

Spurtle



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No 226

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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

THOSE PAVEMENT PONGS MAY SOON BE GONE

A 9-month pilot scheme will start on 3 March aimed at eliminating unsightly trade-waste containers on public land along Leith Walk.

Following a survey last month of their preferred time slots, local businesses will have two hour-long windows per day in which to put out rubbish bins, bags and other trade waste. Each period will be preceded by a 15-minute 'run-in' for presentation. Failure to comply will result in enforcement action by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC).

Apart from improving the look (and smell and texture) of streets and pavements, the move recognises that poorly controlled waste 'can lead to spilled litter and other public health and safety concerns'. It also reflects higher recycling standards required under the Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012 which came into force on 1 January.

Whilst the initiative is likely to be very popular with the public, small businesses with limited room inside may need more collections and incur extra costs as a result. Meanwhile, trade-waste firms say they currently lack capacity to provide this service across the whole city.

Similar trials are already underway on Rose Street and the High Street.



Has anyone seen the small Broughton big cat? He stands about 18 inches tall, and was pinched from outside No. 68 Bellevue Street on the night of Tues. 7 January. Anne and Andy Forrest have had him for 15 years and would really like him back – no questions asked. See *Breaking news* (13.1.14).

LEITH WALK STUSHIE – RUMBLINGS OLD AND NEW

Prickly, semi-public email correspondence marked the festive season as locals and councillors discussed: first, the pace and transparency of Leith Walk improvements; then, the wisdom and fairness of removing 34 parking spaces.

Most of those who objected loudest were traders. You can read some of the less defamatory exchanges in *Breaking news* (17.12.13; 22.12.13; 2.1.14; 8.1.14). Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport and Environment Convener, repeated that the draft Traffic Regulation Order for Leith Walk from Constitution St to Pilrig St had been drawn up after extensive consultation to meet the needs of all users. Some of the spaces would be used for communal bins, she said, thus improving pavements for pedestrians. Loading bays and parking spaces had been carefully included elsewhere.

Leith Central Community Council

Repairs and improvements were discussed once more at LCCC's meeting on 20 January. Concern was again voiced at the many apparently undecided elements of plans and designs in a project which is scheduled for completion by January 2016. Irritation resurfaced at the badly organised and un-minuted meetings between stakeholders and officials.

In a bid to inject some direction and urgency to the process, LCCC voted – among other measures – to push for prioritisation of pavement repairs and restoration of the busiest sections to their condition before tramwork preparations started in 2007.

Dangerous potholes should be fixed promptly as on any other important road, they agreed, and yellow lines renewed to improve parking.

Plans for the section between Pilrig Street and Picardy Place, due to begin this spring, should be more ambitious, prioritising local residents (particularly pedestrians) then (in order) public transport and cyclists, retailers and visitors, transiting cars.



EAST SCOTLAND ST LANE: WRONG PLACE, TOO WEE

Scottish ministers have dismissed an appeal against CEC's refusal to grant change-of-use permission for a property on East Scotland Street Lane (Ref. 13/01863/FUL; *Breaking news*, 21.8.13).

The appellant, Dermot Ferrigan, wanted retrospective consent for conversion of his recently built garage into a residential studio flat.

The Reporter, Richard E. Bowden, found that such an 'isolated, incongruous' addition would not be appropriate here, neither would it enhance or preserve the Conservation Area. He also noted a 'marked failure' to meet the minimum standard for residential amenity: the proposed dwelling would have measured 22 sqm not 36 sqm or more. Bowden was not persuaded by Herrigan's contention that such criteria should apply only to new structures, not conversion of 'old' ones like this.

In conclusion, Bowden remarked that 'if the proposed change of use of a small domestic garage was permitted in this case it could be regarded as setting an unfortunate precedent that would make it more difficult to refuse proposals for changes of use of other non-residential structures that are of an unacceptably small scale or in a local context that would otherwise render them wholly unsuitable for conversion to residential accommodation'.

