

# Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 129

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Free

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## Broughton puts the reek in Auld Reekie

*We reported on the problem last year, remedial work was completed in January, but by mid-March the smell was back with a vengeance. Spurtle's Alan McIntosh has been investigating:*

The stink at the corner of Mansfield Place and East London Street is set to continue.

Despite intensive investigation and repairs to the main sewerage pipe at the turn of the year, something somewhere is still leaking. The smell – it comes and it goes, but it gets up your nose – has been very obvious over the summer, affecting passers-by and, especially, SCVO workers in Mansfield Traquair Centre. But Scottish Water – the body responsible for the sewerage system up to the boundaries of private properties – says it has done as much as it reasonably can. It will now launch a paper investigation, searching back through written and printed records of the area for clues.

Stewart Imrey, Local Network Operator, says 'We at Scottish Water did a very thorough job of surveying the problem. We even repaired a cracked pipe that probably wasn't the source of the trouble. But we just didn't find anything obviously wrong. The cause may well lie in a trap where the pipes from some nearby tenement join the main system. That makes it a private issue which householders will have to sort out'. Scottish Water is not prepared to pay

the costs of investigating every trap in the area, and it is unlikely that the Council will stump up the funds either. Instead, Scottish Water will search its records and – only if promising leads are found – get involved again at ground, or underground, level.

Unfortunately, finding the source of the smell will not be simple. Surveyors may never find a cataract of sewage, or even a gentle trickle. A stench like this can easily originate many metres away, permeating as

dampness through the soil before coming to the surface elsewhere. Given this difficulty, and the number of parties involved, there is clear potential for stalemate here, as householders, Scottish Water and the Council all bat away responsibility in a triangular game of ping-pong.

Obviously, what's needed is coordinated action and some clear leadership. **Spurtle** says: It's time for the Broughton Village Association and Councillor Davies to step into the, erm, breach.



**Spurtle's** resident photographer Davie Thomson went along to the Mela in Pilrig Park last weekend. 'Mela' is Sanskrit for 'gathering'. And quite a gathering it certainly was: Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani communities in Edinburgh started this annual intercultural festival back in 1995, and it's been growing ever since. Persephone Belle was there too – see her column on the back page.

## BRIEFLY

Guest storyteller Noel Cochrane kicks off Broughton History Society's new session with 'Wartime Leith: stories from the Second World War': Monday, 12th September, 7.15 for 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School. Future topics will include wartime code interception, the Botanics when they were in Broughton, the Museum of Scotland, the story of Crombie Butchers, Victorian Edinburgh and the history of the Playhouse.

*The Stafford Centre, Broughton Street, has an exhibition of work by their own Art Group from Monday, 12th September to Friday, 16th September, 1-4pm. The exhibition, free and open to everyone, is part of National Schizophrenia Fellowship (Scotland)'s 21 years celebration.*

There's an organ recital by Stephen Wood at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent on Thursday, 15th September, 7.30pm. The programme will include music by J. S. Bach, Joseph Jongen, Samuel Wesley, Alfred Hollins, Johannes Brahms, Cesar Franck, Johann Strauss and Felix Mendelssohn. Admission by programme, £6 (£4 concessions).

*The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Relief's flagship annual fundraising event. Local MP Mark Lazarowicz is hosting a local coffee-drinking session at Vittoria's Restaurant (corner of Brunswick Street and Leith Walk, opposite McDonald Road Library): Friday, 30th September, 10-11am. All proceeds from the sale of coffee during that hour will go to Cancer Relief.*

Some of the regulars of the Clarendon Bar put their best foot forward to support people with cerebral palsy by completing the Great Scottish Walk in June. On 7th September a cheque for almost £600 was presented to a representative of Capability Scotland by proprietors Jean-Philippe and Robin along with the others who'd taken part.

DOORS OPEN DAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER

## Café olé at Camino

St Mary's RC Cathedral at the top of Broughton Street has a new Parish Centre, built mainly of glass, where the carpark used to be. Inside there's a large hall, a small meeting-room (both may be booked for outside functions) and Café Camino, open from 8am to 4pm. 'Camino' is a Spanish word which means path; in 'Camino de Santiago de Compostela' it has the particular meaning of pilgrimage route to Santiago. Future plans include setting up a bookshop in the porch. Centre Manager Davy Nettleship may be contacted on 556 0027 or parishcentre@stmaryscathedral.co.uk

The Cathedral and Parish Centre are taking part in the Doors Open Day programme on 24th September from



10.30am to 5pm. Other Broughton venues opening their doors include Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent (10am to 4pm); and, farther afield, the Out of the Blue Drill Hall in Dalmeny Street (12pm to 6pm), where there will be an Arts Market - 'a chance to buy a huge range of artwork direct from the artists themselves'.

