

Broughton Primary School



Flashback to 1995, when teachers and pupils at Broughton Primary showed us their plan for improving their school grounds.

Three years later and the school is still brimful of ideas. For example, last term each class contributed a song to a video made as an aid to learning Tables; and when a garage in the playground was demolished the pupils set about decorating the bare wall left

exposed. They "exploded" geometric shapes from their lessons, and explored shape in Islamic culture; they developed their own ideas in drawings and collage; and then they created brightly coloured mosaic tiles with guidance from two professional sculptors.

Spurtle looks forward to featuring contributions from pupils at the school later this year.

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Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick,
Ken McKay, George Reiss,
Gavin McGregor, John Dickie,
Allan Wilson, Jane Coville
& Tim Puntis.

Safeguarding our architectural heritage
Protecting the city's amenity

.. join us

THE COCKBURN ASSOCIATION
(The Edinburgh Civic Trust)
Trunk's Close, 55 High Street
EDINBURGH EH1 1SR
0131-557-8686
Cockburn.Association@btinternet.com

Contacts

Updated 1st September 1998

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848

Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Allan Wilson 554 9144

Broughton History Society
Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

Drummond Community High Head Teacher
Frank McGrail 556 2651
Surgery on Weds. 6-7pm
without appt. 7-8.30pm by appt. only.

Councillor Margaret McGregor Broughton Ward

529 3283 (her office at City Chambers). Surgery at Drummond Community High School on Wednesdays, 6pm to 7pm.

Councillor David Guest New Town 558 8823 or 529 4268. Surgery at 67 Nothumberland Street on Mondays 6pm to 6.45pm. (The boundary with Broughton Ward runs down the middle of Broughton Street!)

Councillor Douglas Kerr Calton Ward 529 3279 (if you live in Gayfield) Surgery at Calton Centre, Montgomery St, on Saturdays, 10 - 11am.

Malcolm Chisholm MP 555 3636

New Surgery on Saturdays at Drummond Community High School at 1pm.

Phone Spurtle
01350 728 720

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 52

September 1998

Scotland Yard Proposal -

DON'T BE DAFT!

City Council officials and businessmen are discussing possible uses for the former railway tunnel from Scotland Yard up to Waverley Station - one of Edinburgh's "best-kept secrets" according to the mainstream media, but known since childhood by many residents of Broughton and beyond!

"What I'd like to see is the former goods yard at the Scotland Street end used as an edge-of-city car park."

The tunnel has a long history in varied roles, and serious discussion of future possibilities is welcome - a spokesman for Broughton History Society described it as "an exciting prospect."

But it must be serious and thoughtful discussion; and that doesn't apply to a proposal floated by chief executive of Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, Peter Stillwell:

"What I'd like to see is the former goods yard at the Scotland Street end used as an edge-of-city car park."

First, since when was the Scotland Yard area "edge-of-city": providing parking there would actually encourage more cars into the city. Second, there just happens to be an adventure centre for young folk with special needs on the site Mr Stillwell has his eye on - not to mention a

children's playground and a George V Memorial Park.

Local councillors approached by **Spurtle** for comment seemed to have been wrong-footed by the Press reports, not knowing much more than members of the public. New Town councillor David Guest thought "at this early stage the announcement looks like far-fetched speculation. Any development would have a major environmental impact."

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Scotland Yard, surely already well used!

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

BRIEFLY

Every secondary school in Scotland is to receive 108 **free books** by Scots-born authors from the Scottish Libraries Association, using lottery money channelled through the Arts Council. But what a contrast to the book selection from Everyman last month's **Spurtle** reported being forced on Drummond Community High! This time the books will be chosen after consulting librarians, teachers and children, who will be invited to nominate and vote for their choice.

Nominations for New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council have now closed. There were 15 nominees for 16 places as elected members, and 8 local interest groups registered to fill 8 places; so there will be no elections.

The delights to be on offer at the **Health Club in East Claremont Street** are described in a guidebook advertised on the Internet. But the Centre can't open for business until the Licensing Board considers a report on alterations made on the premises, at a meeting in October.

McDonald Road street repairs: the story continues. We understand that residents were told in April that money to carry out the next stage was available. But at a meeting on 20th August they were told no, not this year. Their road is down in the 40s in a list of priorities for the whole of Edinburgh - which was a bit of a shock to some local activists, who remember being top priority for North Edinburgh two years ago!

Local kids and parents will have missed the swings and things removed from **St Mark's Park** play area. We're told they will be replaced, next financial year.

Scotland Yard proposal

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New Town's Councillor Guest said "Any development would have a major environmental impact."



Stockbridge's Brian Houston found the discussion "interesting", but was also concerned about environmental consequences.



As was Broughton's Margaret McGregor, who added "Clearly there must be much more public consultation".



Alan Rees of the Adventure Centre's management committee told **Spurtle** they've already been contacted by worried users, special school staff and parents. The local authority agreed to lease part of the site for the Adventure Centre back in the 1980s, after local residents campaigned against alternative development plans. "It's almost inconceivable that the City Council would turn the clock back on an earlier decision to develop it as a priceless

local amenity," he said. The City Development Department's director, George Hazel, has agreed to meet him on site on the 25th of September.

Spurtle believes the future of Scotland Yard Adventure Centre should be guaranteed now, before discussion of the tunnel's future goes any farther. And the idea of a big new car park in that area should be firmly knocked on the head.

We welcome the City Council's plans to make Princes Street car-free. But along with that must go increased effort to discourage cars from coming into the city at all; and continuing dialogue with local organisations on how to deal with any problems from displaced traffic.

Spurtle has been asked to include the following by the Adventure Centre:

Scotland Yard Adventure Centre is an adventure playground for children and young people with special needs. We are currently looking for volunteers to help us in our play clubs on Thursday evenings, Friday afternoons and Saturdays. If you share our belief that every child has the right to play and are someone yourself who really likes to play, then perhaps you would like to volunteer.

Support and training will be given. Contact Theresa Casey on 557 8199.

Broughton History Society

Details of the Society's 1998/99 syllabus are now out. Ten varied events between September and June, with something for everyone with a taste for the past - sometimes murky, sometimes delightful, but always fascinating! And with more outside visits thrown in.

Scotland's postal history, a look at past tenement life, the development of our Child Law, the story of Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary, Scottish place names, the Calton Hill Observatory... all this and more is lined up.

The first meeting is on Monday, 28th September in Drummond Community High School - 'The Story of Scotland's Postal Services' by Tom Reilly, a researcher and past president of the Scottish Philatelic Society. Tea/coffee at 7.15pm followed by the illustrated presentation at 7.30pm.

The Society is now in its third year and firmly established in the community - you are very welcome to join in. Contact the Secretary, Gavin MacGregor (556 7727) on anything to do with the Society.

Open Doors Day

The former Catholic Apostolic Church in Mansfield Place will be open to the public on Doors Open Day on Saturday, 26th September, 10am to 5pm. The plans for the restoration and conversion of the building will be on view.

Also open in the Broughton area will be the History of Education Centre on the top floor of St Mary's RC School in East London Street. Leaflets describing all 66 buildings open are available at McDonald Road Library.

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.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time
PHONE - 01350 728 720

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

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** is printed on recycled paper.



St Mary's RC Cathedral in the 1930s, with the Theatre Royal to the left and traffic lights to the right - the first in Edinburgh, switched on in March 1928

Vision needed for Mansfield?



We welcomed the purchase of the former church by Mansfield Traquair Trust. At last the future of both the building itself and the Phoebe Traquair murals is secure. But we're not yet inspired by plans for the use of the building. Offices down below, conferences and exhibitions above: will there be the buzz around the building we've experienced recently?

Continuing use as a Festival venue has been mentioned: so why is it not possible to work out some way of accommodating Cafe Graffiti? We feel uneasy about the enforced departure of Pete Simpson.

And what about its place in the local community? **Spurtle** never thought the old church could become first-and-foremost a Broughton community centre - it's far too big for that. But it does occupy a prominent, central site in our neighbourhood. The

recent public meeting to explain plans for the building was poorly publicised and poorly attended; and the platform speakers not unnaturally focused on the immediate nitty-gritty of restoration and conversion - any questions about community use got vague responses. Here are two specific suggestions:

1. The space beside the building, where Graffiti had its outdoor bar and sitting area, should not just be landscaped and admired from a distance: it should become some kind of recreation area, open to local people.

2. Large noticeboards which can be consulted from the pavement should be made available for use by local groups - including **Spurtle!**

Don't get us wrong. **Spurtle** supports the Trust's project. We just feel that discussion of the building's future role hasn't really come alive yet.

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BRIEFLY

A revised planning application for the Blandfield site was submitted in mid-July. Meanwhile cyclists are anxious to see a cycleway down McDonald Road and across into St Mark's Park to link up with existing cycleways. Could provision for this and a safe crossing of Broughton Road be built into the development of the Blandfield site? If the prospect interests you, contact George Reiss on 556 7534 before 15th September.



Historic Scotland and Edinburgh City Council propose a merger of the New Town Conservation Committee and the Old Town Renewal Trust, to form a new 'World Heritage Organisation' - whose remit will cover Edinburgh's World Heritage Site. But there are streets covered by one or other of the existing organisations which don't fall within the Heritage Site boundaries. This could mean some houses losing access to conservation funds - for example, the Georgian side of East Claremont Street. The Community Council has taken this up with the powers-that-be, arguing for transitional arrangements to alert residents in the affected areas of the change in their status and giving them 2 or 3 years in which applications for grant assistance will continue to be accepted.

Do you look after a relative or friend who needs care? You'd be welcome at monthly informal meetings for carers to share experiences and information, organised by North East Edinburgh Carers' Forum. Monday 14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 14th December in the Community Lounge, Gordon Court, Sheltered Housing Complex, 31 Gordon Street, Leith - coffee at 10.30, meeting 11 to 12.30am. Expenses are available to help carers get to meetings. More information from Caroline Hosking on 553 8381.