

About me, Pete Gregson

In the understanding that nobody donates to or chooses to support a dodgy campaigner, here I come clean about my previous. Filth about me may soon be valued at a premium.

Yes – I’m an ex-catholic. Born in 1957, the seventh of eight children, I grew up in Aberdeen on a middle-class eccentric city farm. Educated at the rough St Peters RC School, the even rougher Holy Family Primary School and thence to the really much posher Aberdeen Grammar School. I was an altar boy, an activity I undertook in order to stay awake at church. I failed in that regard and on one occasion inadvertently set myself ablaze in the 10pm Holy Saturday service, through swaying sleepily into the path of the altar candle, an event which roused the congregation from their slumber too. My rebellious criteria became established in 1974 when I grew the longest hair in the school (to my waist) and was almost expelled for refusing to wear the uniform.



I left at the end of 5th year, worked as a milkman and then (because my old school form teacher told me I must become a doctor) at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary as a porter cum dogsbody, before escaping to Bristol Uni

where I enjoyed a hedonistic three years studying Biochemistry and Drama (I realised early doors that medicine was not for me, but acting might be). My best friends were the people calling themselves Jews that I met – they shared my catholic guilt and appreciation of the weirdness about religion. They also knew how to party. They helped me make it as Bristol’s Rag Week Drag Queen at the end of my first year and my Uni studies just went downhill from there.

Somehow, I graduated and convinced the BBC to give me a job, where I started in the radio world service in 1978. I was studio manager by day and squatter by night. Indeed, I was the “secretary” of the Burton Street Residents Association (in Bloomsbury, no less!) ; we petitioned Red Ken Livingston- he was housing convener at Camden Council at the time- to let us stay and get the housing converted into communal units. He ignored us, despite professing that he supported “self-help” initiatives. I met him, 40 years later at a Labour Against the Witch-hunt meeting- after they had made him patron- I told Ken of how he had evicted us 40 years previously, but that I now forgave him. He smiled.



Drag queen Peter Gregson

Anyway, after a year at the BBC, I was so bored that I felt I had to do what everybody else was doing and head to India. The choice – Magic Bus through Afghanistan or hitch-hiking through Africa to get to Mombasa and thence the slow boat to Poona?

I had been meeting some very interesting Africans and Arabs in the World Service, so started learning Hausa from a Nigerian presenter there, making up language tapes in the BBC studios- we got to use them free at night when they were empty. So I picked the Africa route, but never made it to India. I left in November 1979, pending most of my next six months



wandering about France, Spain, Morocco, Algeria, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Sudan, (where I started learning Arabic, if only to be able to eat and sleep) then back through Egypt with a number of exotic ailments to fly back to- another- squat in London. It was in Sudan that I had begun to learn about the plight of the Palestinians. By that stage I had learnt that dressing as an Arab was the sensible option for desert life. I looked and dressed like a Syrian.

Arabs everywhere welcomed me; each and every one took great pains to try and turn me Muslim. They never managed but I became an Arabophile; their kindness to strangers (an Islamic tradition) knocked me out- except in Morocco, where Western strangers are seen as wallets on two legs. But I began, in Sudan, by absorption from the views of those Arabs around me, to understand the pain of the Palestinians. European travellers I met reported that Israelis were being pretty unkind to this unhappy people.

But it would take me many years before I felt I could or would do anything about it.

I moved to Edinburgh in 1979, where the above photo was taken. I was unemployed, volunteering at Edinburgh Film Workshop, learning how to make films and videos.

After a major falling-out with the director and trustees when they started making films for Channel 4- instead of doing community access to the media; they were an educational charity, after all- I left in 1985 and became self-employed in making videos for charities, trading as Commedia.

COMMEDIA

I was also running courses in video production. And began designing my own publicity for the night classes I ran; I've been doing it ever since.



I also survived by being employed as a peripatetic part-time video youth worker for Lothian Regional Council, running many sessions and projects with young people all over Lothian; we made many short videos— see two of them from Mayfield and Easthouses, a depressed ex-mining community in Midlothian, made directly after the Miners Strike of 1984, in a community still reeling from anger at scabs and mass unemployment, with kids I met on the streets, [Look back at Newbattle High School](#) and [Police versus Youth](#). The police loved this last one, even though they were being interviewed by youths who had previously only frequented their jail cells; the Midlothian chief constable later gave me a letter of support,

that I used when setting up Young People Speak Out (see below), stating that the video projects had led to a drop in crime in the area...

