

THE HERIOT'S CONNECTION IN BROUGHTON



Many house owners in Broughton remember paying feu duty to the Heriot Trust. But there's another local Heriot connection too. No. 32 Broughton Street was built as a George Heriot's District School in 1853. Those District Schools were "for the gratuitous education of poor children belonging to deceased burgesses, freemen and other poor citizens of Edinburgh."

The building was designed in "the strapworked Jacobean style of the parent school". You can see the initials 'G' and 'H' above the first floor windows. The Statistical Account of 1845 praised the District Schools for being "of the upmost benefit for the general diffusion of education among the lower orders"!

Later on No. 32 became the St. Mary's Free Church Hall - but that's another story, the complicated one of the churches of Broughton.

There are now books on local history in Drummond Community High's Library. They include the old history of Broughton first published

in 1869, the reference book "Buildings of Edinburgh", "Canonmills and Inverleith", "The People of Calton Hill", "Eccentric Edinburgh" which features Bellevue's Royal Zoological Gardens and The Patent Gymnasium, and a booklet on chimney sweeping which gives a full account of John Fraser's life and death. Anyone living locally is welcome to go and consult or borrow those books.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

Monday 1st May New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets in St. Mary's Church Centre, 7.30pm.

Thursday 11th May Spurtle meeting at The Edge cafe, Broughton Street, 8pm.

Wednesday 31st May Bellevue and Claremont Residents' Association AGM, Drummond Community High School 7pm
Guest speaker will be Malcolm Chisholm MP.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Edinburgh Sitters will be holding an Open Day during National Volunteers Week, the first week in June. They always need more volunteers to place with carers. For details phone 557 3121

WHIT SUNDAY

4th June



The English word "Pentecost" is a translation from the Greek word pentekostos meaning "fiftieth".

In the Jewish tradition it was the Feast of Harvest, one of their three great yearly festivals, which starts with the Offering of the Barley Harvest on the second day of the Passover. It also marked the traditional anniversary of the Giving of the Ten Commandments. So it began as a Jewish festival connected with the most vital fact of their agricultural life and their utter dependence on God.

It continues now, 2,000 years later, in the Christian tradition as a commemoration of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Believers were gathered together, there was, we are told, a noise from the sky like a strong wind, and tongues of fire. Although the disciples were all Galileans, everyone gathered there - from Judaea to Rome, Gentiles and Jews - could understand the believers in their own native language.

This was the beginning of the Christian Church. The believers, with not a degree among them, went out to the common people. Christianity belonged then to the poor, the captives, the broken-hearted. Its simplicity had not yet been complicated.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 15

May 1995

CALTON HILL - PUBLIC ACCESS UNDER THREAT

You don't need to be a multinational company spending millions on a multi-carbuncled car park, or a St. James Centre, to spoil the view from Calton Hill or to deny us access to our land. You too can create your own eyesore, erected and paid for out of public funds, and extend your garden handsomely into the bargain with a choice chunk of valuable public space.

If you take a stroll from Waterloo Place up the dozen or so steps past Rock House and stay on the lower path you are suddenly greeted by a seven foot high, chain link fence forty yards long. The fence is made of angle iron and concrete, and has a padlocked gate splitting one bit of our hill from the rest! Sound odd? It gets odder when you discover that the only person who now has free access to the land has a back gate opening onto it. The only time 'our gate' is unlocked is to allow the Council lawnmower in, presumably for our benefit?!

Full marks to the lady concerned for sheer brass neck. How did she manage to persuade our cash strapped Council to do it? It appears that she did it by incessantly moaning like hell about people camping on that bit of land!

"I'm up the hill most days, and I've never seen any wigwams" says Spike Flack, a *Spurtle* reader. "A 'No Camping' sign would have cost a lot less money and the cash could have been spent on something more worthwhile, like repairs to council house windows."

"Alright, it's not exactly the M77 through Pollock Park with the big battalions of construction companies and Government Departments stealing our land. But it's Calton Hill, and it's ours in trust."

