

BROUGHTON *Spurtle*

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Free No 24

March 1996

LOCAL SCHOOLS JOIN PROTEST

Thousands of teachers, parents and children from all over Scotland gathered in Edinburgh to march against the threatened education cuts.

Drummond Community High and Broughton Primary were there on Saturday 24th February, to add their voices to the protest. For years now we've seen our schools' resources gradually chipped away, but this year's proposals are more drastic than ever. School closures and staff reductions threaten. Broughton Primary's heidie told **Spurtle** that with an annual budget of half a million the 5% cut that's being talked about would mean her school losing £25,000 - more than the cost of one full-time teacher.

The size of the march showed just how strong the feeling against this attack on our children's education is. But to force the Government to have second thoughts the pressure must continue. If you haven't already done so, write to your MP, Malcolm Chisholm - 274 Leith Walk, EH6 5EL. And to Michael Forsyth MP, Secretary of State for Scotland, St Andrews House, EH1 1DG.



Marchers assemble at Waterloo Place



'March for Education' - Broughton Primary's banner

CHILDREN AT RISK?

Is the health of our children at risk from car fumes? A local resident writes to the **Spurtle**, concerned about the situation at Broughton Primary. See page 2.

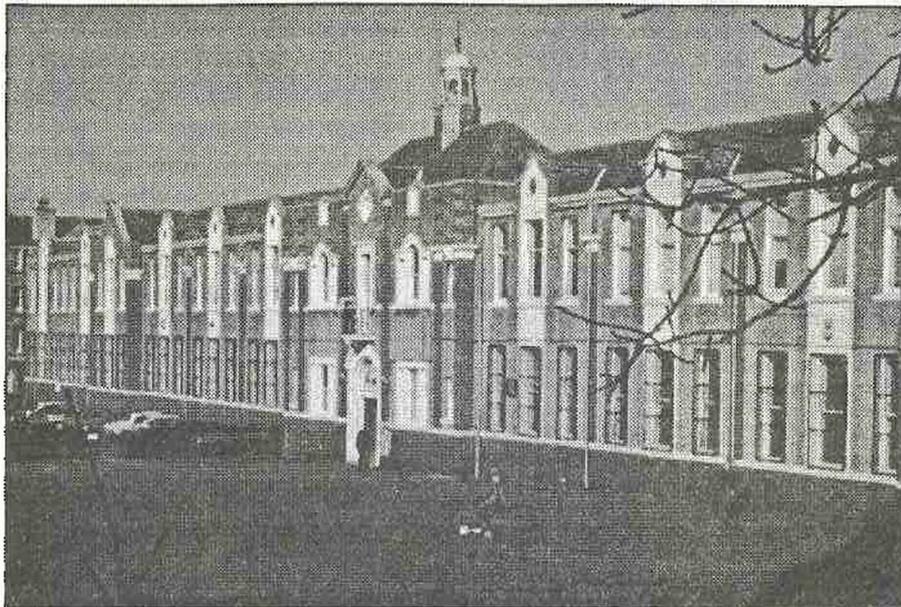
YOUR NEW-LOOK *Spurtle*

Now we've moved into our third year, we thought we'd change the look of the paper a bit. We hope you like it.

But the aim remains the same: 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!

Let us know what you think of the paper - phone or write. And maybe think about becoming a **Spurtle** Supporter - you give us £1 a month, we deliver the **Spurtle** to your home. It's a combination of Supporters' cash and advertisements that keep the paper going.

MARKET UNRESEARCHED?



Proposed site of Saturday Market

We reported in our last issue plans to use Drummond playground for a Saturday market between 7am and 6pm throughout the year.

This idea has been around for at least 5 months, during which it appears to have been eased along "the usual channels" to the point where Education Convenor Elizabeth Maginnis is quoted as saying that "the idea of a pilot project certainly does have some attractions." But there are signs that most of those affected - local residents - are distinctly hazy about details and, vitally, have had no chance to express a view. Including how much profit might go direct to Drummond - or to the Regional Council!

The **Spurtle** certainly wouldn't want to jump to any conclusions - as

with any new idea, there's liable to be an upside and a downside. But out of what is a hard, commercial venture, there is a need to ensure that the benefits are not up-and-away with those passing through, while the waste, the noise, the disruption, the smells are left down-and-out with those who remain.

