

# Spurtle



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**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free**

## NEW TOWN JOINS WASTE MANAGEMENT TRIALS

A range of waste management solutions is being piloted across the Edinburgh World Heritage Site between May and October.

Measures under review in the New Town include:

- Black and grey food-waste recycling boxes for indoor storage of biodegradably wrapped scraps
- Retention of black bin bags in some areas (e.g. Regent and Calton Terraces, Drummond Place)
- Black bin bags presented in gull-proof wrappers (e.g. Great King St)
- Collection of rubbish between 7pm and 11pm (also for parts of Leith)
- Distribution of: individual household wheelie-bins (e.g. Cumberland St); medium-sized on-street bins (1 per 12 households, e.g. Heriot Row); and large on-street bins (1 per 26 households, e.g. Forth St and Broughton Place).



With the pilot in place before the gulls' breeding season begins, it is expected that reduced food supplies will reduce chick numbers and the birds' consequent predation and sometimes aggressive behaviour.

The Edinburgh World Heritage Trust have agreed the scheme, which will be judged on the grounds of cleanliness, public reaction, and the impact on the city's built heritage.

Mike Penny, City Centre and North Neighbourhood Partnership Manager, outlined the arrangements at the New Town and Broughton Community Council meeting on 4 April. 'The current situation is untenable, and legislation means changes to waste management *must* be introduced by 2013,' he told members. 'These trials are about *how* to deliver improvements, not *if*.'

## BITTER-SWEET BROUGHTON EXPERIENCE BEHIND LOLLY

Independent Holyrood candidate Ken O'Neill has campaigned in part for the setting-up of 'Lothian Lolly'.



Something between a complementary regional currency to boost local production/consumption and a quality-standard mark, the notion is based on the successful Brixton Pound in South London. However, it was a recent shopping trip to Broughton which suggested Scottish applications for the model.

'The local traders association had encouraged its members to put up signs that read "Shop Local. Use Us ... or Lose Us,"' writes O'Neill. 'This was a really good example of local businesses doing something to promote themselves and make people appreciate what they offered. I went into one of the shops displaying the sign to buy a paper and a chocolate bar ... the woman behind the counter did not stop her telephone conversation. The only thing she said to me was "bye" as I left the shop, which was in response to me saying goodbye to her. There was no please or thank you, she didn't tell me how much my

purchases came to or how much change I was supposed to have. In fact, it has to rank as some of the worst customer service I've ever received ...

'To help ensure this doesn't happen, we can use the Lothian Lolly as a benchmark. Every participating business would receive a score of one, two or three lollies for both their selection and/or quality of products plus their customer service.'

O'Neill's alternative currency suggestions are outlined at: [<http://lothiansken.wordpress.com/2011/04/22/lets-lick-the-economy-into-shape/>]. Broadly related innovative ways to boost Edinburgh's local economy are discussed on Greener Leith's website at: [<http://audioboo.fm/boos/326173-reflecting-on-the-edinburgh-local-economy-day>].

## PARK PROBLEMS ON HOPETOUN CRESCENT

The behaviour of some homeless people – drawn to the area by free meals from the Missionaries of Charity at 18 Hopetoun Crescent – is causing problems for other locals.

'While the homeless are entitled to use our gardens,' writes Thomas Leonard, 'I believe that the nuns should encourage their visitors to follow the rules. Instead, the litter by some benches heaps up from day to day, and one of the trees in the middle of the park gets a particularly heavy drenching' (see also *Letters*, 13.4.11).

Other neighbours agree, some claiming that the police are reluctant to get involved.

Eileen Dickie is Chair of the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden, which received a prestigious Green Flag award in 2010. She says there is an ongoing issue with homeless people – who have nowhere else to go during the day – fouling the area, unintentionally intimidating other users, and occupying all the benches. If last year is anything to go by, locals can also expect to find people sleeping rough here over the summer.

'We hope to arrange a meeting soon with officials from the North and Central Neighbourhood Partnership, Police, and nuns,' she says. 'We need practical solutions to a problem which has been getting worse.'

