

IN & AROUND THE TERRACES

Information and news for Residents

Spring 2023

Welcome to the RRCTMA Spring Newsletter

Spring is coming! After a comparably - and thankfully - mild winter, spring is on its way (although who's to say it won't snow in April?). In this newsletter we bring you updates on a number of local campaigns, some important electrical safety information, and details of the long-awaited Friends of Calton Hill group. As always, we welcome contact about any local matters at rrcta@live.co.uk We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

Gardens Events - Dates for your Diary

As always, the Regent Gardens Committee have been busy planning social events for the Spring and Summer, which we are pleased to share with you here:



- Sunday 9 April 11am - Easter egg hunt in the garden along with egg-decorating competition
- Sunday 7 May - Coronation picnic in the garden. A very low-key celebration of the Coronation. There will be no marquees or organised games, just an invitation to a community picnic.
- Saturday 2 September - the annual Summer Garden Party, with marquees and activities.

A Coronation Tree (*acer campestre*) will also be planted to mark the Coronation of King Charles III, most likely at either the May or September event. More details on all events will be sent out nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you in the Gardens!

New 'Friends of Calton Hill' Group

We are delighted that the 'Friends of Calton Hill' has recently been established - many congratulations to the organisers! The Friends will help make the hill a cleaner, safer, more attractive and less neglected public space. They will be able to apply for grants, represent the opinions of members to the Council on all matters relating to the Hill, and comment on proposed events.

A public launch event took place on Wednesday 29 March at the Collective City Observatory on the top of Calton Hill. Four excellent speakers were secured to share their perspectives on the historic and cultural importance of Calton Hill.

Residents are warmly invited to join the



new group. There is a mailing list sign-up sheet online: bit.ly/3Z4EVXC (or scan the QR code to the right).



Not a member of the RRCTMA? Join us!

If you aren't already a member and would like to support your local resident's association, we would be delighted to welcome you! Membership costs just £10 a year per household. Details for how to join are on our website www.rrctma.com/contact

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ORHS Work Starts at Last

Work to redevelop the Old Royal High School (ORHS) to become a new national Music School has

finally started. The preliminary work, including demolition of some of the ancillary buildings, was due to start last autumn. The work was delayed due to a revised planning application and then lease negotiations with the Council that have just been finalised.

At a meeting with developers in February, we highlighted concerns about the impact that

the planned work would have on local residents. We are seeking assurances, in particular, that the demolition contractor will effectively manage the issues of noise and dust. At present we understand that the school is planning to be open for students from August 2026 but it remains to be seen whether this can be achieved following the latest delays.

Electrical Safety for Homeowners

A year ago there was a very serious fire at the western end of Royal Terrace which, thanks to the prompt actions of residents and the emergency services, avoided real tragedy. It seems to have been caused by a mains power surge overcoming the fail-safes in the fuse box. While the fault seems to have originated in the mains system itself, it is a reminder to us all that safe electrics from fuse box to appliances shouldn't be taken for granted.

Rental properties must have fixed wiring tested every five years, with an EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report), and portable appliance testing is

recommended annually (but legally required every five years). Requirements for homeowners are less strict, but some insurers are beginning to ask for certification.

With many of us living in homes with quite old installations, it might be worth considering a safety check if you are a homeowner. There's a debate over the need for specific protection from power surges, like the one which caused the fire, but you may wish to ask your electrician for their advice.

If in doubt about the safety of your electrics, please seek the advice of a qualified tradesperson.

Recycling Success During Trial!

The new green gull proof sacks have been very well received along the Terraces and the other six New Town streets involved in the trial. There has been a **20% increase** in the number of people putting out recycling and a more than **250% increase** in the volume of recycling being collected. On the basis of the additional recycling alone the trial has been a great success!

The Council collection staff are very positive about the move away from red boxes and we have all seen the

improvement in street cleanliness after a windy collection day. As a result, the Council have agreed to continue the trial until at least May and are considering extending the number of streets involved.

Furthermore, a new independent report has shown that the planned communal bin hubs would have a significant detrimental impact on the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. We believe the green gull proof sacks offer a cost-effective alternative with minimal impact on the heritage of our streets.

We are working with the New Town and Broughton Community Council to ensure that the views of residents are heard when decisions about future recycling arrangements are made. We will be asking you to write to our local Councillors.



An Uncertain Future for Greenside Church

After over 180 years as a place of Christian worship, Greenside Parish Church has an uncertain future. The building was designed by the eminent architect James Gillespie Graham and opened for its first congregation in 1839. The plan is for the congregation to join and worship with Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent. It is hoped to keep the building in use for worship and other community activities.