The property now houses neither a car nor residents, and CEC Planners tell us they have no plans for enforcement. Why is not clear to us.



Briefly



Lovely new lamp posts, vaguely reminiscent of Victorian firemen with fairies roosting on their helmets, have been installed along **Bellevue Cres**. They cost, an unverified source assures us, £2,000 each, as opposed to £90 for their predecessors (see *Breaking news*, 24.1.14).

At the next meeting of the **Broughton History Society**, Ian Gardiner will talk on **'The Falklands War – a Fighting Marine's Perspective'**. Turn to at 19:00 hours on Mon. 10 Feb in Drummond CHS. Then duck.

Friends of the Rocheid Path meet in Stockbridge Library on 3 Mar at 6.30pm.

The *Edinburgh Evening News* on 15 Jan devoted 603 words to a sell-out **'X-rated bondage class'** at Broughton St's **White Rabbit**. We are heartened by the ailing tabloid's **renewed interest** in community ties and continuing education.

Dawn of a new age: **Firth of Froth on Broughton St** now offers **free Wi-Fi** and accepts **payment by credit card**.

New 800 MHz 4G mobile signals (in a nutshell, witchcraft) are being switched on locally. If these disrupt your **Freeview TV service**, Tel. 0333 3131800 or 0808 1313800. More at: [www.at800tv/reminder].

Congratulations to **The Wally Dug** (Northumberland St), voted Scotland's second-most dog-friendly place in an annual competition by guide [www.dugsnpubs.com]. Third came the **Regent Bar** in Abbeyhill. Other top places were the **Roamin' Nose** (Eyre Place) and **Stockbridge Tap** (Raeburn Place).

In his annual report at the end of last year, **Malcolm Chisholm**, MSP for Edinburgh Northern and Leith, announced that – after 22 years as MP and MSP – he will not stand again for **Holyrood in 2016**. 'Until then, however, I shall be as active as ever in the constituency and in the Parliament.'

Those young and lucky enough to enjoy **designer buttocks** will rue the departure from Multrees Walk of **Calvin Klein**. *Arse brevis, vita longa*.

Free expert **tuition and advice on social media** is on offer at McDonald Rd Library on Wed 26 Feb, 5.30–7.30pm. **Book in advance** at: [<http://goo.gl/Egcgry>].

Howe Street closure: the when and the why

After 19 years at the helm of News Corner, the Howe Street newsagent and green grocer Mohammed Hanif conceded defeat and shut down late last month.

The premises at No. 46 have been used as a corner shop since at least 1940, but trade here collapsed within 2 months of the Sainsbury Local's arrival at No. 28 in 2011.

Hanif has spent the last 2 years trying to sell his business, but no-one has been interested given the proximity of the giant in dwarf's clothing next door.

He will now take his first holiday in nearly 20 years: 6 weeks in Pakistan, and a chance to meet up again with family and old friends.

On his return, he will help at Margiotta's over the road, to which he has transferred his substantial newspaper delivery service. We wish him every success.

This example reminds all of us that the 'Use it or lose it' slogan beloved of small independent businesses is no idle threat. If we really want retail diversity, interest and responsiveness on our high streets, we have to put our money where our mouths are and shop locally. See *Breaking news* (28.10.11).



Holey unsatisfactory

Following complaints about holes in the Powderhall Bridge to St Mark's Park, CEC has stepped in with eight plastic covers. These are a temporary solution to multiple trip hazards, with the failed plywood surface to be replaced by a non-slip coating, later this month or early in March.

Mixed feelings attend the supposedly indestructible tropical-hardwood bridge, installed in 2009 with a 'design life' of 120 years (Issues 155, 162). Some locals like its dependable massiveness. Others say that it's far too big and – partly because it doesn't bounce and rumble – not a patch on the old one.



Good time to complain

This (missing) light-up bollard on Bellevue Place has long looked like an accident waiting to happen, as have the ruined traffic island and subsiding setts on East London Street, as do the deepening pot holes of Leith Walk, Inverleith Terrace and Canonmills.