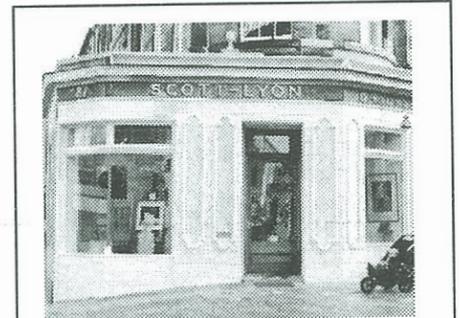
## ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY Teamwork praised



School Inspectors published their report on St Mary's RC Primary, East London Street at the end of August. Key strengths highlighted in the report include:

- pupils who are caring and respectful of each other
- staff who work very well as a team
- the overall ethos and the attention given to pupils' care and welfare
- curriculum provision for modern languages and music.

The inspectors also noted that staff provide a broad and well-balanced curriculum, and that pupils are highly motivated with positive attitudes to learning. They found that pupils thought St Mary's a friendly school where new pupils from a variety of backgrounds were made to feel welcome.



### Our new postbox

Broughton Books has been our postbox since 1994, but as we reported last month, the shop closes on Friday, 16th September: our thanks again to Peter Galinsky - and good luck! Calum Buchanan of Merz Art Gallery has agreed to fill the gap: thanks, Calum! You can put an envelope addressed to **Spurtle** through his letterbox at any time.

**Spurtle** is your local community paper. Contact us and:

- react to what **Spurtle** has had to say
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

**Telephone** 556 7727 or 556 0903

**Write** to us c/o Merz Art Gallery, 87 Broughton Street EH1 3RJ - you can put a letter through the letterbox at any time.

**e-mail**

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

## LONDON STREET

# Long live corner shops!

**Spurtle's** Ross MacLean accentuates the positive:

With the sad demise of the Sundial Launderette and Broughton Books in mind, it is heartening to report that another Broughton institution is expanding. The London Street Grocers shop, which currently trades 'above ground' in London Street, is refurbishing and streamlining its basement premises at the corner of Broughton Street and London Street, and re-launches on 10th September.

Established by the Mortaza family in 1968, this popular store is the oldest

of its kind in Broughton. In fact, the Mortazas were the first Asian fruit and vegetable merchants in Edinburgh. The massive display of produce, including exotic varieties of fruit not readily available elsewhere, has played no small part in establishing Broughton Street's vibrant, international 'scene' over the years.

We may be sure that the second generation will continue to run the family business with their familiar, welcoming attention, so lacking in the bland, 'big brother' superstores. Long may they flourish!

## DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

# Art students go global

*Pauline Cumming of Drummond explains:*

The Art Department is involved in an enterprise initiative which will see pupils planning, designing and staging a fashion show to take place early in 2006. The show's theme is 'Global Designs' and will feature garments, masks, jewellery and head-dresses inspired by colours, patterns and cultures from around the world.

We are hoping to build up exciting resource materials which will inspire pupils in their designs. If you have photographs, memorabilia or magazines – particularly National Geographic – that you no longer need, we would love to receive them in the Art Department.

*Think you could help? Contact Pauline Cumming at the School: 556 2651.*



*Saturday evening, 20th August: thanks to the neighbouring Mosque and Community Centre, local residents enjoyed a colourful display by the The Pakistan Army Pipe Band in Hopetoun Crescent Garden. The Band was in Scotland to take part in the World Pipe Band Championship, where it won two awards. The pipers also brightened up the start of term at Drummond Community High by rehearsing in the playground. Invited inside, they gave a concert; and were so impressed with the hospitality that they presented the school with a plaque to commemorate their visit.*

## BRIEFLY

*Reader Keith Cowan recently complained through his councillor about the state of repair of the pavement in Picardy Place. The pavement was duly inspected, but wasn't considered to need priority treatment on public safety grounds. This puzzles Keith as there are several paving stones that are clearly unsafe, particularly at the crossing outside The Street at the top of Broughton Street as you go over to John Lewis. But on the positive side bollards to prevent traffic parking up on the pavement have been promised within the current financial year.*

Last month we covered a complaint by Eric Robinson of Broughton Place about the mess caused by delays collecting rubbish bags; and Councillor Davies's comment that 'it takes two to tango' – residents need to dispose of their rubbish properly, and resistance to communal bins in the City Centre means black bags continue to attract cats, foxes and gulls. Eric was not impressed: 'I find Councillor Davies's response as arrogant as it is ignorant. With only rare exceptions, residents of Broughton Place present their refuse on the right day – IF THE RIGHT DAY IS CONSISTENT. One realises his agenda is to force the large refuse containers on residents, but even an occasional visit would indicate that, surrounded by overflow and careless disposal, they are even more vulnerable to the cats, foxes and gulls he speaks of. Pity when an elected representative fails to listen to his electors and can only respond with an ill-informed opinion'.

