

# Spurtle

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**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

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## NEW TOWN BIN BAGS ON THE WAY OUT

Containerisation will definitely come to the New Town soon, but it won't necessarily be everywhere and it will comprise one of several tactics to better manage waste disposal in the Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

The news was broken by Mike Penny, the Council's City Centre Neighbourhood Manager, speaking at the New Town and Broughton Community Council's (NTBCC) 7 June meeting.

'Bag collection is just not sustainable,' he said. 'Not installing wheelie bins in the New Town earlier has had the unforeseen effect of concentrating a predatory breeding zone for gulls, rats and other pests.'

'Split bags and rubbish-strewn pavements effectively double the amount of work for Council staff, and at a time of limited resources this cannot continue.'

The solution will involve containers, but their number, size, and siting depend on how effectively locals cut back on the rubbish presented. It is believed that by recycling food waste, a 60 per cent reduction can be achieved.

In the short term, Mr Penny said, officials would look at the possibility of 'corralling' bins in limited areas rather than dotting them more frequently along the streets. Research would be undertaken on how far people are prepared to carry their bin bags for disposal.

In the long term, he suggests, the ideal option would be to develop underground waste storage, but that is too expensive to consider in the present financial climate.

## THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?



How would those visionary planners and designers of our glorious New Town have addressed the question of appropriate designer containers of the wheelie variety? *Spurtle* suspects the acanthus, a prickly-leaved genus of plant, a leaf of which is conventionally represented in Olympian Corinthian capitals, would definitely feature. What do readers think?

## GORMLEY EXPOSED ...



Antony Gormley's *6 Times* (Issue 183) was officially launched on 22 June at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art on Belford Rd (pictured).

We covered the work's installation and reception extensively last month (*Breaking news/Extras*), and now enthusiastically recommend it to readers.

## TRAMS – TAKE A DEEP BREATH (WHILE YOU CAN?)

West End activist Ashley Lloyd addressed the NTBCC on 7 June about trams and the potential citywide effects of displaced traffic.

Lloyd's interpretation of CEC/Trams in Edinburgh (TIE) Traffic Data (TIE, Visum Traffic Model, 2008) suggests Bonnington and Broughton Roads could see up to 500 extra vehicles an hour. Canonmills, Brandon, Broughton, Dundas, East Claremont and Rodney Streets could see up to 200 extra vehicles per hour. Possible disruption and serious implications for air quality and health – especially around schools – worry him.

Will this definitely happen? 'No-one appears to know,' says Lloyd. 'Displaced traffic will have to find other routes and this will bring with it considerable increases in noise and pollution from gases.'

He urges worried residents to register concerns with elected representatives as a matter of urgency. See *Extras* (1.7.10).

NTBCC's Traffic Convenor Patrick Hutton doubts Lloyd's claims. Traffic through Broughton Street can't and won't increase, he says, because at peak hours it is already near maximum capacity (as is Broughton Rd) and the new-ish bottleneck at the top (caused by tram prioritisation) will deter rat-runners.

He suspects cars will find other routes further away from the City Centre, just as Ferry Road became busier after Princes Street was closed. Hutton foresees limited problems for Broughton and Bonnington Roads but not for E. Claremont Street.

Trams may even reduce traffic through Edinburgh, he says, as locals look for alternatives to the car such as buses, walking and cycling.

## Briefly

Sadly, Broughton St's **Alphabet Video** will close and its lease is for sale. The stark reality is that too few folk rent films to view at home. The news dismays many **aficionados** who had hoped Alphabet's mainstream, 'arthouse' and foreign films mix could breast the blockbuster tide (see *Letters*). However, Joe Fortune, No. 93's genial front man since it opened in 2006, himself plans relocating to this neighbourhood.

A new gallery of contemporary art – **SORSA** – has occupied premises previously occupied by the World beauty clinic on **Rodney St.** More on this next month

Some mistrust or resent the operation, in **Georgian splendour**, of **Professional Linen Services** on **Abercromby Place.** They are investigating.

**The Village Store** is reopening at the Drill Hall, Dalmeny St on Saturday mornings. On sale will be fresh, seasonal and locally sourced veg, fruit, eggs, jam etc. plus free recipe advice and cooking tips.

**Broughton History Society's** 2010–11 programme is now available online. Reach it via *Spurtle's* Home page (bottom left).

Glasgow-based agency TPA seek permission to display '**cultural and leisure advertisements and civic images**' at Haddington Place (Ref. 10/01556/ADV). They promise to remove **unauthorised flyposting and graffiti.** Will TPA's understanding of 'cultural', 'leisure' and 'civic' match anybody else's?

Break-ins and thefts from **Threadbare, the Nursery and Smoke Stack** (19, 29, 30 March) remain unsolved. A second break-in at Smoke Stack (10 April) led to someone being charged and full recovery of goods.

Local activist **Janice Johnson** says **Malcolm Chisholm, MSP** has joined a cross-party group about the debilitating skin and joint condition of psoriasis. It will meet 4 or 5 times a year to highlight clinical services/standards.

The **Olive Branch's** takeover of the former Broughton Books premises in Broughton Place is expected to result in a takeaway food outlet soon. Across the road, the **Globe** eatery/takeaway is now the **New Town Deli** and continues the high standards of its predecessor.

CEC staff joined young volunteers to repaint property, remove litter, and blast graffiti in **Broughton St Lane** on 14–15 June. Youth project Right Track plans further monthly blitzes on local streets (*Breaking news*, 16.6.10).

After the recent roof fire, the **Phoenix** bar is to get a face-lift in a sheen of black and gold. **Threadbare, Vino** and the **Olive Branch** have already been thoughtfully spruced up.

## Hero's uphill struggle

In January 1999, 30-year-old climber Jamie Andrew spent five days and nights trapped by a storm on Les Droites in the French Alps. His best friend died, and although Andrew survived, he would later lose both hands and both feet through frostbite.

As guest speaker at Drummond Community High School's Celebration of Achievement and Prize Giving Ceremony, Edinburgh-based Andrew told how a sense of obligation to his dead friend and those who had rescued him drove him to relearn basic skills – feeding, dressing, washing, walking – and resume the adventurous sporting life he had formerly enjoyed. Taking personal responsibility for his past and future, accepting the help of others, and breaking down insurmountable-seeming problems into smaller and achievable goals along the path were his keys to success.

His biggest challenge by far has been bringing up 3 young children: 'You don't want to know about changing nappies with your teeth.'

Earlier, Head Teacher Norma Prentice detailed a year of changes and achievements. Thanking staff, students, parents and community, she asserted that Drummond is well placed to lead when the new Curriculum for Excellence is introduced next session. Read her full speech in *Extras* 17.6.10.



## Glenogle reopening soon

Glenogle Baths will reopen to the public on Friday 2 July after a 20-month refurbishment, *reports David Mackie.* All the new facilities will be free on that day.

The unique character of the baths has been retained, but modern and improved facilities include: better changing cubicles, toilets and lockers; extra disabled changing areas and improved access; new gym equipment; a new relaxation area for the sauna and steam room.



It is hoped that refurbishment of the pool (estimated at £5.3m) will help breathe new life into what was at one time the beating heart of the neighbourhood, but risked being lost due to neglect and disrepair.

The old Victorian building now stands proudly for all to see as a re-energised symbol of community. The preservation of the building is just as important for keeping alive the past as it is for investing in the future.

A summer timetable and price list are available in *Breaking news* 25.6.10.

## Talented Reed seeks sponsor

Kimberley Reed, the 15-year-old Drummond CHS pupil and rising Field athlete is continuing to astound herself and competitors with the rate of her improvement and is now representing Scotland (Issue 183; *Breaking news* 16.6.10).

But all this success comes at a price. The major expenditure is on training and competition costs, as well as on travelling to training venues. It amounted to around £2,000 last year and now family members are hoping to find a local business sponsor to help out.

'£500 would make a big difference,' says her father Scott. 'She's currently throwing with the cheapest hammer we could find and all her other equipment is on loan from her coach.' In August Kimberley will travel south to compete at the English AAA's under-17 Championships. She realises that competition will be extremely fierce against top-rated English girls Abbi Carter and Louisa James who have recently been away at the European Junior Olympics in Moscow. Kimberley is currently a good few metres behind them, but is catching up fast.



If you know of a likely sponsor, contact *Spurtle* and we'll pass on the word.

## Samuel Halkett (1814–71): linguist and lexicographer

A Canongate brewer's son, Samuel Halkett (SH) was born in 1814 and privately educated before serving apprenticeships with 2 clothiers in the city. Aged 25, while living at 60 Cumberland Street, he entered business with future Lord Provost and Mansfield Place resident George Harrison, as a wool draper, hatter and hosier on North Bridge.

SH studied for pleasure, his 'philological genius' and 'extraordinary talents' (he mastered 8+ European and Asiatic tongues) eventually securing an appointment as Keeper of the Advocates' Library in 1848. (Around then he lived at 14 Scotland St then 2 Bellevue Cres., and in 1850 married Caroline Roland with whom he had 4 children.) Using paper slips, he began an alphabetical catalogue of the 200,000-volume collection – an heroic undertaking of epic tediousness. In 1850 he was also appointed Librarian of New College, Edinburgh, and four years later moved into a second-floor flat at 35 East Claremont St.

In 1865 SH began a *Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature of Great Britain*. This work remained unfinished at his death, but was partially completed by his successor at New College, the Rev. John Laing, then by Laing's unsung daughter Catherine. It was flawed (like this article) by a lack of scholarly documentation and inadequate indexing due to the meanness of publishers. SH also penned articles on bibliography and bibliomania for Chambers' *Cyclopaedia* and was acknowledged worldwide for making 'his' libraries more accessible to Learning.

When he died at home of typhus, SH's catalogue had, by ghastly coincidence, progressed only so far as the word 'Catalogue'. Happily, his *Dictionary* – revised and extended in 1926, 1962 and 1980 – is now a triumph, confirming that modern scholarship stands upon the shoulders of giants. He is buried in Warriston Cemetery's Compartment H. *AM*



## Briefly

The trams-related **Traffic Regulation Order** was to have gone before CEC's Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in July. Now it has been delayed until 21 September to allow further consideration of objections and comments received during the public 'deposit period'. *Spurtle* understands 59% of objections concerned Blenheim Place, so the delay may bode well for those resisting any ban on right-turns from London Rd. (See Issues 178-9, *Breaking news* 20.3.10, 25.4.10.)

**Andrew Dickie** (aged 5) spotted the **latest late presented Christmas tree** on 9 June. The russet-coloured specimen was on W. Annandale St, and still there next day when *Spurtle* snapped it (see *Breaking news*, 1.7.10). As we begin the run-in to Christmas, can any reader do better?

Part of the latest **Scottish Widows** advert was shot in **Union Gallery** at the end of May. Union Gallery celebrated 1 year in business last month.

In Issue 183 we reported irritation at CEC officials' interpretation of the new law on major developments. Now **Nancy Jamieson** in City Planning has called for staff and community councillors to meet every 4 months to sort out gripes. **'They're running to catch up,'** says one in the know.

**Bella M'Briana's** cuisine remains bella, but is now purveyed by **Locanda de Gusti** (the location for taste). Rosario Sartore, Bella's irrepressible, award-winning chef, continues as Locanda's kitchen supremo.

Some locals are flagging up problems with a **Royal Terrace** resident's plan for a basement garden. Removing **stone slabs** from a listed building is not only **aesthetically questionable**, they say. It compromises the building's drainage, threatening its **structural integrity** and that of neighbours' property.

**Jaundiced of Claremont** reports exciting new food. The A-board by Rodney St's **Shangri-la** advertises lunchtime options including **'EXTRA CRISPY DUCK FROM £5.00, CHILDREN HALF-PRICE'**.

Permission has been granted for changes to the plans for 11 **Logie Green Rd** and 26, 28A, 29, 32, 33 **Beaverbank Place** (Ref. 09/01969/FUL). New plans: omit a basement; alter the position and layout of previously agreed parking; add parking, 1 extra study bedroom and 3 studios. (See Issues 159, 174.)

