

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No 113 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

LOGIE GREEN ROAD

Residents challenge developer

Local residents are up in arms about plans for the Vogue site, near the Broughton Road end of Logie Green. The site extends through to Beaverbank Place, and along behind the back gardens of the Logie Green Road tenements. Developer Westpoint Homes Ltd seek planning permission to build 135 residential units, plus 1,700 square metres of commercial accommodation.

Nick Roache lives in the stair adjacent to the Vogue car park. He explained to **Spurtle** that the tenements are 'divided down the middle': half the flats face onto Logie Green Road; but the other half, including his own, face out to the back towards Beaverbank. A warehouse already restricts light to their homes, but this will get much worse if Westpoint's plans are allowed to go ahead: the new building will be as high as their own tenement, and right at the

bottom of their communal gardens - only 23 metres away. Nick says he's on the top floor, so might still get a glimpse of sky; people lower down will be much worse off. That's why he and his neighbours

have sent in objections to the development. They hope City planners will insist on a 'less monolithic' block of building, with a reduction of at least one floor in overall height.



FRANK GIRLING

1917-2004

On 13th March family and friends met to celebrate the life of Frank Girling.

Frank had a long and distinguished life as social anthropologist, international traveller, socialist thinker and political activist - he and his wife Elizabeth met while serving the republican cause during the Spanish Civil War. In more recent years he was active in the local anti poll tax group; and he helped plan the launch of **Spurtle** as a community paper - foster the growth of 'real democracy', he said, put local issues in a wider context, and 'stimulate more radical thinking'. He was a familiar and friendly figure in the area around his home in Drummond Place and the shops in Broughton Street.

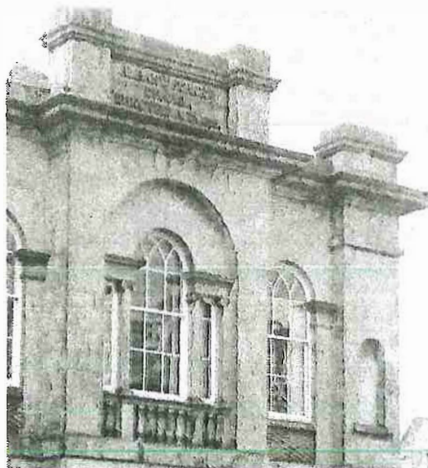
Frank will be remembered with love, and with a great deal of respect.



Congratulations to **Sheona Campbell** of **Melgund Terrace**. She answered

correctly that the chemist's sign in our photo is above Lindsay and Gilmour in Broughton Street, and won a bottle of wine generously donated by **Villeneuve Wines**. Years ago a 'Manufacturing Chemist' occupied much of the block where the chemist's shop is now; if you look up you can just make out the lettering on the stonework.

THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION!



There are three prizes on offer: a bottle of wine, and a £7.50 voucher for Broughton Books; plus a prize for primary school children (please give your age). The scene of an historic tragedy! **Just tell us exactly where it is in Broughton**. The winners will be drawn from all correct answers received. You can post or hand in your answer to **Spurtle** c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX; fax 556 0903 or broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

DON'T DELAY!

CLOSING DATE 23RD APRIL.

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 556 7550

Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (day)

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

New Town Broughton & Pilrig Community Council

Jessica Miller 558 1025

Cllr Trevor Davies 529 3221

Surgery at Broughton Primary School
Wednesdays, 6.30pm-7pm, school term-time

Cllr David Guest

558 8823 or 529 4268

Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street,
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Colin Fox MSP



Colin Fox MSP lives in Edinburgh south. He is a Lothians list MSP.

Colin can be contacted via the
Scottish Parliament
Tel: 0131 348 6389
email:

colin.fox.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
or visit him with your enquiries at
his Constituency Advice Office
opening shortly at 52 Clerk Street.

