

Spurtle

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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

Tel: - 558 8574

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Free

DRUMMOND OFF THE HOOK – FOR NOW

Alan McIntosh writes: The proposed closure of 22 Edinburgh schools will now not go ahead as planned, and Drummond CHS along with others has been reprieved. The stay of execution followed an SNP U-turn after parents and pupils across the city staged protests. Nationalist MSPs at Holyrood are also thought to have exerted pressure, since the Council measures would have jeopardised manifesto promises about class sizes.

Drummond pupils were at the forefront of this campaign, expressing themselves to the media with admirable clarity, force, persuasiveness, restraint and good timing for which they are to be congratulated. However, whilst the current round of consultations and cuts has been put on hold, the drive to rationalise Edinburgh's school estate won't go away. Plans are being redrawn in City Chambers – Drummond supporters must stay alert and be ready to mobilise again in 2008!

The Council should note the following points:

- Drummond is fit for purpose - £4.5m has just been spent refurbishing it.
- Drummond is 85% full, and popular with students, parents and staff.
- It is a successful and improving school with dynamic leadership – a centre of excellent teaching practice, admired and copied nationally by education professionals.

- Shared youth, growth, and learning binds neighbourhoods – Drummond is at the heart of our community.

- Broughton High School may not cope with increased numbers. Would the present standard of education there be maintained or improved – and would class-sizes be affected?

- The distance from Drummond's catchment area to Broughton HS would affect pupil safety, school-run traffic congestion, and public transport.

- Amey may not renegotiate its contract to reallocate Drummond's premises for primary-school use. So, if land at Broughton and St Mary's Primary Schools couldn't be sold off, would there be any compelling financial reason to shut Drummond?

- North Edinburgh's population is rising, and the many young immigrants we see in our midst will have families. Closing schools here and selling off the land doesn't make long-term sense.

- The proposals launched in September did not prioritise pupils' educational needs. They were not based on a completed or coherent review of all Edinburgh schools but were a short-term fix for a budget crisis. Any new proposals must convince us that they are based on robust research and have the best interests of our young people at heart.

FUN AND FIDDLESTICKS IN PILRIG!

Harald Tobermann writes: Inspired by a long tradition of Shetland and Orcadian emigrants gathering and playing their music in the Pilrig area, Della Penny founded Pilrig Fiddlers three years ago to encourage youngsters to pick up the fiddle and learn to play – and enjoy playing – traditional Scottish music. Since then the group has firmly taken root and is attracting many eager young musicians. At the end of each term there is a concert for friends and parents, sometimes held outdoors (weather permitting!) – and it is a great way to show off new skills and gain confidence! Pilrig Fiddlers meet every Friday afternoon (school term) in Pilrig Church, with small classes for absolute beginners to advanced, taught by Mike Vass and Amy Geddes. For more information: Tel 554 7698 or email fiddlesticks@PilrigFiddlers.cjb.net.



Pilrig Fiddlers outdoor concert

Briefly

Spurtle welcomes a flurry of new shops in Broughton Street - **Artisan Roast** purveys a delectable concoction of coffees, chocolates and honeys, and has already attracted rave reviews. They do their roasting every day round about noon, so get down there and get it fresh!

The new **Spirit Emporium** at No. 44 Broughton Street has a specialist range of spirits, cocktails and glassware from all over the world, and is well worth a look.

Gertrude and Lily, formerly at No. 71 Broughton Street, have now relocated to 5 Forth Street. The “little shop full of gorgeous things” is now known as **Ger and Lil** and shares an exciting new space with an art gallery and yoga centre.

A new shop has been opened by Lucy Tanat-Jones at 71 Broughton Street. The boutique, **Organic Pleasures**, is the first of its kind in Europe (and probably anywhere in the world) to sell non-toxic and hypoallergenic sex toys alongside natural body products and underwear, made of organic cotton and silk. The shop is painted a deep red, with black and gold wallpaper, with gilt mirrors vying for space with swathes of luxurious fabrics to create the shop’s unique boudoir atmosphere - check it out! It also has an online shop at Shop online at www.organicpleasures.co.uk

Broughton St Mary’s Church in Bellevue Crescent is having its Autumn Coffee Morning on Saturday 27 October. Price £1.50 for coffee – or tea! – and a piece or two of home baking. Watch this space for the date of the Christmas Fair towards the end of November.

Have you got a story?

Spurtle is your community paper. Phone 558 8574 or email: spurtle@hotmail.co.uk

Flooding in Bellevue - update

Fiona Watt writes: After heavy downpours of rain recently, basements in the Bellevue area were flooded with muddy water and raw sewage. Drainage in the Broughton area was unable to cope with the excessive run-off of water, and the result was a back-up in the drainage system. Scottish Water (SW) say that upgrading the present drainage system would incur considerable capital investment. Local resident **David Aitken** has now put forward a proposal to the relevant authorities: that any future building development should have incorporated in its drainage system a cistern or sump to hold any excess water run-off. Ideally this water could then be recycled and used; failing that, it would simply be allowed to overflow at a rate with which the existing drainage system could cope.

