

Spurtle



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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

**October
2011**

No 199

Tel: 558 8574

spurtle@hotmail.co.uk

MAKING LIFE TASTE BITTER

Sainsbury's aim to open a 'Local' store at 28 Howe Street (Ref. 11/02841/LBC; *Breaking news*, 15.9.11).

In an area already well served by a thriving local newsagent/greengrocer, a branch of Margiotta's, and another Sainsbury's just down the hill in Stockbridge, the supermarket giant naturally hopes to extend the range of products available here, offering popular lines at competitive prices unmatched and unmatchable elsewhere. However, instead of street parties and general rejoicing all round, 331 locals have signed a petition opposing the development.

Sainsbury's involvement in the project was strangely obscure in the planning application, which was lodged in the name of an individual working for a shop-design company. In fact, the supermarket's involvement only became evident in one drawing of the proposed store's front elevation in which the glass window appears entirely taken up by '450 internally illuminated canister lettering, "Sainsbury's" in orange, all other text in white, applied to powder-coated aluminium fascia, plum in colour'. The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland will object to this aspect of the design, which they say 'deadens' the streetscape. Late news: plans must be redrawn – *Breaking news* (28.9.11).



COMMONWEALTH SILVER FOR BROUGHTON ATHLETE



Warm congratulations to Kimberley Reed, the Broughton teenager who won silver in the Hammer at the Commonwealth Youth Games on Sunday 11 September.

Despite difficult weather conditions on the Isle of Man, Kimberley achieved a distance of 54.22m with her first throw, which was enough for second place.

She was beaten by arch rival and World Champion Louisa James, whose distance of 58.10m was third best in the world this year.

Kimberley is pictured with fellow Scots medallists Nick Percy (silver, Discus) and Tom Holligan (gold, 200m).

YORK PLACE TRAM PLAN

In *Breaking news* (6.9.11) we reported the New Town and Broughton Community Council's (NTBCC) serious misgivings about line-switching for the trams on York Place. They predicted congestion and displaced traffic.

However, the Council believes it can complete the spur beyond St Andrew Square with a line-switch and tram stop at the eastern end of York Place. It proposes doing this whilst still allowing two lanes to remain open in both directions for wheeled vehicles.

Officials will present detailed proposals to a sceptical NTBCC public meeting on 7 November.



SUBSCRIBERS, PLEASE ...

We love autumn here at the *Spurtle*. Clear, cold skies ... crackling bonfires ... the sound of Wellington boots rustling through piles of other folk's crisp banknotes.

Yes, October is when we ask friends to delve into pockets and renew their annual subscriptions (recommended donation £12, although we cheerfully accept contributions of more and less). In return, we deliver copies hot-off-the-press, directly to subscribers' doors and in-trays.

Subscribers are important to us. They provide a bedrock of local intelligence, knowledge and feedback, and their payments in advance help smooth any temporary cashflow troughs over the year. In so doing, they also make an important contribution to sustaining this paper's fiercely defended independence.

If you would like to subscribe for the period October 2011 to September 2012, please send cash (or a cheque made out to Spurtle) to the c/o Narcissus address on p. 4. Please remember to include the name and address of the person to whom copies should be delivered. Thank you.

Briefly



This **elegant newcomer** has intrigued E. Claremont St residents since appearing last month in a top-floor, Bellevue St window opposite. *Spurtle* tracked him to Leith-based artist and cartoonist **Kate Charlesworth**. 'He's an Oscar Wilde-type aesthetic person,' she told us, 'and I see he's lost his lillies. He was one of several life-size cutout figures I designed for the 2006 "Rainbow City" exhibition of LGBT lives at the City Art Centre. Several were distributed amongst the volunteers after the show'. **The question we wish we'd asked:** What does it mean to *lose one's lillies*?

Broughton St Mary's Parish Church is to hold a **'Superlative Pearls'** jewellery party on Sat. 8 Oct. (2.30–4.30pm). Admission free. Refreshments. Bring your own grit.

