

Organ restored

The opening recital was given on Friday, 8th December 1882. Now, over 120 years later, the first of four inaugural recitals to celebrate the full restoration of the organ at Broughton St Mary's in Bellevue Crescent took place on Wednesday, 19th March 2003.

In 1881, a circular seeking approval for instrumental music in the church had been sent to 1430 members and "sitters" – the first time the former St Mary's had asked women, rather than just the male heads of households, for an opinion! During the following year, the cost of £670 was raised and building of the organ entrusted to Thomas C. Lewis of Brixton – one of the the two leading organ builders of his day. It was originally hand-blown, a mechanism that remains in working

order – though there are no plans to take advantage of this. In 1892 water power was introduced, but the hydraulic engine was never a success, and in 1902 an electric motor was installed. Apart from minor alterations and overhauls, the organ is one of only a few Lewis organs to have survived intact and, thanks to a £30,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant, it is set to play on for many years yet.

The opening recital was given by John Kitchen, for many years organist of Edinburgh University and, since December 2002, Edinburgh City Organist. The three further recitals are on 11th April, 16th May and 11th June, all at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £6 (concessions £4) – available at the door.

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

Friends of Hoptoun Crescent Garden
Eileen Dickie 556 0903

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Drummond Community High School
556 2651

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School,
Weds. 6.30pm-7pm during school terms

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street
on Mondays from 6.30 to 7.15pm

Malcolm Chisholm MSP
Phone 558 8358 Saturday surgery
suspended after 29/3/03.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP
Advice sessions every Friday at
86-88 Brunswick Street, 12.30pm and
at Stockbridge Library, 4pm

Mark Lazarowicz
Member of Parliament for
Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St.
Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,
Fax: 0131 557 5759 EH7 5HU
Email: lazarowiczmp@parliament.uk
Please contact Constituency Office for
details of Advice Sessions.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 102 Independent

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

What's happening to our 'community' school?

We planned to report on progress on the building work at Drummond in this month's **Spurtle**. Unfortunately the physical improvements that we saw on a recent tour round the school have been overshadowed by doubts about the future of Drummond as a true community school.

At the Community Council's meeting in early March, Drummond's Head Teacher announced her intention to remove the steps leading from Cochran Terrace to the school playground. This would mean the end of a route used by the local community for decades. At the same time, cutting back access to the playground out of school hours was under discussion between school staff and the private company which will run the school facilities once the refurbishment is completed. The company proposed that all gates should be locked when the school building itself is not in use – which would include after 5pm on Fridays and large parts of the weekends, not to mention school holidays! When **Spurtle** reminded the Head Teacher of previous assurances that private management would not lead to any cut in community use, she suggested the company might interpret that as meaning no cut in formal lets rather than in overall community use.

Local Councillor Davies has since told us "there are absolutely no plans to exclude local people, especially young people, from the playground". But when plans to refurbish Drummond were presented there was a public assurance the Cochran Terrace steps would open again when work on that part of the site was completed!

The main argument being put forward for removing the steps is that safety and security at Drummond would be improved. But can closing this route really be central to that? With three other gates to the playground, surely security and safety must depend first and foremost on monitoring CCTV cameras – and secure entrances to the building itself?

Any possible gain in safety for Drummond students must be weighed against the loss of a safe route to and from local primary schools.

The danger from traffic out on the main road is much greater than any danger posed by people using the route through the playground. The School Board at St Mary's Primary are firmly opposed to closure of the Drummond route; Broughton Primary School Board are also worried by the prospect of losing this safe route, and are writing to Drummond accordingly. And closing such a route must be in direct conflict with City Council policies on encouraging walking, and creating safer routes to school.

Continued on page 2.

BELLEVUE TO BAGHDAD



As war threatened, Annette Lamont of Bellevue Gardens travelled to Iraq at the end of February, to become a human shield alongside the local people. She is living with the families of workers at a food depot. With the first casualties mounting up, Bush and Blair's attack on Iraq has now put her life at risk too.

Report on page 3.

