



UPHILL BATTLES ON BROUGHTON ROAD

Broughton Rd residents feel like 'second-class citizens' after a string of disappointing official responses.

Local Suzie Bruce acknowledges that Malcolm Chisholm, MSP *did* arrange for a Council traffic survey in November 2012. It found that at peak times, a choking 766 vehicles per hour travel past in the morning, and 833 per hour in the afternoon (see *Extras*, 11.1.13). But despite appeals to political representatives at Holyrood, Westminster and City Chambers, and replies from them, nothing much has happened since.

During recent gas replacement works (*Breaking news*, 11.4.11; 9.1.13), Bruce contacted the Council more than six times and Scotia Gas Network twice about the loss of pedestrian crossings. They cited Dept of Transport directives, but did not respond to counter-arguments about the temporary crossing on Abercromby Place.

The sorry state of the Rodney St Triangle (Issue 214; *Breaking news*, 4.2.13) is another classic example, claims Bruce, and the next saga will be the change in signage at Tesco (*Breaking news*, 5.3.13). 'The Council just say it's a "mixed use" area.'

'I do rather feel that, compared to other areas, we are treated like second-class citizens when it comes to our environment,' she says. This month she returns to the fray, raising traffic issues at New Town & Broughton Community Council.

MONUMENTAL EGO



Pilrig Street sculptor Andrew Kinghorn exhibited at the Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop last month. Monumental Ego: a self-portrait in 15 parts probes 'the secret, untidy and uncomfortable bits of life'. The results are compelling – moving and sometimes brutally frank accounts of his own and national life. Kinghorn now seeks an indoor venue for the exhibition in central Edinburgh over the Festival. Can readers suggest one? (Pictured above: detail from 'Self portrait with Exploded Head'.)

HMO LICENCE FOR NO. 26

Council officers have approved renewal of the HMO licence for the guesthouse at 26 Pilrig Street.

In Issue 214 we reported how – following objections by neighbours – the Council's Licensing Sub-committee had decided to look more carefully into the operation of the business.

On 8 March the resulting report (*Extras*, 1.4.13) found that the guesthouse complied with all relevant regulations, and had passed announced and unannounced inspections by the Hostels & Temporary Accommodation Service.

H&TAS found that the way a manager had dealt with the discovery of a needle in an adjacent garden conformed to standards, but it was dissatisfied with how an individual had communicated with neighbours. That manager had subsequently been replaced, and H&TAS and the Private Rental Service currently have no concerns about the applicant.

Council officers were satisfied that staff were appropriately trained. A building survey showed that repair and cosmetic works of sufficient standard were under way or soon to begin. There were no safety concerns.

Monitoring of the property by Council, H&TAS and the Police had reported no incidents or fresh complaints from neighbours between 14 December 2012 and 6 February 2013.

The Licensing Sub-committee took these factors into account in repelling the objections and granting an HMO licence subject to the Council's Standard Conditions. The business will now accommodate 12 homeless people referred there exclusively by Edinburgh Council.

SEPTEMBER START FOR LEITH WALK UPGRADE

The Council is about to start its £5.5m 'Leith Programme', which includes resurfacing and environmental improvements to Constitution St, Leith Walk and Picardy Place.

Public consultation ended in January, and drew comments from individuals, businesses, police, cyclists, environmental and community groups. The Transport Committee considered these in 3 sections on 19 March:

- *Constitution St*: Upgrading begins this month.
- *Foot of Walk–Pilrig St*: Work begins in September.
- *Pilrig St–Picardy Place*: A wider road here and

heavier use demand innovative solutions such as signals at the London Rd junction and segregated cycle lanes. The Council (which is still costing options) will seek additional, third-party funding for this, but if it cannot find it by the end of 2013 then officers will 'pursue a design for approval through an oversight group of Convenor, Vice Convenor and local Councillors ... based on the preliminary design and amended with consultation feedback, that is deliverable within available budget'.

A possible source of such funding is Sustrans, which may impose conditions such as a joined-up network of friendlier cycle routes to Waverley Station (via Leith St and Calton Rd) and George St (National Cycle Route).