[See most of my videos, many made during this time, on my Rumble channel at <https://rumble.com/user/PeteGregson> (You-tube closed my account in January 2026 because it was too pro-Palestinian; they said I was “promoting criminal behaviour”). Notable successes for projects that I set up, I felt, were [Tackling The Issues](#) about girls in football and [An Asian Family in Edinburgh](#), about a Sikh family running their shop in what was then a protestant, National Front- influenced area of Edinburgh: Gorgie]



I had joined Labour in 1986 when I was self-employed, then had set up and become part-time co-ordinator of the Video Access Centre (VAC), a community video training and access charity. I then went off to study IT at Napier University in 1992 for a year to get a PG Dip Info Sys-



tems (where I met the woman who was to become my wife for 14 years).



On leaving, I then set up another community video outfit Young People Speak Out (YPSO) in 1993. When I left 12 years later, YPSO was at its height, with 12 staff (many part-time) and several volunteers, producing 60 videos with over 500 young people a year, from the poorest communities across Lothian, or who were disadvantaged at school through being at risk of expulsion- see the [last YPSO Annual Report](#) I prepared here.

I qualified in Youth & Community work to get a PG Dip Ed in '95 through part-time study in Dundee's Northern College, and struggled keep the baby YPSO going until 2005 when, poacher turned gamekeeper, I landed a job in Regeneration at the City of Edinburgh Coun-

cil. By this time married with two young children, I craved an easier life. I was well sick of fundraising over £100,000 a year, mostly in dribs and drabs, for VAC and YPSO— for what was tricky community arts work.

Sadly, a year after I left the building (they were housed together), both Edinburgh Media-base- as VAC had become- and YPSO had closed down— the folk who took over from me were unable to fundraise enough to keep these two ships floating, even though I had left the bigger organisation, YPSO, with £70,000 in the bank.

However, the Glasgow Media Access Centre, which I helped change from the Glasgow Film & Video Workshop into a much more public-facing outfit during the two years I was there, from 1990 to 1992, continues to flourish: see their website at <https://www.gmacfilm.com/>

I had been very active in Labour too. I was political education officer at my local branch of Holyrood/South Side for many years; this enthusiasm was partly reflected by my production, with trainees at the Slide Workshop and the use of the archives of the Edinburgh People's Story Museum, in 1990, [of the slide-tape/video Radical Reekie](#), which showed the rise of Labour in the city up to WW2 and was shown to Labour Councillors in 1997; the DVD of it was hawked for £2 at Labour fundraising stalls (For [more info on the video, click here](#)).

(However, I left Labour when Blair ordered the invasion of Iraq in 2003, only to rejoin in 2009 when I needed too much to see Labour back into power in Edinburgh and after Gordon Brown apologised for the mess his predecessor Tony Blair had made of Iraq. When I rejoined, Blair had abolished the Branch system in Scotland, preferring to centralise control through his Policy Forums. So in 2009 I joined the Edinburgh Central CLP, where I served for many years on the Executive, again as Political Education officer and latterly, Trade Union liaison officer, getting motions passed on subjects such as nuclear disarmament and proportional representation, my then-favourite topics.)

In my new job in Regeneration at the City of Edinburgh Council I was put onto helping the Council developer, PARC, regenerate Craigmillar, in a fashion that was not very popular with the local community there. We were building the wrong kind of housing— high density homes in an urban area, where most people just wanted their own bit of garden and their own front door.

But life at the Council was not to stay easy for long. In 2009 I was disciplined by Michael Thain, then head of Strategy & Investment, for the first time, for campaigning- in my own





time!- against the loss of a teacher from my young son's primary school; he was turning 5 and entering a class not of 18, as we'd expected, but a class of 31. My passion for small class sizes led me to set up Kids not Suits, really just a website to campaign from. The name declared- why spend money on the back office on bureaucrats, when you could spend

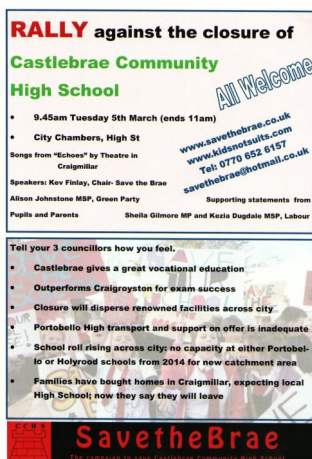
it on the front line on our children? The inefficiency of government, both national and local, galled me.

