

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, Eileen Dickie, Gordon Dow and Meg Neal

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time
PHONE and FAX :- 556 7727

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New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

represents your views to the City Council and other public bodies. We need to find out what your views are on planning, transport, environment and licensing matters. Get in touch with us or come along to our meetings on the first Monday of every month (except for public holidays) in the Library of Drummond Community School. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Annette O'Carroll, Secretary, 556 7586.

Mark Lazarowicz Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St.
Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,
Fax: 0131 557 5759 EH7 5HU
Email: lazarowiczm@parliament.uk
Please contact Constituency Office for details of Advice Sessions.

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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,
Weds. 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 6.30 to 7.15pm

Malcolm Chisholm MSP
Phone 558 8358 Saturday surgery at
Stockbridge Library 12 noon.

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

Contact Point Drop-in Services Requires Volunteers

Weekdays/Evenings and Sundays

You could join one of our existing teams and be part of a new team (including art group).

The work is interesting and varied, and different levels of commitment can be negotiated

For more information contact Jackie or Bernie: 622 1865

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 98

November 2002

TRAFFIC CALMING

20mph for Broughton



Campaigners in Broughton Street, 1995, calling for a 20mph speed limit

Back in 1994, a group of Broughton residents were already arguing the case for creating a 20mph speed limit on some of our streets. Now the City Council are committed to doing just that. It will take a while because of the lengthy legal procedures involved, but it will happen.

By now most readers should have received a brochure explaining the

GREENING BROUGHTON

Time to accentuate the positive?

It's easy to see the downside of our local environment, particularly in the dreich weather we've been having: litter, dog dirt, graffiti, pollution, cars crowding out pedestrians... But there are good things too, already happening or on the horizon. Elsewhere in this month's *Spurtle* you'll find:

continued overleaf.

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

BRIEFLY

It's Bonfire Night down at Scotland Yard on Tuesday, 5th November, 6-8pm. There will be music, a BBQ, tea and coffee, soft drinks and biscuits, soup and pakoras. The organisers say this will be very much a family event: no fireworks within the playground area, and no alcohol sold or distributed.

McDonald Road Library has now moved out into its temporary home in a mobile unit parked at Shrub Place.

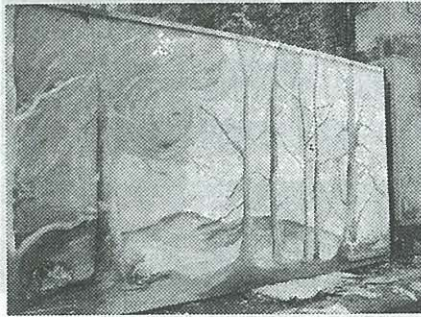


They'll be there until sometime next summer, but the librarian reminded us that we can also use our tickets at any other branch.

In spite of the promise from Europcar HQ in Watford that parking on the footway in front of their premises in East London Street would cease, it still happens. The only consolation is that they're due to move out in December: "In any re-development we shall make sure that the footway is kept for pedestrians", local councillor Trevor Davies told *Spurtle*.

Congratulations to the Stafford Centre on the brand new mural on the fence next door to their premises in Broughton Street - replacing the faded streetscape with a more rural scene. They did the painting to celebrate Scottish Mental Health Week in early October.

GREENING BROUGHTON continued



- Folk at the Stafford Centre have brightened up Broughton Street with a new mural.
- The Community Council and local residents are working on plans to clean and green Broughton Road.

- 10,000 daffodil bulbs will be planted in Hopetoun Crescent Garden this autumn, and the newly-formed Friends of the Garden will make sure it doesn't stop there.

But that's not all:

- 4000 bulbs are due to be planted in Redbraes Park
- There's landscaping on the agenda at Claremont Court
- New shrubs are to be planted in East Claremont Street, come the spring
- The renovation of the toddlers' playground down at Scotland Yard is just the first of planned improvements there
- And Drummond Community High School is to be one of three Edinburgh schools taking part in the pilot Sustainable Secondary Schools Partnership.

It's certainly often an uphill struggle; but it is possible to change things for the better. We're sure our readers can come up with fresh ideas to help make Broughton an even better place to live in.

MANSFIELD TRAUQUIR LANDSCAPING

Argument over ivy continues

Last month Armin Davies of London Street questioned the choice of groundcover around the Mansfield Traquair Centre. Another close neighbour of the Centre agreed - Anita Cutting of Cochran Terrace writes:

I too felt very disappointed when hundreds and hundreds of dull ivy plants were dumped in the grounds of the Mansfield Traquair Centre. What a lost opportunity! Berberis, bulbs, dogwood, mallow etc give year round cover. Instead of imaginative landscaping to complete the beautiful restoration of the church, all we have is yards of dull green. Can something be done before the ivy takes hold, choking the trees, climbing the railings and damaging the lovely stone of the building?

