

Belle's View



Hi fans

It's been so wet this past week, that the slingback wellies have hardly been off my feet. Thankfully there has been a surfeit of indoor pursuits in swinging Broughton and Bellevue!

I WANNA BE ELECTEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEED! No, it wasn't William Hague on the campaign trail, but the luscious Alice Cooper, showing middle-aged men how to wear tight black leather trousers! Estelle Murgatroyd and I had front row seats at his Playhouse gig. Everything was going swimmingly until the decapitation scene, when Mrs Murgatroyd swooned and had to be revived with a pint of lager tops! Great excitement was to be had at the Broughton History Society last week, when guest speaker Trevor Harding came along to tell us about the history of the Gayfield House. Did you know it had the oldest papier-mache ceilings in Edinburgh? Mr Harding went on to invite the entire society round to his house for a tour. I hope he's warned the missus!

I found myself in the middle of a murder scene as I tottered round the corner of Montgomery Street the other day with my rubbish, as our bins appeared to be sealed off behind police incident tape. I was waved over by a cheery "forensic scientist" who informed me that they were shooting for TV. As I laboured to get my bags into the bin, a props assistant came to my aid. "You can't expect them to help you luv" she said disparagingly, nodding to the forensics - "they're act-ors!"

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

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, David Aitken, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, 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>

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Contacts

**Bellevue and Claremont
Residents Association**
Yvonne Pryor 531 1636

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762
(daytime)

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

**Mark Lazarowicz, MP and
councillor**
Broughton Ward
Surgery: Stockbridge Library,
Saturday, 10.30 am. and by
appointment at 274 Leith Walk
on Friday mornings.
(phone 555 0598)

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 MSP
555 3636
Surgery on Saturdays. Phone for
details.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 83

July 2001

Drummond refurbishment hit by delays

Plans to refurbish Drummond Community High School are on hold as the preferred private firm and City Council officials struggle to agree a contract.

A report prepared for the Director of Education had been due to go before a full Council meeting on 28th June. This would have outlined the scope of the project and - if agreed - been the green light for work to begin at schools across the city. The report will now not go before the Council until 23rd August at the earliest.

Without a done and dusted contract, the Council will not allow expensive projects to begin, and so the 'dirty' work scheduled for the summer vacation will not take place as

planned. Whilst some staff expressed optimism that building might still begin in August, a spokesperson for the Education Department conceded that the whole timetable for work at Drummond will have to be reassessed, and may well be postponed for at least a year.

Spurtle understands the difficulty in completing contracts centres around 'variable' parts of the bid concerning Gracemount and Craigmount schools. There it is hoped that the schools will be rebuilt rather than refurbished, but this depends on still unresolved issues such as planning permission and successful land sales.

Continued page 2

Our new MP

Mark Lazarowicz is our new MP. As across the country, the turnout of voters in our constituency was low - 53%. Of those who did vote, only 46% voted for Mr Lazarowicz, but he told **Spurtle**: "I look forward to working on behalf of all the residents of the constituency, irrespective of their own personal political view".

Just before the Election, Mr Lazarowicz assured a constituent that he thought President Bush's

'Son of Star Wars' defence project "fatally flawed"; within his first few days at Westminster he has already joined other backbenchers in signing a motion expressing concern about it. And at the **Spurtle** Hustings he voiced his disapproval of the voucher system for asylum seekers. We'll check again on what action he's taken on those issues in the not too distant future!

Still our councillor, see page 2

**Broughton Spurtle is
free
and completely
independent**

Gay Pride



The Gay Pride March arrives in Broughton, on Saturday 23rd June.

Drummond hit by delays

From page 1

Staff, parents and pupils were expected to be informed of the delay by letter before the end of term, and a confidential report on the matter was to be sent to local councillors on 28th June. Charlie Traylor, PPP Liaison at Drummond School, said: "Of course we're disappointed - we were all primed and ready for work to begin. Now we're waiting to see what will happen in August, like everybody else."

Blessing in disguise?

Before news broke of the delay in signing contracts, **Spurtle** was shown the proposed schedule for work at Drummond. There were several disturbing elements to it:

- Following discovery of asbestos in the dining area's roof, this building could not be refurbished and used as temporary classrooms for students

Children or dogs?

Eileen Dickie of Hopetoun Crescent has written to us on this perennial subject.

In the April issue of **Spurtle** you asked for constructive suggestions from your readers about dog dirt. Here goes - for a start make Hopetoun Crescent Gardens a dog free zone. Why? Because, although most of the people who exercise their dogs in the Gardens clean up after their animals, a sizeable minority use the Gardens



displaced from elsewhere. Instead, 6 classrooms were to be housed in portacabins in the school playground.

- Demolition work on the upper gym was to start on 16th September, followed by highly disruptive foundation work. Staff had requested 2 additional portacabins specifically for 'respite'.

- Access to the developer's site office, and the works themselves, was to be through the existing car park and playground.

