

Spurtle



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**June
2014**

No 230

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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

TESCO PRESS TO EXTEND DELIVERIES/COLLECTIONS

Tesco have applied for permission to extend delivery and collection hours at the Broughton Road store by 12 hours a week (Ref. 14/01866/FUL). Revised times would be 7am-9pm (Mon.-Sat.), 9am-6pm (Sun.).



Tesco says the change would allow them to restock shelves with fresh produce more quickly and for longer each day. It would reduce waiting times for lorries outside the service bay, cut down on traffic congestion during busy times, and allow fewer HGVs to supply more stores.

Their environmental noise assessment claims the extension 'would not have any materially detrimental effect on the amenity of nearby residents'.

Try telling that to the nearby residents, if they can still hear you above the chugging engines, crashing trolleys and cages, and peep-peeping of lorries in reverse which already punctuate their days. See *Breaking news* (21.5.14).

SORE LUNGS AND REEKING LUMS

Some residents on the east side of Broughton Street have been left spluttering over recent months by acrid smoke entering their properties.

It seems to emanate from two domestic wood-burning stoves in a property off Hart Street. However, both planned and unannounced visits there by Public Health officials have found the devices to be design-compliant with regulations and using the right fuel.

Although Edinburgh is a Smoke Control Area, stoves like this are allowed to produce smoke for ten minutes during kindling and refuelling. Environmental Wardens will only intervene if they witness thick enough smoke inside another property using their own senses (apparently 24-hour monitoring devices are not allowed). As the smoke does not come at predictable times, and clears quickly, measuring its appearance like this is ineffective.

The origin of the problem is murky, and may owe something to how even relatively little smoke is channelled or concentrated around adjacent structures. But suffering residents report coughs, headaches, and exacerbation of asthma. Some feel officials now regard them as troublemakers or hypochondriacs. With no solution in sight despite the intervention of Councillor Doran (Ward 11), others are considering court action.

Wood-burning stoves are cheap to run and increasingly popular, so issues like this in densely populated cities – issues which most people hoped had been banished for good after the Clean Air Act of 1956 – may well become more common in future.



DOWN TO THE WIRE IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES SELECTION BATTLE



Kimberley Reed, Broughton's hammer-throwing heroine, has already achieved the qualifying distance for this summer's Glasgow Commonwealth Games. Now, though, she's in a real scrap with rival Myra Perkins for the last spot in Scotland's team

By the time you read this, there should be 4 competitions left before the selection deadline on 8 June. Anything could happen. See *Breaking news* (2.6.14) for a detailed account.

Meanwhile, in other news, Kimberley has been chosen as a Queen's Baton Bearer and will be getting the plum spot at Holyrood Palace on 14 June.

We're proud of you, Kimberley!

MANY A SLIP 'TWIXT CUP & LIDL

Logie Green Road householders got a fright when they came home to find developers next door had partially destroyed a boundary hedge, undermined their property without permission, and ruptured a sewage pipe.

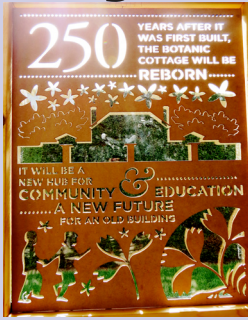
These 'unauthorised invasions' actually happened over several days, but came as no less of a surprise. At one point, the workmen's interventions resulted in a partial landslip and police were called.

Builders promptly shored up the area of subsidence and offered to make good any other damage, but residents were wary of accepting help from those who had accidentally caused such havoc in the first place. The work is all part of a development of housing, a Lidl supermarket and an underground car park on the site. Some neighbours claim never to have received notification of the plans, and were shocked to find out at this late stage what will soon be built adjacent to them.

Councillor Nick Gardner (Ward 12) is offering guidance and support.



Briefly



Work has begun to rebuild the **Botanic Cottage** (formerly on Leith Walk) in the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (fronting Inverleith Place). The £1.6m project will be completed by the end of 2015. **Regius Keeper Simon Milne** looks forward to the building's renewed 'vital role ... in education, horticulture and botany, to the benefit of **individuals, communities and the nation** – a place where heritage, culture, science and sustainable living will come together'.

Broughton History Society will meet next in Drummond CHS at 7pm on 9 June for its **AGM and members night**. Tiaras optional.

On 21 May the *Edinburgh Evening News* published an interesting, well-researched and original article.

