

# Spurtle



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**August  
2012**

**No 209**

**Tel: 556 4848**

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

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

## GRINNING AND BEARING IT

July was a month of floods.

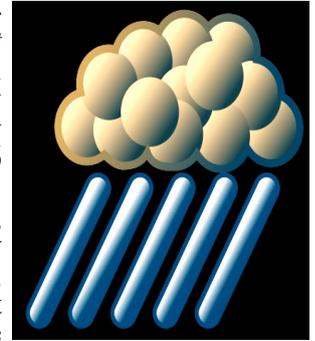
Floods along the Water of Leith – overflows at Warriston (through a contractor's hole in the wall), at Canonmills (where rainfall became trapped behind the newly built steel wall and could not drain), and at Stockbridge (where the river again broke temporary contractor defences and soaked the Colonies). See *Breaking news* (8/10.7.2012).

Floods from the sky – absolute torrents overwhelmed Bellevue Street (*Breaking news*, 5.7.12) and on 18.7.12 left St Andrew Square needing pumped. Torrents cascaded down Dublin Street. Sandbags have been distributed on many local streets.

And floods of tramworks-diverted traffic around York Place via Broughton and Albany Streets, Abercromby Place and Heriot Row (*Breaking news*, 16/21.7.12) – resulting in

disruption for residents and hissy-fits in the *Edinburgh Evening Fit of the Vapours*. The New Town and Broughton Community Council holds an extraordinary meeting to address the issue on 6 August.

Variouly drenched, isolated, inconvenienced and unpleasantly vibrated though we may be, Broughton residents are not downhearted. To paraphrase Seneca, we keep our poise and assimilate all that falls to our lot to our own complexions, for we are more potent than the world beyond and, whilst not insensible to externals, remain confident of overcoming them. Er, up to a point.



## BROUGHTON STREET PLANS BOUNCE-BACK

Broughton Street traders are applying to the City of Edinburgh Council for funding of a two-year £50K marketing campaign during the current York Place diversions.

Fearing reduced local and tourist footfall, and an estimated drop in takings of at least 10 per cent, independent businesses propose:

- designing a logo and tag-line
- illustrating a map of the street
- creating a dedicated website with Twitter and Facebook feeds
- attaching large, branded banners to key sites along York Place
- two years' advertising in *Welcome to Edinburgh* (aimed at tourists)
- printing and distributing an A3 pamphlet aimed at 'local' customers around Edinburgh.

Representatives of the recently revived Traders Association discussed their plan with CEC's Paula Hoogerbrugge last month, and stressed the critical importance of making Broughton Street as attractive and accessible as possible during November/December. Further meetings are now scheduled.

## SCEPTICAL LOCALS AWAIT LEITH WALK IMPROVEMENTS

Last month's second Council consultation on the future of Leith Walk, Picardy Place and Constitution Street drew mixed public responses from over 50 visitors on 15/16 July (*Breaking news*, 13.7.12).

As *Spurtle* went to press, officials were scheduled to approach the Finance and Resources Committee on 31 July seeking funds in addition to those £3m+ already allocated for road resurfacing and restoration from 'Capital' and 'Legacy' budgets.

Officials told us mid-July they could not yet say how much they would ask for, or how much they expected to receive, but that their wish-list included improved: footpaths; cycle lanes; bin siting and cleaning; signage; street clutter reduction; greenery/tree planting.

Some locals leaving post-it notes at McDonald Rd Library reacted positively. Others, commenting there and online, criticised woolliness about timescales, reporting public aspirations, providing feedback, and transparently matching Council responses to residents' requests.

CEC's Anna Herriman acknowledged the 'sometimes angry' anxieties of local businesses over yet more upset, but said too much detail before a final settlement of funds risked raising expectations and causing disappointment.

Officials promise to seek the least disturbing ways to restore and improve local streets asap. Ian Buchanan, Neighbourhood Manager (responsible for operational aspects in the City Centre and Leith), says that 'honesty and transparency are absolutely central to the project', and promises to keep residents fully informed.

## ALIVE AFTER FIVE OR CHOKED BY SEVEN?



In a bid to boost local businesses, city-centre streets will offer free parking after 5pm from 1 August to 6 September. Many shops will stay open until 7pm.

Local streets include: Annandale St, Barony Pl/St, Broughton Place, Brunswick Rd/St, Elm Row, Forth St, Gayfield Sq/St, Hart St, Hopetoun Cres, Little King St, McDonald Rd, Montgomery St, New Broughton, Picardy Pl., Register Pl., Union St, Waterloo Pl. and Windsor St.

Not included are: Broughton St (peak hour loading prohibitions; bays unavailable 4–6pm); Leith Walk ('Greenway' parking bays, no charge); and the north end of McDonald Rd in the east end (where no parking charges apply).

