

# Belle's View



Hi fans

Ooooooh, it's been so cold and frosty lately, Estelle Murgatroyd and I have had to resort to wearing our faux-fur foundation garments and full-length body slippers of an evening! But hark - the winter wonderland that is **Broughton and Bellevue** beckons with its usual cultural temptations!

The **Playhouse** is currently showing the Disney musical spectacular **Beauty and the Beast** (or Not Bad Looking and the Beast - depending on your personal opinion) at **Greenside Lane**. My sources inform me that after a particularly vigorous evening performance, an enthralled crowd at the bus stop spotted **The Beast** louping across the road to the **Deep Sea** chippy in pursuit of a smoked sausage supper!

Feeling elephantine after all that Christmas and New Year excess? A fabulous new snack emporium, **The Elephant's Sufficiency**, has just opened on **Elm Row**. Local elephants (and I'm not talking about anyone personally here, so don't take offence!) can now stock up on the things they like best, such as buns, buns, and more buns, as well as a wide variety of snacks and drinks. Get in there before the QMU drama students strip the shelves!

Finally, fans of all things tribu-  
l should get themselves along to the **Mood Bar at Omni at Greenside Place** on Thursday nights, where live tribute acts perform each week. With chart-tastic disco tunes from the past three decades, it's free before 11pm, and a bargain £2 after. Dress code: absolutely no full-length body slippers (as I found to my chagrin!)

Till next time, just do it!

*Persephone Belle*

**Spurtle** team for this issue:  
Meg Neal, John Dickie, Gavin MacGregor, Eileen Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Ken McKay and Norma McKendrick.

**BROUGHTON BOOKS** in Broughton Place are our 'postbox'. You can put a letter addressed to us through their letterbox at any time. Phone & Fax: 556 0903 / 556 7727.

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**New Town  
Broughton and Pilrig  
Community Council**

represents your views to the City Council and other public bodies. We need to find out what your views are on planning, transport, environment and licensing matters. Get in touch with us or come along to our meetings on the first Monday of every month (except public holidays) in the Library of Drummond Community High School. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Annette O'Carroll,  
Secretary, 556 7586

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 101

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## MP quizzed on anti-war stance

Our local MP's position on the war issue has firmed up since he answered our questions for last month's edition of **Spurtle**. Then, a second resolution from the UN Security Council authorising military action would have been enough for him. Now, he would want to see several other pre-conditions satisfied too.



Zahid Ali, who worships at Annandale Street Mosque, was worried by the "racist" Anti-Terrorist Act, and anxious to know what his MP will do to protect Muslim constituents.

Mark Lazarowicz explained his stance to around 60 of his Edinburgh North and Leith constituents at a public meeting held in South Leith Church Hall on 18th February.

At this moment, he said, there is no case for war. The inspectors need more time. In fact the arguments for military action have been weakening, particularly since the inspectors' recent report to the UN. He has recently signed an Early Day

Motion at Westminster, listing conditions that must be satisfied before British troops are sent into action (see box); if he ever gets the chance to vote on the issue, it'll be along the lines of that EDM. But he still thinks that a case for war might emerge, if the inspectors were to find something substantial or if Saddam chucked them out - only if sanctioned by the UN, though. Summing up his position later he said: without a UN resolution authorising military action - no to war; with such a resolution - maybe, but not necessarily.

Earlier, Mick Napier from Stop the War attacked Blair's eagerness to be the US President's "cheerleaders"; dismissed various pretexts put forward for going to war with Iraq; and doubted the validity of any second resolution from the UN Security Council authorising military action - more likely to be based on pressure and bribery by the USA than on the merits of the case. Second speaker Alistair McGregor, minister of North Leith Church, was equally dismissive of the case made out for war: it would not be a "just" war; it wouldn't be legal; it was politically inept - dividing Europe, antagonising the Muslim world and destabilising the Middle East; and the consequences for the Iraqi people, Palestine and our own international reputation would be awful.

