

Belle's View



Hi fans

Season's gratings everyone! Ooooh, there's a sparkle of frost in the air - time to drag out the little black dress, Jimmy Choos, and surgical truss, 'cause its party time in happening Broughton and Bellevue!

The glorious and opulent **Omni Complex in Greenside Place** is finally open! Of course Estelle Murgatroyd and I were there in the **Mood Bar** on opening night, guzzling Taboo and lemonade with **Lord Dickie Attenborough** and bevvvy of z-list glamour models. Inside it's gone a bit Harry Potter on the décor, with gothic red velvet drapes and mock candelabras, tastefully set off by flashing fruit machines. Unfortunately **Lord Dickie** managed to lose his trousers (before the party, I hasten to add) but managed to borrow another pair for the event to preserve his modesty - thank heavens!

Estelle and I were also in the salubrious **Claremont Hotel in Claremont Crescent** recently, having a quiet sweet sherry with our big hairy hats on. Imagine our delight when we were treated to a rocket-fuelled high-volume musical recital from local **Ramones** tribute band, the **Surfin' Pinheads**. There are plans for a regular **Pinheads** club night, so if you want to be sedated, look out for it!

Finally, those of you who like to exercise the grey matter and your vocal chords should get along to **Café Habana in Greenside Place** on Thursday nights for their regular **Quizioke**. Entry is free, the welcome is warm, and the singing is, er...interesting!

Have a great Christmas, Readers, and a fabby 2003!

Persephone Belle

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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

Mark Lazarowicz
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Please contact Constituency Office for details of Advice Sessions.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 99

December/January 2002/3

BROUGHTON'S 20 MPH ZONE

Local feedback helps improve plans

What traffic calming measures are needed to make Broughton's new 20 mph zone effective? The City Council has already taken onboard some of the additions suggested by local people since the plan went out for consultation. As reported in last month's **Spurtle**, the zone will cover the area bounded by Broughton Road in the north, McDonald Road to the east, Broughton Street/Bellevue to the west and Leith Walk to the south - but of the boundary roads themselves only McDonald Road will be covered by the speed restriction.

"A number of people said that there needed to be some road humps in

Bellevue Street and this will be done," local councillor Trevor Davies told us. "The design of the road junction of Bellevue Place with Bellevue is also being looked at closely - but the Council has to be careful here because it is a main entrance-way for emergency vehicles." Other suggestions from locals include the addition of road humps in Hopetoun Crescent and West Annandale Street, and some more '20' reminders to drivers painted on the road surface.

The Order enforcing the 20 mph limit takes time to go through the legal process, but the Council will start *continued on page 2*



Pupils from Broughton Primary School at work in Hopetoun Crescent Garden. Along with others from Leith Walk and St Mary's, they joined the Friends of the Garden to help plant thousands of daffodil bulbs supplied by the City Council.

Broughton Spurtle is free
and completely independent!
tel - 556 7727
556 0903

BRIEFLY

A reminder: Monday, 9th December, 6.30pm is the date for an open meeting at Broughton Primary School, to discuss important environmental improvement proposals for the **Broughton Road area**. The organisers hope that local residents will come together to form a group and take the project forward. There will be a slide presentation by John Richards, the landscape architect for the project. Refreshments. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, 14th December, 10.30 - 11.30am: **carol singing at Tesco, Broughton Road by East End Churches Together**. There will be no collection - instead they'll be giving away a Christmas card with details of all local church services over the festive season.

Malcolm Chisholm of Melgund Terrace, our constituency MSP and currently Scotland's Health Minister, has been named **'Scottish Politician of the Year'** by a panel of judges drawn mainly from the media, after readers of the *Herald* sent in nominations. Congratulations!

Set up in June 2001 to be the voice of local residents and traders, the **Broughton Village Association** held its first AGM on 29th October. It looks forward to welcoming back existing members and, particularly, bringing in new ones. If you're from around-Broughton-Street-or-streets-off please get in touch. The Chair is Gavin MacGregor, phone/fax 556 7727.

