

BELLEVUE AND CLAREMONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

AGM

Wednesday 21st May
7pm

Drummond Community High School
Guest speaker
"HISTORY OF THE EDINBURGH PRESS"

by
Hamish Coghill
(well kent journalist late of the Evening News)

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Why not phone to find out if our accommodation would suit your needs - 668 4247. Ask for: Mrs Maclachlan or Mrs Scott.

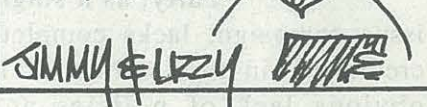
THIS ELECTION IS SO BORING - ALL THE PARTIES SOUND THE SAME.



WHAT WE NEED IS A RADICAL LEADER, WITH VISION TO TAKE THE COUNTRY INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM...



...BUT SCREAMING LORD SUTCH ISN'T STANDING



SPEECH AND DRAMA

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Phone 557 1349

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.

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 Spurtle

Free No 37

May 1997

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BRIEFLY

Spurtle gives voice to Broughton voters

On Thursday 17th April, the Election Hustings organised by *Spurtle* at Cafe Graffiti gave the voters of Broughton an opportunity to make their voice heard at a meeting with their candidates in the General Election.

And a well-attended and lively event it turned out to be. Some 80 local people took full advantage of the chance to get answers from Gavin Brown (Scottish Socialist Alliance), Hilary Campbell (Lib. Dem.), Malcolm Chisholm (Labour), Anne Dana (SNP), Sandy Graham (Referendum Party) - and Ewen Stewart (Conservative), who spared us 40 minutes before rushing off to "another meeting".

At the outset, each candidate was asked to identify one issue vital to the voters of Broughton

Labour:
Unemployment - and the need to reverse trends in falling living standards in towns and cities.

Referendum Party:
Giving democracy back to the people by demanding a referendum on EC membership.
Scottish Socialist Alliance:
Inequality - action to give the poor decent standards of living.

SNP:
Education - throughout life, from child care to adult learning.

Conservative:
Education - particularly in provision of parental choice rather than direction by government.

Lib. Dem.:
Small businesses - scrapping red tape and giving investment incentive to individual initiative.



When the voters of Broughton got their teeth into the issues that mattered to them, it showed up the very real spread of interests and concerns in our community - see page 2, "The hustings questions"

The hustings questions

- X The resourcing of mental health needs and care in the community, a day-to-day anxiety for the Stafford Centre in Broughton Street.
- X Gay rights and the need for active commitment to getting rid of discrimination and prejudice, again a focus locally.
- X The Scottish Parliament (to be located just up the road?) and the need for clear statements of intent from all the parties in face of all the allegation and counter-allegation being put around.
- X Deregulation of buses and the call to restore real public services when and where they're needed - the messing around with Nos 8 and 19/39 locally, for example.
- X Hospital provision where it's needed - the Infirmary at Little France, or St John's at Livingston when necessary, but local services within reach as was the case at Leith, the Northern - and (maybe no more) at the Eastern.
- X Education - high on everyone's agenda, but still local parents see only under-resourcing in schools and wide differences in provision.
- X Housing repairs, usually focused on council estates but in our area seen only in the absence of grants for essential maintenance of age dereliction.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Contributors to this issue: Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Richard Love, Christopher Lambton, Tom Perman, Eileen Dickie, Alan McIntosh, and The Stafford Centre Photography Group

THE CANDIDATES -A PERSONAL VIEW

In last month's **Spurtle** Richard Love of Bellevue Place put the case for voting at the General Election. Now he gives his impressions of the candidates on offer, after hearing them at the **Spurtle** hustings.

I'm a novice at political gatherings, so Broughton's bite of the election cherry gave me an opportunity to observe the democratic process at work at its proper level: in the glare of the



GAVIN BROWN (SCOTTISH SOCIALIST ALLIANCE)

As you would expect from the son of former Leith MP

Ron Brown, Gavin Brown tried to give a typical traditional socialist speech, wanting to reallocate the millions in the vaults of St Andrew's Square and the nuclear missiles of Uncle Sam to the deserving Auntie Ellas of Leith. But behind these impractical policies there was much common sense, practical local politics struggling to get out, with which the other candidates were nodding in agreement. Controlled passion.



ANNE DANA (SNP)

Anne Dana struck me as the most coherent and spontaneous candidate, who tried to address

the local issues, while putting them in the wider Scottish context. She looked interested, involved and passionate in defence of her beliefs. A solid performance.

lights in Cafe Graffiti's basement venue. In a mixture of high seriousness and low farce, the departure of the hapless Tory candidate less than half way through the evening meant that there was almost general unanimity on many issues thrown up for discussion by local residents.

