

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

**February
2007**

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Briefly

The sale of Jenners has had an unexpected development for Broughton, as their former car park in Old Broughton is being put up for sale. Old Broughtonians may remember cars pulling in, complete with chauffeur at the wheel, compliments of the store while their owners spent a fortune on dressing gowns and suchlike. The Fraser family, who owned Jenners but held onto the car park, is tidying up its affairs. The land is being put on the market for offers over £800,000, although a bid over £1 million seems likely given its development potential. Watch this space.

Shrubhill House, the old Social Work HQ on Leith Walk is at long last being demolished to make way for student flats. A longstanding blemish on the Walk, demolition will commence within the next year, with the new building(s) completed by the end of 2009. Unite Group has paid the council over £6 million for the site, which will form part of the overhaul of the area along with the redevelopment of the old bus depot next door, as well as the coming of the trams. Few will mourn this monolith's passing.

The fire brigade's training base in McDonald Road is being replaced by a more up to date site in Newbridge where firefighters will train on all manner of situations, including a mock ship. With the McDonald Road site being sold off, this and the Marionville station are planned to be replaced by two new stations in Leith.

GROUND BREAKING SURVEY

Broughton Food Info



Edmund O'Connor writes:

A ground-breaking survey that "opens the door" on the hygiene in food outlets has found a number of Broughton businesses failing to meet the legal requirements.

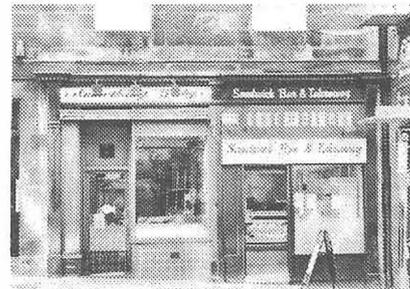
Outlets that received a 'Pass' certificate under the Food Hygiene Information Scheme (meaning they had satisfied the legal requirements) include Broughton Delicatessen, Khushi, Sala Cafe Bar, the Phoenix Bar and The Magnum, while The Basement Cafe, Blue Moon Cafe and Globe Deli were given an 'Improvement Needed' certificate.

Siam Thani is currently awaiting an inspection.

The scheme, which aims to give straightforward information to the public about the hygiene standards in food outlets, is a two-year pilot programme by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The Agency says the scheme will "help people make informed choices about where they eat or buy their food". Officials from Edinburgh council made the local inspections over several years, with the earliest in Broughton taking place in January 2006.

Covering the Holyrood, New Town and Tollcross wards, the scheme is currently voluntary with outlets not being required to publicly display their certificates.

As only the western side of Broughton Street falls within the New Town ward, there were no inspections on the other side of the street. In an admittedly far-from-thorough survey of food outlets on the afternoon of 29th January, the Spurtle found that only Something Fishy and Chequers Too were displaying their certificates. Both had passed the inspections.



Other councils in Scotland and the rest of the United Kingdom are also running the pilot scheme. A final report is due in 2008.

A full listing of outlets is available on the FSA's website: <http://www.foodstandards.gov.uk/scotland/safetyhygienescot/foodhygieneinfoscot/>.

A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON OUR STREETS

Control Parking Zone

From **Simon Challoner** (44) a social worker, married to Judy with 3 children currently living in Eildon Street, who has lived in the Broughton area for 21 years.

Having lived in the Broughton/Inverleith area for over 20 years I have been able to witness the increasing problems of finding on street parking for residents who live in this area due to the large numbers of commuters who view our streets as an ideal "park and ride" area during the week.

The introduction of the controlled parking zone (CPZ) on the 8th of January this year has had a significant impact on our street and the surrounding areas of Inverleith and Warriston.

Residents are now finding that there are no difficulties in parking outside their homes. We no longer have cars double parked on Eildon Street, causing major problems for the council's refuse trucks trying to gain access. In addition, the habit of the selfish commuters parking their vehicles on our pavements making it difficult for pedestrians to get out of their homes has ceased. Unfortunately there has been a downside to these new parking restrictions for our neighbours in Warriston and Pilrig Street where the CPZ has not been introduced. The commuters who used to clog up our streets have now moved further afield and can be seen every morning dumping their vehicles

in these streets before they go to work.

I personally welcome these new parking zones, which will benefit Inverleith residents, and can only hope that these are extended to benefit the rest of inner city dwellers. For once I applaud the actions of this council in taking serious actions when dealing with our inner city parking problems.



MARK LAZAROWICZ'S LETTER

Veterans Badge



Dear Editor,

I am writing to you to ask me to help publicise the "Veterans badge" to your readers. As some of your readers may know, the government has recently announced an extension of eligibility for the Veterans' Lapel Badge.

The extension of the badge allows all those who enlisted in HM Armed Forces between 3 September 1945 and 31 December 1959 to apply, which covers the period of the Korean conflict. All those who served during World War Two including those in the Cyprus Regiment, the Home Guard, and Polish Forces under UK command are also eligible, as are war widows, and Merchant Navy seamen who saw active service.

It is now over 60 years since the end of World War Two, but we must never forget the sacrifices so many young men, and women, gave for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Having met a number of ex-service men and women I know that many of those who served in the forces during this time wear their badge with a great deal of pride, and I am keen to ensure that all those who are eligible for the badge are given the opportunity to apply.

