

Spurtle



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No 228

Tel: 556 4848

spurtle@hotmail.co.uk

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

READING BETWEEN THE LINES ... MAYBE NOTHING

£1m has been added to the Leith Walk reinstatement budget in order to accommodate any future extension of the tramline to Leith.

The money will be used on additional 'tram-proof' road, footway and cycle provisions, including filling (presumably enormous) voids under Baxter's Place, but this fuelled speculation last month on whether and when trams might come.

So far as we know, City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) has no hidden agenda. Trams won't arrive any time soon, even though a report on possible extension is scheduled for late 2014 and CEC has only until 2021 before planning-permission legislation expires.

Rather, in its proposed choice of materials and extent of works, CEC is prudently stitching in time to save nine. As Ward 12 councillor Nick Gardner stated at last month's Leith Central Community Council (LCCC), the public would 'crucify' them if they did not.

Meanwhile, work on the section of Leith Walk between Duke and Pilrig Streets has been brought forward by 6 weeks in response to public impatience. LCCC's Harald Tobermann addressed the Transport Committee on 18 Mar expressing precisely such frustration at delay after delay after delay.

FELLED IN BROUGHTON BACKWATER

Broughton Road residents were dismayed when trees on a wooded strip between their back greens (Nos 32-62) and the Claremonts were felled in March.



Loss of green space and wildlife habitat are bad enough, but neighbours also worry about potential subsidence on the steeply sloping site now that earth is being moved and vegetation binding what remains has begun to rot away.

Concerned locals had difficulty getting any sense out of the contractors, and no relevant planning application appears in the system. They approached CEC, which has now launched an investigation (Ref. 14/00151/EOPDEV).

AIMING HIGH FOR GLASGOW 2014



Broughton hammer-thrower Kimberley Reed started a new athletics season on 29 March, pushing herself to meet the 61m qualifying distance for this summer's Commonwealth Games. In *Breaking news* (2.4.14), father Scott describes sleet-blown winter training and scant facilities, sizes up the competition, and thanks a *Spurtle*-reading sponsor. It's an inspiring read.

Meanwhile, Land Registry records show that the site recently changed hands for £150,000. It is now owned by a firm in the British Virgin Islands. Access to the site – thought to have been a problem for would-be developers in 2011 – had already been potentially improved by the purchase in 2001 of an adjacent sliver of land behind 11a Claremont Crescent.

For further details see *Breaking news* (11.3.14; 19.3.14). For Broughton Rd/Claremont neighbours, contact Drew Bain: Mob. 07748 678198.

MARKET SUCCESS CREATES WINNERS AND LOSERS

St Mary's Market outside the Cathedral is thriving. There are hot-food carry-outs (especially on monthly Super Saturdays), a bread stall, confectioner, cupcaker, fish seller, noodler and (up to 5-days-a-week) greengrocer on the scene.

But some local food retailers are feeling the pinch. They say footfall now stops at the Big Foot.

James Welby of Elm Row's Tattie Shaw's says Saturday takings are down 35%. He may have to open on Sundays, and says it's hard to compete with traders who aren't paying business rates. Things aren't as bad for Richard Bee at Something Fishy, but he's noticed a definite negative effect caused by recent York Place roadworks and the new

competition.

Edinburgh Markets operator Vicky MacDonald understands concern about the bottom line, but says making Broughton Street a 'destination not a thoroughfare' will benefit everyone eventually. If local businesses have ideas on how to collaborate, she's happy to talk.



Briefly



Naomi Dickie won Broughton PS's **Broughton's Got Talent** on 21 Mar with a faultless solo performance of 'My Favorite Things'.

Who's bought **St Stephen's Church** (*Breaking news*, 17.3.14)? St Stephen's Playfair Trust says it's a male **'multi-millionaire with a media empire'**. Silvio Berlusconi, Rupert Murdoch and other minted community-minded loveables spring to mind. Whoever it is won't talk **'until the legals are completed'**. *Spurtle's* millions are not involved.

Broughton History Society's next meeting is on 28 April at 7pm in **Drummond CHS**. The talk will be on **'The Building Stones of Edinburgh'**. Shame about the missing carpet.

