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# Friends of Union Terrace Gardens



Newsletter 9: April 2011  
[www.FriendsOfUTG.org](http://www.FriendsOfUTG.org)

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# UTG

**A gathering of the vocal majority in support of Union Terrace Gardens.**

**Sat. April 23rd at 12pm  
Outside Markies and St Nic. Centre**

Please can you give up a few hours of your Saturday to come along and show support of the preservation and improvement of Union Terrace Gardens.

Let's get as many people there as possible.

We'd like to have enough people to progress down to Union Terrace Gardens and this won't be possible without your help.

This is something that every single member can do to help, and we need you all.

**PLEASE, please come down and show your support.**

## **UTG STILL A "DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY"; THEY JUST WONT LISTEN!**

Union Terrace Gardens appears as a development opportunity in the proposed Aberdeen local plan. Many of you objected to this. As it turns out, over 360 objected and only two supported it! Guess what? The council are still proposing to keep the park as a development opportunity in the new plan. It's a council that just wont listen.

This is the latest in a series of outrageous decisions by Aberdeen Council going way back to when they ignored the results of the public consultation on the city square, the one where we said no. The council administration and the businessmen on the city square board are now only talking to each other, the public don't count any more. This is a disgrace!

## **THE WORLD IS BEING ASKED WHAT ABERDEEN SHOULD LOOK LIKE, BUT NOT US**

The design competition for the city square has been launched and architects from all over the world have been asked to note an interest to be picked to produce a plan. However, nobody is asking the people of Aberdeen what they want their city centre to look like.

Even when the city square designs come back, you still will not be allowed to pick the winner. When the designs go on display, you will be asked to comment on them (keeping the Gardens as they are will not be an option at this stage). Councillors have been told that a jury will take these comments into account when they rank the designs. Once this happens, the jury preference will be handed over to the city square board. The board will then pick the final plan, a plan that may or may not be the one jury likes. The council will be asked to approve the final choice next December.

The element of public consultation looks to be weak, almost token in all of this. Again, the public are being badly let down by their council. A modern city square will be imposed on us whether you like it or not.

# Clachan Yell Ceilidh

in aid of Friends of Union Terrace Gardens

Aberdeen Treetops Hotel, Friday 24th June 2011

£20 / £15 concessions

Entry is by pre-purchased ticket only

A major fundraiser for our work to save and enhance Union Terrace Gardens will be a Ceilidh in Aberdeen on Friday 24 June 2011, with dancing to Aberdeen's famous Clachan Yell 'possibly the best ceilidh band in the world!'

Tickets holders will also get a supper of Stovies and Sandwiches, Tea and Coffee. There will be a silent auction and raffle during the evening.

We have individual tickets, and can also offer bookings for tables of 8 or 10, so make a party of it and bring your family or friends!

To purchase your tickets either:

1. Go online to [www.friendsofutg.org](http://www.friendsofutg.org) and use the Paypal Donate option, add the number of tickets required and address for dispatch in the dialogue box.
2. Write to us at PO Box 10507 Aberdeen AB12 9EY include number of tickets required and an address for dispatch, with a cheque made out to Friends of Union Terrace Gardens.

Please contact Robin McIntosh, FoUTG 01356648791 if you require any further information

## 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