If any of your readers would like an application form, or more information on the badge, they can contact my office on 0131 557 0577, or write to me at my constituency office at 86-88 Brunswick Street, Edinburgh EH7 5HU (email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk). The government has also set up a dedicated free-phone Veterans' information line on 0800 169 2277.

Yours sincerely,

MARK LAZAROWICZ - MP for Edinburgh North & Leith

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform on local affairs; raise local issues; publicise the work of local action groups; make connections between the news and people's own lives in Broughton; and stir things up a bit! We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected to any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anybody to finance the paper.

We invite you to contact us: react to what you've read in your **Spurtle**, raise new issues, let us know about community activities, tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Telephone:

07985 213435

Email:

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Broughton's **Spurtle** now has a new editor and a new team.

Now more than ever we're anxious to get your story ideas, your responses, letters etc ...

The Spurtle is YOUR paper - be part of it!

From Saint to Spirit



Ross McLean continues his look at Broughton's historic buildings. In the December issue of the *Spurtle*, reference was made to the splendid Assay Office building at 24 Broughton Street.

Of equal note is the neighbouring building, also, somewhat confusingly, numbered 24 – don't ask, it's a bureaucratic matter! This imposing building dates from 1843-44 and was designed for the Catholic Apostolic Church, probably by John Dick Peddie, whose Trinity Church in Duke Street, Glasgow is a more ornate version. In architectural terms it is a pedimented temple with a recessed ionic portico. Internally the original design is much altered, but happily the external classical structure remains in fine shape, and has A-listed status in the New Town's World Heritage site.

In 1876 the Apostolic Church in Broughton transferred to rather more spacious premises down the road. It metamorphosed into the magnificent

Mansfield Church whose interior, with Phoebe Anna Traquair's luminous murals, is now revered as one of the glories of 19th-century *fin-de-siecle* ecclesiastical art.

In 1877, another metamorphosis took place when the elegant temple was claimed by Gaeldom, and took wing as St Oran Gaelic Church – possibly named after a 5th-century Irish saint, Odran the Martyr, St Patrick's chariot-driver, who was killed in an ambush intended for St Patrick. One of the Gaelic Church's notable ministers was the Rev. John Campbell Macgregor, chaplain to the Highland Division during World War One, who died from injuries at Dieppe in 1916. His Celtic-style army chaplain cross is in the loan holdings of the National Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street.

St. Oran's remained in situ until 1948. Thereafter, the building was successively a warehouse, an

auction-room, and offices. Three media, research, and advertising agencies – Spirit Media, George Street Research Ltd, and ARC Worldwide – now occupy No. 24, and their stewardship should ensure that one of Broughton's very finest architectural gems will shine on into the 21st century and beyond.

(The *Spurtle* would welcome readers' recollections of the St Oran Gaelic church for a future article – postal and email addresses on the back page)

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Drop your contribution in at Broughton History Society (any cheques should be made out to Edmund O'Connor.)

Belle's View



Hi fans

Mighty! I know it's a bit nippy, but the revival of hideous 80s legwarmers in this part of town is just too much! What's coming up to warm our cockles in Broughton and Bellevue?

Oooh, the heady smell of fresh ink! **The Printmakers Workshop**, at **23 Union Street** is having an exhibition: 40 Years of Edinburgh Printmakers. This fascinating show is accompanied by a short film, photographs and archive materials, offering a rare glimpse into the studio's talent-studded past. Part 1: 1967 to 1987 runs from 20 January to 3 March (10-6 Tue-Sat), and features groundbreaking prints by well-known Scottish artists such as **John Bellany**, **Peter Howson**, and famous painter and ex-Broughtonite **Sandy Moffat**, who used to live above the shop Beyond Words in Broughton Street.

Truly Scrumptious! Estelle and I have just attended a performance of the fabulous multiple award-winning musical **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** at the **The Playhouse** (daily, 7.30, mats Wed and Sat 2.30, until 24 Feb). While eye-candy **Joe McFadden** charmed the young swooners, the more mature among us were thrilled by our very own Rab C, **Gregor Fisher**, showing that there's sooooo much more to him than a string vest, and amazing the front rows with his dancing and high kicks!

If your New Year's resolution was to try something completely different, get along to brand new eaterie **Kebabish** on **Greenside Place**, Specialising in Pakistani/Desi cuisine, they promise "the thrill of the grill", giant nans, and mango and salty lassis!

Till next time,
PERSEPHONE BELLE

Have you got a story?

Spurtle needs you.

Phone 07985 213435 or e-mail
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Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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Edinburgh North and Leith



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Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library

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Gayfield Association

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Surgery at Broughton Primary School

Weds, 6.30pm-7pm, Term-time only.

Cllr David Guest

New Town Ward 558 8823 or

529 4268. Surgery at 67

Northumberland Street, Mondays,

6.30pm to 7.15pm

Sovereign Court Residents

<http://www.sovcourt.co.uk>

sovcourt@yahoo.co.uk



**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 5th March, 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School.

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E-mail: pat.eccles62@wanadoo.co.uk

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