

Spurtle

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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

CONSULTATIONS CHAOS AT COUNCIL



We need a voice in City Chambers

The process by which school futures in the city are being rationally and inclusively considered has failed. Lynda Flex, Chair of Drummond CHS and a parent representative on the Council's cross-party forum, was ejected from the consultative committee

on 11 June after unsubstantiated allegations that she had leaked confidential details to the *Evening News*. Her expulsion prompted walk-outs by 3 other members.

In carefully chosen language, the *News* denied Ms Flex was the original source of its information, and that she had approached them. Ms Flex is now referring Marilynne MacLaren, Convener of the troubled Children and Families Dept, to the Standards Commission for misconduct. Despite the farcical state of affairs, few people are laughing and nobody involved in this City Chambers side-show spat emerges looking clever.

Spurtle says: Pupils, parents and staff at threatened schools require representatives on all sides of the debate to remain focused and cool-headed, debating in good faith even when the going gets tough. Mischief-making politicians at the periphery should stay out of it.

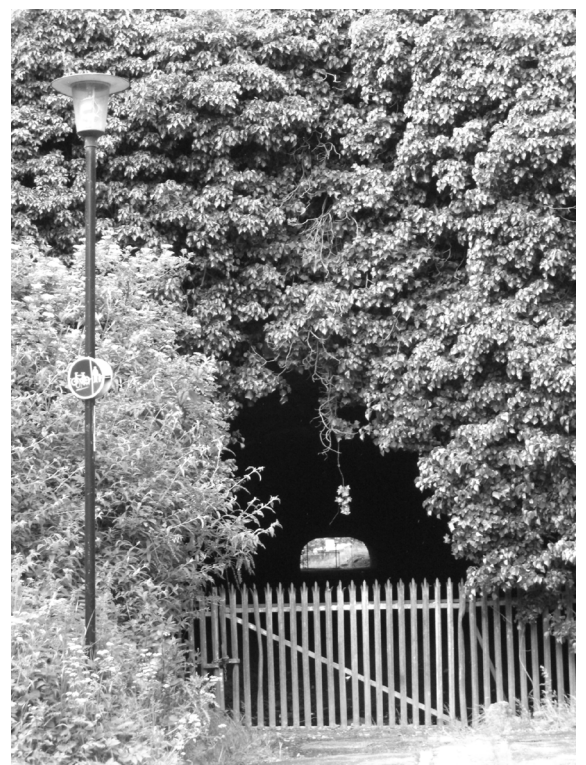
LIGHT AT END OF RODNEY STREET TUNNEL

Work on reopening the tunnel under Rodney St as a pedestrian and cycle route will resume after the City's Transport Dept agreed to match-fund £100K offered by cycling charity Sustrans.

The Council's decision came after nearly 10 months' delay due to the budget crisis in City Chambers. Path resurfacing and installation of lights will begin soon. Cllr Phil Wheeler, Transport Convener, told **Spurtle**: "Provided no unforeseen problems are encountered, we would anticipate the tunnel being open for use from April 2009."

Meanwhile, Friends of King George V and Scotland Yard Parks, at the tunnel's southern entrance, are concerned that bicycle access should not ruin the enjoyment and safety of others, especially children. Cllr Wheeler commented: "The project programme has yet to be finalised but one of the very first steps will be to meet representatives of the Friends ... so that park users' views can be taken into consideration."

In 2007 Sustrans paid for a reinforced concrete arch in the tunnel to support the weight of the heavily used junction above. When the £350K scheme is finished, it will be the last link in National Cycle Network Route 75 connecting Glaswegians to sunshine and civilisation.



Briefly

Around the World in Art, kids workshops, run this month from 11am–2pm (various times/age-groups) at **Out of the Blue Drill Hall**, Dalmeny St, £20 per week. See: www.juliedawson.me.uk Tel.: 555 7101.

The new “**EH7 Residents Action Group**” will meet to ratify its constitution and appoint office-bearers at 6.30pm in the **Claremont Bar** (E. Claremont St) on **24 July**. The group aims to co-ordinate locals on a wide range of **planning, development and environmental issues** in the Broughton area. Contact [hvapnews@hotmail.co.uk]

Talking Trees Storytelling for children aged 5+ at the **Botanics Exhibition Hall**, on **20 July**, 2pm. **Free**.