In advance of the annual Roads Dept end-of-financial-year unused budget splurge, we suggest readers report all such problems to: [www.fixmystreet.com].



Broughton 2019 ... slower, safer, cleaner, quieter?

New 20-mph speed limits may soon be extended across Edinburgh's city centre, residential and shopping streets, and 'main roads with a significant pedestrian and/or cyclist usage'.

The proposal forms part of CEC's new Local Transport Strategy, approved on 14 January, which sets out policy for the five years to 2019 and continues its long-stated intention to 'prioritise walking, cycling and public transport'.

Officials will present network plans by May. If approved, implementation should follow by April 2017.

This speed reduction, supported by two-thirds of people asked, would cut noise and air pollution, and also the risk of fatal injury to pedestrians and cyclists hit by a vehicle (eight times less at 20 mph than at 30 mph).

Edinburgh has seen long-term growth in walking, cycling and public transport over recent years. Uniquely in Scotland, its proportion of car-free households is rising.



Online roll of honour wins praise

Broughton History Society's 'virtual war memorial', previewed in Issue 225, is now up and running. We favourably assessed its scholarly credentials and ease of use in *Breaking news* (20.1.14), a verdict widely endorsed since by visitors from across Edinburgh and beyond. Try it for yourself at: [www.broughtonhistory.org.uk].

Part of the website's appeal lies in a sense that it finally demobs the fatalities, restoring their jumbled civilian individuality in addition to their now more familiar existence as neat names on stones, uniform stones standing rank upon rank.

Broughton History Society
First World War Roll of Honour

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Bombardier William George Bannerman

William Bannerman was born in Edinburgh in 1897. He was the son of William and Grace Bannerman. He was educated at George Heriot's School between 1909 and 1911 and then became an apprentice carpenter with Messrs Robb & Son, Builders, Leith. He was a member of the 20th Company, Boys' Brigade. The family lived at 8 Edina Place in 1901. At the time of the First World War they were living at 33 Haddington Place.

He joined a territorial unit, 1st Lowland Battery Royal Garrison Artillery, in 1912 and went with them to France in 1916. He was killed in action on 29 September 1917 and is buried in Belgium in Ramscappelle Road Military Cemetery. He is commemorated in Edinburgh on the War Memorial of George Heriot's School.

Additional Sources:
Bombardier W G Bannerman *Edinburgh Evening News* 2 October 1917, George Heriot's School Roll of Honour, Edinburgh, 1921

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Dramatic threads to secret past

Life has been sew sew for Matthew Zajac recently.

So much so that the Bellevue-based actor has hardly stopped since his award-winning one-man play *The Tailor of Inverness* premiered in 2009. Over the last five years, he has toured it across the UK, Australia, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Ukraine and the US to great acclaim.

Zajac – for 30 years a familiar presence in UK theatres, film, TV and radio – wrote it to explain his Polish father's shadowy past in the Second World War, and his own gradual discovery of the truth. What emerges is an astonishing story of survival amid the colliding goliaths of Nazism and Stalinism in Central Europe.

'What might have been a sustained exploration of pessimism [is turned] into a revelatory and uplifting examination of self, family and national identity,' writes former BBC correspondent Misha Glenny. 'Matthew's final discovery is heart-stopping and sincerely moving.'

The Tailor of Inverness has now been published by Sandstone Press (ISBN: 9781908737458) and is available online and from Waterstones.



Briefly



In a history-saturated city, this plaque – outside GHQ on Picardy Place – comes as a relief.

Leith Central Community Council's next meeting will be on 17 Feb at 7pm in McDonald Rd Library.

The winner of Issue 225's J.M. Barrie-themed, King's Theatre panto competition was Ms Iris Thompson of Bellevue. Answers were: Grant Stott; 3 Great King St; and a crocodile.

Two of three long underused bowling greens at Powderhall may be reassigned for other sports and growing food, according to a CEC proposal (*Breaking news*, 13.1.14). A café may be pavilioned in splendour. Local stakeholders and community councils will be consulted.

