

THE CENTRE

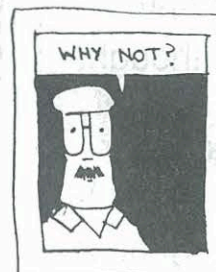
The Unemployed Workers Centre is under threat of not having the lease for our premises renewed by the Regional Council. Although all the voluntary workers are fighting to see that the lease is carried on, may we through your pages urge the people of Broughton and the surrounding communities to pledge their support and use of such a worthwhile resource.

The Centre highlights injustices faced by claimants - such as cuts in benefits and harassment - and provides the resources for claimants to come together and take action to improve our situation. Among other services on offer, apart from welfare rights advice on poll tax arrears, benefits and housing, are a cafe and "drop in" centre. The cafe sells wholesome food at affordable prices, while the drop in centre provides a warm space in which people without jobs or on a low income can shelter from the elements and socialise with others. At the moment the cafe is open four days, but future plans will have it open five days and over weekends when the centre is being used - for example for conferences and all-day courses. There are future plans for the drop in centre, used by claimants who feel isolated and find difficulty in heating their own accommodation. With the Big Issue just up the road the Centre provides warmth, tea and chat to the vendors and other homeless people. These plans include shower facilities and use of a washing machine. What is taken for granted by most people is particularly useful to our users.

The Centre is housed in a large building and every inch of space is used. There are creche facilities, photographic darkrooms and studios used by artists and sculptors. Big and small rooms, which can be hired, are used by people holding meetings and running courses - for example, Tai Chi, Aikido and writers workshops. The whole building has been used as a venue during the Festival.

The volunteers who work or run the Centre, whether in the cafe, creche or in the office are unemployed and provide an essential service to the community. They themselves gain skills which improve job prospects. The Centre is open 12-4pm Monday to Friday, and cannot be allowed to die for want of a new lease. Come along and use it!

CENTRE OPEN - WEEKDAYS 12-4PM
CAFE OPEN - TUE, WED, THUR, FRI 12-3PM
PHONE 557 0718



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 7 March - New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets in Drummond Community High, 7.30pm

Monday 7 March - Video on Male Prostitution (France) at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Broughton Street, downstairs, at 7.30pm. (Say you saw this in Spurtle.) There are open meetings each Monday.

Thursday 10 March - Spurtle meeting at the Bellevue pub in Broughton Street, 8pm.

Saturday 12 March - Creative Resource Network artistic EVENT, with Art Exhibition all preceding week, in The Centre at 103 Broughton Street

Wednesday 16 March - Traffic Forum meeting in Drummond Community High, 7pm.

18-20 March - Green Party Conference in The Centre, 103 Broughton Street, open to those who wish to join or vote Green.

Every Monday - 'Senior Eastenders' Club for over 50's at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 2-4pm.

Every Tuesday - Youth Club, 14-16 year-olds, at The Flat, 7.30-9pm

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN LONDON AND EAST LONDON STREETS

You got your first issue of the BROUGHTON SPURTLE delivered to your door. But we can't afford to do that every time.

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

NEWSFLASH 1: BLUE MOON CAFE MOVES - from No.60 to No.36. By Easter, Allan Nicholls and his team will be open at the former "Jimmy's Bar" and welcome old and new customers - whatever your age or sexuality!

NEWSFLASH 2: LESBIAN AND GAY CENTRE seeks new cafe operator. If you want to try, phone the Secretary Tim Hopkins (home) 553 1459 to lodge your interest.

NEWSFLASH 3: MANSFIELD TRAQUAIR TRUST, the people trying to buy, restore and run the old Church as a general Centre for Arts, have withdrawn their offer of £400,000 to the owners. A new approach will be made in a few months' time.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 2

March 1994

BROUGHTON SPRING FLING

As part of this year's Spring Fling, New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council are coordinating several community activities which culminate in a Medieval Street Fair in Broughton Place on the afternoon of Saturday 7th May. We hope you will join the bands, street traders, performers and entertainers as Broughton flings off the Winter gloom and lets in the Spring sunshine.

Starting the week before the Fair, from the 30th April exhibitions and talks celebrating Broughton communities old and new will be held in The Flat, 10 Broughton Street and in St. Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent. Up and down Broughton itself the local schools will be contributing to colourful accounts of local life in shop window displays. Look out too for the Broughton Map, a colourful portrait combining local landmarks of the past with those of the present.

The Community Council welcomes your contributions to the Broughton Spring Fling, so leave us a message on 031-557 8610 and we'll get back in touch with further details. Otherwise, pop along to the Community Council Meetings held on the first Monday of each month in Drummond Community High School starting 7.30pm.

THANKS - FOR NOTHING!