Current cycling usage suggests links to Princes St and the Bridges merit equal attention if the Council is serious about its 2020 target for more journeys by bike. See also: [<http://bit.ly/WBaIw9>].

Briefly



Broughton St's **Anna Freemantle** appears in the pages of *Vogue* this month. The co-founder and co-director of the Edinburgh Festival of Fashion models what is described in the magazine as 'Coco Chanel meets Mary Queen of Scots' in a blender. The resulting fusion nods to Scotland's romantic history and affords some protection against its **more recent spring weather**.

Broughton's Got Talent on Fri 8 Mar was won by P6a pupil **Rowan MacMillan** for her performance of (Adèle's) 'Someone Like You'. She sang with beautiful courage, feeling and musicality.

Lothian and Borders Police seek 3 men who attacked and robbed a man on the **corner of Dundas and Northumberland Sts** at 2.30am on Sat 9 Mar. They stole a phone and wallet. All assailants were aged in their early 20s, had short hair and were well dressed. **Tel. 0131 311 3131 if you have information.**

Our piece on access to the **Drummond Garden** in Issue 214 drew a frustrated response from **Bill Giles** (*Breaking news*, 28.2.13). This in turn prompted irritated ripostes from a host of others. Start following the thread of correspondence online at *Breaking news* (22.3.13).

The next meeting of the **Broughton History Society** will be at 7pm on 22 April in Drummond Community High School. **Helen Rorrison** will talk on 'A German View of Victorian Scotland'.

During last month's snow, **bemusement** greeted gritting of the road surface in **East Scotland St Lane** (a sleepy cul-de-sac) whilst lack of grit on the steeply sloping path/cycle track from **Royal Cres down into King George V Park** enabled children to toboggan. Those raising the safety implications of this practice for other users were dismissed by admiring parents as 'spoilsports'.

The hole in the road near the junction of **Broughton St and York Place** has finally been filled, way behind schedule. The delay was caused by the **sheer number and complexity** of service pipes, each of which had to be dug out and around by hand.

'On Broughton Street there were many dead, covered in drifts of peas.' **Intrigued?** Find out more at [<http://bit.ly/145rAPU>], **Lucy Ellmann and Tom McEwen's** dystopic tale of Christmas shopping and tramworks in Broughton. It first appeared in the *Herald* last Dec, but somehow we missed it.

New name and old memories

Broughton will soon boast a new thoroughfare (currently an unprepossessing footpath) between Logie Green Rd and Beaverbank Place.

Stoddart Way is named after the merchant James Stoddart, lord provost from 1774-76, whose nearby mansion Logie Hall was demolished at about the time Logie Green Road was built in 1902.

The Council maintains a 'bank' of possible street names for future use. Ones with particular local associations are Stewart Blaik (late Chair of Leith Central Community Council), Eduardo Paolozzi (whose 'Manuscript of Monte Casino' stands at the top of Broughton St), and Irvine Welsh (who for several years lived in a flat overlooking King George V Park).



W & A.K. Johnston, *Plan of Edinburgh, Leith & Suburbs* (1856)

HMI praises Broughton PS

Her Majesty's Inspectorate visited Broughton Primary School in January, and last month issued a full report.

It's a very positive account, which finds that 'Across the school, including the nursery class and speech and language classes, children learn and achieve well'.

Suggestions for improvement are: continuing to develop the curriculum; ensuring appropriate pace, challenge and differentiation are matched consistently well to the needs of all children; making sure a more rigorous approach is taken to monitoring and improving the school's work and tracking children's progress.

'Well-regarded' headteacher Alan Devine welcomed HMI's recognition of 'pupils' confidence and resilience, staff support for children needing extra help with learning, good partnership working with parents, and our caring and inclusive ethos'.

To read the full report, visit: [<http://bit.ly/143C9mx>].

Slow progress on rubbish

Doubt surrounds whether an improved waste management system for the New Town will be in place before this year's gull breeding season (May-Sept.).

