

What a life!



Do you take for granted that the corner shop will always be open and will have the pint of milk you're so desperate for at 6.30am or 9 at night? Mohammed Anjum's shop on the corner of East Claremont Street and Melgund Terrace is open then.

Mohammed's first job is to meet the paper delivery at 6.30. He took this over when Birse's newsagent closed next door five years ago. Most customers buy a paper. His wife, Zahida, spends 9am-2.30pm in the shop so he can stock up at the cash and carry. Juice, sweets, crisps and cigarettes sell best, but home baking has declined.

Until 1985, he ran a shop in Musselburgh. He then took his family back to Pakistan for a month's holiday

- which lasted a year. A big attraction is meeting people and making many life-long friends. Most customers are really friendly - the odd one or two can't say thank you.

Fortunately, he doesn't mind the long hours, rarely takes time off (even if Zahida asks him) except when ill, and doesn't like letting people down. Last year, in Lahore for a few days as his father was ill, his body soon felt sore for lack of his usual activities.

Recently, he was caught in the middle of divided feelings during the long-running disruption in E Claremont Street. He was friendly with those both for and against the roadworks, but can't afford to take sides.

The good news is that Mohammed is so comfortable here that he has no plans to move on, certainly not while his children are at school. But, follow in his footsteps? A definite, "No."

He thanks all the locals who support his shop, especially his very local MSP, Malcolm Chisholm.

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

Redbraes Residents Association
Ann Donohoe 538 9965

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Allan Wilson 554 9144

Cllr Mark Lazarowicz
Broughton Ward
529 3283 fax 529 4764
Surgery: Drummond CHS
on Wednesdays from
6 to 7pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland
Street on Mondays from
6 to 6.45pm

Malcolm Chisholm MP and MSP
555 3636
Surgery on Saturdays at
Drummond Community High
School at 1pm.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 66 December/January 1999/2000

Car-Free Cities - A Recommendation

Zacharia ch.8 "I will return to Jerusalem, my Holy City and live there. Once again, old men and women will be sitting in the city squares. And

the streets will again be full of boys and girls playing."

To celebrate the Millennium, Jerusalem's local council is to

FOCUS Housing

Just announced, a new venture to cut energy bills in homes. Households in Edinburgh are to receive a "Warmburgh" leaflet, the City Council's strategy to improve energy efficiency by 30% over 10 years. It urges every household to fill in the "Home Energy Check" for "free and impartial advice on how to make their homes warmer and cheaper to run".

In Broughton, there's as good a city-centre mix of properties as can be found anywhere. Alongside much new building (hopefully already somewhere near fuel-efficient), the others stretch back over some 150 years or more - tenements, terraces, stone-built, brick-built, large and draughty, small - and still draughty! You name it, you'll probably find it in Broughton. And many in various conditions of upkeep and deterioration.

Whether you own, rent or let out, there is certainly advice to be had; there may be grants available; and Council houses could be in line for insulation and improved heating. Particular help is available for those in receipt of certain benefits and for the over-60s. And grants and interest-free loans are available to landlords to help improve privately rented homes.

FOCUS Transport

"Edinburgh's Transport Choices"- Your Chance to Choose. Last month, we recommended the document due

This could be just what a thriving, resident-friendly Broughton could do with. When you get the leaflet, DON'T JUST JUNK IT, at least find out.

Like it or Loathe it? "The Millennium" will soon be on us. By our next edition, it will be over and we'll know how it all went. We take a break now till February 2000. Then Spurtle will be back to focus on all the issues that need stirring. Meantime, all our best to Broughton, and particularly to those who do not have much to celebrate at the best of times.

Thank you to all our readers, contributors, supporters, advertisers, printers Clydeside Press and the Graphics Company. **Spurtle** is self-financing and looks to support and advertising from YOU. Think about it in 2000.

to come through your letterbox from the City Council. This gives you the chance to send back the reply paid card to record your views on the options

Broughton Spurtle is **free** and completely **independent**

pedestrianise three large areas of the city!

