

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 128

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Free

**August
2005**

**Tel - 556 0903
556 7727**

Farewell, Sundial



The Sundial Launderette has gone, after thirty years as a prominent Broughton landmark. **Annette Gracie** worked there from near the start in

1975, and was manager for the last eighteen years.

'I would like everyone to know how much I appreciate the support they have given us over the years,' she told **Spurtle**. The support worked both ways: staff always tried to accommodate rush jobs if they possibly could; and Annette remembers helping folk fill in their tax forms! 'People seemed to get attached to the place, and some kept bringing their laundry long after moving out of Broughton – from as far away as Glasgow and Linlithgow.' And she knows couples

who first met at the Launderette and then went on to marry.

'There was a great mixture of people to meet': performers at Fringe Festivals, and Keith Chegwin and his team when the Big Breakfast Show was filmed at the Sundial in 1995. More frequently, 'young men would remove their outer clothing and sit in their underwear waiting for their wash to dry'.

Annette Gracie still has unclaimed Sundail laundry and dry cleaning – see her advert on the back page.

Broughton Books will soon be gone

Before September's our local secondhand bookshop will be no more. Peter Galinsky moved to Broughton Place in 1989 when he got the chance to buy the shop there from a bookseller who was retiring. Before that Peter had run Broughton Books in a rented basement at 49a Broughton Street for nine years.

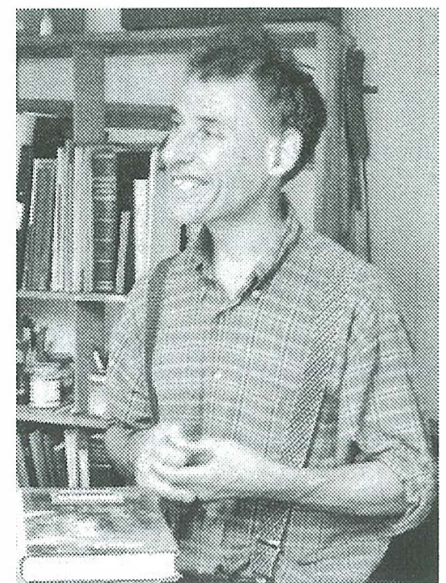
Some years back he wrote 'a short history' of the Broughton Street shop (there are complimentary copies available at 2a Broughton Place as we go to press), with fascinating details of those who ran it before him: Zbigniew Migdalski, who founded the shop in 1971; Ross MacLean, who still lives locally and is a member of the **Spurtle** team; and Bert Barrot, who had an offset litho printing machine in the back room on which his productions included a reprint of John

Mackay's 1867 history of Broughton. There's also an account of how Peter himself arrived in Edinburgh from Holland, via England; stumbled on Broughton Books; helped Bert Barrot out part-time; then first managed and then bought the business when Bert transferred to West Port Books.

But now he feels it's time to go. He told **Spurtle** that over recent years he's seen fewer people collecting books, fewer people with much in the way of bookshelves in their homes. Not so many secondhand books are being bought; and when they are, often it's a different way of buying – over the internet. Rather than go down that route, Peter's decided to switch to something completely different, starting with a course in teaching English as a Foreign Language.

Since the start of our existence in

1994 Broughton Books has served as **Spurtle's** postbox, for which we're very grateful. One more month of that!



Since the London bombings there has been some disgusting verbal and physical harassment of our fellow citizens, in Edinburgh as elsewhere. Spurtle condemns such stupidity and expresses sympathy and solidarity with our Muslim and other Asian communities during this difficult time.

SCOTLAND YARD

Summer festival, 3rd September

This year the summer festival down at Scotland Yard is on Saturday 3rd September, 12 noon to 4pm. Susan McIntyre of The Yard writes:

The Yard is an adventure playground in Canonmills – at 22 Eyre Place Lane, next to George V Park. It is visited by children with additional needs from all over Edinburgh and children from the local community. The Yard has a large outdoor space with garden areas, a large sandpit, a water feature and wild flowers and a large building for indoor play.

Every year The Yard has a summer festival open day. This year the festival will be on Saturday, 3rd September and the event is called 'The Yard in Space!'

