

Spurtle



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No 225

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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

PARENTS CELEBRATE ... BUT THE FIGHT GOES ON

Broughton Primary School parents and neighbours won a spectacular victory last month by convincing councillors to reject plans to redevelop 154 McDonald Road as 73 bedsit 'pods'.

Malcolm Chisholm MSP, who along with other local politicians backed the campaign, described parents' efforts as 'amazing' and 'outstanding'. *Spurtle* covered the decisive subcommittee meeting in *Breaking news* (6.11.13).

Kingsford Developments appealed the decision with the Scottish Government on 21 November, but in the short term attention returns to the Council's wrongheaded bid to build new modular classrooms behind the school (Ref. 13/04456/FUL).

This is not a solution which will do anything to improve music, drama, library or dining spaces indoors, preserve areas for children to learn and play outdoors, or begin to find appropriate uses for the purpose-built school lying empty next door. Tellingly, an architect's visualisation of the proposed new building shows the school's name prominently displayed on one elevation (see above). We presume this is to distinguish it from a carpet warehouse or finger of fudge.

The problems encapsulated here are not confined to Broughton. On page 2, Harald Tobermann sets out one vision of where concerned citizens should focus next to safeguard Edinburgh children's long-term education future.



Allan Stewart, Grant Stott and Andy Gray will swash and buckle at the King's Theatre this year in a lavish new production of the classic *Peter Pan*. There are 3 EASILY SPOTTED CONNECTIONS to the panto in Issues 182, 220, 223 (see *Back issues* at <http://goo.gl/ebYLLd>). List and send them to us by 20 December, and you could win 4 family tickets to the evening performance on 8 January. Good luck!

HOPE SPRINGFIELDS ETERNAL

Springfield Properties Ltd (SP) won planning consent in January to build 60 residential units on Beaverhall Road (Ref. 11/03374/FUL; *Breaking news*, 5.2.13; Issue 222).

A Section 75 condition of this consent, signed by SP, required it to pay City Development £81,250 for nearby public realm improvements prior to completion of the project. SP now says it doesn't want to pay, and is asking for this obligation to be scrapped (Ref. 13/04470/OBL). In short, SP argues the payment is unfair because:

- The area near Beaverhall Rd will already be improved by SP's development, so the Council must spend the money further afield.
- Those areas on which the money is spent will have suffered no negative impact from SP's development.
- The size of the required contribution reflects the development's worth more than its likely impact.

At its November meeting, the New Town & Broughton Community Council moved to investigate the situation, with a view to urging the Council to insist on full payment. The question will be reviewed by the Scottish Government, and for now the location of proposed public-realm improvements remains confidential.

SP has not objected to additional contributions of: £32.8K towards alleviating accommodation pressures at Broughton Primary School; £11.5K for the City Car Club; and £10.5K for parking-related Traffic Regulation Orders.

PARKERS LINGER LONGER

The maximum off-peak stay in 15 parking bays on Broughton Street and 4 on Rodney Street is to be increased from 30 minutes to 1 hour. Tariffs will range from 20p for 12 minutes to £1 for an hour.

Traditional local practices such as shameless shuffling between spaces, feeding meters and distracting parking attendants will thus come to an end. In theory.

The change was agreed by the Transport & Environment Committee on 29 October, and followed representations by local traders for Services for Communities, supported by Councillor Lesley Hinds.

Legal processes and further consultations are now under way to vary the Traffic Regulation Order governing the Controlled Parking Scheme, but the new rules will take 'several months' to implement.

The situation will then be monitored. If parking spaces here become blocked, further changes may be made to nudge long-stay parkers towards nearby side roads.



Briefly



Can any reader explain this French stencil on **Warriston pavements**? It means, according to our Angoulême branch office, ‘**The road of never being sensible**’. Alternative advice closer to home suggests implausibly that it refers to ‘**The road of the jammy sausage**’.

