

# BROUGHTON SPEIL

## Asides of March

As we write this in the last days of February, the weather storming around us, we could be anticipating the incoming month of March. It's during March that the teuchit's storm occurs.

Teuchit is still used in some parts, but is the bird more generally known as the peewit. Their storm is traditionally a period of bleak wintry weather in March when they arrive and begin to nest. Why, when they could still be sunning themselves somewhere more congenial is up to them - presumably even teuchits have their reasons.N

In its various forms this wee creature gets around. As the peewit it was used in Fife to describe a miner's semmit, usually blue-grey by reference to the bird's plumage. We make no comment on laundering techniques thereabouts. And a peesie-weesie was a person sharp-featured, shrill, whining - as well you might be if you had flown in to nest in Scotland during March's teuchit's storm.

At the end of March, the last three days were known as the borrowin days. Lore has it that at some point these days were borrowed from April - and clearly never returned. So March has much to answer for, but at least this can't be pinned on the teuchit.

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:

Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Tom Perman, Ian Thomson, Jane Coville, Michael Dixon, Catherine Broitman, Tim Puntis, Luc Bouzol, Allan Wilson Eleanor Gaw, George Reiss, Eileen Dickie.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the SPURTLE please contact us.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 3rd March** Community Council meeting, Drummond Community High, 7.30pm. All welcome - the chance of a sneak preview of Ian Appleton's Hopetoun Masterplan, shortly to be considered by the City Council.

**Monday 3rd March** 'Branches Everywhere' - Pointers to climbing your family tree, speaker Alice Lauder. Broughton History Society, at Drummond Community High, 7.15 for 7.30pm.

**Tuesday 11th March** Song Recital at the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library, 7.45pm. Sheila Graham (mezzo-soprano), Stuart Montgomery (piano). Admission free.

**Saturday 22nd March** Book Sale at the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library, 9am to 1pm.

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# BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 35

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## FALSE CHOICES

As we wait for the City Council to fix its budget, we're being presented with false choices. Folk at the Stafford Centre worry that mental health services won't have the same popular appeal as schools, for example, when it comes to the crunch. But **Spurtle** rejects the choice between old and

young, education and health, social work and the environment.

We believe this country can afford decent services for all. Including traffic calming to make our streets safer, healthier and more pleasant to live in!

It's the political will that seems to be missing.



A wheel-kent face has gone from Broughton Street. Calum of Just Junk is moving on to other things - with the emphasis on his artistic interests. The distinctive painting on the wall round the corner remains - his legacy to the local scene.

New feature  
**Debate**  
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## BRIEFLY

- An appeal to folk working in the **Broughton Market** area, who park their cars in the lane there: DON'T! **Spurtle** hears it's getting clogged up, and pedestrians risk life and limb from traffic squeezing through.
- *Still at Broughton Market. The causeystanes through from Barony Street to Dublin Street were dug up to lay cable, and then very poorly replaced. At least one local resident has phoned the Council about this - but no response yet!*
- **Champions Club's** former premises at the corner of Annandale Street and Hopetoun Crescent are coming down - the site is part of the proposed Teague housing development. But the Club will re-surface farther up the Street. They've been granted planning permission to develop the old Magnet building as a leisure centre complete with 8-lane bowling alley.
- *Following objections by Pilrig Street resident Mr Tobermann, a public local enquiry Reporter has recommended amendment of the proposed Leith Conservation Area. He's advised the City Council to extend the boundary to include part of the south side of the Street excluded in their plan. But he didn't accept that Pilrig Cottages, Shaw's Terrace and Shaw's Place should also be included.*

More Briefly on page 3





Michael Dixon lives in Barony Street. He convenes the Community Council's traffic sub-committee.

## Debate

**Last month we covered a meeting on the traffic situation in Broughton Street. Council officials promised to carry out a survey and report back in a public consultation by mid-March. Meanwhile the controversy continues over the banning of cars from one side of Princes Street, and the proposal that this be extended to the other side in due course. What's the connection? Spurtle presents two local views.**

Six months ago the City of Edinburgh Council's Central Edinburgh Traffic Experiment removed eastbound traffic from Princes Street. Straight away traffic on Broughton Street increased and the locality became blighted by more accidents, fumes, congestion and illegal parking. The Council now proudly boasts that the experiment has "reduced traffic volumes and has thereby reduced accidents, pollution and improved the pedestrian environment" - and so it has on Princes Street, but not on Broughton Street.

But Broughton Street is not the only street to have been affected in this way. Similar concerns come from Howe Street, Northumberland Street, Dundas Street, North West Circus Place, Great King Street, etc, etc - and this is only the beginning! When westbound traffic is removed from Princes Street and when the Greenways scheme is implemented as well, the traffic displacement will be even greater and the nuisance of more cars, more noise, more pollution, more accidents, and more illegal parking, will ripple out to areas like Bellevue, Broughton, Canonmills and Stockbridge, that are currently unaffected.