However, humans are not the only nuisance hereabouts: dogs are also responsible for unwelcome donations, whilst their owners encourage destruction by throwing balls into the daffodils.

## Calton-hillies see off 'fun' of the fair

Calton Hill residents have seen off a proposed 9-week funfair on their doorstep over August and September.

Supported by the New Town and Broughton Community Council, their points of objection included:

- It runs contrary to the 2010 Edinburgh parks management strategy.
- A funfair would not constitute the purposes of peaceful relaxation for which this common good land is intended.
- The duration of the proposed event exceeds the 4-week maximum laid out in Council guidelines.
- Calton Hill's elevation would result in unacceptable noise pollution over a wide area.
- Increased footfall would result in soil erosion at this site of special scientific interest.
- Potential damage/vandalism to historic monuments.
- Occupation of hard standing would potentially block access for the emergency services.

The funfair's backers apparently proposed comparatively modest business hours of 11am–9.30pm, but residents who remember previous local events in the 1990s and 2000 remained deeply disturbed.

They also pointed out that with the City charging only £300 per night (£16,000 for the whole let), the event would not offer a major financial gain to Edinburgh.

Licensing officials contacted by the *Spurtle* initially denied all knowledge of any such application. Friends of Calton Hill and Hillside Gardens were equally perplexed, as was the Licensing Convener who raised the issue at the April meeting of the NTBCC. However, a CEC Parks and Greenspace official finally confirmed that the application for an events licence had been turned down.

## Further and Highers still

Up-and-coming local field athlete Kimberley Reed had her first important competition of the year on 9 April, writes father *Scott Reed*.

The main focus of her training for the early part of the season was to try and achieve the qualification standard for the World Youth Championships in Lille, France in July (53m) and the Commonwealth Youth Games, Isle of Man in September (49m). To put this in perspective, the Scottish under-17 record held by Myra Perkins is 52.02m, and only three British under-17 athletes have ever thrown further than 53m. Add to this the fact that Kimberley's training has been disrupted by an ingrowing toenail and you can understand our concern that she probably wouldn't hit the target.

We needn't have worried. In a near flawless display of hammer throwing at Grangemouth Stadium, Kimberley threw: 51.42m, 52.88m, 52.04m, 53.63m, 50.38m and 51.36m with her 6 throws, beating her previous personal best 5 times and breaking the Scottish under-17 record twice.

She is currently the only Scottish athlete to have qualified for the WYC, and can now refocus her attention on passing her Highers, which she sits later this month.



Photo by Bank of Scotland 'Local Heroes'.

### A late Presidential visit



Photo by Paul Currah.

Happily, *Spurtle* receives correspondence from a' the airts. This evanescent image winged its way from Paul, Hélène and Étienne in Cambridge who had viewed Old Calton Burial Ground on a recent visit. For about 5 minutes, the sunlit shadow of Abraham Lincoln moved across the gravestone facing his marvellous memorial. Here he is, stilled – the seizure of a magical moment.

### Lively in ivy



Photo by Angus Brenner.

Charlie Duncan (above) was one of 180 children who had their faces painted at the multicultural green Ecofusion in Inverleith Park on 10 April.

Seven thousand people attended the event in which environmental bodies combined with people from Britain, the Caribbean, China, Eritrea, India, Japan, Lebanon, Nepal, Senegal and Somalia to enjoy mask making, stone painting, chocolate tree and chai tea stalls, henna painting, origami, puppet shows, storytelling, a drumming workshop, nature-inspired arts and crafts, a plant stall, climbing, cycling, dance, food, football, music and solar-powered cinema.

### A splendour of downpipes



Lengthy restoration and pointing of the stonework on the western exterior of St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral in Cathedral Lane was recently completed.

The impressively executed work was carried out by John Dennis & Co. (Scotland) Ltd, the company which was also responsible for the major refurbishment of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church (2008–10).

