

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

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**April
2005**

**Tel - 556 0903
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BRIEFLY

Community involvement in Drummond Community High? The main item for discussion at the Parent Staff Association's next meeting will be how to respond to the Scottish Government's **proposed changes to School Boards**. 'The more parents, carers and staff who can attend this meeting the better', says PSA chair Rob Hainsworth. 'It's an ideal chance for people to talk about the best way of achieving better community involvement in the School.' Monday 11th April, 6.30pm at the School. (Rob Hainsworth, 556 1594)

'The Land Register of Scotland' is the guest speaker's subject at the next meeting of Broughton History Society, on Monday, 11th April, 7.15pm at Drummond Community High. Visitors are welcome (£1).

Are you interested in **women's issues**? The YWCA Roundabout Centre are having a Members' Evening on 12th April at 6pm. You can go along and speak to Emma at 4a Gayfield Place to find out more.

No traffic reduction through congestion charging in the near future: which means local efforts to ensure improved road safety for children are that much more urgent. The Safer Routes Cluster Group meets on Monday 25th April, 6.30pm at Drummond Community High: all parents, carers and staff from Drummond, its feeder primaries or any other school in the area are very welcome. (More information from Rob Hainsworth, 556 1594 or e-mail coalhole@blueyonder.co.uk)

There will be open days at the **Mansfield Traquair Centre** on the following Sunday afternoons, 1pm to 4pm: 10th April, 8th May, 12th June and 10th July.

'The Dead Soldier's Tree' remembered

On 24th March the memory of a soldier long since dead was honoured, and a bit of Broughton's history was restored.

In a ceremony organised by Broughton History Society a rowan tree was planted at the west end of Barony Street. This replaced an earlier tree that had disappeared, planted by the parents of 20-year-old Henry Hind when he was killed and buried in France during the First World War.

Over the years members of the History Society had come across references to some kind of special tree in the area, in newspaper articles and residents' reminiscences. But these were only fragments, not adding up to a coherent story. Then last year local researcher Elma Birse spotted an old lantern slide in the Edinburgh Room of the Central Public Library, labelled as a rowan tree which stood in Broughton Market in front of a firm called J. Hind: 'The Dead Soldier's Tree', dated 1938. Fellow-researcher Alice Lauder followed up this clue,

found more documentary evidence, talked to Barony Street residents, and eventually made contact with descendants of the Hind family who'd lived at Broughton Market.

