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Friends of Union Terrace Gardens



Newsletter 8: Feb 2011
www.FriendsOfUTG.org

UTG

Are FoUTG in YOUR Community?

FoUTG are presenting at various community council meetings in the upcoming weeks. Please find the dates below. If your local area isn't listed please get in touch with us at Saveutg@gmail.com or contact your community council so we can try to organise a presentation.

12th Jan. Kincorth Community Council

8th Feb. Mastrick Community Council

16th Feb. Tillydrone; St Georges Church, Hayton Rd. 6:30pm

3rd of March Broomhill; at Holburn West Church, Ashley Park Dr. 7:30pm.

8th March Garthdee; Inchgarth Community Centre ,7:00pm.

28h March Cove & Altens; Loiriston School Staff Room, 7:00pm.

Public Ownership of UTG under serious threat

There is a full Council Committee Meeting on 27th April 2011! This is a critical date for our campaign as it is at this meeting that the Council intends to seek to make arrangements to transfer (via a long lease) the land that is Union Terrace Gardens into the hands of a Special Purpose Vehicle that will deliver the City Square Project. This could be crucial in terms of our ability to stop the City Square project.

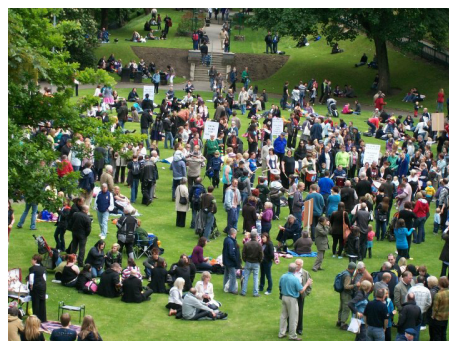


Please contact your Councillors, MSP, MP and let them know that you oppose the Council undertaking this transfer. Remember UTG belongs to us at the moment. An SPV could end that ownership, potentially FOR EVER. It needs to be stopped.

FoUTG scoop Culture Prize

Friends of Union Terrace Gardens have won a Creative Cultures Scotland award for our Big Picnic on the 12th of June 2010. The picnic gained 15% of the vote and came in joint 3rd alongside Aberdeen International Youth Festival.

Over 1000 people attended the picnic in June with 300 of you writing letters to your councillors to tell them how much the gardens mean to you and how important it is to preserve and improve them. This event was only one of many successful summer events including "The Big Free Lunch" which was a country-wide initiative of the Eden Project lead by Aberdeen university students aided by Café 52. The picnic was intended to be a focal point for people to simply get more information about the



City Square bid and what they can do to help support the gardens. It turned out not only to be informative but a great day out for the family. We were lucky enough to have the talents of various music groups helping to entertain us and a few local councillors keen to get their views across. The drum group were really fantastic and certainly went down a lot better with the crowds

than some of the views of the councillors.

Free UTG desk calenders for first 30 new members!

Are you a full member of Friends of Union Terrace Gardens yet?

Did you know it is only £5 (£3 concession)

Simply post off the form below quoting "calendar" somewhere on the form or go to friendsofutg.org and click join (write "calendar" in notes section of paypal payment).

We are giving UTG t-shirts away to those members who can sign 10 friends up.

Just ask them to quote your name on their paypal payment or posted form. All proceeds to help continue the fight against the City Square Project with the ultimate aim of protecting and improving Union Terrace Gardens.

Christmas Fundraising

Our night of music and comedy at the Tunnels raised £900 with sales of merchandise from our stall, membership fees and car boot sale coming to over £1000. This is a massive boost to the campaign and will help us to keep fighting the City Square Project. Thanks to everyone who bought something from our stall, shops or online and to all those who managed to come along to our events, FoUTG appreciate all your help. A big thank you to all the members and friends of members that came along to our carol singing event in UTG on the 18th of December and helped us to eat all the lovely food and tasty UTG cake.



Lots of I ♥ UTG merchandise is available including totebags, t-shirts, hoodies, umbrellas, car stickers, calenders and more! Contact saveutg@gmail.com or pop into Coco Violet or Oneup.

www.naivepenguin.co.uk/ilurveutg for online t-shirt orders.

FoUTG are working at...

- ✓ Pressing for the Design Competition for City Square to be opened up to all options including retaining and enhancing the Gardens rather than destroying them by decking them over.
- ✓ Directly enhancing the Gardens e.g. Re-introducing giant draughts sets to the Gardens and investigating how toilets and disabled access can be provided in the gardens.
- ✓ Preventing ownership or lease of the Gardens being transferred away from the city and to another body, such as an SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle)
- ✓ Working with a wide variety of organisations and individuals to maximise usage of Union Terrace Gardens throughout the year and investigate funding options for improvements.
- ✓ Investigating the proposed funding mechanism, Tax Incremental Funding, and the likely impact on City Council and local business finances.

Please Join! We need you!

I support the Aims of Friends of Union Terrace Gardens

Name

Signature

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email

- £10 Businesses, Groups, Families (+ £ ... Donation welcome)
- £5 Individual (+ £ Donation welcome) or
- £3 concessions (students, pensioners, etc)

Please make cheques payable to Friends of Union Terrace Gardens.

Only members can vote at Friends AGM but we welcome everyone as a Supporter (see website)

Return to: FoUTG PO Box 10507 Aberdeen AB12 9EY

