

Tree-Felling Carnage in Logie Green

Ross MacLean writes: Following our July report on the felling of the Logie Green trees, *Spurtle* can now report that a tree survey was recently carried out for ENVIRON by arboricultural consultant Alan R. Motion. Of the six Norway maples, only two were judged to be in poor condition and felling was advised. Locals said that all the trees seemed in fine flourishing state – so why were all six trees felled? Logie residents, many of whom are senior citizens, are appalled by this cynical act of environmental vandalism.

They are also very concerned about an application for planning permission by the Palmerston/Unite Group plc for the former Vogue furnishing building and surrounding land for student residential

HAIKU TO THE LOST TREES

Twenty years of seasons

of sapling
of budding,
of growing
of blooming
of shading
of crunching
of baring
gone
in three hours
of sawing.

accommodation – 101 flats for 483 students, and plans for small businesses, retail and office space.

The objection deadline to CEC was on 20th July, with 10 objections being lodged. The proposed timescale for the development if planning permission is granted is between 18 and 24 months. *Spurtle* questions how this will impact on this quiet residential area – the developers need to clarify all aspects of the Logie Green plan to local residents, who are far from happy. Quotes from residents include: ‘Once we looked out onto trees, now we see into back windows which we didn’t know were there’ and ‘I have a giant Tesco at the back of my house, now I’ll have a ***** student campus at the front!’

Flooding in Bellevue Road

John Dickie writes: David Aitken of Bellevue Road contacted *Spurtle* to say that his cellar flooded following heavy rain in June. Nearby drains couldn’t cope and water backed up into the basement. Other houses along the street suffered too: ‘Not only was this muddy water but in some cases it had raw sewage in it,’ said David. A neighbour called in a Scottish Water officer - who gave the impression that nothing could or would be done about the problem!

Apart from the immediate hassle, David suggested there was a wider question about the rapid development of new housing in Broughton: ‘Because former open ground is now covered in concrete with the building of blocks of flats, this causes an increase of run-off water and greatly increased pressure on the sewerage system. Has this shortfall been addressed?’

Spurtle got in touch with the four new councillors for the area. Councillor Brock got back to us with positive news: ‘I am told by Scottish Water that their Network Analysts are indeed currently investigating this issue, and are arranging CCTV to survey the related sewer. They are aiming for that to be carried out early this week (although they are particularly busy at present as a result of the heavy rains) and for the results to be available in two weeks.’ Councillor Lang has also been trying to get a response from City Council officials, but has had no response yet.

Briefly

Spurtle is pleased to give a big ciao e benvenuto! to Rosario Sartore, one of four partners behind Broughton Street's brand new Italian restaurant and bar, **Bella Mbriana**. The restaurant occupies the space where the Sundial Launderette and Lost Sock diner were located, at 7–11 East London Street. The restaurant name is a Neapolitan expression meaning “soul of the house”, and the new venture promises a short menu of Italian food with a new slant and a strong regional identity, and a distinctive, fresh presentation. Rosario also owns Dalry Italian bakery Dolce et Salato, and another branch of this has just opened up on Elm Row – so get along there for some fantastic Italian *pasticcerie!*

Spurtle notes that the deadline for objections to the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) on the current planning application from Unite Group plc in respect of the former Martin & Frost site at 130 McDonald Road, Edinburgh to erect flats and associated student facilities for 300 students closed on 8th June. No decision has yet been made by the Council, although it is understood that More than 150 objections were received, with 125 of those received as a result of local residents being directly informed of the Planning Application. This development will have a great effect on residents living in the near vicinity of the site. See next month's *Spurtle* for an update on the campaign on this application, and the issue of recreational facilities in this area.

If the sun ever does shine this summer, let's hope it shines 10–11th August, for an inaugural event **Shine in the Park** in King George V Park (Scotland Street). A fun-for-all-the-family event running from 10am–2pm, it promises buskers, jugglers, clowns, stilt walkers, stalls, a BBQ, tea garden, children's theatre, team competitive events and oodles more. Entrance £3/£1.50.