Hello, goodbye, and good luck to several emporia on **Forth St** which are on the move. Sadly, “**Beyond Words**” ceases trading shortly, but its card stock will still be featured in its parent shop in **Cockburn St**.

The award-winning “**Urban Angel**” restaurant has spread its wings from **Hanover St** to its second branch in the former premises of the ‘**Tapas Tree**’ bistro, which has fled to **Elysian fields**.

We hear that there will also be a major change c/o “**Gert & Lil**”: watch this space.

Meantime, aficionados of the tattooist’s art may be drawn to “**Tribe 3 Tattoo**” which has opened at **80 Broughton St**. Incidentally, the last proprietor of No. 80, **Robert Stone**, **massage therapist**, conducts his clinics in **John Malcolm hairdressing** at 2a **Forth Street**, and recently celebrated 10 years of professional practice in Broughton.

Bonnington PS stares into the abyss

On 18 Jun. Education Committee members agreed a recommendation by the cross-party forum to close 3 city primaries, including nearby **Bonnington PS**. The proposal – “by no means a foregone conclusion”, according to one optimistic Council spokesperson we contacted – will now go to further public consultation in the autumn, with a decision being made in Nov. and possible closure following as soon as Christmas. The move comes as part of the **Children & Families Dept’s** bid to save £18m. Sale of “failing” **Bonnington**, currently occupied by 80 pupils, could raise about £1.4m, and some of its children would probably join **Broughton PS**. Staff would be redeployed.

The trams – love them or loathe them?

Adam Ramsay writes: I have been amused to watch public opinion on trams follow exactly the trajectory predicted two years ago. In almost every other city that has had trams put in recently, public opinion has changed in exactly the same way over time. Initially, people are tentatively supportive of the idea. Then, while the lines are being put in, people find every possible reason to hate them. Then, once they are built, they are massively popular, and there is demand for new routes across the city. I am sure trams in **Edinburgh** will prove equally popular once they get going!

Exercise your rights

Kay Walker asks: How many residents near **St Mark’s Park** and **Powderhall** have thought “Maybe I’ll have a game of bowls or a wee round of putting today”? The **Bonnington Rd green** is



Council-owned, it’s for public use, and you are welcome to play there. There are clubs to join if you wish. The **Tues. evening** one for men and women runs from about 6.30–8pm, and the **Wed. afternoon Bellevue Ladies** from 2–4pm. With the school holidays upon us, it’s something new to try together with your children – putting (60p), at least, since the wee ones cannot handle the weight of the bowls. New mums – have a go and keep an eye on your prams as you play! Dads – give your children a challenge! Why not give it a try - let’s use these facilities while we still have them.

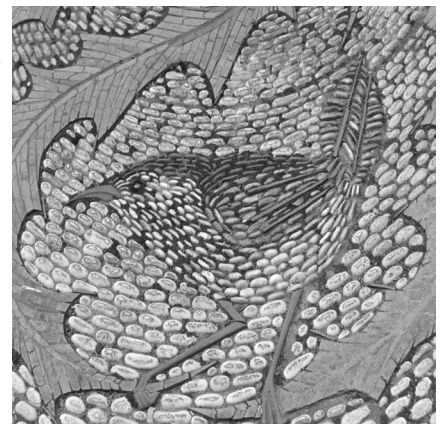
Nooks and Crannies: Mr Findlay’s oasis of calm

Findlay Court, at the west corner of **Queen Street’s** Scottish National Portrait Gallery, is one of the hidden gems which stud the capital’s weathered cityscape. Conceived as a formal courtyard garden, its hexagonal design has a central motif of a white rose interwoven with a thistle, quartered by an owl and wren and a salamander and squirrel.



There are four rowan trees on **Rennie MacIntosh-inspired(?)** bases, flanked by elegant seats. This is contained within an intricate geometric floor-space, highlighted by the pebbled mosaic of the central image.

The garden was created by **Maggie Howarth**, one of Britain’s foremost exponents of the ancient art of pebble mosaic paving. Her materials incorporate water-worn stones, tiny pebbles, carved stone and ceramic bas reliefs, and she was present at the opening of this magically transformed gap-site in **March 1995**.



