

# Spurtle



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**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

**November  
2011  
No 200  
Tel: 558 8574  
spurtle@hotmail.co.uk**

## NEW TOWN WHEELIE BINS – AN OPEN AND SHUT CASE?

Waste containerisation in the New Town is here to stay. This was the inference drawn from City Centre and North Neighbourhood Partnership Manager Mike Penny's preliminary assessment of trials.

Speaking to the New Town and Broughton Community Council on 3 October, he said the 5-month pilot scheme had resulted in markedly cleaner streets where wheelie bins were used over the summer. Residents on neighbouring roads which had continued with the old black bags – e.g. Cumberland Street – soon found themselves besieged by hungry birds and begged Council officials for containers of their own.

Bespoke arrangements concerning the siting and appearance of containers had appeased many doubters. On Heriot Row, for example, green wheelie bins (resembling giant Hunter wellies) positioned on the Queen Street Garden side of the road proved acceptable.

Gull-proof bags were a success during dry, settled weather, although they had proved irresistible to predatory builders stealing them to move rubble. The combined effect of the various measures on gull breeding this year has yet to be assessed.

A report will go before the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee in November. Whilst the new wheelie bins will not suddenly disappear after the trial, future provision of waste collection services will remain uncertain until the effects of the Council's Alternative Business Model programme become clear (*Breaking news*, 11.10.11). An announcement is expected soon.



## SEADOGS CELEBRATE BROUGHTON CENTENARY

The Royal Navy and Royal Marine Club celebrated the centenary of its establishment on Trafalgar Day 1911 last month with a 3-course dinner and cabaret.

Steward Tom Phinn (pictured) – a club member for 43 years – expected over 100 guests aboard Heriot Hill House on Broughton Rd, to which the club moved from Albany Street in 1952.

A photograph of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh opening the new premises in August of that year can be seen at *Breaking news* (21.10.11).

## ROCHEID ROAD TO RECOVERY

A new group – Friends of the Rocheid Path – has formed to make sure the popular Arboretum Avenue – Inverleith Terrace Lane link is better looked after.



They want to see it replanted and enhanced, particularly once flood defence measures on the Water of Leith are completed in 2012. Their first AGM met on 25 October.

To receive the group's news and details of future meetings, email: [therocheidpath@gmail.com](mailto:therocheidpath@gmail.com)

**BROUGHTON SPURTLE**  
Broughton • Gayfield NEWS VIEWS ACTION Bellevue • Canonmills  
FREE Issue number 1 February 1994

**BROUGHTON'S O.K.**  
That's the verdict of 50 local residents interviewed in autumn 1993. Asked if they liked living here, 44 gave a resounding YES.  
They liked the convenience of living in such a central area – with "the city on your doorstep". And yet it is a residential area, with parks, gardens, the Water of Leith nearby, quiet to walk or cycle on. "Sense of privacy". They think this could be even better, with more trees and flowers planted, and any spare space grassed and not turned into play areas.  
Asked if people made this a good place to live, many of the folk we interviewed praised their good neighbours, and their work-life balance and great "the friendliness of people". One Gayfield Street resident said: "I've nearly all the shiny guests at her child's first birthday party and I'd like to do it on the street. Some of the neighbours really help. I'd like to see people locally bringing their own to the street". Others commented on the "good mix of people" – "mixed people and different, but all friendly and nice" – "not too noisy and not too expensive", "a balanced level about this area".  
But there are different opinions about the area. Some feel it's just about right. "Open, friendly in an impressive way". Others feel it is not so strong in trees. A Bellevue Street resident thinks some of the younger families that have moved in are not enjoying and caring, while some around in Bellevue Road regard the sense of community that's gone, but had welcomed due to social changes – such as women going out to work. Someone else felt the lack of a community centre "really let local people". When asked to suggest what could be done to improve life in the area, several thought a centre might help. Roadside facilities

**Action on local traffic**  
**SPURTLE AT 200**  
Welcome to the November issue of the *Broughton Spurtle*, the 200th monthly print edition since we launched in February 1994. No drums, trumpets, or whistles, no besequined production staff leaping out of cakes – but a loose insert to indicate some of the designs and topics which have characterised your local stirrer for the last 17 years. All 10 can be downloaded from *Back issues* online, with the full print run following soon after. See page 3.

