

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have dates for local events in December, please let us know as soon as possible

Monday 7th November New Town Broughton and Pirlig Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm. Guest speaker Mr Griffith, new director of New Town Conservation Committee.

Thursday 17th November Spurtle meeting at The Edge cafe, Broughton Street, 8pm.

Monday 21st November Friends of Mansfield Place Church AGM, in the McWilliam Room, Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street, 7.30pm. (Membership is £5 per annum, payable to Mansfield Traquair Trust, 33 Barony Street, EH3 6NX)

Saturday 3rd December Spurtle Pot Luck Supper, The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 7.30 for 8pm (phone 556 6203 or 556 0903 for details).

Every Monday Open meeting at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Broughton Street, downstairs, 7.30pm.

Every Tuesday Users' meeting at The Centre, 103 Broughton Street, 6pm. New people always welcome - just ring the bell.

Every Wednesday District Councillor Margaret McGregor's surgery, Drummond Community High, 6-7pm.

GAYFIELD ASSOCIATION

The eighth in our series of local organisation profiles. We've previously featured Drummond Community High, The Centre, Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association, the Gay Centre, The Flat, the Cyrenian Community and North East New Town Association.

The Gayfield Association is one of the oldest and most respected amenity bodies in Edinburgh, having its origins in the late sixties' protest against Edinburgh Corporation's plans to carve the Inner Ring Road through Hayfield Square. Since then the Association has worked continuously to preserve and enhance its area - roughly Broughton Street, East London Street, Annandale Street, Windsor Street, Leith Walk and Picardy Place and all points in between - as a pleasant place to live and work. We try to work primarily through the gentle persuasion of the District and Regional Councils and other occasionally

irresponsible bodies, but occasionally show our teeth. At the moment we are keeping a watchful eye on the improvements to Leith Walk, protesting about the eyesore at the proposed hotel site at Picardy Place and making helpful suggestions for the improvement of Gayfield Square gardens - among much else.

We hope to develop the social side of our activities. A party near Christmas is planned - details soon - and we hope to repeat our success of a couple of years back by organising a Gala in the (Gayfield Square) Gardens on 24th June next year. Every year we invite a speaker to speak at our AGM on a subject of local or topical interest.

A short history of the Association by Theo Cadoux is available on request (although we hope you will make a small donation to cover printing costs) from the chairman, Ian Dunn at 30 Gayfield Square (tel: 557 3911). Annual membership costs £1 and is available from the treasurer, Betty Macfarlane at 31 Gayfield Square. Any other information is obtainable from the secretary, Graeme Smillie at 3/11 Antigua Street (tel: 557 5003).

SUPPER AT NO 10

Pot Luck Supper
At
The Flat
10 Broughton Street
Saturday 3rd December
7.30 for 8pm.
Meet Your Neighbour
&
Support The Spurtle
£5. Concessions £1.50.

Have you ever wondered what you would have for supper at No 10?

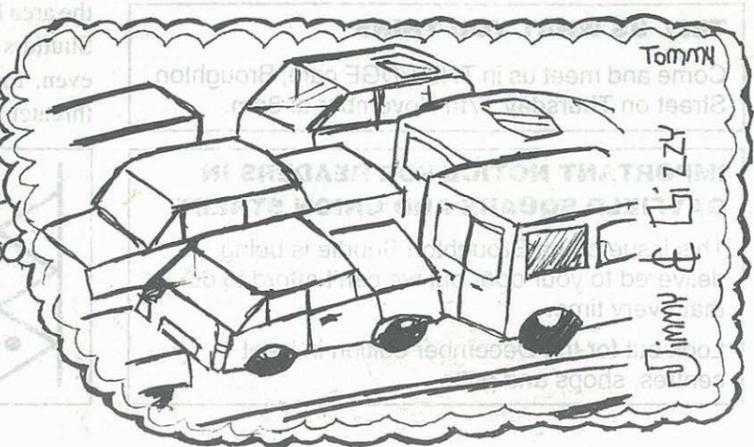
At the beginning of October a few of us enjoyed finding out. The menu was varied - Spicy Vegetables, Spanish Omelette, Savoury Flans and Salad, with Cheesecake and Ginger Meringue to follow.