"Mr. Mackay of the Parks Department says this is a temporary measure - I don't believe him and there is a strong smell of fish."

Spurtle wonders what our Councillors think about the denying of public access to public land, and we invite them and other readers to make their opinions known through these pages.



THAT EMPTY BUILDING!

In February the Region's Social Work Committee heard the Director's report on an "audit of needs" for the Broughton area, and discussed the following options for the former Unemployed Workers Centre.

- Negotiate with the managers of the Stafford Centre, who'd already asked for help in finding new premises.
- Take up an offer from the Big Issue to develop a resource centre.
- Explore the possibility of using the building in meeting the needs of the local minority ethnic community.
- Develop the building as a community centre - but that would be for the Education Committee.
- Release the building for sale.

The Committee decided to approach the Stafford Centre. We understand this was done, but no conclusion has yet been reached.

ONE QUIET SPRING AFTERNOON ENVIRONMENT MAN IS MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE WHEN...

...SUDDENLY FROM OUT OF NOWHERE COMES

EVIL. CABINET MINISTER-MAN

STOP RIGHT THERE ENVIRONMENT MAN. YOU ARE PUTTING RIGHT ALL THAT I DO WRONG! YOU MUST BE STOPPED!!

HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO STOP ME? FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR HERO NEXT MONTH.....

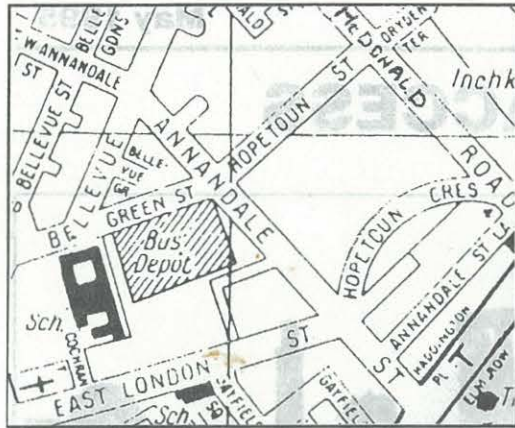
WITH MY TAX DEMAND RAY! NOOOO NO ARG!!

Plan your own environment - page 2

PLANNING FOR OUR OWN AREA

Last month we asked: can we shape our own local environment? Can we get together and come up with a vision for our own local area? And then talk to the powers-that-be?

The Community Council is making a move in that direction. Their next meeting will focus on the future of the McDonald Annandale area. The idea is



to give people living in the area a chance to discuss it, and at the same time bring in some professional advice.

Meanwhile Dave Rushton sent us his personal vision for the area enclosed by East London Street and Hopetoun Crescent, McDonald Road down to opposite the Fire Station, and Hopetoun Street and Green Street. Here are some edited extracts.

"The McDonald Annandale area presents an opportunity to create an urban design that is sensitive to both present needs and future demands. A design that is environmentally friendly, that minimises energy wastage and uses renewable energy resources. One that involves high levels of local labour, creating buildings that provide work where we live.

This may be an ideal site for a new media quarter for Edinburgh, a home for a new expanded film centre, for developing the TV training facilities required by the city's universities and colleges. The three major owners of sites in the area - BT, Standard Life and Kwik Fit - are all positive developers, each with something to contribute and to gain from a suitable project, and they should be brought into the discussions of a plan.

The site could be built partially below ground to conserve heat, with a park on its roof. BT could install new telephone technologies that would help develop work from home, enable small craft and media-based workshops to be located within the area close to living spaces, link schools and libraries...

A village atmosphere might be recreated around a pond or swimming pool and glass-covered green space.

A project that would begin by identifying the needs of people living in the area, and involve them throughout the process, from ideas to planning and implementation. Not throwing up designs for approval, but basing plans on community participation."

(The full text of Dave's paper is being sent to Spurtle Supporters. Anyone else wanting a copy, phone 556 0903)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, 1st May, 7.30pm
St. Mary's Church Centre
East Broughton Place

The main item on the agenda will be the future of the McDonald Annandale area.

