



On 11th October Broughton-bred Mure Dickie married Yuka Hiramine from Japan - they met when studying in China. The marriage ceremony took place in the former church at the east end of Broughton Place, built in 1821, from where a 19th century congregation set up a missionary church and school in Jamaica called 'New Broughton'. From there pipers led the couple off to the wedding reception at Mure's parents' house, and then back up to Broughton Street again in the evening for a ceilidh in the old George Heriot District School (1853), more recently the Rifle Lodge - you can still see the 'G' and 'H' carved at first-floor level. Bride and groom would like to thank all who helped make it a great day - family, friends, Martin and Nick at the Palladium, and Edith, Alastair and the young folk of Canongate Youth Project for two wonderful buffets. (Photo - Gail Donoher)

### Chimney Sculpture

(Continued from page 3)

There are large sums of public money available for such projects; my brother (David Mach the sculptor) has been fortunate enough to benefit from two awards from the National Lottery.

The buildings that accompany the chimney would surely make great spaces for studios and workshops for all kinds of arts and crafts, galleries, restaurants and, something Edinburgh needs badly, a huge warehouse-sized shop - an arts supermarket - to buy art materials. Encouraging shops and suppliers to set up in such an art centre, letting space for designers, etc. would help to raise the necessary private funding element which is necessary to attract public funding.

### BROUGHTON SPURTLE

#### Contributors to this issue:

John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Janice Johnson, Tim Puntis, Allan Wilson & Gail Donoher.

If you'd like to help with **SPURTLE** please contact us.

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Updated 28 September 1997

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# BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 43

November 1997

## HOW ARE THEY DOING?

Just after the General Election we suggested that here in Broughton we might monitor what difference the change in government made in real, concrete terms. Tony Blair had set his face against dogma and ideology, and taken "fairness" as his touchstone. As the months passed, we could look around us for local evidence of progress judged by that criterion.

After six months, what do you think so far? **Spurtle** presents some first impressions inside this issue.

### TOM MARSHALL

On Saturday 15th November at Drummond Community High School there will be a memorial lecture and concert remembering Tom who was until recently a teacher of English in the school.

Tom was a life-long socialist and deeply committed to anti-racist activity. It is thanks to him that Drummond has such a strong, influential and much copied philosophy of equality.

The lecture entitled "A New Kind of British, or Permanent Outsiders? Black and Asian youth towards the millenium" will cover a subject close to Tom's heart.

The concert in the evening after the lecture will be a performance by Michael Marra followed by a ceilidh.

Details and tickets from Drummond High School 556 2651.

## CLAREMONT CROSSINGS

East Claremont Street is now completely re-opened. Residents hope that the calming measures will slow traffic, and perhaps also discourage the use of the street as a through route.

The pedestrian crossing points have now been marked with white lines, which mean no parking. For the moment, there are also police cones to reinforce the message. We hope this effort to make life easier and safer for pedestrians will come to be respected by all drivers, including those whose vehicle registration numbers are:

J617 DWV  
P203 FLS  
A84 OPW  
G430 HSF  
C405 ARJ.

The white lines extend well beyond the actual crossing points themselves - to ensure that traffic gets a clear view of anyone at the edge of the pavement, or starting to cross.

### FIERCE PICTURES

Hollywood hopefuls in Broughton? Courses for would-be film-makers are offered by 'Fierce Pictures', a non-profit making venture based in Broughton Road. Students direct their own short movies, taught by professional film-makers, "which can act as a calling-card in the movie world". Recently students have also helped out with 'Space', a comedy-drama to be broadcast in November. Anyone interested, contact Nick Smith on 557 3457.

**NEW MOVE ON HOPETOUN GARDENS**  
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## BRIEFLY

- From the minutes of the City Council's September public hearing on the Princes Street traffic scheme: "Additional traffic and pedestrian survey work was carried out in the Broughton Street area in June 1997. A report on that survey suggested that pedestrians would benefit from the introduction of a central reserve island on Broughton Street close to the Albany Street junction. This outcome of the investigation will be the subject of consultation." We wait in anticipation!
- There's been some local concern over heavy earth-moving activity in St Mark's Park. **Spurtle** phoned the Parks Department. They told us that following discussion with the local football club who lease the pavilion, new topsoil has been brought in to make an improved pitch. The club will use it for home games - but there's no question of public access being restricted.
- The Community Council's next meeting is on Monday, 3rd November - 7.30 in Drummond Community High School. On the agenda is a briefing on wheelie bins (postponed from last month).
- Local residents say there are some badly blocked street drains in Bellevue Place and Road - and one in Green Street with weeds growing out of it! They believe that current City Council policy is to act only when contacted about a particular drain flooding - rather than carrying out routine maintenance. Is this not risking serious flooding sometime in the future?

# BLAIR AND BROUGHTON

Six months on, what difference has election of a new government made? The feverish activity of Labour's spin-doctors sometimes makes it difficult to be sure what's there and what's not! Perhaps concentrating on the local scene will help to bring things into focus, at least on some issues. Back in June, we picked out six - jobs, health, schools, human rights, traffic and housing.

**J**obs "The unemployment figures for Broughton are amongst the highest in Edinburgh. How soon will they improve?"

The latest government figures, for August, show Broughton Ward with the 16th worst unemployment rate out of 62 Edinburgh wards, at 8% (approximately - the figures are still based on the old district council ward boundaries). Here as elsewhere, unemployment went down between May and August: but that continued a trend under the previous government. It would be daft to hope for a sea-change within six months of Labour coming to power. But the "Welfare to Work" strategy hasn't inspired much confidence yet. Does it mean real jobs, or forcing folk out of the job centre into underpaid, short-term drudgery?

**H**ealth "How soon will the Stafford Centre see better funding for mental health services?"

Staff at the Centre say there's been no advance on existing, Tory commitments to mental health provision - and there's no optimism about the foreseeable future.



**S**chools "How soon will Drummond High and Broughton Primary stop worrying over cuts?"

Schools are closed for the October break as we put this **Spurtle** together, so we'll postpone comment until we can hear what the situation looks like from local classrooms.

**H**uman rights "How soon will they be celebrating equality before the law at the Gay and Lesbian Centre in Broughton Street?"

The government's to allow the Commons a free vote on lowering the age of consent for gay men to 16, as for heterosexuals, and the result's expected to be positive; action to be taken not later than 31st December 1998, earlier if possible. Real progress here - even if it does come after a European ruling against the current discrimination! And there's also a firm commitment, although no date yet, to repeal clause 28 of the Local Government Act (which restricts discussion of homosexuality in schools, even in the area of sexual health). Less positive, local gay activist Ian Dunn pointed out to **Spurtle**, is the Government's reluctance to square up to the military on the exclusion of gays and lesbians from the services.

**T**raffic "How soon will our City Council have the wherewithal to meet all our demands for safer streets?"

Soon after the Election, major road-building projects in Scotland were

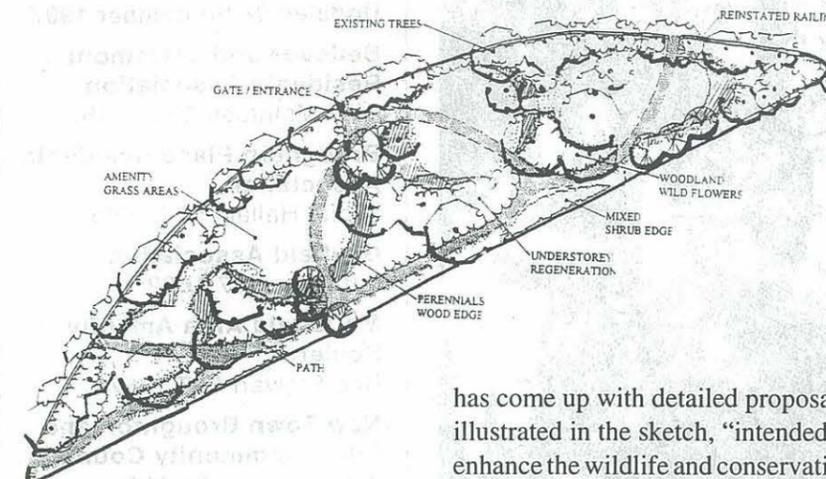
frozen. A Scottish White Paper with proposals for an integrated transport policy is promised for next year. Our local MP Malcolm Chisholm is Minister for Transport at the Scottish Office: last month we highlighted his commitment to public transport, cycling and walking. The new regime seems to have brought a major shift in attitudes - and that's sorely needed if decades of dominance by the car is to be seriously tackled. Let's hope resources are not far behind.

**H**ousing "How soon will homeless people disappear from our streets?"

Edinburgh's to get its share of millions of pounds to be spent on the Rough Sleepers' Initiative. But most of this money had already been put in the pipeline by the Tory government, Labour just topped it up a bit. On the other hand, the previous government had threatened to change the guidelines on homelessness issued to local authorities so that they would be expected to provide only temporary accommodation for the homeless rather than permanent: Labour has re-affirmed that permanent provision should continue to be the expectation. A local housing worker told **Spurtle** he now sensed it would become possible to move on from just defending the status quo.

Talking about housing, we still want the home for Scotland's Parliament to be at Calton Hill. We hope our local MP is doing his bit behind the scenes!

# HOPETOUN GARDENS



What a mess! The need to do something about the gardens at Hopetoun Crescent has been pressing for a long time now. With limited resources, staff and student volunteers from Drummond Community High School had a go at it. Then it got onto the agenda of the Hopetoun Village Steering Group. Now the City Council's Development Department

has come up with detailed proposals, illustrated in the sketch, "intended to enhance the wildlife and conservation value of the gardens together with the provision of amenity grassed areas for more general use". There will be seating provided, new trees and decorative shrubs planted, and "various wildlife habitats established around existing vegetation."

Work will start early next year, aiming to be completed by April. But there's still time to make comments or suggestions: contact Richard Barclay on 529 4315.

# CHIMNEY SCULPTURE

Last month Janice Johnson called attention to the old electricity generating station in McDonald Road, and the tall chimney behind it. The building was up for sale, it wasn't listed, but surely the imposing stone facade, and the chimney, were worth saving. Since then she's heard that Historic Scotland's been asked to consider it for protective listing.

We printed one suggestion made to **Spurtle**: convert the building into a sports centre, with the chimney adapted for climbing

practice. Now Robert Mach of Bellevue Road has sent us another.

I think the chimney would make the ideal column as a base for a huge sculpture. It's in an ideal position, as it sits in a fairly flat and featureless part of the city where it's not likely to obstruct views of eminent city buildings, but in a spot highly visible on the city skyline looking out towards the Forth. Edinburgh suffers a dearth of new, public sculpture and what would be more fitting as a statement of public confidence in our new found political autonomy than a highly visible new work of art in the heart of the capital city. (Continued back page)

# BRIEFLY

- There's some opposition to Cafe Graffiti's application for a one-year public entertainment licence. We wouldn't like to see the building going back to lying empty until its long-term future is settled. Much better to let Graffiti's Pete Simpson keep life in it, so long as there's no serious disturbance of the neighbours.

- A mosque in East London Street? Our informant saw tradesmen at work in the redbrick building at the junction with Annandale Street, previously Chambers and Harraps, and asked them what was happening. A mosque, they said. But after hasty enquiries by **Spurtle** before going to print, this remains an unconfirmed report.

- Rock Trust's Sponsored Sleepout, to raise money for projects working with young homeless people, takes place on 5th December, 9pm to 6am, outside St Andrew's and St George's in George Street. For further information contact Mike Nicholson on 557 4059.

- First day of Commonwealth Conference traffic restrictions and park-and-ride buses: "The people stuck in jams could have been at their work by now, if they had gone with us. We are going along Greenways without stopping", said the driver of one of the empty buses (quoted in the SCOTSMAN).

- Next day the Greenways route in from the West was blocked by protesting private hire taxi drivers, who think they should be treated like taxi cabs and buses. The drivers came from Accolade, based in Hopetoun Crescent (and previously notorious in East Claremont Street/Melgund Terrace). No cause for local pride on this one!

The white lines in East Claremont Street mean no parking.

Please don't block the pedestrian crossings.