ROWANBANK FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS LIMITED

Independent Financial Advice

- Savings and Investments
- Pensions
- Life cover
- Income/Illness/Unemployment Protection
- Mortgages and Re-mortgages

For your free, no obligation consultation call now

Nick Manuel BSc, PhD, MLIA (dip)
0131 312 7915 or 07947 822 323
54 Main Street, Davidsons Mains,
Edinburgh EH4 5AA

Rowanbank Financial Consultants Ltd are regulated by the Financial Services Authority

KIMBELL JOINERY SERVICES

Your local tradesman
All insurance work, bookcases,
cellar lining, general joinery
– City and Guilds qualified –
556 8821
WWW.KJS.BUN.COM

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing • Keys Cut
Shoe repair service
Timber Boards Cut to Size
Monday-Saturday
9.30am-5.30pm (Closed Wed. pm)
109 Broughton Street
556 9672

SIRACH LOW COST COMPUTER TRAINING

THE LOW COST
COMPUTER TRAINING COMPANY
FLEXIBLE BOOKING, INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTING
DIGITAL CAMERA AND SCANNERS
INTERNET AND EMAIL
MICROSOFT WORD, EXCEL, POWERPOINT,
PUBLISHER, ACCESS AND OUTLOOK
WHETHER YOU WANT TO SEND PHOTOS
VIA EMAIL, PRINT ADDRESS LABELS IN WORD
OR KEEP ACCOUNTS IN EXCEL
WE HAVE THE ANSWER
PRICES START FROM £30
FOR AN 8 HOUR COURSE
CONTACT US AT 26 FORTH STREET
TEL: 477 8645
EMAIL: INFO@SIRACH.CO.UK
WEB: WWW.SIRACH.CO.UK



**New Town
Broughton and Pilrig
Community Council**

represents your views to the City Council and other public bodies. We need to find out what your views are on planning, transport, environment and licensing matters. Get in touch with us or come along to our meetings on the first Monday of every month (except for public holidays) in the Library of Drummond Community School. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Annette O'Carroll,
Secretary, 556 7586.

BRIEFLY

Readers will have seen road markings being put down over the past few weeks, in preparation for **Broughton's 20 mph zone**. Now the City Council has started the process to get the Traffic Regulation Order enforcing the new speed limit: notices on lamp posts list the streets affected, and invite formal objections not later than 4th April.

In February we reported on the national support group for psoriasis sufferers, set up by **Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road**. Since then, Janice has been given a grant from the 'You and Your Community' Millennium Award to run four workshops in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee and Inverness. **Spurtle** went along to the Edinburgh one, at which specialist nurses gave short talks and then answered questions put by folk suffering psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis – who also welcomed the chance of informal discussion over a cup of tea. To contact Janice, phone 556 4117.

Some of the trees in the East Claremont Street central reservation have long since died. **The good news** is that they have now been taken out and the areas replanted.

Councillor Davies tells us that he and local MP Mark Lazarowicz met national representatives of **Europcar** earlier this month, about their cars blocking the footpath in East London Street. They were told that **Europcar** have now decided that they will stay in these premises, that they will refurbish them, and that the parking problem "will be addressed" in the refurbishment process. The work has now started, and should be completed by the end of April or early May.

Broughton Street is now **hand-swept by a barrow beat team**. This has been on a five days a week basis, but is now being extended to seven days a week.

At the end of February Billy Wilson and the local Environmental Task Force cleaned out the **Water of Leith** from Warriston, past St Mark's Park, to the bridge at Bonnington: 5 tonnes of rubbish, including several shopping trolleys and bikes.

Our 'community' school?

Continued from page 1

A second argument presented for closure is "increased amenity for residents in Cochran Terrace". Off-and-on over the years residents in the Terrace and in East London Street have suffered from antisocial behaviour by a minority of Drummond students hanging about at the top of the steps. So it's not surprising that some of them have welcomed the prospect of the steps being closed. We know this has been a very real problem. But it hasn't disappeared while the steps have been closed; and local residents are now coming up with stories of similar problems at the other gates.

This is a long-established community route – in existence since before the school was built on the site of the old Bellevue Park in 1926.

Is permanently closing it really an appropriate solution to a discipline problem? Instead, would it not be better for the school management to pursue effective disciplinary measures, with police involvement as and when necessary – and perhaps even dialogue between local residents and the Student Council at Drummond?

So:

- cutting back access to the playground and its facilities seriously considered



The steps from Cochran Terrace. Access denied!

