

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

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BROUGHTON STREET LANE

Planning appeal rejected

It's been a 3-year saga of ups and downs for local residents, but in late August a Scottish Government

Reporter finally turned down a developer's plan to build on the wee car park site in Broughton Street Lane.

Early this year the City Council's planning committee unanimously refused planning permission for Prosper Holdings Ltd's proposed 3-storey block of flats; but the developers appealed. Now, after a site visit, Reporter David Russell has rejected the developer's argument that the scale of the project was essential to its commercial 'viability', and also slammed its 'alien and incongruous design'.

Reader Janice Donaldson of Forth Street tells us her and her neighbours' homes would have been overshadowed by the new block of flats. She says local residents are in celebratory mood: there's talk of a Lane party!



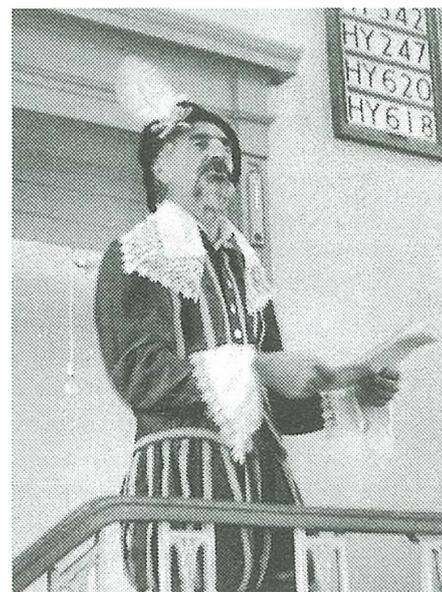
LOCAL MP'S BLOG

What's he up to?

MP Mark Lazarowicz now has his own online diary, where he posts news of some of his day-to-day thoughts and activities – and invites comment from readers. You can access it by going to his website, marklazarowicz.org.uk, and clicking 'Mark's blog' near the top of the home page. An entry for 26th August:

'I see that the Tesco on Broughton Road has just been going through one of its periodic reorganisations. Part of the change has been to replace the café with a Costa Coffee outlet. As a result, we've seen the disappearance of one of

the few places in the Broughton Road area where people could get an "ordinary" – and not too expensive – cup of coffee or tea. I know that the café was a popular gathering place for a lot of local pensioners, who would often meet up after they'd done their messages. Now they've been turfed out, with only a sign on a blackboard saying "Thank you for your custom over all the years"!!! Here's an example of big business taking away what was a well-used community facility – to make a bit more money, I am sure, but I suspect even that will not be much.'



'It's been a lang time – fower hunnert year.' In early August Sir Lewis Bellenden, 16th-century Baron of Broughton, opened the local history exhibition. Report on page 2.

1,600 visits to exhibition



'Here's ma ain coat of arms. And here a faithful representation o' ma Tollbooth, where I or ma Baillie would sit in judgement on offenders from throughout ma lands, and incarcerate them in the dungeon ablow. And here is an auld hoose callit "The Witches Howff". I can hear the screams of those lost souls noo, as we dispatched them to their Maker! Mebbe King Jamie and masel got a bit carried awa' when it came tae

witchcraft. Certes it was a mistake to ask the warlock Ritchie Graham to aid me tae summon up the Deil: indeed it was the daith o' me! But that's a tale best no dwelt on. (I can feel ma heart beat faster as I speak o' it.)

But I have merely tellt the start o' Broughton's story. Tae see what befell ma Barony efter ma ain days were done has been a maist welcome education. Ladies and Gentlemen – I commend this exhibition to your close

attention and do hereby declare it officially open.'

Following its opening by 16th-century baron Sir Lewis Bellenden (ably portrayed by Richard Love of Bellevue Place), over the next two weeks the Broughton's Story exhibition went on to attract a steady flow of visitors – many returned for a second look. A display of maps, drawings and photos traced the early history of our area, and then more recent times street-by-street. Former Broughton residents met at the exhibition for the first time in years; and there were animated discussions as old classmates were spotted in the collection of school photos. Also included were artefacts illustrating social history, and local memories recorded on cassette. Past and present residents were able to record their part in Broughton's history on a large-scale map. Visitors brought in photos to add to the display; and at the 'Feedback' table left information and a list of questions for the history society to follow up.

Hard work by Society members, and then an excellent partnership with the minister and congregation of St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent, led to a very successful community event.

MCDONALD ROAD KWIK-FIT SITE

Planning application lodged

A proposal for the Kwik-Fit site on McDonald Road, combining continued commercial use with purpose-built student accommodation, has now been sent to the City Council's planning department by developers Unite. A reference number for the application was not available as we went to press; but the plans should be available for inspection and comment by the time you read this, on the Council's website and at the Planning Department office in Cockburn Street.

Reader Christine McFarlane owns a flat in Croall Place; she wrote to us worried about the prospect of noise in the early hours of the morning. We

asked Unite's architect to respond. He says this is not going to be standard, undergraduate accommodation: they're marketing it for more mature, often foreign, postgraduates. There will be postgraduate student 'co-ordinators' employed, one resident on each floor, who will deal with any misbehaviour themselves if possible; or call in a manager if necessary. There will also be 24-hour CCTV, piped direct to the company's control centre in Bristol. A similar development of student accommodation opens in Lady Lawson Street in September; he hopes experience there will help dispel any worries.

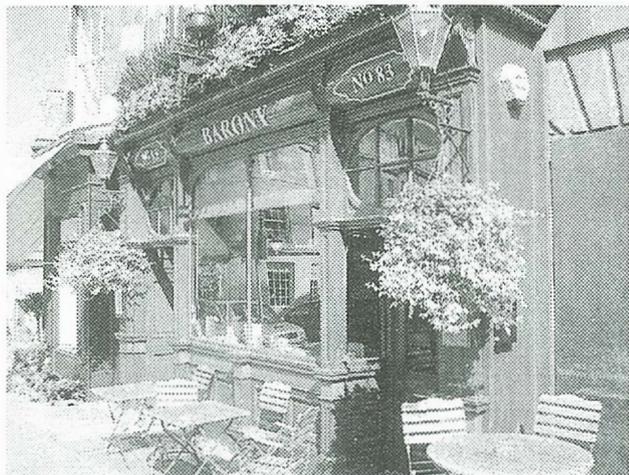
In our July edition Unite architect Mike Pottinger-Glass offered a bottle of champagne for the best suggested name for the new complex. Last month we got Farmer's Acre or Farmersland, since followed up by reader Mary MacLeod's Tom's Land. Andrew Johnstone of Gayfield Square suggests John Hope's Court, to honour the founder of the 18th-century Botanic Garden which included the development site. And David Watt proposes Carson House: before McDonald Road, the street here was called Carson Street, probably named after a 19th-century rector of the Royal High School – Aglionby Ross Carson. More suggestions welcome!

BROUGHTON STREET

Historic Barony Bar

Ross MacLean waxes enthusiastic:

Who would have thought, even ten years ago, that one of the pleasures of Broughton Street in summer would be alfresco wining and dining? Public houses have accommodated this welcome trend by providing an increasingly sophisticated cuisine, in



tandem with Broughton's cosmopolitan cafés and restaurants.

Currently, there are seven pubs in Broughton Street – The Street, Mathers, Baroque, the Barony Bar, the Cask and Barrel, Mezz, and the Phoenix. To the historian, perhaps the Barony Bar is of special note. The building at No. 88, which originally incorporated Nos. 83 and 85 Broughton Street, was part of a 5-storey corner basement built in 1830 by a Walter Burns, upholsterer, and a David Chalmers, baker, who both traded from the premises. In 1860 a John Moffat took over No. 85 as a 'spirit dealer'. In

1900 a John McLauchlan operated as a spirit merchant at both Nos. 83 and 85, and it was he who really established the Barony Bar as we know it.

While there has been some refurbishment over the years, the external and internal structure of the early Victorian building are little changed. There are two mirrored fireplaces, one of which has a hearty coal fire in winter, a fine corniced ceiling and several splendid hanging lamps. But perhaps the chief glory of the bar is the extensive wall-tiling which includes many superbly executed scenic views. These certainly bear comparison with the famed examples in the Café Royal and Kenilworth bars.

In certain lights, the Barony is suggestive of a howff in the thatched village which, of course, Broughton once was – with a feeling of *gemutlichkeit*, especially when the sleet flies horizontally outside.

Unsurprisingly, the Barony Bar is an 'A'-listed building, of special architectural and historic interest. Long may it flourish. Its superb floral displays are a sign that it will. On which note – Broughton *en fleur* – watch this space!

PILRIG

Traditional fiddling

Della Penny of Pilrig Street reports:

On Friday afternoons in Pilrig Church, youngsters are picking up the fiddle and learning to play traditional Scottish music. This is nothing new as there is a history of playing traditional music in the area – particularly from Orkney and Shetland.

I moved into Pilrig twelve years ago and often noticed the sign on Pilrig Street saying Zetland Hall. Being half Orcadian myself, my ears prick up at

the very mention and I had heard of the Orkney & Shetland Supper Dances, and just about any Orcadian I met – young or old – knew somebody who used to have digs in Pilrig Street or nearby.

Zetland Hall was the long, low building behind 11 Pilrig Street and that was where the Shetland Fiddlers met and played for many years. Originally called Glendinning's Ballroom, it was taken over and renamed Zetland Hall in

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BRIEFLY

The Scotland Yard Adventure Centre is having a **family festival day** on Saturday 9th September, 11am to 4pm. The Yard provides creative and adventurous play opportunities to children with additional support needs and children from the local community. The festival day is open to the wider public, featuring live music, games, stalls, a café, BBQ and bar, a raffle, face painting, a bouncy castle; and the GIANTS photo exhibition, which explores the history of disability and rights. After the daytime event, The Yard re-opens from 6pm till late to host the GIANTS closing party, featuring more music, food and a bar. Entry is free but donations would be very welcome.

Broughton History Society's new session starts with **'Trams and Buses of Edinburgh'** by David King, on Monday, 11th September, 7.15 (tea/coffee) for 7.30pm at Drummond Community High. Visitors welcome (£1).

Drummond Librarian Annie Scanlon tells us the **Costume Society of Scotland** starts its new session with 'The Use of Historical Costume in Education' on 2nd October, followed by a talk on Corsetry 1600 – 1900 on 6th November. The meetings are held at Over-Seas House, 100 Princes Street, 7.30pm.

The introduction of controlled parking locally has resulted in a superfluity of signposts, dozens of them cluttering up the pavements. Surely in contradiction of City Council guidelines on street furniture?

As we prepared this edition, a painting by Scottish Colourist John Duncan Fergusson, 'The Pink Box', was being given full-colour front-page treatment in the mainstream media. The painting was coming up for auction, and expected to fetch up to £300,000. In his late twenties Fergusson (1874 – 1961) lived in his father's house at **16 East Claremont Street**, where he had his studio on the top floor.

Continued from page 3

1962 by the Edinburgh & District Shetland Association which had been set up in 1928 to cater for the continual economic migration from the Northern Isles. They used the hall to meet and play on a Thursday night. This continued until the 1980s when Zetland Hall was sold in response to the diminishing Shetland population in Edinburgh, the Shetland oil boom being responsible for reversing the economic migration. There is now a reincarnation of the Shetland Fiddlers which meets in the Royal Scots Club.

But back in Pilrig, although Zetland Hall is no more, I like the idea that the spirit of the Shetland Fiddlers may still be lingering in the area and that something of it has found its way into Pilrig Church on a Friday afternoon.

Children's classes begin on 8th September in Pilrig Church, from beginners to advanced. For further information please call 554 7698.

Spurtle is your local community paper. We aim to inform about 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!

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 Narcissus, 87 Broughton Street EH1 3RJ – you can put a letter through the letterbox at any time.

E-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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Have you got a story?

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broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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



New Town/Broughton Community Council

The Community Council represents the views of local residents to Edinburgh City Council.

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

Secretary Pat Eccles, 225 4633
E-mail pat@eccles62.wanadoo.co.uk

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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E-mail: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk
Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office

Contacts

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Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 225 4633

Broughton Village Association

Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

Dicksonfield Owners and Residents Association

Scott Richards 557 8879

Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Gayfield Association

William McNair 556 4493

Hopetoun Village Owners

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Powderhall Owners Association

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Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

New Town/Broughton Community Council

Pat Eccles 225 4633

Broughton History Society

Patrick Tyler 556 5036

Drummond Community High

556 2651

Cllr Trevor Davies

Broughton Ward 529 3221 Surgery at Broughton Primary School, Weds. 6.30pm to 7.30pm (Term time only)

Cllr David Guest

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

AEROBICS

Broughton St Mary's Church
12 Bellevue Crescent
From Monday 21st August 7.00pm
Mixed ability – all welcome
£30 for 10 sessions £4 for 1 session
Bring mat, towel, water.
Fiona: tel. 07931341485