The next meeting of concerned residents to discuss **mysterious goings-on** between the Claremonts and Broughton Rd (Issue 229) will be on **4 June at 7pm** in Broughton PS Gym Hall.

The **LeithLate** mini arts festival will linger longer and spread south with **new venues in Broughton** from 21–22 June. See *Breaking news* (26.5.14).

Pride Scotia this year is on Sat **21 Jun**. Assemble outside **Scottish Parliament, 11.30am**. Advance on City Chambers for speeches. Dis-assemble in **Bristo Sq.** Party.

The saga of **East Scotland Street Lane's** glorified kennel shows no sign of ending (*Breaking news*, 2.5.14). Developer Dermot Ferrigan has now applied to convert the condemned dwelling into an office (Ref. 14/01419/FUL). NTBCC and local residents have objected.

Celebrating its first 10 years, the **Capital Concert Band** will be joined by Musselburgh and Penicuik Boys Brigade Pipe Band and the Herald Trumpets of Scotland for a night of popular music/entertainment in Inverleith St Serf's Church on 14 Jun. Proceeds to **Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres**. See *Events*.

Indications are that the spot on **E. London St** once filled by Locanda de Gusti will soon be filled by the Dundas St-based **New Town Brasserie Ltd**. More news when we have it.

A new venue – **Gayfield Creative Spaces** – launched at 11 Gayfield Square on 30 May, promising a programme of **lectures and exhibitions**.

St James Quarter: you pay so developer can sleep easy

Work is to start on the St James Quarter early in 2015, it was announced late in April (*Breaking news*, 29.4.14).

After much delay, the start was made possible by a finance initiative between TIAA Henderson Real Estate, City of Edinburgh Council, and the Scottish Government.

A CEC report (see *Extras* 2.5.14) summarises the Regeneration Accelerator Model as being based on a £61.4m 'investment in enabling infrastructure. This would be maintained and repaid by an annuity payment by the Scottish Government and the owners of the Quarter, TIAA Henderson. The borrowing cost per annum would be £4.77m and would be fully met by new funding streams to the Council, provided specific targets are met. The project will create significant overall growth to the economy, thousands of new jobs for Edinburgh and restore city competitiveness'.

The CEC report does not explain how the £61.4m would be spent, but Henderson's Martin Perry explicitly told *Spurtle* on 29 April that most of it would go on a multi-modal transport (tram and bus) interchange at the junction of Leith Walk, Leith Street and York Place. It was, he assured us, 'an obvious contingency plan [which] has always been part of Council thinking for the site'.

In the past, perhaps. But now, really? Why on earth would cash-strapped CEC borrow so much to fractionally extend a cul-de-sac with help from an SNP Administration openly hostile towards any extension of the tram scheme?

Henderson's statement to *Spurtle* in June 2013 (Issue 219) suggests it is *they* who have driven this agenda: '[The] works to Picardy Place to accommodate future expansion of the tram system will be required by ... [HGI] to be completed in advance of the centre opening to avoid future significant loss-of-trade issues when the tram extension is committed'.

HGI are taking no chances. We are paying to set their minds at rest. It looked then, as it looks now, very much like a private-sector tail wagging the public-sector dog.

Bellevue Crescent double-bed fun

Two matching semi-circular flowerbeds have appeared in Bellevue Crescent.

A Council spokesperson says they contain asters, euphorbia 'Pink Glow' crocus, barrenwort, coneflower, elephant's ears, heartleaf bergenia, Japanese anemone, 'Bonfire' japonica, milk parsley, snowy woodrush, 'Primadonna' strantia, Tiny Tim, Vision violets and yellow waxbells.

The plants should flower over the next few weeks, but won't be in full bloom this year as they're so young. Hence, they will be supplemented with summer bedding plants until they become more established.



No clear-cut winners in Independence debate

Over 200 people attended a Scottish Independence Debate in Edinburgh Academy organised by Stockbridge & Inverleith Community Council on 15 May.

Marco Biagi MSP (SNP) and Alison Johnstone MSP (SG) spoke for the Yes campaign, Sarah Boyack (SL) and Gavin Brown (SC) spoke for Better Together. Broadcaster and journalist Ruth Wishart chaired.

The public asked 18 questions over 2 hours, with subjects ranging from the economy to the judiciary, defence, trade and influence overseas. A show of hands at the end suggested a very narrow (if any) majority intending to vote Yes, with around 10% still undecided. For a full report, see *Breaking news* (16.5.14).



