

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

**March
2007**

Tel: - 668 3701

No 145 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

Briefly

Stop press! Parking warden shown as human shock! Betty Cuthbertson thought her luck was out when one of the tyres on her car burst on Broughton Street. Thinking about getting a taxi back home to Liberton, she asked a **passing parking warden** if she could leave her car without getting a ticket. Not only did they not give her a ticket, they insisted on replacing the tyre themselves in the pouring rain. Ms Cuthbertson has called the anonymous warden an "angel".

A **hit-and-run victim's** car was hit twice in Northumberland Street – once by a joyrider who collided with the vehicle, and again by a super-keen warden, who slapped a parking ticket on it. A 'police aware' sticker on the Mazda MX5 was no deterrent to the warden. NCP, the warden's company, has admitted to the mistake and already cancelled the ticket. We leave it to our readers to decide which of the two above incidents is more typical of parking wardens ...

Three cheers for **St Mary's RC Cathedral**, Broughton Street, where a seven-week course of English classes for non-speakers is currently taking place in the cathedral hall, the course is teaching up to 60 students the basics of the language. With the course ending on 26th March, expect to see a lot more confident English speakers about the place.

Apple Pharmacy public notice:

As of Saturday, 7th April 2007, we will be closing at 1pm every Saturday. Therefore, our new opening times will be **9:00am-1:00pm**. If you have any problems, please call 0131 556 1054.

MACDONALD ROAD REDEVELOPMENT

Kwik-Fit Green Light



Edmund O'Connor writes:

The City of Edinburgh Council has given the go-ahead to the redevelopment of the Kwik-Fit site on McDonald Road, which will feature 53 student flats above a new garage.

The Planning Committee approved the development by Unite, a student accommodation developer, on *wednesday*, 28th February.

Mike Pottinger-Glass, the regional architect for Unite, said: "We would like to thank all of the residents who took part in the public consultation process last summer, the result of which will see the much-needed traffic-calming measure at the junction of Annandale Street Lane and McDonald Road."

He added: "Unite will also be providing practical help to the Friends of Hopetoun Garden in the way of provision of grass-cutting machinery, water points and equipment store within the new development."

Unite has acquired a number of sites recently, including the old Social Work HQ in Shrubhill (see last month's *Spurtle*), a property next to Planet Out on Leith Walk, and a piece of the old ERI, for which it paid over £8 million.

New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council were concerned that the new site might bring with it increased disturbance and crime, as well as inadequate local shopping facilities. However, the Community Council commended Unite on their willingness to listen to concerns and suggestions about the proposed development.

Student accommodation is also planned to the old Gateway theatre, but the planning committee said the plans would have to be revised. The site is currently owned by Queen Margaret University.

These are not the only redevelopments in the area. As reported in last month's *Spurtle*, the fire brigade's training base on Macdonald Road is also being sold.

BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

International Food Day



Nine-year-old Lavannya Manohar performs a traditional Indian dance as part of Broughton Primary School's first International Food and Culture Event on 31 January.

Alan McIntosh writes:

Over a dozen languages are spoken at home by BPS pupils and their families, and the School Board was keen to celebrate this rich cultural diversity through an afternoon of food, dance, music, recital and story telling.

Such was the event's success that organisers now hope similar occasions will become a regular feature of BPS life in future.

Staff, pupils and parents at the event identified close family links with the following countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Eire, England, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Libya, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Sudan and Wales.

Spurtle is your life in Broughton.

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 your **Spurtle**, raise new issues, let us know about community activities, tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Editor: Edmund O'Connor

Tel: 0131 668 3701/07985 213435

Email:

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Postal address: GFL, 12 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BP

Any correspondence can also be left at Narcissus, 87 Broughton Street.

DRUMMOND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Gaby Holden Retires

John Ross Maclean writes:

Last November, Gaby Holden, the redoubtable and long-standing Honorary Secretary of the Drummond Civic Association, decided to retire gracefully from the position she has held with distinction for many years.

A reception was held in her honour on Thursday, 8th February at the headquarters of the World Heritage Trust in Charlotte Square. It was a joyous occasion, and not unlike an indoor version of the celebrated Midsummer Drummond Garden Parties which are one of Gaby's many felicitous and abiding achievements. Happily, she remains on the DCA, as well as the New Town & Broughton Community Council committees.

Grand merci, Gaby, et nos amitiés from the Spurtle!