Organisers of the Broughton Spring Fling applied to use the Mansfield Place Church during the event. Back came the answer from the owners, the Edinburgh Brick Company: yes - but the rent would be £850 per day! So much for supporting community effort.

Worse still were the actions of some local government officials in autumn last year. They interfered with a fund-raising event for Bosnia, and at the same time managed to stir up bad feeling in our local community.

Readers may remember the "Bosnia Day" at Drummond High last October - which raised nine tons of supplies plus £3000 cash for Edinburgh Direct Aid to Bosnia. Originally the organisers had got a permit to hold the event at St. Mary's RC Primary in East London Street. Little more



What's going on in here? See back page

than two weeks before the Day the Education Department wrote denouncing a leaflet written by the former Chair of London Street Primary about the closure of that school - and cancelling the permit on the grounds that it had been issued "on the basis of misleading information."

The leaflet was written perfectly legitimately by an individual, in his own name; it didn't mention the Day. So what was the connection? He and some of the main organisers had been parent activists in the struggle to save London Street Primary - enough to make it impossible for some people in the department to react rationally?

Following protests, the department said they'd reconsider. But by that time the poison had spread and the organisers decided to switch to Drummond to defuse the situation. Officials were slow to put right the damage they had done; teachers and others were left wondering how far they should get involved in the event. A St. Mary's parent from outside the area sent a copy of the leaflet, and the letter cancelling the permit, to one of the Day's main sponsors: only intensive lobbying averted disaster.

A formal complaint was made to the local government ombudsman. His final response arrived a few days ago. He has decided not to pursue the matter any farther. No case to answer? To a layman reading through all the correspondence that's difficult to believe!

Readers speak out on traffic

YOUR LETTERS on TRAFFIC

Miguel Vivanco's drawing of Broughton Street pedestrianised has the great merit in making you think: 'Well, why not?' I lived in the Street (No.52) for 16 years before moving 'next door' to Gayfield Square two years ago. In that short time I've noticed the relentless rise in the volume of motorised traffic in the Street. It's one of the reasons I moved.

Some of this is caused by calming measures nearby. I feel semi-guilty that the blocking off of Gayfield Square and (soon) Dublin Street will only lead to more cars up and down Broughton Street. In the end the Street suffers because it is a 'classified' road (a B-road on the Ordnance Survey) and thus fair game for road planners. I'm afraid the only answer is an integrated transport policy which is solid for public transport. That's political.... but we must be brave and be political. If we do nothing, our health will suffer.

Ian Dunn
Gayfield Square

I am delighted that you are going to try and tackle the problem of traffic in the Broughton area. It has been assumed for too long that motor vehicles should have automatic right of way over pedestrians. The motor lobby has an effective stranglehold on government policy, both at national and local levels, so it is not surprising that measures taken to reduce traffic are often ineffectual. Speed bumps and bollards make motoring inconvenient, but until the cost of driving in town is actually punitive, there will be precious little real incentive for people to abandon their cars in favour of walking or public transport.

Christopher Lambton
Bellevue Place

We are very much in agreement with you about the idea to demand 'traffic-calming' actions. We both use push-bikes a lot and would particularly welcome increases in cycle paths. Broughton Street (and other streets) could be made a slow one-way-traffic road which is narrowed and has on one side a broadened pavement. This pavement

should be clearly separated into a pedestrian part (close to the houses and shops) and a cycling part (close to the road).

Another point would be to encourage all of us to drive slower, maybe 20-25mph instead of 30-35mph. One of us has to drive around a lot in the car because of my job. And, in fact, reading the articles in the Spurtle influenced me to drive slower! The slight extra time needed for this is hardly noticeable, but it makes me feel a lot better! (You see, even one issue of Broughton Spurtle showed up some success!)

Looking forward to the next issue.

John Greig and Helga Rhein
Claremont Bank

Isn't it comforting to know that us humble pedestrians are so well protected by the rules of the road. Here are a few choice snips from the 1992 Highway Code to reassure us:

The safety of pedestrians.

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." Try Broughton Place or Forth Street!

Pelican crossings.

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

Rule 75 " At pedestrian crossings controlled by lights give way to pedestrians who are still crossing after the signal for vehicles has turned to green.

"Try the top of Broughton Street, Leith Walk etc.

Why is it I get the feeling that there are a lot of drivers out there who seem intent on killing us all? Have you had enough of these mobile terrorists? Instead of cursing these selfish people or suffering in silence, why not report them? The only thing they seem to fear is a warning from the Police, as they clearly don't give a monkey's about us lot trying to scurry from one pavement to another. If they will not change their attitude, let's change it for them.

Spike Flack
Hart Street

Don't forget the traffic forum on Wednesday 16th March, 7pm at Drummond Community High.