Now we have a response from the landscape architect in charge, John Richards:

We felt it was important to use very simple planting as setting, or backdrop to the Church. We have therefore planted the ivy to act as a simple green carpet. What Mr Davies hasn't realised is that the ivy is also being underplanted with drifts of daffodils and bluebells and autumn crocuses, which will add splashes of colour from Spring through to the Autumn, and that we have also interplanted the ivy with areas of clematis and honeysuckle - these plants will scramble through the beds, creating areas of colour when they flower throughout the summer months.

BROUGHTON ROAD Clean and green?

There's a campaign brewing to make Broughton Road a better place - cleaner and greener. A public meeting is being organised for early December, an opportunity to talk and share information about such things as cleaning up the play-park, and planting trees and flowers at the bowling green opposite Broughton Primary. From there it's hoped an activity day will be organised for early next year, to put some of the ideas into practice.

This all follows a consultation meeting held in September, organised by the Community Council. A landscape architect showed slides to illustrate how places along the Road might be planted and improved. Local people at the meeting added to the wish-list: better street cleaning, better rubbish collection and weed removal from the pavements.

So if you're interested in a better, brighter Broughton Road go along to the public meeting: **Monday, 9th December at 6.30pm at Broughton Primary School. And refreshments will be available!**

With regards to Mr Davies' comment regarding ivy as being an 'aggressive' plant, I do think that he is painting things rather black. The ivy, clematis and honeysuckle over time will form a very good groundcover which will be very simple and economic to maintain. The only thing to be careful of with ivy is to ensure that it is pruned back once it touches any parts of the trees, railings or building, and this is well within the scope of normal landscape maintenance operations.

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LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

Memories flood back

Pictures, photos, maps and memories: Broughton's story was illustrated by all of these at the exhibition held at St Paul's and St George's Church in October. Presented by Broughton History Society, the display attracted over 600 visitors - and many stayed for an hour or more. Amongst the most enthusiastic were former residents now living elsewhere: they talked of memories flooding back, and sometimes came back with photographs for the Society to copy for its archives. And there was a good response to the invitation to point out mistakes



Maureen Kwiecinski of Claremont Grove admires David Aitken's models at the exhibition.

in the exhibition; write down extra information; ask questions for the Society's researchers to chase up; or volunteer to be interviewed for reminiscences of Broughton in days gone by.

FRIENDS OF HOPETOUN CRESCENT GARDEN Committee up & running

A well attended meeting took place on 26th September at the Annandale Street Mosque, and the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden became a properly constituted body. The Committee held its first meeting on 24th October and is looking at Hopetoun Garden information notice boards and other notice boards; sources of funding; and possible events in 2003. There should be 10,000 bulbs planted soon and some community involvement will be sought for this.

One of the most important duties of the Friends Committee is to keep in touch with members and with everyone who has expressed interest in the park, so if they don't already have your details and you would like to be on the mailing list please contact Eileen Dickie on 556 0903.

The newly elected Committee, standing L to R: Andrew Johnston, Jane Ellis, Matthew Clifton-Brown (Vice Chair), Bill Chalmers, Eileen Dickie (Chair), Shirley Grieve (Secretary), Julie Johnston. Seated L to R: Jeannie Harper (Treasurer), Evelyn Hunter & Irene Duncan. (Mitchell Manson was unfortunately away for this meeting.)



BRIEFLY

Spurle went along to the first use of the refurbished former Mansfield Place Church as a space to hire. The occasion was the presentation of awards to school pupils who had taken part in 'The Art of Energy' exhibition - organised by the Warmburgh Unit at Lothian and Edinburgh Environmental Partnership.

The City Council has now agreed our local councillor Trevor Davies' proposal that a new clause be included in the licences of all take-aways. This will oblige them to sweep the area in front and either side of their shops every day - or risk losing their licence. The clause will start appearing in all licences as they come up for renewal. "We hope that this will encourage proprietors to think about how to keep the amount of litter leaving their shops to a minimum, as well as making sure they clean up after their clients", says Councillor Davies.

The Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh (ACE) continue to hold their weekly advice and solidarity sessions for claimants - every Tuesday, 1-4pm, at 17 West Montgomery Place. Anyone with a problem over benefits or council tax, or wanting to get involved in Edinburgh Claimants, is welcome.

If you think you've suffered 'miss-selling' at the hands of a gas or electricity company, or you're worried by delayed bills, contact your MP. Mark Lazarowicz is already dealing with both types of problem for constituents: "I reckon that at every public meeting I get 10% of the audience saying they've had problems with energy companies". To get in touch with him, see the 'Contacts' column on the back page.

Stepfamily Scotland works to provide support and information to members of stepfamilies and those who work with them. It is recruiting now for Helpline training which will begin early in 2003. To find out more about becoming a volunteer call Jane Marryat on 225 8005 or email info@stepfamilyscotland.org.uk. Anyone who would like support or information on stepfamily issues should call the Helpline on 225 5800.