

AND NOW FOR THE GOOD NEWS

Like many of our readers, Spurtle was curious about the activity around Drummond Community High. Users had found access briefly interrupted and passers by observed work in progress in both the Cochran Terrace and Bellevue Place areas.

It's said that good news isn't worth reporting, but when we spoke to Head Teacher Frank McGrail we found some that is. He told us that in the course of routine maintenance checks on the boundary walls, a stretch had been found which was unsound. Before this was allowed to develop to the stage where it might cause any risk, it was decided to proceed with any necessary work on the whole length of the wall.

But there's more. It was reckoned that digging up the playground surface could damage the roots of the well-preserved elms surrounding the school. So, additional work was undertaken under and around the roots to preserve this local environmental feature. It's now all nearly completed - except that the pruning of the hedge on Cochran Terrace to allow access will take some 4 to 5 years to grow back.

So - fair's fair - thumbs up to the Council on this occasion. Of course the message is: if they can do it once...! Spurtle will be delighted to report such good news at any time.

CHRISTMAS - SHOP LOCAL!

Cut down on that mad scramble along Princes Street in the days leading up to Christmas. Here's a chance to find some of those presents right here in Broughton Street!

The Stafford Centre are holding a Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November, 10am to 3pm. On sale: wooden furniture - stools and coffee tables - made at the Centre; paintings by the Art group; Christmas cards designed at the Centre. The snack bar will be open, so you can relax over some home-baking while you take stock of how the Christmas shopping is coming along.

There will be second-hand books and jumble too. Any contributions of books and jumble will be gratefully received at the Centre between now and the 30th. (557 0718).

DO IT WITH



▼ PLANNING PROBLEMS SORTED OUT. FRIENDLY ADVICE

Call Ian Dunn, Elan Planning Advice, 0131-557 1662. Fax 0131-558 1683. Free initial consultation without obligation. 30 Gayfield Square, EH1 3PA

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 26th November
"The Celtic Revival", a talk (with refreshments) arranged by the Friends of Mansfield Place Church, at the Glasite Church, Barony Street, 7.30 for 8pm. Christmas cards of the Church interior on sale.

Saturday 30th November
Christmas Fair at the Stafford Centre, 103 Broughton Street, 10am to 3pm. Locally made furniture, paintings, Christmas cards, second-hand books, jumble and snack bar with home baking.

Wednesday lunchtime
Soup, filled rolls, coffee and tea - a new venture at the Church Centre, East Broughton Place, 12 to 1.30pm. All welcome.



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CHRISTMAS MENUS NOW AVAILABLE
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 32

November 1996

SLOW DOWN IN BROUGHTON



After setbacks and a struggle, East Claremont Street will get its traffic calming early next year. But that should just be the start. Other streets in Broughton need action too; and proposals for them were worked out a

long time ago - remember the exhibition at McDonald Road Library in February 1995? Inside this issue we summarise those proposals, and publish calls for action from two local residents.

“ People worry about the knock-on effect traffic calming and road closures will have. Traffic will be displaced to other streets nearby, and they'll be worse off, so maybe we should wait for a comprehensive plan? That way lies a recipe for inaction. Better to think of a 'ripple effect', with one success leading to more pressure for change next door, and so on. If you get what you want in your own street, help the people down the road to do likewise! **Spurtle**, November 1994 ”

A' gutts an' gangyls page 3

BRIEFLY

- Still no result to report on the **19/39 bus service**. But our local councillor Margaret McGregor tells us that Transportation Committee convenor David Begg is still pushing for full restoration of the service - he met LRT directors again on 1st November.
- *The meeting of Bellevue and Claremont residents with Council officials to decide what trees and shrubs should be used when the central reservation in East Claremont Street is widened in early 1997 is now scheduled for Wednesday 11 December.*
- Remember the **Scott-Lyon bakery in Broughton Street**, where 'Just Junk' is now? There used to be mosaic floor tiles spelling out the name "George Scott". Now Elma Birse (of Birse the Newsagent, not long gone from Melgund Terrace) is on the track of the bakery's history. On a visit to The People's Story museum in the Canongate, she spotted information about baker George Scott who flitted from Melrose to Edinburgh last century and set up shop in Broughton Street. The business expanded, and eventually became Scott-Lyon under one of George's descendants. How that came about Elma is determined to find out!
- *A touch of Hollywood in East Claremont Street? For two days in October a film crew was busy at No.14, footage including outdoor shots complete with artificial snow and interior shots of a briefly-transformed family dining-room. 'Menzie's at Christmas'. All will be revealed on the telly!*

A petition has been launched to stop the Council closing the **Infirmity Street Baths** for good. Please sign it when you see it! For copies phone Alison on 225 7232 or 668 4047.

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TRAFFIC CALMING IN BROUGHTON

“ East Claremont Street is to be calmed. As a result the carriageway will inevitably be blocked from time to time (for instance when rubbish is collected). This does not matter in itself - road blocking is an excellent way of discouraging traffic - but there will be a knock on effect in Bellevue Place, Street, and Road as traffic discovers these ‘uncalmed’ routes through the area. ”

Christopher Lambton,
Bellevue Place

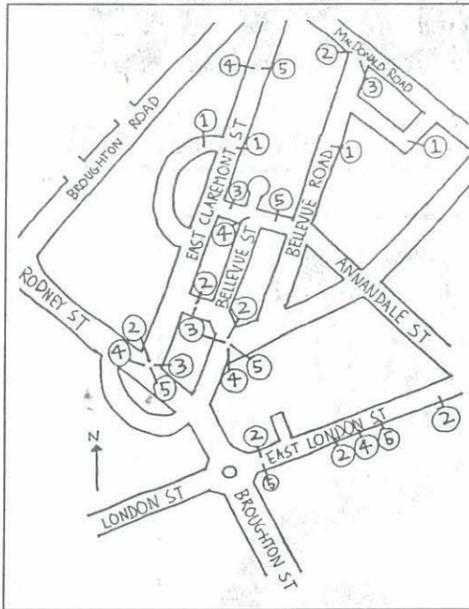
(He goes on to suggest calming measures for the Place, much along the lines of the 1994/95 proposals.)

“ The speed of traffic that comes and goes all day and all night long, if we have our windows open we have to turn the TV or any other apparatus up full strength, our houses continually getting all the dust and dirt from the moving vehicles. ”

Ian Clark,
East London Street.

And what about West Annandale Street? £60,000 was approved in principle, and the old Regional Council asked for comments on the proposed road humps in Autumn last year!

The 1994/95 proposals



- ① one-way traffic system
- ② raised carriageway, forcing drivers to slow down and making it easier for pedestrians to cross at junctions
- ③ blisters, adding to pavements and making crossing distances shorter for pedestrians
- ④ paved area
- ⑤ seeded area (plants)

*We want Broughton to be safer, quieter less polluted
And that means less traffic, moving slower and giving way to pedestrians*

Survey shows public support

Spurtle is firmly in favour of tilting the balance in favour of pedestrians. So we welcome the findings of a recent survey which interviewed 600 Edinburgh residents, and summarise some of them below.

- Awareness of problems:
- “The increase in car use is a serious problem in Edinburgh”
82% agree.
 - “Traffic fumes are a major contributor to environmental problems”
89% agree.
 - “There is no real alternative to the car for transport”
73% disagree.
 - “More traffic means worse bus services”
69% agree.
- Possible solutions:
- “Restricting car use in the city centre is justified in order to improve the environment and road safety”
74% agree.
 - “More money should be spent improving public transport, even if it means slightly higher local taxes”
60% agree.
 - “Increase capacity for cars on the roads”
14% support.
 - “Introduce more pedestrian only areas”
72% support.

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.

Contributors to this issue:
Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman, Charlie Miller.

If you’d like to help write, produce or distribute the **SPURTLE** please contact us.

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

BROUGHTON **SPURTLE** is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>
BROUGHTON **SPURTLE** is printed on recycled paper.

BROUGHTON SPEIL

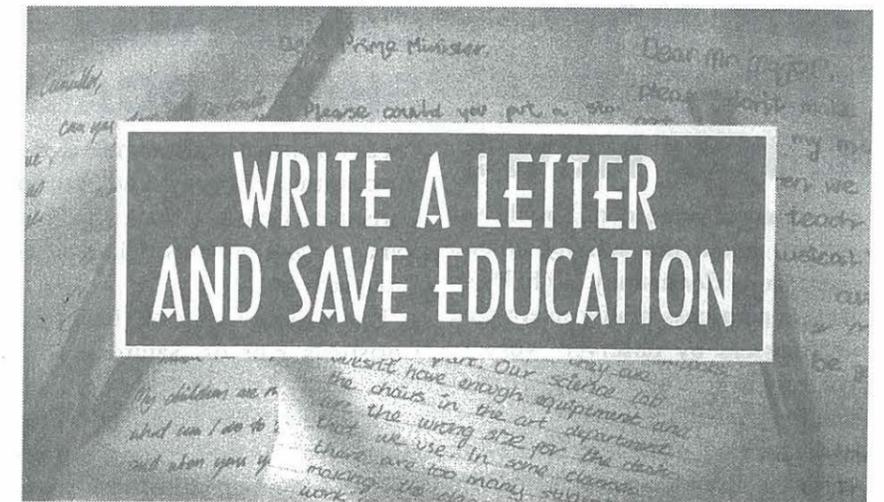
Scots usage is fond of its couthie sayings. These are supposedly apt and agreeable, eliciting some such response as “Aye, yer right there”, followed by a reflective silence. As often as not though, such expressions are either totally obscure or downright offensive and present an impenetrable barrier to further sensible conversation.

We were, then, much taken on with an expression which was new to ‘Speil’ which really needs no explanation. It’s one of those bullet-sure asides which would leave the person described in no doubt he had been shot at. How would you reckon someone who was a’ gutts an’ gangyls? That’s right, all stomach and legs, fit for nothing but eating and walking (according to Chambers Scots Dictionary). We’ve all met one or two - or more - haven’t we?

Clearly they don’t pull their punches in the North East, where we gather this originates. The good thing about language is that if it’s well made it travels well and can be acquired for others use. Keep this one in mind on Boxing Day or the second of January when someone you know heaves himself from his chair and swears he’s going to climb Arthur’s Seat.

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Drummond Community High School Board chair Charlie Miller is treasurer of the recently formed Federation of Edinburgh School Boards. The Federation is calling on all Edinburgh parents to write personal letters to their councillors and MPs: “Demand that education be spared any more savage cuts. Give an example from your own school of how last year’s cuts affected the standard of your children’s education. Ask for

information concerning budget reductions for April 1997. Make your views clear that any further cuts are not acceptable and as a parent you will fight against them, and vote against political parties that advocate these education cuts.”

Broughton parents write to Councillor Margaret McGregor, at the City Chambers, High Street; and to Malcolm Chisholm MP, 274 Leith Walk, EH6 5EL.

HOPETOUN PLANS WORRY RESIDENTS

Last month we noted protests from Haddington Place residents about the housing scheme proposed by Teague Homes for the Annandale Street Lane site. Now they’ve formed a group with others from Annandale Street to argue their case (contact: Scott Roberison, 557 4980). Katie Crumlish and Dave Williamson explain what it’s all about.

“The first thing is that we are concerned about the scale and density of the Teague housing proposal. We feel it’s inappropriate to the size and location of the site.

We are also concerned about the loss of employment opportunities if the land is given over to housing. We question what will happen to the local businesses currently on the site, and the effect on the local economy.

The Steering Group has an opportunity to influence the development of the ‘Hopetoun Village’ area, and we feel the piecemeal approach suggested by this development is detrimental to the overall strategy for the area.”

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