CEC finished drainage and edging on the Water of Leith walkway opposite **Redbraes** in Mar. **Tarmac** will be laid soon. Urbanisation of **'rustic' paths** isn't popular with everyone (*Letters*, 3.5.13), but dog walkers and school cleaners won't miss this **5-months-per-year bog**.

The **European Election** takes place on 22 May. If you usually vote at **St Stephen's Church**, this time go to the **Roxburgh Hotel (Charlotte Sq)**.

Mansfield Place-based charity **Waverley Care** celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Fund-raising plans include running in the 24/25 May **Edinburgh Marathon Weekend**. Don't fancy **flaunting your athleticism** in public? Eat doughnuts and send cheques instead: Tel. 556 9710.

Anyone else wondering where **Real Foods manager Ben Raffles** went? He has a new job with Yoga Shop UK. We wish him well in Wells.

Royal Bank of Scotland wants to redesignate 7 Eyre Place **for development**. It is currently classified as a green space after 40 years' running wild. We found RBS's most recent plans in pre-application consultations **less concrete than clouds** (*Breaking news*, 21.11.11; 12.1.12).

A **craft market** will run in Waverley Station from May until at least July. Thereafter it could remain until **Network Rail** develops the site in the East Concourse at some unspecified date in the future. **Edinburgh Markets** – which run the St Mary's Market (p.1) – are behind the venture.

Printmakers to flit Union Street

Edinburgh Printmakers on Union Street plan to leave Broughton for new premises by 2018.

Their aim is to expand printmaking studio areas and create a purpose-built gallery, education facility and café in the former 2000m² North British Rubber Company / Scottish & Newcastle headquarters on Fountainbridge.

To this end they have already secured £1.7m from Creative Scotland. With help from The Architectural Heritage Fund and the Craigneish Fund, they now seek a further £5m from the Heritage Lottery Enterprise.

The new centre would add 3D printmaking and laser cutting and textile printing to the established range of lithography, etching, screenprinting and relief printing specialisms.

Edinburgh Printmakers have been based in the old Edinburgh Corporation Wash-house on Union Street since the mid-1970s. To paraphrase an old song, 'We don't want to lose them, but we think they ought to go.'



Indian odyssey now in print



Photo: ©Margaret Halliday.

Claremont Grove resident **Margaret Halliday** has self-published an account of her three long and life-changing journeys around the subcontinent – *Prana Soup – an Indian Odyssey*. See *Breaking news* (4.4.14) or [www.prasadpress.co.uk] for more.



Hands up who knows where Broughton's Duncan Street is. Stumped? What about Pitt and Duke Streets? All three Broughton addresses changed names: Duncan to Dundonald in 1885 (to avoid confusion with the Newington one), Pitt merged with Dundas in 1967 (ending muddles in Bonnington); and Duke melted into Dublin, also in 1967, this time to stop mix-ups in Leith. Here and there, the former names survive, just, on corners.

Silver darlings, Burt Lancaster and Broughton Street's Bee

Broughton Street's Something Fishy is a remarkable survivor. John Bee established it in 1987, but there had already been a fish shop here for over 100 years. Previously, he worked in his father's fish business on the Royal Mile, and brother Richard took over in 2009.

The very varied stock comes from Newhaven Fish Market, which Bee attends in all weathers at 5am, Tuesday–Saturday. Most of his 2,000 sales each week are to the general public, who hail from all over Edinburgh and beyond.

It is a success won against the odds. Today, only 15 dedicated fish shops remain in the capital. In the 1960s, there were about 75, as well as up to 30 fish vans and 15 Newhaven fishwives plying their trade. Bee attributes this change not just to rampant superstores but to a radical decline in inshore fishing boats. Their reduction, he says, has led to rising prices and falling profits: 'Fish is no longer a cheap meal'.

Something Fishy has many famous customers, including politicians, footballers and movie stars. Nearly one, at the Royal Mile shop in 1983, was Burt Lancaster, then making *Local Hero*. He 'looked in' but didn't buy anything, and was pursued by a starry-eyed customer into a nearby bakery. Her request for an autograph was refused, but in a genial manner. Says Bee: 'All my customers are famous'. *JRM*



Broughton Scout wins gold

Scouting dignitaries from across the city, friends and family gathered at St Mary's Primary School on East London Street last month to witness Drummond High School pupil David Irvine being presented with the coveted Chief Scout Gold Award Badge.