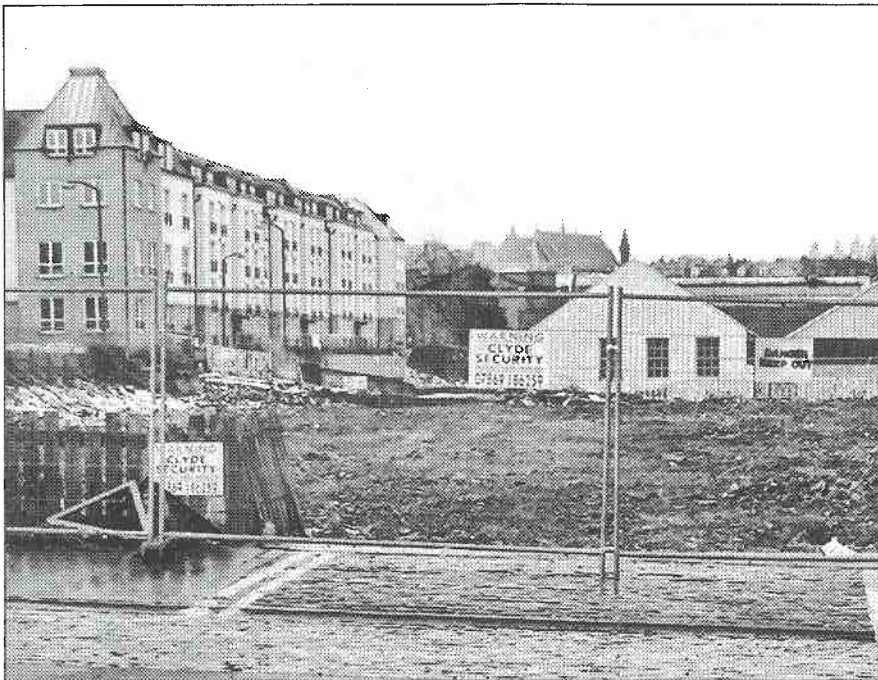


Leslie Hind (with spade) and brother Jim planting tree

At the recent event local residents and History Society members were joined by Colonel Mason of the Royal Scots, Henry Hind's regiment, who described the military manoeuvre during which he was wounded. Then Henry Hind's nephews Jim and Leslie topped off the planting of the tree and unveiled the memorial plaque.

HOPETOUN STREET

'We'll keep an eye on things', says councillor



Hopetoun Street site cleared for development

Last month Janice Johnson was alarmed by the loss of trees when the Royal Bank site in Hopetoun Street was cleared for development. She wrote to **Spartle** about the diversity of land use she thought we'd been promised for the Hopetoun area: 'a mix of different types of houses, shops, offices and green space'.

When we asked Councillor Davies to comment he said 'planning for this area was done jointly by the Council and the local people through the Hopetoun Village Action Plan, including a tree-lined walkway coming right through from Hopetoun Crescent to Hopetoun Street and then on to the back of McDonald Place'.

But when we went to the Action Plan (1999) it said the north side of Hopetoun Street should be developed for business/industrial or other employment generating uses; and that green open space equivalent to the derelict allotments should be incorporated. We got back to Councillor Davies and he's now sent us a response after studying the Action Plan.

uses" is nothing like as great. Also the supply of office and business use has outstripped demand ... But there is a huge demand for housing ... So this development is a mix of some houses and some business use.

On open space

'There is a decent green open space planned between the east block and the west block fronting on to the north side of Hopetoun Street, but it is not equivalent to the space that the old allotments once used. We've not achieved what the Action Plan is expecting. But only part of the northern building zone has come forward for development – so there is still time. We will need to keep an eye on things and make sure we get the green space there that we need. To be honest, I don't know if we can now deliver the exact equivalent of what was there in the old allotments. But we will try to make sure that there is the right amount of good quality usable community and private green space to serve the needs of the current and future residents.'

On land use

'It is six years since the Action Plan was adopted and what has happened since then is that unemployment has fallen dramatically in Edinburgh. So the need for "employment generating



Drummond Community High School held its sixth annual 'Festival of Learning' on 12th March. A free event for the whole school and local community, there were adult education 'taster' workshops, exhibitions, live music and stage performances.

FORTH STREET

A bit of history at risk?

Over the years, local residents have admired the old wrought-iron lamp posts in Forth Street – some of them with the name of the street incorporated into the ironwork. Around Christmas time one of them disappeared. More recently Forth Street resident Janice Donaldson noticed that two weren't functioning, was worried by the loss of light, and phoned the City Council about it. She was told that the old lamp posts were going to be replaced by new ones in due course.

Now there's only one of the posts with the street name in the ironwork left; it wasn't functioning as we went to press; and a modern post has been planted beside it. Are we in danger of losing some unique street furniture, and a bit of local history? And within the World Heritage Site too!

Photo by Jake King



DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH

Bellevue to Mumbai

Each year the S1 students at Drummond Community High School go on a 'taster' visit to the Mela – the multicultural festival at Pilrig Park. Last year the students' entry ticket doubled as a raffle ticket. Drummond student Christopher McHale won first prize: a trip for two to Mumbai in India! Chris has just returned from this trip of a lifetime, and told Annie Scanlon the school's Librarian all about it. Here are some extracts from the interview:

I decided to take my mum; my dad doesn't really like the sun and my mum's never been to India.

Mumbai is really different from here. The taxis, they're mad. Mum and I were frightened at first but we got used to it. They also have these wee things on three wheels with no doors and windows; we thought we

would fall out! It was really, really hot and you had to sleep with the bedclothes off. A lot of people were sleeping in the streets.

We tried lots of different foods when we were out on trips. Some of it was very hot and spicy so we ordered chicken sandwiches and chips from room service.

Everyone was really friendly. There was a woman called Bukhti who looked after us. Her family lived on a farm and they grew fruit and spices; they grew the biggest lemons I have ever seen. She took us to an Indian wedding, where people threw coloured rice and the special guest wore a turban. I was the special guest so I got the turban.

We went to Elephant Island in a boat. It's very beautiful with waterfalls and caves with gods in them, and

BRIEFLY

At the turn of the year Scottish Water did remedial work to get rid of the stink that had been plaguing SCVO staff in the Mansfield Traquair Centre. But by mid-March the smell had got worse again out in the street. We asked Val Tesdale of SCVO to comment: 'We hadn't smelled it for weeks, but on Wednesday morning it was rife throughout the building. However, it seems to have disappeared again', she told us. 'I did notice that as I walked down Broughton Street the smell started at the corner of Forth Street, got less by Crombies and then increased by East London Street. I'm beginning to think the sewers are all needing repairs.'

Taekwon-Do classes for children from 5 upwards are starting at Broughton Primary School, Tuesdays from 5.45pm to 6.45pm. To book a place call 660 9428.

The YWCA Roundabout Centre in Gayfield Place are looking for a **Creche Supervisor** and a **Creche Worker**. if you are interested, call 225 7592.

Increasing numbers of people come out of long-term relationships in their 40s or later, and then worry about the consequences of meeting new sexual partners. Sexual health services at present focus on younger people, so you are invited to complete a short anonymous NHS questionnaire which will help improve services for the over-40s. Questionnaires are available online at: www.ed.ac.uk/~s9905655

monkeys running wild stealing the bananas. We also went to a waterpark. The ladies went swimming in their trousers and T-shirts; my mum got embarrassed and wouldn't go into the water in her bikini.

I was disappointed that we didn't get to Bollywood. The day we were meant to go they had to cancel the filming so we didn't see any of the stars.

I'd like to go back to India – to Goa. It's a holiday place, Mumbai is a big city.

Puffin crossing to go ahead

Back in November we reported on consultation, and some confusion, about two possible pedestrian crossings – one at Mansfield Place and one farther down the road towards East Claremont Street. If one had to be delayed for financial reasons, Broughton Village Association and the Community Council were in favour of the Mansfield Place crossing being put in first.

On 1st March the City Council's Executive agreed that's what should happen: 'assessment carried out for the 2 crossings indicated that the majority of schoolchildren cross in the vicinity of Mansfield Place ... the requirement for an additional controlled crossing at Bellevue will be reassessed following full implementation of the Central Edinburgh Traffic Management scheme'.



New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Vacancy for Community Councillor

The Community Council represents the views of local residents to Edinburgh City Council.

There is a vacancy on the Community Council. If you think you might be interested phone the Secretary for a chat, or come along to our next meeting on Monday 4th April at **The Mosque, West Annandale Street,** 7.30pm

Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586
E-mail: aocarroll@onetel.net

Experience a little Peace and Tranquillity

Massage is a good way to promote health and well being. Take some time out to help lift your mood, relax and let go.

For an appointment at either the **Salisbury Centre** or off Broughton Street call **The Saffron Enclapt Massage Therapy**
07966 498596

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

We always require properties to meet constant demand

Broughton Property Management

61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail: broughton_prop@ednet.co.uk

Malcolm Chisholm MSP / Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU
Tel: 0131-558 8358 Fax: 0131-557 6781
Saturday surgeries:
9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St
Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,
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Email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk
Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office

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 Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

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

Cllr Trevor Davies

Broughton Ward 529 3221

Surgery at Broughton Primary

Weds. 6.30 to 7pm (school terms)

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform about local affairs; raise local issues; publicise the work of local action groups; make connections between 'the news' and people's own lives in Broughton; and stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected to any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anybody to finance the paper.

We invite you to contact us and:

- react to what **Spurtle** has had to say
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Telephone 556 7727 or 556 0903

Write to us c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX – you can put a letter through the letter box at any time

e-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk