

# Spurtle



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2014**

**No 233**

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**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

## POLICE – NOT HELPING WITH OUR ENQUIRIES

Eyebrows have been raised at Police Scotland's response to a mini crime wave in the New Town.

Local businesspeople last month told *Spurtle* about recent New Town break-ins, thefts, or attempted break-ins at Blue Barber, Chez Jules, Finnegan's Sandwich Bar, Gorgeous, Hugo Boss, Lisa V, New Town Deli, Pierre Victoire, Zen Kitchen and a beautician's on Cumberland Street.

Some complained of slow or no appearances by community officers in the days after, and officers' reluctance or inability to record incidents where nothing was stolen.

*Spurtle's* detailed enquiries have been met with a general press release referring to just two of the incidents on 29 July. A police officer who attended last month's New Town & Broughton Community Council (NTBCC) knew nothing about any of them, and contradicted previous explanations of what kind of crime statistics are available to the public under the new Police Scotland regime.

In recent months, attendees at NTBCC meetings have noted very irregular police attendance, and the variable quality or quantity of information – even just on general trends – which has been imparted.

*Spurtle* continues to press Police Scotland and hopes to report back soon.



## ART PRIZE FOR DRUMMOND STUDENT



Congratulations to Mila Rocha, an S6 student at Drummond CHS who was commended for her artwork earlier this summer in a ceremony held at the National Galleries of Scotland.

Mila was recognised in the prestigious Paolozzi Art Prize's 'Talent and Creativity' category, judged by Christopher Brewer (Principal of Edinburgh College of Art), Richard Demarco (artist and curator) and Duncan Robertson (sculptor).

She has since been accepted to art college and will begin her course in 2015.

## END OF THE ROAD FOR EAST SCOTLAND STREET LANE 'GARAGE'?

The Local Review Body of City of Edinburgh Council's Development Management Subcommittee met on 20 August and discussed, among other things, the controversial new building on East Scotland Street Lane (*Breaking news*, 2.5.14).

Mr Dermot Ferrigan had appealed CEC's earlier decision not to consent his property's change of use from domestic garage to an office. The LRB reviewed that decision, and found that officers' reasoning and procedures had been in order. The case has therefore reverted to Enforcement (Ref. 12/00577/ENCOMP) to remedy the breach of planning control. Neighbours will learn what is planned around the middle of the month.

Mr Ferrigan – who attended the LRB meeting – was dissatisfied with the outcome and made his feelings abundantly clear. In short, he said he would now look into taking the case to the Court of Session.



## CUPCAKE PSEPHOLOGY'S AUGUST RESULTS

As *Spurtle* went to press, the latest figures for sales of Independence Referendum-themed cupcakes at Cuckoo's Bakery on Dundas Street (dated 8 August) were as follows: No: 41.2%, Yes 39.7%, Undecided 19.1%.

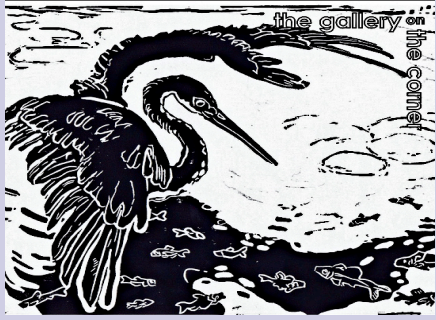
This represents a 4.3% surge towards the Yes campaign and an even greater 4.8% wobble towards Indecision since July. *Spurtle* remains cautious about

the results, which may say most about the now glutted or bedbound condition of enthusiastic No-cupcake purchasers who substantially out-ate' sweet-toothed political rivals over recent months.

The Referendum proper takes place on 18 September, with polling stations open from 7am–10pm.



## Briefly



**Inspiration** – an exhibition of prints by 5 trainees at the **Gallery on the Corner** (34 Northumberland St) will run from 2–20 Sept. Works by **Alice Shaw** – responsible for this superb heron – will show in **Natural Earth** at the same time.

Mentions of *Breaking news* in these pages refer to *Spurtle's additional online news coverage* at [<http://bit.ly/99jeuR>].

NTBCC Council members have again blasted **over-use of St Andrew Sq** for events. They say the grass needs at least 6 months' rest to recover. Some are also dismayed at **experimental decking and marquees** erected on George St. CEC officials and Essential Edinburgh originally promised the new layout would be **classy and uniform like the Queen's garden parties**. Critics, though, say it looks more like the backyard at Dobbie's.

**Norma Prentice**, head teacher at Drummond CHS, took up temporary secondment at Castlebrae High School on 25 Aug (Issue 231). She has been working over the summer with **Leith Academy's** **depute head teacher Sue Cook**, who will steer Drummond for the next year.

**Edinburgh Central Book Group** will discuss *The Hundred Year Old Man who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by **Jonas Jonasson** on Tues 9 Sept at 6.30pm in McDonald Rd Library. **All welcome**. Please use the front door.

Post-Festival, can any reader suggest a **plausible Scottish term** for the sadness one feels when a party ends and the simultaneous **sense of relief** that all one's closest friends have **finally gone home**?

**Tesco's imminent arrival on Dundas St** has not prompted many whoops of delight locally (*Breaking news*, 22.7.14, 29.7.14). But NTBCC at least **sees an opportunity**. CEC should, it says, require a new, more appropriate **'heritage shopfront'** (similar to that adopted by Sainsbury on Howe St) for the Category B-listed building.

**Benches gone** from Bellevue Cres (by the bus stop near Broughton St Mary's Parish Church) and Bellevue Place (outside Drummond CHS playground) **are safe**. Various removed for maintenance, to fit a new plaque, and to allow access for 'forestry', **they will return**.

**Doors Open Day** this year runs on 27 and 28 Sept. The theme is **'Sustainable Edinburgh'**. Details at [<http://goo.gl/mx4UYw>].

## Locals tweet to beat the beaks

Residents frustrated by sloppy neighbours and confusion over new communal bins have launched the **New Town Cleaner Streets Campaign (NTCSC)**; *Breaking news*, 11.8.14).

It aims to monitor local streets – so far, from Union Street to Fettes Row – and give helpful feedback to CEC officials, locate/photograph/report problems via Twitter

(@NTCCleanStreets), and encourage good practice/selfless refuse heroism with prestigious Golden Marigold awards. NTCSC told us 'Communal bins have recently been installed on Scotland, Nelson and Forth Streets plus parts of Royal Crescent, Dublin Street and Royal Circus.

'We welcome containerisation and the Cockburn Association's dropping of its historic opposition, as the alternatives simply don't work. However, so far CEC's approach has been long on apologies and short on clarity and reliability.'

Some 7,700 New Town properties currently use containerised bins or gull-proof bags, and a further 2,750 should get theirs by the end of the year.

A CEC spokesperson told *Spurtle*: 'As we roll out the service to parts of the New Town, we will continue to monitor the usage of the new bins and can adjust the collection frequency to meet demand.

'Any streets that receive a communal bin will no longer have their rubbish collected in black bin bags.

'Collections take place on Tuesday and Friday and there may be an additional day depending on need until the transition is complete.'



Photo: Creative Commons, 37prime

## Pilrig HMOs – time for a cap?

Leith Central Community Council shares locals' worries about how many Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) there are in Pilrig.

At last month's meeting it emerged that there are already 26 such businesses in the area, with more potentially in the pipeline and applications for building warrants on another (listed) property suggesting it may be being converted by the back door.

Leith Walk ward's Councillor Blacklock has alerted Planning officials to the situation, and Councillor Gardner is investigating whether the number of HMOs here could be restricted as in Leith Links.

LCCC is not against HMOs, but says distributing them more evenly across the city would help prevent disproportionate shortages of locally resident householders in certain areas.

## Lottery Fund support boosts Calton Hill gallery plan

Collective Gallery's project with City of Edinburgh Council to develop the City Observatory complex on Calton Hill has taken an important step forward. The Heritage Lottery Fund has given its initial support for a £900K bid.

Additional fund-raising continues, with Malcolm Fraser Architects planning the scheme to restore William Playfair's design of 1822 (now Category A-listed and on the Buildings at Risk Register), create new gallery space and open up the whole area to the public in 2016.

Collective's artistic director Kate Gray said, 'The unique site will bring together the historical innovations in science with contemporary art, creating an inspiring and exciting environment for both artists and visitors.'



## Homes not phones on right lines

Outline pre-application plans for demolition and redevelopment of the Standard Life call centre at 52–52a Annandale Street went on show last month (Ref. 14/02568/PAN; *Breaking news*, 12.8.14). Developer Westpoint Homes proposes 120 bedrooms in 60 flats with 25 per cent reserved for affordable housing. Parking for 47 cars would be provided on site. *Spurtle* gives it a cautious thumbs-up at this stage.



## Remembering the Great War

Of the capital's major commemorations of the centenary of the First World War's start, perhaps the most poignant is at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (Floor 1) on Queen Street.

It comprises portraits, photographs and sculptures chiefly in the SNPG's holdings, and a section centred on Peter Cattrell's remarkable photograph of the



present-day landscape of the Battle of the Somme in which over 57,000 British men were killed or wounded on its horrific opening day, 1 July 1916.

Highlights include: three astonishing photographs of wards in Springburn Hospital, Glasgow, where wounded soldiers were treated; Cattrell's image of acre on acre of harvested maize stems echoing the row on row of gravestones; and a bright, faintly blurred film of the 4th Cameron Highlanders, marching almost jauntily in full battle kit, pitching forward to sacrifice.

Rightly, the exhibition closes with Wilfred Owen's unbearably beautiful 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', and a final image by Cattrell of 'Shadows of War Crosses', a silver gelatine print made in 2014.

This marvellous exhibition – which is, in effect, itself a collective work of art of immense sensitivity and loving care – continues until 5 January 2015. *JRM* [An extended, illustrated version of John Ross Maclean's review appears in *Breaking news* (1.9.14).] *Photo: Peter Cattrell, 'Stubble fields, Beaumont Hamel, Somme, France', from the series The Front Line, courtesy of SNPG [PGP.82.21].*

## Bell tolls for local couple

Jean and Archie Bell of Bellevue died on 17 and 24 July, and a joint celebration of their lives was held in the Lorimer Chapel, Warriston on 2 August, *writes John Dickie*.

Archie belonged to Broughton, man and boy, and vividly recalled picking up Spitfire and Hurricane bullets from the playground of Bellevue (now Drummond) School during the war before evacuation.

Jean (née Bottomley) grew up in Dumbiedykes, but moved to Broughton upon marrying. For the St Ann's Reminiscence Group she recorded local memories including those of Mr Hope, the London Street Undertaker; Ella Brodie of Broughton Court and East London Street; and Harriet Barr, whose family owned Kidd's Dairy and general store at 2 Bellevue Street.

They were both among the earliest contributors to the *Spurtle*, and for many years members of the Broughton History Society. Our condolences go to their children and grandchildren.

A longer version of this article appears in *Breaking news* (1.9.14).



## Hootin-tootin, no gluten

Hats off to Peter Sherry who now stocks two big shelves of frequently changed, quality, gluten-free beers in the Rodney Street oasis which is Beerhive.

Beerhive is one of an increasing number of Broughton businesses catering for those with wheat/gluten intolerance. Real Foods, of course, has long specialised in a variety of organic, ethically sourced and dietary-specific ingredients, but Firth of Froth on Broughton Street and Licks Cake Designs on Henderson Row are other newcomers fast realising that what used to be a niche market is now a rapidly growing and loyal customer-base. Send us your recommendations – we're compiling a local directory for inclusion online soon.



## Briefly

*TG Tip:* Get outdoors for a wee walk every lunchtime. It's good to **get into the habit** while the days are still bright, so come mid-winter you're already used to **stretching your legs** and catching some Vitamin D in daylight hours ... As the Scouts say, '**Be prepared**'.