Dear Emma exceeds expectations

A superb first edition (1816) of Jane Austen's fourth novel in its original blue paper boards, which was estimated at £15,000–£20,000, fetched £48,050 (including buyer's premium) at Lyon & Turnbull's sale on 7 May, *writes JRM*. Dear Mr Woodhouse would undoubtedly have welcomed this tidy sum to ensure a draught-free Hartfield, thin – but not too thin – basins of gruel, and slippers forever.

Meanwhile, the Fergusson bronze which featured on last month's front cover (Issue 229) fetched £49,250, some £37,250 more than estimated.

Mixed views on LCCC's year

Leith Central Community Council reviewed its progress over the past year at last month's annual general meeting.

The principal success had been securing a Pilrig Conservation Area, largely thanks to the efforts of Annette O'Carroll. Stakeholder meetings to discuss Leith Walk had become more productive and efficient, and officials had acknowledged that the road was currently a danger to pedestrians and cyclists. LCCC maintained an updated and well-used social media presence, with the website receiving 1,000 monthly visits.

Frustrations included: delays to Leith Walk improvements; extension of planning permission for Shrub Place, even though there is no sign of work starting; Crummock's unconsented stone crushing at Shrub Place and CEC's lack of enforcement action; Forrest's cheeky installation of outsized advertising at Croall Place, legitimised by a successful retro-planning application.

Of concern was LCCC's continued inability to appoint a Planning convener. Members liaising by email felt overwhelmed by the amount of work and volume of background planning information, and the system's weighting in favour of developers. However, Malcolm Chisholm MSP congratulated the group, describing it as one of the city's most successful 'in terms of actually achieving things'.

LCCC's next meeting is on 16 June at 7pm in McDonald Rd Library.

Reliability is the key

Broughton's 11th Scouts have moved camp. In Issue 229 we reported how the problem of access at Broughton St Mary's PS had apparently been solved.

Grateful though they were, organisers had heard such assurances umpteen times before, so when the opportunity came to relocate to Broughton Primary School up the road, they took it.

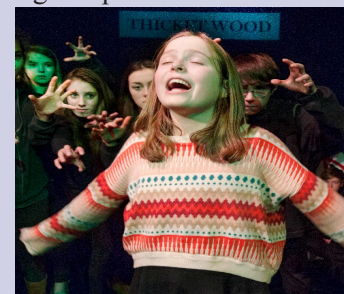
'The facilities are bigger and better and they have a permanent janitor who is keen to work with us,' Scout Leader Scott Richards told us. 'Shame we had to leave our home of 80 years, but at least we are still Broughton Scouts.'

Briefly



Last month, Cuckoo's Bakery on Dundas St won **Best Individual Cake in Scotland** at the Scottish Baker of The Year for their **raspberry and chocolate cupcake**. Meanwhile, Cuckoo's range of **referendum cupcakes** have been selling like ... whatever. **Analysis on 2 May** showed: Undecided 17.4%; Yes 27.7%; No 54.9%. **The size and representativeness** of the sample are unclear, which may come as a crumb of comfort to nationalists.

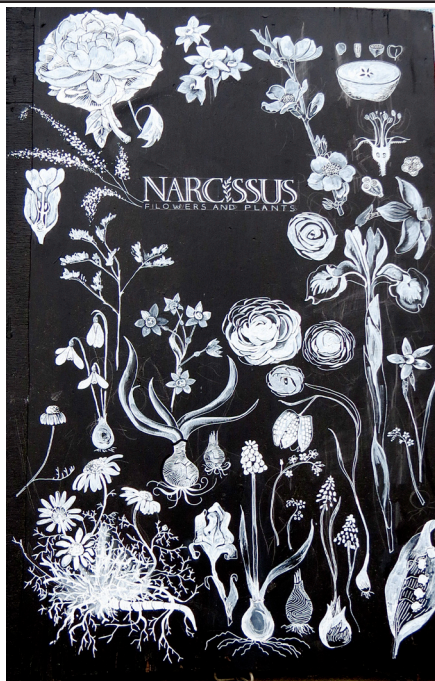
The debut video of locally based band **Whisky Kiss** ('Jock's Revenge, Hold!'), featuring **several Broughton locations**, has had over 500K views on Facebook and hit No. 1 in Malta and Luxembourg's iTunes charts. A new video, featuring **Calton Hill** as well as various remote Old Town spots is nearing completion.