'This process has been more complex than we expected,' Environment Convener Lesley Hinds told *Spurtle* last month, 'and we have extended our consultation to make sure that we find the best solution for each local area.'

The task's complexity (first reported in *Breaking news*, 1.11.09) does not fully explain the delay. Council insiders tell us a problematic relationship with frontline staff and lack of management time/focus have also played a hand.

In March, Council officials mistakenly released inaccurate information about where wheelie-bins might be sited (*Breaking news*, 18.3.13, 23.3.13). In fact, at that time, work to decide whether bins or bags were the best solution had not been completed.

Despite our request for clarification, no timetable for rolling out wheelie-bins is yet publicly available. Nor is it clear if bags acceptable to refuse collectors on health and safety grounds have yet been made or even designed. However, residents' compliance (taking the sacks off railings on non-collection days) may eventually be improved by marking bags with household-specific codes.

Deep waters, surface tensions

This month sees publication of *Water's Edge*, the debut novel of Broughton author and editor Jane Riddell (above).



Riddell has lived in the area since the mid-1980s, having grown up in Glasgow and spent periods away in Australia, New Zealand, London and Grenoble. A former NHS dietician and health promoter ('Chocolate is my only vice'), she describes her book as serious contemporary work aimed at women (and 'reconstructed men'). Hers is 'quiet fiction' which aims for subtle effects, thoughtful investigation and meticulously crafted language. 'There are no blobby monsters in it,' she says, fixing your correspondent with an old-fashioned look.

The story is set by a lake in modern-day Switzerland, where a widowed mother welcomes her grown-up, Anglicised daughters and son for a reunion. What follows bears witness to and explores 'the minefield of family life' through four distinct narrative viewpoints. Secrets, jealousies, past mistakes and new realisations emerge or remain hidden below the surface.

This is the third novel Riddell has completed since 2006, but it's the first to go public. Gloucestershire-based ThornBerry Books will e-publish it on 22 April. The first chapter is available now and for free at: [www.quietfiction.com]. *AM*

Charity book sale dates announced

Next month's 2013 Christian Aid Booksale at St Andrew's and St George West Church on George St will take place on 11 and 13-17 May. Sorting and collection of donated tomes will occur from 29 Apr-10 May. For more information, contact Mary Davidson: Tel. 556 2168. Patron of this year's event is the Rt Revd Rowan Williams, erstwhile Archbishop of Canterbury.

Howard Liddell (1945–2013)

Professor Howard Liddell – a passionate and tireless ecological architect, academic, Principal of Gaia Architects and Broughton stalwart – died on 23 February, aged 67.

Liddell interrupted his architectural practice in 1971 to become director of research at Hull School of Architecture then guest professor in building technology at Oslo. It was in Norway that he founded the Green Association of Idealistic Architects (GAIA), returning to Edinburgh in 1981 to set up the Scottish practice which for many years ran from the ‘Monastery’ on Hart St.

In 1991 he co-founded the Scottish Ecological Design Association, and it was largely for this work – acting as an honest broker to identify and promote green initiatives – that he believed he had been chosen to receive an OBE in 2012. The award was posthumously presented by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh at his funeral on 4 March.

Janice Donaldson knew Liddell as a friend for 17 years and shared in his many fights to oppose plans for flats in the small car park behind Forth St. ‘I will miss him dreadfully as a fellow campaigner on this and other issues, but mostly (with his wife Sandy) as my upstairs neighbour who loved to converse and socialise. I remember his patience and sense of fun when he taught my daughter to play boules, and the Christmas and New Year parties. Who can forget that wicked grin and twinkle in his eye?’ Gaia has issued an online obituary which can be found at: [bit.ly/14JBLFI].



Briefly



Thanks to Eileen Dickie, who first spotted this down-in-the-mouth mouse at 93 McDonald Rd.

Floodworks contractor Lagan has mostly completed the footpath wearing course on **Warriston Rd**, but the ‘guard rail’ on the footway/ramp into **St Mark’s Park** is still being ‘powder coated’. Lagan expects delivery after the Easter Break and intends installing it and **opening the footway by 15 Apr**.