## GREGGS HEAD FOR TOP OF BROUGHTON STREET

News that Greggs the Baker have applied for planning permission to refit an existing unit at 27 Broughton Street (Ref. 11/03105/FUL) has met mixed reactions.

When *Spurtle* published the story online last month (*Breaking news*, 18.10.11), some local sandwich shops and delis were dismayed. They worry that this development could bang home the nail in the coffin first inserted by Tesco Local's move into the area in January 2011. Margins of success and failure for such small, independent businesses are very fine at the moment, and their concerns are quite understandable.

Others, however, wonder whether anyone attracted by a Gregg's outlet would have wanted to buy food from a small independent in the first place. Others still – extending an argument first mooted by the then Chair of the Broughton Street Traders Association Lucy Tanat-Jones – suggest a successful chain might actually draw footfall down into Broughton Street which would otherwise have remained on Picardy Place. Any flourishing business here, they suggest, is preferable to the tatty and off-putting sight of an empty shop.

A fourth group – whilst disappointed by the credentials of this rather unexciting new arrival – permit themselves a wry smile at the prospect of a minor dent in Tesco's lunchtime profits. Tell us what *you* think.

## Briefly

Forth St-based charity **Music in Hospitals** will hold a fundraising concert at Stockbridge Parish Church (Saxe Coburg St) on Wed. 16 Nov., 7pm. Expect 'an evening of classics with a flavour of Argentina'. Beef? For more information see *Extras* (20.10.11), email [info@musicinhospitals@scotland.org.uk] or Tel. 556 5848.

Will your child be **4 years old by 28 Feb. 2012?** If so, go to **Broughton Primary School's Open Day** on 3 Nov. and consider registration on 14 and 17 Nov. See *Breaking News* (21.10.11) or Tel. 556 7028.

The **Scottish Government** has increased the capital sum available to Edinburgh for repair of the water-damaged, former **Bonnington Primary School** to £1.8m in order to establish a **new Gaelic school** (Issues 194, 196-8, *Breaking News* 10.6.11). The unexpectedly high cost to the Council of borrowing money to repair the school will also be offset by increased funds from the Scottish Government: a **rise from £300K pa to £400K pa**. A report on the project was due to go before the Council late last month. You can read it in full at *Extras* (27.10.11).

The next meeting of the **Broughton History Society** will be at 7.30pm on Mon. 14 Nov. David Patterson will talk on "Cocky Nit, Cocky Nit, Come and Buy, Ha'penny the Bit" – Life on the Streets of Old Edinburgh'.

*Addio e grazie per tutto il pesce:* we wish a fond farewell to **L'Aquila Bianca**, the award-winning, family-owned Raeburn Place chippy closing after 36 years. A **Domino Pizza** will replace it, to whom we say *Grazie, ma non es la misma cosa*.

**Fettes Row residents** have recently found their pavement inundated by **canine unpleasantness**. Opinions differ as to whether *several* dogs are responsible, or just *one* with a talent for impressions. Environmental wardens are now on the prowl.

In Issue 199, we flagged the worrying lack of progress made in refurbishing the fire-damaged **Bakehouse** on Broughton St. We still haven't heard from the proprietors, but at least **scaffolding has now been erected** outside and work appears about to begin.

**AAAAA!** No, not the sound of Fettes Row residents walking home in the dark, but the sight of **Sami Syed's** remarkably good Highers results. The 17-year-old **Drummond CHS** pupil achieved 6 Grade As, had self-certified himself for Physics, and scored the joint **highest mark** in Scotland for Geography. Congratulations and OOOOOO!

From 30 Nov.–26 Jan. 2011, some 26 objects at the **National Museum of Scotland** will feature 26 miniature works by contemporary authors. Among them will be a brief epitaph by **vertically challenged Spurtle** contributor A.J. McIntosh on the pocket-sized Napier's Bones. See [www.26treasures.com/Scotland] for more details.

