

Spurtle

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Tel: - 558 8574

spurtle@hotmail.co.uk

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER Free

SURVEY RESULTS HARD TO SWALLOW

Consumers and retailers are confused by findings issued under the Council and government-backed Food Hygiene Information Scheme (FHIS) on 9 Apr.

The results – later splashed across the *Evening News* – are meant to help people make informed choices about where to eat. They state “improvement [was] required” at over a dozen food retail outlets in Broughton, Barony and London Streets, and Baxter’s, Eyre, Union and York Places. (The phrase covers minor hygiene breaches, not major problems needing instant closure.)

A tour of these apparent failures one week later found 3 displaying “Passed” certificates in their windows. The rest showed no certificates. Even outlets which passed first time often failed to announce the fact. Of 66 eligible establishments we surveyed in the Broughton area, only 11 displayed certificates.

A closer look also revealed that, while the website is supposedly updated weekly, many findings are much older. One “improvement required” result dated from June 2006 even though the “passed” certificate on the relevant door dated from June 2007. Another outlet is listed on the website as needing improvement several

months before it even existed.

The owner of a popular Broughton St outlet expressed frustration. “Our restaurant adheres to the highest recommended standards,” he told *Spurtle*, “but these inspectors are completely over the top. We were docked points because they found a *clean* rubber kitchen glove in a *clean* sink not used for food production!”

If the necessary improvements have already been made, why publicise an *outdated* requirement? Wouldn’t it be more helpful to publicise outlets where necessary improvements have *not* been made? What is the point of belated warnings which the FHIS does not adequately check or update on its website? What use are belated assurances which most food purveyors do not display?

In an unclear response to these questions, the spokesman for the Council’s Services for Communities promised to rectify administrative errors, but conceded that: “Due to the risk based inspection frequency it is possible that some premises have not been inspected since 2006.”

The current scheme – running locally in three parts of the city – is a pilot. We suspect it is also a turkey.

NEW NEED FOR LOCAL ACTION PLAN

Moves are underway to bring the Hopetoun Village Action Plan back to light after its premature retirement to the Council Archives, *writes Jackie Bell*.

The HVAP was originally created in the late 1990s to provide a focus and set high standards for development in the Hopetoun Village area (the approximate boundaries of which are East London St/Leith Walk, McDonald Rd, East Claremont St, Mansfield Pl.) at a time when large parts of the area were waiting to be regenerated.

Much of the new housing that we see around us today has the HVAP to thank for setting out directions for green spaces, the implementation of sustainable building standards and trying to ensure high-quality building design.

The HVAP looks at the area as a whole and gives attention to encouraging “balance” within the community – a principle which has been carried forward into its successor, the Edinburgh City Local Plan. The HVAP suggests lots of uses for sites in the area as well as private housing, many of which have not been realised yet. Ideas include the creation of new shops, artisan workshops and potentially a market, retirement and special-needs housing, community spaces, new allotments and a new museum or gallery, as well as ensuring that habitat for urban wildlife is maintained.



Local sites still await regeneration

The future of several large local areas is due to be decided soon – Annandale St Bus Depot, McDonald Rd Fire Station, Martin & Frost, to name but a few.

Once buildings go up they are with us for a long time, and open space can be lost forever. It is time that the HVAP be put back on the table to ensure that its aspirations are realised.

Residents who would like to support this initiative can contact: [hvapnews@hotmail.com].

Lights, cameras, blizzards!

The big screen came to Broughton last month when filmmakers spent an afternoon at Bellevue Terrace. Richard Jobson, Director and former singer/songwriter for rock band The Skids, had recently rented a flat in the vicinity, and so realised the back green at No. 19 was ideal for a scene in his latest project *New Town Killers*.

Around 50 cast and crew – including, briefly, Dougray Scott of *Mission Impossible II* and *Desperate Housewives* fame – spent hours in bright sunshine and occasional snow for a sequence which will last, in all probability, less than 30 seconds. Jobson, recovering after an assault by a real-life New Town killer – a particularly springy tree – chatted to *Spurtle* reporters about the joys of Edinburgh gardens and variable weather. The movie, shot all over the city, will complete filming around the end of April and, he hopes, be released early in 2009.