Essentially the Corporate Management Team didn't understand Council policy and thought that I was wrong to be campaigning on Council matters in my own time. In actual fact, this policy only applies to Department Heads; I was but a lowly Regeneration Project Manager.



The first disciplining at Edinburgh City Council was a true nightmare, with Unison barely able to protect me. I was taken off all duties and forced to come in every day and do nothing, with no access to the Council network on my computer. Few would speak to me. My mental health deteriorated; my doctor put me on anti-depressants. I closed my website and apologised to everybody I could find. This still wasn't enough for Michael Thain. Eventually I was informed after 3 months of this that I was getting a final written warning. At this point I was slowly given duties again. I got the warning in 2010, but after 2 years I learned it would be deemed expired.

Eventually I recovered through a dose of Mindfulness, becoming well enough in 2012 to do it all again. This time I was fired in 2013 on many counts of gross misconduct for campaigning against the closure of [Castlebrae High School](#), and blowing the whistle on a scheming Council officer.



For in 2012, I had started supporting **Save the Brae** in their battle to keep their Craigmillar High School, which involved my naming said Council officer, Mike Rosendale- then Head of Schools- to the Evening News, as one orchestrating the closure as "consultation" through repeatedly citing mistruths. (Interestingly, the Tory group on the Council later named Rosendale at a Council meeting, after he was caught bullying Cameron House Community Centre. This prompted Mike's early resignation, whilst he reported the councillors to the [Standards Commission for Scotland](#), claiming that by criticising him publicly, they had breached the Councillor's Code of Conduct.)

This was a battle we won- the new Castlebrae High School (see [Castlebrae Community](#)

[Campus](#)) was opened in 2022 but that wouldn't have happened without a massive battle that had Edinburgh Councillors in tears at a 7-hour full Council meeting in 2013. See the [video of Echoes](#) - the political theatre show made by the campaigners that was sent as a DVD to every Councillor (-that's my bald head in the foreground in this DIY multicamera shoot). So this was half the reason I was fired- because I challenged the Head of Schools who had wanted Castlebrae closed, describing it as a "boil waiting to be lanced"; I didn't agree- I had been a youth video worker for 25 years in the city and I knew it was not a "failing school", rather one of the best in town, catering for the poorest folk in Edinburgh. The logic here? It was Council policy that the school be closed, so, by opposing that, I (an employee) was opposing Council policy.

Having prevented the closure of the school, the Council then had to find £28M to build a new one. So 10 years on, the Council [was boasting](#) of the opening of the new high school in 2022, ignoring the background (of course). So one big success for CEC, thanks to my- and Save the Brae's work- along with committed Councillors such as Mike Bridgman, Davy Walker and all the Green Party Cllrs. And Kezia Dugdale MSP and Sheila Gilmore MP.

My goose was cooked though. The Council fired me and Unison could not save me. (At this point my wife left me and I lost my home and the kids were split across two places- thanks to my campaigning which got me sacked and her fury about it).



Another reason I was fired was because in 2012 I had lodged a Council petition against bullying and mismanagement by Council heads, calling for a whistleblower hotline for Council staff. Note I was a Council employee (albeit suspended) at the time, but I lodged it as a city resident. It got massive support across the city- after all, there were scandals a-plenty at the time: the trams, the Property Conservation scandal, the baby ashes scandal, the Castlebrae scandal: in every case, Edinburgh Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT) were making mistakes that were costing the city hundreds of millions of pounds. And I had seen colleagues sacked or bullied out of their jobs for blowing the whistle to the press or challenging their bosses that public money was being wasted.