## Bricks, mortar, common sense

It is debatable which is more annoying: the drip drip of a leaking roof or the drip drip of your savings spent on running repairs. Experts are in no doubt: looking after a property before it falls to bits is the cheaper option.

A recent Property Repair Seminar run by Edinburgh World Heritage (EWH) and Hypostyle Architects focused on ascertaining building condition, scheduling and carrying out repairs, and timely maintenance to the correct standard to avoid more costly work later.

There was an emphasis on helping owners and agents to keep control of their own projects (something many will be concerned about given recent controversy over Council-imposed contracts).

EWH outlined its project funding available for public, community or charitable projects, and repayable grants for residential and commercial historic buildings.

Explanations were given of the Tenement Act Scotland (2004) which obliges owners to maintain property, and of the Tenement Managers Scheme (TMS) which provides an administrative structure for doing so efficiently.

Among other points, Adam Wilkinson – EWH Director – concluded that there was an urgent need for a central point providing information and guidance on building maintenance. He pointed to a crisis which requires wider publicity at a national level.

An information pack and further advice on these topics are available from Jo Parry at [Joanna@hypostyle.co.uk].

## Potential LGBT parents seek straight answers

The LGBT Centre for Health and Wellbeing will hold the capital's first ever family planning event for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people on 16 November, writes *Community Development Worker Jules Barnes*.

Speakers from NHS Lothian, private clinics, fostering and adoption agencies and a private law firm will give short talks relevant to the Lothians.

'The event is timely,' says Director Maruska Greenwood, 'because although more and more lesbian, gay and bisexual couples are having children these days, they often face barriers in accessing private and public services in this area.'

'Starting a family can present unique challenges and decisions for LGBT people, and this is a rare and important opportunity for them to have their say and get their needs and concerns addressed.'

The discussion will run from 6.30–9.00pm at 9 Howe Street. For more information, email Jules Barnes at [jules@lgbthealth.org.uk] or Tel. 523 1104.

## Smooth operator goes the extra yard

Broughton residents, some of whom petitioned Royal Mail in August to retain a trusted postie (Issue 197, p.2) have received a reply. A letter from Gary Yard ('Delivery Sector Manager for the Edinburgh area') is phrased with such emollient, corporate unctuousness that it could almost have been poured rather than posted through local letter boxes.

'There may be a period of adjustment,' writes Mr Yard, 'whilst my team and I get used to new ways of working. I would like to thank you for your understanding.' The changes are to 'maintain your services and to keep our prices amongst the lowest in Europe'. Deliveries will now be made over a longer period in the day, which may be later 'or possibly earlier' than in the past.

'We are proud of the high regard in which our postmen and women are held in their communities. These changes may mean a different postman or woman from your local office will deliver to you. I am confident all of my local team will provide the reliable, friendly service you have come to expect from us over many years.' Aye, right.

## Edinburgh charity seeks votes

Pass IT On is a Wardie-based Scottish charity which individually adapts donated computer equipment and gives it to people with disabilities. The charity supports those who would otherwise be unable to access the benefits of modern computer systems.

You can help them to help others by voting for manager Sandy Kerr in the Talk Digital Heroes Awards by Sunday 13 November. Visit [www.talktalk.co.uk/digitalheroes/region.php?region=scotland]. Pass IT On could win over £5,000, which would be a huge boost. To find out more about what they do, see [www.passitoncomputers.co.uk].

## Buon appetito!

A warm welcome to *Asti Cucina*, the newly opened café / restaurant which has succeeded Pani Solinska on Broughton Street.

The name (meaning Asti kitchen) was chosen by the proprietor, who has a special affection for Piedmont in north-west Italy – the town of Asti is not far from Turin. The chef told *Spurtle* he himself comes from 'here, there and everywhere,' but is 'happy to dance a jig in [his] kilt if you can supply the whisky!'