Fine detail in Findlay Court

The courtyard itself salutes **John Ritchie Findlay**, the Gallery’s original benefactor and former proprietor of the *Scotsman*. This graceful space is a Zen-like zone of repose and stimulation in the racing heart of the city, understated and often overlooked, but in its quiet way one of **Edinburgh’s** most beautiful possessions. For further information see: [www.maggyhowarth.co.uk]. *JRM*

Arthur Lloyd – music hall legend



Photo ©Matthew Lloyd, reproduced by permission

Not many people remember Arthur Lloyd today, but the comic vocalist, composer, playwright and sketch artiste born in Broughton was once a national celebrity, performed before Royalty, and was known as the last of the “Lions Comiques”.

Born on 14 May 1839 at 7 Annandale St, and living soon afterwards at the Gardener’s Cottage on Leith Walk, Lloyd was the son of an Edinburgh-based comedian – Horatio Lloyd (1807–89) – who never earned more than £5 a week. In an effort to do better, Arthur embraced music hall and the management of it, earning up to £100 a week during his glory years from 1870–89. But management had its own perils and, after meeting family commitments, he was never wealthy. Lloyd’s specialty was amusing and slightly racy character songs such as “The Organ Grinder”, “Not for Joseph” and “Married to a Mermaid”. A consummate baritone, he also toured as a recitalist and sang twice before the Prince of Wales. In 1871 he married Katty King, a dancer with whom he performed extensively. In the words of one biographer, “Off the stage apparently he was not an entertaining person. He was essentially Scottish, a family man who brought up a large number of children.” (Clearly he was entertaining enough.) After Kitty’s death in 1892, two of his children joined Lloyd on a working tour of the US. He died in 1904 whilst staying with daughter Annie at 18 Fettes Row, and was buried in Newington Cemetery.

Arthur Lloyd deserves wider recognition, and with this in mind *Spurtle* approached Cllr Deidre Brock, City Culture & Leisure Convener and herself no stranger to the stage. “I’m fascinated and excited by this discovery,” she said, and promised to help us see if a commemorative plaque can be erected. More information at: [www.arthurlloyd.co.uk]. *AM*



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Sparkling potential of local site

Fountains are surely the most joyful and generous expressions of an international city’s confidence and self-belief. As a sometime resident of Stockholm, New York and Paris, whose fountains convey a universal feeling of well-being, I find the lack of public fountains in my native city peculiarly joyless and puzzling. It seems Edinburgh’s fountains are either switched off, reduced to disappointing trickles (West Princes St Gardens) or are simply nondescript (Sheraton piazza and Hunter Square). And alas, the alluringly wet Michelangelo-esque youth who used to grace the Waverley Centre has long since been spirited away. *Spurtle* often reports on this and that housing development and the intricacies of Planning which frequently result in yet another monument to the wan and the bland – but certainly no fountains. Broughton could change all that and perhaps set a trend.

If we are not to have a Heriot’s boy sculpture or Ritchie’s clock in the central roundabout at the foot of Broughton St (see Issues 153, 157), why not a fine iridescent fountain? Why, its source could even be from the measureless depths of our own Broughton lochan (see Issue 158). This might remind tourists that cosmopolitan Broughton is well aware of the dazzling splendours of Sergels Torg, the Lincoln Center, and Versailles – and the literal importance of *usque beah*. *JRM*

Briefly

Spotted at the N.E. end of E. Claremont St on 3 June, a Christmas tree ready for uplift. Is this a record? And was this carbonised specimen the same one whose combustion here in Jan. damaged a parked car? **Has lightning struck twice in the same spot?** If you can shed light or needles on the mystery, please tell us.

Young people wanting information, support, advice or company have a range of choices close by this summer. **For general information and a what’s-on guide**, see [www.youngscot.org]. **Edinburgh City Youth Café** (6 Victoria Terrace) offers computers and c.card access point for 14–21-year olds (Tel.: 220 2108 [6VT1@aol.com]). **Crew 2000** (32 Cockburn St) gives one to one support on drugs and sexual health issues (Tel.: 220 3404 [admin@crew2000.org.uk]). **BME (Black Minority Ethnic) Youth Zone** at 14 Forth St is open to 14–21-year olds on Thurs (3–7pm) and Fri (1–4pm). Young people **not wanting** information, support, advice or company should **just be surly to their parents as per normal**.