- a proposal to close a long-established community route
- and a decision taken to permanently change the local physical environment by **removing** the steps without any consultation with the local community.

Whatever the immediate outcomes, there will be some hard work to be done to restore Drummond's credibility as a genuine community school.

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Tim Puntis, and Eileen Dickie.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time.

PHONE and FAX :- 556 7727 or 556 0903

BROUGHTON Spurtle is on the World Wide Web on www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk

BROUGHTON Spurtle is printed on recycled paper.

Rutherford Cleaning Services

NO TIME FOR HOUSEWORK?
Specialist in domestic cleaning

Debbie Rutherford
Tel. No. 0131 476 0201
Mobile 07747 121494

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR FLAT?

We always require properties to meet constant demand

Broughton Property Management
61 Broughton Street
Tel 0131 478 7222
E-mail: broughton_prop@ednet.co.uk

Broughton resident is human shield in Iraq



Annette Lamont, shown kneeling in the front row of this picture from Iraq, lives in Bellevue Gardens. Some years ago she was our local councillor; more recently she's become assistant to our MSP, Malcolm Chisholm. In late February she set off for Iraq: why?

"I felt I had to go one step farther and come here to add an extra dimension to the growing anti-war movement. And I was not alone! Since coming here I have met people from over fifty countries who feel this is a totally unjust war. We have met quite a few American peace activists here in Iraq and we are very worried about their situation. The US government have up to now been threatening them with charges of treason, but we have heard recently on BBC news that the government is now saying they will be tried under the Patriot Act. The Patriot Act came into being within the last six months, and it sets up a judicial system whereby American citizens can be tried by secret tribunals where the accused have no right to legal representation."

Annette is living with families near

a food depot where they work:

"I have made good friends with two women here and we have stuck together since leaving Amman. Ruth is Australian and Judith is English. We decided that we would go to the Taije food silo in north Baghdad, where all the grain and rice which feeds the five million people of Baghdad is stored. I wanted to go to the food silo because food is so fundamental to survival. We were also keen to come here because some of the workers live on the site with their families, and we wanted to live amongst the local people."

Shortly before the attack on Iraq began, Annette's sister Karen spoke to her on the phone: "I asked her what she was doing, and she said she was making a cup of tea for her neighbour when I phoned. She says they are battenning down the hatches and sitting tight". Since then communications have become much more difficult. But two days into the war the family got a brief call from someone in Baghdad, to say they'd just met Annette alive and well.

As we go to press the invasion troops are pushing on towards Baghdad. Our hearts go out to the the Iraqi folk Annette is trying to shield; and to the young soldiers from the UK and USA whose lives are also at risk. But most of all our sympathy is with her family, who are "100% behind her". We hope it won't be too long before Annette is back in Broughton, safe and sound.



Drummond students set off to join an anti-war protest, the day before the attack on Iraq began; and Drummond staff on the march the following Saturday.

EVENTS

SUNDAY 30TH MARCH

Community Clean Up of Hopetoun Crescent Garden at 12 noon, organised by the Friends of the Garden. Gloves and pickers provided – and tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. Just come along – or phone 556 0903 for more information.

THURSDAY 3RD APRIL

General meeting of the Broughton Village Association, 7pm in the Church Centre, East Broughton Place. Talk by landscape architect John Richards; discussion of proposed local street audits.

SUNDAY 6TH APRIL

Clean Up in Broughton Road. Meet at the playpark at 1pm. After the work, refreshments in the residents' hut in Redbraes Park. If you want more information, phone 556 7550.

FRIDAY 11TH APRIL

Organ recital at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent, 7.30pm. Tickets £6 (concessions £4) – available at the door. See news item on back page.

SATURDAY 12TH APRIL

Silent Vigil for Peace – all faiths, 12 noon to 1pm at the Wellington statue, East End, organised by the East End Council of Churches. Followed by regular Women in Black vigil, 1 to 2pm.

SUNDAY 13TH APRIL

Open day at the Mansfield Traquair Centre, 1 to 4pm. Free guided tours.

BE A VOLUNTEER AT CONTACT POINT DROP-IN

We urgently need volunteers for evening sessions at our city centre drop-in.

Join one of our existing teams on Monday, social activities or Tuesday Art Group.

For more information phone: Bernie on 622 1865