

## Prof. David R. Syiemlieh to perform duties of Chairman, UPSC

The President has appointed Prof. David R. Syiemlieh, Member, Union Public Service Commission, to perform the duties of the post of Chairman,

---

## Food recycling – Perth Road Lanes – further update



I recently updated residents about the impending food recycling extension to cover the Perth Road lanes and surrounding area.

There was a drop-in session yesterday for residents that I previously advertised and I thought it would now be useful to give a list of the streets wholly or partly included in the new food recycling extension :

AIRLIE PLACE  
BALTIC GARDENS  
BELLEFIELD AVENUE  
FORDS LANE  
GREENFIELD PLACE  
HIGH MILL COURT  
MAGDALEN MEWS  
MAGDALEN PLACE  
MAGDALEN YARD ROAD  
MCGONAGALL SQUARE  
MCVICARS LANE  
MID WYND  
MILLERS WYND  
OSBORNE PLACE  
PATONS LANE  
PATRICK PLACE  
PENNYCOOK LANE

PERTH ROAD  
RITCHIES LANE  
ROSEANGLE  
RYEHILL LANE  
SEABRAES COURT  
SEABRAES LANE  
SEAFIELD CLOSE  
SEAFIELD LANE  
SEAFIELD ROAD  
SHEPHERDS LOAN  
SPINNERS WYND  
SPRINGFIELD  
ST PETER STREET  
STEP ROW  
STRAWBERRYBANK  
TAYFIELD PLACE  
TAYLORS LANE  
THOMSON STREET  
UNION PLACE  
WESTFIELD AVENUE  
WESTFIELD LANE  
WESTFIELD PLACE  
WINDSOR PLACE

I have details of the locations of communal on-street recycling units in the area so do please contact me if you wish further information on this ([recycling@frasermacpherson.org.uk](mailto:recycling@frasermacpherson.org.uk)).

Last week, I attended a briefing for councillors about the proposed final extensions of all other household recycling across the city (paper, cardboard, metals, plastics, etc) and this will take place in two phases – commencing April and June. The above area is the only part of the West End left to have this extension (the rest of the West End being covered from 2015) and I will update with further details on this soon.

---

## [Tuition fees are a harsh lesson for parents](#)

As pupils face ever-growing pressure to improve grades, courses offered by private agencies seem like an easy solution but the cost in both time and money is high.



Students practice calligraphy in Wuzhi county, Henan province. The course is part of a free-tuition program run by the local government. [Photo/Xinhua]

Wang Haifeng is pondering whether to register her son, a fifth-grade Beijing primary school pupil, on a math tutorial course. If she does, it would be the fifth course the Beijing resident has signed her 10-year-old child up for.

The other four are English, Chinese classics, basketball and the game of Go. Her son has to attend each class once or twice every week.

“The number is not that large compared with many of my son’s classmates at school, who have seven, eight or even more tutorial courses of different subjects to take outside school.”

The popularity of these seemingly “hot services” is accentuated by the scarcity of places offered by some tutorial agencies.

In November 2016, a report by Metro Express, a newspaper in Zhejiang province about parents waiting outside classrooms of a well-known tutorial agency to obtain a place for their children went viral on WeChat Friend Circle. It triggered heated discussions and retrospection among parents and educators on whether the pursuit of such services is rational or not.

The report said many parents signed their children up for tutorial courses not only to improve the children’s test results over a short period of time, but also with a longer-term view: to get the children prepared for the fierce competition of entrance exams for highly selective junior middle or high schools.

According to educational laws and regulations, pupils in China do not have to take any tests when they finish their primary school studies and rise to

junior middle school.

But the principle only applies to students who choose to enter ordinary junior middle schools that are adjacent to the addresses on their hukou, or permanent residence permit.

For those who want to attend prestigious junior middle schools with better facilities and teachers, they have to pass independent recruiting exams, which are organized by the schools and consisting of tests of subjects taught in primary school, including math and English.

Under such circumstances, turning to tutorial agencies that help students improve test scores is almost a must to possibly increase the odds of being admitted.

---

## Donald Tusk speaks out for the elites

Mr Tusk has written a letter to the EU 27 saying he disagrees with the views of many voters around the EU “that European integration is beneficial only to the elites, the ordinary people have only suffered as a result”. He should try telling that one to the millions thrown out of work or never able to get a job thanks to the Euro and the EU’s banking and economic policies. The UK was badly damaged by the EU’s Exchange Rate Mechanism.

He thinks that people do not feel secure enough. He urges the EU 27 to unite to undertake “definitive reinforcement of the EU external borders”. Does that mean he now wants to build more walls and fences, as the EU is helping Turkey do already and as some EU countries have done individually?

There is news for the UK, which is not mentioned by name. He tells us “The EU should not abandon its role as a trade superpower, which is open to others”. That sounds like a man who wants to have access to the UK market and accepts we will have access to the EU’s internal market. He clearly does not wish to lose any European trade.

There is also the curious statement that “the times of European unity have been the best times in all of Europe’s centuries long history”. Is this the idea that the Roman Empire or the Habsburg Empire or the French conquests of the late eighteenth century were some golden age, despite the role of the military and of occupation?

His letter of course sets out exactly what many of us expected to be the EU’s next move – more progress towards a full political and defence union.

---

## With fewer people active, UN health agency urges people to get moving

1 February 2017 – Not enough exercise contributes to cancer, diabetes, depression and other non-communicable diseases, according to the United Nations health agency, which is urging people to get up and get active.

According to a new document the World Health Organization (WHO), less and less people are active in many countries with nearly a quarter of all adults and more than 80 per cent of adolescents being too sedentary.

WHO's *Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020* recommends that inactive people start with "small amounts of physical activity" and then gradually increase duration, frequency and intensity over time.

Physical activity can be any activity, not just sport, that uses energy "from playing and doing household chores to gardening and dancing.

"Any activity, be it for work, to walk or cycle to and from places, or as part of leisure time, has a health benefit," according to the UN agency.