

PICTURES OF BROUGHTON

Charlie Miller has had the idea for a local project involving the whole community in and around Broughton. This project will involve making a collection of local people's snapshots taken in this area. The subject of photos can be anything from children in the back green to wedding photos, from shops or street scenes to pubs and parties, as long as it happened in and around Broughton. The period can be any time from the turn of the century to the present day. They might be old battered sepia prints of streets long gone, or modern colour glosses of a summer barbecue. It doesn't matter as long as they show Broughton life past or present.

Talk about it at those family gatherings over the festive season, and start rummaging in those boxes of family photos. Then look out for details on how you can get involved in the next issue of Spurtle.

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing • Keys Cut
Timber Boards Cut to Size
Open Monday-Saturday
9am-6pm 109 Broughton Street
031-556 9672

MUSIC LOVERS

The Edinburgh Guitar Studio is in your area. Book *now* and learn to play. *Satisfaction and results guaranteed.*
54 East Claremont Street
Telephone: 557 3215

EVICTION ANNIVERSARY

It's a year since the Unemployed Workers Centre was evicted from No.103 Broughton Street - 1st December 1994. After months in temporary accommodation, the search for a more permanent base continues.

"We are looking for premises to rent cheaply", says a spokesman for what's now called the Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh. "But at the same time we want to be part of a movement strong enough to take over and defend an occupied building. They have 100 occupied social centres in Italy where the laws are as repressive as in Scotland - so why not here? We appeal to all groups and individuals interested to get involved in this project." (phone 332 7547)

By the time this issue of Spurtle reaches you, there will have been a demonstration in support of self-managed social centres outside 103 Broughton Street, on 30th November.

CHRISTMAS AT THE GLASITE

Music Song Prose Poetry
In the Supper Room upstairs
at the Glasite Meeting House
ISOBEL MIERAS
on Clarsach. Readers
BETTY BOYD and RICHARD ELLIS
Tue 19th and Wed 20th December
at 7.30pm

Mince Pies and Mulled Wine
Tickets £6.50 from
The Glasite Meeting House
33 Barony Street, EH3 6NX
Tel 0131 557 5039

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events. Deadline for our February issue is Fri. 26th January.

Monday 4th December
Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Wednesday 6th December
Group planning a survey of local teenagers' needs meets at Drummond Community High, 3pm.

Thursday 7th December
Vigil for women's rights, outside St. Mary's Cathedral, 5.30pm (and every first Thursday in the month).

Thursday 14th December
Open meeting to organise resistance to the Job Seekers Allowance, Drummond Community High at 8.15pm. More information from Edinburgh Claimants/Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh on 332 7547.

Wednesday 24th January
Special SPURTLE meeting to discuss the design of the paper, Drummond Community High, 7pm.

JUST JUNK

"Property is theft" - Karl Marx.
And our Christmas selection is a steal!
557 4385

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 22

December / January 1995/6

"I wouldn't mind if there were jobs to seek!"

Last month we put the spotlight on the Job Seekers Allowance which will replace Unemployment Benefit and Income Support as from October next year. 'Back to Work' teams will try to match claimants with jobs each time they sign on, or force them onto 'training courses'. They will have wide discretionary powers to compel unemployed people to 'make themselves more employable'. We invited comment from unemployed folk living in Broughton.

'TONY', AGE 23

"Things are bad enough already, without making them tougher. The trouble is that the people who dream up these schemes start with the assumption that everyone on the dole is a lazy, workshy no-good bastard. Some may be, but nearly everybody I know wants to find work. I've done four years university slog to prepare for the job market and I'm sick of being on the dole. I don't expect to jump straight into a highly paid job, but I'm not exactly overjoyed at being an eternal dogsbody for an extra tenner a week. The danger with these training schemes is that employers are getting accustomed to not having to pay proper wages. And they don't train you. Everyone I know who's been on a training scheme has brought specialised skills to the situation, which have been utilised to the full. Actually, I've just landed a three month job - so I suppose I should be grateful. After that - who knows?"

'ANNE', AGE 27

"Job Seekers Allowance - is that what they're calling it now? I wouldn't mind if there were jobs to seek! I've been looking for work as an office administrator for two years and during that time I've been in three Training for Work placements. Still haven't got a job though. Basically I feel I've been used as cheap labour. That's what the firms that take you on are looking for, someone who can do the work to save them from paying a proper wage. I quite enjoyed what I was doing though, because I liked the company and I liked being busy - but I began to feel exploited when I saw how quickly I was replaced with other 'Trainees' once my six months were up. The future seems a bit grim - the choice being to stand at a conveyor belt gutting chickens, or being sent on a so-called environmental scheme - like clearing litter off beaches."

