

# Spurtle

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER**

June  
2007

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## Briefly

Broughton Street Lane residents thought they had won the battle against a new development of mews houses when the council turned the application down last year. But the developers, **Prosper Holdings**, reapplied for the same development on 3rd May – with only tiny changes made to the original plan. The residents have promised to fight once again. More details in a future *Spurtle*!

Drummond Community High School is gearing up for its Celebration of Achievement and **Prize Giving Ceremony on 13th June**, with Chris Paterson, the captain of the Scottish rugby team, being the guest speaker. Prizes include the Dux and Proxime Accessit medals, awarded for the highest achieving pupils in the school – Nathan Ozga and Ewan Gibbs being this year's respective winners. The school is also trying to contact past Dux medal winners – if this is you or someone you know, get in touch with the school, as they'd be delighted to hear from you! Phone 0131 556 2651 or email pauline.clair@drummond.edin.sch.uk.

Plug alert: **Musical noises** from Bellevue, in the form of the Bellevue Quartet. Promising 'café style European dance music and jazz', this musical foursome are available for any local event. They've played the Broughton St Mary's Christmas party last year, as well as the Camino Cafe in St Mary's Cathedral. Phone Ruari or Yvette on 0131 556 2144 to enjoy stimulation of your musical tastebuds.

## BLAZE KINDLES LOCAL CONCERN

# East Claremont St Fire



*A serious fire has damaged the interior of the Town House B&B at 53 East Claremont Street.*

The blaze broke out in the basement at around 6pm on 22nd May and within minutes 6 pumping appliances were on the scene at the listed building. Teams of firefighters wearing breathing equipment searched the smoke-filled basement and 3-storeys for people trapped inside. Fortunately it emerged that the building was empty and there were no casualties. The fire was under control by 9.40pm, although a tender remained overnight in case of reignition.

At the height of the incident, up to 11 fire-brigade vehicles and 45 personnel were in attendance, along with two ambulances and two police cars. Dozens of local residents, - some of whom had anxiously left adjacent properties - , watched as windows were smashed to let out the smoke. Thermal imaging equipment was deployed from a crane to check that fire had not spread under the roof.

Local resident Alexander McIntosh (11) commented: 'It was absolutely brilliant. We may have to wait years before something this exciting happens again.'

David Mallin, a spokesman for Lothian & Borders Fire Brigade, said that the cause of the blaze was not yet known, but fire investigators were treating it as 'suspicious'. Ten properties on the north side of the street remained cordoned off the next day as piles of burnt debris were cleared from the building and forensic experts began their work.

The Town House appears on the Internet as a 9-bedroom backpacker hostel/ B&B, with a sauna, steamroom, jacuzzi and gym, but this is not the first time the 1820s premises have been in the news. Until recently a swingers' club was housed in the building and before that a gay sauna operated there. Locals had earlier voiced concerns about the site being used as a brothel. In the mid-1990s a health club was at No. 53, with its mannequin vaulting over the railings outside a source of irritation or amusement to neighbours.

# Broughton's New Councillors

Broughton residents are split between two wards. You are in City Centre Ward if you live in East London Street, Broughton Place, Hart/Forth/Union Streets, Picardy Place, Gayfield, the main road up through Rodney Street and Broughton Street, and anywhere west from there. If you live anywhere else in Broughton you are in Leith Walk Ward. We asked each of the newly elected councillors for their top three priorities, plus guidance on how to contact them. You can also contact any of them by post at City Chambers, High Street, EH1 1YJ.

## CITY CENTRE WARD



### David Beckett (SNP)

Priorities: (1) Glenogle Baths enables residents of Broughton and the New Town to exercise locally in a historic building that must be refurbished, not demolished; (2) a reliable and regular bus service for residents of Broughton. By investing in Edinburgh's buses we can deliver a greener, improved public transport system that encourages more people to use public transport, something which the tram proposals do not address; (3) to help local businesses I would investigate the possibility of including Broughton in a Business Improvement District (BID).

Contacts: phone 529 3271, fax 529 3271, email david.beckett@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Surgeries: to be arranged soon.



### Charles Dundas (LibDem)

Priorities: (1) maintain and build upon the close relationship between residents and local businesses in Broughton through sympathetic consideration of planning and licensing matters and an ongoing consultative and listening attitude towards all parties; (2) preserve our green spaces such as Calton Hill and develop them for better public use; (3) ensure that every voter will be able to feed into the decisions made by Council in a far more democratic way.

Contacts: phone 347 8310 or 07966 119741, email charles.dundas@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Surgeries: to be arranged soon.



