

IN & AROUND THE TERRACES

Information and news for residents

Spring 2018

Welcome to the first 2018 issue of the newsletter!

Spring seems to finally be on its way and we have lots to share with you on what's happening in and around the Terraces. In this issue: we visit the new bookshop on Montrose Terrace and meet owners Alan and Janani Spence, we have an update on the roadworks and new for this year, a 'pop-up' book group for Terrace residents. As always we welcome your feedback and contributions to the newsletter, please contact us at rrcta@live.co.uk.

CITADEL BOOKS AND THE EDINBURGH MAKAR



The Terraces have an interesting new neighbour – Citadel Books – at 41 Montrose Terrace. This small, but perfectly formed, bookshop (with a very nice view out to Arthur's Seat) is run by Alan and Janani Spence.

Alan is a well-known Novelist, Poet and Playwright and writes in the back office in the mornings. Alongside Alan's own work, there is a wide and varied selection of new and quality secondhand books for sale, as well as fine art cards, prints and paintings. The bookshop also hosts readings, most recently Gerda Stevenson with her new poetry collection, "Quines".

Since last October Alan has also been Edinburgh Makar and in this role is commissioned to write and promote poetry at different events around the city, for example recently becoming involved in bringing back to life the poetry tree in St. Andrew's Square Gardens. Alan has published over 20 works, including his best-selling poetry book "Morning Glory" with accompanying illustrations by Elizabeth Blackadder, a collection of short stories "Its colours they are fine" from 1977 which is being re-issued by Canongate Publishers for this year's Festival, and his play "Sailmaker", a set text for Scottish schools.

Alan and Janani also practise meditation and run sessions based on the teachings of Sri Chinmoy; anyone interested is welcome to pass by the bookshop to discuss or else email a.spence@abdn.ac.uk

(Alan is Emeritus Professor of Creative Writing at Aberdeen University). Alan and Janani are very welcoming and friendly and it is well worth popping in to say hello and to have a browse and a chat.



CITADEL BOOKS . 41 MONTROSE TERRACE . ABBEYHILL . EH7 5DR . MONDAY – SATURDAY . 12.30 – 17.30

RISE IN EDINBURGH CAR CRIME - RESIDENT UPDATE

With 10 separate examples of car vandalism (keying, smashed mirrors etc.) reported so far this year along the Terraces, it is becoming a lottery whether your car is safe. We spoke with Police Sergeant David Tench (Community – West End) to understand the extent of the issues, the Police Scotland response and what we can do to help counter this costly menace. Sergeant Tench advises that currently a crime analyst is reviewing our area to pinpoint particular trends (time, day etc.) and follow-up has already taken place with plain clothes officers. In addition, Operation Rhetorical has been set up across the three city beats and the Southern area of the city to assess and identify trends and target known areas of car crime with increased monitoring. But what can we do as a community? Beyond parking in a well-lit area, away from the pavement, Sergeant Tench recommends:

- Report the crime as soon as possible to 101 or Gayfield Police Station. Getting information to Police is critical.
- Consider placing a camera (either real or a quality dummy) on your property, focusing on the area outside your home, to assist police in identifying the perpetrator(s) and to act as a deterrent.
- Place visible stickers in your car, "Car Under Surveillance" or "Smile, you are on CCTV", have proven effect.

Whilst we should be realistic about living in an urban landscape with its inherent crime challenges, we should meet these challenges with our own proactivity (being aware and creating deterrents) and reactivity (speedy reporting) to stop the perpetrator(s).

STREET LIGHTING

Not only has it become lighter in the evenings as we head into Spring but you may have noticed more street lights working than a few weeks ago. After providing the Council with a list of over 20 lights not working along the Terraces, the street lighting team have made two visits and repaired most of them. The team will return in September to make sure the lights are in good working order as we approach the darker evenings. In the meantime, if you notice any lights near you you report them to the Council's website <http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/streetlightproblem> or email rrcta@live.co.uk.



NEW 'POP-UP' BOOK GROUP - COMING SOON

Save the Date!
Wednesday 6 June

A new 'pop-up' book group for the Terraces is being trialled this Summer and all residents are very welcome to join.

As 2018 is the centenary of Dame Muriel Spark's birth, the plan is to read, meet and discuss "A Far Cry from Kensington" on 6 June, venue to be decided.

On June 6 we will discuss the desire to establish a more permanent group and what form that might take.

If you are interested (and even if you cannot make it but would like to be involved in the future) please contact Mary Birch at:

**mary_birch@yahoo.co.uk or
leave a message on
0131 556 7380.**



'Far Cry from Kensington' by Muriel Spark was published in 1988. The story is set in 1954, and narrated by Agnes Hawkins; a young war-widow lodging in a rooming house in South Kensington and working as an editor at a struggling publishing house.

ROADS UPDATE

Over the last year a lot of time has been spent reporting on road issues as updated at the recent RRCTMA AGM and this looks like continuing throughout 2018.

20 mph limit

Last year we commissioned a survey of traffic movements given ongoing concerns about the volume and speed of traffic along the Terraces. This survey showed that individual vehicle speeds ranged between 10 and 43 mph with an average of 22 mph over the three periods of the day that traffic was counted in June 2017. It would appear that the new 20 mph limit is making a difference even though many cars are still travelling above that limit. At the time of the survey, we did not know that Carlton Terrace Brae would be closed for nearly 12 months but it has provided a useful baseline for when normal traffic is resumed.

Carlton Terrace Brae

The temporary closure of Carlton Terrace Brae has resulted in a wide range of views among local residents. When we were contacted by the Council regarding their plans for the closure we sought assurances that any closure would be temporary and provided feedback on the signage and traffic priorities in the new London Road-Easter Road gyratory system which has hopefully reduced the level of congestion.

||||||| **STOP PRESS - Brae Reopening** |||||

We've been advised that work to remove the gyratory system is on schedule to complete at the end of September at which time Carlton Terrace Brae will reopen.

Leith Street

The work on Leith Street, which was the cause of the Brae closure, is proceeding on time so it will be reopened at the end of July as originally planned. Some bus routes will revert to their previous route as soon as Leith Street re-opens while others will continue to be diverted until the gyratory system has been removed. Despite lobbying by some interest groups to restrict vehicular use of Leith Street, the Council have decided to fully reopen Leith Street but it is likely that this issue will be raised again as part of the current City Centre Transformation Project.

Picardy Place

As well as the work on Leith Street, there is work on-going to modify Picardy Place and the first stage of consultation has just ended on the plans for an extension of the tramline to Newhaven. Both have the potential to cause significant traffic disruption at this side of the City. Also there are plans to change the resident permit and metered parking zone rules affecting our neighbourhood. Further details of all of these changes can be found at these Edinburgh Council websites:

- **Picardy Place** <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/picardy-place>
- **Tram Extension** <https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/tramstonewhaven>
- **Parking Changes** http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20016/roads_travel_and_parking/1337/parking_action_plan/2

If you have comments on any of the issues affecting roads around us and the ongoing consultations regarding the trams or parking changes please send an e-mail to the RRCTMA mail box (rrcta@live.co.uk) or contact any of the RRCTMA Committee members.