

# Spurtle



Find us at: [www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk](http://www.broughtonspurtle.org.uk)

**November  
2014**

**No 235**

**Tel: 556 4848**

**[spurtle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:spurtle@hotmail.co.uk)**

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

## EYRE PLACE SEXUAL ASSAULT – MAN CHARGED

A 35-year-old man has been arrested and charged for a serious sexual assault on a woman in Eyre Place on 8 October. The attack happened in a back green at 4.00am as the victim returned home. She did not know her assailant.

A demonstration by 5–6 'Locals Against Rapists' on Broughton Road followed the man's appearance in court. It was in fact organised by the Scottish Defence League, as became clear when some of their number racially abused a Spanish woman outside Tesco. The group tried to link calls for more police patrols and CCTV coverage in prime 'community areas' to the Asian appearance of the attacker. See *Breaking news* (8.10.14; 20.10.14).

## PLOT HIKE IRKS GROWERS

City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) may raise £150,000 by increasing rental on each allotment plot/half plot by £105, writes *Lindsay Levy*.

If this budget proposal goes through, rent for a full plot would rise by just over 200% from £100 to £205, with the cost of a half plot rising by over 300%, from £50 to £155.

At present the disabled, the elderly and benefits recipients get a 50% discount, so under the proposal those with the least would face a 500% rise. If concessions are kept, rent for a full plot could rise to £300.

Whichever way the cake is cut, the proposal is unfair, unreasonable and unequal. (By way of comparison, Glasgow charges £35 with concessions at £25.)

To object, contact your councillor or community council before 19 December. The Federation of Edinburgh and District Allotments and Gardens Association has an online petition at: <http://goo.gl/qCic1e>

[STOP PRESS: The SNP Group agreed on 20 October to reassess the proposal because of negative 'feedback' at the consultation phase.]

## LOCAL STAR REMEMBERED



A handsome blue plaque appeared at 21 East Claremont Street last month, commemorating the local amateur astronomer and long-term resident Thomas David Anderson (1853–1932). Anderson twice discovered exploding stars using only a pocket telescope, earning the reluctant hero world renown. His achievements owed less to luck than to patience, persistence and a prodigious memory for the shapes and patterns of the night sky. He departed Broughton in disgust at the arrival of electric lamplight. See *Breaking news* (10.10.14).

## CYCLISTS SEE RED OVER LEITH WALK BUM JOB

Cyclists looking forward to riding jolt-free over the newly re-surfaced parts of Leith Walk's otherwise lunar landscape should not be peeling off their padded underpants too soon, advises *Tim Smith*.



The 'finished' section between Dalmeny and Iona Streets has already failed to satisfy CEC's specification for the red chips that colour the surface. In the cycle lane the spread is wildly uneven, leaving bare grey patches. In the bus lane it is wildly over-enthusiastic, with the red chips jostling shoulder-to-shoulder and leaving no room for grey tarmac binding between them – a sure recipe for early failure of the surface. (Remedial work has been ordered, and will be at the contractor's expense.)

Having already waited many years for this upgrade of Leith Walk, cyclists can only hope that, from now on, the contractors (and there may be several *different* ones) manage to get it right the first time. Your Cycling Correspondent will be monitoring progress – with fingers crossed.

## CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG USE IN PILRIG PARK

Following Leith Central Community Council's concerns about drug use in Pilrig Park, CEC's Simon Porteous has detailed a joint-partnership response with Police Scotland (PS).

A regular CEC/PS presence in the park during the day and evening will continue, with special attention under the latter's Operation Wolf and Campaign Against Violence. Needles will be removed as soon as they are observed by CEC staff or reported to them. Motion-sensitive lighting may be installed in drug black spots. Officials will keep staff at Bun-sgoil Taobh Na Pàirce Primary School informed.

## TOO-HIGH GARAGE MARKS NEW LOW FOR PLANNERS

Locals met CEC Planners on 9 October to discuss the debacle on East Scotland Street Lane (Issue 234). They did not come away happy. They say that by rescinding its Enforcement Order on the house/office/garage there, CEC has ignored the fact that it is 1m higher at the back than it should be – a situation which only arose because Planners, by their own admission, failed to make public any adequate drawings.

'We, the adjoining proprietors,' a neighbour told us, 'are aggrieved that, despite having followed all of the many procedures open to us, we are now summarily dismissed by the opinion of one official who can apparently override all previous recommendations and declare that his decision is final!'

Upset residents now declare themselves disenchanted with the whole process, and are considering their options.