A Council source tells *Spurtle* that the **completion date for floodworks** at Warriston has been revised from **March to May 2013**. No explanation for the delay was forthcoming. In Issue 191 (Feb. 2011), we were informed that work would be **finished by Dec. 2012**.

A pub has opened on the site of the former Guilty Lily at Broughton’s end of **Newhaven Rd**. It has new management and a new name – the **Bonnington Bar** – and boasts food, drink, live music and a regular Sunday evening quiz. Well-behaved dogs with good general knowledge are welcome: [http://bit.ly/WghkiU].

Meanwhile on Broughton Rd, **The Stag’s Head** has changed hands after the previous management handed the keys back to the owner of the premises, who is now running the pub himself.

Vivid prose: At last month’s NTBCC meeting, attendees (not on the committee) memorably described: **wheelie bins** ‘like tanks on the streets of Aleppo’; the vomit-splashed steps of **W. Register House** as resembling ‘an abattoir’; and speeding drivers outside **St Mary’s Primary School** as worthy of being ‘strung up from the nearest lamppost’. Sense of perspective required?

Railings around **Drummond Garden** have recently been repainted. **This apparently infinite task** was instead meticulously completed by 3 men from Polish-staffed painting and decorating firm **Arek** in **just 2 weeks**. Good job!

TG Tip 4: ‘Make things measurable’ is **my fitness mantra**. Nowadays, there’s a plethora of free fitness apps that can do this for you. Use **Endomondo GPS** on your phone to track how far/fast you walk, run or cycle. You can connect Endomondo to **Myfitnesspal** (a free online food diary app) to ensure you’ve got a good **calories in/out balance**. Use them on your mobile device or just find the websites on your computer.

Next stage for Drummond

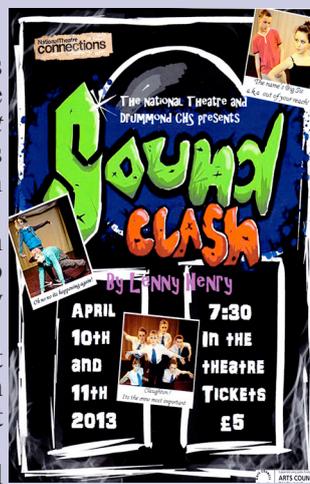
The National Theatre Connections Youth Festival is an opportunity for young people aged 13–19 to make theatre, writes *Marcia Rose*, principal Drama teacher at *Drummond CHS*. As part of the scheme, DCHS students will stage *Soundclash*: a new play written by comedian and actor **Lenny Henry**.

Soundclash is about a group of friends who have been challenged to put together a reggae sound system to perform at a ‘Sound Clash’ – a re-creation of a legendary music competition between DJs and MCs.

None of them have the money or the equipment. But they do know a kid whose dad used to be a DJ. Deep in the cellar of ‘Lil Kid’s’ house, they find out more about music than they could possibly have imagined.

Soundclash is a full-blooded, stylish, multi-media and hip-hop musical. It incorporates many current themes, including knife crime, gangs, family, community and culture. I dare you to miss it!

Performances will take place in Drummond on **Wed. 10 and Thurs. 11 April 2013** at 7.30pm. Tickets (£5.00) can be had from DCHS’s reception. A special performance follows at the Royal Lyceum Theatre on **Thurs. 20 June**.



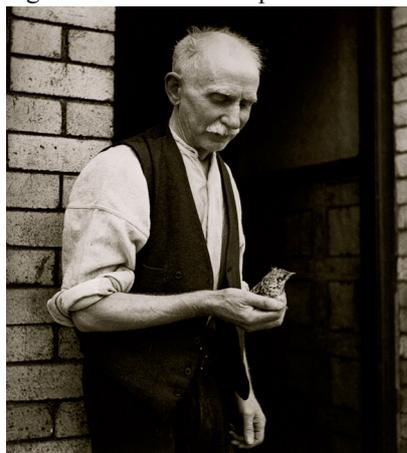
In the shadow of tyranny

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery’s exhibition of photography by Edith Tudor-Hart (1908–73) is one of its most distinguished curatorial realisations in recent years. It is a comprehensive exposition of her oeuvre from early years in 1930s London, Tyneside, Wales and Scotland, and on to the challenges facing postwar Britain, especially the welfare of disadvantaged children.