Fund raising has started again for the **Kenya Partnership Group** at Drummond CHS. They plan a trip to Muthambi Boys and Girls Schools in June 2012. On 1–2 Oct. their **Fairtrade Safari Café** served visitors at the WASP Studios Open Days in Stockbridge, and in November they will hold an **'Art of the Scarf'** event at the school (see *Events*).

5,000+ books donated by the **51st Scottish Brigade** (*Breaking news*, 29.3.11) have now arrived by army supply ship in Kenya, and are being moved up-country to Drummond CHS partner schools in Muthambi.

Edinburgh World Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Council have drafted an **Action Plan** for the Old and New Towns of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site. It translates the (now approved) **Management Plan** into actions, with indicators to measure progress. You can read it at [<http://tinyurl.com/44brp93>] and send any comments to [jack.gillon@edinburgh.gov.uk] by the end of October.

Congratulations to Lib-Dem Leith Walk **Councillor Louise Lang**, who has announced the birth of a baby daughter. **Ailsa Christina Eleanor Young** arrived on 9 Sept. weighing 9lb 3oz.

The popular Broughton St eating place **Pani Solinska** has become **Mediterraneo**, a bistro and espresso bar.

Rodney St gift shop **Cloud 9** is relocating to Raeburn Place in Stockbridge. We wish them every success on their new cloud.

Peace on Annandale Street

On 10 September, Birmingham-based artist 'Aerosol Arabic' Mohammed Ali finished painting (by invitation) illuminated Confucian lines onto the side of the Annandale Street Anwar-e-Madina Mosque and Community Centre.

They read: *If there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character. / If there is beauty in the character there will be harmony in the home. / If there is harmony in the home there will be order in the nation. / If there is order in the nation there will be peace in the world. So let it be ... / Spread peace among yourselves.*



S1 pupils from Drummond CHS had earlier gone along to meet AA while he was still at work, and he explained that the mural is intended to commemorate 9/11 and encourage peace. When AA asked the students what peace meant to them they replied 'no war', 'hippies' and 'jam'. (They then explained to the baffled Brum what a 'piece' is.)

Meanwhile, also on 10 September, Scottish Defence League opponents of a supposed violent Islamic conspiracy hurled abuse at multi-faith and no-faith critics on Waterloo Place. Draw your own conclusions.

'Fresh' to your door ... like it or not

Logie Green Road residents were alarmed in July when – not for the first time – a Tesco juggernaut nearly reversed into their back greens (*Issue 197*).

They contacted Tesco requesting not just repairs, but more fundamental discussion about how the multinational delivers to the Broughton Road store: times, frequency, size of vehicles.

In September they were finally invited to a meeting. A senior manager began by unfurling plans. Forget *consultation*: this was all about *explanation* from the top down, with the insulting offer of a glass of champagne once work was completed.

Locals now face pile-driving, the extension of an embankment 2 metres closer to their homes, a wall raised by 1 metre, and the clear understanding that Tesco seeks longer delivery times not shorter ones. (Locals already put up with vast refrigerated lorries chugging away outside their homes first thing in the morning, pumping fumes into gardens, blocking exits, obscuring the sun.)

The experience and support of local politicians here is clearly required.

Din vexes Forth Street neighbours

Forth Street residents and others nearby are up in arms about late-night noise spilling from the back of premises on Picardy Place. Management at bar/restaurant/hotel Hawke and Hunter deny their premises are the source of the disturbance and suggest locals are over-reacting. The beer garden, they say, is vital to their business which employs some 60 staff.

Sleep-deprived locals are also furious that their many complaints appear not to have been logged properly by the Council's Noise Team. However, they do their case no favours by refusing to let the same Team enter their homes to monitor noise as it happens (during the small hours of the morning).

For now, H&H have until November to liaise with neighbours, and to ensure beyond any doubt that their customers are not the source of the problem. Licensing officials will then review the situation.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, Royal Terrace residents oppose a Licensing application by the Scottish Ukrainian Society to host commercial functions. They fear disruption, particularly from well-lubricated smokers with no sense of belonging or responsibility to the area.

Stafford Centre throws open its doors

The Stafford Centre at 103 Broughton Street will host an open day on 12 October from 1–4pm, *writes manager Michele Mason*. The event – in Mental Health Arts Week – will include live music, food, baking, information displays and an art exhibition.



