

Belle's View



Hi fans

Hurray! or boo! (delete as applicable!) It's **The Festival**, umbrella term for the Fringe, Jazz, Book, Film and International bits (take your pick - they're *all* expensive!). Yup, luvvy it or loathe it, it's back. As usual, swinging **Broughton** and **Bellevue** has a plethora of cultural delights for your entertainment!

Looking for pop punk poetry alongside big dirty beats? Ooooo Missus! *New Wave Beat Poetry* can be found at **Q Bar**, on **Leith Street** at 10pm (11-14, 18-21, 25-28 Aug), with a hip-hop jungle rinse-out concluding each night. (Are we talking about dentures here, or what?)

Meanwhile, for all you tattie-de-sofas out there, get up of your lumpy behinds for comedy with **Ego & Out** at **Picardy Place**, at 7pm (12-16, 19-23 Aug). Their comedy entitled *We Didn't Want to be Bad Kids - TV Made Us Do It* promises a startling exposé of the unusual ways that TV influences our lives. Hmmmmmm - wonder if they'll do an in-depth psychoanalysis on the horrible effects of showing *Weir's Way* to the general populace?!

Finally, at **Theatre Arkle**, in **St Paul's and St George's Church, York Place** at 6.15pm (12-17 Aug), it's back - Stephen Dinsdale's comedy *Anorak of Fire* is aflame again! Billed as a "mind expanding experience" I am assured that the wearing of this sartorially acclaimed garment is not required by the audience to gain admission. Thank heavens - Estelle Murgatroyd never leaves the house without being fully encased in a full-length plastic Mac - it is the Scottish summer!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

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 6151

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

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Drummond Community High School
556 2651

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School,
Wed. 6.30pm-7pm during school terms

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

Phone 558 8358 for details
of Saturday surgeries.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP
Advice sessions every Friday at
86 - 88 Brunswick Street, 12.30pm
and at Stockbridge Library, 4pm.

Mark Lazarowicz
Member of Parliament for
Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St.
Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,
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Email: lazarowiczm@parliament.uk
Please contact Constituency Office for
details of Advice Sessions.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 95

August 2002

MANSFIELD TRAQUAIR CENTRE

Local landmark - local asset?



Artist Phoebe Traquair at work on the Mansfield murals, back in the 1890s

Like many other local folk, members of the **Spurtle** team took the chance of recent 'open days' to view the work done inside the former Mansfield Place Church. Quite a transformation! And the small sections of mural that have been test-cleaned give an inkling of the blaze of colour there will be when the whole job's been done (probably some years away yet, unfortunately). The building will be open again

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent!
tel - 556 7727

from 12th to 31st August (not Sundays), 10am to 1pm, with guided tours at 10.30am and 11.30am.

Work continues on landscaping around the building, and you can see an attractive green area emerging. We hope this valuable asset can be shared with the local community: how about benches to relax on, and a local affairs bulletin board somewhere in the street-level area?

NEW PLANS FOR SHRUB PLACE SITE

Still "sh-rubbish", say local residents

It took only two days for local residents to gather 300 signatures against Wimpey's revised planning application for the site of the former bus depot at Shrub Place. (Closing date for objections was mid-July.) Pilrig resident Harald Tobermann told us that Wimpey have made some small concessions since the City Council demanded changes to their original plans, but there is no evidence of a major re-think. The scheme they propose would still overshadow the neighbouring Shaw's buildings, Edinburgh's oldest 'colonies'; and it includes a narrow, seven-storey opening towards the rear of the site - "more akin to a wind tunnel than

an attractive pedestrian and cycle route".

Pilrig Residents Association has issued the following statement: "While Wimpey can't be forced to employ world-class architects, it should be possible to make them adopt design principles appropriate to a 21st-century city. To repeat the mistakes of the '60s - cheap and hasty house building in response to real or perceived housing pressures - is no longer acceptable. Any attempt to implement such a fundamentally flawed scheme will encounter fierce resistance."