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: Alice Lauder, Dave Rushton, John Dickie, Maggie Christopher, Miguel Vivanco, Tim Puntis, Tom Worthington 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 kindly agreed to be our "post-box". It's very central and very accessible - you can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at anytime.

OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

THE BROUGHTON SPURTLE has been put together by a small group of locals inspired by the success of the anti poll tax campaign, the struggle to save London Street Primary, and achievements by local residents' associations.

We aim 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

MORE LETTERS

I received my first issue of the Broughton Spurtle at the beginning of the month, and attended the first meeting of the Spurtle Folk at the Bellevue Bar on 10th February, and must say I was most impressed, both with the presentation of the Spurtle and the organisation put into it - well done Spurtle Folk!

Having recently moved to East Claremont Street, I was delighted to see that moves have been made to generate a community spirit and encourage residents to become involved in what goes on around them, and I think the Spurtle is the ideal forum to express any views they have on things that annoy them, or indeed even please them! I am certainly going to be a regular attender at the Spurtle Folk meetings and I hope that other residents will follow that example and come along, air their views and generally get involved in the community. I look forward to the growth of the Broughton Spurtle and meeting some of my neighbours.

Keep up the good work!!

Carol Watson
East Claremont Street

Would a new community centre improve life in the Broughton area - as suggested in the responses to your survey? One suggestion was that it could meet the needs of children, and teenagers. Another that it could provide 'a centre point to focus the community'. I'd like to hear more discussion of what exactly that means!

And is it true that we lack a centre 'really for local people'? What about Drummond Community High? The Unemployed Workers Centre? The Flat at 10 Broughton Street? All have space for people to use, and all want local people to get involved.

Why not support what's already happening, instead of hankering after something new?

Jonathan Hayes
Eyre Place

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Come and meet us in the pub!

We've reserved the upstairs room at the Bellevue, Broughton Street on Thursday 10th March at 8pm

Come and tell us what you thought of the first issue. Relax for a quiet drink and a chat - and meet your neighbours!

And remember to keep writing those letters!

NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW THIS...

But then perhaps not many people will want this to be known. If you care to walk along Scotland Street Lane by the side of St. Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent, you will find a little tennis club tucked away in the backlands between Bellevue Crescent, London Street and Scotland Street. This is the Drummond Lawn Tennis Club which has been in existence for some 80 or more years. Originally founded by the Former Pupils Guild of Mary Erskine's School for Girls, with their brothers, boyfriends and husbands included later as associate members, it moved to the Bellevue site in 1913 - and tennis has been played continuously on these courts ever since. Membership was opened to all in 1946, and it was renamed the Drummond L.T.C.

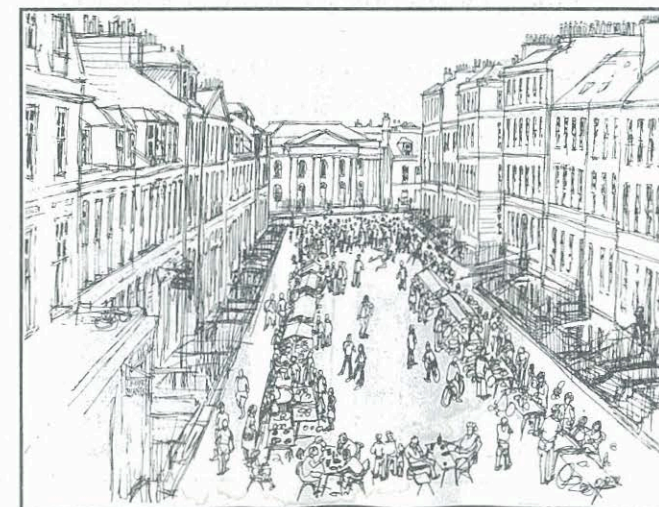
Over the years the Club has regularly taken part in the East of Scotland Lawn Tennis Tournaments and provided teams for both Ladies and Gents Divisions. The only difficulty being in supplying visiting teams with instructions on how to find the Club, as few of the people living locally could identify it!

For many years the Club employed a groundsman to ensure the quality of the courts and clubhouse; nowadays committee and members take on these duties in their spare time. The Club still provides the opportunity to play on blaes (red gravel) courts, unusual in this day of all-weather sports surfaces.

In the 1960-70's the club undertook tennis coaching for juniors and many young folk developed a lasting interest in the sport thanks to the club members who devoted a lot of time and effort to the Junior Section.

Needless to say when Wimbledon is on TV the Club has many spectators and armchair players can be very critical!

Several generations of tennis players have enjoyed playing at the Drummond in this quiet, peaceful oasis in the centre of town and we thank all the committee members, past and present, who have made this possible. Interested in membership? Phone 556 0423.



Spring Fling in Broughton Place! Artist - Miguel Vivanco