New collages by Broughton artist Ewan Taylor will show in Victoria Bar (265 Leith Walk) in Feb and Mar (see *Breaking news*, 1.2.14).

TG Tip: If you're newly resolved to get fit but find your resolutions are fading fast, try doing something you enjoy. You're more likely to stick to it and see results. Don't like gyms? Don't go! There are lots of other things you can do: from dance lessons, to swimming, hula hooping, hill walking, cycling and much more. Get fit and enjoy it!

Two hooded men axed into display cabinets at Queen St pawnshop Duncanson & Edwards on 13 Jan. They took rings and watches, and escaped on mountain bikes.

CEC proposes a new city-centre cycle route from Roseburn Path to Leith Walk via George St. East End options at either Leith St or York Place sound equally unattractive. Potential contractors' costings are due by 14 Feb, even though routes are not finalised. CEC will pay half the bill with match-funding from Sustrans. For inclusion in the National Cycle Network, routes must be considered safe enough for an unaccompanied 12-year old.

STOP PRESS! St Stephen's Church is back on sale. A public meeting to discuss a possible community buy-out will take place there at 7.00pm on 6 Feb. For background and latest details, see *Breaking news* (3.6.13; 10.1.14; 24.1.14).

Referendum analysis



Political journalist Peter Geoghegan (above) was, until last year, a familiar face and legs in Broughton. (He is a keen runner.)

For the Irish *Sunday Business Post*, he has recently reviewed David Torrance's *The Battle for Britain* (Biteback Publishing) – a 'perspicacious' account of the Scottish independence debate.

Geoghegan clearly admires Torrance's book, but his impartial article is itself admirably concise, clear and informative: [http://goo.gl/WcmScr].

Tesco design flaw floors cycles



Spurtle cycling correspondent Tim Smith wrote to Tesco recently, detailing exhaustively the inadequacy and impracticalities of their Broughton Rd store's newly renovated yet wonky bike-rack (*Breaking news*, 7.8.13). He offered to design a better replacement for free. Smith's offer was declined, but he *did* receive a reply saying that his comments had been passed up 'to the reverend authorities'. *God, what next?* he wondered.

Late last month, a jolly red triumph of design over functionality appeared next to the lift shaft. Positioned too close to the wall, there is room for the framework to support only one bicycle wheel at a time. Hence, adult bikes, especially when being loaded, lean or fall over and risk damage. Designing bike-racks ... how hard can it be?

Moreover ...



Can any reader explain? The **intriguing stencilled street-art** above is spreading eastwards from Stockbridge. What does it mean? Is there a **smoking, monocled, moustachioed, toff uprising** in the offing?

LGBT Helpline seeks a volunteer for 3-4 hours per week to offer **emotional support and advice** over the phone to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender callers. **Full training in March.** Tel. 523 1100.

If you've heard the **rumours**, what follows may be of interest. On 22 Jan, a CEC spokesperson confirmed to us in writing: 'As well as being a residual waste facility, **Powderhall Waste Transfer Facility** is also the operational base for two of the **Neighbourhood Task Force** teams. No final decisions have been taken about the facility's future. **We are not in discussion with Tesco** about the future of this site'.

CEC seeks your views on how it plans and manages **events in parks**. See *Breaking news* (22.1.14) for click-through to online survey.

Water of Leith Conservation Trust reports sightings since Christmas of a **male and a female** otter at Warriston. Joint hunting and playful behaviour suggest amorousness. Successful mating will be proved by **abrupt cessation** of playful behaviour and ill-tempered **construction of flatpicks**. See: [http://goo.gl/hfil7o].

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Drummond CHS

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

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

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Surgeries:
Every Monday 5pm: Constituency Office
2nd Monday of the month:
11am-12noon St Bride's Centre
1pm-2pm Stockbridge Library

NB. No Surgeries on Public Holidays.

Email: 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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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:

Monday 3 February
& Monday 3 March

at 7.30pm

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

secretary@ntbcc.org.uk

AMDECORATING

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