Of special note are the splendid rainwater downpipes (which are dated 1932), surely among the most elegant in the city. *JRM*

## Old trout HQ on Dundas Street Photo challenge

Last month's mystery photograph was of the door knocker at 29 Dundas Street, home to the Edinburgh Trout Anglers' Club (ETAC).



The organisation was originally established in Rutland Street in 1899, but moved to this end of town in 1966. Here the premises include a bar, lounge, games room with full-sized snooker table, and a smaller room mainly used by other fishing clubs.

ETAC exists 'to promote social activities among trout anglers and to further the interests of their art', to which ends it arranges outings and meets annually for dinner and presentation of silverware and prizes. New members – regardless of ability – are welcome. Contact: Alan Gray on Tel. 334 1255; email alan.gray44@btinternet.com. AM



We invite readers to identify the location of this interesting relic, one of two on the same Broughton street. A £15 book token is on offer, particularly if you can contribute to an expanded future article on the lamp-post's history.

## Briefly

**Broughton Primary and St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary Schools** will be closed on 5 May during use as polling stations during the Scottish Parliamentary election and Referendum.

**Pride Scotia** – the national celebration of diversity and the LGBT community – will have its Edinburgh march on Sat. 7 May. See: [www.pride-scotia.org].

**Broughton History Society's** next meeting will be at 7pm on 9 May in Drummond Community High School. Barbara Mortimer will talk on 'Mrs Boyle of Broughton Street and her Colleagues: **Nineteenth-century Edinburgh Midwives**'. As ever, no arrangements are in place for those members wishing to be held upside down afterwards and spanked.

Two long-standing and much admired staff members have retired from Broughton Primary School. **Linda Scott** first came to teach the senior language class in 1998, but has since contributed to the life and work of the school 'to an extent way beyond her remit'. **Joyce Dickson** has been at the school – as parent and secretary – for over 23 years, and was frequently mistaken for the headteacher. Pupils conflating her wisdom, surname and job description knew her as the '**School Dictionary**'.

**A cyclist died** on 28 April at Broughton Point, crushed by a bin lorry turning left into E. Clarendon St from Broughton Rd (*Breaking news*, 28.4.11). The tragedy **reignited concerns** about local traffic volume and speed, particularly around **Broughton Primary School**.

**Edinburgh state schools break up** on 2 May and resume on 3 May, then break up again on 23 May and resume on 26 May.

Lofty new lamp-posts have been installed in **E. Scotland St Lane**. This will be a relief to many who were reluctant to venture there **after dark** in what was a shady lane, in more ways than one. See *Breaking News* (2.5.11).

Broughton bade a sad adieu to **Pani Solinska** last month. For 3 years, the restaurant was something of a Mecca for aficionados of **Polish cuisine**, and had many friends in the community. Alas, it had become economically unviable in these **straitened times**. It will be very fondly remembered: *do widzenia i dziękuję*.

The '**dormant**' **Puffin** connecting Redbraes to the new North Pilrig Heights across Bonnington Rd has irritated many for months. A contribution by the developer to local infrastructure, it could not be adopted by the Council until completion of outstanding works. However, Leith Walk ward's **Councillor Louise Lang** has now received an update setting a realistic timescale for this work. The crossing should come into Council ownership and start working by the summer.

### Gallery previews

Northumberland St's **Gallery on the Corner** will show work by Pum Dunbar, Vivienne Edgar, Little E., Robert Euman, Lynda Frame, Caroline John and Ken Salmon this summer.

The **Union Gallery** on Broughton St will host *A Still Life* (5 May–6 June), a solo exhibition of Janet Melrose's deceptively simple acrylics. Between 6 May and 6 June, **Axolotl** on Dundas St will feature works by Kam Chan, Christine Clark, Sofie Fischer-Rasmussen, Paul Mowat, and dancing by Yvonne McCombie.

*A Scottish Field* – unusual landscapes – continues at the **Braewell Gallery** at 106 Dundas St until 12 May. From 19 May, **Masters and Pupils** will pair figurative artist Liz Knox and Alexandra Gardner with their respective students Paul Kennedy and Frank McNab.