New Town Killers is a joint venture between Vestry and Tartan Films, and The Independent Film Company. The plot features 2 private bankers playing lethal 12-hour games of hunt, hide and seek with people at the margins of society. A teenage boy is invited to play for cash, with terrifying results. For more information see: [www.imdb.com/title/tt1183908/].



Drummond head spells out the facts

Drummond CHS headteacher Jon Reid has written to parents, politicians and Council officials to correct inaccurate figures published by the *Evening News* (12 Apr.).

The figures relate to the proportion of pupils attaining or exceeding minimum required standards in S2 in Session 2006/07. The figures should have appeared as: Writing – 27% (not 15%), an increase of 16% on the previous year; and Mathematics – 46% (not 44%), an increase of 25% on the previous year.

“Please be assured that we are taking every step to ensure that this upward trend continues year-on-year,” wrote Mr Reid, “and that our staff attach the utmost importance to raising levels of literacy and numeracy. Indeed, it is one of the major priorities already contained within our improvement plan.”

Various factors contribute to differing results across Edinburgh, such as the percentage of English as an Additional Language students (Drummond has one of the highest). The school is at the cutting edge in tackling levels of literacy and numeracy, and is undertaking innovative work with its primaries which is already attracting some national interest. Sadly none of this was reported in the *Evening News*.

New parking permits are a rum business

The Council is proposing business parking permits, writes *Patrick Hutton*. These would allow any business (not just retail, as at present) to park two vehicles in residents' bays, for an annual fee of £400 per vehicle. Whilst businesses are an important part of our community, there is concern that these permits will be abused by commuters, and will increase demand on parking. The closing date for objections is 7 May, and the Community Councils and Residents Associations are preparing responses. Let them know your views, or contact the Council directly.

Glass half-full

The junction of London and Broughton Streets suffers serial ponding after heavy rain, writes “Jaundiced of Claremont.” and the finest New Town minds are now grappling with this copious issue.

One citizen has quizzed politicians and Community Councillors on the problem. He doesn't blame blocked drains, but gullies situated uphill of the level of the floods. ‘Water doesn't run uphill,’ he states reasonably. More controversially, he suggests siting a sheet-metal screen to block water from the pavement, and to protect exasperated pedestrians from being doused by nonchalant passing motor-cars.

City Councillors Dundas and Mowat have backed him. Councillors Dundas and Mowat have backed him. Will the Council follow suit with blue-sky thinking which embraces climate change and goes all out for stopping the Mansfield Place gullies to form a new eco-friendly Broughton Loch and mini hydro-electric generator? We wait with bated breath.

Nooks and Crannies: rampant lion, hidden laundress

No, not another challenging film by the eclectic Ang Lee, but *Spurtle's* Nooks and Crannies March mystery which readers traced to 3–5 Eyre Terrace. In its heyday, this was an imposing building in what is now a somewhat nondescript street. Built in 1904, with 2 improbable frontal chimneys and 3 storeys, it was embellished with 3 large pebbled panels containing a left-leaning lion rampant flanked by a thistle and rose. A central pend led to a substantial rear building which housed Patriothall Laundry and Bleachworks. Many of the employees, mainly women, described as “laundresses and clear starchers”, occupied the flats at No. 3–5. The enterprise was the creation of one David Peters, proprietor of the original Patriothall laundry founded earlier in Hamilton Place, Stockbridge. It was so named after a house called Patriot Hall which was extant in 1827, but whose subsequent history is obscure. Pleasingly, Mr Peters carried the name forward when he re-established his patriotic stance in Eyre Terrace. He, himself, lived in some style at nearby 12 Eyre Crescent. In 2008, the pend leads to an airy workplace area, the rose and thistle have long-since departed, but, though somewhat weathered, the lion remains defiantly rampant. *Spurtle* welcomes readers' comments and further information on this, and all aspects of local history.