Aged 8-14 and interested in performing this summer? **Strange Town's Summer Performance Projects** involve creating and performing a play in five days at **Out of the Blue on Dalmeny St**. Projects for 8-10s run from 30 June to 4 July, and for 11-14s from 7-11 July (**cost £99, bursaries available**). Info: [annamaria.frastali@gmail.com].

The New Town & Broughton Community Council (NTBCC) has a new website. It's a work in progress, but the signs are that it could build into a **really useful resource** - especially for those locals interested in **Planning, Environment, Transport or Licensing issues**. You can access it at: [http://www.ntbcc.org.uk/].

Waverley Care - the Mansfield Place-based charity supporting those **living with HIV and Hepatitis C** - celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Tickets for comedy benefit performances at the **Pleasance** (12 Aug) and **Edinburgh Playhouse** (19 Aug) are already on sale.



This delicately realised A-board design in chalk paint for Narcissus Flowers is the work of florist Eileen Glass. On 14 May, Narcissus supplied 'something Scottishish' for a whisky advertisement shoot on Frederick Street featuring model David Beckham, the tattooed and fragrant husband of top chanteuse and fashion designer Victoria Beckham. Previous glamorous Narcissus commissions have included one for a pope-mobile (*Breaking news*, 16.9.10).

Coffee with added Ping!

Say hello to Matt Carroll, who with partner Helen Carroll had the bright idea of setting up the new coffee merchant and espresso bar at 3C York Place (formerly Robbie's Services) close to the tram stop. We wish Fortitude Coffee every success.



European Election 2014 the results

Voters across Scotland as a whole returned MEPs as follows: Conservatives 1, Labour 2, SNP 2, UKIP 1.

The vote in Edinburgh was split as follows: Britain First 1,035, British National Party 676, Conservatives 27,554, Greens 22,836, Labour 32,758, Liberal Democrats 12,575, NO2EU 548, SNP 32,721, UKIP 10,992.

Turnout in Edinburgh, at 41.6%, was above the Scottish figure of 33.4%. A useful STV graphic comparing voting in Edinburgh, Scotland and the entire UK is available at: [http://goo.gl/tWT9pn].

Moreover ...



Pictured here is the dilapidated trace of Broughton's **Pitt Street**, which merged with Dundas Street in 1967. It was originally named after Prime Minister William Pitt. Can readers name any other PM so honoured in Embo? Answers below.

An application to change signage (Ref. 14/01838/LBC) suggests Forth Street's **Urban Angel** will soon become a **Burger Meats Bun** outlet. Glasgow-based BMB was founded last year by former staff of the **Michelin-starred Peat Inn** in Fife.

Jonathan Crombie – until recently the general manager and media face of Broughton St's **Crombies of Edinburgh** – pled guilty at Edinburgh Sheriff Court to downloading **indecent images of children** on 8 Apr. The offence took place on the premises, but **none of the other 20 staff was involved**. On 21 May, Crombie was placed on the sex offenders register and sentenced to 100 hours' community service. He now has no **'involvement in the operation of the business'**.

In Issue 229 we reported on the **still too changeable and too flashy** advertising board at 10 Croall Place. CEC's planning enforcement team has launched an investigation.

In Issue 229 we mistakenly attributed the **beautiful new fanlight** on London St to an excellent Rodney St firm. In fact, it was made by the excellent Bryan Wilkie of **BW Joinery** on John Muir Cres, Dunbar. He now offers a **10% discount** to any reader mentioning the *Spurtle*.

An application to build 3 new dwellings on a vacant plot – the former site of Mary Ann Cottage – in **Broughton Place Lane** (*Breaking news*, 4.3.14) has been withdrawn.

Estate agents suggest **properties within 800m of tram stops** may increase in value by up to 15%. This area would include **the whole of Broughton**. We're not at all sure such instantaneous price inflation would help preserve this neighbourhood's **mixed and flexible community**. What do you think?

PMs on the street answers: Canning, Derby/Stanley, Earl Grey, Great Stuart, Melbourne (built over in 1968), Palmerston, Peel, Portland, Wellington. Not Gladstone, though: still only an MP at the time various streets were named after him.

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

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surgeries: second
Monday of the month
1:30pm

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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.

Contact me on 0131 348 6421
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Broughton

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

New Town/Broughton Community Council

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

Next Meetings:

9 June & 11 August

at 7.30pm

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

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AMDECORATING

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