It's a great family day out with stalls, a bouncy castle, a café, a bar, live bands, children's games, face painting, storytelling, a raffle and lots more. Entry is £1 per family, and most activities are free. All proceeds go to The Yard.

We hope to see you there! For any more information on the festival or on The Yard please contact us on 476 4506.

And if you have a talent for arts and crafts and would like to have an activity stall for the children we would love to hear from you. It would be wonderful to make use of local skills and the children



would really appreciate interesting new opportunities. Or, if you have anything you can donate such as raffle prizes, home baking or jumble then please get in touch.

Local residents associations

Are there any other local residents' associations currently active? If so, please let us know so that we can cover them in our next edition.

The Broughton Village Association represents the community centring on Broughton Street in an area bounded, approximately, by Bellevue, Gayfield, the top of Broughton Street and Dublin Street. Its broad aim is to safeguard the local city-centre environment for those who choose to live or work there. Recent and ongoing issues include monitoring of building expansion in the area; the development of major traffic control in the St James' roundabout/Stockbridge corridor and the introduction of pedestrian crossings on Mansfield Place; improving the "greening" of the area and developing existing open space; monitoring street

cleaning and rubbish disposal. Further input will be welcomed: phone Stephanie Harvey on 557 2762 (daytime).

Gayfield Association seeks to represent anyone who lives or works in an area approximately bounded by Broughton Street, East London Street and Annandale Street, and across Leith Walk into Greenside, Baxter Place, Bleinheim Place and Windsor Street. Replacement of the railings round the public garden in Gayfield Square is the Association's priority at the moment; it also looks at planning applications affecting the area, and issues of noise and litter. Phone William McNair on 556 4493.

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association covers West Annandale Street, and all the Bellevues (except the Crescent) and Claremonts. Recent issues have included proposals for new flats on the corner of East Claremont Street and West Annandale Street, parking in the middle of the street, and tarmacing of East Claremont Street Lane (which has now happened). The Association has been a bit 'dormant' recently: if you want action, or just more information, phone Yvonne Pryor on 466 1144.

Powderhall Owners Association covers all owners of Bryant apartments in Powderhall Road, Brae and Rigg (252 apartments). The main issue being pursued at the moment is parking – how many spaces should be adopted by the City Council and controlled by meters or parking permits, how many should be reserved as private parking for residents. Also on the agenda is landscaping – how to ensure that all grounds within the development are maintained to the same high standard. For more detail e-mail info@powderhallvillage.co.uk; or visit the Association's website at www.powderhallvillage.co.uk

Redbraes Residents Association's catchment area is Redbraes Grove and Place. The Association runs Redbraes Community Workshops, in Redbraes Park. Set up in 2001, they have a small café open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, a food Co-op on the Wednesday, and organise various events for the residents. They also accommodate informal meetings for other local residents groups and encourage the development of new groups wishing to address issues within their own area. For further details, why not pop in? Or phone Davie Thomson on 467 3879.

Spurtle is your local community paper. Contact us and:

- react to what **Spurtle** has had to say
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Telephone 556 7727 or 556 0903

Write to us c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX - you can put a letter through the letter box at any time.

e-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

BUDAPEST

Public transport paradise?

This from the second edition of the City Talks, the quarterly newsletter published by Edinburgh City Management Company (and edited by Fay Young of East Claremont Street):

The Mayor of Budapest has opened up public realm to stylish effect since his election in 1990. Café culture thrives on the pedestrianised shopping streets and squares where you can hear birds sing and musicians play among the global chain stores and local restaurants.

Ironically the combined legacies of Austro-Hungarian and Soviet empires provide an efficient and fully integrated transport system to speed shoppers, tourists and businessmen and women on their way. Trams, trolleys,

buses and trains connect all parts of the city every two to three minutes by day. At night the service slows to no more than 8-minute intervals. Which means you can get to the centre from less picturesque parts within 20 minutes — and even the grimmest Soviet concrete tower blocks are surrounded by fresh fruit and veg stalls on the ground floor. Edinburgh master planners take note.