Searing black-and-white images document the politically charged atmosphere of Vienna on the edge of the Nazi nightmare to come: you can almost hear the approach of tanks and jackboots. Tudor-Hart’s unflinching depiction of poverty and social division in Britain is equally compelling and highly relevant in 2013. Ultimately, these extraordinary images are about the survival of the human spirit against all odds. Perhaps that is most beautifully realised in the intimate portrait of Paul Robeson, and in the sublime ‘Man with Bird’ (pictured).

Tudor-Hart was one of the 20th century’s most gifted and influential photo-artists, whose work as a documentary and portrait photographer bears comparison to that of Bill Brandt and Henri Cartier-Bresson. Once seen, especially in this magnificent assembly, her works will resonate long in the memory. The exhibition continues here until 26 May. *JRM*

‘Untitled (Man with Bird, Tyneside) about 1937’. Modern silver gelatine print from archival negative, 34.20 x 29.10 cm. SNPG: archive presented by Wolfgang Suschitzky 2004. © Photograph by Edith Tudor-Hart.



Moreover ...

Locals and CEC officials are in part relying on the restoration of **45 end-on parking spaces** in Albany St to slow vehicle speeds, narrow the route and render it less attractive to through traffic. Residents here and on other roads along the diversion route continue to be disturbed, particularly by **HGVs in the night**. Contrary to our report in Issue 215, one local – who lives almost adjacent to the **temporary pedestrian crossing on Abercromby Place** – told NTBCC members last month that it was ‘badly sited’.

A CEC **motorised scooshier** sent to clean pavements in Bellevue last month made them considerably worse. The first tour on 4 Mar left **trails of dust and mud** in its wake. A return visit the next day removed the original trails and **replaced them with new ones**. Both visits seemed to levitate over the least sign of dog dirt. Challenged by locals about the mess created, one driver responded: ‘**It’s no me. It’s the machine.**’ See also *Breaking news* (12.2.12).

The congregation of **Broughton St Mary’s Parish Church** in Bellevue Crescent have chosen a new minister to take charge of their church after the year-long vacancy caused by the departure of the previous minister Rev. Joanne Hood. The **Rev. Graham McGough** preached on Sunday 17 Mar and was overwhelmingly voted in afterwards. He moves from St Andrew’s Church in Lisbon and is expected to take up the post in May.

Trevor MacDonald of the Council’s Tram Communications Team assured the New Town & Broughton Community Council last month that contractors were ‘**really cracking on**’ with power fixings, cables, street lights and ‘pedestrian slabbing’ around St Andrew Square. Work may even be completed ahead of (the revised) schedule.

Spurtle joined a press junket last month along the first **2.8km section of track** (from Edinburgh Airport to Gogar) to be completed and tested (*Breaking news*, 8.3.13). Other guests can do likewise (on application) from Apr–Jun, and can look forward to ‘the lovely smell of leather seats’. Paying customers will get their chance in summer 2014.

Volunteer members of the public will be sought soon to sit in the trams whilst **drivers traverse the route** checking if everything works. Good to know there are still some jobs which sandbags and crash-dummies cannot adequately perform.

Spurtle Team: J. Dickie, T. Griffen, M. Hart, F. Harvey, A. McIntosh, J. R. Maclean, T. Smith, D. Sterratt, E. Taylor-Smith. Post: Spurtle, c/o Narcissus Flowers, 87 Broughton St, Edinburgh EH1 3RJ.

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Royston Wardieburn Community
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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
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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 8 April
Monday 13 May

at 7.30pm

Broughton St Mary’s Parish
Church, Bellevue Crescent

secretary@ntbcc.org.uk

AM DECORATING

Your local painter & decorator **Alastair McAlpine**
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