

Belle's View



Hi fans

Eeeee, the nights are fair drawing in as they say, and **John Lewis** have got their Christmas decorations up – it must be Halloween already! What fun can be had in the dreichness that is **Broughton** and **Bellevue** in November, I hear you implore?

During the long wet winter nights, what could be more Scottish than spending a convivial evening in a cosy drinking establishment? A brand spanking new hostelry has opened up on our very doorstep, dear readers, **The Hopetoun Inn** in **McDonald Road**. Unfortunately its grand opening has been slightly marred by the fact that it is currently surrounded by roadworks meaning that any would-be imbibers have to negotiate an assault course of fencing and other road ornaments to get inside (Estelle Murgatroyd suffered a terrible rip to one of her worsted winter stockings). But it is well worth the effort, as they do a very good cheese toastie and an absolutely sublime gin and tonic!

For anyone who's needing a good laugh, chuckles galore are always to be had nearby at **The Stand** comedy club in **York Place**. Among other things on their weekend programme this winter, they have a free show *Whose lunch is it anyway?* on Sundays at 1pm with resident duo **Paul Graham** and **Stuart Murphy**. I have heard though, that **The Stand** are not too keen on hecklers (especially if they are funnier than the act), so do behave yourselves!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Find out what's going on!
The Drummond building programme
Thursday 1st November 7pm
at the School
All parents and residents welcome

Spurtle team for this issue:
Eileen Dickie, David Aitken,
Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor,
John Dickie, Alan McIntosh,
Norma McKendrick and Tim Puntis.
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Contacts

**Drummond Community High
School**
556 2651
For questions or information about
building work, ask for Charlie Traylor
or Muriel Buchanan
**Bellevue and Claremont Residents
Association**
Yvonne Pryor 531 1636
Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)
Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493
McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267
Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151
Sovereign Court Residents
John Davies 478 4463
**New Town Broughton and Pilrig
Community Council**
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586
Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

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 to 6.45pm

Malcolm Chisholm MSP
555 3636 Surgery on Saturdays,
Drummond High School, 1.00pm.
Mark Lazarowicz, MP
Advice sessions every Friday at
274 Leith Walk, 12.30pm and every
Saturday at Stockbridge Library,
10.30pm.

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No 87 November 2001

Locals rally round mosque



The attack on their mosque was a "horrifying incident" for Edinburgh Muslims. But they are fast recovering from the shock and looking positively towards the future. This became clear when **Spurtle** spoke to Masud Khan, a member of the executive committee

of the Pakistan Association – it runs the mosque and community centre in Annandale Street.

Masud was particularly anxious to put on record their thanks to the two girls who rang the emergency services when they saw smoke coming from the building. Without their speedy action the damage would have been much worse. Since the attack, his community has had support from all over Edinburgh and beyond. "What's meant most is the number of local people who've dropped in, phoned or written to express their sympathy and support." Work on repairs and redecorating is well advanced, and it's hoped it can be completed in time for the festival of Ramadan in mid-November.

The Pakistan Association of Edinburgh and East Scotland raised £300,000 to establish the mosque and community centre. Around 400

worship there each Friday: as Masud emphasised, this is both a religious event and a community gathering. The hall and rooms above the mosque are used for children's Urdu and Arabic classes five days a week, women's groups, and as a base for the long-established Pakistani cricket club. Plans for the future include an information centre, to assist members of the community in finding their way around housing and other social services.

People at the mosque are keen to develop more frequent contact with the rest of the local community. **Spurtle** hopes to play a part in making this happen.

Footnote: Masud Khan will be one of the speakers at a discussion about the current crisis in Afghanistan on 7th November, 11am-1pm, at Craigmoynton Community High School, Pennywell Road (more info from Tesfu Gessesse, 467 7990).

Contractors start work at Drummond



Work has now started on the £4m refurbishment of Drummond Community High School. During the half-term break contractors raced to establish a site office, builder's yard, 4-5 temporary classrooms (portacabins), and fenced access routes at the front of the school. Attention will shift next to improvements inside the Drummond complex (see page 2).

Inside

Drummond the next 12 months – page 2
Our new councillor – page 3
Abbeyfield no more – page 3
Council conned over allotments? – page 2
Belle's View – page 4

Future work at Drummond

Between November 2001 and February 2002, main services (power, information cables etc.) will be established throughout. This work, conducted during evenings, overnight and at weekends, is not expected to disrupt community classes. However, refurbishment of existing classrooms, and construction of new classrooms towards the rear of the school, will inevitably cause some disturbance, and some pupils will move to temporary units.

Demolition of the old 'high' gym will probably take place between February and October 2002, and in the short term will be no fun for anyone in the vicinity. As the contractors point out, there is no quiet or dust-free way to knock down a building. Preparation for this will start soon, and access to the playground from Cochran Terrace will temporarily be closed from early this November.

Drummond staff are determined to minimise problems, and Charlie Traylor is acting as PPP Liaison Officer, doing what he can to avoid or resolve the competing priorities of builders, staff, pupils, residents and Council officials. His main concerns are to ensure the safety of all at Drummond (there will, for example, be a supervised level crossing in the playground, to separate pedestrians from traffic), and the uninterrupted education of pupils, particularly around exam time in May. So far, Acting Head

Muriel Buchanan is confident these concerns can be met, and is pleased with the understanding and co-operative attitude of the contractors.