In Issue 232 we **rather overstated locals' pleasure** at the Reporter's decision on delivery times to **Batleys at McDonald Place**. The record was set straight in *Letters* (2.8.14). NTBCC supports locals in **opposing any extension** to Batleys' Sunday hours.

NTBCC has also backed residents opposed to an access road into the **Sandy Hill site** behind Broughton Rd (Issue 232). CEC had received a **staggering 57 letters of objection** by 20 Aug, and 5 days later the application was withdrawn. Many residents suspect a long-term plan to extend access via **Heriot Hill Terrace**.

The next meeting of **Broughton History Society** is on 8 Sept at 7.30pm in Drummond CHS. **Alistair McEwen** will talk on 'Scottish Emigrés and the First World War'.

**Mark Lazarowicz MP** has asked Network Rail to look again at ease of access to **Waverley Station**. Cyclists and pedestrians currently share the congested ramp down from Waverley Bridge, and a taxi rank at the top is **poorly signposted** at the bottom. He also says it should be easier for people with mobility problems to **come and go independently** without having to rely on passenger assistance staff.

**Adult education classes** resume at Drummond CHS on 22 Sept. Take your pick from: big band voices/horns, bookbinding, **casting with cuttlefish**, Christmas crochet, drawing & painting, embroidery, enamelling, jacket & trouser making, languages (French, German, Italian, Spanish), **Latin for masochists**, printmaking, revamp your hat, tapas cooking in Spanish, textile art, **textile trimmings & tricks**, walking on all fours with confidence, zumba. For more information, **Tel. 556 2651** or see [[www.drummondhigh.com](http://www.drummondhigh.com)].

What would **Burns** say about this month's Independence Referendum? Submit a poem, for or against, to **First Scottish** by 8 Sept and you could scoop a **substantial monetary prize**. See [<http://goo.gl/LdVPf3>].

Work has begun on a 2-bedroom dwelling in **Barony Place**. A dispute with neighbours over the boundary wall here appears to have been resolved, although some **doubts remain about land ownership** in the area (*Breaking news*, 18.8.14).

## Moreover ...



Two Bellevue Cres residents were delighted at last month's coverage of their **unblinking policeman**. He is, they tell us, **Japanese** and has surveilled the area since 2007.

**Lifelines** is a project to build links between LGBT+ people of different ages and to **raise awareness** of issues affecting the community. **Free workshops** on 7, 14 and 28 Sept will culminate in a performance and exhibition at the **Scottish Storytelling Centre** on 4 Oct. For info. Tel. 652 3284 or contact [katherine@lgbthealth.org.uk](mailto:katherine@lgbthealth.org.uk)

A **portable toilet** which appeared without warning in **East Scotland St Lane** in Aug has now been linked to a job in **Drummond Place** (Ref. 14/00498/EOPDEV). It is expected to be **gone very soon**, with no establishment of squatters' rights.

Local businessman **Iain McGill** has been selected to represent the **Conservative Party** for Edinburgh North & Leith at next year's **General Election**. Now a very experienced candidate at Council, European Parliament, Holyrood and Westminster levels, the **irrepressible McGill** is rumoured to be made of rubber balls.

**St Mary's RC Cathedral** will continue to celebrate its bicentenary (*Breaking news*, 2.8.14) with a lecture by the distinguished historian **Professor Tom Devine** on 5 Sept, and a free 4pm **organ recital** and tours on 27 Sept.

**CEC has denied** some stakeholders' claims that roads beside the new bus stops on Leith Walk are **too weak to bear heavy vehicles**. High Stone Content Hot Rolled Asphalt – **common in haulage yards** – has been used to prevent this problem.

Contrary to **first impressions**, this dramatically clad individual encountered on Broughton Street last month was not wearing a **theatrical costume**. 'This is my customary daily dress,' he told us. If you spot somebody **noteworthy** in the neighbourhood, we'd love to see a photo.



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1:30pm

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### Alison Johnstone MSP for Lothian Region



On the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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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:

8 September  
& 13 October  
at 7.30pm

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

[www.ntbcc.org.uk/contact/](http://www.ntbcc.org.uk/contact/)

## AMDECORATING

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