

# Spurtle

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**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

**July  
2009**

**No 172**

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## NO. 13 TO GO FURTHER LESS OFTEN

In a mixed outcome for Broughton, the No. 13 bus will revert to its former route from Lochend to Craigleith, but only hourly (not half-hourly) and under private management. Restoration of the route follows lobbying of CEC by Craigleith/Blackhall Community Council in October 2008.

Edinburgh Coach Lines (ECL) is in charge for 5 years from 27 July. Prices start at £1.20 for adults and 70p for children. Prepaid One-Tickets (£4.20 per day) will be accepted; Ridacards (except concessionary ones) won't. ECL is 'looking into' multi-journey tickets.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP commented: 'I think the Council and Scottish Government should sort things so that services are still operated by the publicly owned local bus operator. At the very least, CEC should insist all Lothian Bus passes are accepted.' He will continue campaigning for restoration of the No. 17, axed quietly in January.

City Transport also examined tenders from Lothian Buses and First Scotland East. ECL asked for a CEC subsidy of £3,162 per week compared to Lothian Buses' £6,987 and FSE's £4,070. Other factors included drivers' training, and the age and green credentials of fleets. ECL outperformed rivals on tender cost/quality ratios.

ECL, based in Salamander St, is part of the Bernard Kavanagh Group which owns the largest private coach tour operator in Ireland.

## ON THE BUSES

- Edinburgh's 6 subsidised local services will cost £587,600 p.a. unless commercial sponsors are found. The National Galleries were approached for the 13, but are currently Titian-heavy and cash-light.
- The 13's service is the most expensive at £164,424 p.a.
- Lochend-Craigleith is the best 'value for money' service. Best 'social value' would be from the old Eastern General Hospital-Blackhall - too pricey at £6,486 per week.
- The 13 serves 4,400 people living at least 227 yards (208 m) from another bus route.
- For further information see [[http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc\\_ext.asp?Docid=126930](http://cpol.edinburgh.gov.uk/getdoc_ext.asp?Docid=126930)] and [[bringbackourbuses.blogspot.com](http://bringbackourbuses.blogspot.com)].



## FARMER SALUTES NEW CROP



'Absolute rubbish!' said Tom Farmer, addressing Drummond CHS prizewinners on 16 June. He meant 'Que Sera Sera', the Doris Day hit of his youth. 'The future will be whatever you make of it,' he countered. 'Grasp opportunities for yourself, family, friends and community.' Farmer envies Scotland's youth today: 'better educated, healthier and more socially conscious than any previous generation'. Head Jon Reid earlier hailed staff achievements and pupils' positive destinations into further and higher education and employment.

## McDONALD RD BUYERS DISCOVERED

Unite's old site at 130 McDonald Rd, sold in May for £1.8m, was bought by members of the Teague family, some of whom once ran Teague Developments Ltd.

Gerald, Patrick, Margaret, and Caroline Teague are company partners of Foremost Properties (Scotland) LLP. The Edinburgh-based brothers were formerly Directors at Teague Developments Ltd, a family firm founded in 1981 which once built 200 new properties a year before going into voluntary liquidation in 2008.

After Retties & Co. declined to identify the new owners, *Spurtle* traced them to a recently formed company, Foremost Properties (Scotland) LLP, whose London postal address is opposite Bounds Green Tube between the Chicken Cottage carry-out and Scorpio Cabs.

Local Teague new-builds have included Hopetoun Park, Anandale St (1997-98), worth £12.5m; and Britannia Quay, Leith (2002/2005), worth £66m. Other Teague family members were behind S1 Developments, redevelopers of Canonmills School on Rodney St last year.

## Briefly

No date yet for **Tesco's Picardy Place planning application** to go before Committee. Tesco's agent didn't letterbox all neighbours and – after complaints – the process started again.

Drummond CHS's Allan Hamilton won the **Eric Liddell Memorial Trophy** at the Scottish Schools Athletics Championship on 14 June. His **prodigious leap** of 14.73 m in the triple jump eclipsed the 1965 Scottish record. He also won the 100 m.

**Brunswick Rd sorting office** – where you went when the postie failed to squash breakables through your letterbox then took the remains away with him – relocated to **Portobello** on 29 June as part of Royal Mail's 'continuous drive to deliver great service to customers'. Ring 470 4300 or just **pop round** to East Telferton Industrial Estate.