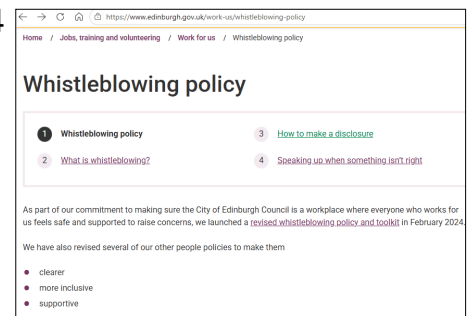
So I lodged this petition [A safer mechanism for reporting Edinburgh Council mismanagement - Petitions \(Closed\) – The City of Edinburgh Council](#) and so many Edinburgh citizens were so angry with the Council over the scandals that there was no problem in my getting over 500 signatures of support; this meant that it had to be discussed at Committee, where I, as petitioner, was invited to address councillors directly on the matter. Edinburgh is one of the very few Councils to have such a great petitioning system; it was brought in by Council Leader Cllr Andrew Burns in 2012 in a commitment to open democracy. It has certainly given me a chance to get various matters onto the Council's agenda.

But Council rules are harsh on employees and dictate, that if any Council worker blows the whistle to a councillor, they can be fired for breaching the [Member-Officer Protocol](#). So the system works to keep councillors in the dark. And the Employee [Code of Conduct](#) is even

harsher, warning staff from commenting on Council services on social media— even though staff are ratepayers too, and entitled to freedom of speech to speak as consumers, rather than providers, of Council services. If any employee makes a comment on the Council on social media, even as parent or citizen, they are duty-bound to tell their line manager.

So, my campaign for a whistleblower hotline ran for 9 months and in the end I won; however, I was fired two months before the Policy Committee prevailed over the Corporate Management Team and implemented my petition. Readers would hoot if they knew how I got the Head of Risk and Legal to swing things- in hand with my local ward councillor, the Tory Jeremy Balfour (until recently an MSP). He and Cllr Maggie Chapman (now leader of the Scottish Greens in Parliament) were the only two councillors who stood in my defence against my sacking.

The Council duly launched the Whistleblower hotline in 2014 with much fanfare, a year later declaring it a huge success (see [Whistleblowing policy – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)) and in truth it has curbed the worst excesses of senior Council officers in the years it has been running since.



Everything in the policy is there because I told the Council they needed it; I even told them which company to use to take confidential whistleblowing reports from employees: Safecall. Safecall then take the reports to the [Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee](#) (traditionally chaired by a Councillor appointed by the opposition [rather than one from within the Administration]- this helps ensure that the Council Administration is held to account by someone with no vested interest in maintaining the Administration's power). It means that Whistleblowing reports are heard by those who are duty bound, qualified, and empowered, to act on them. The CMT is utterly bypassed in this process, which leads them open to scrutiny, too.

So- another big success for CEC, thanks to my efforts. Why didn't the Evening News declare my work as a win? Because I asked them not to. Because I knew that if I was featured in the press as a sacked Council worker, I would find it MUCH harder to get another job.

[As a result, I sometimes wonder— do any of the current crop of Councillors know about these efforts, which cost me my job? I doubt it]

I wrote a book on the madness of that time, ("Edinburgh Council: My Journey to Hell and Back") but never published it for fear of the libel laws. And because I couldn't find a publisher who thought there was a market for it!!!

So Castlebrae High school stayed open, my campaign for the introduction of [whistleblower hotline at the Council](#) was successful, but I was out of a job. The wife sued for divorce, I lost the house and over half of the access to the kids. Nobody wanted to employ me.

So, through temping at shitty jobs, I managed to disinfect my CV, and finally got a permanent job in 2014, in the large public sector body where I remained until I retired in November 2023: the National Health Service.





Being an inveterate trouble-maker, I began fighting for staff rights again. In 2016 I lodged a petition to the Scottish Parliament [for an NHS staff whistleblower hotline](#). Subsequent campaigning for this led to my falling out with Unite- who sought my dismissal - and Unison- who sought my expulsion-

both battles I won. (Both unions operate as partners with NHS Scotland and so have good reason for maintaining the status quo.) The NHS was a MUCH more tolerant body than Edinburgh Council, though, and although I suffered investigation under the Disciplinary Policy a couple of times, I was able to fight off misconduct allegations (thanks to a great union, Prospect, the only body I have joined that hasn't tried to expel me for criticising Israel) and there was never any real risk of my being fired. My campaign had some limited success, with the establishment of the NHS [Independent National Whistleblowing Officer](#) (INWO) scheme in April 2021.