MAGGIE'S CENTRE

Fashion/DJ Event

Urban Elegance - Ego, 14 Picardy Place - 0131 478 7434

Thursday, 15 March

8pm-3am £5(4)

Be a **Spurtle** Supporter

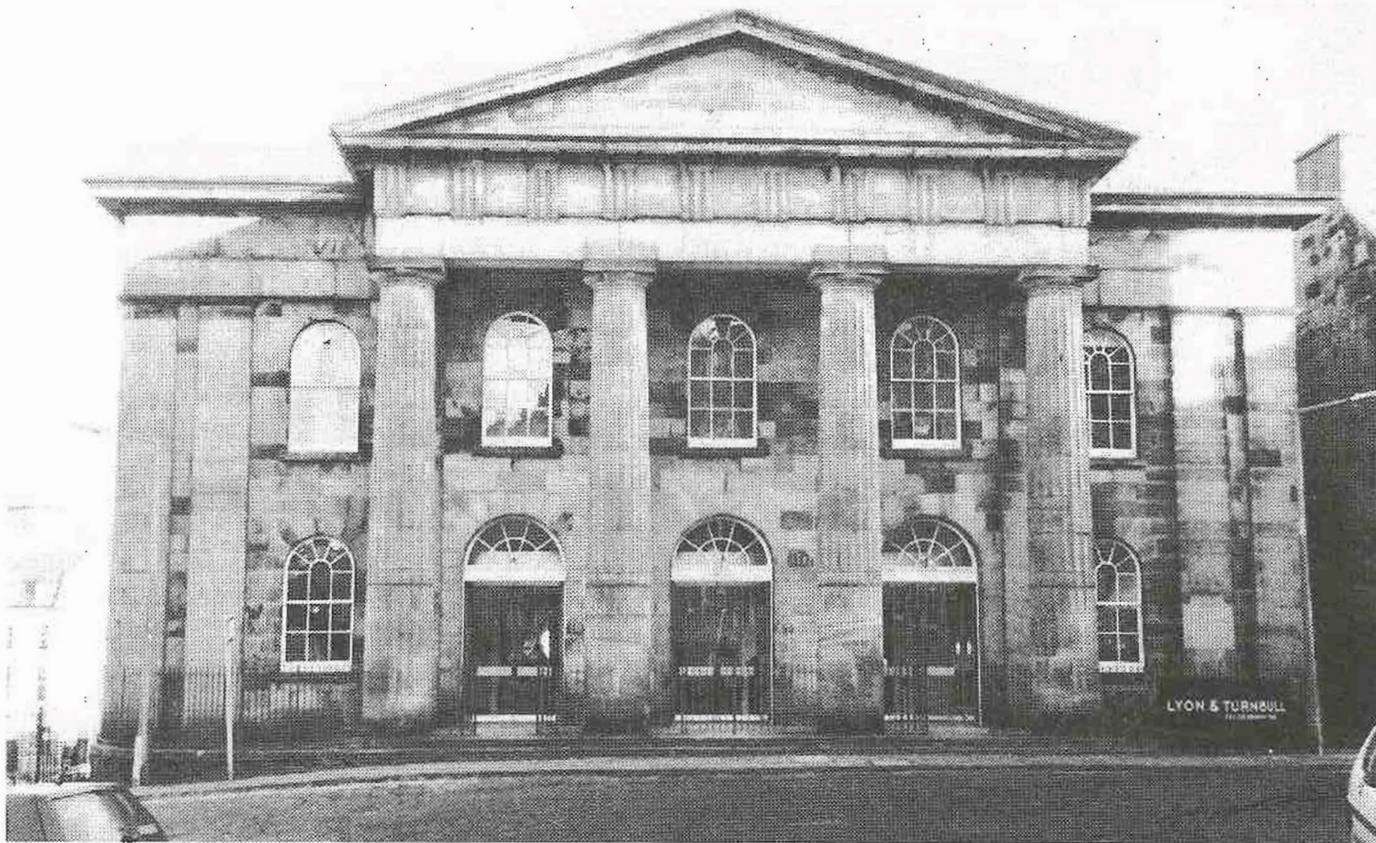
For £1 per month (£11 for a year) you get the paper delivered to your home, along with one or two other bits of information and know you're doing your bit to keep **Spurtle** independent and stirring! Just send a cheque (made out to Edmund O'Connor) and your details to either of the editorial addresses.

Readers may be interested in this fashion/ DJ event in Aid of Maggie's Centre hosted by erstwhile Blue Peter and Wheel of Fortune frontman John Leslie. The fashions will come from local shops, and dance music will be provided by Termite, Dan Bland, Meldrum and Wolfjazz!

Maggie's Centres are for anybody who has, or who has had cancer - and they are also for their families, their friends and their carers. The aim of Maggie's Centres is to help people with cancer to be as healthy in mind and body as possible and enable them to make their own contribution to their medical treatment and recovery. The centre allows people to address all aspects of living with cancer, and to share their experiences with others in similar situations. The friendly environment of the centre invites people to take time out and gives them a non-institutional place they can call their own.

A STAR IN BROUGHTON PLACE

Mr Elliott's Legacy



John Ross MacLean writes:

Of the charmed trio of Broughton's A-listed classical buildings, the third and final in this series is arguably the finest. Certainly it sits with serene aplomb, and defines the gentle caesura of Broughton Place, at the heart of the village. This is the Greek Doric temple, now occupied by the auctioneers Lyon and Turnbull.

It was once a United Apostolic Chapel, designed by the remarkable Archibald Elliott, and was constructed 1820-21. Better known as the Broughton Macdonald Church, it is typical of the galaxy of early 19th-century churches which dot the New Town and its periphery. It is a stolid galleried rectangle, with two stories of arched openings, and a splendid Greek Doric portico. A tower and spire were planned, but never built.

