

Scotland Yard stushie

Edinburgh City Council has no current plans for a feasibility study of Scotland Yard tunnel. This emerged during a fact-finding visit by George Hazel, Director of the Council's Development Department.

The visit was in response to an invitation from the Adventure Centre, alarmed by reported proposals for the site (see September's **Spurtle**). Alan Rees, who chairs the Centre's management committee, told **Spurtle** he found the hour-long meeting "very reassuring". Mr Hazel had the chance to become aware of the unique nature of the Adventure Centre, and seemed very impressed.

Meanwhile, London Street resident William Austin responded to last month's coverage of the Scotland Yard story:

"I have been resident here for 25 years, and have watched and used the developments in Scotland Yard over this period. It does not seem to be used so much these days by mothers and children, and the weeds and the bushes seem to grow unchecked. I wonder who has the responsibility for the

upkeep of the facility?"

When **Spurtle** paid a Saturday afternoon visit, the public playground seemed quite busy (not to mention the buzz coming from the Adventure Centre next door). But it certainly was weedy; and signs detailing dog-fouling regulations had been defaced.

Mr Austin continues: "I am in favour of the tunnel being used, but am concerned about the children's playground being lost. However, facilities for the tunnel could be built on a level with the tunnel entrance, even including a small car park, and the children's playground could be re-erected on top - which would probably make it much easier to manage as a playground as there would be less flora. There is a lot of space between the two tunnel entrances which is not being used and requires a lot of upkeep, and could well be used for services for the tunnel entrance".

Interesting. But we'd be worried this could block off the extension of the walk and cycleway through the tunnel from the north. And we wouldn't want even a small car park on this site.

Mix-up of local churches

Crab sandwiches, tasting the mead, lots of laughter, new friendships. An informal meditation before setting out - a short open-air service in the Abbey ruins on arrival.

Picnics in a garden and on the beach. Close encounters with birds of prey. For a recently married couple a return to where he had proposed. These were just some of the ingredients of a recent pilgrimage to Lindisfarne enjoyed by 100 people representing all the local Broughton churches.

Support us!

Broughton **Spurtle** survives on a combination of supporters' contributions and advertisements. We're completely independent, and have never looked for grants from anywhere.

● We don't want to swamp our pages with adverts, but would consider a couple more. The larger boxes cost £15, the smaller ones £8.

● **Spurtle** Supporters show they value the paper by giving us a pound per issue: in return they get it delivered to them, plus one or two other items. Some of our founder supporters have since left the area: we would very much welcome new ones!

Contact John Dickie, 01350 728 720.

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** aims to:

- provide a contact point for local people who want to get together and change things
- help local action groups publicise their work
- make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton
- and generally stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

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A vision for Mansfield Church?

Last month we repeated our support for the Mansfield Traquair Trust's project to save the church and its murals - but we felt discussion of the building's future role hadn't really come alive yet. We suggested ways it could serve the local community; and we also wondered:

"Continuing use as a Festival venue has been mentioned: so why is it not possible to work out some way of accommodating Cafe Graffiti? We feel uneasy about the enforced departure of Pete Simpson".

This month we publish an impassioned response by a local resident, on page 2.

BRIEFLY



George Reiss is no longer community worker at St Paul's and St George's Episcopal Church, due to staff

re-organisation Beyond work based at the church he was also very active as a McDonald Road resident, on the Community Council, and with the

Hopetoun Steering Group. We'll see him around in Broughton for a bit yet, while he figures out where his future lies. Good luck to him. And let's hope new people will step forward to fill all those gaps!

The Community Council's AGM takes place on Monday, 5th October in Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm. As usual, members of the public are welcome to attend.

