

Belle's View



Hi fans

Ding - dong, tra la la, deck the halls etc! As Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier each year (with eager carol singers at the door hot on the heels of the guisers the night after Halloween!), I thought it might be pertinent to give you readers advance notice of some of the festive frolics happening in **Broughton** and **Bellevue**. Get those odor-eaters into those glass slippers Cinders - you *are* going to the ball!

For those of you who have not yet succumbed to a ghastly winter virus, you might like to catch *Saturday Night Fever*, currently playing at the Playhouse in **Greenside Place** until 13 January. Mmmmmm - groove on down in those white wing lapel suits and dodgy platforms! How deep is your leurve?

For something a wee bit more traditional, if you're into fairy stories, get yourself along to the **Gateway Theatre** in **Elm Row**, where **Queen Margaret University College's** Drama Department presents **Stephen Sondheim's** award winning musical *Into the Woods*. If you were wondering what to do if you ever find a dead giant in your back garden, this show is for you!

Hands up anyone who has finished all their Christmas shopping? Thought so! For that difficult present for Grandad/Auntie Elsie/the dog a visit to the **Bridgewater Pottery Café** at **28a Dundas Street** might be in order. You can decorate all manner of plates, cups, teapots etc. in your own fabulous, funky and original designs!

Have a cool Yule!

Persephone Belle

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Adult Education Classes

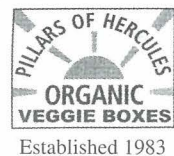
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Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

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Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents
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Tam Hay 553 2306

Sovereign Court Residents
Association
John Davies, 478 4463

New Town Broughton and
Pilrig Community Council
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Cllr Mark Lazarowicz
Broughton Ward
529 3283 fax 529 4764
e-mail -

mark.lazarowicz@edinburgh.gov.uk
Surgery: Drummond CHS
on Wednesdays from 6 to 7pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 77

December/January 2000/2001

No.13 saved?

In summer this year Lothian Buses told the City Council that they were going to withdraw bus service 13, because it was not commercially viable. The Council immediately offered an emergency contract to keep the service going until the end of this year. Now the Executive Committee of the Council is to decide the longer-term future of the service at its meeting on 5th December.

The report they'll consider recommends that the Council finds the money to pay Lothian Buses to continue the No.13, on a 3-year contract, on its existing 30-minute frequency; and on the same route until the proposed diversion through Bellevue and McDonald Road

becomes possible. Local Councillor Lazarowicz told **Spurtle** that he would be supporting this recommendation forcefully.

Watch that hoarding

We are no longer able to display blow-ups of **Spurtle** at the Mansfield Church corner, as no posters or other material are allowed on the new hoarding. But we've asked the Mansfield Traquair Trustees to consider a proper **Spurtle** notice-board. At the same time, we suggested that a blank hoarding all round that corner for a year-and-a-bit would be a bit depressing: could they maybe make a positive feature of it, as has been done at other major Edinburgh



Local parents and children celebrating November's official opening of the upgraded playground in St Mark's Park. Councillor Lazarowicz (on the right) tells us the work cost the City Council around £60,000.

Broughton Spurtle is
free
and completely
independent

development sites? The answer was: "Watch this space - what is planned will be worth the wait!"

Meanwhile an invitation has gone out to residents around the site, to meet the Trust and contractors and ask questions or express worries about the project:

Neighbourhood Meeting
Tuesday, 12th December, 6pm
Broughton St Mary's Church Centre
at 7 East Broughton Place

Operation Clean-up

By the time you read this, a group of local folk will have worked out an action plan to tackle the problem of litter in Broughton.

The community workshop that we announced last month, led by Diane Smith of the City Council's Environmental Services, was attended by 24 people - including two children, who managed to create a colourful poster on the subject by the end of the meeting! Each individual used a map of the area to mark in particular troublespots for dropped litter, dog fouling, dumping, burst black bags, weeds, graffiti; a small team then quickly drew all this together on one map for each problem. When the whole group discussed the results, it was decided litter should be the first issue tackled - but to include black bags.

