

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have dates for local events in March and early April, please let us know as soon as possible

Thursday 16th February Spurtle meeting at The Edge cafe, Broughton Street, 8pm.

Monday 6th March New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets in Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 15th March Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association open meeting at Drummond, 7pm. Traffic Calming Measures Update + Guest Speaker. Local historian John Dickie will give an illustrated talk on Broughton's past.

Every Monday "Senior Eastenders" Club for the over '50's, at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 2-4pm - refreshments, games, quizzes, carpet bowls, outings.

Every Tuesday Open Meeting at The Centre, St Stephen Centre, St Stephen Street, 6pm.

Every Tuesday Youth Club for 14-18 year-olds, at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 7.30-9.30pm - coffee bar, snooker, table tennis, quizzes, trips, workshops and more.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 27th May Planning and Transport-New Opportunities for Edinburgh. A day conference (10am-5pm) in the old Royal High School building, Regent Road. Registration £5 includes lunch. Your chance to influence the new unitary Council. Speakers include Alastair Darling, David Begg, community councillors. Disabled accessible. Contact: Ian Dunn 557 1662.

Saturday 24th June The Gayfield Gala. A day of fun and games in the gardens in Gayfield Square, 11am-5pm. Entrance free. Very good for children - games, a tea tent, music, dancing demonstrations, tombola. Accessible. If you want a table to show your wares, ring Marion Bowles 557 9741.

LOCALS WIN DISCOVERY AWARDS

When the Discovery Group held its Burns Supper last month, three Broughton locals walked away with Silver awards.

The supper was combined with presentations of the Discovery Award. Aimed at members over age 50, the Award is based on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, and like it is for achievement at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels in four sections: service to the community, a hobby or skill, a recreational pursuit and a journey of discovery. Art, personal survival, swimming, guitar playing, hillwalking and computing are only a few of the interests which discoverers can enjoy.



Amongst guests on Burns Night were the assistant director for Community Education, Mr Alan Blackie, and Drummond pupils working for the Silver Award under the Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme. Local winners were Grace Williamson of Barony Street, May Angus of Claremont Grove, and Margaret Nisbet of Warriston Road.

Discovery Group members select their own activities, and then meet monthly at Drummond to share their experiences. If you're over 50 and think you might be interested, phone Jean Moore on 664 9278.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 12

February 1995

POLL TAX DEBT TRAP

Writing in the 'Scotsman' recently, Joan McAlpine reminded us of people in England and Wales jailed for not paying poll tax.

"In Scotland we do not jail people for debt. But we devise different kinds of imprisonment for people already trapped in poverty, like James and Mary McFadden, an elderly disabled couple from Castlemilk in Glasgow. They rely on basic state pensions but are being pursued by George Walker and Co., one of the sheriff officers to whom Strathclyde Regional Council has passed its poll tax debts. Mr McFadden is 80, registered blind and suffers from emphysema and shingles. He owes £888.75. His housebound wife is 76, fully deaf in one ear and has only partial hearing in the other. She owes £822.75.

Strathclyde Regional Council will argue it is legally obliged to pursue such debts. This is a matter of interpretation. A government spokesman said on Monday: 'It is for local authorities and their auditors to decide whether particular debts should be written off.' This makes sense. Outstanding business rates are regularly written off."



If you're still being hassled over poll tax, and need advice or support, phone 556 0903.

WE'RE PAYING FOR AN EMPTY CENTRE!

How much did it cost to police the eviction of users from The Centre in Broughton Street, back in December? And how much is it costing the Regional Council now, to keep the place empty and guarded?

These questions have been put to the Chief Constable and the Region by New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council. They await replies to their letters sent following discussion at their January meeting.

At the same meeting the Community Council decided they would not be interested in running a centre in the Broughton Street premises, without the involvement of the previous users.

"TRANSPORT TIME-BOMB"

Edinburgh is estimated to have the fastest growth rate in car ownership for any city in Europe. That means we're faced with a transport time bomb, says David Begg, the Region's traffic boss.