Monsignor David Gemmell

Many people in Broughton, outwith St Mary's Cathedral parish, were saddened to hear of Mgr David's premature death in Barcelona on 6 March, writes *Oula Jones*. Priest, hillwalker, kayaker, and good friend to all who knew him, his passing was a great shock, and at his funeral on 17 March, the mourners stood six-deep outside the Cathedral. Personal tributes can be read at: [www.stmaryscathedral.co.uk/].

Green thoughts in a green shade

The Northern Bowling Club began in Perth St in 1879 before moving to its present position on Warriston Crescent in 1890. Since then, it has enjoyed an enviable seclusion, attracting members from across Edinburgh to enjoy the subtle pleasures of biased balls and wood clunking against wood.

Nowadays it welcomes both sexes, young and old, of all shapes and sizes. Members can play just for fun (an average "bounce game" lasts about half an hour) up to 5 times per week, or with practice move up through internal competitions into the cut and thrust of interclub tournaments (for which set aside two-and-a-half hours). Bowls is a summer game (Apr.–Oct., depending on the weather), but the club has a thriving social side which continues year-round with evening events on Mondays in the spacious clubhouse bar.

At present there are around 70 members, but they're keen to welcome more. Fees vary, but new members pay half price (£70) in Year 1 (junior members, £10, social members £20). For this, they enjoy access to a friendly group with one of the best greens in Edinburgh, and an emerald square set discreetly in the heart of the city. For more information contact Robbie Paterson, Tel. 467 0119 or email: [admin@northernbowlingclub.co.uk]. *AM*

Profile: Graham Crimmins, silversmith

Last month, *Spurtle* highlighted the superb exhibition of silver made in Scotland at the National Museum of Scotland (NMS). The contemporary sections included striking works by Broughton resident Graham Crimmins.



Crimmins's fish-tail quaich

Originally from Birmingham, Graham made his home in Edinburgh in 1973 where he established his studio, the Stockbridge Workshop, in Circus Lane. He has lived in East London Street for the past 21 years with his wife Maggie and two daughters.

He studied at Birmingham College of Art where he received major scholarships from the Jackson Foundation, travelling in Italy, and from the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. He has been a visiting lecturer at Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Cumbria Colleges of Art.

His multi-faceted work has incorporated and refined techniques for fusing different metals to create shimmering jewellery and silver of equal degrees of delicacy and vigour. A current commission of a fish-tail quaich (illustrated) conveys his complex approach. His spun, patinated bowls with their small silver details, inspired by traditional Sheffield plate and decorative Japanese metal work, are regarded as an imaginative contribution to the art of the modern silversmith. Two of these are now in the NMS collection acquired as part of the Scottish Crafts Collection in 1991. Graham's work is also part of the spellbinding collection Silver for the Millennium 2000, commissioned by the Scottish Gallery, on display at the NMS.

Graham has won an array of major accolades for his art, including the prestigious Incorporation of Goldsmiths of Edinburgh Award. His work is held in many public and private collections throughout the UK.

He continues to work on individual commissions. A recent work of great radiance was created for the Church of Pluscarden Abbey in Morayshire. This is a ciborium, a tapered communion-bowl or chalice, composed of virtually pure silver. It may be seen as Graham's homage to the intrinsic beauty of his material, and indeed to an ancient art of which this disarmingly modest Broughtonian is a distinguished exponent. Of his work, he told *Spurtle*: "I like the use of the Scottish Hallmark on my works of art – it's history!" Thank you Graham – you, too, embellish the history. *JRM*



Briefly

Broughton History Society meets on 12 May in Drummond CHS, 7–9 pm. Hugh Perfect will speak on The History of Moray House. Visitors welcome (£1), members free.

The **Friends of the Botanics** are holding their annual **Plant Sale** on Sun. 18 May, 2–4pm in the grounds of the **Edinburgh Academy Junior School, Arboretum Rd.** The sale is a cornucopia of thousands of plants at reasonable prices. Peckish browsers will also enjoy the cake and book stalls.