Members of the Community Council are elected, or sent to represent local organisations. But the meetings are open to members of the public, who are welcome to take part in the discussion.

Spurtle urges McDonald Annandale residents in particular to attend Monday's meeting. This could be the start of an exciting new initiative.

If you live in the McDonald Annandale area you are likely to have had this issue of Spurtle delivered to your door. We can't afford to do this every month. Look out for the June edition at McDonald Road Library, "Neighbours" and corner shops.



MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT

39a Albany Street

We invite you to experience a taste of Malaysia!

Lunch 12 noon - 2.30pm,
Monday to Saturday.
Dinner from 6 to 10.30pm

Contributors to this issue: Archie Bell, Evelyn Graham, Spike Flack, Dave Rushton, Tim Puntis, John Dickie and Tom Perman.

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.

INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET MCGREGOR, OUR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NEW COUNCIL



On 6th April Margaret McGregor was elected to represent Broughton ward on the new City of Edinburgh Council. The new Council will replace District and Regional councils a year from now.

Although she doesn't live in the area, Councillor McGregor says she's got to know it well - and like it. She's been our District councillor since 1987; and her three children have all lived in Broughton.

Spurtle spoke to her at her Wednesday evening surgery in Drummond Community High.

Now we have three councils! What does this mean in practice?

The councillors on the new authority will be looking at the services it will provide when it takes over in 1996, and the structures for delivering those services. For most of us this will be in addition to our duties as District or Regional councillors. The Region and District councils remain in charge meanwhile. But anyone in Broughton can come to me with questions or problems - it doesn't matter whether it's a District or a Regional matter.

What are your own priorities for Broughton?

- Decent housing for all people living in the ward
- High quality educational facilities for all the children
- A safe environment for everyone to live in
- An opportunity to further develop the sense of community which already exists - through having a local Community Centre.

What are your wider priorities as a councillor, and vice convenor of the new Council?

- Efficient, good quality services
- A better, greener, child friendly environment
- An economic strategy for the City which will provide high quality, secure employment
- More consultation with the community, providing the necessary information and opportunities for local people to influence Council decisions. Yes - real consultation!

I want there to be a sense of public ownership of the Council and all its services, and a civic pride in the Council and the City.

COUNCILLOR MCGREGOR'S SURGERY
Drummond Community High
WEDNESDAYS
6 - 7pm

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
Open Daily
9am (early in the morning)
to 1am (late at night)
Licensed bar
Hendersons' food
Friendly mixed atmosphere
10% off to students with ID

TRAFFIC CALMING: MORE PEACE OR MORE POLLUTION?

Traffic calming measures can help slow things down. But do they lead to less traffic? If not, the same volume of traffic moving slower could mean more pollution. It's a worry we've heard expressed locally.

According to the Region's Transportation Department, there can be no guarantee that a particular calming scheme will result in a reduction in the volume of traffic using routes through that area. Before-and-after studies undertaken within Lothian, and at sites in England, have produced varying results. "Most roads showed a reduction in traffic volumes, some had unchanged flows, and a few even had a slight increase. In general a reduction of 25% in through traffic was achieved with certain sites reaching a 50% reduction.

"Factors such as the severity of calming measures, the availability of alternative routes and the degree of traffic congestion existing on these routes will have a bearing on the final route choice the driver makes.

Most Traffic Calming schemes will result in reduced through traffic within the area treated, the degree of reduction however, will be dependent on those factors."

And of course, pollution's not the only threat posed by traffic. There's plenty of evidence that slower traffic is safer traffic when it comes to accidents. It's not just a question of fewer accidents. 85% of pedestrians hit by cars travelling at 40mph die. This drops to 45% at 30mph. And to 5% at 20mph!

WEEKEND DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
In a small city centre guest house
2 to 3 hours every Sat. and Sun.
Must be reliable and hard working
References essential
Experience helpful
Phone 556 0903