The basic layout influenced Thomas Brown's conception of Bellevue St. Mary's flamboyant structure in Bellevue Crescent, whose *accelerando*-

con-forza of pillared splendour may be seen as a salute to Elliott's vision. In 1835, the missionary wing of the church established a sister church and schoolhouse in Jamaica, known as 'New Broughton'. In later times, the church was used as a bomb shelter during the Second World War, and it also featured as the Scots Kirk in Paris in the filming of *Chariots of Fire* in 1981, in which several Broughtonians appeared as extras.

As the saleroom for Lyon & Turnbull, it finds itself host to a company founded only five years after its completion. Specialising in fine arts and antiques, the auction house has found an appropriately elegant home in Broughton Place. It certainly gives a uniquely Scottish viewpoint on pieces like the Lowry painting 'Glasgow Docks', which was auctioned there recently for over £500,000!

Would Mr Elliott have applauded the versatility of his *douce* creation, not

least as a memorable 1990s Festival venue, known as the Palladium, with those alluring antipodean Tap Dogs, and others, who were distinctly more ironic than ionic, and definitely not of a doric mien? Well, perhaps. I feel he would approve of the current facility which values articles of quality and beauty of all periods. Certainly, Mr Elliott's legacy to us in Broughton remains 'a thing of joy and beauty forever'.

(Special thanks to John Dickie and the Broughton History Society for research in this series.)

Broughton's ***Spurtle*** now has a new editor and a new team.

Now more than ever we're anxious to get your story ideas, your responses, letters etc ...

The ***Spurtle*** is YOUR paper - be part of it!

Belle's View



Hi fans

Ah - the nights are drawing out, and Broughtonites are creeping out into the curiously early, globally-warmed spring air - will somebody tell those eejit crocuses in **Gayfield Gardens** to get back underground! What's the goss?

Congratulations! Saucy **Café Piccante** owner **Selim Sener** has entered the **Guinness Book of Records**, holding the world record for wrapping ten portions of chips a minute, after a competition to celebrate **National Chip Week** (we need encouragement to eat more chips?!). **Piccante** also offers unusual treats alongside the traditional fish and chips, like deep-fried Mars bars and crème eggs - and for those into healthy eating and worried about eating enough fruit - deep fried bananas!

Snippy! Hairdresser **Emma Hall** of **Hair Designs** of **Haddington Place** recently discovered that in 1834 her salon belonged to **Mrs Moffat**, a Victorian whale-bone corset maker. **Emma** has now teamed up with modern-day corset maker **Susan Sanders** of **Couthie Couture** to create an exhibition of period corsets in the salon. Just the thing if you've had too many chips from **Cafe Piccante!**

Imagine the disgust of Estelle and myself to hear that our own classy Edinburgh has been voted the UK's **fifth** most fashionable city - trailing behind London, Manchester, Glasgow (the indignity!) and Brighton. Whoever was polled for that survey has obviously never seen the attire of the queue for the under-18s disco 2hot at Ego on a Saturday night - and Estelle and I out promenading in our big hairy hats!

Till next time,
PERSEPHONE BELLE

Have you got a story?

Spurtle needs you.

Phone 07985 213435 or e-mail
broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.
co.uk

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:

86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU

Tel: 0131 557 0577

Fax: 0131 557 5759

mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk

www.marklazarowicz.org.uk

Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency office

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

We always require properties to meet constant demand.

Broughton Property Management

61-63 Broughton Street

Edinburgh - EH1 3RJ

Tel 0131 478 7222

email: info@broughtonproperty.co.uk

Malcolm Chisholm MSP

Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:

86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU

Tel: 0131 558 8358

Fax: 0131 557 6781

Saturday surgeries:

9am Leith Library

10.30am Royston/Wardieburn

Community Centre

12pm Stockbridge Library

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 225 4633

Broughton Village Association

Sarah Macauley 557 2724

Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Gayfield Association

William McNair 556 4493

Hopetoun Village Owners

hopetounvillage@hotmail.com

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

Powderhall Owners Association

info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

New Town/Broughton Community Council

Pat Eccles 225 4633

Broughton History Society

Patrick Tyler 556 5036

Drummond High School

556 2651

Cllr Trevor Davies

Broughton Ward 529 3221

Surgery at Broughton Primary School

Weds, 6.30pm-7pm, Term-time only.

Cllr David Guest

New Town Ward 558 8823 or

529 4268. Surgery at 67

Northumberland Street, Mondays,

6.30pm to 7.15pm

Sovereign Court Residents

<http://www.sovcourt.co.uk>

sovcourt@yahoo.co.uk



New Town/Broughton Community Council

Vacancies for Community Councillors

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

The next meeting on Monday 2nd April, 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School.

Secretary: Pat Eccles 225 4633

E-mail: pat.eccles62@wanadoo.co.uk

Editorial, production and distribution: Edmund O'Connor, Alan McIntosh, Anne Aarsten, John Ross McLean, Fiona Watt, Christophe Jossie, Maria Hart, David Watt, Davie Thomson.

Published 11 months/year (not Jan). **Printed** on recycled paper by Clydeside Press Ltd, 37 High Street, G1 1LX