

# Spurtle

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER**

**Dec/Jan  
2004/5**

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**HOPETOUN CRESCENT GARDEN**

## The Botanics connection

After several years of hard work, things are really coming together in the public garden in Hopetoun Crescent. Each



*Regius Keeper Stephen Blackmore unveils the Panel*

spring there's now an explosion of colour, thanks to daffodil and snowdrop bulbs planted by the City's

Parks Department and children from local primary schools. Last month we reported the arrival of a fairy circle of giant mushrooms. Now a colourful Information Panel has been installed, explaining the history of the garden and describing what visitors can find in it today.

The panel was unveiled by the Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden on 24th November. He also planted botanical specimens appropriate to the garden's history. That history goes

back to 1763, when a Botanic Garden was opened off Leith Walk – covering an area of five acres that

includes what is now Hopetoun Crescent Garden; it remained here until the move down to Inverleith in 1822.

The historical connection with the Botanics has been further emphasised by labelling of trees at Hopetoun in the same style used at Inverleith. All this has been achieved through the vision and determination of the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden, coupled with enthusiastic support from the Royal Botanic Garden, the City Council, and Four Winds Inspiration Centre – who created those magic mushrooms.

*To find out more about Hopetoun Crescent Garden, go to the website [hopetouncrescentgarden.org.uk](http://hopetouncrescentgarden.org.uk)*

## Irene Fekete



Irene Fekete of Claremont Court died on 20th November, after a struggle against cancer of the pancreas.

Irene was born in the USA of Hungarian parents. She taught in Greece, and then in England, before working in publishing for John Murray, The Schools Council, Hutchinson and then the British Museum – editing their series of books

for the general reader and starting the museum shop.

She retired to Edinburgh, having been at the University here in her student days and loved the city. Here she led a busy life through her Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox contacts, and with Women in Black. And she published a book of poems and two thrillers.

In Broughton she'll be remembered as a determined champion of the interests of Claremont Court residents: 'Claremont Court now being a listed building, and all the work that was

carried out there, are testaments to her very special dedication and tenacity', Yvonne Pryor of Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association told **Spurtle**. Irene was also an active member of New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council, whose secretary Annette O'Carroll sent us this tribute:

'She was a very valued member of the Community Council. I greatly admired her fighting spirit, particularly when faced with a terminal diagnosis. She was incredibly brave and an inspiration to us all.'

**We take a break now - the next edition will be out in early February. Meanwhile, thanks to all who have supported Spurtle during 2004. And best wishes for 2005 to all our readers!**

## BRIEFLY

Lord Yousaf Inait died in September. A memorial service will be held at



Annandale Street Mosque and Community Centre on 4th December at 8pm. All who knew him will be welcome. Yousaf helped spearhead

the development of the Community Centre, and was its Chairperson for many years. Committed to promoting community relations, racial equality and social justice, he was also active in such organisations as Edinburgh and Lothians Racial Equality Council and Edinburgh Interfaith Association.

*The Royal Bank site in Hopetoun Street (McDonald Road end) is up for sale. Local residents are anxious about what will happen to the mature trees on the site. Can at least the best of them be saved from the developer's axe?*

Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road, campaigner for psoriasis sufferers, has been invited to join SCRAP – **Scottish Campaign to Remove All Prescription Charges** – a group supporting Lothian MSP Colin Fox's private member's bill to do just that.

*On the first Thursday of each month the Campaign for Women's Ordination holds a short vigil outside St Mary's RC Cathedral. Women and men are welcome to join them: the next vigil is on 6th January, 5.30 to 6pm.*



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## CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

# Step forwards for civil rights

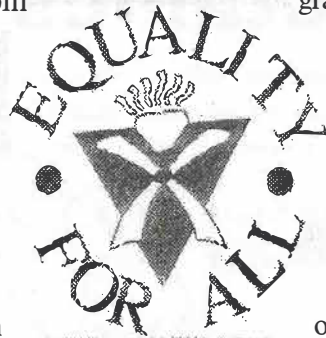
*Jane Carnall, Information Worker at Equality Network, reports:*

On 18th November 2004, the UK Civil Partnership Bill was given Royal Assent and became the law of the land. Because it passed at about the same time as a bill against hunting, it got remarkably little publicity, and what there was, seemed a little confused.