Parents at **Broughton Primary School** are keeping a watchful eye on the adjacent former **Resources Centre on McDonald Rd**. The City of Edinburgh Council-owned building is to be sold on the open market, but shared access and a shared boiler mean there is understandable concern about who will be allowed in. **So far, CEC have not explained their thinking.**

## Broughton cameos in new film

Gala opener at this year's Edinburgh International Festival was French animation *The Illusionist*. Directed by Sylvain Chomet and based on a previously unrealised Jacques Tati script, the film is set largely in 1950s Edinburgh.

Broughton features prominently, with scenes in and around Broughton Place, Broughton Street, and Greenside Place.

Film tourism is a significant source of income for the capital, and the appearance of Broughton streets in such a reputedly charming production promises potential rewards for local businesses when the film is released (we understand this autumn).

Significantly, potential visitors attracted here by a wistful movie celebrating individuality are unlikely to spend their money in a characterless supermarket parked at the top of the hill. Local traders may take heart.

For links to further information and movie clips, see *Breaking news* (16.6.10).



## Spurtle seeks mystery makar

So which Wee Willie Winkie ran along Forth St in his nightgown, with a' the folks asleep, and stencilled 'BUT I'M SOFT INSIDE' outside Forth House? An acolyte of the great poet/artist and general stirrer Iain Hamilton Finlay, perhaps? Is this Broughton Banksy a candidate for the Saltire Society's quotation-stones in the Old Town's Makar's Court? *Spurtle* readers are invited to supply the name of this furtive but talented writer.

## Briefly

Planning permission is sought to build 2 mews-style dwellings in the gardens of **68 and 70 Great King St**, each with patio/planted area, 3 double bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 2 integral parking spaces. Access via SW Cumberland St Lane. Would suit affluent rabbits starting families.

**Beware the glittering pound coin** outside the Barony Bar on Broughton St. It is superglued to the pavement, and **will tax both your patience and your vertebrae**.

**Conservation-minded types** fear planning permission sought for removal of astragal windows from a top-floor flat at 22 Scotland St (Ref. 10/01313/FUL). *Spurtle* asks: What is the correct term for a pane in the astragal?

**Late-night hiccupping Hooray-Henries** returning from York Place's Genting Maxims Casino are disturbing Dublin St sleepers. Police will monitor the problem, meet Casino management, and encourage erection of **Please-shut-up-you-spoilt-inconsiderate-little-oik** signs, but their resources are focused on bloated Bravo-Billies at Picardy Place.

Locals and visitors are perplexed at the rather **sorry exhibition** of municipal planting on the **Mansfield Place roundabout**. In the absence of Britain in Bloom judges, the once spectacular **'triffid'** (Issue 174) has faded to a pale shadow of its former self. Whether a **cash-strapped Parks Dept** can restore the display this year is anyone's guess. Meanwhile, on the corner of **Bellevue Place** opposite Drummond CHS, a beautiful **rose garden** is flourishing under the tender ministrations of Christina Thomson, a retired Queen's Nurse and nearby resident. The plot may be Council-owned, but it is Broughton's own **guerrilla gardener** who maintains the flowers in her own time, and sometimes replaces sickly ones at her own expense. For a photograph, see *Breaking news* 1.7.10.

**Bothered by bicyclists** riding on pavements? Word has it the problem is mounting on Scotland and East Claremont Sts, and it's not children causing the nuisance. Adults of all **ages, shapes, colours and creeds, male and female, professional and amateur**, are cheerfully pedalling over pedestrians to avoid traffic and intimately discomfiting setts. Contact us with your experiences.

*Spurtle's* website (address on p.1) has **mushroomed** since its launch in October. Well over a thousand separate computers now access the site monthly, with readers also finding us through **RSS feeds and Twitter**. If you haven't visited yet, do: it's not just the printed edition in colour, but also many **additional features** ranging from **ephemera to short news items, to full-length features you won't find anywhere else**. There's also a growing local directory, local adverts, and background documents setting news articles in a fuller context. Technical, design and content improvements are coming soon, but we'd welcome your suggestions.

**SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE**  
MSP – Member of the Scottish  
Parliament for Lothians  
(Scottish National Party)



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## New Town/Broughton Community Council

The Community Council  
represents the views  
of local residents to  
Edinburgh City Council

Next meeting:

5 July  
at 7:15pm

Broughton St Mary's Parish  
Church, Bellevue Crescent

[mowats@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:mowats@blueyonder.co.uk)

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