

Regent, Royal & Carlton Terraces Association 'RRCTA'

NEWSLETTER

October 2012

Autumn on Calton Hill

It has been several months since the last Newsletter. In the meantime some of the City Council's key projects have started to impinge on our neighbourhood. You can find out more of these below in the articles on waste collection (*see below*) and traffic (*see over*). We plan to reissue the yellow 'hotsheet' to house holds when arrangements for waste collection stabilise.

We've changed the format of the Newsletter by including contributions from residents in this issue. Carol Nimmo tells us about having a film crew in her home in July (*see over – Famous for ten seconds*) and Maidie Cahill reviews the Gardener's Cottage – the new restaurant in Royal Terrace Gardens (*see over*).

Save the Date

This year the **Carol Singing** in Regent gardens will be held on **Friday December 14th** on the Liebhenthal Lawn. If you play an instrument come and join in. No need to practise. More details from Claire Tait.

An exhibition of the new proposals for the **Caltongate** site will be open to the public on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st October at the Canongate Venture, 5 New Street, from 11am to 8pm.

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 if Single occupant

Modernising Waste – Put out your bags on Tuesday and Friday evenings

In 2011 the City of Edinburgh Council ('CEC') trialled a number of options for collecting waste in streets across the World Heritage Site, in order to reduce the mess caused by gulls and urban foxes attacking black bags.

Following the trials, council officials recommended the introduction of large communal bins in many streets in the New Town. These are to be positioned after consultation with the local residents' associations.

However, palace-frontage streets and architectural set pieces were protected by a policy agreed by CEC's Planning Committee in 2006. These streets, which include the Terraces (but not the Mews), will get gull-proof bags, instead of communal bins. An overwhelming majority of residents voted against communal bins for waste collection or recycling during a consultation process in November 2011.

Gull-proof Bags – eventually

The seagull-proof bags used in the trial have design faults and CEC has therefore commissioned new bags. The new bags have not yet arrived.

In mid September CEC also introduced a new approach to waste collection, intended to save money by reducing the frequency of waste collections. All households with individual wheelee bins – including the Mews – will now have a fortnightly collection, instead of one every week. **When the new gull-proof bags are distributed, the Terraces will move to a WEEKLY collection.**

In addition to saving costs, CEC is also trying to force households to increase recycling. If you need a red or blue recycling box, or a food waste container, or a green bin for garden waste, please call 529 3030 to register your request.

In order for the system of gull-proof bags to work, waste **must** be presented in black bags, which are then placed into the gull-proof bags. If residents do not adhere to the new arrangements, CEC will impose large communal bins in our neighbourhood.

Temporary Arrangements, pending the arrival of Gull-proof Bags

In the meantime, and pending the distribution of the new gull-proof bags, the black bags are being collected on **Tuesday and Friday evenings. Bags should be presented by 6.45pm to ensure collection.** Please do not leave them out all day if this can be avoided.

If you have any concerns about leaving heavy bags on the railings, it is probably safe to place your black bags on the pavement at 6.45pm on collection days, as the gull breeding season is long over and the foxes tend to come out later.

Traffic News – Closure of York Place

York Place was closed to traffic in September to accommodate the construction of a new tram station and switch, which are scheduled for completion in autumn 2013. Traffic has been diverted down Broughton St and along Albany Street, through residential streets.

At the end of September one lane at the eastern end of Princes St was reopened to take bus traffic. The whole of the east end of Princes St is due to reopen at the end of November. This will lead to some increase in traffic on Regent Road, which has been quiet since the east end of Princes St was closed to all traffic many months ago.

At the same time, diversion notices will point traffic diverting from York Place to a new 'corridor' to protect the residents of Albany Street etc. The new corridor will include St David's St, Princes St and Leith St to rejoin Picardy Place. We are told that the impact on traffic on Regent Road will be small, and negligible on Royal Terrace.

The new arrangements will be reviewed after one month – in January 2013, to check how they are working. Traffic engineers are concerned about the capacity of the junction at Princes St/Waterloo Place/Leith St/North Bridge. The traffic lights at this junction are continuously monitored from a central control centre, as it is already operating near capacity at certain times of the day.

Terraces Resident becomes New Chair of Edinburgh World Heritage

Edinburgh World Heritage ("EWH") has approved the appointment of a new Chair, Willy Roe CBE.

Following the appointment, Willy said "I know the World Heritage Site well, having lived and worked within it for the past 40 years.

The World Heritage Site is vital to the country's economy, attracting tourism, offering a high quality of life for residents and encouraging inward investment. EWH ensures that the city maximises these benefits, offering its expertise and taking a lead in championing Edinburgh's unique historic environment."

Willy has a wealth of experience to bring to the organisation, having previously been Chair of Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the UK Commission for Employment and Skills Audit Committee. He added "As Chair my role will be to help provide strategic leadership, to be the leading ambassador and communicator for EWH and to ensure the skills of the board of trustees are used effectively. Becoming the Chair of EWH is an exciting prospect and I hope to add further distinctive value to an organisation that already has a track record of success."

Willy was awarded a CBE in 2010 in recognition of his public service.

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

The Gardener's Cottage - Review

Co-owned by two local chefs, Dale Mailley and Ed Murray, the Gardener's Cottage is housed in a 'B' listed building designed by William Playfair and constructed in 1836.

Between them, Dale and Ed have many years of professional restaurant experience – having worked in the Outsider, Blue, The Atrium, Café St Honore and the Kitchen.

The 'Cottage' has communal dining with just 3 tables, each seating ten.

Two of the tables are situated in the main dining area, which has an open kitchen enabling customers to view the chefs in action. The third table is housed in a separate room - ideal for a small, private party.

Dinner is a set 5-course menu for £25 with daily changing options.

The delicious food is seasonal and locally sourced, with some produce selected from the vegetable patch alongside the path leading to the 'Cottage'.

The excellent wine list is extensive and reasonably priced.

The décor has a charming vintage feel. The tables made from wood reclaimed from ocean liner 'SS Olympia' are surrounded by old church pews.

Silver candlesticks with vintage crockery and place setting adorn the tables. An old record player provides discrete, old fashioned background music from a selection of vinyl.

For a wonderful culinary experience with a pleasant social edge, the 'Cottage' is perfect, but it may not be the best choice for a first date!

Famous for ten seconds

One man at the door asking if there was any chance they could use our home for filming turned into ten people arriving to "recce the site" who gave it the thumbs up. This is how the tv career for 5 Royal Terrace began.

When we heard it was for the BBC series 'Case Histories' written by Kate Atkinson, we felt obliged to say yes. Doing our bit for British drama, an Edinburgh author and having thoroughly enjoyed her novels, it seemed an easy decision. Anyway it was all to happen inside, so no-one would be aware. What innocents we were!

A third of the street closed to parking, two cherry picker cranes outside, lights at the front, back and neighbouring houses. About fifty people later we realised there is a lot more to filming than 'lights, camera, action'.. although they really do say these words.

However, it was all great fun and very exciting to play a tiny part in a large production. **Beware neighbours, they're filming again on November 6th.**