Nineteen people spoke

**March  
2003**

Tel: 556 0903  
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## Early Day Motion 716 signed by Mark Lazarowicz at Westminster, 11th February

"That this House does not believe that British forces should be required to participate in a war against Iraq unless all of the following conditions are met:

(a) that there is clear evidence that Iraq poses an imminent threat to peace (b) that there is a substantive motion of this House authorising military action (c) that there is an express resolution of the Security Council of the UN authorising the use of military force against Iraq and (d) that all other policy options have been exhausted."

from the floor, and **three main themes** kept coming up:

- reluctantly, everyone but the MP seemed doubtful that the governments gathered in the Security Council could be relied upon to reach a conclusion based on principle;
- rejection of Tony Blair, his relationship with Bush, his whole approach to the issue;
- a call on our local MP to "face up" to the PM; what will he do if Blair goes to war without UN sanction, clear evidence of an imminent threat and a vote in the house of commons for sending in our troops?

**Stop the War** supporters currently gather at the Wellington statue, East End of Princes Street, every Friday between 5pm and 6pm. Or phone 538 0257, or 07958 002 591.

## BRIEFLY

"We have had a very successful past few months with donations of materials", reports Dave Thomson of **Redbraes Residents**. "Local building company J Smart Ltd have donated most of the materials to complete Stage Two of our project - a resources workshop and office facility, and a cafe area adjacent to the play area. Port of Leith Housing Association gave us the opportunity of clearing their old premises of office equipment when they moved to their new premises in Constitution Street."

*Logie Green residents are fed up with the Scottish Rugby Union. The City Council has approved detailed plans for flood protection, but it seems action may be delayed up to two years if the SRU presses for a public inquiry into its objections to the plans.*

A developer has applied for planning permission to demolish **Canonmills School** in Rodney Street, to make way for a block of new flats. Amongst objectors are the Community Council and Broughton History Society, who have argued for development within the shell of the existing building rather than demolishing a prominent local landmark dating back to the 1880s.

*Wimpey's latest proposals for the old LRT site at Shrubhill include the adjacent Edinburgh Masonic Club building. Club Secretary Harry Wheatley tells us this is "purely speculative. No deal has been done to sell our site to Wimpey and we would not expect to do so without first acquiring suitable alternative premises."*

Two dates from the fundraising team at Broughton St Mary's Church: a coffee morning on **Saturday, 8th March**, 10am to noon, at the Church Centre, East Broughton Place, tickets at the door (£1 adults, 50p children); and a bookstall with bric-a-brac on **Saturday, 22nd March**, 10.30am to 3.30pm, at the Church itself, Bellevue Crescent.

*Anna Davies of Barony Street is organising a **May Ball** in aid of Leukemia Research. At Edinburgh Hilton Hotel with fine food and ceilidh etc, on Sat. 10th May - come and join in! Tickets £45 (£20 is direct to the charity) from 557 0622.*

## EAST LONDON STREET

# Room for improvement

On East London Street there soon won't be room for anything else.

Concentrated in a single street, are most of the features typical of the intense redevelopment going on in our area - side-by-side with existing premises unattended and ill-maintained. This has left pavements and roads the entire length of the street patched and repaired, potholed and cracking, unsightly and hazardous. New flats (with still more to come) are left without their promised pavement planting. Damage done during work on prestige offices needs to be put right—but previous experience puts that in doubt. The slapdash traffic calming has left a place of bumps and cavities, of flooding and obstruction which would put your white-van cowboy to shame! In the process, the traditional (and what were thought to be mandatory) cobbles have been lost in this ill-laid tarmac - which raises fears for what is intended for the slow-down road humps due to be installed.

Add to this the steadfast refusal of Europcar to clean up their act, and the constantly unkempt appearance of the telephone exchange, not to mention continuing black bag blight pending the Council sorting out the planning requirements for two communal refuse containers - and we have a street in a sorry state urgently in need of civic attention.

Maybe it's time for a systematic study of the whole street and how it might be made better to live in and to walk through. The pedestrians' organisation 'Living Streets' has just published a DIY guide to doing community street audits: **East London Street** looks like a suitable case for treatment.