## Briefly



Why? Because we like him. You can see more of this hare in person from 6 Nov–25 Dec at **Glass & Thompson Café** (2 Dundas St), where he forms part of a new exhibition by **Freya Levy**.

Possibly Broughton's coolest cocktail bar, **40 Below**, has reopened after a successful summer trial in the basement **under the Phoenix** at 40 Broughton St. Glam in a glass.

Do you have a **strange, nagging anxiety** that you may have forgotten something important? **Get rid of it instantly** by renewing your *Spurtle* subscription. Details in Issue 234 and here: <http://goo.gl/F9shgb>

Fiction fans aorta join the **Central Edinburgh Book Group** discussing *A Heart So White* by **Javier Marias** at 6.30pm in McDonald Rd Library on 11 Nov.

Artist **Paul Muzni** has applied for permission to change the use of a former solicitor's office at 23b Dundas St to a **gallery, studio and teaching space** (Ref. 14/04182/FUL).

Thoughtless overnight **double-parking on Hart St** prevents communal bins from being emptied first thing in the morning. **CEC Waste Services and Parking Operations** keep passing the buck to each other and resolve nothing, say locals. See *Breaking news* (7.10.14).

**Sainsbury** will open a new 'local convenience store' as part of WYG's redevelopment of **7 Shrub Place** (*Breaking news*, 13.10.14). In a touching show of confidence in the community, it has applied to install **two anti-ram-raid bollards** outside.

**People for Places (Shrubhill) Ltd** will outline plans for the **popular local gap-site** on 11 Nov in McDonald Rd Library from 3.00pm to 7.00pm. Unless, of course, they cancel it without telling anyone, as happened on 21 Oct. Not a great start to public consultation.

The **St James Centre Post Office** branch is expected to move belatedly to **Princes Mall** in early Nov. Inconvenienced customers can console themselves with **two new non-illuminated surrounds** to existing cashpoint machines outside the former premises.

**New phrase in Edinburgh** now current for dumping *your litter in someone else's* receptacle: 'bin tourism'.

## Anti-social cuts and bad behaviour

At last month's NTBCC, a representative from Edinburgh Markets urged police to address the problem of 'social drinking' in Picardy Place.

Up to 20 people – 'always the same faces' – regularly gather on the grassed area overlooking the roundabout, occasionally urinating, threatening the public, begging for food, damaging traders' vehicles, and generally making a nuisance of themselves.

Iain McGill – the Edinburgh North & Leith Conservative candidate in next year's General Election – responded that CEC's homeless services had been fantastic in the past but were a politically convenient target for cuts. The Finance & Resources Committee, he said, is currently considering a 22.5% reduction in their funding: 'It would be more productive to fight for these services than to call the police'. See *Breaking news* (24.10.14).



## George Street traffic diverts through New Town

City Centre Programme Manager Iain MacPhail returned to the New Town & Broughton Community Council on 12 October to update locals on development progress (Issue 234). His summary appears on our website in *Extras* (1.11.14).

In a discussion afterwards, members of the public questioned whether survey results on the George Street partial pedestrianisation experiment, at least 10% of which will reflect New Town opinion, would be fair. Many people from elsewhere in Edinburgh would enjoy having a drink outside and not give two hoots about the effect of displaced traffic on Albany Street and Abercromby Place.

An increased number of vehicles, and more heavy lorries, were already damaging cellars in these areas, they said. One local had counted 600 vehicles per hour along the formerly quiet residential roads.

MacPhail said CEC remained open-minded and was monitoring traffic along the roads mentioned plus Heriot Row, Drummond Place, Hamilton Place, and Great King/George/Queen Streets. He apologised for Council figures not having been made available in time for this meeting. In general, survey results so far suggest the George Street changes have been popular with the public, pubs and restaurants, and less popular with retailers.



Two exhibitions will run concurrently at the Gallery on the Corner (34 Northumberland Street) this month.

Newton Ross's *Land, Sea, Sky* features dramatic Scottish scenes.

Carolann Alexander's *Are you Going up the Road?* features dramatic characters inspired by the people of Edinburgh and Leith.

The work shown here is titled 'Zelda'.

## Ruminating on rubbish

The quantity of junk fly-tipped around bins in the New Town (soiled bedding, broken flatpack furniture) fluctuates seasonally but shows no sign of reducing, *writes New Town Cleaner Streets Campaign's 'Fred Street'*. One source of the problem is the rental sector, where cheap furniture and bedding tends to get discarded after every let. CEC's policy, whereby any amount of any junk can go to landfill as long as one has a car, strikes many as unfair (and counter-intuitive) when compared to the £21 kerbside uplift charge for a single mattress. Why not allow at least one free uplift per year for non-car owners? At least then we could say with confidence that there's no excuse for private householders clogging the roadside.