'MARIE', AGE 23

"Although I'm unemployed and living on the dole, I'm actually working hard to develop my game plan for life. Since I left art college I've been doing a lot of paintings to build up my portfolio - which costs money. I earn that through doing washing-up and other really crappy jobs. These new rules which threaten reduction of benefit for anyone not involved in some kind of training scheme, don't allow for people like me who are working things out in their own way. If I get diverted now by being forced into unsuitable full-time work - or a crappy training scheme, all the progress I've made will be spoilt. It's time the authorities admitted that there's not

enough work to go around and accepted that people can make a contribution without being forced into the consumer society.



On 8th November angry Edinburgh claimants besieged High Riggs Unemployment Benefit Office and then occupied the Grand Metropolitan Training Agency in Torphichen Street - barricading themselves into a first floor room and hanging a massive banner proclaiming JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE NO WAY out of a window. More actions against the new Allowance are planned: contact Edinburgh Claimants on 332 7547.

I HATE THIS COMMERCIAL CHRISTMAS. IT SEEMS TO COME EARLIER EVERY YEAR.

I AGREE.

SO, HAVE YOU STARTED YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING YET?

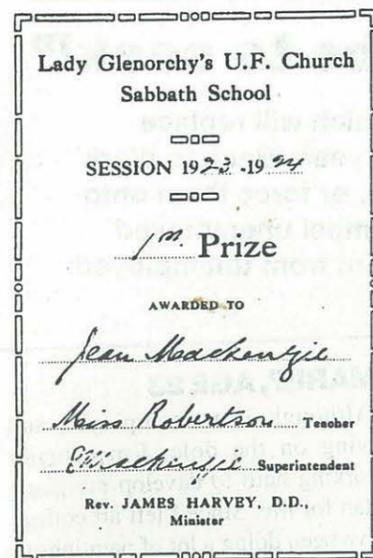
NO, I DID IT ALL IN SEPTEMBER.



TOMMY 95

CORSETS OFF FOR CHRISTMAS

Let's have something different for Christmas, they said. A contradiction in terms really. The essence of Christmas is that it doesn't change – tinsel and candlelight; indignation as our local reputable department store mounts its festive display in the dying days of September as we're still barbecuing in the back-green; the hats of the homeless and the sale of their fortnightly testament as we make for that festive display.



Some days later, moving a bookcase and contemplating the long-undisturbed grime on much of the contents, I happened on a slim volume awarded (as first prize!) in session 1923/24 to my mother by Lady Glenorchy's Church Sabbath School, now only a sliver of masonry propped precariously beside the Playhouse (and a fragile indicator of the religious content of Christmas). "Peeps At Great Cities – Edinburgh", by Rosaline Masson (1919), is at once a precious but perceptive piece.

"Winter is 'the Season' in Edinburgh, and it is also the busy time when everyone is in town and everything is going on – schools, University session, Law Courts, art exhibitions, concerts, lectures, political meetings, balls, dinner-parties, bazaars." No need there to turn to the TV pages for

the next few months! But, "As a rule Edinburgh does not take very active interest in new ideas. Enthusiasm for antiquity is understood, and some forms of it are tolerated, but any other form of enthusiasm is 'up against it', as the Americans say, in Edinburgh....They do each year as they have done the previous year, and, if possible, what their fathers and mothers did before them."

Really? Will the many thousands who come pleasure-bent to the upcoming New Year revels in the streets of what R.L.S. called "a downright meteorological purgatory" encounter residents themselves quite as unbending as that? Just maybe they will find Miss Masson's "balls and bazaars" with their corsets off, albeit with their thermals on.

But, "Even at these times of public anxiety over great issues, and of universal upheaval and excitement, Edinburgh remains calm", she notes. ".....the fall of a Ministry and the fate of an Empire (would) disturb many an honest person less than if the One O'clock Gun did not go off." Those honest persons on their way to celebrate should be disturbed as they pass the hats of the homeless. No reason there for Edinburgh to remain calm.

By next Christmas let's really write something different.

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: John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman, Charlie Miller, Gavin McGregor, Dougal Perman and Conchita Pinto.

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

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

Looking Ahead

This is our last issue for 1995; we'll be back in print at the beginning of February.

Before that, we'll be looking at possible changes to the design of the paper, with a meeting to discuss this on Wednesday 24th January, 7pm in Drummond Community High. Suggestions are welcome – write, phone or come to the meeting!

