



## Contacts

### Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

### Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

### Gayfield Association

William McNair 556 4493

### McDonald Area Amenity Society

Bob Stewart 557 1267

### Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

### Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Eileen Dickie 556 0903

### New Town Broughton & Pilrig Community Council

Jessica Miller 558 1025

### Broughton History Society

John Dickie 556 0903

### Drummond Community High School

556 2651

### Cllr Trevor Davies

Broughton Ward 529 3221

Surgery at Broughton Primary School  
Wednesdays 6.30 to 7pm during  
school terms.

### Cllr David Guest

New Town Ward

558 8823 or 529 4268

Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street  
on Mondays 6.30 to 7.15pm

### Malcolm Chisholm MSP

558 8358

Saturday surgeries:

9am Leith Library

12 noon Stockbridge Library

No appointment necessary

### Mark Lazarowicz MP

557 0577

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sessions.

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556 9672

### 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:

Meg Neal, John Dickie, Gordon Dow, Gavin MacGregor, Eileen Dickie, Alan  
McIntosh, Ken McKay and Norma McKendrick.

**BROUGHTON BOOKS** in Broughton Place are our 'postbox'. You can put  
a letter addressed to us through their letterbox at any time.

Phone & Fax: 556 0903 / 556 7727.

### THINKING OF LETTING YOUR FLAT?

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61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

Eml.: 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

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### 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 High School.  
Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Jessica Miller,  
Secretary, 558 1025

### R.C.S. GROUP NO TIME FOR HOUSEWORK?

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(buffing)

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Mobile 07747 121494

### Mark Lazarowicz Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:  
86-88 Brunswick St, Edinburgh  
EH7 5HU Tel: 0131 557 0577

Fax: 0131 557 5759

Email: lazarowiczm@parliament.uk  
Please contact Constituency Office  
for details of Advice Sessions.

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

September  
2003

Tel: 556 0903

556 7727

No 107

Free

Independent

## CENTRAL EDINBURGH TRAFFIC SCHEME APPROVED

# How much will Broughton Street suffer?

After hearing objections earlier this year, Reporters have now approved the City Council's proposals for Central Edinburgh Traffic Management (CETM). Restrictions on Princes Street will now apply to traffic travelling in both directions, and related traffic management measures will be introduced on other streets.

Amongst objectors to the scheme was the Broughton Village Association. BVA chair Gavin MacGregor says his first reaction to the Report "was to be overwhelmingly disheartened that none of the researched and reasoned submissions made by Broughton Village Association and others over a two-month period earlier this year had been accepted in any measure whatsoever". He acknowledges that the views submitted by the BVA are fairly represented in the Report, including concerns that a thriving, living street would become simply a channel for traffic - damaging the residential and business communities, bringing noise and pollution, and worsening existing parking and access problems on Broughton Street. The Reporters accept that CETM will mean more traffic on Broughton Street, and consequently a greater risk of pedestrians being struck by vehicles; but they agree with the City Council that this and any other side-effects will be at a level acceptable in the context of the overall benefits of the scheme.

So what now? Gavin MacGregor writes: "The Report makes repeated reference to the Council's 'Route Action Plan' (RAP for short). This is a document some 3 to 4 years old which made far-reaching proposals for allowing the Broughton to

Stockbridge corridor to cope with the measures now intended. The Report states: 'The RAP has been approved in principle by the Council and implementation is subject to the availability of finance. However, since it is clear that at this point in time there is no dedicated funding to implement the proposals in full, we consider that we cannot rely on them as an integral part of the proposals before us'. In other words, the Council is about to adopt a scheme, with all the implications that are generally acknowledged will flow from it, without having the good

faith to commit 'as an integral part' sufficient funding to ensure that the necessary coping strategies are put in place. It is crucial that this cannot be allowed to happen. The Council has relied for long on the RAP scheme happening 'sometime' - money permitting. If the basic structure of our city centre, far less the quality of life therein, is to be preserved it is essential that RAP becomes central to the CETM scheme going ahead."

Our local councillor's response -  
page 2



### A new Centre for Health and Wellbeing for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folk was opened at 9 Howe Street on 22nd August.