The group agreed to meet again in a fortnight to work on the practical ideas that were already surfacing. When a good start has been made on litter, other problems on the list will be considered.

Drummond's future

On 20th December, bidding closes on which of the two short-listed private contractors will join with the City Council in its Private Public Partnership (PPP) for refurbishment and maintenance of Edinburgh schools. In Broughton, this means that crucial decisions are about to be taken for Drummond Community High School for the next 30 years.

Details of the Partnership agreement are under wraps until an announcement early in the new year. Once the wraps are off, comes the time when the practical issues need to be opened up and contributions sought from all the school's users. Jackie Messer of the School Board told **Spartle** that there would be a need for "more involved consultation in the implementing of the plans". The Education Department anticipate that a process of presentation and display of plans at a local level will lead to formation of a "school liaison group" to include participation of all those involved in Drummond, including the PPP contractor. Councillor Lazarowicz suggests that this "should be set up earlier rather than later to ensure that community views along with those of pupils, parents and staff are taken into account".

What will it all mean?

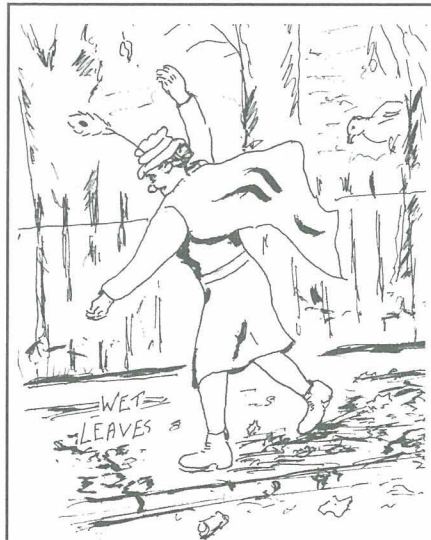
Responding to concerns about the entry onto the scene of a private-sector operator, and the effect this would have on the management of the school premises for community users, the Education Department's Gavin Milner assured **Spartle** that the scheme of

devolved school management would continue as at present and that "safeguards for the education and community interests of the Council" would be built into management procedures. What best suits each educational establishment included in the Partnership will be worked out on a school-by-school basis.

The priority is to meet the Council's educational obligations. These will be fulfilled during 'Core Hours', for example 7.30am to 6pm, Monday to Friday. Outwith such times, an 'Extension to Core Hours', still governed by Education Department/School terms and conditions, will accommodate other activities supported by the Council involving adults, parents/pupils, use by the wider community and the like. Only after these users are catered for will the PPP contractor "be encouraged to maximise the use of the accommodation and services" subject to a "full set of management procedures and systems".

Use of the playground will also be managed under existing conditions. The Department is aware of the safe environment provided for youngsters and of how highly this open space features in local life. "The contractor will be required to undertake the investment and maintenance required to provide agreed improvements to the external landscaping and environment of the school."

No doubt the devil will be in the detail of the Partnership contract soon to be revealed.



Super Gran says:
"Why skate in Princes Street when you can skite in Broughton?"



Now we miss a month over the festive season. Copy deadline for the February issue is Saturday 27th January. Thanks again to all our readers, supporters, advertisers, printers Clydeside Press and The Graphics Company. To those who've had a good year - long may your good fortune continue! To those who've been struggling - let's hope things will get better in 2001! **Spartle** 556 0903 or 556 7727

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 / 556 0903
Or FAX - 556 7727 / 557 6752

Broughton Spartle is printed on recycled paper.

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.

Spartle team for this issue: Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Jane Coville, Alan McIntosh, Tim Puntis, and David Aitken.

Broughton Spartle 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!