An estimated £55K in lost income will be met by the initiative's 3 backers: City of Edinburgh Council, Essential Edinburgh, and Marketing Edinburgh. If successful, the scheme may be repeated over the other Festive season. Similar recent schemes in Newcastle and Manchester resulted in an increased footfall of 20 per cent.

*Spurtle* recognises Broughton's need to attract footfall, but how will the tramworks-disrupted East End cope with additional traffic during those times of year when it is already awash with visitors?

## Briefly



Photo: Alex Watts.

Fire-fighters attended a blazing van on **Albany Street** on 17 July. Twelve callers summoned help at 1.10pm. One witness described locals using extinguishers and briefly controlling traffic 'whilst traffic wardens looked aimlessly on, doing nothing to assist'. The Fire Brigade put out the flames 13 minutes later using **breathing equipment and a hose reel**.

A memorial bench has been installed in **St Mark's Park**, recalling the life of local man Daniel McCalman. Daniel was among the first to enter Scotland's first children's hospice, established largely through his mother Nancy Blaik's fundraising efforts. However, he defied the odds by living to the age of 31 and was an inspiration to many (Issue 170).

'Contrary to popular belief, it is possible to reduce energy inefficiency, even in traditional buildings, without compromising their authenticity.' *Spurtle* has multiple copies of Edinburgh World Heritage's '**Historic Home Guide: Energy Efficiency**' to give away. Contact us to arrange.

Pupils return to Edinburgh state schools for the **autumn term** on Wed. 15 Aug.

A topical free event takes place at the **Out of the Blue Drill Hall** on Dalmeny St this month. On 9 Aug. (7.30-9.30pm), the Edinburgh People's Festival offers '**A Nation Decides - Independence Debate**' with **Kevin Williamson** from the Scottish Independence Convention speaking for, and **Lothians MSP Neil Findlay** (Labour) against. **Yvonne Dalziel** will keep the peace. Tickets from: [<http://bit.ly/83Oemz>].

The success of young Broughton filmmaker **Rhys Fullerton's short Birdie** continues (Issue 204, *Breaking news*, 1.3.12). In June it won a medal and diploma at the **Seoul World Short Film Festival**. In July it won a 'Birdie' from the Birdies Film Festival in **Kingston-upon-Thames** (clearly destined to be), and later broke through with a commendation at the **Buxton Open Shorts** competition. It has been shortlisted at festivals in **Scunthorpe, Thurrock and Leeds**, and will next show as part of this month's **Edinburgh Fringe Film Festival**.

## Broughton mourns local man

The sudden death on 13 July of **Fazal Mohammad**, proprietor of the General Store at 76 Dublin Street, shocked and saddened many in Broughton.

Mr Mohammad ran the popular shop at No. 76 for 27 years. He was a genial and charming gentleman, and friend to many. He was serving the community by personally delivering early morning newspapers when he suffered a fatal heart-attack.

He will be greatly missed. *Spurtle* extends its sympathy to his widespread family and friends in Edinburgh and furth of the capital.

## Dreaming dreams away

Abstract artist and Turner Prize-nominee **Callum Innes** will flood light onto the underside of Regent Bridge next month in a work forming part of the Edinburgh Art Festival

Designed by **Archibald Elliot** (1761-1823), the bridge was first intended as an uplifting entrance to the capital. Work began in 1815 in a spirit informed by the recent, happy readjustment of Anglo-French relations.

Combining with lighting artist and architect **Gavin Fraser, Innes's** new project aims to transform the structure into 'an illuminated plinth of floating colour' by creating 'a structured but random order of coloured light, revealing and lifting the giant curve of the arch above'. *Spurtle* applauds the initiative whilst advising admirers to remain vigilant of chip wrappers, rats, and burning wheelie-bins below.

The installation is funded by Edinburgh Art Festival, nearby Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh World Heritage, and culture-loving global investment manager **Bailie Gifford**.



Photo: Dominie McIntosh.

## Abstract art forms quick response



Locally based artist **Trevor Jones's** 'Eardley' (above) will show as part of *Mark of Beauty* this month in the Union Gallery on Broughton Street. It is one of a series of abstract works doubling as QR codes. Scan them on your phone and you'll link to a website about the exhibition and abstract art in general. Art, technology, and spiralling philosophical involutions thus combine in a way not seen since the discovery of the Higgs-Boson. The exhibition, curated by art historian **Bill Hare**, also includes work by **John McLean, Fred Pollock, Iain Roberson** and **Zara Idelson**. An online review will follow.

## No more nest-eggs for crooked landlords

A compulsory Tenancy Deposit Scheme to ensure fair return (and retention) of rent deposits in Scotland came into force last month.