At the **Printmakers Workshop Gallery** on Union St, an exhibition of lithography by artists at the world-renowned Tamarind Institute in New Mexico – *An Informed Energy* – will continue until 21 May.

### Fund raising news

The Edinburgh Marathon runs on 21-2 May. Expect traffic delays and the all-pervading smell of feet. For course map and details see: [www.edinburgh-marathon.com/?course-map].

The British Red Cross seek locals to join their team in the event. Volunteers can take on the full or half marathon, or share the distance in the Hairy Haggis Team Relay. For info: Tel. 338 5727; text RUN to 07872 839849; email clairelarkin@redcross.org.uk.

Lynne Williamson will participate, and cycle from London to Paris to raise money for Mansfield Place-based Waverley Care (*Breaking news* 20.4.11).

In a quite separate effort, Albany St's award-winning 11-year-old poet Adam Bojelian will take on a mile by trike for Contact a Family Scotland (see: <http://bit.ly/gJ2rwr>).

## Mohammad Khushi (1930–2011)



Mr Mohammad Khushi (the name means happiness), who set up Khushi Tandoori Restaurant, 32B Broughton Street, over 30 years ago, died on 10 April after a short illness, writes *Mohammed Akram, President, Council of British Pakistanis (Scotland)*.

He came to Glasgow from Pakistan as a farmer in 1957, worked as a door-to-door salesman and then moved to Huddersfield to work in textiles where his wife and three children joined him in 1963.

He loved Scotland so much that in 1975 he moved back to Glasgow and then established the Broughton Street eatery in 1981. His Punjabi recipes on the menu were designed to suit all palates. Many of the initial customers have now had their children celebrating

their 21st birthdays there. He always made a point of speaking to customers personally with a mixture of Yorkshire, Glasgow and latterly Edinburgh accents.

He is survived by his 3 sons, 9 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren and put all his efforts into having them well-educated and integrated. He is sadly missed but his legacy will be continued by the 3 generations left behind and through his family-run restaurant where his recipes will predominate, including the famous Naan, the size of a 'cricketbat'!

## Moreover ...



**Dorothy Marsh**, Senior Conservation Officer at the Council's Museum Collections Centre in Broughton Market, has retired after 34 years' service. **Paul McAuley**, an experienced colleague, will continue to conduct free guided tours on the first Tuesday of the month by prior appointment. Treasures there include one of the former Elm Row pigeons (above).

City Centre police are targeting the **massed pipes and bongo drums** of Edinburgh buskers. Tourists may find them fun for 5 minutes, but over hours and days and months they drive neighbours round the twist. Police will study York, London, Glasgow and – oddly – **Gosport** for examples of best practice.

Police are also targeting **youth drinking and drunken youth** on Calton Hill. Over a recent weekend, **14 litres of alcohol** were confiscated and poured away, with potentially interesting trickle-down effects on **mouse behaviour** in Blenheim Place.

**Broughton Rd** may be **closed** to through-traffic **until 17 June** as gas mains are replaced.

*Sputtle* reader and Twitter correspondent @dOSsDaz captured this ghostly shot in **St Mark's Park** late last month using a mobile phone. The Gormley piece pictured has only recently resurfaced after heavy rains swelling the river again **toppled it** over a month ago. For a full-sized version of this image in colour see *Breaking News* (3.5.11).



### Locals back overdue wake-up



of Broughton's dormant Puffin

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## New Town/Broughton Community Council

The Community Council  
represents your views  
to Edinburgh City Council

Next meetings:

Monday 9 May, 7.15pm  
(AGM then regular  
meeting)

Monday 6 June, 7.30pm

Drummond Community  
High School (Library).

**All welcome!**

[secretary@ntbcc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ntbcc.org.uk)

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**Friday advice sessions:**

4.00pm **Stockbridge Library**,

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5.00pm **5 Croall Place**;

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