

# BROUGHTON Spurtle



Dec/Jan

2003/4

tel - 556 7727

556 0903

Free No 110 Independent

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

## Local petition gets an answer

**'Your petition should have had a proper response. I hope you will take this letter as that response. It is no mean feat to collect over 700 signatures and I accept and acknowledge the commitment to the quality of life in the community and the depth of disappointment at the demise of the steps that the petition indicates.'**

The words of Ewan Aitken, the City Council's Executive Member for Education, in a recent letter to the 'Save Our Steps' Group. Back in mid-July a delegation from the Group met the Deputy Director of Education to present a petition signed by current staff and students at Drummond, Drummond adult students and community users, parents and children at three local primary schools, and hundreds of local residents.

The petition appealed against removal of the steps in Cochran Terrace, which would close a safe route to school for primary-aged children, and a long established community path; and it asked for a written guarantee from the City Council that community access to Drummond playground would not be cut back. Councillor Aitken stands by his support for the Head Teacher's decision to close the route through Drummond's playground. On community access to the playground outside school hours, he

reveals why it hasn't been possible to guarantee no cutback: community access was not included in the contract between the City Council and the private company now involved in managing Drummond facilities.

But not all is doom and gloom. Inside we publish more of Councillor Aitken's letter, and comment on some of the issues involved in the whole unhappy saga that has unfolded at Drummond during the past nine months.

*Continued on page 2*

SPURTLE 1994-2003

## Ten years old and still stirring

The first edition of **Spurtle** hit the streets in February, 1994: 'put together by a small group of locals inspired by the success of the anti-poll tax campaign, the struggle to save London Street Primary, and achievements by local residents' associations'. We said we planned to publish 'about once a month': we've managed to do so regularly for 11 months each year ever since - taking a break over Hogmanay!

From the start we said we said 'We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone'. The money to produce the paper comes from a combination of advertising revenue and subscriptions from a small group of loyal supporters.

After ten years it's time to take stock - or perhaps bow out gracefully? Over the last couple of weeks we've been sounding out some regular readers, supporters and contributors to see what they think. We'd welcome your views. Should we carry on or not? Why? How do you think could the paper be improved? Please email us at [broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk), phone John on 556 0903 or drop a note in at Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place. The next edition will be out in early February. Meanwhile, thanks to all who have supported **Spurtle** over the past ten years - and best wishes for 2004!

The collage features several covers of the Broughton Spurtle magazine. At the top is the February 1994 issue, titled 'BROUGHTON SPURTLE' with the subtitle 'Broughton's O.K.' and 'Issue number 1'. Below it is the August 1997 issue, titled 'BROUGHTON Spurtle' with the subtitle 'Hopetoun Village Masterplan page 2'. At the bottom is the July 2003 issue, titled 'BROUGHTON Spurtle' with the subtitle 'GOOD RIDDANCE!' and 'July 2003'. A small box on the right side of the collage says 'Broughton Spurtle is free and a monthly income generator'. The collage also includes a photo of a protest with a sign that says 'EQUALITY DIVERSITY'.

## BRIEFLY

Refurbishment of McDonald Road Library is now complete. After an official ceremony in the morning, the library will reopen to the public at 1pm on Wednesday 17th December.

*The Broughton Road Group will hold its AGM on Saturday, 31st January, 2-4.30pm in McDonald Road Library. There will also be a planting demonstration. Anyone interested in helping plan the AGM is welcome to attend a meeting at the Redbraes Centre at 6.30pm, 15th December. For further information phone Pat Eccles on 556 7550.*

Dougie Sutherland has been appointed Environmental Warden for Broughton. He has already leafleted much of Broughton Road about dog-fouling in the area. He and the City Council will take action if local people phone with information about who and when – all information will be treated as confidential. His phone number is 669 1389.

