

Flashmob in Multrees Walk

✘ Well to start with first things first. What is a Flashmob?

According to trusty old Wikipedia:-

*“A **flash mob** (or **flashmob**)^[1] is a large group of people who assemble suddenly in a [public place](#), perform an unusual and pointless act for a brief time, then disperse.^[2] The term flash mob is generally applied only to gatherings organized via telecommunications, [social media](#), or [viral emails](#).^{[3][4][5][6][7][8]} The term is generally not applied to events organized by [public relations](#) firms, [protests](#), and [publicity stunts](#).^{[5][9]}”*

Following our article about the two Edinburgh men who were moved along when taking photographs on Multrees Walk which you can read [here](#), we were alerted to the Flashmob which appeared to have been stirred up by a variety of journalists and keen amateur photographers in town. It took place at 12.30 today on Multrees Walk and in Elder Street.

Shortly before this The Reporter was walking up Multrees Walk with a camera slung over as per usual, and went to meet a colleague on the Fourth Floor of Harvey Nichols. At that point there was a security man from Harvey Nichols following. All the way up to the Fourth Floor and back down again. There were also two other security men standing in the street outside Links. They were obviously aware something was up. So how did they know?

Well it became obvious when the former Guardian beatblogger [Tom Allan](#) appeared with a camera to film the goings on. He said that he had requested prior permission to film in the street for a video which will be shown on [The Guardian Local site](#).

So if the essence of a flashmob is its sudden happening, then that had been taken away by the very proper behaviour of one journalist. The security guards were already on their mettle and the police in attendance, although the second two police constables said they were just passing and had not been summoned. The rest of us journalists were conducting interviews for the local paper, taking photographs of what was happening or, in my case, I was only recording audio for an audio slideshow while the photos were being shot separately.

It became clear that the whole premise on which the Flashmob had assembled was wrong, in that for some obscure reason the walkway may indeed be private. The Reporter spoke to one of the former lessees of a shop in Multrees Walk who said that the owner of the building employs the security and treats it all as if it is a private area, notwithstanding that the public do use it to go to The St James Centre.

Here are the interviews in the form of an audio slideshow carried out with both of the amateur photographers who already featured in the earlier YouTube footage – and their legal friend.

[ad#slideshow]

Photos by Martin McAdam