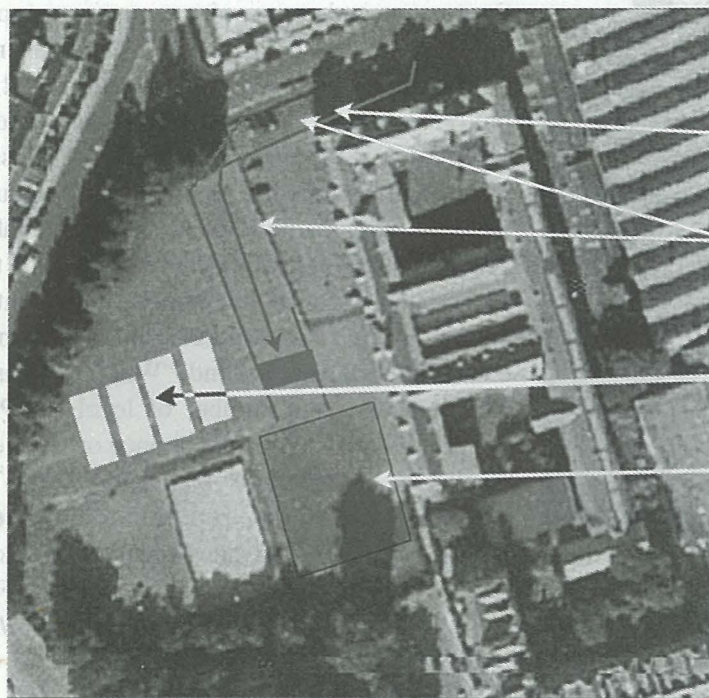
Informing local residents

A meeting at which staff will brief locals is scheduled for Thursday, 1st November at 7pm, by which time

But the worries are still there

Can adequate 'delivery of the curriculum' really be ensured in the midst of a building site? Are portacabins up to the job as classrooms? How on earth do you keep youngsters, tractors and holes in the ground separate at all times? Do the powers that be have any

Work in Drummond playground



Restricted parking area to maintain site access

Site access

Temporary units

Contractor's compound

more information should be available on the project's continually evolving schedule. Thereafter, regular bulletins will be posted on the noticeboard facing Mansfield Place, and in the school's main foyer. If and when further issues arise, locals are invited to contact Charlie Traylor or Muriel Buchanan at the school (556 2651).

serious intention to consult as well as inform local residents?

However carefully managed, it is likely to be a testing time for all involved. Whatever the rights or wrongs of PPP in principle, **Spurtle** wishes all those at Drummond, and surrounding streets, good luck over the coming months.

Hawkhill allotments: Council conned?

A year ago we reported the City Council planned to get rid of 14 allotments over at Hawkhill, and fence off a bit of Pilrig Park to make new ones for displaced holders so that the land could be sold off to D F Wishart for a warehouse expansion.

So: a net loss of green space open to the general public. Council leaders

justified it on the grounds that if Wishart didn't get what they wanted, they'd move away and local jobs would be lost. Allotment holders and Pilrig Association fought the decision, but eventually lost: the site must be vacated by April next at the latest.

But now it has emerged that Wishart doesn't need the site for its

own immediate use after all! Instead, it's applied for change of planning consent to allow it to lease the land out to others. As we asked a year ago: "Is it sometimes just too easy for business to blackmail both national and local politicians by raising the spectre of jobs to be lost, or not won?"

First questions to new councillor



Not much more than a fifth of us on the electoral register turned out to vote for a new Broughton councillor on 11th October. Apathy – or a justified belief that it wouldn't make much difference who won?

Trevor Davies held the seat for Labour. In an election leaflet he promised to work to make Broughton "a safer and cleaner place in which to live and work". On making the area cleaner, we asked him three questions.

Is it true that the number of staff actually cleaning Edinburgh streets has fallen by 20% over the past 4 years (as claimed in the mainstream local Press)? Councillor Davies sent us figures which suggest a drop between 1997 and 2000, but nothing like 20%, and a substantial increase for 2000-1. But beware statistics, and the need to compare like with like: "the increase in the current year is partly accounted for by integrating ground maintenance and other cleaning roles into general street

cleaning through the new task forces", says the councillor.

How often can we expect the new litter wardens to visit Broughton? "Ian Mullán is the new 'environmental warden' for Broughton and two other wards. He expects to be in Broughton regularly – two days each week is his present guesstimate. He will be checking traders have a licence for waste and aren't dumping it indiscriminately. He'll check that household refuse bags are put out at the proper time and if they are not – he'll open the bags looking for addresses. He can then trace and warn the householder, and if this is ignored he can serve a notice on the offenders. He can also check on litter louts and on people who let dogs foul the streets."

How will you set about "making fast food shops responsible for their customers' litter", as promised in your leaflet? No answer yet – Councillor Davies pointed out that he'd only been in the job for a few days when we approached him.

On making our area safer, we'll follow up the points he listed in his leaflet in due course – and one he didn't include: traffic congestion and safety in Broughton Street.

Councillor's surgery now at Broughton Primary School, not at Drummond as for previous councillors. (See Contacts page 4)

43 London Street gets a face lift

Anyone passing 43 London Street recently is sure to have noticed its new image: the silvery grey facade and burgundy surrounds plus a new name, **Outlook Housing**. What's



it all in aid of? Well, after 41 years of affiliation with the Abbeyfield movement, it was time to go solo, and thus Outlook Housing was born. Outlook Housing is at the same time a local charity and a housing association, and remains committed to providing quality housing and assistance to older People in Edinburgh.

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