In Dec. 2007 *Spurtle* reported on plans for the former **gardener's cottage at 34B Haddington Place**. An important step forward came on 27 Mar. when planning permission was granted for the building's **survey, dismantling and eventual reconstruction** at the Botanics in Inverleith. Further significant developments are expected soon.

Political correctness gone mad, or political incorrectness gone loco?

The notice below, spotted recently in an Orkney bar, left us slightly disturbed: "We operate zero tolerance in these premises. Anyone found in breach of this will be removed."

No sooner does **No. 51–3 E. Claremont St** receive planning permission for an extension at the back (see Feb. issue) than it returns to the market. **Offers over £895K** are invited for the unrefurbished smoke-damaged property, nearly £100K more than its purchase price in Aug. 2007. Agents HBJ Gateley Wareing are as puzzled as anyone by the sign over the front door: "**Rod Stewart Fan Club opening soon.**"

Still time to see the marvellous exhibitions at our internationally renowned **Edinburgh Printers Gallery** in nearby Union St. **Arctic Circus** by **Gill Tyson** displays scintillating images of the austere Lofoten Islands off the arctic north-west coast of Norway. **Skylights** is a luminous visualisation of the Aurora Borealis in a variety of media including screen prints, digital prints and lightboxes. This evocative show continues to **10 May**.

There will be a **recital on the new organ in St Mary's Cathedral** by Olivier Latry (Notre Dame, Paris) on Thur. 22 May, from 8–9.15pm. Tickets £8 (under 16s free).

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **Gayfield Association** will be held at **Lyon & Turnbull**, Broughton Place at 6pm on 9 June.

Belle's View

Hi fans



Hi Fans!

Ooooooh! Lots of luscious things to be doing in summery sunny Broughton – get out and enjoy!

Estelle and I have come over all bookish recently, and what better to whet our appetites for reading than a **Valvona and Crolla Literary Lunch**? Author **Mathew Fort** launches new book *Sweet Honey, Bitter Lemons, Travels in Sicily on a Vespa*, at the **Elm Row V&C Café** (27 May 11.45am, £22.50). The book, with recipes, captures the beguiling spirit of Sicily, and the three-course Sicilian lunch comes with a glass of wine – *salute!*

Something a little less strong? Get on down to the **PM Tea**, at the **Out of the Blue Café** on **Dalmeny Street** (Sunday 4 May 2–4pm, £5)! Enjoy an afternoon of extravagant cake-based delicacies served by flamboyant fifties domestic goddesses as part of a live art performance piece born out of the imagination of **Robyn Hambrook** and **Feet Theatre**. The impressive selection of sandwiches, cakes, fancies and freshly baked scones is washed down with a nice cup of tea, with a women's photographic exhibition, an Avon makeover, and a feminist discussion – what more could you ask for?! Details: [www.ladyfestedinburgh.com].

And if you're still thirsty after that, why not partake of the waters of life at our local mineral springs, **St Bernard's Well**? (Sunday 4 May, noon–3pm). Near Stockbridge on the Water of Leith, the well is graced by a statue of Goddess of health **Hygieia** herself, and the water is world-famed for its medicinal virtues (or you could just pick up something from **Boots**)!

Till next time!

PERSEPHONE BELLE

New Town/Broughton Community Council Vacancies for Community Councillors

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

Next meeting and AGM
Monday 12 May at 7pm
Library: Drummond CHS

For details please contact:

Chris Richardson 07952 755 854
chris_richardson1001@hotmail.com

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

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
5 Croall Place, Leith Walk, EH7 4LT
Tel: 0131 557 0577
Fax: 0131 557 5759
mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk
www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
Friday advice sessions:
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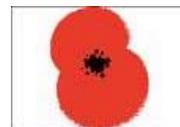
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Spurtle Team: Maria Hart, George Hosey, Alan McIntosh, John Ross Maclean, Adam Ramsay, Fiona Watt.

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