

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

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**July
2007**

Tel: - 558 8574

Farewell to Logie's Green Shade



All that remains of the Logie Green maps

Ross Maclean writes:

There is considerable concern in **Logie Green Road** regarding a plan to redevelop the former **Vogue House Furnishers** building and surrounds, and turn them into student accommodation facilities. Tentative negotiations are ongoing between the owners of the site and **Unite Integrated Solutions** who have adapted several buildings in the city for multiple occupancy by students.

On Wednesday 6th June, local residents were appalled by the felling of several mature Norway maple trees which screened the Vogue building and adjoining car park from the street. **Mrs Mackenzie**, who

remembers when the trees were planted 40 years ago, told the *Spurtle* that the trees were removed entirely in a matter of 3 hours.

A senior spokesman for **Unite** has stated that 'it is not **Unite's** style' to remove trees without consultation. No-one has yet claimed responsibility for the action. Tree loss can of course be an inevitable consequence of redevelopment. However, as planning applications for developing the location are at an early stage, and nothing is settled, the removal of these fine trees is perceived by many as a thoroughly unnecessary, and indeed a wanton act, which hardly augurs well for the future of **Logie Green**.

Drummond Spotlights Winners

Scotland's Rugby Captain **Chris Paterson** was guest of honour at **Drummond Community High School's** Celebration of achievement on 13th June. He urged prize-winners to keep pushing to achieve – a message in tune with renewed ambition and confidence at the school.

Varied achievers were highlighted: organisers of exchange visits to **Kenya** (pupils raised funds to bring their African peers to Edinburgh); those with 100% attendance records; top graders; and the school itself for its trail-blazing, centre-of-excellence staff. And throughout the evening, guests, parents and prize winners heard performers of astonishing musical skill and maturity.

New Headteacher **Jon Reid** pointed to measurable academic advances in 2006-07. For example overall results at Highers exceeded expectations and **Drummond** is now in the top 40 Scottish schools at Credit and Higher levels in at least 6 subjects. Among 18 school-leavers this year, 8 are going to university, 7 to further education and 3 into employment. The *Spurtle* detects a buzz about **Drummond**. Good things are coming to the boil.

(Right: Nathan Ozga receiving his Dux medal from Chris Paterson)



Briefly

A carillon from **Broughton St Mary's Church**: Summer Time is here! The church at **Bellevue Crescent** will be open for visitors each Wednesday morning from 10am to 12 noon, throughout the summer. Teas and coffees will be served in the vestibule. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to two generous donations from the **Friends of Mansfield Traquair Centre**, the **Mansfield Trust's** fund raising for new tiles to replace the patches in the chancel and South chapel has been successful: 2,116 tiles in **13 different shapes and patterns** have been commissioned from master-tilemakers, **Craven Dunnill Jackfield Ltd** in Shropshire who have been making tiles since 1873. Manufacture and placement will take many months of painstaking work, but yet another major detail in the superb restoration of **Mansfield** is assured.

Update on local city councillors' surgeries: the *Spurtle's* June issue detailed those of Councillors **Blacklock, Chapman and Lang**, all of **Leith Walk ward**. Leith Walk ward's SNP Councillor **Deirdre Brock's** surgeries are now set up: 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at **McDonald Road Library** at 6pm; 2nd Monday of the month, during term-time only, at **Broughton Primary School** at 6pm.

The new City Centre Councillors' surgeries are as follows:

David Beckett (SNP): 1st Thursday of the month at **Abbeyhill Primary School**, 2nd Thursday of the month at **South Bridge Resource Centre**, 3rd Wednesday of the month at **St Mary's Primary School**, 4th Wednesday of the month at **Edinburgh Central Library**. All start at 6pm.

Charles Dundas (Lib Dem): 1st Wednesday of the month at 6-7pm at **St Mary's Primary School** (not during school holidays), 3rd Wednesday of the month at **Edinburgh Central Library** at 6 – 7pm.

Joanne Mowat (Cons): 2nd Tuesday of the month at **Edinburgh Central Library** at 6.30pm. If in doubt, phone 200 2000 (City Council).

Taking the Strain out of Shopping

Local trader, Adrian Dempsey of MOVIEBANK, enthuses:

Too often, we head for the supermarket or city centre, while overlooking the quality and sheer variety of shops right here on our doorstep. Compared with so many other streets which have been overtaken by national chains, charities, and indeed empty shops, **Broughton Street's** rich diversity makes for a relaxed and enjoyable shopping experience.

However, to keep this precious asset we must use it. It is in the interests of both traders and customers alike to respect and support each other. To that effect, and to convert even the most hardened supermarket addicts, ten of **Broughton Street's** well-known traders are collaborating with MOVIEBANK in offering local residents a special discount card.

The participating shop owners have pulled out the stops to offer some customer-friendly deals. The current shops are BLISS, BOOMBARBERS, BROUGHTON DELI, CAFE PICCANTE, CROMBIES BUTCHERS, THE GLOBE, MEZZ BAR, NARCISSUS, SALON LA, and of course, MOVIEBANK.

The discount cards are being distributed to all local houses. However, if you have been missed, pop into **Moviebank** and pick one up. Enjoy your shopping, save money, relax – and keep **Broughton** independent, and stirring in the *Spurtle* style!

(The *Spurtle* welcomes the news and views of all of **Broughton's** shop owners)

Fatal Fire in Bellevue Road

Fire swept through a ground-floor flat on **Bellevue Road** in the early hours of 3rd June, claiming the life of a 42-year-old man staying within.