Our concern is the indecision and uncertainty which has so far marked the process. In times when market research is normal, here's a Market ripe for research. We would like to know what **Spurtle** readers think. This is your chance to have your say. Write to us at '**Spurtle** Postbox', Broughton Books, Broughton Place or phone 556 7727.

CHILDREN AT RISK?

What can we do about the Primary I's and II's at Broughton Primary, who breathe the fumes of 1200 passing vehicles every lunch-hour as they play in the front playground?

I counted several days running while doing playground duty, a few years ago, using a counting machine. Spot five-minute spells invariably showed 95 to 100 vehicles passing, at any time in the noon to 1pm hour.

Diabolical.

Armin Davies
London Street

Spurtle asked Broughton Primary's headie, Mrs Gordon to comment. She told us that a consultant from the Botanic had recommended greenery that could be planted to screen the playground from the road and absorb the fumes. Unfortunately there are lots of pipes and not much soil under the tarmac where the planting should be done, which makes it a longer job to prepare the site. She's asked the Education department to carry out the work during next summer holidays - work is already scheduled for the back playground during the Easter holidays. Parents were asked if they'd like their children to join the older pupils in their playground meanwhile, but they preferred them to stay put.

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.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the **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

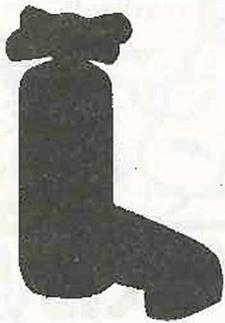
Contributors to this issue:

Bernie Mooney, Jill Flack, Gavin MacGregor, Conchita Pinto, John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman and Dougal Perman

WATER ALERT

The privatisation of Scotland's water draws closer! From April 1st the newly formed quango, East of Scotland Water Authority, takes over control of water services from local authorities.

Ian Bruce who is senior teacher of Religious and Moral affairs at Drummond Community High believes that this is a particularly sneaky way to foist privatisation onto the public. "People will pay their water charges through the new unitary councils thinking that councils are still responsible for water services", he told the *Spurtle*. "But they won't be. Instead our money could soon be going to the shareholders of private companies".



If you agree with Ian's view that: "It is horrific that something as basic as water should be seen as a means of making profit for a few greedy individuals", then here's a chance to do something about it. There will be a march against privatisation of water, in Glasgow on Saturday 30th March, 11am in Blytheswood Square. Transport from Edinburgh is being organised - phone 229 5912 for details. If you'd be interested in helping to organise a local group, you can get posters, leaflets and advice from the Communities Campaign Against Privatisation of Water by phoning the same number.

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

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

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW

The recent survey of facilities for teenagers in Broughton highlighted a lack of facilities. For any parents who think there isn't much for under 5s to do either, here are some suggestions for play opportunities on the streets of Broughton.

Gayfield Square - a rare patch of green grass. Best visited on a rainy day so you can wash off the dog shit in the puddles on the way home.

'Over the Rainbow' Bubble Machine - two year olds may not be the clientele they are hoping to attract, but you can't keep them away from this machine. I like it too.

Broughton Street - excellent for lessons in crossing the road. Allow up to half an hour for this unless you are at the pedestrian crossing which is one of many -

Button Pressing Opportunities - always popular whether you are crossing the road or not. Try the 6-button Picardy circuit from the top of Broughton Street, over Leith Street and back over at the Playhouse, then take in a few parking ticket machines on the way home. Children should be encouraged to do this because sometimes money comes out of them.

BROUGHTON BASE FOR BOSNIA AID

Edinburgh Direct Aid is a completely independent, voluntary organisation dedicated to taking aid to Bosnia - it has no paid workers. And now it's firmly based in Broughton.

Their charity shop opened in Rodney Street in December, for a trial period to see how it goes - so customers are very welcome, plus donations of bric-a-brac, books and "anything saleable". After problems with accommodation, they now have warehouse space for storing goods and keeping vehicles in Beaverbank Place - thanks to the generosity of Harry Bremner of Vogue.