Community Directory

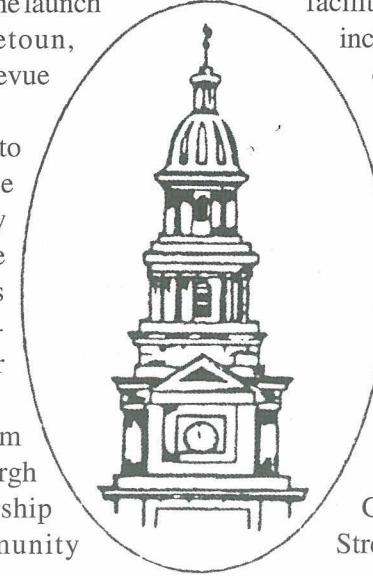
This month will see the launch of the first Hopetoun, Broughton and Bellevue Directory.

It will be helpful to new and long time residents alike by showing the wide range of facilities available to everyone, locally, on their doorstep.

The Directory, from the City of Edinburgh Council in partnership with the Community

Council and local businesses is part of the Council's Cornershop Initiative. It provides a handy guide to local shops, businesses, restaurants and other local facilities. The directory also includes a fascinating history of the Hopetoun area, together with articles on local personalities and general community information.

Each household will receive a copy. If you've not got yours by mid-January, you can collect one from McDonald Road Library or the City Council at 1 Cockburn Street.



The 'Monthly Moan'?

David Watt of Bellevue Place sent us a detailed letter about **Spartle**, to which we've sent a full reply. Here are some extracts, with brief responses:

The title 'Broughton **Spartle**' makes one expect to read about local matters yet your remit seems to cover greater Edinburgh. You had a large spread about the St. Clair Street allotments which hardly come into the Broughton area. Personally I think the Council were right to put Wishart jobs before allotments.

We weren't arguing that allotments were more important than jobs: we were questioning whether there really had to be a straight choice between the two. Local relevance? Well, the Pilrig end of the story affects our nextdoor neighbours; and we related it to preservation and better use of green spaces in Broughton itself.

When I see it my immediate reaction is to think "Here is the Monthly Moan". Your articles seem to be a constant demand for what the readers want "them" to do, be they Government, local authorities and other organisations. There is very little mention of what people's obligations to Society are ... In times past Scots

were noted for their independence - this would no longer apply going by the **Spartle**.

The City Council needs hassling sometimes; but we also cover 'good news' stories of local initiatives. Still, if we're coming across too negative overall that would be worrying - something to guard against!

My own bete noir is the litter in the area. I pass Drummond School several times a day and see what a rubbish tip the grounds are and would willingly join a rubbish collection by volunteers. Other areas in the city tackle problems such as this ... their local community papers give publicity and DO something about the problem.

A group of local people (including David Watt himself) have now got together to do something about litter. **Spartle** did play a part in the run-up to this practical step.

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BRIEFLY

Barratt Homes' proposals for the **Brown Brothers** site on Broughton Road are causing some local consternation. It's the scale of the development that's causing the worry: McDonald Road residents don't like the idea of a new rear view of 10 storey high flats; and residents on the Pilrig side of the site share their fears.

After only months in existence, **Edinburgh Television** now seems set to reach a worldwide audience. Sky TV viewers will be offered its Scottish arts programme for six hours a day. Chairman and Managing Director of ET is David Rushton, of Bellevue Place.

Last month's front-page photo featured an abandoned car that had caused an obstruction in Huntingdon Place for a whole year. Local residents tell us it **disappeared the day after Spartle** hit the streets.

Spartle and other Broughton folk were amongst those invited to a recent Saturday morning conference organised by the constituency Labour Party. After 'keynote speaker' John Reid, Secretary of State, annoyed some by ending with an out-of-place party-political rant, the workshop sessions proved much more positive. A good idea - to inform of government thinking in key areas and invite discussion of local priorities: maybe they could have cut the 'keynote speech' and used all the available time doing that.

Commiserations to Paul of Just Junk, Broughton Street. His recent black eye came from a struggle with three men trying to walk off with a chair from outside his shop.

In October we discussed the City Council's plan to sell the **Hawkhill allotments** site to D F Wishart, who want to expand their warehouse there; a bit of Pilrig Park would be fenced off for the displaced allotment holders. Now Wishart's planning application is at the planning office. But our Pilrig neighbours are complaining that there's no sign of the application at the site, and the allotment holders have not been notified.