I had sought to become a Labour Councillor in the 2017 elections, but was booted off the panel at the last minute, having got through the selection process, just as I was putting my name down for Craigmillar ward. I suspect this was by the then Cllr Leslie Hinds, who hated my guts due to a local campaign I'd run against the City Centre West East Link (CCWEL), the daft protected cycle track the Council wanted to put through our tiny main street (by the

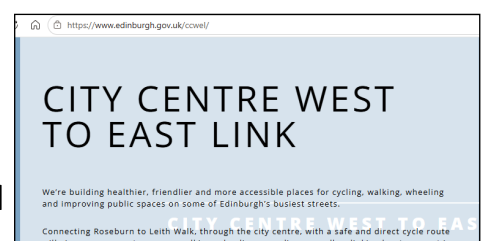


way, I am a committed cyclist). I understand she dug up filth about me by digging through years of Facebook postings. It was then determined by her husband on the Edinburgh Local Campaign Forum (LCF) Secretary, Martin Hinds- and the rest of the LCF, that I would, if elected, bring the Labour Party into disrepute. I was very angry about my treatment as I believe the evidence against me to be pretty naff; I was condemned for painting my body green and wearing a grass skirt to a bad taste party (I was a radioactive Bikini Athol islander, FFS). I almost left the Party in disgust. However, I

stayed because of Corbyn.

But that was all to change...

First, a bit more about CCWEL: or the *City Centre West East Link*, which was a scheme dreamt up by the cycling officers at Edinburgh Council in 2011 which only reached the Council's Transport Committee in 2014, when Councillors nodded



it through after being presented with a [Preliminary Justification Report \(PJR\)](#) or “business case”. This useless document never mentioned the likely impact on local businesses- who were to lose all their customer parking; there were 25 of these businesses alone in Roseburn, the area that I live, in a scheme that would cripple our local economy for years. All the PJR/business case told them was that by spending £7M (a sum which eventually rose to £21M), that there would be an 88% uptick in cycling across the city with a cost-benefit ratio of 3.3 (worked out on the logic that Edinburgh citizens would cease taking “sickies” through being much more healthy, due to being on their bikes twice a day, so with fewer employee sick days, Edinburgh’s economy would be boosted; on such nefarious logic, well-paid Council consultants helped ambitious Council transport bosses justify the most crackpot of schemes...).

Roseburn to Leith Walk Cycle Links

Preliminary Justification Report (PJR)

December 2014

After the cycle track..

Decision 28th Feb
TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

This?



or this?



40% parking + loading will go from Xmas. Act now to support the CCWEL Cycle Link- Small Business Compensation Scheme bid: PTO and go to tinyurl.com/trackmustpay

Save our shops. Save our Community

After a few years battling against the scheme, the Council refused to budge, even though I organised a petition with 6,000 signatures, that the then Transport convener, Cllr Leslie Hinds, was furious about- why was a Labour Party member undermining a Labour Council initiative, yet again???. Council control subsequently passed to the SNP and Greens, but the CCWEL stayed on track, as it were. When it became apparent that the Council were dead set on running it along Roseburn Terrace- where all the shops were, on the A8- rather than Roseburn Place- a parallel nice quiet street with little traffic and no shops- things got hotter. We

then discovered, thanks to a retired SEPA air pollution expert who lived locally, that the CCWEL would lead to an INCREASE in road NO2 pollution (see the [Roseburn Plume video](#)).



This led to a show-down where I was expelled from the City Chambers: [Former council employee thrown out of meeting for 'asphyxiating Ruth](#)

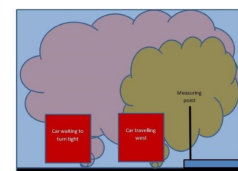
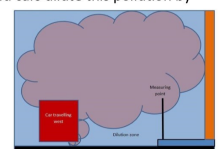
SIGN THE COUNCIL PETITION Call for Independent Air Study analysing the Impact of CCWEL Road Layout Changes on Roseburn Terrace NO2 Pollution Levels



Here's why we need the Council to get an independent assessment of air quality, post-cycle track. The view is of the south side of Roseburn Terrace, looking east. At present the measuring point records nitrogen dioxide (NO2) at just the legal limit. Parked cars dilute this pollution by

keeping traffic away from the shops, preventing a breach of this legal limit of $40 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. But the CCWEL track will cut parking by half.

