

Bits and Pieces

Waste Paper Collection

Kerbside collection of waste paper for recycling commenced recently in our area. This is a great way of getting rid of your old newspapers and junk mail (but not envelopes).

Collection dates:

April 10, 24
May 8, 22
June 5, 19
July 3, 17, 31
August 14, 28
September 11, 25
October 9, 23
November 6, 20
December 4, 18

Parking

Please park with consideration for others. Do not park near corners as this is both dangerous and illegal. Do not park in front of gates or drive-ways. Do not abuse disabled parking spaces or obstruct access for wheelchair users. Please ensure that your visitors are equally courteous.

BRA and the Community Council

Local residents are well represented at Portobello Community Council meetings, ensuring that matters of concern are always on the agenda.

BRA on the web

BRA will have its own pages on the Portobello community website, currently under construction at www.portobello-edinburgh.org.uk

Useful Contacts

Lawrence Marshall, Councillor

Home: 0131 669 1336
Work: 0131 529 3282
lawrence.marshall@edinburgh.gov.uk

Surgery: 1st and 3rd Monday each month (except public holidays) 6:00 till 6:45pm at Portobello Town Hall.

Portobello Police: 0131 669 0581

Rapid Response: 0808 1003366

Special Uplift: 0131 529 3030

Task Force Manager (Robert Davidson): 0131 657 4815

Parks Dept – Scott Thomson: 0131 529 7913

Maintenance of play equipment – Ron Tulloch: 0131 529 7977

IT PAYS TO COMPLAIN

And finally....

Thanks to Val Clark and everyone at the Buddhist Priory in Brighton Place for their recent clean up of Rosefield Park. Much appreciated.

If you have an issue that you would like us to take up on your behalf, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Contact Us

tel: 669 1918 (Bob)
468 0209 (Derek)

email: e-bra@blueyonder.co.uk



Brightons Residents Association

Newsletter – Spring 2003

Introduction

Dear Resident

Following the AGM on 26/11/02 the position of chair is now jointly held by Bob Jefferson and Derek Miller. This is the first issue of what we hope will be a regular newsletter to keep you in touch with BRA news and events.

We would like to congratulate Jan and Elisabeth on their 3 year long stewardship. They rescued BRA at a difficult time and thanks to them we are inheriting a healthy and well supported Association.

So, what are our aims?

- To foster and build upon the excellent community spirit that we know already exists in the area.
- To encourage all local residents to participate, to take ownership of our public spaces and to work together for our common good.
- To reflect the needs and the aspirations of all local residents.
- To act on your behalf to safeguard and enhance our environment and quality of life.

News

Rosefield Park

Lots of good news. The re-surfacing of the paths is now complete. A two metre-high galvanised steel perimeter fence has been erected where the park borders Sir Harry Lauder Road. A new bridge has arrived to replace the old one, which suffered from continual vandalism. The new bridge is of a special re-inforced timber construction and should be solid and durable. Three new benches are on their way along with new litter bins. Railings have been painted, walls repaired and best news of all – a CCTV camera has recently been installed in the park. Congratulations to everyone who attended meetings, made complaints and campaigned for these long-awaited and much-needed improvements.

The lighter evenings and milder weather mean that the problems with youths in Rosefield Park have begun again. Not that they ever went away – it just quiets down a little during the winter. Local residents are fed up with the drunken loutishness, the late night noise and the trail of graffiti, vandalism and broken glass that these kids all too often leave in their wake and it is reassuring to know that CCTV is now monitoring their behaviour. In the meantime (cont)

News

Rosefield Park (cont)

PLEASE continue to register your complaint to Portobello Police Station on 669 0581 and to your local councillor, Lawrence Marshall. Extra police resources will only be directed towards the area if enough people make a fuss about it, so keep up the pressure.

At the 2002 AGM it was agreed to pursue the much-discussed idea of locking the park overnight. A local resident took it up with the Parks Department and they thought it was a great idea, so much so that they offered to buy the padlocks and keys required. Now that the current works in the park are complete the park will be locked from dusk till dawn in an effort to discourage youths from congregating there. A key will be made available to any local resident who wishes one. Volunteers are required to help out with the locking and unlocking rota. Can you help out?

Brighton Park

The good news continues at Brighton Park, where re-surfacing is now complete and new benches and litter bins are on their way. Two Chinese Dove trees were planted recently.

e-news

Keep in touch with what is happening locally by subscribing to our regular e-newsletter. Simply send a blank email with the word 'subscribe' in the message field to:

e-bra@blueyonder.co.uk

News

Anniversary Celebrations

BRA celebrates its 25th anniversary this year and we have plans to mark the occasion with a display in the library. More news on this soon.

Basketball court

Just one of the ideas being touted for the area in Rosefield Park that was formerly tennis courts. We want to hear YOUR views.

Litter pickers

Can you spare ten minutes once a week to help keep your local park tidy? We have a small number of litter pickers and one of them could be yours if you can make use of it.

Meeting with Police

A small group of local residents has been formed to liaise with community Police Officers.

Big W Vouchers

As agreed at the AGM, we gave £100 worth of vouchers to PAS. We plan to use the remaining £100 to buy games and sports equipment for the communal use of local kids.

Neighbourhood Watch

We are keen to start a neighbourhood watch scheme in the Rosefield area. Please lend your support and help us to reduce crime in our community.

Window boxes

A few window boxes would really brighten up the area and now is the time to plant them up. Celebrate Spring by adding a dash of colour to the neighbourhood. Let's do it!

Events

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 26 April – Parks Clean Up

As in previous years, we will be removing litter from both Rosefield and Brighton Parks. This event is supported by Portobello Amenity Society and Environmental Services. There is always a good turnout and it's a great feeling to see local people working together to improve the environment. Meet old friends, make some new ones and go home after an hour or so knowing that your efforts have made a real difference. All equipment provided. Bring the kids and give them a hands-on lesson in citizenship. Meet at 2pm at Rosefield playpark.

Figgate Clean Up

The burn supports a diverse range of wildlife, flora and fauna and deserves our care and attention. This well-established event is always good fun and well attended. Bring your own wellies or waders. Other useful items are a garden fork and a wheelbarrow but if you don't have any of these items don't worry just come along and help out. If you are bringing kids along please remember that they are your responsibility and keep them well away from the water.

STOP PRESS: In light of the recent oil spillage affecting the burn, we have decided to postpone this event until the problem is resolved.

AGM

We will be hoping for a bumper turn-out for the AGM, to be held in November. See you there.

Events

SOCIAL EVENTS

We hope to organise a range of social events during the course of the year. Dates to be announced nearer the time. Under discussion at present:

Kids Disco – to be held soon, probably in St James Church Hall.

Party in the Park – following the great success of our party last year to celebrate the re-opening of the Rosefield playpark.

Family BBQ and Sports Day – we want to give the traditional BBQ a broader appeal by incorporating a family sports day.

Pop Quiz Night – a fun night out for the 'grown-up' people and we hope to run a bar and make it a fundraiser as well.

Porty4thePlanet Ceilidh – we will be continuing our support for this popular annual event by distributing flyers and selling tickets.

We would like to hear YOUR ideas for social events.

THANK YOU

Just room in this little corner to say a big thank you to **Scott Thomson** from the Parks Department for his work throughout the year. Scott has been very supportive of our ideas for Rosefield Park. Thanks also to **Robert Davidson** and his team at Environmental Services. Keep up the good work guys - it's appreciated.