Spurtle's Tim Puntis adds:

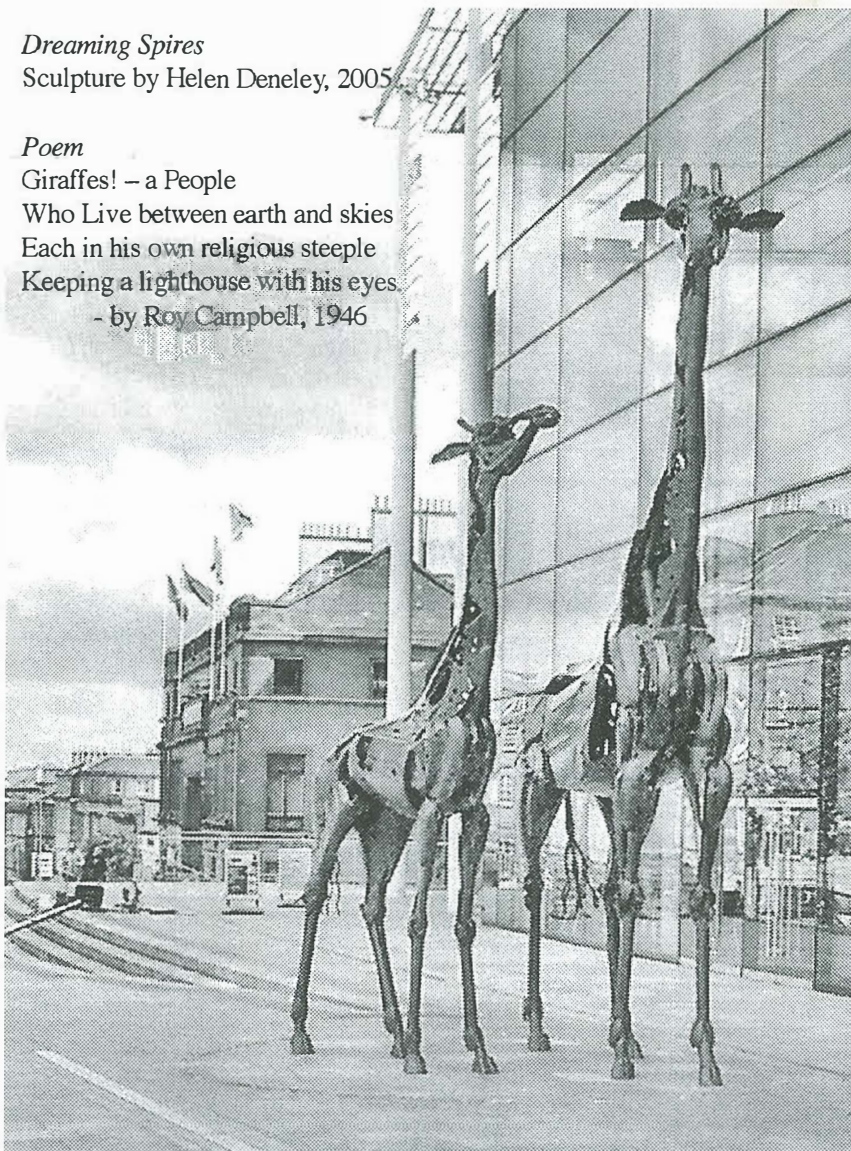
I've been back from Hungary for just a few days now and can wholeheartedly endorse the positive comments above about Budapest's public transport. It has reliable, fast and frequent services on all routes and the trams are surely the best way for tourists to see this lovely city.