*The top three entrants in each category of the Keep Edinburgh Growing Garden Competition have been invited to an awards ceremony on 8th September.*

**Spurtle** will be at the printers by then, but we know there will be some Broughton winners again this year: details in our October edition.

# Belle's View



## Hi fans

Well, that's all the festivaling over, and yet again we have managed to survive the leaflet avalanche and pavement congestion, and will be able to sleep without being woken by the sounds of distant drumming and fireworks! But be assured, there are still activities galore to be had in swinging **Broughton and Bellevue!**

**Estelle Murgatroyd** and I trotted along to the **Sakhian** (*Ladies Night*) of the **Edinburgh Mela** in **Pilrig Park** recently, and what a marvellous evening we had, with traditional Urdu and Gaelic singing, and energetic Bollywood-style dance displays. And **Lord Provost Lesley Hinds'** ceremonial chains were well out-glittered by the fabulous outfits on display! Gorgeous food was provided by **Mrs Unis Kitchen**, and the indomitable **Mrs Unis** was there herself, endearing herself to the excited and chattering throng by yelling at us to **SIT DOWN AND BE QUIET**, so we could hear the performers!

Autumn is not just a time for a change in seasonal vegetables – you can stop yourself from becoming a couch potato by taking up new skills through joining day and evening classes, and our local **Drummond Community High School** has a full action-packed schedule for the season. Whether you want to see some *Cine Espanol*, do some line dancing, learn a new language, or be (alarmingly) toned to the bone, there will be something of interest! Contact 0131 556 2651 or [admin@drummond.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@drummond.edin.sch.uk) for full details. **Estelle** and I are signing up for **Fancy Handbags** on Wednesdays, 10am – 12!

Till next time, just do it!

*Persephone Belle*

**Spurtle** is looking for

someone with basic computer skills (preferably Mac) to help produce the paper. On-the-job training in desktop publishing skills can be provided. If you might be interested please phone John Dickie on 556 0903.



## New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

### Vacancy for Community Councillor

The Community Council represents the views of local residents to Edinburgh City Council. There is a vacancy on the Community Council. If you think you might be interested phone the Secretary for a chat.

The next meeting is on

Monday 3rd October, 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School.  
Secretary Annette O'Carroll 556 7586  
E-mail [aocarroll@onetel.net](mailto:aocarroll@onetel.net)

### THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

We always require properties to meet constant demand

### Broughton Property Management

61 Broughton Street  
Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail: [info@broughtonproperty.co.uk](mailto:info@broughtonproperty.co.uk)

## Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency office: 86-88 Brunswick Street  
Edinburgh, EH7 5HU.

Tel: 0131 557 0577

Fax: 0131 557 5759

Email: [mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk](mailto:mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk)

Website: [www.marklazarowicz.org.uk](http://www.marklazarowicz.org.uk)

Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

## Contacts

**Bellevue and Claremont  
Residents Association**  
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

**Broughton Road Group**  
Pat Eccles 556 7550

**Broughton Village Association**  
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762  
(daytime)

**Friends of Hopetoun Crescent  
Garden**  
Mitchell Manson 557 1933

**Gayfield Association**  
William McNair 556 4493

**Powderhall Owners Association**  
[info@powderhallvillage.co.uk](mailto:info@powderhallvillage.co.uk)

**Redbraes Residents  
Association**  
George Hosey 467 6151

**New Town Broughton and  
Pilrig Community Council**  
Anette O'Carroll 556 7586

**Broughton History Society**  
John Dickie 5560903

**Cllr Trevor Davies**  
Broughton Ward 529 3221  
Surgery at Broughton Primary  
School, Weds. 6.30pm to  
7.30pm

**Cllr David Guest**  
New Town Ward 558 8823 or  
529 4268. Surgery at 67  
Northumberland Street on  
Mondays from 6.30pm to 7.15pm

## 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