The former St James' Episcopal School is now a resource centre for people with mental health needs, plus their families, carers and supporters. It offers support, information, counselling, activities, outings, benefits guidance, employment support, a place to meet others, and good company.

The organisation is part of the charity Support in Mind Scotland. For more information contact [www.staffordcentre.org.uk] or Tel. 557 0718.

Naval New Town remembers

‘Lord Cochrane’ by James Ramsay (1866).



An exhibition examining the life and extraordinary adventures of Admiral Lord Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald (1778–1860) starts at the National Museum of Scotland on 7 October.

The model for several Frederick Marryat characters, C.S. Forester’s *Hornblower* and Patrick O’Brian’s *Aubrey* (among other fictional appearances), this wilful Scot (pictured left) combined daring, naval brilliance, political radicalism and a talent for controversy.

Foreign service led him to become a hero of the nascent Chile, Greece and Brazil, and 1st Marquis of Maranhão, before posthumously receiving an even greater accolade in 1885 when Dundonald Street was named in his honour.

He is not, however, the only naval hero remembered locally. Nelson Street recalls the victor of Trafalgar, whilst Cornwallis Place (named in 1802 but not built until 1881) was named after Sir William Cornwallis, Admiral of the

Channel Fleet (and featured in *Hornblower and the Hotspur*). Sir John Jervis – a man who loathed Cochrane as much as Cochrane abhorred him – is recalled in St Vincent Street (the name of his most famous battle in 1797 and subsequent earldom), which is joined at the top by Howe Street, named after Richard, 1st Earl Howe, the victor of the Glorious First of June in 1794.

Dundonald Street had originally been named Duncan Street after another Scots tar Viscount Duncan of Camperdown (a victory over the Dutch in 1797), but was renamed in order to put an end to confusion with a street of the same name in the teeming warrens of Newington. *AM*

Briefly



Beth Darbyshire has graced the Villeneuve Wines counter for over 3 years and won many vino friends from far and wide. A **photographic artist**, she is taking up a front-of-house appointment at the celebrated **Dovecot Studios** in Infirmary St. *Bon voyage*, Beth!

In June we reported renewed concerns about the condition of **1–5 Baxter’s Place** (Issue 195, p.2). A reader now tells us that upstairs windows are open and **‘undesirables’** are living within. NTBCC are pressing the Council to serve a **preservation order** on the property.

Pepsi and Christina Gaul are the winners of Issue 198’s ‘Cornucopia’ competition. They win a £15 book token for correctly identifying the superb hanging garden at **Nom de Plume** on Broughton St and apple trees at **Galleria Narodnich** (translated as Folk Crafts Gallery) on Dundas St.

Malcolm Chisholm, MSP for Edinburgh Northern and Leith, was among speakers who addressed crowds on the Mound on 10 Sept. They were counter-demonstrating against a ‘static protest’ by the far-right, anti-Islamic **Scottish Defence League**, who had earlier been banned from marching through the city on grounds of public safety and order.

The next meeting of the **Broughton History Society** will be at 7.30pm in Drummond CHS on Mon. 10 Oct. Eric J. Graham will talk about **‘Kidnap, Coercion and Ransom’**. Entry £2. Exit £250.

Plans are ‘ongoing’ to move hoardings outside the derelict **Shrubhill House** closer to the building, thus potentially creating space for **market stalls**. Other issues raised at the **Leith Central Community Council** meeting on 12 Sept. included **wild-camping in Pilrig Park** (draft minutes at *Extras*, 1.10.11). LCCC’s next meeting will be on 17 Oct., 7.30pm, McDonald Rd Library.

Edinburgh Motor Company’s plans to open premises in **McDonald Place** are worrying neighbours. They fear visiting customers’ vehicles will block turning and access. The **New Town & Broughton Community Council (NTBCC)** are considering the Licence application.

Worrying lack of progress and an absence of news surround the **Bakehouse Co.** at 32c Broughton St. The popular café, **damaged in a fire** on 17 June, initially expressed optimism that it would **soon reopen**. On 20 June staff tweeted about imminent contact from insurers. Since then ... a **resounding silence**.