Work on the £5.3m refurbishment of **Glenogle Swim Centre** will begin when the pool closes on **Sunday 19 Oct**. The project is expected to take 18 months, with **reopening** scheduled for **Apr. 2010**. A **public briefing** on the project will be held in **Sep.** – we’ll keep you posted nearer the time.

Above the pavement near the junction of **Annandale St** and **Bellevue Rd**, Catherine Gourlay has noticed a simple but baffling sign reading “**END**”. End of what? Any suggestions gratefully received.

Friends of Hillside & Calton Area now have a **website**. With any luck it will still be there by the time you finish typing: [www.spanglefish.com/FriendsofHillsideCaltonArea/index.asp?pageid=75094].

Ewen Hardie, the local teacher raising awareness of – and funds for – the oppressed of **Burma**, set out on **25 June from Drummond CHS** on a **barefoot walk to London**. Already he has raised enough sponsorship money to educate a Burmese student at HE level outwith the country, so transforming that person’s prospects. By the time you read this he should be somewhere near Lindisfarne. For news of Ewen’s route, progress, food/shelter needs and toe traumas see: [www.barefeetforburma.blogspot.com].

Willow-weaving for parent and child, 1-day course (£45) at **Four Winds Inspiration Centre**, Inverleith Park on 5 July. Booking essential. Tel.: 332 2229.

Belle's View



Hi fans

Phew, wasn't June scorchio - Estelle and I nearly had to turn off the central heating! It's not quite warm enough to fry eggs on the pavement yet, but the streets of downtown Broughton are still sizzling with summer action!

You call the shots! **GHQ** (4 Picardy Place 550 1780 10.30-3am, before 11pm free, £4/£3 after) are letting you take control of your own dance-floor destiny every Monday night by inviting e-mail song requests to the venue at [picardyplace@glgroup.co.uk] before you go along and strut your stuff! So if you've ever had a yearning to dance to those obscure yet achingly danceable classics by **Rolf Harris**, the **St Winifred's School Choir**, or **Stockhausen** - now's yer chance!

Fancy a big, blousy, girly laugh? Gusty guffaws and chuckles galore are to be had at the next **Wicked Wenches** night on Tuesday 1 June at **The Stand** (5 York Place, 558 7272 £6/£5, members £3) - an engaging all-women bill featuring her-off-the-telly **Francesca Martinez**, with **Lou Conran**, **AL Kennedy**, **Kim Griffin**, and hosted by the lovely **Susan Calman**.

Sauce! If the rain is still drumming relentlessly on the roof at the weekend, get along for some cheeky art-burlesque at **Dr Sketchy's Anti Art School** at the **Voodoo Rooms** on Sunday 29 June (19a West Register Street, 556 7060, 3-5pm, £7 or £4 to watch/drink). Tease out your inner Toulouse Lautrec by sketching pouty well-oiled burlesque hunks and daringly dressed divas - this month's class features **Busty McLusty!** Oooer - where's my pencil sharpener?!

Till next time!

PERSEPHONE BELLE

New Town/Broughton Community Council Vacancies for Community Councillors

The Community Council represents the views of local residents to Edinburgh City Council.

Next meeting
7 July at 7.30pm
Library: Drummond CHS

For details please contact:

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chris_richardson1001@hotmail.com

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:

5 Croall Place, Leith Walk, EH7 4LT
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Fax: 0131 557 6781
Saturday surgeries:
9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Theatre Workshop,
42 Hamilton Place
5.00pm Ainslie Park Leisure Centre
6.00pm Constituency Office

Contacts

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Broughton Primary School
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Stephanie Scott 557 2762 (day)
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529 3030; *Translation:* 242 8181
Drummond CHS 556 2651
Lothian Buses 555 6363
McDonald Road Library
529 5626
St Mary's Primary School
556 7128
RESIDENTS GROUPS
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