The award is only presented after a lengthy investment of time and energy across a variety of outdoor and community challenges, and it has been over 20 years since a Broughton Scout made the grade.

Presenting the award, Alan Hunter, Producer of the Edinburgh Scout and Guide Gang Show where David is a cast member, congratulated him for his hard work and perseverance. He also encouraged younger Scouts in the troop to follow David's lead.

Find out about your local Scout Group by contacting Scott Richards, Troop Leader, on Tel. 557 8879.



Briefly



Maria's Kitchen on Rodney St has changed hands. **Dicle Café** now offers customary fare with occasional Turkish twists.

A pilot testing strict **times for trade waste collection** on Leith Walk began last month. Traders moaned, saying the scheme is **impractical or poorly explained** by CEC. In fact every business has been contacted by post or by Environmental Wardens, and businesses have had **4-weeks to adjust** without punishment for non-compliance.

Relations between restaurant staff and sleep-deprived residents around **Broughton St Lane** have hit a new low. Noisy and messy use of bins here has long been a nuisance. Now there are allegations of **deliberate anti-social behaviour**. More soon.

Some **15 objections** greeted Forrest Group's retrospective planning application for their (**bigger than originally consented**) 'Mega 6 Portrait' billboard on **Croall Place** (*Breaking news*, 6.3.14). **Too big, too bright, too distracting**, say locals.

Spurtle hears from multiple snippy sources that **JM Hairdressing on Forth St** will close in about 2 months' time. A health-food shop will replace it.

Responding to Issue 227 on **David Bowie's Scottish connections**, Kim Harrison says '**His son Zowie attended Gordonstoun School in Moray**. [Bowie snr] was a great supporter of the school, which his son thoroughly enjoyed'. We wonder if, instead of **independence**, Bowie would prefer Scotland to board.

TG Tip: You don't need to deny yourself or your loved ones the **joy of Easter eggs**. Instead opt for quality rather than quantity. **Cocoa** on Broughton St are purveyors of **top-quality choccie**: aim for dark chocolate and get the health benefits it brings. **Real Foods** also sell great Fair Trade Easter treats. You'll eat fewer of them and enjoy them more ...

The E. Scotland St Lane **garage/home/folly** has lost its appeal and now faces demolition (*Breaking news*, 13.3.13).

St Mary's courts success

St Mary's RC Primary School pupils reached the finals of the Mock Court Case Project last month, *writes teacher Ellen Henretty*.

Participants at the Central Hall, Tollcross, acted as pursuers (a mobile phone company) or defenders (supporting an elderly lady) disputing the defender's grandson's purchase of a contract for her. They studied English and Scottish contract law to determine who was in the right.

Children chose to be a lawyer, researcher, witness, court artist, journalist or robe-maker. After success in the intermediary trials in November, pursuers progressed to the final trial presided over by Lady Smith, a judge from the Supreme Court, Inner House. She was assisted by Sheriffs Anwar and Halley.

During presentation of the case, the audience burst into applause as they were enjoying debate between advocate and witness so much. St Mary's pupils narrowly lost, but made a solid case before the judges. Fellow pupils attending and the whole school community were immensely proud. For more see: [<http://goo.gl/ZyM75c>].



George Street pavement café culture – critics claim not all it's cracked up to be

Doubts resurfaced about partial pedestrianisation of George Street at last month's New Town & Broughton Community Council (Issue 227).

Some members repeated misgivings about starting the 12-month trial so soon after the introduction of trams. They want a year's grace for traffic to calm down. One insisted the trial disguises a CEC bid to move buses off Princes Street so trams can meet otherwise unrealistic timetables.

Others oppose cluttering this Georgian thoroughfare with chairs, tables, marquees, decking, outside heaters, gazebos and temporary barriers. Although any such semi-permanent erections would – supposedly – be of the best quality, they would obscure the architecture. Critics will object, as members or individuals, when planning applications are eventually submitted in the normal way.