What it means for you and me and the lesbian couple down the road is that, probably in autumn 2005, lesbian, gay, and bisexual people will have access to the same civil rights of marriage that straight people take for granted. Two women or two men who enter into civil partnership with each other will have almost the same legal rights and obligations towards each other as a woman and a man who enter into civil marriage with each other. (The main exception in Scotland is with regard to adoption: while English/Welsh adoption law was reformed in 2002, the Scottish Parliament's Family Law bill won't pass until 2005.)

We need a verb for civil partnership: I realised this when I found myself

writing about how Wanda's girlfriend from Australia would now be able to come to the UK, "civil-partner" her girlfriend, and have the right to live and work in the UK. It isn't marriage – the Civil Partnership Act does not grant the right of same-sex couples to marry each other.



Marriage is many things to many people: but in civil law, a marriage is a means of packaging up a whole lot of rights in one convenient bundle to

be carried by you and by the person with whom you have chosen to share your life. (For example: the right to share your pension, to benefit by insurance, to have immigration rights, to be your partner's next-of-kin, to inherit shared property without paying 40% inheritance tax - none of them rights conveyed by cohabiting, no matter how long you've done it.) Civil partnership's bundle of rights is virtually identical to civil marriage.

This is a major step forward for civil rights in the UK. See the Equality Network website for further details: [www.equality-network.org](http://www.equality-network.org).

## BROUGHTON STREET ROUNDABOUT

# Radical solution?

*Last month David Sterratt of Bellevue Road welcomed general consensus that red cycle lanes should not be restored on the Broughton Street roundabout. He went on to urge replacement of the roundabout itself by traffic lights with pedestrian crossings at the crossroads. Peter Verity of Scotland Street agrees:*

The roundabout is most unpleasant for cyclists, pedestrians crossing and just passers-by. Various parts of Edinburgh have had traffic calming,

with pedestrians given priority: here, however, the traffic is fed through the roundabout at high speed, pedestrians are expected to deviate 20 or 30 metres to get past the roundabout ... past protective railings ... sauna visitors and shoppers parked on the zigzag lines before the pedestrian crossing lights.

Traffic lights would be a huge improvement! And it could actually become a fairly pleasant space too – 'Broughton Plaza'?

## MESSAGE FROM McDONALD ROAD FIRE STATION

# Celebrate safely

Firefighter **Steven Latimer** of Green Watch, McDonald Road Fire Station advises:

- On the 1st day of Christmas - Check your Christmas tree lights conform to the British Standard.
- On the 2nd day - Never place candles near your Christmas tree or furnishings. Don't leave them burning unattended.
- On the 3rd day - Make sure your family and guests know what to do in an emergency. Make a fire escape plan.
- On the 4th day - Decorations can burn easily. Don't attach them to lights or heaters.
- On the 5th day - Never overload electrical sockets.
- On the 6th day - Most fires start in the kitchen. Never leave a cooker unattended.
- On the 7th day - Celebrate Christmas and New Year safely. The risk of accidents, especially in the kitchen, is greater after alcohol is consumed.
- On the 8th day - If you are planning to celebrate with fireworks, store them in a metal box, read the instructions, never go back to a lit firework and keep a bucket of water nearby.
- On the 9th day - Make sure you have a working smoke alarm.
- On the 10th day - Check the battery in your smoke alarm every week and use Christmas as a reminder to clean it and remove dust.
- On the 11th day - Make sure candles and cigarettes are completely extinguished before going to bed. Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- On the 12th day - Take a second to check on elderly relatives and neighbours this Christmas. Make sure they are fire safe.

McDonald Road fire station staff would like to wish you all a very happy and safe festive period. For further information you can call freephone 0800 169 0320.

## EAST CLAREMONT STREET

# Parking nonsense

When the crossing-points on East Claremont Street first appeared many drivers just parked regardless, blocking the crossings. So the City Council painted advisory white lines, hoping everyone would get the message and leave the crossings clear. That wasn't enough for some drivers, so in response to local demand the Council put in enforceable yellow lines instead. But the problem's creeping back again: not just on or near the crossings, but also in the centre of the street.

Councillor Trevor Davies tells us that the Council will now add a

bollard to the traffic island, and replace a broken one. They'll also paint white hatching lines in the



centre of the street to discourage parking there. But 'it may take a little time for those measures to be put in place'.