SITE OF FORMER BUS DEPOT

Wimpey's planning appeal

*Harald Tobermann,
Pilrig Residents,
reports:*



Following two weeks of witness statements and intense cross-examination, the Shrub Place Public Inquiry concluded on Thursday, 25 March with closing submissions by Harald Tobermann representing Third Parties (Pilrig Residents Association, Shaw's Colonies and Community Council, as well as various individuals), Gordon Steele QC the City Council, and Roy Martin QC the developers Wimpey.

The Inquiry Reporters are charged with establishing whether Wimpey's appeal against two earlier Council decisions to refuse planning permission for 300 new flats is justified. Wimpey's case centred on alleged 'unreasonable behaviour' by the Council and the claim that refusal based on design is a purely subjective decision.

The Council, defending their decisions, referred particularly to Wimpey's refusal to provide affordable housing, excessive heights and poor daylighting provision. Third Parties' argued that many, if not most aspects of design should be rationally justifiable and that it is the designers' duty to communicate their ideas clearly: Wimpey clearly failed in this key task.

Third Parties also cited many individual examples of poorly thought-through design, and highlighted the negative impact on the historic Shaw's Colonies and the reduced daylight and blocked views to Arthur's Seat and Calton Hill for Inchkeith Court residents. Leith Walk elevations came in for criticism for incorrect or incomplete representation in Wimpey's drawings, as well as for the negative impact on pedestrians.

A written decision is expected in a few months.

BROUGHTON PRIMARY PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Fundraising success

Local effort continues to raise cash towards playground equipment for Broughton Primary, 'that will provide valuable exercise for all children and promote the school's policy of positive integration'. The March ceilidh brought in £330, thanks to local band Hopscotch. Refreshments and home bakery served to all-comers in the school dining-hall have raised £170 and £150 on the last two occasions they've been available: the next chance to sample what's on offer is on Friday, 30th April, 11.45am to 12.45pm.

And now the Parent Staff Association has landed a £5000 grant from the City Council's Local Development Committee, and £1000 from McDonalds!

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform on local affairs; raise local issues; publicise the work of local action groups; make connections between 'the news' and people's own lives in Broughton; and stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected to any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anybody to finance the paper.

We invite you to contact us:

- react to what you've read in **Spurtle**
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton

Telephone 566 7727 or 556 0903 **Email** broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Write to us c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX - you can put a letter through the letter box at any time.

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

New look for clock

Parish Minister
Joanne Hood
reports:



The clock on the steeple in Bellevue Crescent has recently been repaired, cleaned and gilded. We are all very pleased with the result as the clock really has been returned to its, rather impressive, former glory! The clock itself is maintained by the City and it was at their discretion that the work on the clock faces and mechanisms began. When we found out what was being done we asked Ritchies, who carry out the

maintenance work, to repair and restore the surround of the clock, which led to the subsequent gilding of its date of installation, 1826. As a result the members of Broughton St Mary's have incurred some of the costs of restoring this landmark of the New Town. Some of our neighbours in Scotland Street have already volunteered contributions, as they had used the clock themselves for so many years. If anyone else would like to contribute we would be very grateful, and we are glad to have been able to restore the clock for the benefit of all who live in Broughton.

CONGESTION CHARGES

The answer to bus problems?

Ishbel MacMillan of Broughton Road wrote to tell us about a bus problem. Thanks to a change in the No.5's route and then a change in the No.36's timetable, she can no longer get from home to her church in Leith in time for an 11am Sunday service - without going to Ferry Road or Leith Walk first.

Local Councillor Trevor Davies tells us Lothian Buses took the No.36 off

at off-peak weekend times because not enough people were using it - it was running at a loss. 'One of the great advantages of congestion charging, if people vote for it in our referendum', he says, 'will be that it gives us the money to subsidise many, many bus routes like this throughout the city. We aim for a ten-minute service on most routes throughout the whole day and the whole week.'



Clean-ups continue at Hopetoun Crescent Park, 12 noon on the last Sunday of each month. Why not organise friends and neighbours to clean up a public space near you? Use the 'Clean Up Broughton' banner, plus gloves and litter-pickers supplied by the City Council. (For details phone Eileen Dickie 556 0903.)