Spurtle would also like to say bon voyage to our departing editor, **Edmund O'Connor**, and wish him all the best for his marriage to Erin and his new life in Canada. The lengths people will go to get out of editing the *Spurtle!*

Blooming marvellous! *Spurtle* would like to send its warmest congratulations to Narcissus Flowers on the occasion of their 10th anniversary in Broughton Street.

Friends of Hillside and Calton Area

New Community Group

FoHCA Secretary Alistair Cairns writes: This informal group initially got together to make a representation to the City of Edinburgh Council on the recent tree felling and landscape work in London Road. The first meeting in May 2007 was well attended, with a management committee being elected. Friends Groups are essentially social, informative and educational, bringing diverse sections of a community together, and the healthy debate on a diverse range of issues has demonstrated the need for such a group in this area. We have now contacted various other local groups, and are active in pursuing several local objectives, including a consultation on the priorities for regeneration of Montgomery Street Park, and reviving the Calton Centre. Should anyone wish to influence the future of Calton Hill, London Road Gardens, Hillside Crescent Gardens and Montgomery Street Park, look out for posters advertising our next meeting at the CWU Social Club (The Posties' Club), 15 Brunswick Street.

Nooks and Crannies: an Egyptian Mystery

A palm tree at the corner of Dunedin Street, and an Egyptian-style frieze and columns on nearby Beaverhall House bring an exotic feel to this corner of North Broughton.

Beaverhall House – now offices – is the site of the former Duncan's Chocolates factory, which operated here from 1896 until the 1990s. One of the most popular products from that period – Duncan's Original Hazelnut Chocolate – is still being manufactured in Scotland, but not in Edinburgh. Can any readers suggest when and why the Egyptian theme was chosen for the building's frontage?



Spurtle Hits 150 Editions

John Dickie writes: **Spurtle** No 1 was published in February 1994, with the front-page headline 'BROUGHTON'S O.K.' A lot of local people have been involved in producing the paper since then; producing it eleven times annually without fail. Not bad for an independent local paper, run by volunteers.

The first edition was put together by a small group of locals inspired by the success of the anti-poll tax campaign, the struggle to save London Street Primary, and achievements by local residents' associations. The aim was to provide a contact point for local people who wanted to get together and change things, and help local action groups publicise their work. We also wanted to make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton – and generally stir things up a bit!

Spurtle wanted to avoid just talking to a restricted group of like-minded people, and reach out to the wider community. We also had a bit of attitude about not getting too bland – if no one objected to anything we published, it would be a sure sign that we'd failed.

Over the years we haven't always kept our balance. Occasionally we've probably gone over the top a bit on issues we felt strongly about; more often we've gone a bit soft – I can think of an ex-councillor who sometimes got far too easy a ride, for example! But as No.150 hits the streets there's a team in place with plenty of ideas, and the determination to make it work.

Long live **Spurtle**!

Drummond Community High School Autumn Evening Classes

Birgit Harris of Drummond writes: Drummond Community High School is offering a wide range of day and evening courses this autumn, with new classes starting on Wine Tasting, Hip Hop, Indian Cookery, Tribal Belly Dancing and Bird Watching. You can also learn British Sign Language, English as a Second Language, French, German, Greek, Italian, Mandarin and Spanish – and all our language classes, taught by native speakers, have a certain "Je ne sais quoi"! Our fantastic art classes also provide colourful inspiration to get creative – try Jewellery Making, Creative Crochet & Knitting, Illustrating Stories and Poems or Printmaking and Handmade Books – and there are many more classes to choose from. Come along, learn something new, make new friends and gain a new interest. Courses begin 10th September, enrolling from 13th August. Find out more on 556 26 51 or see www.drummondhigh.com

Briefly

Kids – hope you all enjoyed your long, erm, wet, summer! Get that school tie looked out, because it's nearly time to go back to school – boooooo! Here are the dates for the coming Autumn term:

Monday 13 Aug. 2007: Staff resume

Wednesday 15 Aug. 2007: Pupils resume

Monday 17 Sep. 2007: Autumn holiday, Schools closed

Tuesday 18 Sep. 2007: All resume

Friday 12 Oct. 2007: Mid-term, All break

Monday 22 Oct. 2007: Staff resume

Tuesday 23 Oct. 2007: Pupils resume

Friday 21 Dec. 2007: Term ends.

