUSSIA, ROYALTY AND THE ROMANOVS

This exhibition illustrates the political, diplomatic and artistic ties between Russia and Britain and the close relationship between the two royal families from the time of Peter the Great in 1698 to Russia's last Tsar, Nicholas II.

There are several individual portraits of Russian royalty as well as portraits of large family weddings. The first such wedding was between Grand Duchess Maria and Alfred Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Victoria's second son. Another painting shows Queen Victoria surrounded by her enormous family.

The families frequently exchanged diplomatic gifts and intimate personal mementos such as miniature masterpieces by Fabergé.

There are photographs of the Russian royal family's last visit to the UK at Cowes and family photos of Tsar Nicholas II and George V looking very alike, as well as some poignant letters between the two monarchs. It's an exhibition that is well worth a visit! *The exhibition is at the Queen's Gallery at Palace of Holyroodhouse until 3rd November.*

PLANNING AND LOCALITY UPDATES

Royal High School

RRCTMA recently heard from the DPEA (Dept of Planning and Environment Appeals) that the Reporters were not able to submit their reports by the end August as planned due to unforeseen reasons. They are, however, concentrating on completion within the coming weeks. They apologise for this delay. Hopefully, sometime soon we will 'get wind' of their decision. The report is not made public, and Ministers can deliberate for some time before we finally find out the result of what has been a long and arduous process. We are actively discussing the value of lobbying Ministers and will be in touch if a campaign goes ahead. Regardless, let's keep our fingers (and toes) tightly crossed.

Greenside Parish Church

The Church is celebrating its 180th Anniversary with a Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving on Sunday 6th October at 11am. Residents are cordially invited to join them, and for the coffee and cake after the Service. RSVP to office@greenside.org.uk

Regent Road and Waterloo Place

The recent closure of Regent Road and Waterloo Place for filming "Fast and Furious 9" once again resulted in traffic being diverted along Royal Terrace either by design or as drivers sought ways around.

Fortunately, we did not see the serious tailbacks that resulted from the Leith Street closure.

Leith Street

On the subject of Leith Street, the Reporter has decided not to hold a hearing to consider objections to the Council's plans for this Street and instead requested additional written submissions from objectors including RRCTMA. Our response highlighted some continuing concerns about the impact of the changes on congestion but was broadly supportive of the plans. In particular we argued that Leith Street should remain open to all traffic contrary to many other objectors. It is not clear when the Reporter will issue a decision but in the meantime much of the construction work is now complete providing wider pavements and improved access for cyclists. The final work will only be completed once the St James Centre reopens at some point during 2020.

Picardy Place

Unfortunately, road works look likely to continue in this area until Jan 2020, with the ongoing consequence of traffic hold-ups at Blenheim Place. A Council spokesperson informed us that the project is 4 months behind schedule due to changes in the scope of works following public consultation. The good news is that it will end on budget!



EAT MORE GREENS!

Easter Greens opened its doors at the top of Easter Road during the summer and is Edinburgh's first 100% plant-based vegan grocery store.

Owner Alasdair Corbett has created a dedicated vegan store that not only stocks fresh fruit and vegetable but a wide range of products such as vegan cheese, meat alternatives, snacks like vegan marshmallows and toiletries.

They also sell vegan friendly cleaning products that contain no animal products and are not tested on animals. Our reviewer found the staff friendly and helpful and would recommend it to anyone wanting to shop, eat and live a more plant-based lifestyle.

4 Easter Road, EH7 5RG Opening hours: Weekdays 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12- 4pm. www.eastergreens.co.uk