

Football success

Chris McGookin of Broughton Primary School sends us this report. Broughton ended their dismal form by beating two teams in a row. The first win was against Holy Cross. Craig Brackenridge set us on our way when a great ball from Jay Hunter was finished off brilliantly by Craig. After Craig was Jay when he headed home a great corner from Mark Johnston. Mark was next to score when he spotted the keeper off his line and scored a David Beckham-like goal. Craig Mitchell finished off the game, making up for his earlier penalty miss by making a fantastic solo run from the halfway line and placing it in the bottom corner. Alistair Thompson, our captain, got man of the match.

Wrong signals in Broughton

Spurgle welcomes many of the changes that have both improved amenities and brightened up the physical appearance of our area. But recently the Cockburn Association and residents' groups have drawn attention to several instances of building alterations made without planning consent, in Broughton Street and beyond - sometimes to listed buildings and within the New Town Conservation Area and World Heritage Site.

Ironically, it is more than likely that had proper procedures been observed, planning consent would have been

A week later Blackhall were our next victims. We were wary that they had beaten one of the top teams in the league. We were up for it, though, and started brilliantly with a low drive from the edge of the box by David Gallagher. We added another two from Jay and Craig B. Neil Finlayson put in his contribution with an easy tap in to make it 4-0. Craig B added another and so did Jay and Neil. At half time we were winning 7-0. Jay completed his hat-trick from a great ball from Alistair. Then disaster struck! Mark Johnston scored an OG. But in his true style he lobbed the keeper again. David popped another one in for his second and Neil rapped it up nicely with his hat-trick. Chris McGookin got man of the match.

supported in many cases. The fact is that minor infringements are being ignored, planning officials do not have the resources to follow them up after the event, and consistency in standards of development is being disregarded. Which must be particularly irksome to those who are playing by the rules!

In all, the wrong signals are being sent out - that you can get away with it. The right signal must read that you are welcome to get on with boosting Broughton. Certainly *Spurgle* will support you. But do it properly!?



Contacts

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

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 Northumberland Street on Mondays 6pm to 6.45pm.

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

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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

BROUGHTON *Spurgle*

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Broughton *Spurgle* is
free
and completely
independent

Scottish Parliament Broughton *Spurgle* Hustings

Tuesday, 13th April, 7.30pm

Café Graffiti
Mansfield Place Church

Ron Brown
(Scottish Socialist Party)
Malcolm Chisholm
(Labour)
Anne Dana
(SNP)

Robin Harper
(Scottish Green Party)
Jamie Sempill
(Conservative)
Sebastian Tombs
(Liberal Democrat)

What difference will a Parliament at Holyrood make?
What will they do for us if they're elected?

Come and ask them!
Enter from East London Street, through the car park
and down the slope

Spurgle will kick-start campaigning for the first Scottish Parliament in over 300 years!

Tuesday, 13th April marks the official start of the campaign; and that

evening we hold our hustings. This will be an early opportunity to see all the candidates for our constituency on one platform, and to quiz them on subjects that matter to you.

Back in 1997, our hustings at Café

Graffiti before the General Election was widely thought to be the liveliest event during the campaign. This time we expect nothing less. So if you live or work in Broughton, put the date in your diary now. Help us keep the candidates on their toes on 13th April!

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How best to fund our schools?



As readers will know, under PFI private companies cherry-pick profitable projects and lease them back to the Government for up

to 30 years. PFI is unnecessarily expensive. It removes public assets from public ownership. Jobs, pay and conditions move to the private sector. It is privatisation any way you look at it and must be resisted. Now there is a credible alternative for voters to consider.

The SNP's alternative involves setting up a fully autonomous Trust, the Scottish Public Services Trust (SPST). Its benefits include:

- * Ownership of projects remains in the public sector.
- * Finance is raised at lower rates of interest than the private sector can match.
- * It is "not for profit" with no shareholders to remunerate.
- * It responds to community priorities, not profit considerations.

The SPST is not a quango. It is a fully autonomous Trust which could get bank loans at keen rates. Therefore it is cheaper than PFI. It guarantees public ownership of schools, hospitals and other public services. Staff continue to be employed by the public sector. The workings of the Trust would be transparent, unlike PFI where secrecy governs. (Falkirk Council, for example, will not reveal details of its PFI schools deal even to its own councillors!)

In February we reported on plans to fund major developments at Drummond Community High through a Public Private Partnership, under the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI); and explained the opposition to funding public services in this way.

Now we have an alternative, presented by SNP prospective Scottish Parliament candidate for this constituency, Anne Dana. And a response from Malcolm Chisholm, our current Westminster MP and Labour's prospective candidate for Holyrood.



How best to fund Drummond?

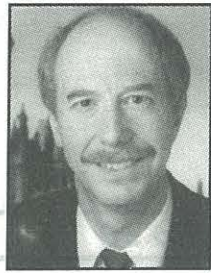
The one big advantage of PFI is that it enables much needed investment in schools and hospitals to start more quickly.

Nobody would deny there is a backlog of work to be done, so that is a big plus. The reason so much work can be brought forward is that the upfront borrowing does not count as public expenditure. That fundamental advantage would be lost under the SNP's Public Service Trusts.