Dreaming Spires

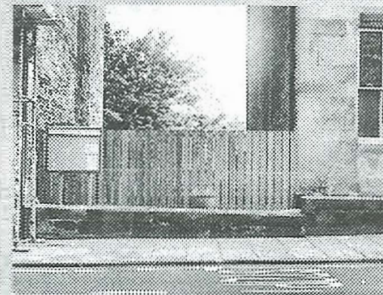
Sculpture by Helen Deneley, 2005

Poem

Giraffes! – a People
Who Live between earth and skies
Each in his own religious steeple
Keeping a lighthouse with his eyes
- by Roy Campbell, 1946



BRIEFLY



A joint effort by the Community Council and the Stafford Centre has resulted in a new fence, gravel, planting and a **community noticeboard** at this Broughton Street site

*On 14th July B L Developments held their fourth meeting about plans for the former bus depot site at **Shrub Place**. Local residents were able to consult drawings on display boards, with staff in attendance to answer questions. This has certainly been the most community-focused approach I've seen in some ten years poking around local planning matters, the Community Councils planning convenor Bob Stewart told Spurtle.*

Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent will be **open to visitors** between 10am and 4pm each day for the week Monday 15th to Saturday 20th August.

Eric Robinson of Broughton Place wrote complaining about the mess caused by delays in collecting rubbish bags, first because of changed schedules then because of industrial action: about time the City Council got its act together. Asked to comment, Councillor Davies told us "It takes two to tango" both in resolving industrial disputes and in residents disposing of their rubbish properly and the Council collecting it regularly. There is a growing problem in the City Centre because it is just about the only part of the city left where, because of pressure from residents and others, we still rely on black bags. This means that the main perpetrators of damaged bags – cats, foxes and, especially, gulls – now coroeifratit their food forays entirely in the City Centre,

FESTIVAL FUN

Local attractions

Last month Persephone Belle gave advance notice of some of the Festival events taking place in and around Broughton. Here are some more.

At **Drummond Community High School** (Fringe Venue 212) Festival Theatre USA's programme of dramas, comedies and musicals runs on until 20th August. This includes *Pound of Flesh*, described as 'A play of questionable morality, ethics and humanity, guaranteed to appal, scandalise and enrage'.

A bit farther afield there's a show from the official Festival at **Out of the Blue** in Dalmeny Street, the former drill hall at No. 36. *Nuts Coconuts* runs from 15th August to 3rd September:

What's new, pussycat?

Find out how we can help you care for your cat.

The **Cat Clinic (North)**
4 Bellevue Street EH7 4BY
558 9158

bellevue@catclinic.co.uk
www.catclinic.co.uk



... veterinary service
exclusively for cats

SUNDIAL LAUNDERETTE

East London Street
closed on 31st July

UNCLAIMED LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING

has been transferred to
ACE CLEANING CENTRE
at 13 South Clerk Street, opposite the
Queen's Hall. If anyone cannot manage
to pick it up from there former
Sundial manager Annette Gracie
will be happy to deliver it to them.
Phone 667 0549

the blurb promises 'the only show where the costumes are louder than the music', and 'madness that is just an excuse to honour the touring theatre troupes of the world'.

And once again **Pilrig Park** will be hosting *The Mela*, Edinburgh's annual multicultural festival – on 3rd and 4th September. Look out for posters!

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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Edinburgh, EH7 5HU.

Tel: 0131 557 0577

Fax: 0131 557 5759

Email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk

Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk

Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

We always require properties to meet
constant demand

Broughton Property Management

61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail: broughton_prop@ednet.co.uk



New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Vacancy for Community Councillor

The Community Council represents
the views of local residents to
Edinburgh City Council.
There is a vacancy on the Community
Council. If you think you might be
interested phone the Secretary for a chat.

The next meeting is on
Monday 5th September, 7.30pm at
Drummond Community High School.
Secretary Annette O'Carroll 556 7586
E-mail aocarroll@onetel.net

Contacts

**Bellevue and Claremont
Residents Association**
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Road Group
Pat Eccles 556 7550

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762
(daytime)

**Friends of Hopetoun Crescent
Garden**
Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

Powderhall Owners Association
info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

**Redbraes Residents
Association**
George Hosey 467 6151

**New Town Broughton and
Pilrig Community Council**
Anette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
John Dickie 5560903

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary
School, Weds. 6.30pm to
7.30pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward 558 8823 or
529 4268. Surgery at 67
Northumberland Street on
Mondays from 6.30 to 7.15pm

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency office:

86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU
Tel: 0131 558 8358 Fax 0131 557 6781

Saturday surgeries:
9am Leith Library

10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library