The legislation introduces a free, independent dispute resolution service to arbitrate between disagreeing tenants and landlords, without the need to go to law. Landlords may opt to submit deposits to the scheme right away but will be obliged to do so between November 2012 and May 2013.

The scheme has been welcomed by the National Union of Students Scotland and Consumer Focus Scotland. **Graham Brown**, Director of Shelter Scotland, said he was delighted at the change, which will address between 8,000 and 11,000 tenants' wrongfully withheld deposits (currently worth about £3.6m) per year.

However, he warned, 'it will only work properly if tenants are diligent and know their rights, and landlords and agents embrace the scheme fully'. More at: [<http://bit.ly/loML03>].

## Meet the 'Kegeerator' – possibly a Scottish first



Broughton wine drinkers have long been well served, writes *Ella Taylor-Smith*. Beer drinkers, however, while happy in hosteleries, have had rather less choice when purchasing carry-outs.

No more. First Vino (in Broughton Street) and now the Beerhive (in Rodney Street) have brought the microbrewery trend into their fridges and ours. An array of styles, flavours and sources (many local) challenges the global brand lager monoculture. They're sweetie shops for grown-ups.

Look in the Beerhive's window for a stainless steel cube with tap. It's a kegeerator – a fridge with a barrel inside dispensing draft beer. This correspondent was won over by Summer Wine's Half-Wit, but there'll likely be something new as you read this, undoubtedly a rare keg debuting in Scotland. Your intrepid reporter will investigate that too. This particular kegeerator (known as a 'growler' in its native US) seems to be the only one in a Scottish small-shop context.

Beerhive owner Peter Sherry (above) enthused about Broughton when interviewed ('really diverse'), and promised to keep his margins down, disproving the reputation of independents for being expensive. (He may even undercut a large neighbour downhill.) He also offers free tastings on Saturday afternoons. The Rodney Street renaissance continues.

## Briefly



Welcome to **Kathy's Knits**, which opened last month at 64a Broughton St (formerly **Threadbare's** premises). The shop is the brainchild of **Catherine Robb**, who aims to encourage the UK's 4 million female and 448,000 male knitting enthusiasts to browse, touch and feel her stock of personally **chosen British and specialist yarns** (preferably not all at the same time). She will also sell her own creations and hold classes for groups. See *Breaking news* (10.6.12) and [<http://www.kathysknits.co.uk>].

Brochures featuring the **Adult Education Programme at Drummond CHS** will be out in the second week of August at local libraries, community centres and Council buildings. Or Tel. 556 7978 or download now from [<http://bit.ly/KzvhPk>].

The **Edinburgh Association of Community Councils** recently submitted a paper to CEC on the role of CCs in Planning. Thanks in large part to the vigorous promptings of the **New Town & Broughton CC**, particular reference was made to the desirability of CC objections being weighted rather than treated as only one. Meanwhile, CEC's new **planning convener Ian Perry** wishes committee meetings to be as open as possible. More transparency is always welcome.

**St Mary's Market**, at the very top of Broughton St opposite the cathedral, will mark its first anniversary with a **celebratory tea party**. The event will last from 11am–2pm on **Sat. 4 Aug.** and include free refreshments and entertainment. Bring your own dormouse. Markets were scheduled here throughout the Festival, but organisers now hope to switch to the Grassmarket.

Congratulations to Mansfield Place-based **Waverley Care (WC)** which, in its 21st year, has won a **Care Accolade from the Scottish Social Services Council** for its Children & Families Project. The prestigious award celebrates excellence and innovation. WC is Scotland's leading charity providing community and residential services for those living with HIV and/or Hepatitis C.

### Can you tell what it is, yet?

'Addressed-downy perennial. Stems to 25 cm, usually numerous, loose. Leaves grey, bristly or sparsely hairy, slightly acuminate, ciliate; basal leaves heart-shaped to ovate, double-toothed or entire, short-stalked. Flowers long-stalked, in a loose branched raceme or panicle. Calyx-lobes 8–12 mm, lanceolate; appendages absent. Corolla to 2.5 cm, broadly star-shaped to funnel-shaped, deeply incised to three-quarters, spreading, lavender to violet. Style prominent. Capsule opening by median pores.'

In other words, the formal description of *Campanula poscharskyana* (Serbian bellflower): an alternative identification of the tenacious survivor we featured in Issue 208. Botanic Garden staff are proving gratifyingly keen to help and unable to agree.



### 'Forsyth's finial' restoration still up in the air

Heritage bodies want prompt restoration of the iconic globe and steeple at 30–1 Princes Street. NTBCC's planning convener John Knight says 'I am very concerned that there seems no firm commitment or timescale from the developer, Arcadia, on the globe reinstatement'. Work cannot start until tramworks end in South St Andrew Street.