Thanks to all our readers, Supporters, contributors and advertisers for their continuing support.

We would particularly like to send our best wishes to those who will find little to celebrate in the coming 'festive season'. We hope 1996 will bring better times.

ADULT DAYTIME CLASSES JANUARY 1996

Drummond Community High School
New Classes:

- Parentlink – a parenting class and support group
- Parenting teenagers • Sign Language
- Media Studies • Creative Writing
- French Conversation • Scotvec Maths
- Sewing and Dressmaking
- Communications

There are also spaces in the following classes:

- Yoga • Art – various • Woodwork – Thurs (2 classes) • Aerobics and fitness workout – 9.30 to 10.30 Monds/Weds/Frids • Patchwork – Thurs 10 to 12
- To book a space or have more information, please phone Stephanie Oliver on 557 1490/556 2651, or call in at the Community Office.

A WEEL-KENT FACE



Dave McNair,
Drummond Community High
Where were you born?
Simpson's Maternity Pavilion,
Edinburgh.

How would you describe your job?
1955-74, Armed Forces (Navy, then Army). Then steel erecting, on rigs. Then Security, until present job as head janitor from 1986.

What is your favourite restaurant/pub?

None – but I like Thai, Chinese, Italian, pub grub. In other words, I love good food.

What is your favourite holiday destination?

A little Greek island called Aegina. But Helen and I also love the Lake District and Cornwall.

What makes you angry?

The way people of my generation and older blame youngsters for everything that goes wrong. They've forgotten the teddy boys and rock 'n' roll. It's not the kids' fault that jobs are scarce. And anyone who says that crime doesn't rise when people are skint is living in a dream world.

What do you do to relax?

Theatre (as often as possible). Reading. Holidays.

What paper do you read?

Evening News. Sunday Mail.

What is your favourite song?

"The Gates of Eden", or anything else by Bob Dylan.

What frightens you most?

Illness that would make me rely on other people.

If you could be granted a wish, what would it be?

Plenty of work for everyone, to bring a little dignity and happiness back into people's lives.

CAR PARKING AT DRUMMOND

A message to local residents from the heidie

Concern has been expressed by the parents on Drummond's School Board about the danger of vehicular movement during school hours.

While it is clear that on occasions some overflow of traffic into the playground is required if we are to accommodate adult students and visitors to the school, the level of this is greatly increased by the number of vehicles who park in the school grounds without authorisation.

Closing vehicular access to the playground was considered but this would cause even greater pressure on street parking for residents in the area.

The school is therefore trying to minimise use of the playground by introducing a permit scheme from January 1996 which will operate between the hours of 8am and 5.30pm each day.

We hope that local residents will understand that our actions are an attempt to improve safety for our students.

F McGrail
Head Teacher

PRINTING ON PAPER ART WORKSHOP

Saturday 9th Dec, 10am-4pm
at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street
£13, £9 concessions
contact Kerry – 337 8458

BROUGHTON STREET BRUNCHERIE

Sandwich Bar
71 Broughton Street
Wide variety of hot and cold rolls.
Outside Catering – Business
Buffet for that special occasion
Open 7am to 4 pm. Mon to Fri,
8am to 2pm Saturday
Telephone orders welcome
phone 0131 556 9732
Quality Food
Competitive Prices
Personal Service

CALMING FOR CLAREMONT

Residents in East Claremont Street can look forward to having traffic calming measures in place by the middle of 1996. And a remodelling of the central reservation to make it impossible for vehicles to ride up onto it, but easier for pedestrians (and children in prams or pushchairs) to cross it.

The good news came at the November meeting of the local Residents Association, addressed by officials from the Regional Council. The visitors were also able to present research evidence that traffic calming schemes already introduced elsewhere in Edinburgh have reduced accidents – and got the thumbs-up from 80% of local residents. The Region has a list of over 300 requests for traffic calming in residential areas of the city: East Claremont Street was well down the priority list, but it makes economic sense to do some traffic calming at the same time as essential maintenance work.

As soon as those first measures are in place next year Claremont can be considered for a 20mph limit!

• Meanwhile, Broughton Traffic Action Group were out in Broughton Street with their "SLOW DOWN" placards on Saturday, 25th November. They plan more action in 1996: if you're interested, phone Jane Coville (556 1851, evenings), or Peter Galinsky (557 8010, daytime).



MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT

39a Albany Street
Open for Christmas lunch, and New Year's Eve. Special buffet lunch on New Year's Day
Lunch 12 noon – 2.30pm,
Monday to Saturday.
Dinner from 6 to 10.30pm
Open Sunday 5 to 10 pm