Having dragged a burning mattress from the building, **John Jones** returned to tackle the flames, but became trapped inside and was killed.

In May *Spurtle* reported on an **East Claremont Street** fire which was a dramatic spectacle but thankfully with no injuries involved. This month's appalling events are a reminder that fire is something we should always take seriously.

We extend our sincere condolences to the deceased's loved ones, family, friends and neighbours.

Broughton's Nooks & Crannies

One of the *Spurtle's* intrepid reporters spotted this unexpected and charming sight in a certain back-garden not far from **Broughton Street**. We invite readers to send us (returnable) photographs of similarly unusual sights or happenings, which have caught their attention around Broughton. A book token will be awarded for published photographs. Just leave your snaps and details at the *Spurtle's* mailbox (see page 3).



Murmur in Leith ... and Broughton?

Local resident, Anna Girling,
writes:

If you go down to **Leith** today you may find yourself participating in the latest interactive arts scheme to hit the city. The area is the first in **Britain** to become part of [murmur], a “**documentary oral history project**” which has already been making its mark across **Canada and America**.



The project collects and records stories, anecdotes and memories associated with particular spots in the community, and enables these to be shared through the magic of a telephone line.

The large green signs, in the shape of ears, which have recently sprung up on lampposts and buildings around **Leith** are in fact indicators that a story has been recorded about that particular place, and that you can listen to that story by calling the phone number on the sign from your mobile phone. The stories can also be accessed through the project's website, or even by calling the number from a landline. However, the project's organisers emphasise that [murmur] was conceived as an active, interactive experience, combining personal history, geographic location, and the involvement of the listener as they walk “through, around, and into the narrative”.

The listener is encouraged to wend their way around Leith, looking for any of the more than thirty “murmuring” ears, and rediscovering and re-examining the mixture of people and places which comprise their unique community.

The project was first started in a bohemian area of **Toronto**, which, while dealing with more than its fair share of poverty and crime, is also especially community-minded and the project was intended to reflect not only this sense of community, but also the extent to which its very diverse population is historically and personally linked to the area itself.

The success of the project not only generated a buzz around the area but also led to many other neighbourhoods clamouring to be “murmured”. Might not **Broughton** follow suit? Broughton's rich heritage and highly individual community surely parallels that of **Leith**. An invasion of ‘green ears’ could only further reveal the diversity and distinctiveness which inform our streets.

(For more information, and for a map of the [murmur] sites, go to <http://edinburgh.murmur.info/>)



Briefly

Congratulations to **Crombies**, butchers par excellence, on winning further UK-wide accolades. At the recent Guild of Q Butchers, National Barbecue Championships (3rd June), they were awarded **4 championship trophies**, including overall supreme product for Whirligigs, an amazing coiled sausage. A special mention to **Ian, Simon, Wayne and Andy** who won the prestigious Team Championship Cup.

Apropos the former ‘**Red Hot Lighting**’ shop in **Broughton Street**, ‘**The Concrete Wardrobe**’ is coming! No, not a Tracy Emin art installation or a Richard Murphy statement. Sashay to **Persephone Belle**'s column for clarification.

Stop Press!

Just before going to print, we were informed that over **150 objections** have been lodged with the **City Council, Planning Department**, regarding the current application for **Unite Group plc** to erect over 300 student facilities at the former **Martin and Frost** site at **130 McDonald Road**. A public meeting was held in **McDonald Road Library** on 10th June on this contentious issue. The **Spurtle** will report on further developments in August.

Support Your Spurtle!

For **£1 per month (£11 for a year)** you get the paper delivered to your home, along with one or two other bits of information and know you're doing your bit to keep **Spurtle** independent and stirring!

Drop your contributions in at **Narcissus, 87 Broughton Street** (any cheque should be made out to **The Spurtle**)

Belle's View

Hi fans



Yuk! Grizzly and wet - it really must be midsummer - and I love our Scottish haar, it's just so refreshing, don't you agree?! What's for fun in July in moist and misty Broughton?

Bottoms up! For midsummer madness, and if you're looking for a horticultural experience combined with goblins, lovers, and magical mayhem, get down to the **Botanic Gardens**, 11-19th August when the Inverleith House lawn will be transformed into an enchanted forest for daily performances of **A Midsummer Night's Tale** by the hoot-tastic cheeky **Pantaloons** (2.30-4.30pm, free, all ages, Tel 248 2968)

Strike a light! The bulb has blown for **Red Hot Lighting** of Broughton Street, and the shop has now been acquired by **The Concrete Wardrobe**, who are moving their funky lifestyle shop up from the depths of the Cowgate to swinging Broughton. Owned and run by **Fiona McIntosh** and **James Donald**, the shop is currently being refitted and will open on Sunday 1st July, specialising in Scottish-based contemporary designer fashion, furniture and accessories - just the place for the trendy, yet discerning Broughtonite!

Looking for a present for someone with oenological leanings? **Villeneuve Wines** of **49a Broughton Street** have a fabulous gift-box service to save you lugging those heavy bottles about - order at the shop or online at www.villeneuvewines.com. They will gift wrap boxes of wine (priced £25, £50 and £100) and deliver for you - all you have to do is write your personal message on a card - and then hot-foot it round to the recipient's house to share the vino!

Till next time!

PERSEPHONE BELLE

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9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
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12pm Stockbridge Library

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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency office



New Town/Broughton Community Council

Vacancies for Community Councillors

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

For information on next meeting, please contact

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Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

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Broughton Road Group

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Broughton Village Association

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Broughton History Society

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Drummond High School

556 2651

Sovereign Court Residents

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