

EDUCATION FOR ALL

Each edition there will be community information on the back page. We don't want to fill space with stuff that's easily available elsewhere; but many of the people who answered questions in our survey said there were local things like clubs and classes that you could easily miss out on.

We've asked the community worker at Drummond Community High to start us off. If you've found out about anything on offer locally, and you think others may not know about it - write in and tell us about it.

Eight years ago Drummond High changed its name to Drummond Community High. This small change in our name has meant big changes in what we do. That word "Community" means that we serve the educational needs not only of the 12 - 17 year olds in the area, but also of all the other age groups. At Drummond we have activities for everyone from the under 5's to the over 50's.

Our daytime programme offers courses like Art, Car Maintenance, Guitar and Step Aerobics purely for interest. We also run courses in computing, languages and Text Processing that lead to a SCOTVEC certificate. We have adults joining our senior pupils in a range of Highers including English, Maths, Biology and many others, some for College and University entrance.

In total we have around 400 daytime adult students. Some of them belong to clubs like the Art club or the machine knitters. The 50+ Walking group have recently returned from a week's walking and painting in Majorca and plan another foreign trip next year as well as their normal, more local, walks.

Many mothers of pre-school children enjoy coming along to our classes so that they can learn in the company of other adults whilst their children are well looked after in our full time crèche. People who are out of work can pick up some of the skills that may help in getting back to work, as well as keeping in touch with adults. Other people simply want to use our facilities for meetings or other activities.

We are always keen when we can, to try new courses and ideas that might be of particular interest in the local Community. Is there something that you always wanted to learn but never got round to it, or never had the opportunity? Here's your chance!

For more information phone Jane Meagher on 556 2651.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 7 February - New Town, Broughton and Pillrig Community Council meets in the Resource Centre, Drummond Community High, 7.30pm.

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

Monday 7 March - Community Council meets again, same time, same place. Any local resident is welcome to attend these monthly meetings and take part in the discussion.

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

Poll Tax Problems?

The poll tax is history. But there are still non-payers being hassled.

If you get a letter from the sheriff officers saying they're coming to do a poinding, and they give you a date, that's straightforward - it's time to get organised. There's been a couple of attempted poindings in the Broughton area recently, seen off with support from local people.

If you get a letter saying they're coming to do a poinding "the week beginning...", that's a con, it doesn't make any difference. They can come to your door and say they've come to do a poinding, and if you let them in they can do it. But they could do that anyway without the letter. Don't let them in. They can't force entry unless you've had a letter giving a specific day, at least four days beforehand.

Some local non-payers have had sneaky phone-calls in the evenings. The voice says "Can I speak to John (or whoever)?" When John's called to the phone, he's asked "Is that John M. Smith?" Only then does it emerge that this is a call from the sheriff officers, "on behalf of Lothian Region". It can catch you off balance if you are not expecting it. But at worst they've tricked you into confirming that you live at that address. If you think quick enough you might even confuse them about that. Whatever you do, don't tell them anything more.

For more information or advice, contact BROUGHTON INVERLEITH ANTI POLL TAX GROUP. Phone 556 0903.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 1

February 1994

BROUGHTON'S O.K.

That's the verdict of 50 local residents interviewed in autumn 1993. Asked if they liked living here, 44 gave a resounding YES.

They liked the convenience of living in such a central area - with "the city on your doorstep". And yet it is a residential area, with parks, gardens, the Water of Leith nearby, paths to walk or cycle on - "plenty of greenery". They think this could be even better, with more trees and flowers planted, and any spare spaces grassed over or turned into play areas.

And the people make this a good place to live too. Many of the folk we interviewed praised their good neighbours, and there were lots of comments about "the friendliness of people". One Gayfield Street resident told how nearly all the thirty guests at her child's first birthday party were folk she'd met on the street. Someone else said how much they liked "knowing people locally, bumping into them in the street". Others commented on the "good mix of people" - "mixed people and cultures, not like a housing estate", "not too snobby and not too desperate", "a balanced feel about the place".