Some of the old bus depot buildings, seen from the rear of the site

Residents give thumbs-up to communal containers

The cleaning up of Broughton's streets has come a step nearer. In our last edition, **Spurtle** reported on the City Council's plans to do away with the 'black bag' rubbish collection and replace it with permanently available on-street communal containers. At the Council's public exhibition in Broughton St Mary's Church Centre on 23rd July, local residents had their chance to examine and respond to the scheme. The result was a positive thumbs-up, and C-day is on target for 7th October. The Council representatives on hand found it notable just how many people attended the display – way beyond the response they had experienced in other areas of the city, and no doubt a reaction by Broughton's residents to the urgency of ending 'black bag blight' as an essential part of the general need to clean up their streets. And Council officials took this on board when it emerged that the only blip in the smooth introduction of containers throughout Broughton was in East London Street. There,

planning requirements for the siting of one container would have meant that one side of the street would have been left out of the scheme for many months beyond its introduction in the area surrounding. Officials have undertaken to try to accelerate the planning process to ensure that containers are installed and apply everywhere at one and the same



time. **Spurtle** previously noted that streets in the World Heritage Site – approximately west of Broughton Street and south from Broughton Place—were not included, and extended consultation was yet to take place. What is becoming evident is that there is substantial support within the WHS for the issue to be resolved there too. It seems clear that any mixed feelings there may once have been about an alternative to dealing with the present refuse problems have been put aside in favour of the improvements that containerisation will bring. It will work if we recognize that we all have a stake in making it work.

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!

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Meg Neal, Eileen Dickie, Gordon Dow.

Broughton Books in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letterbox at any time. Phone or fax: 556 7727 or 556 0903

Jumble sale

You are invited to see around the Stafford Centre and its garden – and support its jumble sale! – on Friday 16th August, 12 noon to 3pm, at 103 Broughton Street.

The Centre seeks to provide an opportunity for wider social contact for people who have experienced mental health problems, and offers a drop-in facility and a number of recreational groups.

Recently there's been a fair bit of heart-searching over its role: according to a circular sent out by the ManicDepression Fellowship, at one stage "the consensus was that in its present form it offered very little practical help". But now an independent review of the Centre has been completed: we are hoping that the results will be available in time for next month's **Spurtle**.



The Stafford Centre, 103 Broughton Street

Action on local parks

The **Hopetoun Crescent Park** steering group has met again and the draft constitution for the Friends of the Park will be ready for its next meeting, on 3rd September, when plans for the Inaugural Meeting will be finalised. The date of the Inaugural Meeting has been changed to Thursday 26th September, 7.30pm in the Annandale Street Mosque. Everyone who gave their details at the previous public meeting, or who made contact to express interest, will be sent a copy of the proposed constitution. If anyone

else would like a copy before the Inaugural Meeting, please phone Eileen Dickie on 556 0903. If you want a say in the future of the park – note the 26th September meeting in your diary now!

Meanwhile, down the road at Canonmills, work has started to improve **George V Park**. Evidently tenders for the toddler area were lower than expected, so there's money available for some work on the older children's part of the park – the goal area will be upgraded, and a teen meeting point provided.



Hopetoun Crescent Park

Can the rise be justified?

Spurtle: There has been critical comment about MPs' decision to improve their own pensions – given that so many other people face the prospect of poorer pensions than they previously expected. Did you vote for or against the improvement? Can you tell us why?

Mark Lazarowicz: I did not vote for the increase in MPs' pension rate, which was actually last year – the recent votes (which were in committee) were on how it should be implemented and paid for. Why did I not vote for it? Because the increase had not been recommended by the MPs' independent pay review board.

Bright empty garden
a sycamore tree stretched high
two magpies clacking

Another in a series of haikus by
Richard Love of Bellevue Place

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BRIEFLY

The **Summer Festival** down at Scotland Yard Adventure Centre is on Saturday 17th August this year, 11am-4pm. Music, stalls, café and bar. If you want more information, phone the Centre – 557 8199 or 476 4506.

New Town, Broughton and Pilrig **Community Council** still have an unfilled vacancy for an individual member (one not nominated to represent a particular interest group). They'd very much welcome someone from the Broughton area: if you think you might be interested, phone secretary Annette O'Carroll on 556 7586. The Community Council's next two meetings are on 5th August and 2nd September, both 7.30pm at St Mary's Church Centre in East Broughton Place.

Last month we reported that local residents had done a grand job clearing up in **Redbraes Park** – and had then been told they'd have to pay for the Council to remove the refuse! Councillor Davies tells us "that very silly thing that came from Council staff has been resolved – the Council will not make a charge".

Residents in East Claremont Street are **rejoicing** that the planning application to replace two houses at Nos 84-86 (at the corner with West Annandale Street) with 13 flats has been withdrawn.

Part of the central reservation in **East Claremont Street** is "blooming", but some of the section between the Melgund Terrace corner and the TA Hall is in dire straits, says Yvonne Pryor of the Residents Association. She's been calling for some replanting, but without result so far. Maybe local Councillor Davies could hurry things along a bit?

Alasdair Elders, minister of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, will retire in November this year. Mr Elders has been minister of the united charge since 1974 – besides being active



locally in many other ways, such as school chaplain and chair of the Community Council.