Before **crowding loudly and too long** at the 154 McDonald Rd result, says Michaela Klimpt, let’s salute **Kingsford Estates** for at least recognising the needs of youngish people stuck in high-cost rentals with no affordable next step. ‘Edinburgh depends on **young professionals and key workers**. We need homes to match their dreams and pockets.’

Kate MacGregor – a long-standing, well-known and very popular Broughton resident – died suddenly at home on 16 Nov. Our condolences go to husband Gavin and daughters Tessa and Paula.

To promote next Nov’s **MTV European Music Awards in Glasgow** to a world audience, VisitScotland are using a track by Broughton-based, souped-up ceilidh band **Whisky Kiss**. Catch the folk–pop mash-up ‘Not Billy Jean’ on youtube at: [<http://goo.gl/I4j4JW>]. See *Breaking news* (30.11.13) for their **new video featuring Broughton** amid other iconic Scottish scenes.

City Centre police tweeted knowingly on 13 Nov: ‘Sir Danvers Carew. Botched enquiry by Inspector Newcomen. Clearly suicide...’ **All became clear in the final sentence**: ‘Enjoy #RLSDay’. Case closed.

Struggling with bedroom tax? Edinburgh Council wants more people to access two helpful funds: **Scottish Welfare Fund Payment** (Tel. 529 5299) and **Discretionary Housing Payments** (Tel. 469 5000).

Your **nearest woodland** may now be in Pilrig Park, thanks to the **Friends of Pilrig Park** clean-up. New benches arrived in the summer, but are awaiting installation. FPP are applying to **Leith Central Community Council** for financial help to cover clean-up insurance costs and postage etc.

Waste disposal problems at Claremont Court (Issue 224) seem to have been sorted. Extra wheelie bins have been provided, plus a new recycling area, and **listed chutes** have been preserved. Peace reigns.

Award won with gusto

Congratulations to Locanda de Gusti chef Rosario Sartore, who was recently presented in London with the Ospitalità Italiana – Ristoranti Italiani nel Mondo award by the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the UK. The Italian ambassador attended.

Recognising the East London Street restaurant’s sourcing of Denominazione di Origine Protetta artisan foodstuffs and prime Scottish ingredients to produce top cuisine from the south of Italy, the award is only for members of the Federation of Italian Chefs, and followed three inspections and an unannounced spot check. It is considered a huge honour.

It comes in addition to Sartore’s two prestigious AA rosettes for culinary excellence awarded in 2011–12 and 2013–14, the sole Italian restaurant so recognised in Scotland.



Drummond hosts migration study

A major 3-year project investigating how migration changes both the people who move and the communities they move into launches at Drummond CHS this month.

With an Arts & Humanities Research Council grant of £1.8m, study will involve pupils, adult education students, the wider Edinburgh community, Stills Gallery, and academics from Bristol, Warwick, Queen Margaret and St Andrews Universities.

The focus is on Italian culture’s transformation around the world through, for example, journals, literature, life stories, photographs and memorabilia collections. It will study different types of translation and examine their impact on national identity.

As part of the project, St Andrews University has funded a performance by Drummond’s S5 pupils of extracts from Dario Fo’s *Can’t Pay Won’t Pay*, directed by teacher Marcia Rose. For more information visit: [<http://goo.gl/WOXUHH>].

Photo courtesy of Broughton History Society: ‘Maria Pacitti’s parents, from a village near Naples, opened their shop at 73 Broughton Street with money borrowed from a brother in Glasgow. Maria married Sebastian Valente: the photo shows her and her daughter, Maria Immacolata, in 1907.’



Our school estate – what next?

CEC’s application to build behind Broughton PS (see p.1) shows parents’ fight for their children’s education is far from over, writes *Harald Tobermann*, chair and member of various parent councils over the last 15 years.

