

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

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick,
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 Spurtle is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

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

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 531 1636

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 5161

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 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.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

No 81

May 2001

What's on offer for Drummond?

Spurtle went along to a public meeting at Drummond Community High School in early April, to hear the latest on plans for its redevelopment.

The major changes proposed are a new dining hall, within the main building; the car park moved to the back of the building (to where the dining hall is at the moment); the main hall split by a new floor, the lower

section becoming a central social area for students; a new P.E. block; the library moved to the front of the school; three lifts between floors; and better access around the building on each level. Community facilities would be concentrated on the lower level, with a separate entrance through the vennel.

We understand an earlier meeting with school staff was quite prickly.

Questions were raised about the juxtaposition of various rooms in the new layout, and there were worries that some of them would be just too small. And while moving the library to the front of the school seems a good idea, there's dismay that it could be smaller than the existing one.

Inside we have comment on the meeting itself, and what happens next.

A Broughton Street shopping list

We understand there will be a public inquiry into the Central Edinburgh traffic proposals later this year. **Spurtle's** still backing a car-free Princes Street as an important step towards a safer and pleasanter city centre for visitors and locals alike.

But whether or not those plans eventually go ahead, something

radical needs doing to make our own Broughton Street more pedestrian-friendly. As we reported in February, ideas from the City Council that were discussed with local groups last year were later watered down. Now they're on hold. Local councillor Mark Lazarowicz tells us he's trying to identify funding: once they know

where the money is coming from, there will be further consultation—hopefully within a couple of months.

There's a variety of views on what should be done about local traffic. But can a basic 'shopping list' for Broughton Street be drawn up, one with maximum backing from local people?

For example:

- a pedestrian crossing – we can discuss where, and what type (zebra, pelican?)
- narrower entries to streets off Broughton Street, with raised tables
- vehicle waiting and loading bays, to support local businesses.

There were detailed plans for Broughton Street approved in principle by the old Regional Council away back in 1994. We've gone round in circles a bit since then. A short shopping list with wide local support might have more clout.

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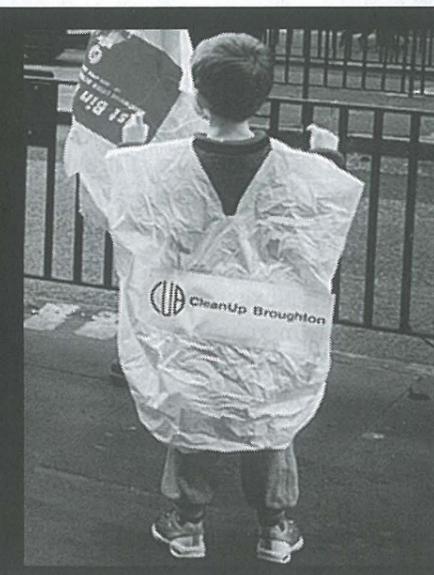
The deadline for June Spurtle is Saturday, 26th May.

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

Clean-up Day Number Two

Saturday 2nd June
11am to 1pm

Join us to pick up litter. Meet at the roundabout, foot of Broughton Street on the launderette corner. Gloves, tools and bags supplied by the City Council. Organised by the **CLEAN UP BROUGHTON** group.



Best for Drummond?

Are the City Council and its preferred bidder Amey serious about hearing and responding to your opinions on the future of Drummond?

At the public meeting on 5th April we were given a brief audio-visual presentation. There was a question-and-answer session afterwards. Some colourful diagrams were on display in the foyer. A glass of wine, a chat and a query/suggestion sheet were available at the end.

However, all plans on display were out-of-date. They were accurate in December 2000 but not now, so whatever we were shown and invited to discuss was potentially irrelevant.

Up-to-date plans promised for the week after the meeting were still unavailable at the time **Spurtle** went to press. We understand that, when available, one set of them will be displayed in the school. Multiple copies will not be distributed among parents and the local community.

The City Council hopes to appoint a partner by June this year. Whilst this timetable is flexible, it is the preferred option, and would leave very little time (about one month) for public, students, staff, parents and Council to discuss the bidder's suitability in detail. Remember, too, this is the busy exam season in schools.

The City Council and Amey hope to see diggers at work on the school in July. The summer vacation is a vital time-slot in which work can be carried out with the least disruption to school life. Well, yes, that's admirable; but this self-imposed deadline is in danger of so accelerating the planning and discussion stage as to render it meaningless.

We all share the City Council's excitement about major refurbishment and upgrading of Drummond. But in the break-neck haste to bring this about, it seems there will be no opportunity for properly informed and coordinated consultation. "Thank goodness our Council knows what's best for us," commented one local resident!