(Thanks to Spokes for this timely reminder - see foot of page.)

FOCUS The Environment

The recent change of use of the former Broughton Place Church has been welcomed by local residents.

This follows an unsettling period of sharply divided views over its use for theatre and entertainment as the Palladium, with concerns about emissions, noise, traffic and the like which it is hoped will now pass. Both the Gayfield Association and Broughton Place Residents told **Spurtle** that they are much more positive about Lyon and Turnbull's occupancy as an auction house. They hope this promises long-term stability for a conservation site which has found a purpose appropriate to its character and to the locality.

The Gayfield Association are yet to consider a report from architects into the implications of adapting the building and balancing conservation with much-needed sustainability. On top of this, a plan to install a delivery bay in Gayfield Street Lane with its restricted access has introduced worry about the usual traffic, noise and pollution problems.

However, at last the omens are good for this vulnerable part of Broughton and **Spurtle** will be keeping in touch.

for the future management of Edinburgh's traffic.

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FOCUS Rubbish!

Like many urban communities, Broughton is an area of high-density population, commercial activity, through-traffic...and people-generated refuse. If the quality of city-centre living is to be maintained, this needs to be tackled by providing services to contain and dispose of our mess - and the education of us all on how best to keep waste to a minimum.

"Edinburgh Recycling" is now delivering the recycling service in Edinburgh on behalf of the City Council and one of their main aims is to plan new sites. All credit to Tesco,

Broughton Road and B&Q, Warriston Road who already do so, but this is hardly a convenient option for most of Broughton, a matter that local councillor Mark Lazarowicz is now taking up. But Edinburgh Recycling want your ideas for bringing us into line with other European cities. They also run a Primary School project and provide presentations to community groups - Contact: 538 5381. In the face of efforts like this, a real pity then that some households just don't seem to get the idea. It keeps coming back, but complaints to **Spurtle** indicate

it's getting bad again. Hereabouts, it should happen Tuesday and Friday mornings. It could be hassle-free - the service is provided. What is it? The pollution of bin-bags, collection times ignored, deposited at kerbsides and in doorways at any old time. Cllr Lazarowicz confirms that it is for Environmental Services Dept to deal with complaints. If they are not resolved, he will take them further. He confirms that this is just one of a number of environmental issues which have been raised and which **Spurtle** intends to pursue. Let's clean up in 2000.

FOCUS The Community

A welcome addition to the local scene, the *Hopetoun Village Community Directory* is currently being produced jointly by the City Council and the Community Council. Due out early in the New Year and to be delivered free for everyone to keep and consult, it will cover an area bounded roughly by Leith Walk/Broughton Street/Broughton Road/Pilrig Street.

The *Directory* hopes to be an invaluable guide to all you need to know - shops, businesses, services, doctors, dentists, nurseries and playgroups, transport, voluntary groups and organisations, local activities...you name it, there's a place for it.

The compilers are keen that local people have the chance to come in on it before it goes to press. A mailing is being sent direct to those who may want to be included. If this is not received by 9 December, contact the *Directory* to ensure you're not left out. Also planned is an article about the history of the area and if you have photos, pictures, or even anecdotes about Hopetoun, get in touch.

The person to contact is - George Reiss, 53 McDonald Road, EH7 4LY

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FOCUS Planning

At the end of October, the City Council Planning Committee gave permission for development of the cinema and leisure complex at Greenside. Operation is to be subject to traffic monitoring, new bus stops and taxi ranks and the nightclub's go-ahead depends on bus services being improved. £200,000 is also to be put to

the bridge connecting the complex to the Calton Hill.

Spurtle repeats what we said before. This isn't any old gap site. A natural valley, overlooked by the open spaces of the Calton Hill, a World Heritage Site, an outstanding town-centre asset - and right on Broughton's doorstep. Have we at last got it right?