Current scenario (with dilution zone)



and with the cycle lane in place- without dilution and with traffic closer to shops. This means NO2 levels will increase to dangerous levels

Sign the Council Petition before 10 July at Roseburn shops or online at www.tinyurl.com/roseburnplea

[Davidson's baby' comments | Edinburgh Live](#) which I think soiled my copybook with the Council somewhat.

I must say I apologised to the Transport & Environment Committee (and Ruth Davidson) after things had cooled down. But I do feel my case has been vindicated: pollution levels have risen in Roseburn as a result of the cycle track; if Ruth's baby was still using her old office in Roseburn Terrace she'd be complaining about it and putting baby Finn in a face-mask.

Also, in spite of blowing £21M on the CCWEL, which the Council was claiming back in 2014 would lead to a 88% increase in cycling, it has, in fact, led to a decrease across the city, in a recent 2026 report that Sustrans and the Council wanted to cover up. As a cyclist myself, I had always argued that the £21M would have been better spent fixing the potholes and improving cycle lanes with bollards on roads right across the city (as was implemented during Covid), not just in one protected track from Roseburn to the foot of Leith Walk. But no-one at the Council was listening.

Sadly, the councillors have short memories about the reports that have led them into disasters; for frequently they have left office, only for their places to be taken by new naïve councillors, fresh to be impregnated by new Corporate Management Team proposals. The CMT officers, comprising the seven or so Departmental Heads, are there for life, you see, unlike most councillors who are passing through on their way to something better, many lasting 4 years at most.



In 2018 I was made GMB shop steward for the whole of NHS Lothian. That didn't last, for after 9 months I was expelled for criticising Israel (see why on my Substack post at [I was blacklisted by the founder of Palestine Action](#))

Also, I had become treasurer for the local scout group back in 2013 but was booted out in 2023 for running the Campaign Against Bogus antisemitism. Yes, dear reader, I was expelled by Zionists from the boy Scouts too. My Jewish Group Scout Leader supported me, though...



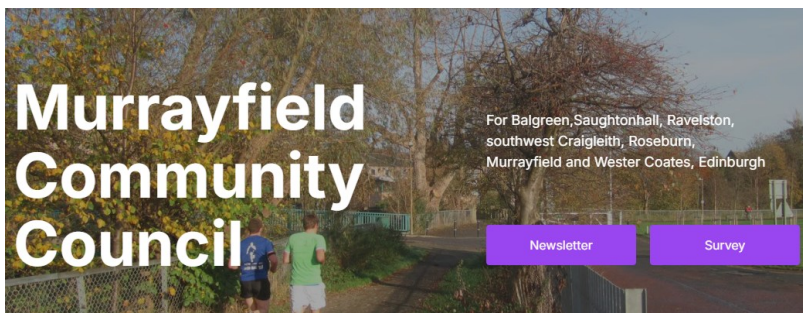
This injustice prompted to my getting 1,414 signatories for [my petition to Bear Grylls](#), Chief Scout, on Change.org- which he completely ignored, stating he did not get involved in "internal Scout matters".

In 2020 I left the Labour Party, a fortnight before the hearing where the Governance and Legal Unit was going to expel me. I had already suffered investigation and suspension; read about it under *The Labour Party – witch-hunting Pete* in the [Rogues Gallery - One Democratic Palestine](#)

In 2023 I stood for election as an independent candidate for the Corstorphine/Murrayfield Ward after Cllr Frank Ross stepped down, in frustration over the lack of SNP group support for a Council compensation to traders suffering from the CCWEL (many had reported a loss

of 50% of their trade). On the night, I got 300 votes, losing to Lib Dem Cllr Fiona Bennet. You can [read more here](#).

