

BROUGHTON **Spurle** 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 are not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

Spurle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, David Aitken, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Eileen Dickie and Tim Puntis.

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

Broughton **Spurle** is printed on recycled paper.

☎ Contacts

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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
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
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529 3283 fax 529 4764
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Surgery: Drummond Community High School
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.

The deadline for May Spurle is Saturday, 21st April.

We welcome information or opinions on local affairs. Drop a note in at Broughton Books, 2A Broughton Place or phone 556 0903 or 556 7727

BROUGHTON Spurle

No 80

April 2001

Cleaning up Broughton



Local residents have joined forces with the City Council to clean up Broughton's streets and open spaces. One Saturday morning in early March over thirty spent a couple of hours picking up litter in the centre of our area, with back-up tools and truck from the Council.

The event was organised by 'Clean Up Broughton' (CUB for short), in an effort to raise awareness of the litter problem – and make a small practical contribution towards tackling it. Reactions from folk passing by were mostly very encouraging. A few have questioned this voluntary action: 'we pay rates for the Council to do the job,

Dog dirt

A really disgusting form of litter is dog dirt. What's to be done? The City Council's new environment wardens will look out for dog fouling – but they won't be able to be

why should we do it ourselves?' CUB members say there's no question of letting the Council off the hook: they're already hassling it for more rubbish bins on our streets, for example. But the litter problem's too big now for a single track solution. A major change in attitudes is needed. Only a combined effort by Council and community has any hope of success.

The City Council now has a **Task Force** responsible for cleaning streets, litter removal, weeding and grass cutting in Broughton. The Task Force leader is Billy Wilson, and he wants to hear about local

everywhere at once. Residents in a Bathgate street have taken to catching guilty dog owners on film – and using the photos to make 'Wanted' posters! We're now hearing more parents with small children arguing that dogs should be

Broughton Spurle is free and completely independent

priorities: you can phone him on his mobile: 07788 150 314.

Citywide plans should also help. Environment wardens are to be appointed, with powers to report litter offenders to the police. They'll also be on the lookout for bin bags put out too early, and trade waste dumped in the wrong places. And special night-shift clean-ups will be targeted at areas worst affected by carryout rubbish: the top of Leith Walk and Broughton Street must be prime candidates!

The Clean Up Broughton group plans another action day in May. Meanwhile, smaller groups and individuals are doing their bit in their own streets – in East Claremont Street for example, and Hopetoun Crescent Garden. If you want to do the same, phone 556 0903 for CUB support.



banned from the garden in Hopetoun Crescent, for example. Would that be fair to the many owners we see clearing up after their dogs? Is it fair that children can't play in the garden? We'd welcome constructive suggestions from our readers.

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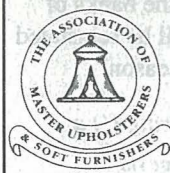
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Plans for Drummond now on view

The City Council has now chosen the private partner that will play a major part in the future of Drummond Community High. It's a consortium called 'Edinburgh Schools Partnership', headed by construction company Amey Ventures.

Plans include a new gym hall, improved dining facilities and general refurbishment. Drummond is part of a big citywide project, and it has not been decided yet when work will start here; but local councillor Mark Lazarowicz says he'll be asking the education department to clarify the likely timetable as soon as possible.

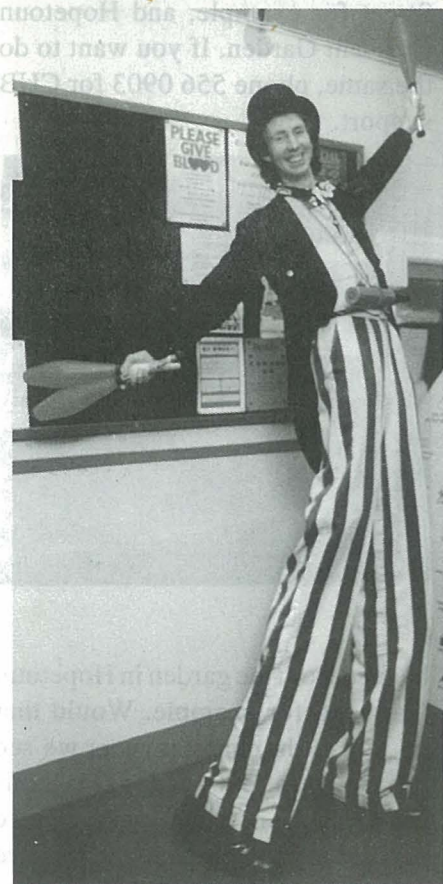
Some of us still find the prospect of major private business involvement

in the future of our schools alarming: what effect will the profit motive have; and won't the whole thing cost us a lot more in the long run? But government politicians at both national and local level have presented Public Private Partnership as "the only game in town" if we want better schools in the foreseeable future. Trade unions, parents and community will just have to be on guard for any damaging effects that may develop.

