

IN & AROUND THE TERRACES

Information and news for Residents

Autumn 2023

Welcome to the RRCTMA Newsletter

It's the end of summer, the city has survived its biggest post-Covid festival season, and now we're back to 'business as usual'. In this newsletter we bring you updates on a number of local projects, some important stonemasonry information, and we share the date of our forthcoming AGM (spoiler alert: 27 September!). As always, we welcome contact about any local matters at rrcta@live.co.uk We hope you enjoy this newsletter.



Jeeps for Peace

Regent Terrace resident Stewart Ford (in the middle above) co-founded a group called Jeeps for Peace in

February last year. The group supplies British 4WD vehicles and other supplies for humanitarian purposes in Ukraine. This cause has had support from several ex-Scotland rugby players including Iwan Tukalo whose father was born in Ukraine. So far over 100 vehicles have been delivered to Ukraine where they have been used to deliver supplies and evacuate people injured in the war. Stewart and neighbour Richard Reid recently travelled to Ukraine as part of a convoy to deliver vehicles and see how they are being used. Photographs and a video of this trip have been posted on our website. If you wish to donate, you can do so at: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/jeepsforpeace

Herringbone - review

The new Herringbone restaurant opened on London Road in May. We think this could become our local! Casual Bistro dining with a vibrant (but unintrusive) atmosphere. Décor modern and calm with the low-level music for chatting comfortably. The menu was quite varied and with reasonable prices. We chose a starter to share (Bread, Olives & Oils - £6.95) which was plentiful followed by Sea Bream - £16.95, washed down with a bottle of wine. The waiting staff were most attentive and friendly, with our drinks and food arriving promptly. Altogether an enjoyable experience. You are welcome to pop in just for drinks and the outside terrace (weather permitting!) is open until 10.00pm. Very much looking forward to our next visit. Herringbone opens daily from 12 noon. Phone 0131 202 8089.



External Water Stopcocks - what to do in an emergency

Burst pipe? Flood? What do you do? Call the emergency 24-hour plumber? But that takes time, as some residents found recently when their house was flooded at 1 o'clock in the morning!

If possible you will want to turn off one of the stopcocks (or stopvalves). Usually there will be an internal one

located somewhere in the basement, and an external one in the street outside the house. The external stopcock will typically be a metal box, about 15 cm square, marked 'W' for water (see photo), with the actual tap up to a metre underground. In order to switch it off you'll need a 'key' — a long metal rod with either a square or U-shaped 'crutch' head, depending on the type of tap. Available online or from hardware shops.



Regent Gardens Annual Summer Party - The Annual Summer Garden Party will take place in the Regent Gardens on Saturday 2 September, 1-5pm with marquees and activities for all. BBQ, bouncy castle, pony rides, live music, 'The Dash', a cake competition, and more!

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Diaries ready! AGM coming up! Our AGM will take place on Wednesday 27 September at 7pm at the Scottish Chamber Orchestra building at 4 Royal Terrace. If you are not a member and would like to attend and/or receive the meeting papers, please email us at rrcta@live.co.uk. We would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone that would be interested in joining the committee. Hope to see you there!

Recycling Update

The trial of green sacks to replace the red boxes for the collection of mixed recycling has been extended indefinitely. This is pending a final decision by the Council about the best long-term option for the World Heritage Site for all waste streams. From the

end of September, collection of mixed recycling will become weekly. Also as part of the trial there will be a drive to increase the amount of food waste being recycled. Further details of the extended trial will be posted on the website once confirmed with the Council.

Friends of Calton Hill

The new Friends of Calton Hill group has made an excellent start with 90 members and they are looking to double that during their new membership drive! If you have not already joined, perhaps their upcoming events will persuade you.

There will be three **'Walks on the Wild Side of Calton Hill'** on Sunday 10 September. Group One/Birds at 6.30am (dawn), followed by Group Two/Plants & Trees at 10am, and Group Three/Insects at 1pm — all starting from the National Monument. Each group will be expert-led and last for about 3 hours.

Full details will be posted in Friends' newsletters and on the website. The walks are free — we hope participants will all become members, if they aren't already! Places are limited, so book early.

On Saturday 16 September, our third **Litter Pickup** will take place, starting at 10am. Refreshments available!



Stone Balustrades - safety alert!

We have been alerted by one of our members who lives on Royal Terrace of a serious safety issue.

During a planned inspection of their roof, concerns were raised about the condition of the balustrades at the front of the property. Following consultation with a specialist conservation architect and a stone mason, it was decided that the stone balustrades should be urgently removed to remove the danger of them falling pending a full repair. Although the balustrades were part of

the original design of the property it appears that some work done in the 1980's may have resulted in them not being properly secured.

If you have stone balustrades on your property, you may wish to have them checked. We cannot recommend specific tradespeople, but we can share the names of the two experts involved with the case above: Jo Parry-Geddes of Mill Architects Ltd and Archie Campbell Ltd Stonemasons. If you encounter a similar situation, please do let us know so that we can share information with our members.

Old Royal High School Update

As you may have heard there has been a significant change in the plans for the Old Royal High School. The planned move of St Mary's Music School into new buildings on the site has been abandoned. It is still intended to create a new National Centre for Music in the main Hamilton building. These new plans will need to be approved by the Council. We understand that the Preservation Trust still hopes to complete the revised project by summer 2027. We will post further updates on our website as we learn more.