Landlords running businesses should not be using *residential* bins. How about an annual levy on their activities?

CEC's increasingly strict management of householders with individual bins (refused collections for lids not quite shut etc.) has a definite knock-on effect on waste transferring elsewhere. These individuals seek the path of least resistance, which unfortunately impacts communal bins in the city centre!

What do you think? Please let the NTCSC know!  
([NewTownCleanStreetsCampaign@gmail.com](mailto:NewTownCleanStreetsCampaign@gmail.com))

## Botanic Cottage begins to grow

'Lost Treasures, Hidden Histories and Audaciousness Personified: Rebuilding the Botanic Cottage' was the inspired title of Sutherland Forsyth's talk at the AGM of the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden on 19 October.

Mr Forsyth, community engagement officer at the Botanic, related with aplomb the history of the Garden Cottage from its 18th-century origins to its recrudescence as a place of learning and a 'time capsule of the history of the garden' at the north end of the Botanic, facing the Demonstration Gardens, which will be reworked.

The foundations for the building are established and actual building work is now in progress. It is anticipated that this important and exciting complex – which honours the past, and audaciously embraces the 21st century – will open for use in October 2015. *JRM*



*Elevation of the Second Design by George Smith*

## Briefly



**Ox marks the spot**, with new booze, new food and a new look in the premises formerly occupied by the Bellevue Bar at **49-51 London St.** The new team of Joe Humphrey and head chef Chris Pauley formerly ran the Shore Bar in Leith, and now offer '**freshly made modern British cuisine with a French twist**' (and often ox). Partner Joanna McKinlay promises **cask ales and craft lagers and beers.** Watch out for the new logo facing Broughton St.

Police sought witnesses to a '**shocking**' **domestic assault** on 20 Oct at the corner of Windsor and Montgomery Sts. A **21-year-old man** argued with a **17-year-old woman** before pulling her hair, pushing her down and causing her to fall and bang her head. **Police attended and later traced the couple** (*Breaking news*, 21.10.14).

Last month '**Cut out and keep**' profiled Ailith Anderson, one half of the **Broughton Deli** on Barony St. Read it here: [fb.me/3w8TqnTPu](https://fb.me/3w8TqnTPu)

NTBCC has objected to the **Cumberland Bar's** licence application for drinks to be taken outside until 10pm all year round.

Michael Ridsdale will talk on Yorkshire's '**Studley Royal: The Wonder of the North**' at this month's Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland meeting in **St Andrew & St George's West Church**, George St at 6.30pm on 10 Nov. Tickets £5.

**Leith Central Community Council** complains that Forrest's electronic hoarding at **Croall Place** is once again too bright. But some members doubt whether CEC has the **stomach or resources** to enforce its own planning conditions. Meanwhile, a local has **also raised concerns** about a rotating sign in a **Leith Walk** kebab shop window. He fears it could distract drivers exiting Pilrig St. In this case, **CEC is moving** to have the sign removed.

**Apple** opened a new computer, accessories and training shop at 10 Princes St last month amid **much fanfare** (*Breaking news*, 18.10.14). Meanwhile, at 35 Elm Row, **Tattie Shaw's** quietly gets on with selling apples and other fruit and veg, some of the best in the neighbourhood.

**Friends of Pilrig Park** will get stuck in on **Woodland Clearance Day**, 15 Nov, starting at 10.30am in the small playpark. We trust they have cleared it first with **Zorro**, the **unusual black squirrel** who is now resident nearby.



On 24 October, The Yard celebrated 21 years on the anniversary of its opening by Princess Anne. The Eyre Place Lane adventure centre is a purpose-built indoor and outdoor playground for children and young people with disabilities. And an absolute inspiration.



**Local Services of Remembrance** on 9 Nov will include those at Warriston Cemetery (9.45-10.00am), Inverleith St Serf's (10.30am), Broughton St Mary's (10.45am), Pilrig St Paul's (10.50am), and Redbraes Community Garden (Polish, 3.00pm).

## Trade waste pilot takes off across Edinburgh

Timed 'waste collection windows' for businesses look set to be phased in across Edinburgh following a successful pilot project. They could be standard across the city centre and Leith by spring 2016.

Leith Walk joined an up-and-running 10-month trade-waste trial in March this year (Issue 226), and the number of commercial bins stored permanently on the street has since reduced from 116 to 12. Cleanliness, appearance and pedestrian access have all improved.