Pictured above are celebrity Julian Clary, who 'cut the ribbon' at the grand opening ceremony, and project manager Janine Botfield - the flowers were supplied by Red Hot Flowers in Broughton Street (and tapas by Sala Cafe Bar). 'Research shows that LGBT people experience significant health problems, which are strongly linked to social exclusion, homophobic discrimination and ignorance. Concerns include mental health, suicide, alcohol, drugs and smoking', says Janine. 'Currently, health policy and health services tend to overlook how these risk factors relate to LGBT people.' The Centre has a drop-in information centre open on Mondays, 4 to 8pm and Wednesdays, 3 to 7pm. Or phone 523 1100.

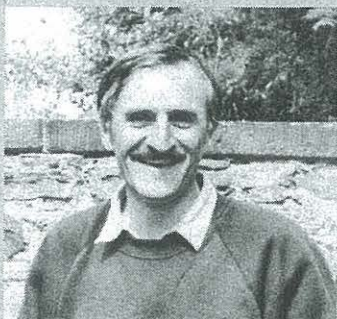


## BRIEFLY

**Correction!** Last month we drew attention to the danger that we might lose a local green space - the tennis club, children's wild play area and small patch of allotment that are tucked away up the lane between Bellevue Crescent and Scotland Street. We said the lease from the City Council ran out 2 years from now, and that developers were already interested in buying the site for housing. Councillor Davies tells us that in fact the lease does not expire until 28th November 2007: so the danger is more distant than local residents thought. But that wee green space still needs watching. Councillor Davies says 'the Council is not considering selling the land': let's hope that's still so 4 years from now.

*The Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden hold their first AGM on Thursday, 11th September, 7.30pm at the Annandale Street Mosque. A speaker from the Royal Botanic Garden will give an illustrated talk on 'The Leith Walk Garden'. Anyone who lives or works in the area is very welcome to come.*

Writer and drystane-dyker **Richard Love of Bellevue Place** contributed to an exhibition about John Muir, pioneer environmentalist - it's currently running at the Writers' Museum in Lady Stair's House. He and an artist joined a group of adults with learning difficulties on an expedition to the Pentlands. The results are a wall hanging based on the rag rugs once made on the east coast, which would have been familiar to John Muir himself; and poems and prose from members of the group, inspired by their experience in the Pentlands.



*Continued from page 1*

### How much will Broughton Street suffer?

*We asked Broughton's councillor, Trevor Davies, for his reaction to the Report, and his thoughts on any knock-on effect for Broughton Street.*

'Naturally, I am pleased that the Planning Enquiry Reporters have so convincingly supported the Council's plans. I am convinced that the CETM Plan is right for the future prosperity of the city as a whole, though it will have some detrimental effects on Broughton Street. Those effects, I believe along with the Reporters, will not be as bad as some fear. But they do need to be taken seriously and action taken to ameliorate them. I will now press, within the Council, for the implementation of the Broughton-Stockbridge Route Action Plan, at least for the stretch from Broughton Street to Rodney Street. This plan will improve pedestrian safety from the present position and make loading and unloading easier than at the moment for shoppers and traders. I will also press for regular air

pollution monitoring as takes place in other parts of the city centre - though we should all note that Edinburgh is one of the least polluted cities in the country.

I also intend to discuss with local residents any other measures that they think might be needed. And let's all remember - the CETM is a management measure. It is not designed to reduce significantly the volumes of traffic coming into the city centre. For that we will have to rely on the next stage in the Council's strategy: the combination of massive public transport investment with congestion charging. With this decision from the Reporters the Council can now start on that process.'

*The best way forward, for us in Broughton, is to go back to the original RAP proposals and press for their implementation in full by the City Council. We'll follow this up in **Spurtle** next month.*

### BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY

## New session starts with murder

September sees the start of a new session for the Broughton History Society, with a wide variety of talks and visits on offer. Sometimes the focus will be very local: a talk on buildings of Broughton Street by Mansfield Place resident Hamish Scott, based on his own recent University research, in October; and 'Broughton Memories' from a panel of local residents, in January. Sometimes the context will be Edinburgh-wide: Edinburgh Cable Tramways, the Empire and Palladium theatres, the collections of Edinburgh University, and 'the post-war Polish colony in Edinburgh'. But first off is 'The Appin Murder' on Monday, 22nd September. Like all the following meetings, this one is in Drummond Community High School - 7.15pm for coffee or tea, with talks starting at 7.30pm prompt. This is a good time to come along, see what you make of the first meeting, and decide whether to join the Society.