Having said that, I do have two concerns about PFI:

- * Firstly, although it is cheaper in public expenditure terms to start a project, I am worried about the long-term cost implications. We need to think of public expenditure over thirty years rather than just three.
- * Secondly, I am concerned about the transfer of some staff to a private company. I would much prefer a buildings-only PFI, which allowed all staff to be directly employed by the NHS or local authority.

The Westminster Parliament has never looked into Scottish PFIs, but all that will change at Holyrood. If elected, I would want to take part in a detailed examination of PFI, with full involvement of staff and the wider public. That is what better government for Scotland is all about.



Traffic – focus on public transport

Mark Lazarowicz of Bellevue Place responds to last month's invitation to join in the discussion of our traffic problems. He's Labour's prospective candidate for the City Council election in May, but these are his personal comments.



In recent years Broughton has seen massive redevelopment, and it is still going on. One of the side effects is that large numbers of commuters now park on side streets, and also cause traffic congestion as they cruise round the area looking for parking spaces.

- * More employers should encourage their staff to come to work by public transport, or provide transport themselves.
- * Public transport routes should be flexible enough to deal with changing patterns of work and housing; many Edinburgh bus routes haven't changed much in 40 years.

Plans exist for a major leisure development at Greenside; Railtrack want to develop Waverley Station; there are plans for a major redevelopment in the Leith/Granton area. If such plans go ahead without adequate arrangements for traffic and transport links our area will become even more congested.

Cars, damn cars, and statistics!

Last month we published opposing views on the Princes Street ban on cars. They claimed what seemed to be contradictory figures for accident rates: because they were for differently defined areas, and for different types of accidents, we think! Since then, the Liberal Democrat 'Broughton Focus' election leaflet has claimed a "safety failure" on the grounds that "police figures show an increase in the number of accidents involving injury in the area served by the Gayfield Police Station over the past year". The Gayfield figures we've seen show a decrease in

- * Future office or other commercial developments should only be allowed if they are provided with adequate public transport links.
- * Developers should be expected to pay a substantial contribution to the cost of traffic and public transport improvements.

The fact that when the new Scottish Office at Victoria Quay in Leith was built hundreds of parking spaces were provided for staff, but few improvements made in public transport, speaks volumes.

- * Public bodies should encourage the use of public transport by setting a good example.

It's planned that every MSP should have their personal, free, parking space at the new Parliament.

- * Instead, why couldn't a station be built at Holyrood on the existing main line to serve both the new Parliament and the new 'Dynamic Earth' centre, both of which will attract thousands of visitors?
- * And what about running trains (using existing track for most of the way), which could stop at Holyrood, to Leith to serve Victoria Quay and the new developments in that area?

We'd welcome reactions to those suggestions, or any other contribution to the discussion.

vehicular accidents from 969 in 1997 to 847 in 1998; and, yes, within those totals an increase in accidents involving injury – but only from 260 to 262. Apart from problems of comparability and statistical significance, several factors affect traffic volumes and accidents, not just one. The Princes Street scheme has certainly displaced traffic northwards. But recently the tailback from the Holyrood Road restrictions has increased congestion in Broughton Street; and the sheer number of cars in Edinburgh as a whole was rising anyway.

BRIEFLY

Mohammed Osman of East London Street writes: "I am 12 years old. I go to St Thomas of Aquin's High School. I am a Muslim. I am writing to tell you how I mix in with all different religions, for example Christians etc. I get along with a lot of people from other religions. One or two people start being racist, but the rest are fine."

The following notice appeared at Scougals in Rodney Street, a regular **Spurtle** distribution point: "**Isabel Scougal would like to thank you all on behalf of her late father for your custom over the years since 1974. The shop was his life and you his extended family. I would also like to wish to Mrs Malone and Mr Wilson every success as they take charge. I hope you will continue to support them. Thank you again on behalf of myself and my dear late Mum and Dad. Isabel Scougal.**" (New owner Joyce Malone worked for Mr Scougal for 13 years.)

'Pilgrig Reporter', newsletter of the local residents association, draws attention to the City Council's **Rapid Response** service to deal with burst bin bags, overflowing rubbish bins and any other litter problem. The number to ring is **0808 100 3366** – Monday to Friday, 8.30 to 6pm (leave a message outside these hours).

Eric Robinson of Broughton Place extols the value of **stairs associations**: "Each resident pays a monthly standing order, and we meet 3 or 4 times a year to deal with problems and initiatives. On that basis we hire a stair cleaner and have an annual roof inspection. Our stair fund accumulates remarkably, so there is no sudden crisis when funds are needed for unexpected communal jobs. We have had the stairs handsomely repainted, repaired locks, bought brass door fittings, etc. An idea worth commending to others – painless and effective."

Last year local residents successfully opposed the former health club in East Claremont Street becoming a 'sauna'. Now the premises have re-opened as 'The Town House', **agentmen's health club**: "so far extremely quiet, no problem at all", a beady-eared resident from across the street told **Spurtle**.

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 – 556 7727 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.

Spurtle team for this issue: Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Jane Coville, Alan McIntosh, Eileen Dickie & Tim Puntis.