While the Council is right to work to counter the effects of increased car ownership, it is doubtful whether the Central Edinburgh Traffic Experiment is the right solution. In the main the scheme does nothing to reduce overall traffic in the city centre but merely displaces it onto Queen Street and into adjoining street networks through residential areas

that were neither designed nor constructed for the purpose of carrying through traffic, which of course Princes Street was.

It must be recognised that the improvements on Princes Street have been achieved at the expense of the surrounding residential areas and that any extension of the scheme threatens to turn the whole residential city centre into a maze of rat-runs. Any judgement about this £1.25 million experiment cannot be based solely on the advantages brought to Princes Street but must also consider the disadvantages created elsewhere.

Jane Coville lives in East Claremont Street. She's wielded a SLOW DOWN placard in Broughton Street.



For one brief moment I am being equally as radical as David Begg and his Transport Strategy. I am praising a councillor - the truth is out! I believe we are fortunate in Edinburgh to have people like Begg with the vision and determination to implement measures needed to make us masters of the car, not its slaves.

The closure of the north side of Princes Street has obviously caused traffic problems for other areas. Unfortunately, over the short-term, this appears a necessary evil. The answer is to campaign for measures to remedy these problems, not to cancel the Princes Street project.

The Council is aware that it is vital to retain public support for such radical policies. As part of its "Moving Forward" strategy a transport awareness programme is being set up, to involve communities in the future of Edinburgh's transport development - get involved! I don't believe this is just window dressing.

The Princes Street closure is only one part of the strategy. It also includes Greenways to improve the efficiency of buses, the CERT busway from the airport, park-and-ride sites on the outskirts, more cycle paths and walkways - all designed to encourage people to "divorce" their cars. The Council is constrained by reliance on approval and funding by the Scottish Office - and by the deregulation of buses, which should be under Council control.

The only cure appears to be to lead by example. If we are not prepared to sacrifice in the short term for the long term good, the word LEAD will take on a whole new meaning and make our city a very uncomfortable place to be.

## AS OTHERS SEE US

Catherine Broitman and Luc Bouzol, from France, are spending a year in Broughton.

We came to Scotland for the first time last Easter holidays, with our two sons. We enjoyed our travel all over Scotland, and we fell in love with

but with a very nice view. The area is very quiet, near the centre, and we enjoy Broughton Street where we can find any shop we need. But it would be better if there were some shops in East Claremont Street, which is quite sad. Moreover at sunset (very early in winter!) the street lights are very poor, and the atmosphere is yet sadder.



Edinburgh. When we went back to France we decided to live in Edinburgh for a year.

When we arrived the 14th August 1996 we discovered Broughton area for the first time, and it was there that we found a flat to rent. Before we used to live in Paris, in a modern building, and this area looked very different. Here we are living in an old flat - with some water leaks when it's raining,

Our sons Paul and Boris are going to Broughton Primary School. At the beginning it was difficult for them because they didn't speak English at all. Now they begin to speak, and understand more and more. Their teachers are very kind to them. The school looks like a castle to them!

The lifestyle is very different for us because here we don't work (we are looking for a job but it's difficult to find one). We are attending some English courses at Telford College, and we meet a lot of students. But we wish we met more Scottish families.

Finally, we don't regret our choice to come to Edinburgh, where the people are lovely and Scotland a very nice country.

### 7A BUS SERVICE

*This service runs in the evenings from Monday to Saturday and on Sundays it runs all day. It is a half hourly service from Granton to Captain's Road and back.*

*From Drummond High bus stop towards Captains Road the service times are-*

*Monday-Saturday 7.32pm - every half hour - 11.02pm  
Sundays 8.32am - every half hour - 11.02pm*

*From Bellevue Crescent bus stop towards Granton the service times are-*

*Monday-Saturday 7pm - every half hour - 11.30pm  
Sundays 9.30am - every half hour - 11pm*

*Any comments on the service? Write to Charles Evans, LRT plc, 1-4 Shrub Place, EH7 4PA.*

## BRIEFLY Continued

- There's a **Library Book Sale** at the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road on Saturday, 22nd March, 9am to 1pm. This is likely to be the last large book Sale in McDonald Road Library for some time, as there's a move towards holding smaller, local book sales on a more regular basis and in various libraries. So the Hall will be cleared of all the shelving and boxes of books, and left clear and tidy for other events.
- Also at the Nelson Hall, a weekly **Toy Library** started in February. It's on every Thursday, 10 - 11.30am, staffed by WRVS volunteers. The idea is to supply a wide variety of interesting and stimulating toys to children who would not otherwise have access to them - at only a few pence a time.
- Last month Janice Johnston told us about the **fox sighted** in Bellevue. Now Ian Thomson has seen one in Barony Street, in the middle of the day. Unlike the Bellevue beast, it was far from emaciated, and trotted off round into Broughton Market as he watched.
- Ian Dunn aims to open his new **Stonewall Restaurant** in the Gay Centre building on St Patrick's Day. There will be a blessing and official opening by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on Saturday 29th March. Neighbouring residents and businesses in Broughton Street will get an invitation by flyer nearer the time.

### BROUGHTON STREET BRUNCHERIE

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