

A word from the editor.....

READERS may not be entirely surprised to learn that last week's front page story has given rise to a reaction from Mark Kennedy-Stewart of Caduceus Investments Ltd.

Mr Kennedy-Stewart has not contacted us directly, but instead has posted his comments in his weblog (available via www.kennedy-stewart.com, from where you can click on 'Company WebBlog' on the left hand side of the page).

From his reaction, he appears slightly bemused that his advertisement has made front page news. "Part of me is amused, and another part of me sorry for the people of Bute that this has become headline news," he writes, "as the implication is "oh what so busy life's [sic] they must lead".

"And yes I am being sarcastic again, my amusement is aimed at the level of sophistication of the newspaper they have - not their expectations."

The blog goes on to describe what Mr Kennedy-Stewart plans to do with the properties on Bute he has acquired, namely upgrading them over the next few months before putting them on the rental market.

"At this point," he continues, "should I ask the question would the reporter like the properties to be left with no upgrades completed on them, left uninhabited? I am assuming that the answer to this is no. Please Craig (the journalist) let me know if I am incorrect.

"The content of the articles would lead me to believe that Craig is looking to take up a career as a local councillor. Perhaps I am wrong? But if I were the sitting councillor I'd start looking over my back."

There then follows a lengthy list of tales of happy tenants, and an apparent accusation that I have "potential Socialist leanings" and that I assume that the private sector is always bad.

Whether Mr Kennedy-Stewart chooses to renovate his properties before letting them out is, of course, entirely up to him. I have never been a landlord, and thus would never seek to advise anyone on the art of property management.

It does, however, seem that in the heat of all his protests, Mr Kennedy-Stewart has rather missed the point of last week's article, which was simply to report, without expressing any or our opinions or any political statements, that his advert for someone "*with the guts to kick somebody between the legs as we evict them and their two-year-old child on to the street*" (his italics) has created a good deal of worry on the island.

I've yet to speak to anyone who immediately recognised Mr Kennedy-Stewart was being sarcastic, or who thought his advert was in the least bit funny. And in any case, any landlord who took that kind of approach literally would surely find the views of Strathclyde Police rather more significant than those of this unsophisticated newspaper.

Oh, and a message to Messrs Macintyre, Scoullar and Strong: your backs are quite safe, I wouldn't seek to become a local councillor, socialist or otherwise, for all the tea in China!

Craig Borland, Editor