*Most of the road humps and colouring for Broughton's 20mph zone have been completed long since. But not in East London Street: there roadworks were delayed because Transco said they were going to install a new gas pipe. Then they changed their mind, and the roadworks are now in progress. The whole 20mph zone has to be brought into operation simultaneously, and that can't happen until all the physical preparation has been done: something to look forward to in 2004.*

**Councillor Aitken: 'I want to move forward on the safety issues that you raised with me'.** Concerns about road safety in Broughton – especially for children going to and from school – were the subject of a meeting on 27th November. Councillor Davies arranged for representatives of local residents groups, schools and others to meet officials from City Development and the Police. Discussions are still at a very early stage, so if you have an opinion on where and how changes should be made this is the time to voice it. Phone Councillor Davies on 529 3221, or email him: [trevor.davies@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:trevor.davies@edinburgh.gov.uk)

*Continued from page 1*

## The Drummond saga

**From Councillor Aitken's letter: 'The decision to remove the steps was taken in respect of increasing the safety and security of students, staff and community members who use the school by removing unsupervised public access through the school.'**

At a meeting with 'Save Our Steps' representatives just before he wrote this letter, Councillor Aitken said that management of the school and surrounds was devolved to headteachers. So the decision to close the steps at Drummond was the Headteacher's, and hers alone: neither he nor the Education Department would rescind a headteacher's decision on a devolved matter in 'any but the most exceptional circumstances'; but it could be revoked by a subsequent headteacher.

There are many losers from the decision to remove the steps. Local residents have lost a community path some of them have been using for decades. Parents and primary-aged children have lost a safe route to and from their own schools. Cochran Terrace residents may have less hassle from a minority of unruly Drummond students, but the discipline problem has just been displaced to Melgund Terrace. Drummond has its work cut out to rebuild relations with the neighbouring community. For months the City Council seemed insensitive to local opinion. And our local councillor... well, not his finest hour.

**Councillor Aitken again: 'I want to place on record my commitment to ensuring that access to the playground out of school hours is maximised, as I understand the role the playground has in providing safe space for the community. The need for community access to the playground was not included in the contract. This was an oversight due to the complexity of the task we were engaged in and not in any way an attempt to change the nature and use of the playground by the local community ... It does mean, however, that a change in the contract as signed will need to be negotiated'.**

Long before refurbishment of Drummond started, **Spurtle** was assured by City officials that the PPP deal between Council and private company would not affect community use of school and playground. And at a public meeting in April our local councillor said that there would be 'no change in the status of the playground out of hours', 'no need to worry about that one'. Now it's obvious there was indeed good reason to worry. But we welcome Councillor Aitken's determination to put that right, and look forward to hearing how renegotiation of the contract progresses.

**Councillor Aitken: 'With regards to the guidelines for community consultation, these guidelines need to balance headteachers' responsibilities as a manager of a school and the local people's role as participants in the decision-making process about community resources. I am confident that the guidelines can and will get that balance right.'**

For months Education Department officials insisted that the decision to close the route via the Cochran Terrace steps was taken after local consultation – and that local opinion was evenly divided on the issue (one official even claimed a majority in favour of closure). But at his recent meeting with 'Save Our Steps' representatives Councillor Aitken said that the handling of consultation in this instance had been 'completely wrong', that the process of community consultation 'must be improved'; and agreed that guidelines should be drawn up to help ensure this.

*So we may have lost our community route. But the persistence of Broughton residents over the last few months has at least revealed the need to renegotiate the PPP contract. And there's now general recognition that consultation must be much better before school management makes decisions that will directly affect the local community.*

Calum Buchanan's recent work on his shop front has revealed a bit of Broughton Street's history. George Scott moved his bakery business there in 1873, with two traditional Scotch ovens in his basement bakehouse. Later he opened a second shop in East Claremont Street. The fame of his pies spread throughout Broughton: there was a special hot pie run at noon on Saturdays. In 1910 the Scotts and the Lyons, another firm of bakers, combined their businesses – having already been united by the marriage of a Scott daughter to a Lyon son.



The Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden now have their own website up and running. Its pages include the history of the garden (the site of Edinburgh's Botanic Garden before it moved down to Inverleith); information about the Friends themselves; links with other relevant websites; recent activities (such as November's bulb planting by local primary school children); and forthcoming events. Visit [www.hopetouncrescentgarden.org.uk](http://www.hopetouncrescentgarden.org.uk)

## LOCALS AND OFFICIALS GET TOGETHER

# Slower, cleaner, greener

Peter Gray of the Broughton Village Association reports:

Surprising that no-one had done it earlier! This was the feeling about the meeting which took place at Broughton Primary on 12th November. Representatives of local residents' associations and the City Council met at the suggestion of Councillor Trevor Davies to discuss issues centring around traffic and the environment. It was encouraging that City Council officers, and the police, turned out in force.

Residents' associations were generally pleased with the impending introduction of the 20mph zone, but had some reservations about the quality of some earlier calming measures. The Route Action Plan needed to be prioritised in view of the traffic increases for Broughton Street forecast under the Traffic Management Plan.

The delays due to roadworks in East London Street seemed to have been resolved and speed humps will be installed by 31st March or earlier. The usual problems of litter and rubbish disposal were also on the list, and Council officers were keen to enlist the help of residents in identifying offenders. New sanctions were in place to deal with dog-fouling. The issue of green spaces was seen as vital in maintaining the quality of life in the area, and

## Contacts

### Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

### Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 556 7550

### Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

### Friends of Hoptoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

### 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

Jessica Miller 558 1025

### Broughton History Society

John Dickie 556 0903

### 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

558 8358

Saturday surgeries:

9am Leith Library

12 noon Stockbridge Library

No appointment necessary.

### Mark Lazarowicz, MP

557 0577

Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

Councillor Davies was pressed on the need to enforce any agreements reached with developers.

Overall, this was a very constructive meeting, opening up a dialogue with the Council which we hope to continue in future. Well done Trevor!

Peter Gray is preparing a full minute of the meeting: if you'd like one, phone 557 2298 or email him: [p.gray@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:p.gray@blueyonder.co.uk)

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# Belle's View



Hi fans

Ding dong! Christmas is looming, so its time to string up the fairy lights, pull on the sparkles and fasten the mistletoe to your tiara - get out there and party on in swinging Broughton and Bellevue!

Estelle Murgatroyd and I had to get out the smelling salts last week when we were serenaded by swoonsome cherub-faced pop idiot **Will Young**, doing a secret gig at **Baroque in Broughton Street**. Will performed his new single *Leave Right Now* to an enthralled crowd of awed hardcore fans, indifferent afternoon drinkers and bemused passing grannies. Estelle and I both agreed his youthful gorgeous good looks put us in mind of a young Eglebert Humperdink!

Nasal-noduled star of Radio and TV Melvyn Bragg was recently spotted filming his STV show *The Adventure of English* in **Crombie's** the butchers in **Broughton Street**. Melvyn was thrilled to learn the roots of Scottish words for pies, sausages, bridies, and all manner of edible animal parts, while munching on one of Crombie's famed forty-five varieties of sausage! I for one am most relieved to know at last the difference between a giblet and a faggot.

I hear on the grapevine that the future of the **Spurtle** is in doubt. Quelle horreur! But I have no doubt that you, my dearest fans, will clamour long and loudly for its continuation, if only to hear more of the glorious details of my fabulous adventures with Mrs Estelle Murgatroyd!

Have a great Christmas Readers, and a fabby 2004!

*Persephone Belle*

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!

**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 and FAX :- 556 7727/0903**

**Spurtle** email address-  
broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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



**New Town  
Broughton and Pilrig  
Community Council**

represents your views to the City Council and other public bodies. 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.

**Please note the first meeting in 2004 is on 12th January.**

Anyone is welcome to attend.

**Contact: Jessica Miller,  
Secretary, 558 1025**

**Kenny MacAskill**

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for the Lothians Region



Constituency Office: 107 MacDonald Rd  
Tel: 0131 348 5722 Edinburgh  
Fax: 0131 348 5944 EH7 4NW

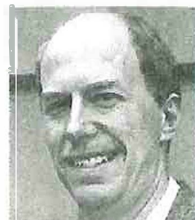
kenny.macaskill.msp@scottish.parliament.uk  
Please use the above contact details to arrange an appointment.

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**Edinburgh North and Leith**



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5.30pm Constituency office