About 100 people turned out to hear him at the Community Council's meeting in Drummond Community High School, 9th January. The meeting's focus was traffic plans for the New Town area, but there was plenty of interest for Broughton folk. Councillor Begg emphasised the new approach to much fuller consultation at all stages of planning, and outlined the general aims of the Region's policy:

- to reduce the number of accidents in Edinburgh
- to reduce pollution from vehicle emissions by 30% by the end of the century
- to maintain the public transport system's current share of travel (without positive action it will drop).

An exhibition outlining traffic calming proposals for the Broughton area is due before the end of February. The Region will advertise the time and place in the press, but there will also be a letter drop to all local residents.

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT JIMMY?

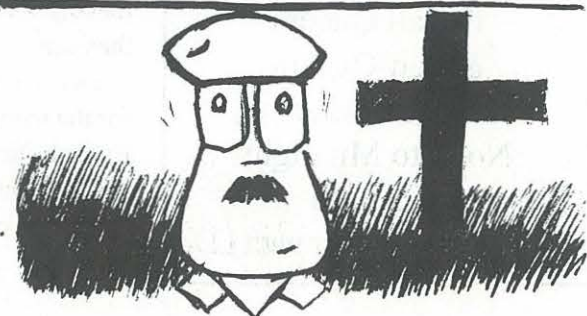
HE WAS REALLY TAKEN WITH THE IDEA OF MIXING PUBS AND SUNDAY WORSHIP...

UNFORTUNATELY

HE GOT THE WRONG END OF THE STICK...

Jimmy and Lizzy

... HE WENT TO THE CHURCH UP THE ROAD AND TRIED TO ORDER A PINT OF HEAVY



Locals comment on Spurtle: page 2

**"Broughton spurtle?
- What's That?"**



**Nancy Fergusson,
Broughton Street:**

*"When I get it,
it's interesting for news
about what's going on
in the area."*



**Brooke Clark,
East London Street:**

*"It's alright, but it's too
political, and it's not for
younger people."*



**Kenny Finlayson,
Broughton Road:**

*"I've seen the enlarged
issues outside the
Mansfield Church, and I
like seeing local issues
being dealt with."*



**Marion Ireland,
Claremont Bank:**

*"It's a chance for people to
voice their moans, but there
must be something pleasant
happening in the
Broughton area."*



**Lesley Willis,
Logie Green:**

"The Broughton what?"

SPURTLE 1995

Thanks to readers who wrote in to tell us what they thought of Broughton Spurtle's first year. They helped us work out where we go from here.

The upshot is that we'll continue the same size and the same general appearance, publishing at roughly monthly intervals. But we'll aim to cover a wider range of subjects, stirring things up when it feels necessary, but emphasising what's good about living in Broughton too. And we want to be more interesting to young people.

We'll get more direct contact with our readers by coming out and talking to them. But there's a limit to what we can do in that direction. Please keep writing in to us about Spurtle itself, and about the questions we raise.

Where does the money come from?

We distribute 1000 free copies of each issue. Costs are kept to a minimum - thanks to our printers, Clydeside Press. But we were slow to build up our list of subscribing supporters in the early months. And we held back from taking adverts, so many other publications seem to be swamped by them! So 1994 worked out like this:

| | | |
|-------------|------|--|
| Income | £460 | £253 Supporters' subs, £90 adverts, plus fundraising suppers etc. |
| Expenditure | £666 | |
| Deficit | £206 | |

But the number of Supporters has grown; and we now welcome a controlled number of local adverts. We believe it's possible to break even from now on, with the Spurtle financed from within the local community - through a combination of Supporters and adverts. We can chip away at last year's deficit through fundraising events.

So why not become a Spurtle supporter by sending us a fiver? This will make sure that you get the Spurtle and some other bits and pieces delivered to your home for the next five months. If sending a cheque, make it payable to John Dickie.

Or take out an advert! The adverts in this issue cost between £5 and £10.

Contributors to this issue: Evelyn Graham, Jane Meagher, Jean Moore, John Dickie, George Reiss, Rema Choudhury, Tim Puntis and Tommy Perman. Cover photo Hugo Whitaker.

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

THE 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.

**COMMENTS FROM
YOUR LETTERS**

"Having followed your progress with Spurtle I would just like to say that I applaud your efforts on behalf of the community and particularly in regard to traffic matters."

G D Burns
Cochran Terrace

"Good in that there are often short reports or articles which makes it easier to read - if you don't have much time."

Helga Rhein and John Greig
Claremont Bank

"Yes, it does provide a contact point for local people.

Yes! It does stir things up a bit!!!"

Alice Lauder
Bellevue Gardens

"It is interesting, and valuable, to learn about local issues from a local perspective.

I think that your concern to cover controversial issues such as the Centre eviction has prevented the Spurtle devoting much space to the attractions of life in Broughton. Many people have chosen to live and work around this area because Broughton Street offers diverse shops, cafes, pubs and restaurants - attractions that outweigh the problems of dog shit and speeding traffic. Perhaps each issue could have a profile of a well-known Broughton face, or the history of a building."

Christopher Lambton
Bellevue Place

**CENTRE SUPPORTERS
WON'T GO AWAY!**

The first full Regional Council meeting of the year got off to a noisy start. Councillors had to give up for a while when discussion was drowned out by drums, whistles and horns outside in Parliament Square.

In spite of the awful weather that 1st of February morning, about 60 people turned up to voice their protest at the eviction of users from The Centre, 103 Broughton Street - and demonstrate in support of self-managed centres. Meanwhile, activities are up and running in temporary accommodation in the basement of St Stephen's Church, at the foot of Howe Street - the entrance is off the lane that runs alongside the left of the big building with the clock tower. Open 12 noon to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Phone 557 5846 (or 557 0427 at other times).

FROM GO-GO TO GOD?

Not so long ago there was a church building on almost every corner of Broughton Street. At least one church has been demolished, and most of the remaining ones are now used for other purposes.

It will I'm sure not have escaped your notice that there is now no shortage of pubs. You may be surprised to learn, however, that on a Sunday morning the Phoenix Bar becomes a place of worship. Since last July clergy and members of St Paul's and St George's have been dropping in for a quick one - a short service, that is! Coffee is served from 11am each Sunday, and a relaxed informal service is open to everyone. It's part of P and G's contact with the Broughton community, and these folks have had the courage and vision to take their message of love to everyone wherever they are.

I wonder why 'Phoenix' was chosen for the name of this pub? The Oxford English Dictionary has: 'Phoenix: that which rises from its ashes with renewed youth.'

EID

"Ramadan is the time when you can't eat or drink anything until sunset. After that we can eat as much as we like the whole evening. Then at midnight we wake up again to have a meal then go back to sleep. The same thing goes on all month until Eid. This year it is on 1st February.

Eid is the day of the year all Muslims look forward to. It comes after a long month of fasting.

Eid is special. On the day we wake up early in the morning and wear our new clothes, then we go to the Mosque to read Namaz (prayers). Soon after we come back we have a big meal with our families then go out with friends to enjoy ourselves.

Basically, Eid is like Christmas is to Christian people. We enjoy ourselves, have lots of food and get some presents. Like Christian people look forward to Christmas we look forward to Eid."

Rema Choudhury
DCHS Pupil

CAFE

Wednesdays only, 12 noon to 2pm
at The Flat
10 Broughton Street
soup 50p filled rolls 50p coffee 20p

HIRE OF ROOMS

The Flat, 10 Broughton Street
Large gallery room with kitchen
from £15
Other rooms possible, in
community centre and church
Contact George Reiss 556 6212

**LOW COSTA
COSTA VILLA**

Hillside villa near Malaga on Spain's
Costa del Sol. £100 a week.
Self-catering. If you're self-reliant,
you'll love this place.
Rent it from Ian Dunn, 557 1662.

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing - Keys Cut
Timber Boards Cut to Size
Open Monday-Saturday
9am-6pm 109 Broughton Street
031-556 9672

**THE EDGE
CAFE**

60 Broughton Street
For all Queers
& non-Queers
Open Daily
Noon to Midnight
Licensed
10% off to students with I.D.