Vandals climbed scaffolding around **Broughton St Mary's** in June leaving tags. Anyone who knows '**MOWI**' should contact the police.

**New Town & Broughton Community Council** meets at 7.30pm on 3 Aug. in Cathedral House, **63 York Place**. Agenda includes arrangements for its **upcoming election**. All welcome.

**Re-usable, pest-proof bin-bags** will be tested in Dundas and Cumberland Sts soon. The new canvas sacks hold 2 average 'black bags'. They were suggested by NTBCC's David Stuart, then championed by Cllr Beckett (Issue 166). **Vocal New Town residents** rejected fixed on-street containers in 2004, and horrendous spillages caused by **raucous gulls** have continued since.

### Anthony Holden (1925–2009)

Professor Anthony Holden – international authority on Anglo-Norman language, literature and culture – died in April. A Broughton resident and *Spurtle* supporter from the start, he served Edinburgh University for half a century as lecturer, reader and professor of French. His honours included the Prix La Grange of the Académie des Inscriptions et Belle-Lettres for his translation of Lace's verse chronicle *Roman de Rou*. Holden will be warmly remembered for his academic distinction and personal *joie de vivre*. *JRM*

## End in sight for Barony eyesore

A patch of wasteland at 4 Barony Place has set sparks flying.

Overgrown, rat-infested, and sometimes littered with smouldering furniture, it's an eyesore and potential health hazard. It's also close to the newly landscaped Barony Community Garden. Locals have complained to the Council.

The land belongs to property-letting firm Olean Limited of Bruntsfield. Director Alasdair Seale blames fly-tipping (some by nearby residents) for the mess, and says in the past he has himself approached Environmental Health for help. He claims to have had several large vanloads of rubbish uplifted over recent years, but this 'free service' just encouraged more dumping.

A solution is in sight. Mr Seale will have the area cleared before the Community Garden opens on 12 July (see 'Briefly'). He is also confident that a development here for which Olean already has planning permission will begin 'within months rather than years'.

## New Town savours French connection

Passers-by saw no traffic in Abercromby Place on 28 May, only a few parked cars dating from the 1960s and a queue waiting for a double-decker bus. In fact the street had been dressed for *Imogène*, a French spy-caper starring Catherine Frot (*pictured in trilby*) as a bumbling Scottish investigator, and Lambert Wilson. For 2 days Abercromby Place, Heriot Row and Nelson St doubled as London. Release date: 2010. See [www.imdb.com].



## Planning constraints good for all

Harald Tobermann of Pilrig Residents Association says quality retail development is compatible with Scotland's historic city centres. But not for large supermarkets.

In a letter published in the *Scotsman* (2 June) he challenged a chartered town planner who had earlier criticised parking/traffic constraints and high redevelopment costs for hindering 21st-century shopping. Tobermann sees no necessary connection between shopping and 'progress', but cites Continental examples to argue that extending quality retail outlets and preserving historic centres can work together. In Europe, he says, pedestrianisation often turns constraints into stunningly well-realised opportunities.

'Larger retail floor areas and loading bays suitable for delivery juggernauts ... required by Tesco's business model do not easily fit into such a context,' he writes. 'Luckily, there are still large numbers of small individual retailers who can. Let's keep it this way.'

## 'Art lovers' go toe to toe on locations

The 'unholy row' predicted in Issue 170 over possible re-siting of Paolozzi's *Manuscript of Monte Cassino* has begun. Friends of Calton and Hillside Gardens (FCHG) 'agree wholeheartedly' with Greener Leith that the work should 'remain in Leith', but not in that part of 'Leith' traditionally thought of as Leith.

The administrative boundary of 'Port Edinburgh' has moved south lately to include leafier areas, creating ripples. So, as well as some good aesthetic arguments, FCHG claims 'Placing the statues here would be an important contribution towards shifting Leith's "Centre of Gravity" away from the "Foot of the Walk" to include these new areas and their residents.' Clearly, the tug of love over Paolozzi's war memorial is also part of a struggle for local identity, political attention, and Neighbourhood Partnership funds.

Greener Leith and FCHG assume Paolozzi's work will move. *Spurtle* understands it may well stay in 'City Centre' Picardy Place.

## All go at refurbishment of Glenogle Baths

Glenogle Baths' renovation is on schedule. Campaigner Linda Wilson reports that demolition work is complete and a new lift shaft is in place. Work has started on a new poolside slab, and on replacing mechanical and electrical plant. Repairs are underway on the roof, rotting timber,

and external stonework. Creation of new balcony areas has begun.

The Baths should reopen in April 2010. For recent photos: [http://www.ajwilson.net/saveglenoglebaths/collage-during-more.html].

## Local 'youth disorder' is nothing new

In May 1826, Kirk Session minutes for St Mary's Parish Church recorded trouble. 'In consequence of Complaints that numbers of idle children infest some parts of the parish on the Sabbath evening, Resolved immediately ... to visit the whole Parish with the Old Village of Broughton to ascertain the number who would attend Local Sabbath Schools ....' The estimate was around 300.

Within months (one-room) bible schools opened in Dundas, Northumberland, Albany, Scotland, Cumberland and Union Streets, and Old Broughton Jail. Behaviour, though, remained poor: 'In consequence of Complaints as to idle boys frequenting the Lobby of the Church during divine Service & disturbing the Congregation,' read November's minutes, 'Instructed the Beadle ... to lock the outer doors during the Singing of the Psalm immediately before the Lecture or Sermon.' Unfortunately the Beadle was himself no angel, soon after being reproved for profane language and repeatedly exposing himself in a state of intoxication in Canonmills.

It was decided to increase weekday lessons with a purpose-built school which architect George Smith (1793–1877) designed for free. Parishioners raised £623 to have it erected between 1827 and 1830 at 33 Rodney Street, and it served c.200 boys and girls for the next 50 years.

Disappointingly, by November 1830, young people were again behaving immaturely. 'Owing to complaints as to [their] conduct ... in the Church, Resolved that is indispensable 1st that the Children ... be assembled ... before the rest of the Congregation and ... remain in their Seats till all ... are dismissed – and 2nd, that [a] Teacher should regularly attend with the Children and sit amongst them to prevent trifling or disorder.' *AM* [Minutes viewable at General Register House, Ref: CH2/139/1–6.]

## A Renaissance in Broughton

We welcome the arrival to this area of the Union Gallery, which opened on 10 June. Situated at 45 Broughton St, it is owned and managed by the noted contemporary artist Alison Auldjo. Her fellow gallery director is Robert Douglas Dawkins.

With particular emphasis on work not found elsewhere, the gallery assembles collaborators from across Scotland and beyond. It also has ambitious plans to promote work by gifted artists in local schools and will highlight portfolios by (new) graduates of Edinburgh Art College. The inaugural exhibition displays an exhilarating range of paintings and sculpture in this exquisite space, which radiates both warmth and light.

Nearby, at 10 Bellevue Crescent, is Art Amatoria, another contemporary



gallery which opened this year. As well as holding a variety of landscapes, sporting art, figurative and abstract paintings, Art Amatoria will stage up to eight exhibitions a year.

Together with the variously prestigious Doggerfisher Gallery in Gayfield Square, Yorg Art on London St, and the Printmakers Workshop in Union St (of which three read more in future issues), Broughton now possesses galleries of distinction and ambrosia for the soul to equal its matchless array of restaurants, pubs and cafés.

All we now yearn for is a permanent theatre in the tradition of the much missed Palladium and Café Graffiti. *JRM*

## Briefly

The defaced notice board in **King George V Park** has been reglazed, and moved to Eyre Place. A new one will go up by Royal Crescent. Meanwhile fund raising for a **youth shelter** continues by Friends of King George V and Scotland Yard Parks: Inverleith and City Centre Neighbourhood Partnerships have contributed £5,000 and £7,000; Broughton St Mary's (£250); Stockbridge Traders Assoc. (£500). A further £17,500 (incl. VAT) is required. Contact Judy Conn [secretary@kgvsvy.org.uk] for info.

**Sign of the times 1:** In the window of Broughton St's Artisan Roast. *We do receipts for expenses. No more than two MPs in this coffee shop at any one time.*

**New Town Killers** Director Richard Jobson and stars Dougray Scott and James Anthony Pearson appeared for the movie's Gala premiere at **Greenside Place** on 11 June. Part of the film shot in the backgreen of **19 Bellevue Cres.** (*Issue 158*).