**EUROPCAR**  
Local councillor Trevor Davies reports:

Europcar have in the past asserted that they own the land in front of their building and that therefore they can park their cars on it despite it being a continuation of the footway on either side. The Council Solicitor tells me (I have abbreviated his letter):

"The Council's powers to manage the road system effectively take precedence over any claim of control based on ownership... the whole stretch of footway appears to be, in legal terms, part of a 'public road'... against that background there is clearly a legal basis in respect of rights of public passage... members of the public should be able to exercise rights of passage over all parts of the road network including footways and should be able to do so without encountering regular and serious obstructions..."

In view of this legal advice the Council's roads officers have now written to the police drawing this matter to their attention once more and asking them if they will take action.

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## PICARDY PLACE PLANS

# Unlovely - and a worry to neighbours



Pictured, the front door to the former Mulberry House offices on Picardy Place. A picturesque name: but a period of vacancy has clearly taken its toll of this B-listed frontage on a local main thoroughfare.

Of more immediate concern to nearby residents are the plans for its future use. Council officials inform them that conversion to an hotel is being recommended for approval. The households involved are those on Forth Street whose windows and gardens back onto Broughton Street Lane. The problem is that the extension to the rear of the Picardy Place building looms over the other

side of this narrow lane. Under previous redevelopment plans, it had been hoped that this might be taken down. Now, it is intended to retain it resulting in bedroom windows directly overlooking the privacy of the Forth Street houses. Residents have objected to the Council and asked their councillor, Trevor Davies, to intervene on their behalf.

Janice Donaldson has lived in Forth Street for 13 years and is bringing up her daughter there. She supports the view that city-centre family living should be encouraged and amenities preserved. She is worried that this seems to lose out to commercial interests - and questions whether yet another hotel in the area is really needed. She will continue to push for residents' interests to be taken into account and will keep *Spartle* informed.

## BROUGHTON 20 MPH ZONE

# A plea for good street furniture

Eric Robinson of Broughton Place wrote following our previous report on the City Council's plans for a 20 mph zone:

An excellent idea, but can one urge well designed street furniture to go along with it. One is not encouraged by the East London Street traffic calming where a swathe of extra pavement was covered with tarmac and edged with clumsy,

intrusive bollards. Certainly, such bollards must not be part of alterations for the 20 mph zone. It is worth looking at a scheme on Restalrig Road (junction with Marionville Road), where stainless steel bollards and barriers have been introduced - elegant and effective.

In some cases shrubs or suitable trees could be planted, either in the ground or in large containers, improving residential



**Greening Broughton:** a new oak tree goes in at Hopetoun Crescent Garden (left); and a row of lime trees at the Bowling Green in Broughton Road - Nahid Aslam (left) and Pat Eccles of the Broughton Road Project, seen here with landscape architect John Richards. Not just greening, cleaning too: there will be a cleanup at Hopetoun Crescent on Sunday, 30th March, 12 noon; and one in Broughton Road a week later (planning meeting on 17th March, at Redbraes Residents' hut, Redbraes Park, 6.30pm - all welcome).



## Contacts

**Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association**  
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

**Broughton Village Association**  
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

**Gayfield Association**  
William McNair 556 4493

**McDonald Area Amenity Society**  
Bob Stewart 557 1267

**Redbraes Residents Association**  
George Hosey 467 6151

**New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council**  
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

**Broughton History Society**  
David Watt 225 2593 (please note new, temporary number)

**Drummond Community High School**  
556 2651

**Cllr Trevor Davies**  
Broughton Ward 529 3221  
Surgery at Broughton Primary School  
Wednesdays 6.30 to 7pm during school terms.

**Cllr David Guest**  
New Town Ward  
558 8823 or 529 4268  
Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street  
on Mondays 6.30 to 7.15pm  
**Malcolm Chisholm MSP**  
558 8358

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**Mark Lazarowicz MP**  
Advice sessions every Friday at 86-88 Brunswick Street, 12.30pm and Stockbridge Library, 4pm

streets and giving a signal to traffic. If cost is an issue, or maintenance, then perhaps local residents and businesses could be asked to contribute.

