

Belle's View



Hi fans

Well! With all the thrill and excitement of the elections, I have hardly had a moment to concentrate on my glittering social whirl! Fabulous frocks and feather boas were de rigueur last Saturday when **Estelle Murgatroyd** and myself checked out swing-thing club **Vegas at Ego in Picardy Place**. Estelle was particularly ravishing in a floral ensemble split to the armpits, which raised a few eyebrows during our pre-club swally in **The Barony**.

Frankie Sumatra, Dino Martini, and the **Vegas showgirls** were in full swing throttle on the night, playing selections from the forthcoming CD **Vegas Swings**, out on May 12! I also tootled along to the hustings for the local council elections for Bellevue in **St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent**, where the candidates were given a roasting by local voters. I think it's so important to see the candidates in the flesh Readers, as I always vote for the person who has the most personal charm and, of course, the one who has the best shoes. I am sorry to report that there were no Manolo Blahniks in evidence that night, and someone even had the nerve to wear a pair of Hush Puppies – political suicide!

The Broughton History Society at Drummond Community High School was entertained by a very enchanting speaker last week, Dr Bennett, who enthralled us with tales of old Scottish customs. Apparently it hasn't always been salt and sauce at **The Rapido** – in yesteryear olden days it used to be salt and vinegar. Fancy!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

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Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

Friends of Hoptoun Crescent Garden
Eileen Dickie 556 0903

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
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

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
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Saturday surgeries.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP
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86-88 Brunswick Street, 12.30pm and
at Stockbridge Library, 4pm

Mark Lazarowicz
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 103 Independent

PROPOSED CLOSURE OF DRUMMOND STEPS

Opposition grows

The community route through Drummond Community High's playground should be restored. That was the near-unanimous verdict at a public meeting to discuss the issue on 22nd April, organised by the Community Council.

Attendance was between 44 and 52 – depending on who was counting! There were only two dissenting voices. In the absence of anyone from the School's management team (they were invited, but couldn't manage along), Councillor Trevor Davies put the case for permanent closure – arguing that the safety of Drummond students was at stake. And Peter Gray of Cochran Terrace reported that 14 out of 16 households in the Terrace were for the steps leading down into the playground being permanently closed off: experience had shown this meant less litter, less vandalism, less anti-social behaviour.

But the meeting was not convinced there was any evidence that removing the steps and closing the route would improve the safety of Drummond students. Why was this being suggested now: the City Council's safety strategy was published 6 years ago; a public assurance that the steps would be opened again was given at a meeting to explain the refurbishment of Drummond; and the steps were shown still firmly in place on plans for the landscaping of the playground dated August 2001!

A counter safety argument was better received: closure of the steps at Cochran Terrace would remove a safe route for pupils of St Mary's and

Broughton Primary Schools. Unfortunately, reported parent Yvonne Pryor, efforts by the primary school boards to discuss this problem with Drummond management had so far proved fruitless.

There was sympathy for the plight of Cochran Terrace residents: but surely the anti-social behaviour they suffered was a discipline problem, not a case for closing down a community route? Local residents pointed out that the bad behaviour of a minority of Drummond students had simply been displaced to other school gates while the steps were closed.

And, amongst others, Ann Donohoe of Redbraes made an impassioned plea for the whole idea of a "community school": it should be "about access, not cutting people off". Tam Reilly of West Annandale Street told how he had used the route for 40 years. The community had supported Drummond, particularly when it was threatened with closure: it was a "kick in the teeth" to be treated like this now.

Room for compromise?

The lack of dialogue between Drummond and the local community kept on coming up at the public meeting. If there could only be discussion, some room for compromise might be found. This point was raised at the Spurtle hustings for the City Council election two days later. "If the Cochran Terrace steps are actually demolished, that would rule out any compromise. "Would the

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May
2003

tel - 556 7727
556 0903

BRIEFLY



Drummond Big Band meets at Drummond Community High on Tuesday evenings during school term times, 7pm to 9pm. They play a variety of in-house arrangements of well-known jazz tunes. Part of each session is usually devoted to small jazz workshops on topics such as composition, arranging, harmony and improvisation. Any local musicians who might like to blow the dust off that instrument case under the bed? Trumpet, trombone and sax players are especially welcome. Contact Nikki MacLeod on 07816 416379; or phone the school (556 2651).

Putting at Powderhall now available! Edinburgh Leisure have turned one of the bowling greens (opposite Broughton Primary School) into a 9-hole putting green. The pavilion is open and staffed (with toilet facilities) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 4pm, and 5 to 9pm; and on Saturdays from 11am to 5pm. The cost is only 50p per person (children under 8 years old should be accompanied by an adult). For more information, phone 07766774534 or 669 0878.

Campaigners against Wimpey's planned flats "fit for a Moscow suburb" on the former bus station site at Shrubhill have asked to present their case to the Planning Committee. You can find campaign information on their website: www.shrubplace.PilrigRA.cjb.net

Scottish Parliament

Richard Love of Bellevue Place wrote us this report on the **Spurtle** Hustings.

About 75 local residents had a chance to question our candidates for the Scottish Parliament in the airy spaces of Broughton St Mary's Church. All five constituency candidates were present, plus four from the lists – including the Adam Lyal Witchery Tour candidate, who brought some (muted) colour to the proceedings with his death-like make-up and black cloak.

The first half was dominated by discussion about THE WAR, despite it being outside the remit of the Scottish Parliament. There was general dismay at the lack of proper justification for war, and that the money wasn't being spent on health.

Which single piece of legislation would the candidates like to bring in? We had an accelerated programme of

renewable energy resources (Green); free school meals (SSP); overhaul of the planning laws (SNP); reintroduction of the prostitution tolerance zone bill (Independent); minimum housing standards (Labour); separate local and national elections (Conservative); and healthy eating for children (Lib Dem).

There was unanimous support for a Human Rights Commission, and removal of restrictions on refugees' employment. A question on child-care provision brought out differences both political and personal, with general support for better nursery cover, ranging from free care on demand (SSP) to a market driven voucher system (Conservative).

The general success of the smaller parties and independents is reflected in the MSPs we in Broughton helped to elect. From the 'old' parties we

have Labour's Malcolm Chisholm returned for the constituency; and for Lothians, SNP's Fiona Hyslop and Kenny MacAskill, and Conservative James Douglas-Hamilton. To represent what's different in this new Parliament we have a second Green, Mark Ballard, joining Robin Harper; Colin Fox of the Scottish Socialists; and Margo MacDonald, now an Independent.

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

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** is now on the World Wide Web on www.tpuntis.demon.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. We need to find out what your views are on planning, transport, environment and licensing matters. 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. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Annette O'Carroll, Secretary, 556 7586.

City Council



Iain McGill, Trevor Davies, Gavin MacGregor (Chair), Sofiah MacLeod and Ronnie Miller.

Richard Love was back a week later to record his impressions once again.

Only four candidates and about 30 local residents attended this second **Spurtle**-sponsored hustings at Broughton St Mary's Church.

Iain McGill (Conservative, and ex-Drummond pupil) was against Labour's road plans, but for improved services and retaining Drummond steps. Trevor Davies (Labour) proclaimed successes such as the

20mph limit, McDonald Road Library, street sweeping and better bins. Sofiah MacLeod (SSP) was anti-poverty and anti-war. Ronnie Miller (SNP), standing in for the absent Ailsa Sheldrake, trumpeted the SNP's record in managing good local government.

Audience questions covered the Central Edinburgh traffic management scheme and its effect on Broughton

Street, increasing council tax, business tax, the local environment and recycling, closure of Drummond steps, and children being treated as truants when protesting against the war in school time.

Recycling generated a lot of debate, with an audience suggestion that licences should only be issued to pubs and off-licences on condition that they have glass recycling points.

Trevor Davies (Lab) was re-elected.

Drummond Steps

continued from page 1

candidates, if elected, do all they can to stop the steps being demolished?" Councillor Davies joined the other three candidates in saying, yes, he would.

A 'Save Our Steps' petition is now circulating. The petition also calls for a written guarantee that community access to Drummond playground will not be cut back. Drummond's Head Teacher had told **Spurtle** that the private company which will soon be involved in running the school facilities had suggested all school gates should be locked when the school building itself is not in use. Councillor Davies told the public meeting that the playground "will be available on roughly the same terms" for "the foreseeable future". We did not find that overwhelmingly reassuring!

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UPS

A big thank-you!

Nahid Aslam sends this message:

Thanks to all those who turned out to help in the Clean-Up of Broughton Rd on Sunday 6th April. The weather was on our side, and we managed to pick up 60kg of rubbish. Thanks also to Tesco who provided the refreshments for afterwards, and so ensured that the group was able to stay a little longer

together and socialise – very important in these days of social isolation.

Contact the Broughton Road Group, by email – nahidaslam@yahoo.com; or phone Pat Eccles on 556 7550. Meanwhile, there's another clean-up coming up at Hopetoun Crescent Garden later this month (see EVENTS)



Jeannie Harper and Mitchell Manson at a recent Hopetoun Garden clean-up

EVENTS

SATURDAY 10TH MAY

Silent Auction, 2-4pm at Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, 7 East Broughton Place. Tea/coffee and biscuits 50p.

SUNDAY 11TH MAY

Open Day at the Mansfield Traquair Centre, 1 to 4pm. Free guided tours. (Next one after that Sunday, 8th June.)

MONDAY 12TH MAY

Community Council's AGM at 7.30pm, at Drummond Community High, followed by the May meeting at 8pm approximately. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

FRIDAY 16TH MAY

Organ recital by Brigitte Harris, German Church, 7.30pm at Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent. Tickets £6 (concessions £4) – available at the door.

MONDAY 19TH MAY

Broughton Road Group meeting at 6.30pm at Resident Association's Hut in Rebraes Park. Your chance to join in the discussion of plans for Broughton Road playpark and other improvements.

SUNDAY 25TH MAY

Another Community Clean-Up of Hopetoun Crescent Garden at 12 noon, organised by the Friends of the Garden. Gloves and pickers provided – and tea, coffee, juice and biscuits. Try your hand at painting a rubbish bin!

Broughton St Mary's Church Halls
7 East Broughton Place

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