Find out for yourself on 3rd December. Meet your neighbour, and help to raise funds for the Spurtle. For details and tickets phone 556 6203 or 556 0903.

IT'S CRAZY, IT LOOKS LIKE THE GOVERNMENT WILL OPEN A SECOND FORTH ROAD BRIDGE!



AT LEAST IT WILL SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC



BROUGHTON SPURTLE

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Broughton • Gayfield

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 10

November 1994

SLOW DOWN BROUGHTON

"Over the years, we have abandoned the streets to the motor vehicle. Here is an opportunity for people to express their opinion and send a strong message. We want our streets back."

The words of Friends of the Earth director Kevin Dunion, announcing plans for the Day of Action on Monday 31st October. More than forty local groups throughout Scotland, from Inverness to Ayrshire took to the streets with "Slow Down" signs. In Broughton local



Slow Down Scotland demonstrators in Broughton

When pedestrians are hit by cars travelling -
at 20mph, 5% die
at 30mph, 45% die
at 40mph, 85% are killed

residents joined with Friends of the Earth supporters to form a human line holding "Slow Down Scotland" signs from Mansfield Place to the Scottish Office. Kevin Dunion and local MP Malcolm Chisholm got an immediate meeting with the transport minister. It was an opportunity for us to move into action locally, and at the same time add our voices to a national campaign attracting media attention.

Kevin Dunion again: "The emphasis needs to shift away from prioritising road developments and motor vehicles, to focus on the human being. Currently our streets are trade arteries, no-go areas, through roads which pollute the air. We hope this action will bring the strength of feeling in the Scottish public to the fore."

How can we build from this beginning? Inside we've brought together some of the ideas surfacing locally.

YOU TOO COULD BE A CRIMINAL

Tuesday, 18th October, teatime in Broughton. And the unlikely sound of drums and singing from the street!

We were the chosen route for hundreds of marchers protesting against the Criminal Justice and Public Order Bill. They assembled up at The Mound and then circled

down through Broughton and Gayfield and back up to Princes Street. It was a noisy, cheerful, peaceful demonstration - but with a serious message.

Oponents of the Bill say that in addition to targeting outdoor parties and raves, hunt saboteurs, and gypsies and travellers, it will also criminalise many other activities. Including picketing your workplace, demonstrating against new motorways, protesting at hospital closures - and walking on privately-owned mountains! The Bill enables the police to order someone to leave private land if damage, including "damage to the land", has occurred. Courts have already held that walking across a field constitutes damage to the land. So if you refuse a policeman's instruction to leave a mountain track on privately owned land, you could end up in prison.

New offences of "aggravated trespass" and "trespassory assembly" created by the new law would lead to a criminal record, with up to 3 months in prison and/or fines up to £2500. For example, distributing protest leaflets outside a shop could be "aggravated trespass".

So it's not surprising that the opposition organised by the Network Against The Criminal Justice Bill has gained support from a wide range of groups. The Network holds weekly meetings on Mondays at 7.30, in The Southsider, West Richmond Street (Back Room). Or you can write to them c/o The Peace and Justice Centre, St John's Church, Princes Street.

Your ideas for action on traffic

LOCAL ACTION ON

WHAT CAN WE DO OURSELVES ABOUT LOCAL TRAFFIC?

HERE ARE SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT HAVE SURFACED SO FAR.

More SLOW DOWN demos

Once a month - would the impact fade, or would it show our determination? Maybe concentrate on East London Street next time, with the focus on safety of children going to and fro from school.

Permanent SLOW DOWN signs

Like the commercial "banners" hanging on railings in Broughton Street. But someone would have to stow them away each night?

Educate drivers

They're not The Enemy - well, not all of them! A reader wrote in to us, saying articles in Spurtle had influenced her to drive slower: "The slight extra time needed for this is hardly noticeable, but it makes me feel a lot better!"

Leaflets and posters quoting the Highway Code:

Rule 63 - "Show consideration to pedestrians"

Rule 68 - "At road junctions, give way to pedestrians who are already crossing the road into which you are turning"

Rule 74 - "When the amber light is flashing you MUST give way to any pedestrians on the crossing. Do not harass pedestrians - for example, by revving your engine"

Cyclists slow down the traffic

In London organised action by cyclists has brought the traffic to a standstill.