## BRIEFLY

Davie Thomson of Redbraes tells us residents have been sent 'Neighbour Notices' by LDC



Properties, saying they intend to build 94 flats and ground floor business premises on the Comet site in Newhaven Road. But neither local councillor nor Council officials seem to know anything about this proposal.

*Broughton St Mary's Church minister Joanne Hood one year after her arrival in Broughton: 'I love the diversity of the area. There are many people living here who still have a kind of village mentality. Although some of us might not always see it, there is a real sense of community here while also, on the flip side of that, we have the transient, distant lifestyles of many who come and go and never really become involved.'* (in Broughton Beacon, the Church's magazine.)

The **Spurtle** team is looking for someone with DTP skills to help prepare the paper for the printers. If you think you might be able to help, please contact John Dickie on 556 0903, or email [broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk)



### New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

#### Vacancies for Community Councillors

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

We are looking for two people to fill vacancies on the Community Council. If you think you might be interested phone the Secretary for a chat, or come along to our next meetings on Mon. 6th Dec. and Mon. 10th Jan. at 7.30pm in the library, Drummond High.

Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586  
E-mail: [aoc1@onetel.com](mailto:aoc1@onetel.com)

# Belle's View

*Hi fans*



Is that the gentle tinkling of sleigh bells I hear, dear Readers? Or is it the ghastly crunch of till registers? Either way, Christmas is definitely coming! And what Yuletide treats are in store for the lucky residents of **Broughton and Bellevue**?

Ooooooooooh la la! The **George Street Night Afore** event on 30th December has gone all French this year – I am especially allured by a street theatre event entitled **Fanfare le Snob** (8pm) – sounds like just the sort of thing to keep the away the riff raff! Estelle and I are gearing ourselves up and getting our best thermals aired for the annual **World's Longest Strip the Willow** (9.15pm) – so grab that kilt, show up, and get birling!

As always, I know there will be lots of you looking for a special gift for someone who has everything – and luckily **Hanover Fine Arts** at **22a Dundas Street** (Mon-Fri 11-6 Sat 10.30-4) have a seasonal selection of small paintings by gallery artists, plus prints, ceramics, jewellery, engraved glass, sculpture, textiles, boxes and Russian craftwork, from 20th November to 29th January. If you don't fancy any of that, **Oxfam** are doing a very reasonable (not to mention outrageously romantic!) bag of cement and roofing sheets for £12 at [www.oxfamunwrapped.com](http://www.oxfamunwrapped.com). Show you care – say it with concrete!

So, as I dust down my best tiara and head off for yet another of the **Broughton History Society's** wild Christmas parties, I'd like to wish all my readers a very happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year!

*Persephone Belle*

Copy deadline for next **Spurtle** (February 2005) will be **Friday 21st January 2005**

## Have I got NEWS for You!

*We warmly invite you to join our Christmas celebrations.*

Sun 19th December 11.30am  
Christmas Family Service

Sunday 19th December 7.30pm  
Community Christmas Carol Service

Tues 21st December 7.30pm  
Community Christmas Carol Service

Fri 24th December 6.30pm  
Family Christmas Eve Celebration

Sun 26th December 11.30am  
Family Service

All events held here at **Bellevue Chapel**

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## New Toy Shop Open Now

Good quality toys and games for all ages and budgets. Why not try a more customer-friendly alternative to the bigger stores and find something special for Christmas. Come see us at 42 London Street. (basement, corner of Broughton Street) 0131 556 0222

## THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

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### Broughton Property Management

61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail: [broughton\\_prop@ednet.co.uk](mailto: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

## 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](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk)

Sunday Brunch – all you can eat only £4.95 per person!

Mondays - from 7.30pm play Tarot with Jean Philippe

Tuesday nights – join our dominoes team

Wednesdays - from 8.30pm the Claremont Crazy Quiz

Future Events: Ladies' Nights (quarterly),

Karaoke (monthly), Gourmet Nights including

Disco and Cabaret (monthly)

To book a table phone 556 5662

## Claremont Bar

133-135 East Claremont Street, Edinburgh -

[www.claremontbar.co.uk](http://www.claremontbar.co.uk)

## Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North & Leith



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Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

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