But there are different opinions about just how strong Broughton community feeling is. Some feel it's just about right - "quiet, friendly in an unoppressive way". Others feel it's not so strong as it was. A Bellevue Street resident thinks some of the younger families that have moved in are not so outgoing and chatty, whilst someone round in Bellevue Road suggested the sense of community hadn't gone, but had weakened due to social changes - such as women going out to work. Someone else felt the lack of a community centre "really for local people". When it came to suggesting what could be done to improve life in the area, several thought a centre might help. It could meet the

needs of children, and teenagers. And it could provide "a centre point to focus the community".

Our interviews brought out complaints about dog dirt in the streets and parks; litter left out on the kerbs; gaps in bus services. A dozen other dislikes got one or two mentions each, like the residents of Cochran Terrace and East London Street, who wake at dawn to the noise of massed seagulls above the Annandale Street bus depot!

But traffic came out way ahead of all the other pet hates. Heavy vehicles in Eyre Place, cars parked across gateways in Bellevue, speeding down Broughton Street - 30 out of the 50 locals interviewed complained about it in one way or another. Not just the volume and speed of traffic, and the parking, but the noise, the pollution, the wear and tear to houses.

So when it came to suggesting how life in Broughton

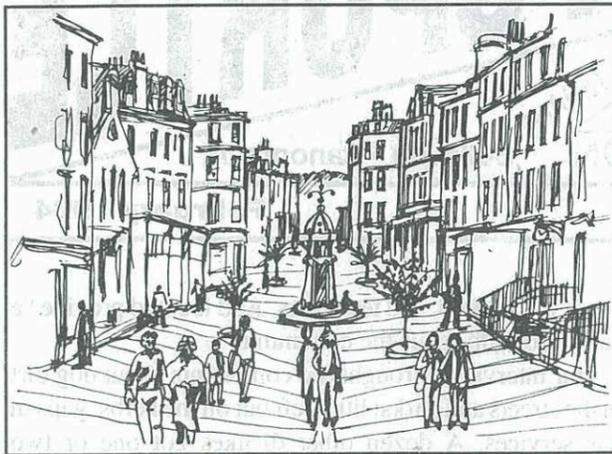


might be improved, it's not surprising that traffic control loomed large. Traffic should be reduced by re-routing heavy vehicles, discouraging commuters bringing their cars into town, having more traffic wardens in the area. Traffic should be slowed down by "sleeping policemen" and "speed tables" - and by heeding the long-standing demand for a lollipop person at the junction of Bellevue Road and Annandale Street!

But we only spoke to 50 people. What do you think?

Action on local traffic

Action on traffic



Broughton Street pedestrianised? Maybe not - but something needs to be done! Artist- Miguel Vivanco

"Pedestrians being considered more important than cars would be nice!"

(Hart Street resident)

"Successive British governments have allowed speeding cars to dominate communities, isolating people in their homes, separating them from their schools, their shops and their places of work."

"In the last five years 143 child pedestrians have been killed and 11,326 injured on Scotland's roads. Their deaths are the most extreme price we are paying for 70 years of planning for the vehicle instead of people."

"When pedestrians are hit by cars travelling at 20mph only 5% of them die. At 30mph 45% die and at 40mph nearly all of them - 85% - are killed."

"In the few places where traffic calming has been introduced in Scotland the benefits have been substantial."

(Scotland on Sunday, 19 December 1993)

Traffic's a major national and UK question. It raises issues about support for public transport, and the whole roads v. railways controversy. But maybe we can do something locally, to start shifting the balance in favour of pedestrians? Residents in the Bellevue/Claremont/Hopetoun area are having meetings with our Regional councillor to discuss how traffic could be calmed down in these streets. Proposals so far include:

- * making part of East Claremont Street one-way, and widening the central reservation
- * one-way traffic and a hump in MacDonald Place
- * traffic tables where our streets meet busier roads

Drivers have to slow down to negotiate the raised "table" across the entrance to a street - and the table is surfaced in a different colour, to emphasise that they're now turning into a residential area.

