

# GREEN NEWS

SPRING  
2018



Marchmont,  
Bruntsfield & Merchiston

## Edinburgh Greens campaign for housing action

**EDINBURGH HAS MORE private rented homes than anywhere in Scotland, and they're costing tenants more too.**

**A report by Edinburgh Greens shows that between 2010 and 2017, new rents on two-bed homes in the capital rose by 40%. Some tenants are now paying three quarters of their earnings on rent.**

Now the Scottish Parliament has passed laws which enable councils to impose Rent Pressure Zones to limit rent rises.

Edinburgh Greens Housing Spokesman, Cllr Gavin Corbett said, 'Now that the Council has the power to prevent rents rising so drastically, faster than both the cost of living and incomes, it's time to use that power and stop tenants being squeezed by landlords like this. If rent rises were capped at 1% over inflation, then by 2020 the city's tenants could be over £50 a month better off.'

Meanwhile, the unregulated growth of holiday lets continues to put pressure on the availability and cost of homes. Residents report problems with noise, security and care of communal



**BETWEEN 2010 AND 2017, NEW RENTS ON TWO-BED HOMES IN THE CAPITAL ROSE BY 40%**

areas. In the Marchmont & Bruntsfield area, 'party flats', such as one four-bedroom flat offered for up to 34 people, can cause misery for neighbours.

Two-thirds of those surveyed supported Green MSP Andy Wightman's Homes First campaign – [greens.scot/homesfirst](http://greens.scot/homesfirst) – to amend Scottish legislation to allow councils to regulate short term lets. Green Cllr Melanie Main said, 'Green MSPs and Councillors will continue to work together on this issue which affects so many local residents. Please share your experiences with Homes First or contact Melanie Main (see overleaf).'

### Community Ownership for Astley Ainslie

As plans progress to sell off the NHS Astley-Ainslie hospital and grounds, the community is getting organised for a community bid. Cllr Main said '150 people attended a public meeting at the Eric Liddell Centre, and it's clear residents really care what happens to this wonderful green space, originally gifted to Edinburgh, and their support is very much needed by those taking this forward.'

[www.facebook.com/AstleyAinslieCommunity/](http://www.facebook.com/AstleyAinslieCommunity/)

**SEE OVER: Dig-in is five years old Safer walking at Holy Corner  
Muriel Spark Walk Local heroes John's Campaign comes to Edinburgh**

## JOHN'S CAMPAIGN COMES TO EDINBURGH

With Edinburgh Council and the NHS now working together to provide health and social care, Cllr Melanie Main has won unanimous support for the NHS and all care providers to sign up to John's Campaign, to improve care for dementia sufferers by including families in decisions and formalising an open visiting approach.

## LOCAL HEROES



**WHEN THE 'BEAST FROM THE EAST' DESCENDED ON EDINBURGH**, Liane & Kayleigh of Marchmont Hardware delivered fuel and cleared snow for ambulance staff to get two people to hospital. 'So many shops and residents came out to help, but we need to be better prepared in advance to act early. That's why I'm asking residents and local groups to contact me with their experience and ideas', says Cllr Melanie Main.



## Dig-in thrives at five

**Community-owned Greengrocer Dig-in celebrated its fifth birthday and reported the first trading profit last year.**

Selling healthy, often locally-sourced produce, profits from the Bruntsfield shop will be used to benefit the community. Founder member Cllr Melanie Main said, 'it's wonderful to see the staff and volunteers taking Dig-in forward so successfully and sharing their expertise with other communities.' For events, volunteering or to buy your shares, visit [www.diginbruntsfield.co.uk](http://www.diginbruntsfield.co.uk).

## A safer Holy Corner

The path in front of the former bank at this busy junction has been accepted as a Right of Way by the Council following a submission made by Green Cllr Melanie Main based on overwhelming evidence of use and support from local residents.

## Muriel Spark Walk

As part of the centenary celebrations '[murielspark100.com](http://murielspark100.com)', the Council has agreed to Cllr Melanie Main's request to commemorate one of Edinburgh's greatest novelists - naming a path across Bruntsfield Links, where the young Muriel Spark is likely to have walked to school.

## Contact your local Greens



**Your Green councillor:** Melanie Main is the Green councillor for Morningside. Contact Melanie on 07775 665 499 or 0131 529 3181 or [melanie.main@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.main@edinburgh.gov.uk) Meetings by arrangement. [@melaniemain](https://www.facebook.com/CllrMelanieMain)

**Your Green MSPs:** Alison Johnstone and Andy Wightman on 0131 348 5000 [alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:alison.johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk) [andy.wightman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:andy.wightman.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

**Edinburgh Greens:** [www.facebook.com/EdinburghGreens](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghGreens) | [twitter@EdinburghGreens](https://twitter.com/EdinburghGreens) | [www.edinburghgreens.org.uk](http://www.edinburghgreens.org.uk)

