

BELLEVUE AND CLAREMONT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

This Association was suggested by the Safer Edinburgh Project in late 1990. Considerable interest in a community association was shown by a number of residents. After several meetings and by March 1991 a committee had been appointed, constitution drawn up and a programme of four meetings arranged for the following winter session.

Our first newsletter appeared in May 1991 and they have continued twice yearly since. A lot of work goes into producing those newsletters and we hope they have proved interesting reading. Attendance at the Open Meetings have varied, but generally these have proved to be disappointing.

The Committee has vigorously pursued many complaints made by the residents and have had a reasonable measure of success in obtaining satisfaction. It is certainly true to say that the authorities pay more attention to a request from a group of people rather than one individual. It must be pointed out that things like repainting of double yellow lines, objections to planning applications which would not be in the best interests of the residents, improved bus services, etc., do not happen just by "magic". For instance, the Committee had to do a survey and put a considerable amount of effort into proving the need for a better bus service; and we also have to be sure it is well used during this trial period.

It is to be hoped that in the future the residents will show more community spirit and interest in the Association - after all, we all benefit from improved amenities. Phone 556 5923.

BROUGHTON SPRING FLING

A group that's been studying the history of Broughton plans to mount an exhibition during the Spring Fling - 30th April to 7th May. It will be at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street.

Do you have old family photos that could illustrate the more recent history of the area - buildings long gone, trams, school events? Or things like last tram tickets? Or old prints and drawings?

Would you consider lending them for the exhibition? If so, please phone Jean Bell as soon as possible - 556 0965.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 4 April - New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets in the church halls, East Broughton Place, 7.30pm

Wednesday 6 April - VAT on Fuel public meeting, Stockbridge Primary School, 8pm

Thursday 7 April - Spurtle meeting at the Bellevue pub in Broughton Street, 8pm

Wednesday 13 April - Traffic Forum meeting, Drummond Community High, 7pm

Thursday 14 April - special open meeting at 103 Broughton Street, 7.30pm, to plan for the future and how to keep the Centre open.

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

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

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

BE A SPURTLE SUPPORTER

The Spurtle is distributed free - but we need to pay the printer. We depend entirely on donations and fund-raising events. You can help by becoming a Supporter. Send us a fiver now!

As a thank-you, we'll deliver the next 5 issues to you, plus other items we think might interest you - leaflets, press cuttings, news of campaigns.

Postal orders made out to John Dickie, please

P.S. Do you commute between Edinburgh and Glasgow? We could cut costs if someone volunteered to collect the Spurtle from the printer.

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 7th April at 8pm

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

And remember to keep writing those letters!



SAVE THE CENTRE! WIMMY & LIZZY

TOM PERMAN '94

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 3

April 1994

ARE YOU AN APRIL FUEL?

Did you know that old furniture counts more than people? The Tories have negotiated with the EC a special rate of VAT on antiques of 2.5% because too high a rate would damage the European market.

Did you know the Tories are proposing to remove VAT from golf club subscriptions saving golfers £70 - 120 per year? They have also agreed to pay back what has been collected over the last three years.

Did you know big business and the rich are being advised to exploit a loop-hole by paying their fuel bill in advance so they will not be charged VAT?

Dr Brenda Boardman of Oxford University estimates VAT could cause an extra 10,000 deaths annually. More elderly die from cold-related illness in Scotland than any other country in Europe. Met Office statistics show the average during January are as much as 5°C lower than in Plymouth or Devon.

You may however be as rich as the chairman of British Gas, earning £435,222 per year, and are happy to contribute to the government raising extra revenue of £2.5 billion by adding 8% to your fuel bill.

Edwina Currie told two pensioners that if you want the good life you have to pay for it. Yes, Edwina, let's get back to basics: the good life should be shared by everyone.

You can't afford to ignore the inequalities of this tax. Now is the time to join the Lothians Communities Campaign against VAT on Fuel. Everyone can take part at any level they feel comfortable with. Here are a few strategies:

- non-payment of total fuel bill
- withhold the VAT element
- write to your MP, power companies, media
- build up a local group
- become informed by attending the public meeting at Stockbridge Primary School on Wednesday 6th April at 8 o'clock.

For further information contact EVELYN GRAHAM 556 6203



Broughton Village 1852 - west end of Barony Street.

CENTRE THREATENED

On 8th March the Lothian Regional Council Social Work Committee voted to terminate the lease of the Edinburgh Unemployed Workers Centre for the premises at 103 Broughton Street as from 14th June 1994.

Despite the decision the Users Group is determined to remain in the premises. "The Centre is an invaluable resource for claimants and the community, and we have the full support of New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council and numerous community organisations. All the Centre's facilities remain open - our cheap cafe, drop in centre, meeting rooms, children's play room, dark room, exhibition space, information point, bookstall and more. We will soon be opening an Info Shop and library."

"We continue to provide advice and solidarity to claimants and anyone with benefits, poll tax or similar problems. We continue to be a resource for groups fighting social injustice such as VAT on fuel."

A special open meeting will be held at the Centre on Thursday 14th April, 7.30pm, to plan for the future and how to keep the Centre open.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE IS NOW PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Broughton Community Centre?

YOUR LETTERS on COMMUNITY CENTRES

When I pass Drummond School of an evening I am very happy to see teenagers enjoying games on the floodlit courts.

I hope you will pursue the matter of a community centre, so that additional facilities can be developed and whole families and different generations can participate together and separately under the same roof.

I am sure a community centre would improve life in the Broughton area.

Betty Ross
East Claremont Street

Congratulations on the first two issues of the news sheet. I thought I might add my tuppence worth. In particular, I am interested in the issue of a local community centre.

It is true that there are a number of resources in the area and I, for one, have made use of most of them. One of the nice things about living in this area is the social and cultural mix of the people. So wouldn't it be nice if there was somewhere that could bring together all those different groups. A place where people could meet anytime, for a chat over a cup of coffee without having to enrol for a class. A casual drop-in facility that you could take the kids to after school when the weather makes the play park impossible, or where your teenage children could hang out and play table tennis or whatever, in the evening.

Maybe the resources that already exist could combine forces to identify and fill the gaps instead of beavering away on their own. Or maybe it does need a totally fresh approach.

One final point, of all the community facilities in the area, how many have disabled access?

Broughton/Bellevue is a good area to live in, but there's nothing wrong with wanting to make it even better.

Aileen Mitchell
Bellevue Place

Several local groups have lobbied me regarding the need for a community centre in Broughton. The centre could provide a range of services for the elderly, single parents and young people that would complement the work being done by other organisations such as Drummond Community High School.

A model for this type of centre is, perhaps, provided by the Calton Resource Centre at the Easter Road end of Montgomery Street.

It seems that the only suitable premises for such a centre is the building, owned by Lothian Regional Council, which is currently occupied by the "Unemployed Workers Centre". Its lease terminates in the middle of June. The Social Work Department will be producing a report on the use of these premises. It seems to me that it could be used as a Community Centre. If local groups and people support this idea, then they should write to the Department. The building would not necessarily be used and funded as a centre unless there is local support for this proposal.

Cllr. Des Loughney

I was very unhappy to read Press reports that the Social Work Committee decided not to renew the Unemployed Workers Centre's lease of 103 Broughton Street. I hope the Regional Council will decide instead to extend the lease, and thank all those who are running the Centre at considerably less cost than if the Region were the operator!

You know, it's a puzzle that a Labour-controlled authority can appear to act to hurt local initiatives. First they cut off funds to the Citizens Rights Office, then they rode roughshod over the London Street Primary School parents, now they snuff out the unemployed Workers Centre - a model of its kind.

Broughton has 20% male unemployment and 10% female unemployment and is listed (by the District Council) as an unemployment priority area. I challenge someone in authority in the Region to defend the Centre. Perhaps the only crumb of comfort is the Region itself is due for the axe in 18 months or so!

Ian Dunn
Gayfield Square

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

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, Evelyn Graham, Jo Arnett, John Adams, 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 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.

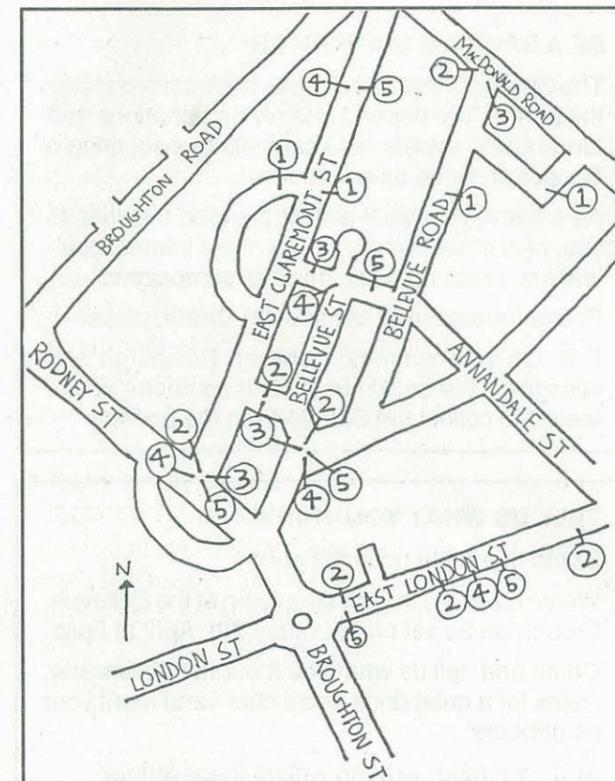
OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

TRAFFIC CALMING

40 local residents attended a traffic forum at Drummond Community High Centre on 16th March. Regional Councillor Des Loughney outlined traffic calming proposals shown on a map from the Highways Department.

Many of these proposals arose directly from points raised at previous local Broughton meetings - for example, the lack of pavements in part of East London Street, and the speed and size of traffic along East Claremont Street. The map summarises the main suggestions - it's difficult to show them in detail in a small space:

- ① one-way traffic system
- ② raised carriageway, forcing drivers to slow down and making it easier for pedestrians to cross at junctions
- ③ blisters, adding to pavements and making crossing distances shorter for pedestrians
- ④ paved area
- ⑤ seeded area (plants)



The Department's full written report will be available soon, with a chance to suggest amendments and additions before the proposals go to a Council meeting in May or June. Some additions were suggested immediately at the meeting - including a 20mph speed limit, weight restrictions, and a pedestrian crossing somewhere between Mansfield Place and Rodney Street.

If approved, work could start on at least some of the proposals in autumn this year. But there should be no sitting back and waiting: even if the proposals are accepted, we'll have to keep pushing for money to be spent implementing them.

Meanwhile, write to Des Loughney about the traffic problems you feel most strongly about. And remember the next traffic forum on Wednesday 13th April, 7pm at Drummond Community High.

BROUGHTON ACCIDENT RATES

There were 67 recorded road traffic accidents within Broughton over a three year period, 1st March 1990 to 31st October 1993. 87% of these accidents were "slight", 13% were "serious", but none were recorded as fatal.

Out of the 67 accidents recorded, 21% occurred in Broughton Street and 18% in Pilrig Street. The rest occurred in Broughton Road, Rodney Street, East London Street, East Claremont Street and Eyre Place.

The time for tackling this problem is now long overdue - before more pedestrians are injured and perhaps even killed.

GAIDHLIG ANN A'BHROUGHTON (gaelic in broughton)

Scotland's oldest living language, after centuries of oppression and ridicule, is currently enjoying a revival which it is hoped will reverse the decline of this ancient tongue. Once spoken all over Scotland, including an area that now forms part of northern England, Gaelic is now only used as a first language in the Western islands and parts of the Highlands.

However, nearly half of Scotland's (Alba) 70,000 Gaelic speakers live outside what is known as the 'Gaidhealtachd'. Many live in Edinburgh.

In the Broughton area we have our own activities not only for native Gaels but for the many learners wishing to play a part in the Gaelic revival. Each year there are Scotvec certificate night classes in Gaelic at Drummond High; also at Drummond are two Gaelic Choirs for those who feel they can sing. Nearby is a Gaelic conversation group every Thursday evening, 7.30 at the SNP clubrooms in South St Andrew Street. For those wishing to learn there are the night classes as well as 'Speaking our Language' which is currently running on STV.

Most book shops have Gaelic sections for learners. You can also write to the Gaelic learners association COMANN AN LUCHD-IONNSACHAIDH, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ.

Suas leis a' Ghaidhlig!

Iain MacAdhamh

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN MANSFIELD PLACE, BELLEVUE CRESCENT, RODNEY STREET AND HERIOTHILL TERRACE

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 May edition in local centres, shops and pubs.