One Friday morning in November local residents spotted a squad of men out with brush and shovel around the Mansfield Place corner with East London Street. The start of an extra-special clean up for Broughton's streets before Christmas? Don't get excited - Prince Charles had been invited to open the Mansfield Traquair Centre. **And this is the 21st century!**

EUROPCAR

No Christmas present for local residents



1992

Off and on for several years now, **Spartle** has been fulminating against Europcar in East London Street. Why? Because of the way they've blocked the footway past their premises, forcing pedestrians to pick their way amongst the parked cars or step out into the roadway. A month or so ago they told us they were moving out, and would be gone before Christmas. But just before going to press we learnt they're

20 MPH ZONE

Local feedback

continued from page 1

putting in the physical calming measures meanwhile – probably within the first three months of the new year. You can still let them know if you think there are gaps in the plans for your own or neighbouring streets: phone Shaun Wallace on 469 3617, or write to City Centre 20 mph Zone, City Development (Transport), PO Box 12474, 1 Cockburn Street, EH1 1ZL.

If you need a look at the details first, we have a copy of the plan and a list of the calming measures originally proposed: phone 556 0903.

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not going yet – and may even renew their lease. Back in 1992 the problem was already well established when Andrew Robertson of East London Street took photos in his effort to persuade the powers-that-be to do something about it. Things got better briefly, but were soon back to 'normal'. Seven years later he tried again by contacting us and we took up the cudgels, in 1999.

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

Put a Green Cross bottle in your fridge!

Until recently the magazine distributed to members of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church has been a quarterly. But since September editor Diane Chisholm has set herself the task of bringing the Broughton Beacon out monthly – quite an effort, as we at **Spartle** can appreciate.

One item in the October issue caught our attention – about the Safelink scheme, which has been operating in Edinburgh for a year now. "It is an emergency information scheme designed for older people or anyone who feels vulnerable at home. The idea is very simple. You are given a small bottle which contains a form on

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Since then we've sought action from the police and from two successive local councillors; but all that they've managed is shortlived improvements.

Where have we gone wrong? We've gone through 'the proper channels': maybe we've stuck to those channels too long. Maybe more direct action by local folk should have been organised long since?

which you fill in your medical details, someone to contact in an emergency and other useful information. You put the bottle in the fridge. You may wonder why! Most houses have a fridge and the metal casing can act as a 'strong box' in case of fire. A sticker with a green cross lets the emergency services know it's there. They are trained to act on the information it gives."

This is a free service. If you feel you or a friend or relative could benefit from Safelink, the bottles should be available at local doctors' surgeries and chemists. Any problem, phone Fay Stanton, Help the Aged on 551 6331.

EAST CLAREMONT STREET

Locals question plan for new flats

An application to demolish existing houses and build a new block of flats has set alarm bells ringing for residents in East Claremont Street and nearby. The plan is for 11 flats on the corner site with West



EAST LONDON STREET

Before and after ...

... then back to before again! Or it will be, if current City Council plans go ahead. Our photo shows work in progress on traffic calming measures outside St Mary's Primary, now completed and up-and-running for several months. These have been judged successful at that particular site – if not on the rest of East London Street where residents observe little change in traffic speeds. However,



Annandale Street, Nos. 84-86.

A previous application was seen off by local protest over a year ago. Yvonne Pryor of the local residents association told us that the the new design for the front of the building onto East Claremont Street is more sympathetic to the next-door tenement, "but the side and back elevations are ugly and do not blend in with the surroundings". Local residents also think that the required extra spaces for car parking should be provided within the development – rather than out on the street.

A 6-point objection to the planning application is being prepared. If you'd like more information or to see the drawings, phone Yvonne on 466 1144.

since then another plan has come forward to bring in 20 mph zoning with further calming features. So far, so hopeful.

But now Council officials advise that 'nose-in' parking, introduced throughout as a positive feature of slowing down the street, was installed "in error" outside the school at the very point where the road is particularly wide and some improvement has been achieved. They plan to reintroduce kerb-side parking as before.

The Broughton Village Association has taken this up with local councillor Trevor Davies and Mark Lazarowicz MP, councillor when the plans were made.

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Thanks

to all our readers, contributors, advertisers and printers Clydeside Press for your support during 2002. We take a break now, with our next issue out in February. Until then, best wishes to all in Broughton – particularly to those who don't have much to celebrate over the coming 'festive season'. We hope the new year will bring better times.

BROUGHTON **Spartle** 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!

Spartle 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 and FAX :- 556 7727/0903

BROUGHTON **Spartle** is now on the World Wide Web on www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk

BROUGHTON **Spartle** is printed on recycled paper.



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.