The idea is to feed suggestions from this local traffic forum into phase two of the Region's "Greenways" project - proposals for action by the Highways Department. The next full meeting is on Wednesday 16 March, 7pm in Drummond Community High. But if you want to have your say sooner than that, write to us or give us a ring (556 7928 or 556 0903)

The Highways Department has already finalised proposals for the Broughton Place/Hart Street/Gayfield area, and for Annandale Street. That was included in phase one of "Greenways" - in case you didn't know! Phase one proposals have now gone to the Scottish Office for approval. They include:

- * traffic tables to protect streets in this area
- * a roundabout and angle parking in Annandale Street.

But what about Broughton Street itself? If you think something needs to be done to slow down the traffic there, and generally make it safer and more pleasant for residents and shoppers - let us know. A local group could get together and work out what's needed.

The Region aims to finalise "Greenways" phase two proposals by the end of 1994. So now's the time to make our voices heard. And if talking doesn't seem to be enough, we can think about taking more direct action!

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: Evelyn Graham, Gill Flack, Jane Meagher, John Dickie, 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

View from the kitchen window

There have been a lot of changes in Broughton Street recently - some you can't fail to notice and some more subtle.

It is worth taking a look, now the scaffolding has finally come down, at the building in the middle block, up from the Rapido. This is the oldest building in the street, dating from the 18th Century and part of the old Gayfield Estate, standing before the rest of Broughton Street was built. I have watched the restoration of it from my kitchen window and it has involved taking down and rebuilding large sections of wall and the whole roof which includes a cone shaped part behind. The back of the building had great big holes in it for a long time. The scaffolding seems to have been there for years but perhaps that is just the day/year warp you can enter when doing the washing up.

Everyone will have noticed the sudden outbreak of shop decoration - the Globe, the bright yellow Utilities, Whirligigums with its spider's web window grilles, an interesting new shade of green for Alex and Pam, and of course Just Junk. An unscientific poll of friends reveals a lot of different opinions on these individually but a general appreciation of the character and originality of them all - and several votes too for the not so recent or dramatic Broughton Books and the restoration of the chemist's. The most outstanding of them all has to be Just Junk where the eccentricity seems to be spilling out of the door and lately around the corner into Broughton Place with the surreal mural - and have you noticed the mannequin's head at the top? Callum, the owner, says that he has had a lot of comment, nearly all favourable.

Finally for now on the local environment front - who is responsible for the broken-glass-and-dog-crap trap and tatty fence, next to the chemist's? I would vote this the worst mess in the street but my 3-year old son thinks its by far the most interesting bit and unfortunately he votes with his feet.

VAT ON FUEL - NOW'S THE TIME TO GET STEAMED UP

In November last year a document was prepared for the campaign, called VAT ON FUEL SCOTLAND SAYS NO. It was presented to Ian Laing by Archbishop O'Brien, and represented the views of twenty statutory and voluntary bodies highlighting the severe financial hardship which would be felt by those least able to pay. It made the connection with the harsh Scottish weather, the relatively poor state of Scotland's housing and the potential threat to health. It asked Mr Laing to seek to obtain a continued zero

rating on VAT on domestic fuel and, if he was not successful in that, to argue that the vast variation in climate should be taken into account.

It's now time for you to take action - don't let them get away with it. Remember what was achieved by the poll tax campaign. It's time to get steamed up and write to Ian Laing, your local MP and the Minister of Energy, Tim Eggar: a postcard will do, but make your views known.

You may be happy, of course, to help the government to raise the extra revenue? Well just spare a thought for the charities, residential homes, care providers, hostels, night shelters, hospices, day centres - the list is endless - who will all have to find the extra money. It is estimated that an extra £2.40 per care place will be required.

Several groups in Edinburgh have already met during January, to discuss ways of resisting VAT on fuel. Now a working party is planning an all-Edinburgh conference. From there it's hoped a network of local action groups will develop. If you want to keep in touch with what's happening, phone 556 6203.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN BROUGHTON AND BARONY 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 March edition in local centres, shops and pubs.

BE A SPURTLE SUPPORTER!

For £1 per issue we'll deliver it to you, plus other items we think may interest you - leaflets, press cuttings, news of campaigns.

Send us a fiver now, and guarantee your next 5 issues!

Postal orders made out to John Dickie, please

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 February 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!