Such short-term fixes (similar to those at Trinity, Wardie and Victoria PSs) fail everyone because:

- Providing additional accommodation ad hoc and under pressure is more costly in the medium and long term than under a well thought-out school-estate strategy. CEC just robs Peter to pay Paul, achieving its ends by picking off one school at a time.
- They temporarily relieve pressure on CEC (until the next election), but the real problems are not addressed.
- Edinburgh’s Education budget is under enormous pressure, and the biggest driver is a school estate ill-suited to demographic and financial reality.

While CEC’s grandly titled Estate Strategy and Rising Rolls Working Group has met a few times this year, it seems not to have addressed secondary schools at all (where the largest saving can be made), nor has it looked properly at the dynamics of school demographics and residential planning permissions. The recommendations in its 8 October report to the Education Committee (Item 7.1) focus on firefighting but lack any critical review of past shortcomings or indeed a strategy.

It is high time voters push CEC to develop and deliver a school-estate strategy, and question its poor predictive record on school rolls.

My hope is that Broughton PS parents – energised and encouraged by the 1st-class campaign on McDonald Road – will address the CEC’s latest piecemeal proposal by demanding strategic coherence for the city’s wider Education policy. They will need to engage not only the Planning Department, but also the Education Committee, other parent councils, and community councils.

Broughton's World War I

Next year will be the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, writes *Broughton History Society's Jessie Denholm*. Personally, I don't care to 'commemorate' the war itself, but I do believe we should remember those who died serving and whose talents were lost to their communities.

Having decided to identify and research locals who died in the Great War, BHS's first step was to record information on nearby war memorials: e.g. churches, Broughton High School and Gayfield Square Police Station. These sometimes included rank, regiment and date of death. Local papers carried stories about the dead and wounded, and occasionally included supplementary details about their work, education and leisure.

Next, our research became mostly web-based. Ancestry.co.uk, for example (available in Edinburgh libraries), gives a range of military records and censuses.

We are now collating the information gathered, writing biographical notes on 700 individuals, and putting it all online at [www.broughtonhistory.org.uk]. This is still 'work in progress', but we've decided to launch at this stage so that others can see what's been done and perhaps contribute to it. We'd be very grateful for any extra information.

Ultimately, we hope to create a 'virtual Broughton war memorial' – the first time so many records have been gathered in one place – which will be a fitting tribute and much more than a simple list of names.



Photo: David King

Briefly



As *Spurtle* went to press, we were no nearer identifying the 3 ladies responsible for **yarn-bombing** the Canonmills police box on 23 Nov. The Tom Baker-style scarf was to celebrate **50 years of Dr Who**.

Last month we featured online the much vaunted Wagyu steaks newly offered by **L'Escargot Bleu** (*Breaking news*, 29.10.13). Sharp-eyed Jasmine Hills has since noticed **steak tartare du boeuf Dexter** listed on the Broughton St restaurant's menu. 'Is it,' she asks innocently, 'inspired by the long-running TV series of the same name?' **No, Jasmine, it is not**

Some locals worry the **top end of Dublin St** has become an unofficial drop-off zone for **shoppers with friends who drive**. Frankly, if other folk's U-turns are all they have to worry about, they're lucky.

TG Tip: Christmas is a wonderful time of **giving and sharing**. But think 'outside the festive box' by **giving healthy gifts** instead of chocs and plonk. Hampers of **good-quality Scottish nosh** (including fancy oatcakes) are ideal, as are active gifts for the kids. **Who doesn't like a spacehopper?** (You can also buy adult-sized ones nowadays, which are surprisingly good for working out legs.)

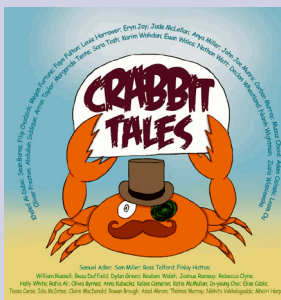
Many thanks to the **legion of loyal pedants** who pointed out that the "jauntily" parked tandem' on Broughton St mentioned in Issue 224 is in fact a **'jauntily' parked tricycle**. Wheel not make that mistake again in a hurry.