A definite success and a good evening's entertainment. I can't wait for the sequel.



EWEN STEWART (CONSERVATIVE)

Even if he didn't have another meeting in Leith, Ewen Stewart certainly wished that

he wasn't here. His whole body language spoke of discomfort, embarrassment and defeat in the face of overwhelming odds. He almost got a polite hearing but his "personal" defence of gay rights looked very shaky in this context. Someone jokingly suggested he was leaving to attend Tony Blair's rallying speech at the Assembly Rooms. He could probably have learnt a thing or two.



MALCOLM CHISHOLM (LABOUR)

A neutral observer might have seen Malcolm Chisholm as a representative of the establishment,

even government, party in the absence of a credible Conservative alternative. His performance spoke of a genuine belief in social justice hidebound by the strictures of New Labour's modern pragmatic manifesto, but lacking in passion.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

ELECTION HUSTINGS 97

BROUGHTON

What would each candidate do for Broughton if they were elected? Why not come along and ask them!

THURSDAY 17 APRIL 1997
AT 7.30PM AT THE
CAFE GRAFFITI
MANSFIELD PLACE CHURCH

THANKS TO PETE SIMPSON OF GRAFFITI

ENTER FROM EAST LONDON STREET,
THROUGH THE CAR PARK
AND DOWN THE SLOPE



SANDY GRAHAM (REFERENDUM PARTY)

Sandy Graham showed why the Referendum Party, as a single

issue campaign, lacks complete credibility in this setting. This obvious lack of policies and knowledge of important local and national issues, except the wonderful Swiss bus service, deserved the heckler's call of "Cuckoo". He did have the grace to pass when he had nothing to say. No mastermind here.



HILARY CAMPBELL (LIB. DEM.)

Hilary Campbell was in control of her brief, and she had a fat folder of facts and figures

to back up her performance. There were some good practical, local references but it seemed to lack a personal touch. Sound but detached.

BROUGHTON SPIEL

Probably the onset of the month of May can't go past without reference to that timeworn and fairly pointless adage about "ne'er casting a clood till May is oot." Frequently used but almost entirely disregarded, it has become a sort of folksy equivalent of "awful weather for the time of year."

It's generally agreed anyway that it refers not to the month, but to the appearance of the May blossom. And which one of us can say with any certainty when that's expected. The clood, of course, refers not just to items of clothing, but to rags and the like. It gives rise to a roundly expressive turn of phrase which comes in useful here - "a tongue like to clip cloods" - a loud and sharp retort to all that stuff about casting in May!

STAFFORD CENTRE MURAL

The Stafford Centre Art Group is going to produce a mural to cover the white boards on the outside wall at the front of the Centre. They invite the local community to suggest themes/ideas on the content of the mural for discussion by the Centre Users.

They are also planning garden areas at the front and rear of the Centre and would welcome donations of plants, garden equipment, etc.

They hope to start work on both projects in the near future, so would appreciate contributions as soon as possible - to Stafford Centre, 103 Broughton Street, EH1 3RZ (or phone 557 0718).

BRIEFLY

- A rush-hour collision in Bellevue Place has strengthened the case for traffic calming in the area. A white Peugeot coming down towards Green Street was hit in the side by a brown Ford Fiesta coming from Bellevue Street. "It was the accident I have been expecting every day," said Julie Morrice, who witnessed the collision from her house. "You can't tell which way the cars are going to go when they come down Bellevue Place - they never signal and there are no clear priorities at the traffic island. With East Claremont Street closed, there are simply too many cars trying to cut through." But Bellevue residents feel the problem won't necessarily go away when East Claremont re-opens, because the new traffic calming measures there will persuade drivers that the small streets offer a quicker route through the area.
- Volunteers working on the newly surfaced cycle track running north from the end of Eildon Street have said that they hope to be able to re-open the tunnel between Tesco and Scotland Yard. It is hoped that Tesco, which would benefit from a direct pedestrian link to the New Town, will help pay for the work. "It is quite sound," said one of the volunteers. "The pile of earth in the entrance was just put there to keep people out: it's not structural. All the tunnel needs is some lights." This should not be too much of a challenge. Within the last couple of weeks, lighting has been installed along the new section of cycle track, and volunteers have created a bench out of bits of scrap stone left by the verge - somewhere to sit in the sun with your messages!