By the time you read this, there will be a display illustrating the Drummond plans in the school foyer. A City Council official and the school's Acting Head Teacher will explain the implications at the Community Council's meeting on

Drummond's fabulous learning festival

A message from the Community Team, Drummond Community High School
On Saturday 24th March we celebrated life and learning of all kinds at Drummond Community High



School. Highlights included performances by the new Drummond Community Big Band (see feature) and by students of Drummond Base, Folk Music and Pop Music courses, plus the Cobra Junior Pipe Band ... dazzling displays of breathtaking artwork from paintings to stained glass to pottery to jewellery by talented adult students ... attention-grabbing appearances by stilt-walker Michael Angelo and Magic Bob ... wonderful workshops of all kinds from meditation to dressmaking to languages to genealogy ... stalls and displays - many local projects like Family Learning running other activities ... plus so much more that we cannot possibly mention it all!

Many of you will be wondering about the outcome of our legendary Sweets in the Jar competition - the winner has been notified, but we are protecting their privacy, in case of extreme media attention!

Huge debt of thanks owed to so many people who contributed to the day and worked very hard to make it succeed. We hope you were there - if not, make sure you don't miss next year's event.

Monday, 2nd April (7.30pm in the school library). School staff will be briefed on the Tuesday afternoon, the School Board in the evening, and students and support staff on the Wednesday morning. **There will be a meeting for parents and community on Thursday, 5th April, 7pm in the School.**

In deepest Broughton

Last month we reported on the sighting of foxes on the roof of Lothian Buses' garage. That prompted Debbie Dougray of McDonald Road to send us this story.

A lady around the corner was taking her dog for a walk recently, late at night. As she went to enter her garden gate she saw another dog next to hers. She bent down and patted its head and talked to it for a few minutes. It was only when it turned to cross the road and she saw its tail that she realised she'd been talking to our local fox!

And Debbie Dougray's had her own urban wildlife experience.

I looked up from my desk and out of my back window last week - and was astonished to see a large hawk sitting on the fence, absolutely still, only a few feet away. I ran to get my camera. When I came back the sparrowhawk (I checked its identity later) dived at the sparrows below a bush, swooped very low across the grass, then circled overhead with its prey - amidst much squawking. A really ghastly sight - and sound! I read that once spotted they often return and hunt in the same area for years. I wonder if anyone else has seen it?



It's big, brassy and Broughton's!



The Drummond Community Big Band made its debut performance at the Festival of Learning on Saturday, 24th March. They made an excellent impression on their first audience. But the Band is only weeks old - you could still be part of it.

If you've reached at least Grade 5 on your instrument, this is your chance to rehearse and perform Jazz and Funk arrangements with a great bunch of players - some amateur, some semi-pro, some professional musicians, living in and around Edinburgh. It doesn't matter if you're new to ensemble playing.

Says band leader Haftor Medboe: "It's great to find so many talented

players out there and to hear them playing all together in one, awe-inspiring band. Hold on to your hat!" Band member Ruari Wilson really enjoys "the colourful mix of people and musical styles and the laid back, relaxed atmosphere of the sessions".

The plan is for the Big Band to have a long-term future as a community-based project. They're very keen to include everyone from senior school age and upwards. (Right now, if you play alto sax you'd get an extra special welcome!)

You can enrol at the Community Office at Drummond Community High, as for evening classes. Or ask Carol Stobie for more details (557 1490).

Cash boost for society

Broughton History Society has won £746 to help build up and display a photographic record of our area. The money comes from the City Council's Millennium Community Fund.

Local photographers have already been out recording Broughton as it is at the beginning of the new millennium. The idea is to use the new archive of photos alongside old ones to illustrate historical change, and to keep the record up-to-date by snapping future changes as they take place. The

collection will feature in exhibitions organised by the Society, and be handed on to future generations as a record of Broughton's historical development.

The Society's next meeting is on Monday, 30th April, with an illustrated talk on 'The New Town of Edinburgh' - 7.15 for 7.30pm, at Drummond Community High. If you're not a member, you'll be welcome as a visitor (£1).

BRIEFLY

The City Council has been awarded extra cash by the Scottish government for repair of roads and pavements over the next three years. Money has now been allocated for permanent repairs in Broughton Street, starting with the stretch between Forth Street and East London Street (east side). "This will allow the temporary and unsightly tarmac repairs to the pavement to be replaced with a proper surface", says Councillor Lazarowicz.

The final phase of reconstruction of McDonald Road will be carried out later this year, after current construction work on the Lilley site is completed. Meanwhile a reader who lives next to one of the traffic calming pinchpoints already in place is worried that drivers seem to either misread the signs or try to "squeeze" through. "We have now witnessed one major accident - a boy on a motorbike knocked off by a car not giving way, and hear near misses every day and night."

Bushes and hedges in Redbraes Park have at last been trimmed, by the City Council's new Task Force. Councillor Lazarowicz has also been assured by Council staff that the back green at Redbraes Place that was churned up by the contractors dredging the banks of the Water of Leith will be reinstated "during the growing season".

With the arrival of Spring (!) a Spurtle reader suggests reminding folk to sweep up hedge trimmings for proper disposal - not just over into the gutter!

Work has started on the City Council's £750,000 improvement project at McDonald Road Library. The first phase involves external repairs, replacing slates and skylights. Later in the year come the internal improvements including a lift, more flexible community rooms, and a tea bar. When the main library is not accessible a more limited library service will operate from the Nelson Hall next door, using its separate entrance.