The menu is refreshingly void of pizza and is a delectable mix of subtle dishes. *Asti Cucina* serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. We don't know if a spurtle is involved, but Chef offers a signature Scottish delicacy – porridge with dried fruits, honey and cream. *Magnifico!*

## When Broughton said 'Sláinte'



Bob Rickard has an association with the Drambuie Liqueur Co. going back 50 years. The Warriston resident started as a Customs & Excise officer monitoring bonded operations and collecting revenue for 'the amber drink', then turned 'poacher' in 1982 and accepted a job in-house. Now retired, he is assembling a history of the firm 'entirely for my own benefit', and hopes local experts can help.

He is particularly interested in the period before the company's move to Easter Road in 1959, and has it on the authority of an ex-director that Drambuie was manufactured in a former Broughton garage around 1935, before moving to bottling premises in Dublin Street Lane and/or York Lane. PO Directories yield no clues. Robin Nicholson's corporate history (2001) – see *Extras* (1.11.11) – suggests the bottling plant may have been an extension to the rear of the company HQ at 12 York Place (30 Dublin St Lane, pictured), but can any 'old worthy' confirm the location of this or other premises?

Incidentally, Rickard notes that Drambuie's commercial inception was at 8 Union Street in 1906.

## Briefly



In Issue 190 we prattled about spurtles – **stirring-sticks** to swirl porridge into a smooth consistency. But what is the **etymological origin**? We put this recently to an expert on a BBC Radio 5 Live programme. He echoed the *Oxford English Dictionary's* view, viz., a **Scottish version of spatula**. Porridge spurts like a mini volcano, and for best results the spurts need to be pacified; hence the calming stir of the spurtle. But is this entirely convincing? Spurt your views and we will stir them into the **December bouillabaisse**.

Drummond CHS will hold an 'Art of the Scarf' evening from 6–8.30pm on Thurs. 24 Nov. Scarves for sale, scarf-tying methods on display, Fairtrade Safari Café – all to raise money for an exchange trip to **Kenya** next summer.

As predicted, a **Christmas market** favouring charities and social enterprises will run at the top of **Broughton St** outside St Mary's RC Cathedral from 8–24 December. Hours are Thurs.–Sun., 11am–6.45pm. On sale: arts & crafts, clothing/accessories, food/drink, gifts, jewellery, music, free info. The market will run again, **weekly, from March to July 2012**. *Spurtle* considers this a wholly positive development in the area.

**Edinburgh Printmakers** at 23 Union Street are hosting a series of lectures on the history of visual art (especially printmaking). Evening lectures on **Abstraction** (17 Nov.) and **Scottish Art** (15 Dec.) cost £4 each. See *Breaking news* (17.10.11).

**Frankfurter Eck** has opened at 62 Elm Row, serving – among other **German delicacies** – gulasch and potato dumplings, curry wurst, jägerschnitzel (schnitzel made with onions not jäger), and homemade schupfnudeln.

Broughton St Mary's Parish Church (Bellevue Cres.) are running a **Carpet Bowls and Scrabble club** on Wednesdays, 2–4pm. No equipment required, new members very welcome. Would suit all those tired of **qat** and **mbaqanga** who are keen on increasing **qi** without wasting **qindar**, or who have an eye for a bowl.

Edinburgh Northern and Leith MSP **Malcolm Chisholm** has departed from the Scottish Labour line in calling for **greater financial powers** for the Scottish Parliament. His favoured '**Devo Max**' would allow Holyrood to raise a greater proportion of the **60% of Scottish tax revenues** for which it is responsible, thus rendering it more accountable. You can read his article at: [http://www.labourhome.com/].

If **dog news** does it for you, delve no further. A dedicated north Edinburgh newsletter is promised for those emailing [thedogwatch@virginmedia.com].

## Local stirrer's aims and origins

*Spurtle is 200 issues old. John Dickie, who edited the first 148, looks back.* In autumn 1993, with the Poll Tax recently binned, some members of Broughton and Inverleith Anti-Poll Tax Group gathered to discuss their campaign and what they might learn from it.

Inspired also by the struggle to save London Street Primary School and achievements of local residents' associations, we eventually settled on producing a local broadsheet. We aimed to: provide a focus for locals wanting to change things; help action groups make connections between 'the news' and people's own lives in Broughton; and generally stir things up a bit. And a title emerged – the *Broughton Spurtle*.

We interviewed 50 local residents to get our bearings. Asked if they liked living here, 44 said YES. They enjoyed having 'the city on your doorstep'; but with 'plenty of greenery'; and 'a good mix of people'.

Suggestions for improvements included more trees and flowers, more play areas, and a community centre for locals. There were complaints too – dog dirt, litter, bus services – but with traffic way out ahead of the rest – heavy vehicles, cars parked across residents' gateways, speeding down Broughton Street. Traffic control loomed large.

The first edition came out in February 1994, with action on traffic the lead article inside. Since then your community paper has tackled issues both big and small, sometimes full on, sometimes with a wry comment or a poke at pomposity, but always independently. Long may it flourish!



## Lest we forget: Broughton heroes of the Great War

This is a photograph of 2nd Lieut David Rankin Cromb, *writes Pippy Tyler*. He was one of hundreds of men from the Broughton area who died serving in the armed forces during the 1914–18 War.

David lived with his parents, David and Eleanor Cromb, at 14 Eyre Crescent. He



was educated at Daniel Stewart's and Edinburgh University where he took an Arts degree. He intended to go on to study medicine, but instead enlisted in the army, serving in the Royal Scots. He was killed in action on 23 April 1917, aged 20.

Whether acknowledged as heroes or not, there were many men (and women) with Broughton connections who died during this conflict. Many are recalled on local war memorials. Some are not.

The Broughton History Society has embarked on a project, to be completed before 2014, marking the centenary of the Great War's outbreak. The plan is to find research, collate then publish what information we can about the people commemorated, and their links with our (loosely defined) Broughton village. This may be, for example, that they lived here or had family / went to school / worked / attended Church / were members of a club or other local organisation. We also hope to identify others not named on local memorials.

It is a lot to do in just over two years, and we are well aware of the magnitude of the project. Do you have a contribution to add? Do you have a record, a family story, an anecdote or photo to share with us and help build up the Big Picture? Talk to your family, then talk to us! Email [broughtonhistsocedinburgh@gmail.com] or Tel. 556 1488.

# Moreover ...



**Hackles have been raised** by laminated Council clutter on lamp-posts sermonising about **recycling** arrangements. Locals with new food waste bins are **already well aware** of the scheme and the reasons for it.

Broughton band **Whisky Kiss** are broadening their horizons this month, with 'St Andrew's Day' gigs booked for **China, Oman and Hopetoun House**. 'As day trips go, we had a show of hands, and the conclusive results are in,' says **bassist Iain MacPhail**. 'Shanghai beats Newtonmore by 4 votes to 2.' Look out for the blog.

**Admirable brevity:** a recent notice in Bellevue Cres. read 'LOST CAT. VERY FLUFFY', followed by a telephone number. Remarkably, cat and owner were soon reunited.

You have been warned. *Spurtle's Annual General Meeting* will take place in Broughton St Mary's Parish Church at 7pm on Tues. 6 Dec. Interested observers, disgruntled critics, **millionaire benefactors** and new volunteers are all equally welcome to attend so long as they don't expect **festive titbits**.

We know we run the risk of repeating ourselves, but an **important transport initiative** is to be discussed this month and merits your attention. CRAG will hold a public meeting to discuss the Edinburgh-Glasgow Improvement Programme and possible reopening of Abbyehill Station at 7pm on 2 Nov. in the church hall at the corner of London and Easter Rds.

## FLUFFY MASTER OF DISGUISE ...



**FAILS TO ESCAPE NOTICE**

**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](mailto: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 meetings:

Monday 7 November  
Monday 5 December  
at 7.30pm

Broughton St Mary's Parish  
Church, Bellevue Crescent

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

**Mark Lazarowicz**  
MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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[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

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