*The oldest surviving buildings in Broughton Street stand out because of their unpolished stonework. They date from the 18th century, and once belonged to the Gayfield Estate.*

### McDONALD ROAD LIBRARY

## Not long now!



After being closed for a year's refurbishment, the public library in McDonald Road is due to open again this autumn. Ewan McCormick of the City's library service told **Spurtle**: 'Facilities have been improved in line with user views and comments. An expanded range of stock will ensure that resources reflect the cultural diversity of the community, and for the first time these will all be available from an integrated service on the ground floor.'

As we go to press, the mural illustrating Broughton's long and colourful history should be coming out of storage and being put up in a prominent position within the Library. The list of improvements to be revealed when the building opens to the public is a long one: complete internal redecoration; nearly 16,000 new books; new CD collection and listening points; children's and

young people's areas with Playstation2; Ethnic Services collection moved to the ground floor, allowing for improved access and expansion of service; a staff team with community language skills; additional PCs with free internet access, community language software and software for disabled people; a learning centre and study area upstairs, with free internet access; courses and taster sessions for internet, e-mail and word-processing; a community meeting space for hire; public toilets, including baby-changing facilities; lift access to all levels; improved access for disabled users; new counter with hearing loop and improved access for wheelchair users; and better access for housebound and Library Link customers, including a new library link service for older people from the minority ethnic community.

### SOUND FAMILIAR?

'It seemed that Edinburgh City Council was about to use three well-worn tactics: first, bluster - telling the troublesome local community that its layperson's interpretation was wrong. second, technical superiority - that professionals had now assessed the situation and finally, there was always the old standby of delay - letters were replied to belatedly, or indeed not at all.'

A report from Broughton activists campaigning to save the community route through Drummond playground? No: the quote actually refers to a case study in Kevin Dunion's book, 'Troublemakers: The Struggle For Environmental Justice in Scotland', published in May this year. But it does sound familiar.

Meanwhile, as we go to press the group campaigning on Drummond awaits a date for its promised meeting with the Council's Executive Member for Education, Councillor Aitken.

## BRIEFLY

*The road surface in East London Street (what a mess!) was supposed to be repaired in late spring. Then Transco told the City Council they were going to dig up the street for a new gas main; so the work on the road surface was held off. Now Transco say they don't have to dig up the road after all: so the repair work can proceed - once the extra Festival traffic has cleared. 'Transco has held up the implementation of the 20mph scheme', says local councillor Trevor Davies. 'It's not possible to have an effective 20mph zone, unless all the entrances and exits have signs and speed-reducing measures. And we couldn't put those in at the entrances and exits of East London Street. Now that we can, it means that the whole 20mph zone for Broughton should go 'live' in September or October.'*

Readers may already have heard that there have been 43 objections to the scheme to protect homes near the Water of Leith from flooding. Some objections may be resolved by negotiation, but it's likely others will require a public inquiry - which could delay the scheme by up to 2 years, and make it more expensive. 'The Council is determined to press ahead with protecting people in Broughton and elsewhere from floods, and extra monies will have to come from other parts of planned expenditure - already we are having to delay some road maintenance schemes and divert money to flood prevention', Councillor Davies told **Spurtle**.

*Stepfamily Scotland works to provide support and information to members of stepfamilies and those who work with them. They're looking for more volunteers to help on their Helpline, with training beginning in the autumn. If you might be interested in volunteering, phone 225 8005. Or if you want to contact the Helpline itself, phone 225 5800.*

If you didn't make it during the Festival period, there's another **Open Day** at Mansfield Traquair Centre on Sunday, 14th September, 1 to 4pm. Free guided tours.