**New bus shelters** are proposed for **George St**. Imagine beautiful illuminated advertisement booths outside Nos 10, 14, 47, 50, 59, 79, 84, 95, 96–8, 121–3, 126–8 and 127–9.

In Issues 159/166 we reported **St Mark's Park** becoming a free car park. CEC has now installed a gate and bollards. Selfish commuters will be kept out and selfish weekend footballers will get in.

The **Lord Provost** will open the **Barony Community Garden** (off Barony St) at 3pm on Sun. 12 July. Piping, refreshments, treasure hunt and prizes for best fancy hats! **Broughton Project Group** look forward to seeing you there.

'**Faces in Places**' – art by people with learning difficulties – will run at **Café Camino** from 2–31 July. Proceeds go to artists.

Pipearrow Ltd seeks permission for a **3-storey house** behind **6 Baxter's Place** [Ref: 09/01279/FUL]. This modest proposal replaces that for a **2-storey house** approved in 2007. Expect **4-storey plans** in 2012

**Sign of the times 2:** We knew about rising sea levels, but were alarmed by recent CEC signs explaining E. Claremont St parking suspensions: **CRUISE LINER VISIT**

What's your **favourite Broughton smell**? *Jaundiced of Claremont's* is in Tattie Shaws on Leith Walk: 'basil, rocket, strawberries and proper ripe tomatoes not your Dutch-hydroponic-rubbish tasting of nothing'. *Spurtle* welcomes further **strong olfactory opinions**.

# Belle's View



Hi fans

Ahhhhh, the 'dog days' of summer are upon us – a time when the broiling heat makes the seas boil and dogs grow mad. Not the case in cool, swinging, Broughton!

*Da Vinci-tastic!* **Broughton High FP** and local chanteuse **Chandra Mather** are hosting singing workshops in the magnificently atmospheric **Rosslyn Chapel** (14–15, 22 July, 11–12, 18–19 August). Experience this historic space in a totally different way, with guided tour and refreshments included (£25/£30, 6.30 – 9.15pm). Learn Scottish and international songs by ear, in these open-to-all workshops, no previous experience required. Surprise yourself with your own unique voice in a fabulous setting – early booking advised! [Chandra@naturalvoice.net; Tel. 07989 725 934]

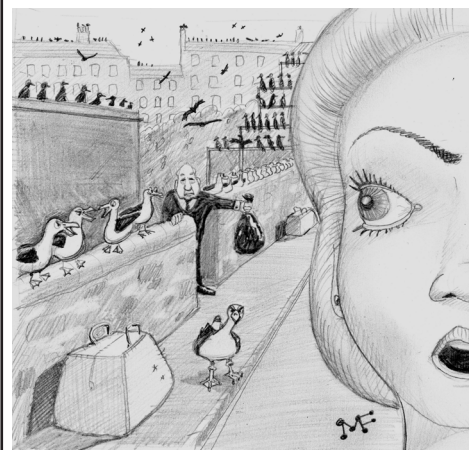
*Ert lover?* **Art Amatoria Gallery** at 10/2 Bellevue Crescent, has new and affordable contemporary art for sale, with art dealer **Caroline Hay** offering a consultancy service for anyone building an art collection. The gallery's title comes from **Ovid's Ars Amatoria** and translates as 'The Love of Art'. Current exhibition features fabulous paintings by **Flora Blackett**, seascapes by **Lizzie McCorquodale** and **Laura Parker's** life studies. 10am–6pm during exhibitions [www.artamatoria.co.uk].

*Jumpin' jalapenos!* Veganism has hit **Broughton Street**, with **Café Nom de Plume** featuring a globally inspired menu, with vegetarian/vegan options included along with carnivorous fare. Furry-friend and fish defenders can sup tasty tomato and mint soup, or try stuffed vine leaves with red pepper salad, washed down with a totally animal-fat-free Leifman's Kriek or Frambozen beer!

Till next time!

*Persephone Rose*

## Beak-proof bin-bags for New Town



The Birds consider next move ...

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for Lothians



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Saturday surgeries:  
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10.30am Royston/Wardieburn  
Community Centre  
12pm Stockbridge Library

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