For many years I was a Community Councillor on [Murrayfield Community Council](#) (MCC), from 2015, until 2025, when I stood down. I had been a very active member until I was asked to resign by the chair in December



2023, following a complaint by [Heidi Bachram](#), a Jewish News reporter and a raving Zionist, in Brighton. She said that I had said that Israel had been “asking for it” on Oct 7th, in a short video I had uploaded onto TikTok, which she re-edited to take out of context, then sent to my gullible chairperson. This video was utterly separate from— and did not mention, the Community Council. It had nothing to do with the drains and roads closures that pre-occupy MCC members. I refused to resign. This led to the cancellation of the John Lennon plaque I had been organising. [See the Times article here](#). It also led to Edinburgh Council appointing a lawyer to investigate me for 2 months as to whether I had, indeed, brought



the MCC into disrepute. The Lawyer eventually agreed that I had freedom of speech on Palestine and that my video bore no relation to MCC business. I stayed on the MCC until my term of office came to an end. More on this on Substack at [I was blacklisted by the founder of Palestine Action](#)

PRESENT ROLES (AS AT JULY 2026)

I am chairperson of the [Friends of Roseburn Park](#) and I volunteer a couple of times a week at local charities.



I am also chair of the Edina Gaza Twinning Association (see www.twingaza.com and One Democratic Palestine (see www.onepalestine.land).

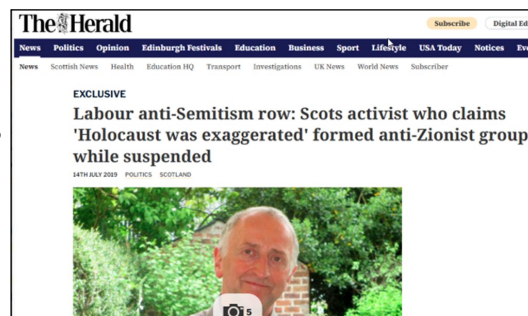


GAZA SUPPORT

I continue to try and get Edinburgh Council to hear my calls to action on support for Gaza through the Edinburgh Partnership (see [Edinburgh Council to Explore Support for Gaza](#)).

It may be helpful for you, the reader, to know that I always struggle to get a hearing not only from Edinburgh Councillors, but also from other pro-Palestine groups. You can read about my personal tribulations on all fronts Israeli and Palestinian [on my Substack piece](#).

Convincing the Council was made more difficult by appearing on the front page of the Herald as a Holocaust denier just two days after my first Gig for Gaza in Princes St Gardens in 2019 : [Labour anti-Semitism row: Scots activist who claims 'Holocaust was exaggerated' formed anti-Zionist group while suspended | The Herald](#)



I organised another Gig for Gaza in the gardens in 2022- both events were designed to boost interest in the Twinning proposal. Local media boycotted both gigs completely; an Edinburgh Live reporter prepared a story, but his editor refused to publish it, telling him that Gaza was “too political” for Edinburgh Live...



The misreporting in the Herald piece led me to try for litigation- the lawyer charged me £350 and said I couldn't win it, as being called an anti-semitite by a newspaper was likely, in court, to be seen as the paper expressing its right to hold an opinion. I also complained to the Independent Press Standards Office (IPSO)- that got nowhere too.

The other nonsense in the piece, about “bullying a poor Jewish woman” (actually highly-salaried GMB union International Officer and [Jewish Labour Movement](#) leading light [Rhea Wolfson](#)) is also addressed in the [Substack article](#) - which is rather long, I should warn readers. I only published this article in June 2026, for I was sick of being excluded from everything. Now, just a month later, it's had 500 views.



So, I can understand why Cllrs wanted to keep me quiet on August 30th, 2022, the day of the Policy meeting, where they decided not to let me present my Gaza petition to the Policy Committee. However, they had no justification on doing the same to the Mayor of Gaza (who speaks excellent English, having obtained his Engineering PhD at Bradford University)- and all the others who had queued up that day to speak in support of the twinning bid.

I must admit I DO know the Deputy Leader, as for many years both she and I served on the Labour CLP for Edinburgh Central- I was active in Labour for 38 years in all. I remember asking Cllr Mandy Watt back in 2019 if she might support twinning with Gaza, when I met her one day in Morningside. She replied by saying that rather we should be “twinning with Tel Aviv” because... “they were more like us”.

Up to date as at 26th July 2026

Pete Gregson