'The build-up of trade waste bins on our streets not only has a negative impact on their appearance, but can result in litter and dumping, attracting gulls and other animals, which is unacceptable for the centre of Scotland's capital,' said Environment Convener Lesley Hinds.

As part of the new procedures, councillors will consider: making collection windows more flexible, displaying the collection times and names of businesses on their presented waste, and outlawing the practice of leaving bins on streets overnight or when the business is unstaffed.

Although this initiative has not been universally popular with traders, and although there have been occasional problems with collection of waste during designated hours, *Spartle* agrees that it has led to an improved streetscape. We applaud CEC's helpful determination to push it through.



# Moreover ...



Edinburgh Printmakers and *The Big Issue* have teamed up this month on *No Fixed Abode*. The exhibition looks at 'the significance of home as a concept and the realities and challenges of homelessness'. It runs at 23 Union St from 8 Nov–23 Dec and is free.

Found in Henderson Row: a young, pretty, female cat. All black but small white patch under chin, huge green eyes. Affectionate, used to indoor/outdoor life. Not chipped. May be lost due to house move or other reason. Obviously has lived with people. Currently being cared for but would love to find owners. Contact: *Spurtle* asap before possible re-homing takes place.

Escape the daily grind with the **Broughton History Society**. It meets next on 10 Nov at 7pm in Drummond CHS. John Dod will talk about 'Mills on the River Almond'.

Responding to a CEC consultation, NTBCC last month recommended **20mph speed limits** on all setted streets. It favours **30mph limits** for: Broughton, London and Regent Rds, Dundas, Hanover, Princes and Queen Sts, Leith Walk and York Place.

Supporters of the **St Stephen's Church clock chime** continuing to sound through the night (Issue 234) tackled **Stockbridge & Inverleith Community Council** last month. They said it has not represented their views and should push CEC to **double-check noise** readings (see *Letters*, 21.10.14; *Breaking news*, 22.10.14).

Developers plan to **expand the pavement** on the south side of **St Andrew Sq**. CEC aims to dovetail any such work with **public realm improvements** on the north and west sides over the next 2 years.

Following the success of a temporary '**wee museum**' in June, the owner of the **Croall Place police box** has plans for a series of **pop-up events** in future. Or possibly pop-up events.

A Therapy for You will hold its 3rd **Holistic Fayre** on 29 Nov from 10.30am–4.30pm in the **United Reformed Church on Duke St**. Child-friendly. Café. £1 entry fee goes to charity. See: <http://goo.gl/KoN7KU>

**Spurtle Team:** F.Booth, J. Dickie, T. Griffen, M. Hart, J. MacDonald, A. McIntosh, J. R. Maclean, T. Smith, D. Sterratt, E. Taylor-Smith. Post: Spurtle, c/o Narcissus Flowers, 87 Broughton St, Edinburgh EH1 3RJ. Printed by Minuteman Press, Elm Row.

## Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:  
5 Croall Place, Leith Walk, EH7 4LT  
Tel: 0131 558 8358  
Fax: 0131 557 6781

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

Email: [Malcolm.Chisholm.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Malcolm.Chisholm.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

## Marco Biagi MSP



MSP for the Edinburgh  
Central constituency

Constituency Office:  
**77 Buccleuch Street**  
EH8 9LS  
Tel: 0131 348 6482  
Tel2: 0131 668 3642

Constituency  
office surgeries:  
Every Monday 6.30pm  
Stockbridge Library  
surgeries: second  
Monday of the month  
1:30pm

[marco.biagi.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:marco.biagi.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)



## 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.

Contact me on 0131 348 6421  
[Alison.Johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Alison.Johnstone.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)

## Broughton

### Thinking of Letting your Property?

See your local agent  
We always need  
property to let

[info@broughtonproperty.co.uk](mailto:info@broughtonproperty.co.uk)

0131- 478 7222

61-63 Broughton Street

Edinburgh EH1 3RJ.



## Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:  
5 Croall Place, Leith Walk, EH7 4LT  
Tel: 0131 557 0577  
Fax: 0131 557 5759  
[mark.lazarowicz.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:mark.lazarowicz.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.marklazarowicz.org.uk](http://www.marklazarowicz.org.uk)

**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:

10 November  
& 8 December  
at 7.30pm

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

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

## AMDECORATING

Your local painter & decorator **Alastair McAlpine**  
Tel: 0131 553 6589 **Mobile:** 07866 222 656 [alastairmc Alpine@btinternet.com](mailto:alastairmc Alpine@btinternet.com)