What appeared to be in prospect was a mind-boggling mix of local traffic chaos, heavy machinery, builders, noise, mud, young people and ... oh yes, education.

With delay now seeming inevitable, perhaps these problems can be addressed again. Perhaps the time has finally now come for some real public consultation?

purely as a convenient lavatory for their dogs. At present, despite the fact that many of the local children from the primary schools spent several hours planting hundreds of wild plant bulbs and seedlings, they cannot enjoy playing in the gardens because of the dog dirt. Parents cannot allow toddlers and small children to play on the grass or in the long grass areas - and all because some people consider that letting their dogs crap in public areas is perfectly acceptable. Well, it is NOT acceptable and dogs should be banned from Hopetoun Crescent Gardens.

Alternatively, crack down on the offending minority of dog owners? The City Council plan to have 15 'environmental wardens' on the streets soon, with powers to impose on the spot fines for dog fouling. And the Scottish Parliament may legislate for tougher action against owners who let their dogs foul public places in the not too distant future. A Private Member's Bill is being drafted during the summer, and it is expected to be introduced in Parliament in the autumn.

Still our councillor

From page 1

Mark Lazarowicz has resigned as transport boss on the City Council, but he's still local councillor for Broughton. "I will be standing down in due course, but I don't know when at this stage. I will be discussing the position shortly with my local Labour Party branch and local community organisations."

As MP, Mr Lazarowicz will be holding surgeries at Stockbridge Library on Saturday mornings, 10.30am; and by appointment at 274 Leith Walk on Friday mornings (phone 555 0598). You can meet him about council matters too at those surgeries, or phone the City Chambers (529 3283). The position on surgeries at Drummond Community High is uncertain because of refurbishment work during the summer.

Summer Festival

'The Playground Time Forgot'

Scotland Yard Adventure Centre will again be holding its popular summer festival. On Saturday 18th August 2001, the Centre for children and young people with special needs will be transformed to "The Playground Time Forgot". Complete with dinosaurs, a cafe, music, stalls and activities for all, the centre will open its doors to the local community. This year the festival will be held solely within the grounds of SYAC. As always it promises to be a festival not to be forgotten, or missed.

Local groups or individuals wanting a stall please contact Simon Hackin on 0131 557 8199 or e-mail, simon.hackin@excite.co.uk. Stalls are £15.00 with table and cover. There are a limited number of stalls this year, so book early! The festival will start at 11am and finish at 4pm.

Broughton Village comes to Town

The Broughton Village Association took off in fine fashion at Broughton St Mary's Centre on 17 June.

Helping to give focus to a range of concerns, Mark Lazarowicz newly elected MP and still, for the present, local councillor, took on questions from residents on various high-priority matters - the traffic traumas on and around Broughton Street, not least the need for pedestrian- and shopping-friendly measures, the needs of local car owners and the inadequacy of public transport; the litter-lout mentality pervading our area; and the absence of effective consultation on issues of everyday living - underlining the need for the Association to be "the voice of Broughton".

But, mainly, the Association is intent on safeguarding city centre living for those who choose to be there and on promoting a forward looking and positive approach which will help in heading off crisis and

dissatisfaction before it happens. Issues there will undoubtedly be, resolving or avoiding them is the challenge.

Have no doubt, the new committee will be taking up the challenge in advance of the next general meeting of members in October. They are keen to hear from anyone in the area of Broughton Street and streets off, East London Street, Cochran Terrace, Bellevue Crescent, Mansfield Place and London Street. Contact the Secretary, Stephanie Harvey on 557 2762 (daytime)



The deadline for August Spurtle is Saturday, 29th July.

Drop a note in at Broughton Books, 2A Broughton Place or phone 556 0903 or 556 7727

DTP-er needed!

Would you like to volunteer to help us? You will need familiarity with Macintosh computers, PageMaker and PhotoShop. Phone Tim on 229 3825

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BRIEFLY

Congratulations to Broughton Primary School on the new litter bins in their playground. Apart from encouraging pupils to dispose of litter properly, the bright red bins **brighten up the area with a splash of colour.**

Two new litter bins have recently appeared on our streets, one at the Annandale and Bellevue Road junction and one outside the launderette at the foot of Broughton Street. Thanks to Billy Wilson of the City Council's Task Force, responding to the local Clean Up group! Now we need more - most urgently towards the Leith Walk end of Annandale Street.

Local residents are discussing improvements to Hopetoun Crescent Gardens with City Council officials. This has already brought better maintenance: the idea is to make the gardens seem more planned and attractive from outside, while at the same time keeping the **natural, wildlife look.** Other ideas are a signboard to explain the history of the Gardens, and illustrate the trees and plants in it; big boulders for children to play on; and bird boxes.

Another successful Clean-Up took place one Saturday morning in early June; another is planned for September. Meanwhile the Clean Up Broughton group will be taking action on containerisation and recycling over the next couple of months.

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