

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

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Free

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SHRUB PLACE SITE OF FORMER BUS DEPOT

New developer consults local community



Harald Tobermann
of Pilrig Residents
reports:

Edinburgh company BL Developments is now owner of 'Site A', the former tram and bus workshops at Shrub Place, Leith Walk. Unlike the

meetings in the McDonald Road Library arranged by the developer with the help of Broughton councillor Trevor Davies and the Pilrig Residents Association were attended by some fifty local residents. At the first meeting in April, introduced by planning specialist David Sibbald, the developer Phil Myerscough and his architect Martin Bates presented a 3D concept model of their vision for a 'greater'

development attempt – height, relationship to Shaw's Colonies, use of listed buildings, traffic and retail logistics – there were two new concepts that attracted attention: the proposed creation of a public square at Middlefield (following the demolition of Shrubhill House) and the notion that the Georgian building line set back from the pavement is the dominant characteristic of the north side of Leith Walk and therefore highly appropriate for Shrub Place.

Given an anticipated construction programme of up to three years, it was considered important that the developers sign up to the 'Considerate Constructors Scheme' to ensure best practice and minimise inconvenience for the site's neighbours.

BL Developments also committed to more public meetings as their plans evolve, as well as a permanent display in McDonald Road Library.

Anticipated development programme:

- End May 2005: announcement of successful bidder for Site C
- Late July 2005: submission of detailed planning application
- December 2005: planning permission
- Spring 2006: construction commences (to 2009).

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earlier, ill-fated Wimpey deal which led to a five-year planning battle, this is not subject to achieving planning consent: money has already changed hands and the new owner has been fully responsible for the site since the beginning of April.

Also in stark contrast to Wimpey is BL Development's open engagement with the local community. Two

Shrub Place – incorporating the Masonic Social Club (Site B) and Shrubhill House (Site C) – and answered questions.

The next meeting on 12th May was an opportunity for sustained community feedback and more Q&A. While many of the issues raised inevitably resembled those aired during the previous Wimpey

BRIEFLY

Last reminder! Deadline for entries to the city-wide Gardening Competition is 6th June. Phone Karen Hay on 469 5196, e-mail karen.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk, or find the entry form at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing

Broughton St Mary's have a Summer Fair on Saturday, 11th June, 2-4pm at the Church Centre in East Broughton Place. There will be a wide variety of stalls. Tickets at the door, £1.50 for adults and 50p for children – which includes tea, scone and cakes.

Minister Joanne Hood tells us Broughton St Mary's will have a special **service of musical appreciation** to mark the removal of the protective covering that had to be put over the organ during recent repair work in the Bellevue Crescent church: 10.30am on Sunday, 12th June. At the same service they'll start using the new Fourth Edition of the Church Hymnary.

Stephanie Harvey of Broughton Village Association reports an on-site meeting with City Council officials to discuss the future of the Barony Place play area. The BVA are anxious to maintain this for younger children, but to make it more attractive for parents to take them there. They plan to consult local residents on how best to do this by distributing a questionnaire. Meanwhile, any ideas?

Election results in perspective. UK-wide, New Labour won 35.2% of the votes cast; but given a 61.3% turnout, that meant around 21.6% of those entitled to vote supported them. **Locally**, our constituency MP won 34.23% of the vote on a 62.67% turnout: which means a little over one fifth of his constituents gave him their support.

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NEW BROUGHTON PLANNING

Procedure questioned

Last month we reported on an application to build a 3-storey block of flats on the wee car park in Broughton Street Lane. We said the plans could be viewed at the Planning Department, 1 Cockburn Street: due to 'pressure of work' in the department there was a delay in making them available, but they are there now (Ref. No. 03/01779/FUL). Our report prompted Louise Riach of New Broughton to write:

I am sorry to say that from experience, the Planning Officials



will go ahead with all of this and 'tough luck' to those who object. The flats being built on what was a car park next to us on New

Broughton were rejected on the first attempt a few years ago because of the height they were to be. The second time, the developers said that they'd lower that so all went ahead. But they have built on both sides (not on the plans we got or the ones I saw at Cockburn Street) and they are just as high as they originally were rejected for ... Also, where they are building on ground small enough for sparrows to rest on, my fear is what if there was ever a fire; the person driving the fire engine

would need all his skills and wits when turning into the lane, and to the flats.

Miss Riach has similar doubts about planning procedure when the flats in nearby Dublin Street Lane North were built some years ago. We put her points to New Town

councillor David Guest. He told us it can take time to trace through the history of applications, but he'd be glad to discuss this with her.

CITY COUNCIL AND RESIDENTS TO WORK TOGETHER

Recycling projects

Broughton now has two sets of the new 'multi-material packaging banks' being introduced by the City Council. These are bins with green lids which take a variety of packaging for recycling – cardboard, plastic bottles, food and drinks cans and milk and juice cartons. You're asked to clean and flatten before depositing; and not to put in bottle tops, plastic bags or plastic tubs.