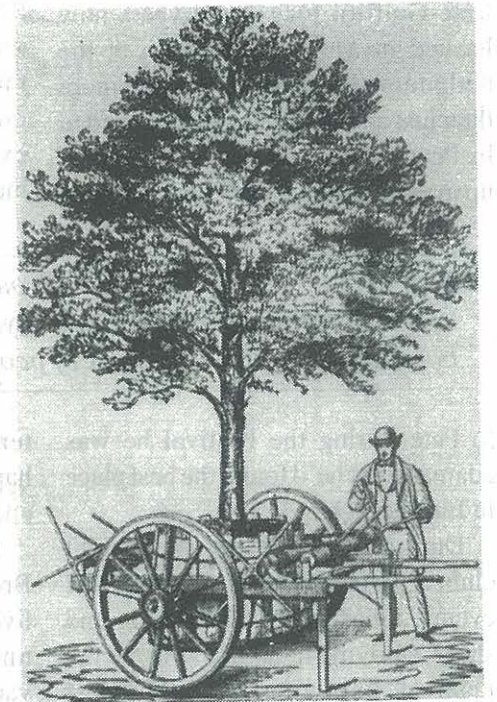
Last month we reported cyclists' call for a safe crossing of Broughton Road

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Back in the 18th century Broughton hosted the Royal Botanic Garden: you can still see a remnant of it in Hopetoun Crescent, and the former principal gardener's house fronts onto Leith Walk, next to the filling station in Haddington Place.

In 1810 a new gardener took charge - William McNab. The Garden developed rapidly under his care, and within a decade he was looking for a new site. In the early 1820s he supervised the move to Inverleith, inventing a new tree transplanter to ensure mature specimens did not have to be abandoned.

Spurtle can highly recommend a small but fascinating exhibition about the life and work of William McNab, currently at the Botanic Garden in Inverleith Row. It's in the Caledonian Hall, near the rock garden, until



Mr McNab's patent tree transplanter

Sunday 18th October - 10am to 4pm, admission free. There are also guided walks at 2pm every Sunday during the exhibition (£2 per person).

from McDonald Road to St Mark's Park - to link up with existing cycleways. Now we've heard that the would-be developers of the Blandfield site have agreed to include a toucan crossing (for cyclists and pedestrians) in their plans.

Broughton History Society's next meeting is on Monday, 26th October. Guest speaker Alan Finlayson's subject will be "Scotland's Child Law: Past Times, Present Developments". New members welcome - Drummond Community High, 7.15pm. for 7.30pm.

Save Cafe Graffiti!



A call to arms by Joy Hendry, who is a Broughton Place resident and also edits Scotland's literary magazine 'Chapman'

Graffiti is now a recognised art form: Cafe Graffiti, for several years now located in Mansfield Church at the bottom of Broughton Street, is more than just a form of art. Masterminded by Pete Simpson, the Cafe has popped up in various places, but when I talked

excellent himself with Loyko, the Russian Gypsy Band, Huur Huur Tu, the throat singers of Tuva, the mischevious Amsterdam Parade - music, dancing, acrobatics, an excellent cabaret and creating a magical environment in the outside

goes on there. Graffiti acts as a magnet to precisely the kind of people we want to draw into our area. Pete Simpson has a special kind of genius, and he wants to stay among us.

Plans are afoot to turf Pete out and turn the basement into charitable offices and the main church into a conference centre. Surely Edinburgh is encumbered with a surfeit of conference centres, and the removal of Cafe Graffiti would greatly diminish the ambience of this unique part of Edinburgh. So far the opposition to Graffiti (and the Palladium for that matter) has been more vocal than the support. But there must be many of you who, like me, desperately want to keep Pete and his cafe. There are many talented, creative people among us who could bend their minds to find a way to do this.

Pete's lease expires at the end of the year, and he plans to go out with a bang. But we don't want him to go, and need to act quickly, to speak up, to stand up and be counted.

So to arms: let's meet, let's speak, let's move. For us it's surely quality of life that counts, not commercial concerns. Pete and Cafe Graffiti enrich our lives. Let us recognise that, welcome it, and support him.