### Glasgow Four and more for sale in Forth Street

Lyon & Turnbull will auction the Taffner Collection on 7 September, part of one couple's 'extraordinary contribution to Scotland's cultural heritage'.

Eleanor B. and Donald L. Taffner were 'TV royalty', independent producers responsible for such iconic US shows as *Three's Company* and *Too Close for Comfort*. (They also unleashed the oeuvre of Benny Hill on an unprepared North America.) From the 1980s onwards in their Greenwich Village home, they began assembling works on paper by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the remaining Glasgow Four: James MacNair and Margaret and Frances Macdonald. At the same time they strenuously promoted these artists'



reputation and that of the Glasgow School of Art's collection on an international stage.

At the heart of their own £1m collection were three superb Mackintosh watercolours – 'White Tulips', 'Yellow Tulips' (left) and a French landscape 'Bouleternère' – as well as 'The Frog Prince' and 'Girl with Blue Butterflies' by Frances Macdonald. Other prizes included works by F.C.B. Cadell and Sir John Lavery, as well as Mackintosh chairs and silver cutlery. The collection will be on open view on 20 August. For more see: [<http://bit.ly/M76Ekb>].

## Moreover ...

**H.M. the Queen** officially opened the Scottish National Portrait Gallery on Queen St on 2 July. Local band **Whisky Kiss** entertained the public as part of Prince William's Holyrood birthday celebrations on 5 July followed by **T in the Mud** a week later.

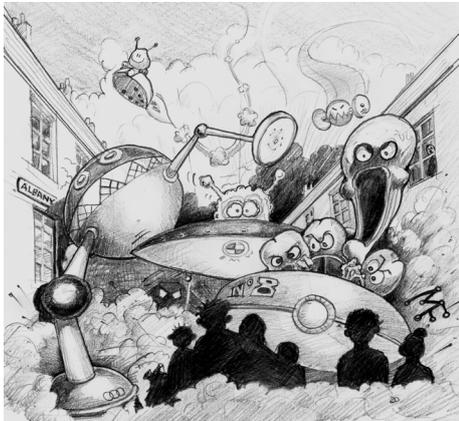
Don't panic! McDonald Rd Fire Station hosts a free **Emergency Services Open Day** on Sat. 4 Aug. (11am-3.30pm). Fun activities, displays and advice from Fire, Ambulance, Police and Coast Guard professionals.

**Not strictly Broughton** but still of interest to locals: CEC has consented plans for the extension and renovation of a **10-bedroom boutique hotel** with bar and restaurant in Raeburn House on **Raeburn Place** in Stockbridge.

The **trials and tribulations** of antiquarian bookselling, as reported on Howard St's **Second Edition Bookshop** Facebook page (12.6.12). 'Telephone conversation: "Good morning, I'm looking for a hat." "OK, but this is a bookshop." "So do you have any hats?" "No, this is a bookshop." "Where can I get a hat?" "Perhaps you could try a milliner." "Can you recommend a milliner?" "No, sorry, this is a bookshop." "You're not being very helpful."

Congratulations to Broughton team Norrie Ramsay and Sharon Brown, whose bed-&-breakfast on E. London St won its round against opposition from Wigan, Lincoln and Looe last month in the C4 early-evening TV show **Four in a Bed**. Filmed in mid-March, the pair entertained rivals by making haggis at **Crombie's**, then getting Rosario Sartore at **Locanda de Gusti** to cook it with scallops and prosciutto. The Ramsay establishment was voted a **maximum 100% score**. In a separate series of episodes, contestants from Leopold Place did not fare so happily [<http://bit.ly/PzFCCa>].

### Unusual traffic levels



alien to New Town norm

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

### 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 Edinburgh Central



Constituency Office:  
77 Buccleuch Street, EH8 9LS  
0131 668 3642

Surgeries:

Every Tue: 5pm - Constituency Office  
1st Fri: 1pm Stockbridge Library  
2nd Fri: 1pm Murrayfield Parish Church  
3rd Fri, 1pm Tynecastle High School  
4th Fri 1pm Peace & Justice Centre

NB. No Surgeries on Public Holidays.  
Email: [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)

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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@marklazarowicz.org.uk](mailto:mark@marklazarowicz.org.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

Special meeting to discuss local traffic diversions:

**Monday 6 Aug.**

at 7.30pm

Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, Bellevue Crescent (Drummond Room)

[secretary@ntbcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ntbcc.org.uk)

## AM DECORATING

Your local painter & decorator **Alastair McAlpine**  
Tel: 0131-556 4841 **Mobile:** 07866 222 656 [alastairmc Alpine@btinternet.com](mailto:alastairmc Alpine@btinternet.com)