The new bins are available at the recycling site in Bellevue Road, at the McDonald Road end; and at B&Q in Warriston Road. (Not at Tesco – but there's a 'Cans Only' bin there.)

And local volunteers can now apply to the City Council for up to £2,500 to help get residents involved in waste and recycling activities. Activities that could qualify for a Waste Action Grant include co-ordinating community junk swaps; baby and maternity items re-use projects; furniture re-use initiatives; recycled arts events; home composting training days; and mobile phones and aluminium can collections. Interested individuals or groups can book a free recycling talk and activity session. Contact Iona Beaumont on 469 5070, or e-mail iona.beaumont@edinburgh.gov.uk

'This story will linger in my mind'

The current edition of literary magazine Chapman, 'Testaments Unrequited', is full of essays, stories, poems and the portraits of featured artist Ian Hughes. We asked three Broughton residents to choose something in it to comment on.



Andrew Johnston
of Gayfield Square:

When asked for comments on Chapman No.106, about all I really knew was that such a magazine existed.

Some contributors I was aware of by name from book festivals and bookshop browsing.

Of most interest to me is the discovery of new fiction writing – and, if this volume is an example, there are quite a few 'quirky' writers out there waiting to be read. To me, the most unusual prose piece was by Niels Saunders. His choice of subject matter was definitely 'off the wall'. You will have to buy or borrow a copy, as I am sure that you will find it was well worth the effort.



Alan McIntosh of
East Claremont
Street:

Ian Hughes's 'The Apostles: Testaments Betrayed'. Andrew Brown explains in a

brief introduction that Hughes has worked as a volunteer with homeless alcoholics and drug addicts in Edinburgh and Leith, and it is their meticulously painted faces which stare out from the page. Scarred and pained, they are nevertheless dignified. Each is given an apostle's name, including a self-portrait entitled 'Judas'.

Hughes's humanity, his refusal to ignore or condemn these uncomfortable presences, is moving. His work questions how we engage the mentally ill and the socially outcast. It also reminds us not to take more commonplace relationships for granted.

As Kenneth Boyd points out in a related sermon, 'Who is the man (and in one portrait, the woman) into whose presence you are coming? If it is not also you, you have not understood'.



Jude Devereaux of
East London Street:

'Stray' by David McLaughlan is a sad and moving story of someone elderly and suffering from

confusion, possibly dementia.

The sufferer is in hospital. Thoughts come and go, as do visitors and relatives, but he is uncertain as to who these people are. He has flashes of the present, such as taking a bus back home, but is unsure of how to go about this.

Memories of the past, his garden he tended 40 years ago, and his sadness for smacking his child flit into his mind.

His dearest wish is to be in his own home, in his own bed.

This story is full of depth and feeling and will linger in my mind for some time.

A year's subscription to Chapman is £20, single issues £6.50 (including p&p). 4 Broughton Place, EH1 1RX (557 2207)



Gayfield Association held their AGM on 18th May. Replacement of the railings round the garden in the Square emerged as a priority. Given that it lies within Edinburgh's World Heritage Site, they think they have a strong case and should be able to find the substantial funding that will be required.

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! 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

STREET LIFE

'Summer from March to November'

In recent years there's been a welcome increase in pavement seating outside local pubs, cafés and restaurants – bringing new life to Broughton Street in particular. This could be just the beginning. Here's an extract from the City Talks, a quarterly newsletter published by Edinburgh City Management Company (and edited by Fay Young of East Claremont Street):

Take a stroll down Nyhavn. A narrow cobbled strip once covered with parked cars is now full of cafes spilling on to the street on the edge of



the harbour. Copenhagen shows how a city can come to life when space is allowed for people. And what's more it doesn't depend on good weather.

As Jan Gehl (Danish architect, author and urban designer) has told Edinburgh and other audiences across the world, 'Copenhagen has extended summer from March to November'. When it's as cold as Edinburgh, or even colder, the street cafes provide blankets and braziers to keep you warm. Indeed, he says, Copenhagen now has more outdoor seating than Melbourne or Perth (and that's the Australian one).

The rebirth of Copenhagen has happened over the last 40 years as parking spaces gradually turn into public squares... Gehl believes Copenhagen's gradual approach is the secret. Change has happened slowly enough for people to enjoy the difference. 'The shopkeepers found they were doing better and the next street closed.'

Gehl architects are working with Gillespies, urban and landscape designers, on plans for Edinburgh's Grassmarket.

Contacts

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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

Mark Lazarowicz

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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office



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 please phone the Secretary for a chat, or come along to our AGM on Monday 6th June at

Drummond Community High School,
7.30pm, followed by our regular meeting at 8pm
Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586
E-mail: aocarroll1@onetel.net

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



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9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library

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