Supporting the humble bumblebee



‘That is the Question I’ by Dylan Lyle.

A bee-themed exhibition at Union Gallery last month (*Breaking news*, 9.9.11) raised over £700 for the Stirling University-based Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT).

Dr Ben Darvill, BBCT Chief Executive, said: ‘We’re delighted to have received such wonderful support. The show has not only generated valuable income for us, but helped raise awareness of the survival issues faced by our bees’.

Brightly coloured, ‘furry’ and ‘fat’, the 35 species of bumblebee native to Britain are well adapted to the climate, and play a vital role in flowering plant and crop pollination. Today, though, they are struggling against pesticides and loss of habitat, and some have already become extinct.

BBCT has produced leaflets on simple ways people – even Broughton city dwellers – can provide attractive gardens and nest sites for these hard-working and reluctant-to-sting creatures. Find them at *Extras* (1.10.11). For further information about the BBCT, alight gently upon and then rummage hungrily within their website at [www.bumblebeeconservation.org].

No quick fixes for Hopetoun Crescent Garden nuisance

Hopetoun Crescent Garden’s Jekyll and Hyde existence – a fluttering Green Flag at one extreme, and booze and poos in the bushes at the other – is likely to continue for a while longer (see Issue 194; *Breaking news*, 27.7.11).

A meeting was held recently with all the agencies and interested bodies represented, including the Friends, Police, Parks Dept, Council officials, homeless workers, the convent and Polish Consulate.

It became apparent that social problems are not always simply or neatly resolved and that even temporary quick fixes will require further discussion.

Whilst the Garden is a public park in which breaches of the peace may be reported, the Police cannot attend every incident. If locals do report anti-social behaviour, they are advised to ask for an ‘incident number’ and inform the Friends so that an accurate log can be kept.

New site for upwardly (and sidewardly) mobile youth



Professional muralist Shelley Haswell – funded by the Parent–Staff Association – recently created this dramatic Highland scene in a covered section under the After School Club of Broughton Primary School’s lower playground. Forming an apt backdrop to the new climbing wall, it has already become known locally as ‘The Bairngorms’.

Moreover ...



We reported extensively online last month's cheerful **Doggie Fun Sunday** (*Breaking news*, 12.9.11), but perhaps failed fully to reflect the **emotional toll** of such canine beauty contests. Take Cochran Terrace's Archie (above), humiliatingly judged '**only the New Town's eighth-best looker**'. He has apparently sought consolation in the bottle since ... the bottle won earlier by his owner for correctly estimating it contained 149 biscuits.

Belay that! Apologies to any readers inconvenienced by *Spurtle's* misreading in Issue 198 of a new adult education course at Drummond Community High School. Our brief preview should have read 'Pilates: an Introduction' not '**Pirates: an Introduction**'.

Edinburgh World Heritage will run DIY Energy Efficiency workshops on 15/16/22 October. The 'very simple' topics to be covered will include **draught-proofing, wooden shutters, and loft insulation**. Email to ChiaraRonchina@ewht.org.uk or Tel. 220 7734. For more information and a downloadable leaflet, see *Breaking news* (17.9.11)

Spurtle has entertained thoughts of celebrating its 200th-edition anniversary with a party. Ingrained thrift, lack of time, absence of luxury yacht, and a fear of fireworks have kyboshed the project. Look forward instead to an unprecedented November issue.

Spurtle's pilates/pirates mix-up ...



One reader farrgh from 'appy

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: 9am.
Royston Wardieburn Community
Centre, Pilton Drive North: 11 am.

Email: Malcolm.Chisholm.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

New Town/Broughton Community Council

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

Next meeting:

Monday 3 October
at 7.00pm

Broughton St Mary's Parish
Church, Bellevue Crescent

secretary@ntbcc.org.uk

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
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

Spurtle Team: John Dickie, MF, Ali George, Maria Hart, George Hosey, Alan McIntosh, John Ross Maclean, Graeme Robertson, David Sterratt.
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