Doubters say George Street's pavement café culture is misleading. They argue it represents 'privatisation of public space'. Expressing a private opinion, one told *Spurtle* later: 'Essential Edinburgh is an organisation for pub landlords and shopkeepers. Its focus will always be on profit not aesthetic value or public amenity.'

Officials met local stakeholders on 19 March to formulate the 'right questions in the right areas' prior to monitoring and research during the trial. CEC's wider public consultation on the experiment (Ref. TRO/14/13) continues till 11 April. See: [<http://goo.gl/AgkFBr>].

Moreover ...



Carve canem. Can anyone explain this solemn **Cumberland St retriever** etched into doorside stonework? No-one answered our knocks when we tried to find out more. How old is it? Who crafted it? Do they plan more? **Answers, please.**

Neil Inglis has finally got double-yellow lines restored to a section of **McDonald Road**. In Aug 2012, he described thoughtless parking by Coop shoppers endangering pedestrians on the puffin crossing (Issue 221). Re-marking lines doesn't solve all problems, but is a useful first step. Inglis says a Safer Neighbourhoods meeting with Police and CEC staff helped.

Thanks go to Eileen Dickie, who told us about this new local addition – a **bench** donated last summer by **Annandale Mosque Women's Group** for use by 'attendees and the local community'.

STOP PRESS! KINGSFORD WINS APPEAL ON 154 McDONALD RD:

As *Spurtle* went to press, news broke that Kingsford Developments have effectively won their appeal to redevelop 154 McDonald Road as flats (*Breaking news*, 25/26.3.14).

Reporter Lance Guilford concluded that the proposed development was consistent in overall terms with the relevant provisions of the development plan and that there were no material considerations which would justify refusal of planning permission. He considered all the other matters raised, but none led him to alter his conclusion.

Kingsford Developments were initially refused planning permission back in November 2013, but City of Edinburgh Council's bureaucratic failure to issue formal notice of that decision in good time gave Kingsford grounds to appeal (*Breaking news*, 6.11.13; 3.12.13; 30.1.14).

A disappointed Sandra Bagnall, one of those who led Broughton Primary School parents' opposition to the proposal, says 'The Council should be ashamed of the whole debacle'.

Spurtle Team: F.Booth, J. Dickie, T. Griffen, M. Hart, J. MacDonald, A. McIntosh, J. R. Maclean, T. Smith, D. Sterratt, E. Taylor-Smith. Post: Spurtle, c/o Narcissus Flowers, 87 Broughton St, Edinburgh EH1 3RJ. Printed by Minuteman Press, Elm Row.

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
5 Croall Place, Leith Walk, EH7 4LT
Tel: 0131 558 8358
Fax: 0131 557 6781

Saturday surgeries:
Leith Library, Ferry Road: 10am.
Royston Wardieburn Community
Centre, Pilton Drive North: 12 noon.

Email: Malcolm.Chisholm.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Marco Biagi MSP



MSP for the Edinburgh
Central constituency

Constituency Office:
77 Buccleuch Street
EH8 9LS
Tel: **0131 348 6482**
Tel2: **0131 668 3642**

Constituency
office surgeries:
Every Monday 6.30pm
Stockbridge Library
surgeries: second
Monday of the month
1:30pm

marco.biagi.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



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.

Contact me on 0131 348 6421
Alison.Johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

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0131- 478 7222

61-63 Broughton Street
Edinburgh EH1 3RJ.



Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
5 Croall Place, Leith Walk, EH7 4LT
Tel: 0131 557 0577
Fax: 0131 557 5759
mark.lazarowicz.mp@parliament.uk
www.marklazarowicz.org.uk

Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm **Stockbridge Library**,
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New Town/Broughton Community Council

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

Next Meeting:

Monday 12 May

AGM then regular meeting
at 7.15pm

**Broughton St Mary's Parish
Church, Bellevue Crescent**

secretary@ntbcc.org.uk

AMDECORATING

Your local painter & decorator **Alastair McAlpine**
Tel: 0131 553 6589 **Mobile:** 07866 222 656 alastairmc Alpine@btinternet.com