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 0903/7727
 or fax 557 6752

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** is now

on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

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

"Where there's Death there's Hope"



The Hope family of London Street in the early '20s

Itself passing after a lifetime spent among us - J D Hope, Undertakers of London Street. Seeing the "for sale" signs up, **Spurtle** spoke to Lorimer Hope, the last surviving member of the generation of the Hope family to run the business. Though he retired in 1983, Mr Hope is still in the neighbourhood after 83 years.

A family of seven (Lorimer is second from left), all six boys went into the business from school. His father, John D Hope, a joiner and cabinet-maker, started up in 1911 after

some years in London. He lived at No 44, moving a few years later to No 41 where Lorimer was born in 1916. John was then a coffin-maker for other undertakers and latterly a manager for Harkness. By 1920, he was providing a full undertaking service in his own right. Hope, senior died in 1959.

Lorimer Hope went into the business aged 14 and, like his father, set about learning the trade. Night school for joinery skills and stints "on loan" to other firms making coffins, he remembers particularly Stoddarts in Leith. There, signs were to be seen declaring that "You must die if I'm to live" and (grimly seasonal) "Join our club and be a dead cert for Christmas". He himself never quite had the brass handles to advertise "Where there's death there's Hope".

But the sorry reality was that times were hard, mortality rates high and there was no assurance of a "decent burial". Even at a cost of about £14 and, for infants, £2/10/-, bills sometimes went unpaid. Particularly poignant are Mr Hope's recollections of the infant deaths and his agreement with Edinburgh's maternity hospitals to receive the still-born, sometimes abandoned or whose families were simply not able to afford a burial.

A lasting memorial to Hope's themselves, the timber fittings in Warriston Crematorium were made by them in 1929. They were also the first makers of urns, hand-crafted and sometimes intended for pride of place for two or more members of a family.

Times have changed since Mr Hope's days of individually worked hazel pine, elm and chestnut oak gave way to mass-produced veneered chipboard. But things move on and other circumstances are best left to the past. A suitable thought, perhaps, as we anticipate a new year.

BRIEFLY

Redbraes Residents' Association are holding a Public Meeting at 10am on 13 December in Smart's (Builders) Canteen, **Redbraes Place**. Chaired by Cllr Lazarowicz and attended by Council officials, it will tackle outstanding issues previously reported in **Spurtle**. Contact: Ann Donohoe - 538 9965.

Wildfire Women's Choir is a new community group singing mainly of struggle, freedom and liberty. It is open to all women singers and meets Wednesdays, 7.30-9pm in Pilrig/St Paul's Church (corner of Leith Walk/Pilrig Street.) Contact: Eileen Penman - 556 1029.

Financial allocation has now been made to McDonald Road Library for 2000/1 and 2001/2. Cllr Lazarowicz will be checking out just what the results will be. Could some upgrading be on the way?

Last month, **Spurtle** reported in full on City Centre traffic plans and the knock-on effect on Broughton, especially the central area of Broughton Street. Local residents are urged to make their views known - see our CONTACTS section for phone numbers. Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association will be holding a community workshop, mid-January. Watch out for details.

Sorry to see move away, Allan Wilson, tireless Secretary of the Community Council and an invaluable fund of information for **Spurtle**. Gladly, he will be retaining links in the area as Chair at Scotland Yard. We all wish him well.

Also going absent (but intending to return) George Reiss, active particularly in Hopetoun Village Steering Group and the Community Council. Off with his family to manage a project in the Algarve (say nothing!) he also takes our good wishes.

Community Council Meetings: Mondays, 7.30pm, Drummond CHS - 6 December, 10 January, 2 February.

St. Mary's PTAF are having a Christmas Bazaar in St. Andrew's Hall (at the rear of the Cathedral) on Saturday 4th December from 11am until 2pm. Santa's grotto, home baking, toys, books and a mouthwatering cafe will be on offer.



Allan Wilson