Adventure centre goes from strength to strength



The Water Mountain planned for Scotland Yard

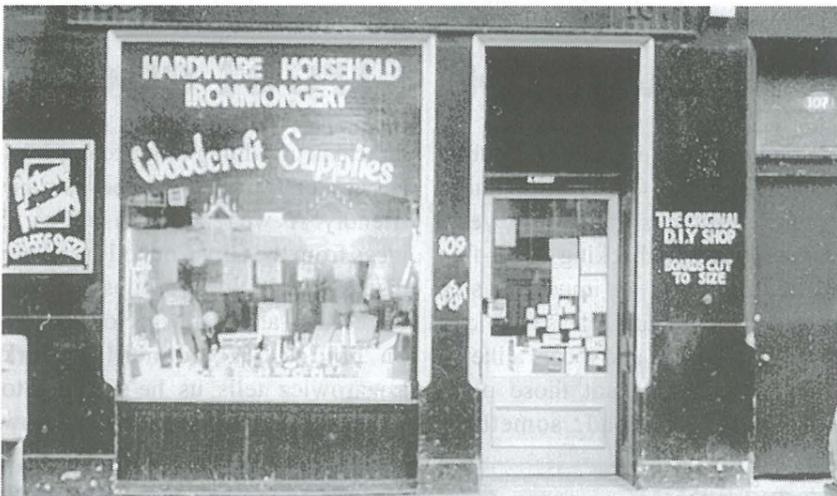
As its 15th Anniversary approaches, Scotland Yard Adventure Centre continues to be a hive of activity. Most visibly, the old Fort is coming down to make way for the Water Mountain.

This new feature has emerged from months of discussion with children and young people using the Centre: ideas included a cave, waterfalls, fountains, mountains – and bears!

The Adventure Centre is always glad to welcome new supporters. Support can be financial, gifts in kind, or volunteering to work there: for example, there may be readers out there who could give practical help on the Water Mountain project.

The address is Scotland Yard Adventure Centre, 70 Eyre Place, EH3 5EJ. The telephone number is 315 3006.

Think global, buy local



Woodcraft Supplies, still with us thank goodness!

Do we really value our local shops enough? In Broughton we still have many good ones, but it's often hard for them to compete with Tesco or B & Q down the road, or the big out-of-town shopping complexes. Can you expect people to pay more than they need to, by going to the wee local shop? Things aren't always dearer in the local shop, we just assume they will be. And even when they are, there may be hidden costs in going elsewhere to save a few pence. If too many of us do that, some local shops won't survive indefinitely:

what happens then when you want that wee thing you can't find anywhere else?

There may be more choice in the big shops, but there's a vicious circle. If we don't use the local shops enough, they can't afford to stock a wide range.

Of course local shops win hands down on environmental issues like fewer car miles travelled, and less packaging material used.

Maybe we should think local first – and only go elsewhere when there really is a good reason for doing so.

Broughton Village comes to town

A welcome addition to the Broughton scene, the new Broughton Village Association has now been up and running since the beginning of April. It's focusing on some streets which do not at present have a common voice: Broughton Street and streets off, East London Street, Cochran Terrace, Bellevue Crescent, Mansfield Place and London Street.

The steering group is already hard at work, neighbourhood publicity and direct contact is being organised and the Association will be formally launched at a public meeting in early June. Meantime the call is out to residents and businesses in all those streets to register their support: contact Stephanie Harvey on 557 2762 (daytime).

The Association will welcome local ideas or current concerns. High priority already are:

- the traffic traumas on and around Broughton Street – congestion, planned road closures, parking blight, pedestrian facilities
- litter and graffiti – already being tackled by Clean Up Broughton
- the difficulties of tenement living – is general good neighbourliness really that hard to encourage?
- the extensive redevelopment of Drummond Community High School – residents of Cochran Terrace and East London Street especially take note, this could be happening literally in your back yard!

But, mainly, the Association is about the benefits of the "village in the city". We live here because we want to; we know what it's like; the Association just wants to make it that bit better.



Graffiti: one issue for the new Broughton Village Association

Have you tried bowling?

Your local green at Powderhall (opposite Broughton Primary School) is now open for the season.

At little cost you can enjoy the outdoors! Bowls are available for hire.

For a try, or more information, call in at the green and have a chat with Willie, Brian or Stuart. Open 12 noon to 9pm on weekdays (except Thursdays), 11am to 8pm on Saturdays.

Belle's View



Hi fans

I hope you all had a fabulous Easter, with lots of Easter egg scoffing. I consumed so much chocolate that I'm having to live in a voluminous **Demis Roussos**-style kaftan to cover the evidence of excess. Still, it'll come in handy for going to see **Nana Mouskouri** at the **Festival Theatre!**

Now, for all **Kajagoogoo** fans out there (you're salivating already!), this week I was transported back to the eighties when I bumped into the chipmunk-featured lad who inspired a million dodgy bleached mullets, **Limahl**. Yes, fantastically, 40something **Limahl** is still performing, treading the boards at **The Playhouse** in **Greenside Place** in the musical **What A Feeling!** Fans will be relieved to hear that the mullet is still intact!

Hola! As soon as the sun shines we're up for it – out come the ain't-half-hot-mum shorts with pasty blue legs dangling beneath – the Scottish summer! If temperatures don't reach your expectations, get some Mediterranean heat in **Forth Street**, where the **Tapas Tree** restaurant has Spanish classical guitar music on Monday and Wednesday nights – if you're lucky there might be some flamenco dancing too!

If you were in any doubt that **Broughton** and **Bellevue** was the It place to be, both **Poprokit** in **Picardy Place** and **The Basement** in **Broughton Street** are apparently in the *Evening News* top ten trendy places for the young and the beautiful to hang out. So for the rest of us – anyone fancy a pint in the **Bellevue**?!!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle