

Spurtle

February
2005

Tel - 556 0903
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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 133

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Free

BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Step lively, step safely!

Alan McIntosh, Chair of Broughton Primary School Board, reports:

Representatives of the police, pupils, staff, parents and Council joined an assembly at Broughton Primary on 20th January to launch their School Travel Plan. This document draws on surveys and local knowledge to show how the community will work together to encourage healthy travel options, and improve safety, for children going to and from the school.

The Plan favours walking, cycling and public transport. It is not anti-car, but does seek ways to reduce unnecessary or dangerous car use, and encourages active choices. It involves the school curriculum and out-of-school initiatives, and also highlights problems identified in recent questionnaires which are barriers to active school travel choices. Some of these are problems with the route itself, and will be submitted to the council engineering department to assess the possibility of engineering solutions.

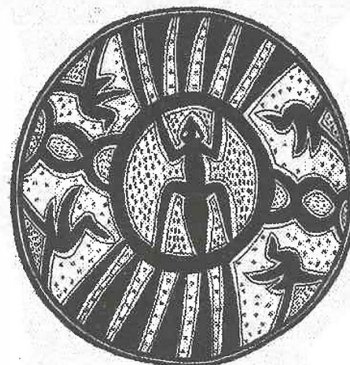
The Plan is in tune with the school's commitment to work with parents to provide a welcoming, safe and caring environment. It also dovetails with the school's wider priority to become a health-promoting school. Throughout, we've tried to establish the facts and then set ourselves realistic and measurable goals.

The Plan is part of the Scottish Executive and City of Edinburgh Council's Safer Routes to School campaign, and is supported by staff, the

School Board and the Parents-Staff Association. It is also endorsed by Councillor Trevor Davies and the New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council.

Copies are available from the school office, and will also be accessible electronically when the school's website comes on line later this year.

CONCERT for KENYA



AN INFORMAL EVENING OF MUSIC BY SENIOR STUDENTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR PARTNER SCHOOL, MUTTAMBI GIRLS & BOYS, IN KENYA

Thursday 2nd February 7-9pm

Doors open 6:30

Drummond Community High School

TICKETS: £5/CONCESSIONS £3.50

EACH TICKET ENTITLES YOU TO A FREE GLASS OF WINE!

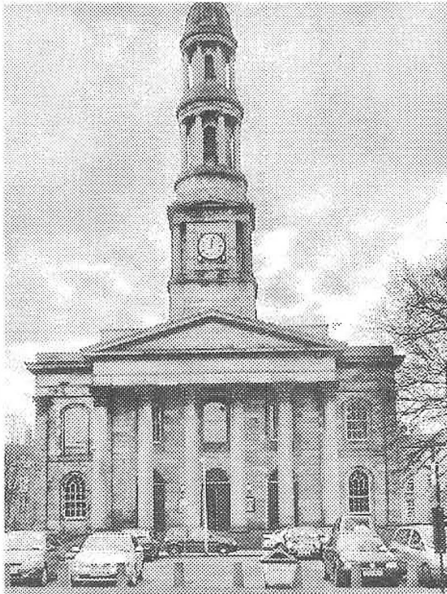
Tickets can be purchased from the school office

0131 556 2651

DONATIONS ARE MOST WELCOME!

CHILDREN UNDER 18 MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S Inside out



Local minister **Joanne Hood** writes:

At Broughton St Mary's Parish Church we are embarking upon the upgrading, redevelopment and restoration of our building on Bellevue Crescent. As the title of our project 'Inside Out' suggests, we are hoping the venture will enable us to take our work and our identity out into the wider community.

At the moment our identity is weakened working from two sites. By selling the Church Centre at 7 East

Broughton Place and bringing our congregation and associated groups together in one location we have the opportunity to create a more visible presence within the community. The project is aiming to create an exciting space that will enable us to reach out and realise our goal of becoming an effective church in this community.

The church building, where our congregation worships, is where we reach out from and it is a building we desire to draw people to. 'Inside' we are determined and faithful followers of Christ. Now we are striving to do what is required to facilitate the taking of what we have Inside, Out!

We hope to use the **Spurtle** as a way of making the community aware of the progress we are making and we hope to benefit greatly from your views and support. Events will be held to which members of the community will be invited in order that they can express their views and offer support, so watch this space! If, in the meantime, you would like more details of our project please contact; the minister, Rev. Joanne Hood (556 7313), the Appeal Team Chair, Alex Cliff (556 4034), or the leader of the Project Management Group, Captain Dick Smith (556 4743).

DRUMMOND HIGH Festival of Learning

*Saturday 4th March will be a big day at our local high school. Festival Co-ordinator **Birgit Harris** explains:*

It will be a festival for the whole school community – school and adult-education students, community groups and those living in the area. This year's theme is Celebrating Languages and Cultures and we will do this using questionnaires, a map of the world and performances in many different languages. As usual, there will be free taster workshops to try out a variety of art and jewellery making, cookery demonstrations, language workshops and exhibitions. We will also be making a tree of languages representing all languages which are spoken by the Drummond community. Confirmed for the event are the spectacular Kenspeckle Puppets which will give a fantastic performance for children. The festival is free and everybody is welcome. A more detailed programme will be available nearer the day. If you would like to find out more or wish to be involved, please contact me on 556 2651.

KING GEORGE V PARK

Why no play equipment?

*A reader asked us, 'Where have the old, wooden chute, monkey bars, and balancing beams gone in King George V Park? At present, the lone and level wood-chips stretch far away'. We contacted **Judy Conn** of the Friends of King George V and Scotland Yard Parks:*

The equipment which has disappeared was rotten and actively dangerous. We are working with the

Council to fill the resulting wide and barren spaces with play equipment for older primary-school-age children, for whom there is currently nothing in the park. P7 at St Mary's PS and P 5, 6 and 7 at Stockbridge PS completed a survey for us about what they wanted by way of play equipment. We've discussed their wish list with the Council and the staff have been very enthusiastic and hope to be able to fit

into the site a climbing wall, a spider net type of climbing frame, a small flying fox, some simple skateboarding ramps and dishes and a free-standing basketball hoop. The one big snag is that there is no Council money available for the equipment although Council staff will provide designing, costing, tendering and long-term maintenance. Otherwise the Friends are going to have to raise the funds.

ST PAUL'S AND ST GEORGE'S

Multi-million expansion

Angela Stormont of St Paul's and St George's, York Place writes:

The congregation has moved out to its temporary new home at Pollock Halls in preparation for builders moving into the church building in March.

The church, which attracts 700 people each Sunday and is full at its

morning family worship service and the evening service, is undergoing a multi-million-pound expansion plan to increase capacity. New balconies will almost double the seating space, the old hall will be replaced by a three-storey multi-functional meeting venue and a state-of-the-art glass pavilion will provide a new welcoming entrance area.

A residents' information evening is being planned by P's & G's in the next few weeks. We want to let local people see the plans and drawings, plus the ideas for the interior decoration of the church, and provide an opportunity for residents to talk to the people involved. Watch out for details.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOPS

'A triumph of sheer hard work'

Last edition we championed local shops against invader Tesco Express.

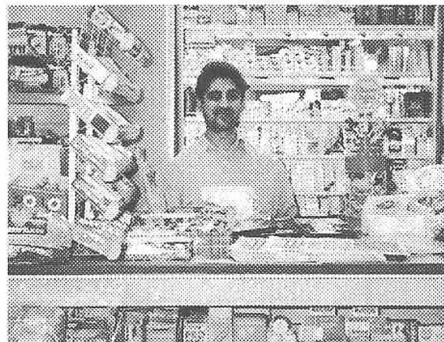
Spurtle's Ross MacLean starts a survey of what's on offer:

Despite traffic frenzy, hydra-headed superstores and the recent loss of four well-loved facilities (the Sundial launderette, the Post Office, Broughton Books and Alastair's D.I.Y.), one of the unique charms of Broughton is its village identity and the diversity of its traders. Its multiplicity of small shops, in particular, thrive against the odds, and accentuate the open, tolerant and cosmopolitan character of the area.

This series will profile just some of Broughton's remarkable emporia, and is a salute to all the traders and workers who contribute so much to our vibrant community.

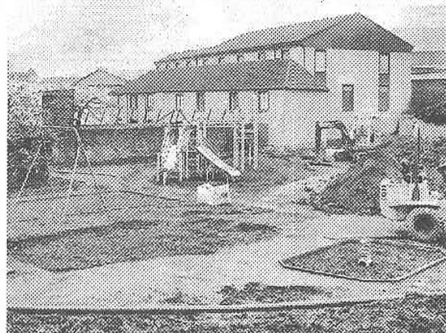
MR AKRAM'S NEWSAGENCY at No.28 is a triumph of enterprise and sheer hard work. The current business was established by Mr Akram's uncle in 1984, and was inherited by his nephew ten years later. Single-handedly, over the years Mr Akram has greatly expanded and streamlined a once modest business into a flourishing, multi-layered facility. He continues to open the shop at 5.30am, and it remains open until 6 or 7pm from Monday to Saturday.

In addition to the newsagency, the shop also purveys general grocery, stationery, and is now a PayPoint retailer where one can pay over 400 utility and service companies. These include gas, electricity, phone, water, TV licence, power cards, rent, bus



tickets, council tax, mail order and much more. There is also a fax/photocopy service.

In common with many of Broughton's shops run by Asian Scots, this highly professional establishment has the charm of a village corner shop whose customers seem part of an extended family, and time is not of the essence. Mr Akram presides over all this with a calm geniality, so that the ambience is always convivial, never pressurised, which is perhaps more than can be said of most superstores. 'When do you sleep?', I asked. 'Och', he said with a twinkle, 'I fit that in too!'



Work is now in progress to transform Broughton Road play park into a fine green space with new play equipment – the result of a lot of effort and determination from Pat Eccles, Nahid Aslam and other members of the Community Council's Broughton Project Group.



Emma Currie of Dublin Street sent us this photo of the fire at the Linklaters' home, Drummond Place, which took place in the early hours of 1st January. 'We spotted the fire from our windows and my partner Jaap Buitendijk, a stills photographer by trade, ran out with his camera.'

BRIEFLY

The 'bus gate', partial closure at the London Street/Drummond Place junction was removed at the end of the year. The word from the City Council was that for legal reasons it would not be possible to re-open other closures west of Broughton Street for another 18 months. But lo and behold, as we write **work to re-open at Albany Street/Dublin Street is underway!**

Months ago we were reporting on local opposition to plans for a 3-storey block of flats on the wee car park in **Broughton Street Lane**. Now the story is coming to a head: planning officials have recommended acceptance of a modified plan, but local residents are still up in arms; so the planning committee were making a site visit on 2nd February (after we went to print); and decision day is the 8th.

An invitation from Broughton St Mary's Church: **The Labyrinth** at Broughton St Mary's, which was a great success throughout the month of October as an alternative form of worship, will be open on the second Sunday of every month from 6.30 to 8.30pm beginning on 12th February. The Labyrinth's path, marked out on the floor of the church for participants to follow, allows people to make a spiritual journey in an atmosphere of calm and reflection. Please come and experience this intriguing way to explore your spirituality and faith. Everyone is welcome.'

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

Belle's View



Hi fans

Oooh, after all the festivities over Christmas and New Year, I feel like a wrung-out cloth! What's for fun in swinging **Broughton and Bellevue**, to revitalise the spirit?

Talking of spirits – who's that chapping? No, it's not the dominoes team at **The Cask and Barrel**, but TV's *Most Haunted's* medium **Derek Acorah**, bringing his mystical show to **The Playhouse** on 31 Jan at 7.30pm (Tix £17.50). Spooktastic!

Yee Har! Never mind **Brokeback Mountain**, in these here parts we've got our own cowboy capers – **The Stand at York Place** presents the **Wild Colonial Boys Show** (1 Feb/ 8.30pm/£5) when Canadian **Tom Stade** and pals join the lusciously-monikered **Reverend Obadiah Steppenwolf III!**

Finally, I was thrilled to see our local eaterie **Rapido** getting 16/20 in *The List's* **Fast Food Awards** – and a 5/5 rating for the size and shape of their chips! I've always said it – there's no better place to go! Till next time!

Raymond Bone

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MR M AKRAM
28 Broughton Street
556 6812

Have you got a story?

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broughton.spartle@blueyonder.co.uk

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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. The next meeting is on Monday 6th February, 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School. Secretary Annette O'Carroll 556 7586 E-mail aocarroll@onetel.net

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency office: 86-88 Brunswick Street
Edinburgh, EH7 5HU.
Tel: 0131 557 0577
Fax: 0131 557 5759
Email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk
Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office

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Broughton Property Management

61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail:

info@broughtonproperty.co.uk

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)

Dicksonfield Owners and Residents Association
Scott Richards 557 8879

Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden
Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

Hopetoun Village Owners
hopetounvillage@yahoo.co.uk

Powderhall Owners Association
info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151

Broughton History Society
John Dickie 556 0903

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Anette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
John Dickie 556 0903

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School, Weds. 7.00pm to 7.30pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward 558 8823 or 529 4268. Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street on Mondays from 6.30pm to 7.15pm