It so fits our beloved Parish of Broughton - surely the best place to live in Edinburgh with its energy, its unaggressive bohemianism, the varied mix of people who throng the street.

to Pete during the Festival he was adamant that he'd found the best place in Europe to be.

During the year it's a cabaret night club, a perfect venue for parties and events, a bastion of civilisation and sheer enjoyment of life; but in the Festival it blooms into the most spectacular Fringe venue in the city. Every year since 1993 it's hosted a brilliant, international, varied and original programme, involving world-renowned artists, drawn to the city by Pete's gentle persuasion. This year he

tent bars where anything might happen so long as it was decent, fair and fun.

It so fits our beloved Parish of Broughton - surely the best place to live in Edinburgh with its energy, its unaggressive bohemianism, the varied mix of people who throng the street. The Phoebe Traquair murals, so admired by some, have in fact been protected by Graffiti's good husbandry of the church and are not likely to be damaged by the well-behaved boisterous activity which



Pete Simpson

**If you share
Joy's concern
phone Spurtle on
01350 728 720.**

What a life!



Here's the latest in our series on Broughton folk with interesting jobs or other activities.

Pippy (Philippa) Tyler of Bellevue Place works as a teacher of midwifery at Napier University. She comes from a medical family; her father was a GP and her mother a nurse. She'd always wanted to nurse and started her training in the Middlesex Hospital in 1968.

She then travelled the world for two years before continuing her training, in midwifery, at the North Lothian College, where she worked as a staff midwife and sister in community midwifery. Her first home delivery was in Broughton Street, above the archway near Real Foods!

Because she liked to have students working with her, she decided to train as a teacher before joining the staff at the College. After a brief spell at the Dean Family Planning Centre she was headhunted to be a midwife teacher in the South Lothian College at the Simpson.

Along with other changes in the NHS in 1990 the three Lothian colleges of nursing and midwifery combined. A major change in teaching philosophy

means that students are no longer "slave labour" to the hospitals but are firmly placed in higher education. Now only one group of midwives instead of three qualifies each year.

In 1996 Napier won the contract to provide nursing and midwifery education for Lothian and the Borders. Pippy now spends more time writing courses and meeting the structured demands of a university. However, because of contraction there's less fresh blood coming into the profession. This has inevitably increased the load on the existing staff. Pippy looks back fondly to her earlier days, when midwives served more of an apprenticeship.

Many years ago she was trying to relax a very uptight expectant mother who was, to put it mildly, in need of a good wash. Pippy eventually persuaded her into the bath, where she spent the next few hours, refusing to come out. When she did she gave birth within two minutes. Now birthing pools are routinely available at maternity hospitals.

And, yes, she has had several babies named after her. All male.

BRIEFLY

There's a planning application in for 54 Annandale Street - Miller Homes, 44 flats with parking and landscaping. It's on the current list, so there's a couple of weeks yet to go and have a look at it at the Planning Department.

The City Council has agreed to erect a guardrail with bar frame attached at the motorcycle parking bays at the London Street end of Drummond Place. The move to allow owners to make their bikes secure at a properly designated place follows appeals by a local resident. He'd had two bikes stolen from the site.

Edinburgh Sitters of 13 Gayfield Square provide a sitter service for one parent families and carers of children or adults with disabilities. They have 90 families on their waiting list, many of them in our area. You can find out more on 'Make a Difference Day', Saturday 17th October. Drop in at their office between 12 noon and 4pm and chat to Catherine. (Or phone 557 3121 for more information about the Day and about volunteering.)

Back in July we cheered the City Planning Committee's decision to turn down plans for the Warner Village Cinema Complex at Greenside. Spurtle had already condemned the developer's "flat-pack concept" as being alien to the site. Now a new plan for 12-screen cinema, bowling alley, restaurants, health facility and a curved hotel or office building has been designed specifically for this site by an Edinburgh architect. Initial reaction from the Cockburn Association is favourable; the developers hope to submit a new application to the City planners by December.

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