BRIEFLY

A reminder about the City Council's **Gardening competition**, highlighted in **Spurtle** last month. One category we didn't mention was 'best street': you could encourage neighbours to join with you in a display of windowboxes, balcony and doorstep plants (minimum of six properties). Remember the closing date is 28th May. To get an entry form and more details, phone the co-ordinator on 469 5196; e-mail her at karen.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk; or fill in the online entry form at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing

Over 20 Edinburgh people a month are now getting **£40 on-the-spot fines** for not clearing up after their dogs. Broughton's Environmental Warden is **Dougie Sutherland**: if you know of a particular dog dirt problem in street or park, phone him on 669 1389 - all information will be treated as confidential.

Restoration of the **Phoebe Traquair murals** at the former Mansfield Place Church can now go ahead, thanks to grants confirmed by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund in March. Work on the murals is expected to be completed by September 2005.

Do you have any vivid memories of the **Playhouse** - working there, for example, or campaigning with the Playhouse Society? **Ritchie Steele** at the Box Office is putting together a history of the building, and would like to chat to anyone who thinks they might have something to offer. You can phone him at work (524 3333, then choose option 3) or at home 476 4594 (there's an answer machine if he's not in).

Sheona Campbell of Melgund Terrace wrote to tell us a local institution is about to disappear, after 40 years in business: **Ann's Salon**, the hairdresser in Bellevue Road. She and other regular clients enjoy the cheapest prices in the area, she says - and a good blether! We spoke to 84-year-old owner **Mrs McQueenie**, who confirmed she'd be closing on 23rd April, to be replaced by housing.

Belle's View



Hi fans

Ahhhh! The nights are fair drawing out, and thoughts turn swiftly from nights sitting in and getting corned-beef legs in front of the fire, to pulling on the glad rags and hitting swinging **Broughton and Bellevue!**

A favourite local eatery, **The Vittoria** in **Brunswick Street**, is putting on live entertainment every second Tuesday from the lovely **Angela and Paolo**, giving you both Italian and international music – and for dessert, a bite of the big apple every Wednesday with New York vocalist **Jess Abrams** and her band. Mighty! And to think we used to be content with a **Richard Clayderman** tape tinkling in the background!

Imagine my disgust dear Readers, when I popped out to the local **Poundstretcher** in **Croall Place** to find it has closed and is to become a yuppies supermarket. Can't they get their sun dried tomatoes in **Valvona and Crolla** like every one else? I will have to dig out my passport and make a cross-border expedition for my pan scrubbers now – to the **Kirkgate** in **Leith!**

Rumour has it that **Silencio**, the darkly infamous David Lynchque style cabaret club, may be coming to **Ego** in **Picardy Place**, having outgrown their current premises, **The Counting House**. The dress code is apparently "sumptuous and glamorous vintage tat". Well, they won't be let down by us Broughtonites - I've already put my mini-crini into the drycleaners, and **Estelle** is brushing the mothballs out of her favourite hairy hat! Bring it on!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

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Your local community paper doesn't get a grant from anybody. It's financed by a combination of advertising revenue and subscriptions from a small group of loyal supporters. We need more **Spurtle** Supporters.

For £1 per month (£11 for a year) you get the paper delivered to your home, along with one or two other bits of information - and know you're doing your bit to keep **Spurtle** independent and stirring!

If you're interested, phone John Dickie (556 0903), or drop your contribution in at Broughton Books, Broughton Place (any cheques should be made out to 'John Dickie')

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
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New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Secretary Wanted

The Community Council represents the views of local residents to Edinburgh City Council.

We are looking for a Secretary to help with the administration of the Community Council. This is a great volunteer opportunity for anyone wanting to get involved in the community and make a difference.

Please contact Jessica Miller
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jessicacurelop@hotmail.com

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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
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Many thanks to Gordon Dow of [Simplicity Training](http://SimplicityTraining), 3 John's Place, Leith for allowing us to use his IT facilities. 0131 553 8888