Broughton History Society's glittering Christmas Soirée is on **Mon 9 Dec** in **Drummond CHS** from 7pm.

Modernising waste management should be complete by **spring 2014**. But the 'fluid and unfolding' process has taken so long that a few New Town residents are already **changing their minds** about solutions they earlier campaigned for. **Misused gull-proof bags** are particularly problematic say some. See the **Council's interactive map** at: [http://goo.gl/ES2O4U].

The next printed *Spurtle* will appear in **February**, but for regular, online news updates and diary dates see: [www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk].

Crabbit Tales



A book about feelings written by 51 Broughton Primary School children – launched at the National Library of Scotland on 30 Oct. P7 pupils were guided through planning, writing, illustrating and publishing processes by local author Mary Turner Thomson (*Breaking news*, 1.11.13).

Celebrants

The hitherto pent-up song-thrush in our shrubbery relays the news that mother and son are both well.

May you, assured of loving nurturing, grasp in these amazingly tiny yet perfect hands whatever the future may bring

and the world, no matter in what crazed manner it may spin, do you no harm but provide solace and protection.

Meantime in the family Bible the section recording the passage of the generations awaits your name's neat inscription.

Stewart Conn



We wish you a Merry Christmas and ... a Tramtastic New Year!

Moreover ...



Work by **Ingrid Nilsson**, fellow resident artist **Senja Bownes**, gallery regular **Alan Lennon** and the **Greenbank Weaving Group** will show at **Bon Papillon** on Howe St until 22 Dec. Expect the eccentric. The detail above is from 'Grande Dame', a work in progress.

Welcome, Bacco! The new wine merchant at 136 Dundas St specialises in imported Italian wines, and is owned by smiling Tuscan **Valerio Lo Coco**, a former dental student at Pisa University. Prices range from £9 for 'something better than anything you'll find in Tesco' to £400 for a 5x bigger than normal bottle of 1974 **Masi Amerone**. Cheapskates and connoisseurs will be cheered by free tastings on Fridays from 4pm. **Bacco means Bacchus**.

Cheerio, Elbow. The popular alternative East Claremont St joint bade farewell in Nov when its lease from **Punch Taverns** ended. Punch in turn subleases from owners **Scotmid**, whose plans for the property in a further 9 months' time are not clear.

New shift patterns at **Police Scotland** mean more community officers will focus on **evening patrols**. Is battling binge drinkers so much more important than **proactive work with partnership agencies** during the day?

Caroline McIntosh recommends **vinyasa flow yoga classes** for limbering up. They are, she says, an excellent way to **avoid A&E** after your once-a-year excursion onto the office Christmas party dance floor: [www.carolineyoga.co.uk].

Newly arrived on Broughton St is the **Art Haus Hair Salon** at No. 111. Not only do they wash, cut, style, highlight, tint and blow-dry ... they back-comb your personal life.

Last month **Kathy's Knits** on Broughton St came third in the Independent Yarn Store category of this year's **British Knitting Awards**. It's a huge achievement for the wee shop which has only been open just over a year.

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11am-12noon St Bride's Centre
1pm-2pm Stockbridge Library

NB. No Surgeries on Public Holidays.

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Alison Johnstone
MSP for Lothian Region



On the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month during term time I hold a surgery for Lothian residents at the Scottish Parliament between 11am and 1pm.

Please call to book a surgery appointment or to arrange another time and venue that is convenient for you.

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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm **Stockbridge Library**,
no appointment necessary;
5.00pm **5 Croall Place**;
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constituency – phone for details

New Town/Broughton Community Council

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL
REPRESENTS THE VIEWS
OF LOCAL RESIDENTS TO
EDINBURGH CITY COUNCIL

Next Meetings:

2 Dec. 2013

& 3 Feb. 2014

at 7.30pm

**St Mary's Cathedral House,
63 York Place**

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AMDECORATING

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