Councillor Deirdre Brock has contacted SW regarding the sewer capacity at Bellevue Road and can confirm that a CCTV survey of the main sewer in the street has found no faults. A further CCTV survey is now to be taken of the lateral sewer at the back of the properties 8, 10 and 12 Bellevue Road, and the sewer connection tails of properties 4 and 6 Bellevue Road. SW have asked that if occupiers have their homes flooded in the future they should report the problem to their contact centre on 0845 601 8855. This will enable them to build a case file on which to base any future potential funding that may be put in place to address the issue. Ms Brock has assured *Spurtle* that she will continue to follow up this case as necessary. With intensive development causing the loss of open ground to soak up rain, and the effects of climate change, it’s imperative that this problem is addressed now.

Baths left in limbo

Adam Ramsay writes: Plans to knock down the magnificent Glenogle baths in Stockbridge have, for now, been suspended after a major campaign run by Stockbridge residents. Now they are pushing the Council to refurbish the pool to its former glory. Campaigners say that no funding has been made available for doing up the baths until at least 2011.

Proposals had been mooted to replace the baths with executive flats. But while these have now been put on hold, the pool has been left with no funding provided by the Lib Dem/SNP council for refurbishment. No major refurbishment has been done since they were originally built by the Victorians.

Linda Wilson of the Save Glenogle Baths campaign said: “The Council have stopped talking about replacing the baths with executive flats. However, they are leaving us in limbo by failing to provide any money for their refurbishment.”

Broughton heroes:

Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson (1847–1927)



Ross Maclean writes: One of the pleasures of ambling in Edinburgh is chancing on obscure or unexpected details – like the plaque outside 15 London Street, which states that “The Icelandic National Anthem *Ó Guð vors lands* by the composer Sveinbjörn Sveinbjörnsson and the poet Matthias Jochumsson was written and composed in this house in 1874”.

Sveinbjörnsson first studied in Copenhagen, and

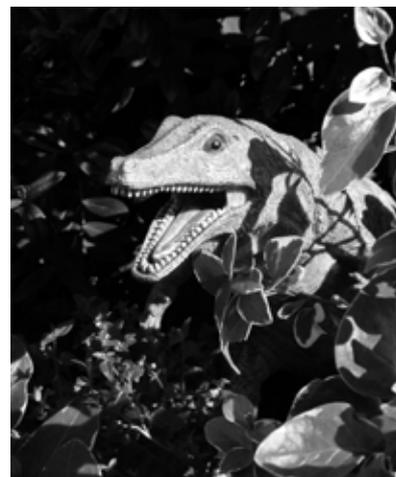
then in Leipzig under Carl Reinecke. He moved to Edinburgh around 1870 to make his living as a music teacher. His compositions included chamber music in the spirit of Mendelssohn, and many melodies and folk songs. In 1922, the Icelandic parliament granted him a state pension, which allowed him to return to Iceland.

The poet Matthias Jochumsson (1847–1920) was also a noted translator of Shakespeare and Ibsen. The Bishop of Iceland decreed that the millennial anniversary of the first Norse settlement of the island in 1874 should be marked by church services based on Psalm 90, and Jochumsson’s text of “Iceland’s Thousand Years” reflects that psalm. The Icelandic national anthem, also known as *Lofsöngur*, was officially adopted when Iceland’s independence was finally realised over 40 years later.

Doubtless their compatriot Magnus Magnusson, who lived in Scotland Street for a time, would have given No. 15 a fond salute on his way to and from his residence. Perhaps there should be another plaque for that equally proud Icelander and distinguished champion of his adopted country?

Nooks and crannies

In the October 2006 issue of *Spurtle* we offered a prize for spotting a dinosaur in a Broughton Street windowbox. Young Ewan Thomson saw it lurking outside **Realfoods** and scooped the trophy. Happily, the wee beastie is still lurking, as *Spurtle*’s photographer reveals. *Spurtle* will be delighted to publish and preserve readers’ photos of the unusual or unexpected in the Broughton area. Please leave your photos and details c/o Narcissus, 87 Broughton Street, or send them to *Spurtle*’s email address found on page 1.



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

Belle's View

Hi fans



Hi Fans!

Getting a bit nippy round the ankles now – must be Autumn already! Never mind the conkers – what's hot in happening Broughton?

A wee nip is great for warming the cockles, and I have discovered a great wee new Polish bar with a wide range of yummy polish vodkas and beers! **Dillon Doyle** and **Joanna Majkrzak** have recently opened **U Soltysa** at 8 Bonnington Road, claiming to be Edinburgh's only traditional Polish bar - we say *na zdrowie* to that!

Meanwhile, our local **Hopetoun Inn** has a quiz on Tuesdays and live entertainment every Saturday night, to keep you enthralled through the winter nights. Boasting a new covered smoking garden and patio area, they can also accommodate private "dos" for up to 50 people – so if you are planning a wee celebration soon, why not have it in your local?

The claws are out! With furry costumes and whiskers like banjo-strings, smash hit musical **Cats** by **Andrew Lloyd Webber** slinks into town at the **Playhouse**. The world's most successful and longest-running musical runs from October 9–27 with tix from 0870 060 1730 or www.edinburghplayhouse.org.uk. Will they know their dances off by heart by now or will they have to learn them from scratch? (Ow!)

Finally, **Mood Bar** at **Omni** are giving us something to look forward to after the weekend on Monday nights with new gay club **RIM**, which promises free glow sticks, free bubbly on entry, topless waiters, and dancing bar staff – what more could you ask for?! (11pm–3am, £5/£3 with flyer)

Till next time

PERSEPHONE BELLE

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

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