They've sent nearly 30 convoys to Bosnia now, the most recent setting off in the middle of February and another planned for late March. But convoys cost money. Andy Shaw of Heriot Hill Terrace has been heavily involved with Edinburgh Direct Aid for several years now, travelling on three convoys himself. Now he's planned a big fundraising event for the 30th of March, with half the money going to the Bosnia charity and half to Broughton Primary School.

There will be jazz and folk music, and a bar. If you're interested, phone Andy on 557 8113.



Convoy truck at Beaverbank base

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events.

Deadline for our March issue is Fri. 22th March.

Saturday 2nd March

Bring your pictures of Broughton to Drummond Community High, between 11am and 2.30pm

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

Monday 4th March

The Pleasure Gardens of Edinburgh New Town, talk and slide show by Connie Byrom,

Drummond Community High, 7.15pm. £2 entry, refreshments included.

Monday 11th March

SPURTLE meeting at (2LF)59 Broughton Street, 8pm.

Monday 14th March

Edinburgh Claimants Union meeting on Job Seekers Allowance, Drummond Community High, 8.15pm.

Saturday 30th March

Hands Off Water march. See page 3.

Saturday 30th March

Fundraising event for EDA and Broughton Primary. See page 3.



BARONY CONTACT POINT

67a York Place

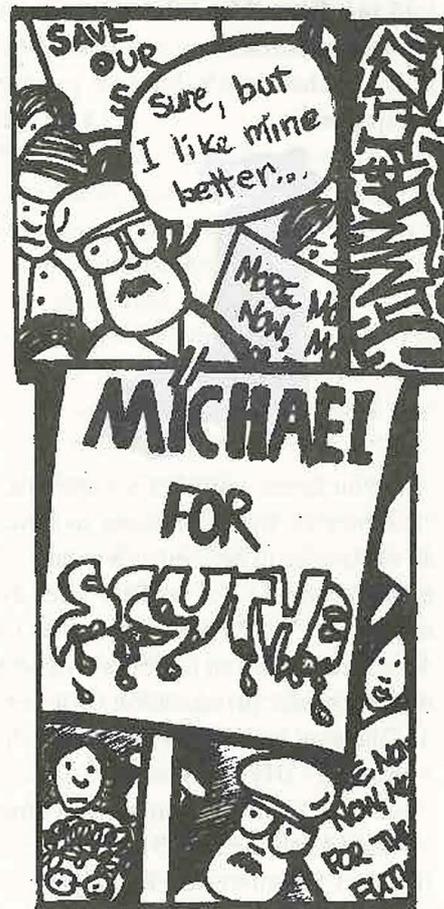
Contact Point is a drop-in/social centre for adults 18 years and over, offering support and information on a range of issues including emotional wellbeing and mental health, benefits, educational opportunities and homelessness.

Many people find that Contact Point offers a safe place for them to meet with others, build up relationships and have some fun along the way. For some this is a well needed break from isolation, an opportunity to seek support, and try out different ways of dealing with the stresses and strains of everyday life.

Various groups are initiated depending on the expressed interests and needs of people assessing the drop-in. Examples of past and present groups are: relaxation group, emotional wellbeing group, photography group, art group, women-only group, gay men group, cooking group. Any new suggestions are welcomed and explored.

Contact Point works to promote anti-discriminatory practice, equal opportunities and equal access. Unfortunately at present we have no wheelchair access.

If you are interested in finding out more about Contact Point either drop in on a Tuesday, Thursday or Sunday between 11am and 4pm (the centre is open other times too for particular groups), or phone Bernie, Jackie or Colin on 556 9960.



CLAREMONT SLOW DOWN

Work has started on road maintenance in East Claremont Street. A stretch of setts has already been relayed towards the Broughton Road end of the street. Halfway along it there's a band of new tarmac: that's a temporary filling for where there will be a raised platform as part of the traffic calming measures.

The timing of those measures has to tie in with major roadworks soon to start in McDonald Road. During the early phases of the work the re, traffic

will have to be diverted along East Claremont Street, and the Fire Brigade has asked that calming measures be delayed until after that. This means Claremont's raised platforms and humps probably won't come until the end of August.

Maintenance work should be completed in May. The tender has gone out for remodelling the central reservation to make it impossible for vehicles to ride up on to it, but easier for pedestrians to cross it.

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