### Joanna Mowat (Conservative)

Priorities: (1) roads and pavements are brought up to an acceptable standard and then regularly maintained, in addition a regular schedule of street and gully cleaning should be reinstated and where necessary the Council should employ someone with a brush and a barrow for hard to reach areas; (2) guardianship of the World Heritage Site to ensure that development in Edinburgh is appropriate and does not detract or overwhelm her historic buildings; (3) value for money for Council Tax payers and as low a council tax as possible.

Contacts: phone 529 4077, email joanna.mowat@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Surgeries: to be arranged soon.

## LEITH WALK WARD



### Angela Blacklock (Labour)

Priorities: (1) More affordable housing in particular as we currently have a very high rate of housing deprivation in the ward; (2) improving local schools – Drummond High School in particular would benefit from improvements, but we need a clear strategy for primary schools as school rolls continue to fall; (3) the local community – I will value and work with community groups, work to set these up where there are none and try to form a network across the ward. I think that this is important for Leith Walk ward especially when we have such a transient population, often people coming from other countries and also with the loss of the Calton Centre.

Contacts: phone 529 3286, email angela.blacklock@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Surgeries: every Monday at 6pm at McDonald Road library (except July and bank holidays).



### Deidre Brock (SNP)

Priorities: (1) given the many new developments in the area, the improvement and expansion of community facilities; (2) looking for ways to further reduce our area's carbon footprint, while continuing to actively encourage take-up of current Eco-Schools, recycling and waste awareness programmes; (3) increased support for our many small businesses, helping to ensure that the distinctive character of our area is retained and enhanced.

Contacts: phone 529 4187 or 529 3256, email deidre.brock@edinburgh.gov.uk  
Surgeries: 4/month (one each week) at a variety of locations throughout the ward. Details on the Council website soon.



**Maggie Chapman (Green)**

Priorities: (1) ensure the tram development not only goes ahead, but proceeds with the least possible disturbance to local residents and businesses, and provides the best possible outcome for all road users; (2) campaign for a 'backgreen' development scheme to enable tenement-dwellers to make the most of the greenspaces available to them; (3) ensure that housing developments include a mix of size of homes, and are built to the highest possible environmental standards, thus reducing their running costs and their carbon requirements.

Contacts: phone 529 3275, mobile 07816 350 953, email [maggie.chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:maggie.chapman@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Surgeries: second Wednesday of every month at McDonald Road Library, 6.30–8pm, fourth Wednesday of every month at Lorne Primary School, 6.30–7.30pm (school term times only).



**Louise Lang (LibDem)**

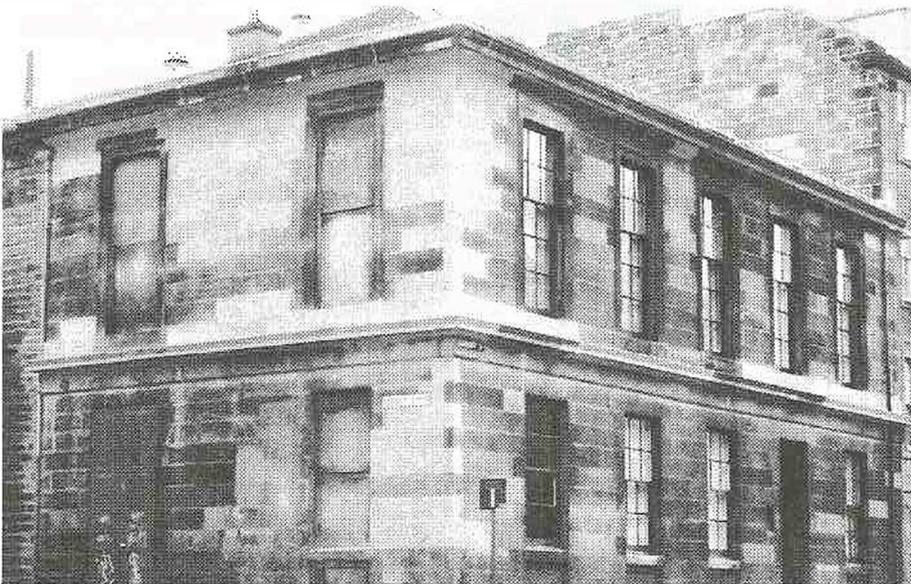
Priorities: (1) getting the basics right – reliable, consistent quality services in the community; (2) improving communications between Council and residents ensuring accessibility and transparency; (3) neighbourhoods that people can be proud of – clean safe streets, green spaces, community facilities.

Contact details: phone 529 4019, email [louise.lang@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:louise.lang@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Surgeries: first Wednesday of the month 6.30–7.30pm at Broughton Primary School, 7.45pm at Lorne Primary School (or phone for appointment).

**BARONY STREET (PART II)**

# House Of Glas Shines Again



the Garden History Society, and the Built Environment Forum Scotland also have offices in the building.

With the physical regeneration of the building, these important bodies will themselves have a higher profile than before and be more accessible to the general public. The Glasite Meeting House Committee, headed by Peter Burnam, anticipates that “the building will also be available as a venue during the Edinburgh International Festival, and for other appropriate cultural or social purposes throughout the year”. This is wonderful news for Broughton which has been sadly deprived of a truly cultural centrepiece for some years, and which the teeming cosmopolitan ‘village’ so richly deserves.

Phase 1 of the renovation work on the street facade of the building has just been completed. Work will continue on the back, and the remarkable interior (highlighted in April’s issue). However, the Architectural Heritage Society welcomes visitors by appointment: contact Dr Susan Buckham or Dr Audrey Dakin on (0131) 557 0019 / [director@hss.org.uk](mailto:director@hss.org.uk). The Glasite building will also be open to the public on Doors Open Day in September. Watch this space!

*Ross McLean writes:*

In the nature of things, buildings rise and fall, metamorphose, and are in the happiest circumstance, rejuvenated. Thanks to institutions such as the World Heritage Trust and the Cockburn Association, and the vigilance of local community associations, Broughton is particularly rich in its most venerable buildings. They are preserved with care and have also reinvented themselves to embrace the future with confidence and a certain panache, which echoes the ethos of the original architects of the New Town.

Previous *Spurtle* articles highlighted several of Broughton’s early 19th-

century buildings which now comprise the Mansfield Centre, the Stafford Centre, the Lyon and Turnbull building, the National Assay Office, and the ‘Media Centre’ building. All are gems in Broughton’s tiara. The April issue referred to the history of the other largely unnoticed jewels in this strand – the Glasite Meeting House in Barony Street. This, too, will soon shine forth after many years of painstaking renovation of its external structure.

Currently, the building is the national headquarters of the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland who now own it. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in Scotland,

# Belle's View



*Hi fans*

Zut alors! Another grinding down of the UK entry by our Baltic Balkan block-voting chums in that musical feast (or should that be fast?) the **Eurovision Song Contest**. Que sera, sera! What fun is to be had this month in happening Broughton?

Need a pressie for that Special Someone? Get along to see the **Phoebe Traquair** murals in **Mansfield Church** in **East London Street**, on the open day on 10 June (entry free). While you're there you can sponsor the restoration of a figure in the celebrated murals. Prices start from as little as just £20 for a gilded choir member ranging up to £100 for a full height angel with trumpet – what a bargain, and you don't even need wrapping paper, so eco-friendly too!

I would like to extend my very warmest and best birthday wishes to **David Watt** of **Bellevue**, who has been the **Spurle** delivery boy since the paper's inception. Happy 80th birthday **David** - obviously climbing those tenement stairs has benefited you by giving you the fitness and vigour of a man half your age!

More birthday celebrations - happy 10th birthday to **Vegas**, at **Ego, Picardy Place**, where **Frankie Sumatra**, **Bugsy Seagull** and the **Vegas Showgirls** have made their glitzy home. They're in action on Saturday 2nd June 10pm-3am £10/£8 for the fabulously dressed, tix from the usual sources and **www.renegadeonline.co.uk**, Promising to be a "scintillating, swinging soiree", who could resist? Not me – where's my feather boa?!!

Till next time!

**PERSEPHONE BELLE**

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LIVE THE LIFE YOU REALLY WANT!

### Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:  
86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU  
Tel: 0131 558 8358  
Fax: 0131 557 6781  
Saturday surgeries:  
9am Leith Library  
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn  
Community Centre  
12pm Stockbridge Library

### Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:  
86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU  
Tel: 0131 557 0577  
Fax: 0131 557 5759  
mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk  
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.

The next meeting on Monday 4th June, 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School.

Chris Richardson 07952 755 854  
@: chris\_richardson1001@hotmail.com

## Contacts

### Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

### Broughton Road Group

Chris Richardson 07952 755 854

### Broughton Village Association

Sarah Macauley 557 2724

### Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

### Gayfield Association

William McNair 556 4493

### Hopetoun Village Owners

hopetounvillage@hotmail.com

### Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

### Powderhall Owners Association

info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

### New Town/Broughton Community Council

Pat Eccles 225 4633

### Broughton History Society

Patrick Tyler 556 5036

### Drummond High School

556 2651

### Sovereign Court Residents

http://www.sovcourt.co.uk  
sovcourt@yahoo.co.uk

## THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

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### Broughton Property Management

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email: info@broughtonproperty.co.uk

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