



BROUGHTON SPURTLE

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NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Broughton • Gayfield

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 4

May 1994

SPRING FLING SPECIAL

Saturday 7th May is the big day. That's the date for Broughton's medieval street fair, which will be in full swing all afternoon in Broughton Place.

The street fair will be the climax to a week of community activities, coordinated by the New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council – under the wider banner of Edinburgh District Council's 'Spring Fling'. Events will include a local history exhibition put together by a local study group, a display of patchwork and quilting, and an exhibition focussing on 'Faith in the Community'. And make sure you get your copy of the Broughton Map, specially created for the occasion. It's a colourful portrait of our area, combining local



Local artist Miguel Vivanco

landmarks of the past with those of the present.

Then the street fair itself, from 2 to 6pm on the Saturday. Bands, jugglers, street performers, stalls and food. Come as you are – or dress fancy and get into the spirit of the medieval village that long ago stood on the same site. If you fancy running your own stall, there may still be a few left by the time you read this – phone Rab Tennant on 557 0057.

Meanwhile get out and see those exhibitions. And keep your fingers crossed for good weather on Saturday the 7th!

The Drummond Asian Women's Group and the All Pakistan Women's Association

These two groups invite everyone to celebrate and discover some of the delights of Edinburgh's Asian and Pakistani communities. Henna painting, Asian Dress displays and more. A large selection of delicious foods will be on sale.

Assembly Rooms, George Street
Saturday 7th May 1994, 11am-2pm

Exhibition details on back page

YOUR LETTERS on TRAFFIC and COMMUNITY CENTRES

From 1970 to 1980 I lived at 34 London Street. The six households in the stair included three of old age pensioners i.e. two couples and a widow. In the course of that decade, one person from each of these three households was knocked down, two I believe here, and one perhaps at the West End where he worked. He became bed-ridden as a result, and had to be nursed for years by his ailing wife. The two ladies were only slightly hurt, but one, the widow, was suddenly aged by the shock, and didn't last many months. Don't grow old!

The second anecdote is recent. I had the curiosity to sample the traffic frequency outside Broughton Primary School during the one hour lunch break, when all the infants are out in the playground next to the busy Broughton Road. I took five minute samples at different stages of the hour. Consistently, the results were one hundred vehicles per five minutes, i.e. 1200 in the hour. No wonder there has been an outcry about the lead in Stockbridge school playground, where the traffic will be about the same. The children must be breathing exhaust fumes then, and at morning break also (15 minutes?)

A. Davies
London Street

Traffic calming, whilst laudable in itself, will only be truly effective when it is so ubiquitous that the use of a car within the city centre confers little or no advantage of speed, cost, or convenience. This is still far distant. I can imagine cars creeping slowly round residential areas before being let loose on major roads, like Leith Walk, that are tantamount to being motorways.

The key lies in making public transport attractive to motorists. Few bus stops display any useful information. I have been told that it would be too expensive to maintain up to date timetables on every bus stop, but other cities, other countries, all manage this. Even London! And how

many of us carry around enough small change for three 45p bus journeys? A flat fare, self validating ticket is the only answer. Apart from anything else it would eliminate queues entering buses, and open up a whole range of attractive discounts and premiums at the end of sale, which could be anywhere.

Christopher Lambton
Bellevue Place

The Users Group of the Unemployed Workers Centre invites all local residents to use our premises at 103 Broughton Street. The Centre is open to all, unemployed or not!

Our cheap cafe, with free tea and coffee, aims to be 'a place where people could meet anytime for a chat...' as in the ideal community centre envisaged by Aileen Mitchell in Spurtle no 3. We welcome users for our children's playroom, photographic darkroom, hall, meeting rooms and information point.

We are determined that the above community services – along with the benefits advice and solidarity for claimants – will continue. The Regional Council's decision not to renew our lease cannot be allowed to snuff out a thriving community centre, run and controlled by its users.

The New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council fully supports the Centre and has nominated two representatives to participate on the Centre's Trust Board. We invite other interested local groups and individuals to contact us if they wish to become involved in the development of the Centre.

As to Councillor Loughney's letter in the Spurtle – if he really is concerned with community services, we suggest he returns the computers, printing presses, photographic equipment and washing machine that his agents illegally removed from the Centre on 15 March 1992. These resources – like the Centre itself – belong to the community!

Best wishes for the Spurtle's future!

The Centre Users Group

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: Alison Neathey, Carol Watson, Eddie Murray, John Dickie, Miguel Vivanco, Mike Vallance, 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 UPDATE

There was an excellent turnout for the Traffic Forum Meeting on 13th April, when Des Loughney produced copies of the long awaited Final Report on the traffic calming measures proposed for the Broughton area. The main feature of the report is that instead of the calming measures being put forward independently of the 'Greenways Phase II' operation, as was discussed at last month's meeting, the Regional Council have extended Phase I of 'Greenways' to include other areas, Broughton being amongst them. This was certainly good news, as 'Greenways I' should be implemented by next year.

The next step is for Des Loughney to present the proposals together with the Final Report to the Highways Department at the next Council meeting to be held sometime in May or June.

The whole package will then be presented to the Secretary of State for approval, and if government money is forthcoming, the work could commence some time later this year. If the proposals are to be Council funded, it may be 2/3 years before implementation.

Q The local Council elections are on May 5th – how will this affect the proposals – will all the hard work have been for nothing?

A According to Des Loughney – No. Although he will not be standing in the Broughton area at the elections, he feels confident that the Council will approve the proposals and they will be accepted. Des Loughney will still present the proposals to the Council before the elections take place, and envisages little change in the administration of the Council.

There was a very lively debate on traffic in general, from 'What is a "puffin" crossing as opposed to a "pelican" crossing?' (This stumped even the police!) to the more serious road accidents, especially the latest one in West Annandale Street where a car crashed into a wall (again).

In summing up, Des Loughney stated he would have the proposals with the Council before the local elections and was confident that they would be approved. He hoped that the traffic Forum would continue after his departure (although he promised to attend meetings if we needed him). A grateful vote of thanks was proposed by Alice Lauder for all Des Loughney's efforts. WATCH THIS SPACE.

Note

Since the meeting, Walter Faulkner of Bellevue Road has checked up on Puffin crossings. There's only one in Edinburgh, at Nicholson Square. When you press the button at this type of crossing, the lights quickly change in your favour – and a sensor ensures they stay that way until you're safely across.



'We won't pay VAT on our electricity and gas bills!' Over 50 people besieged Scottish Power's George Street showrooms on 2nd April. This followed a 'die-in' at the British Gas showrooms symbolising the extra 10,000 annual deaths VAT will cause – unless we make it unworkable!

THE CENTRE: THIS THING OF OURS

Refusing to pay protection money in the shape of Labour Party dues, the Unemployed Workers Centre was 'whacked' in February. Hit man John 'The Director' Chant took the contract and produced a trumped-up social work report recommending closure.

But in mid-March 'The Director' was trapped and badly wounded by a journalist bristling with official documents supplied by the Centre. 'Okay', he publicly confessed, 'so the Centre didn't flout the fire regulations or run an unlicensed cafe.' His loyalty to the bosses quickly reasserted itself. 'But they did hold discos and a Festival gig without even asking the bosses.'

He was lying but it was too late. He had violated the secret vow of omerta, the binding oath of secrecy and silence. His bosses sweated. Two days previously Brian 'The Chair' Cavanagh, capo of the social work committee had told the press 'The Centre is a firetrap. They're endangering lives. They must be stopped.' Now he found himself exposed by his own underboss, and open to libel action. He slunk back into omerta. The Director is 'unavailable'. Sleeping with the fishes, perhaps?

The guano had hit the fan. Immediately 'the committee' suspended all business until late June – just after the Centre's lease expires. A letter from the Centre to the controlling 'family', (aka The Labour Group) was answered by the capo de tutti cappi – boss of all the bosses – Paul 'Niddric' Nolan. A meeting would be pointless', he snarled. Message understood.

Meanwhile Des 'Fingers' (in every pie) Loughney maintains a vociferous smear campaign. 'The Centre?' he blinks. 'They're nothing but a bunch of punks!' (Des sits on so many boards, councils and committees that rumour has it that 'Fingers' is, in fact, the Loughney twins.)

In late April the Centre's polite request for an audience with the ruling commission – known as 'the Regional Council' – was met with a shrugged 'maybe yes, maybe no'. Simultaneously, the Centre's Trustees received notice to quit, or else. None are horse owners, fortunately, but they still don't relish the thought of waking up to find Tiddles' (or Rover's) head on the pillow.

Vengeance, as the Sicilians say, is tastier served cold.

LOCAL SPRING FLING EXHIBITIONS

DISCOVERING OLD BROUGHTON

A community exhibition.

This exhibition has been put together by local people. It offers a glimpse into the history of Broughton – and invites you to explore further!

The Flat, 10 Broughton Street

1–7 May 1994

Sunday to Thursday 2–5pm

Friday 10am–12 noon

Saturday 10am–5pm.

EDINBURGH QUILTERS

Third Exhibition of Patchwork and Quilting

St. Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent

3–7 May 1994

Tuesday, Wednesday 10am–5pm

Thursday, Friday 10am–8pm

Saturday 10am–4pm

FAITH IN THE COMMUNITY

East End Churches Together, with Other Faiths

Broughton and St. Mary's Church Centre, Union Street

Saturday 30 April 10am–12 noon

Monday 1st – Friday 6th May 6pm–9pm

Saturday 7th May 10am–12 noon, 2pm–6pm

DON'T SIGN

A warning from Drummond Civic Association. Homes in this area have been visited by United Artists, seeking owners' permission to lead their TV cables up the stairwells and façades of the buildings.

They're doing this in advance of presenting required drawings to the planning authority. And a clause in the agreement they're asking owners to sign could mean that they will charge for existing BBC, ITV and Channel 4 services sometime in the future.

So don't sign anything meanwhile. For further information, phone 556 4389.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have dates for local events in June, please let us know as soon as possible

Thursday 5th May AGM of Bellevue and Claremont Residents' Association, Drummond Community High School, 7pm. All welcome.

Saturday 7th May Medieval Street Fair, Broughton Place, 2-6pm.

Monday 9th May New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets in Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm.

Thursday 12th May Spurtle meeting at the Bellevue pub in Broughton Street, 8pm.

Wednesday 25th May Demonstration in support of the Unemployed Workers centre, Regional Council Chambers in Parliament Square, 9.15am onwards.

Every Tuesday Users' meeting at the Centre, 103 Broughton Street, 4pm. New people very welcome.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN BROUGHTON ROAD

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 June edition in local centres, shops and pubs.

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 12th May 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!