Cyclists could get together to demonstrate where there should be cycle lanes.

Flex our muscles from time to time

A continuous flow of pedestrians crossing and re-crossing the street.

Wear SLOW DOWN vests or T-shirts

When doing the family shopping?

Or just on special occasions, and in a group?

A racetrack for drivers

Provide a place where drivers can work off their need to speed!

Or is that one for the Regional Council?

Stand up for your rights

Don't scurry across at road junctions when pedestrians actually have right of way!

And if a driver's speeding along a straight stretch (in Annandale or East Claremont Street, for example), and still some distance away, pause in the middle of the road and "flag" him to slow down.

Take registration numbers

Have pen and paper handy to note the numbers of offending drivers and report to the police.



TRAFFIC

If it's a coach or heavy goods vehicle taking a shortcut through your side street, contact the company involved with a polite request.

Set up our own traffic calming measures

The Regional Council has approved traffic calming projects for the Forth Street/Hart Street/Broughton Place area, and for Annandale Street including West.

Do we just wait for cash to be made available for more, or should we have a go at our own bollards, bumps and street narrowing?

Think positive

People worry about the knock-on effect traffic calming and road closures will have. Traffic will be displaced to other streets nearby, and they'll be worse off, so maybe we should wait for a comprehensive plan?

That way lies a recipe for inaction. Better to think of a "ripple effect", with one success leading to more pressure for change next door, and so on. If you get what you want in your own street, help the people down the road to do likewise!

*We want Broughton to be
safer
quieter*

less polluted

*And that means less traffic, moving slower
and giving way to pedestrians*

What do you think? Which ideas appeal to you?

- Get them discussed by your residents' association, or the community council, or any other group you meet
- Tell us what you think at the next Spurtle meeting
- If you can't make the meeting, phone 556 7928 or 556 0903, or write to us c/o BROUGHTON BOOKS, Broughton Place

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Come and meet us in THE EDGE cafe, Broughton Street on Thursday 17th November at 8pm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN GAYFIELD SQUARE AND UNION STREET

This issue of the Broughton Spurtle is being delivered to your door but we can't afford to do that every time.

Look out for the December edition in local centres, shops and pubs.



Marching in support of the Centre - 103 Broughton Street is still open, including the cheap cafe.

GEEZ YOUR GIRN

Last month's girn about the lack of weekend activities at Drummond Community High brought this reply from Jane Meagher, community worker at the School.

How wonderful to have someone complain, in the last issue of Spurtle, that there isn't enough adult education in the Broughton area - especially at weekends. Local people are clearly keen on learning, judging from the record numbers who have enrolled for daytime classes at Drummond. Our evening programme, too, continues to be popular.

At the moment there's a lot going on at weekends with Chinese and Italian language teaching. However there's still scope for developing new courses and activities based on what local people want, and we're always keen to try out new ideas. One constraint is, as usual, money; but the greatest challenge is to offer courses that are relevant and stimulating. If you, or any group to which you belong, have any ideas about what Drummond can do to expand and develop our services, please contact me, Jane Meagher, at the School on 556 2651, and I'll be delighted to discuss possibilities.

This month's girn comes from Conchita Pinto of Broughton Street.

During the Festival Broughton Street took on a positively continental look when pubs and cafes spilled out onto the pavements to enjoy the warm weather. But after 9pm, the appearance of cold steel shutters outside some shops made the area look more like Eastern Europe than Sunny Spain. Shutters are necessary but with a little effort, a lick of paint even, they could be brightened and made to look less threatening. So how about it shopkeepers?



ANN WRIGHT PICTURE FRAMING

4G Dublin Street Lane Studios
Dublin Street Lane North
(off Broughton Market, down the lane)
Tel: 652 2674 (Answer Machine)

THE BROUGHTON SPURTLE aims to:-

- provide a contact point for local people who want to get together and change things
- help local action groups publicise their work
- make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton
- and generally stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

Contributors to this issue: Evelyn Graham, Graeme Smillie, Jane Meagher, John Dickie, Tim Puntis and Tommy Perman.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the BROUGHTON SPURTLE please contact us as soon as possible! We plan to publish about once a month.

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