Those of you who feel like their muscles could do with a bit of a stretch should get down to **Union Yoga** of 25 Rodney street, who are doing free meditation classes every Tuesday and Thursday 5.45-6.10pm, using Vipassana, one of India's most ancient techniques of meditation. This 2500-year-old technique aims for the total eradication of mental impurities, resulting in the highest happiness, full liberation, and the healing of human suffering – all good! **Union Yoga** also offer a free introductory yoga class to get you started, every Monday at 19:00 (you can attend twice only). Contact them at www.unionyoga.co.uk.

Spurtle notes that a new development on the gap site at Calton Hill has now been approved by City of Edinburgh Council. The proposal to build a large, modern office block on Greenside Row was given the go ahead despite concerns locally that it would ruin the character of the area and spoil views towards Calton Hill. The six-storey building will also include space for a shop and a bar or restaurant. The application by the Kilmartin Property Group was backed by planning officials despite five objections, including one from city-based heritage and neighbourhood watchdog the Cockburn Association.

Broughton Street shop *Gertrude & Lily* are moving to other premises in the neighbourhood – and the new business will be a coffee emporium!

Belle's View

Hi fans



Hi Fans!

Eeeee, I was nearly flattened by a unicyclist in Leith Walk yesterday - that only means one thing - the festival has started! If there's one thing that Estelle and I enjoy, it's summertime for now - so here are some free festival shows in Broughton for your enjoyment!

Chuckles galore can be found at the **Laughing Horse Free Festival** at **Ego, Picardy Place**, who are putting on **The Guid Sisters**, a play by **Michel Tremblays** featuring fifteen female stand-up comedians, comedy, drama, green shield stamps and bingo! This play is rated as "fabulously funny" and described as a love letter to women everywhere - with special guests. 4-14th Aug and 16-18th Aug. at 6.15pm (1h 30m, free, ticketed). See www.funnywomen.com and www.freefestival.co.uk

For music lovers, **The Phoenix Bar** of **Broughton Street** is featuring **Komic Kaos Kabaret** every night from 4-25th August at 10.20pm (1h 30m, free, non-ticketed). A veritable pic'n'mix of "fresh and matured" contemporary artists will perform a variety of acts for your pleasure, amusement and loose change. Brace yourself - or why not enter?! See www.hourspace.co.uk

If you fancy a night out while having a night in, get along to cosy venue **Home from Home** at **54 Annandale Street**, for one man show **Superjumbo** by **Richard Domendici**. Set within a new Airbus A380, this lo-fi audiovisual spectacle has been described as "wonderfully absurd satire" and "subversive high jinks" - see for yourself! 18-25th August at 5pm (45m, free, non-ticketed) See www.dedomenici.co.uk

Till next time- enjoy the fest!

PERSEPHONE BELLE

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NEW 12-WEEK & SHORTER DAY & EVENING COURSES WILL BEGIN 10 SEPTEMBER. ENROLMENT STARTS 13 AUGUST.

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Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



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Saturday surgeries:
9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
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

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Editorial, production and distribution: Anne Aarsten, Maria Hart, Christophe Jossie, Alan McIntosh, John Ross Maclean, Davie Thomson, David Watt, Fiona Watt.

Published 11 months /year (not Jan). **Printed** on recycled paper by Clydeside Press Ltd, 37 High Street, G1 1LX