

Belle's View



Hi fans

Mighty me, the nights are fair drawing in! Sooooo tempting to fire up the electric blanket and crawl inside that fluffy all-in-one body slipper! But who wants to stay in when there's so much to do in happening Broughton and Bellevue?

For those looking for something to keep them supple and invigorated during the long winter, Bellevue has a brand new Ashtanga Yoga studio opening on 6 October at Union, 25 Rodney Street. Centre director Brian Cooper has been practising Ashtanga Vinyasa yoga for 35 years, and promises a unique new centre with cosy (yet hard-wearing) bamboo flooring. I was slightly alarmed by their poster which shows a naked young woman in the lotus position - but I am assured by the centre's staff that nudity is not compulsory, and that loose and comfortable clothing can be worn! See www.unionyoga.co.uk for more information.

Hot news - swinging Broughton is going to be the location for Edinburgh's exclusive new club The Hallion, next door to Ego in Picardy Place. This new club for Edinburgh's movers and shakers is intended to be Edinburgh's version of London's Groucho Club. Apparently 200 of Edinburgh's elite will be invited to join and be asked to nominate other suitable persons for membership. I shall of course, be nominating the crème de la crème of Broughton society, my dear friend Estelle Murgatroyd. Although I fear it will take more than a shag pile carpet and a leather settee to tempt her away from her current home-from-home, The Phoenix Bar. And she will only join if she can wear her big hairy hat!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

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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 School. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Jessica Miller, Secretary, 558 1025

BE A VOLUNTEER AT CONTACT POINT DROP-IN

We urgently need volunteers for evening sessions at our city centre drop-in.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

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DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Education chief rules out meeting

In mid-July a delegation from the 'Save Our Steps' Group presented a petition signed by 700 local people to the Deputy Director of Education. The petition called for the community route by Cochran Terrace steps to be restored, and a guarantee that community access to Drummond playground would not be eroded.

The delegation was promised a meeting with Councillor Aitken, Executive Member for Education, as soon as possible after he returned from holiday. Six weeks later the Group got a letter from Councillor Aitken himself. He wrote that there was 'now a real need to draw a line under' the issue: 'I do not think any further discussions would be particularly helpful.' And he asked that discussion should now move on to how best use can be made of the refurbished school, as a 'community resource'.

The local campaign group has written back to Councillor Aitken: 'It is not really possible to "draw a line under" those issues until the 700 people who signed have had a public response to their petition. We hoped for progress towards such a response when we met you. We also hoped to discuss with you how those issues of access are bound up with the future relationship

between Drummond and the local community. One way or another, that discussion needs to take place before local people can be convinced that the school and its improved facilities will indeed be a "community resource".'

Our local Community Council is now trying to open up that discussion, starting with an October meeting with Drummond School Board.

IS BROUGHTON LEFT TO TAKE THE RAP?

Broughton Street traffic

In last month's edition, *Spurtle* reported on the Council's scheme for Central Edinburgh Traffic Management (CETM) and the need 'to go back to the original Route

Action Plan (RAP) proposals and press for their implementation in full'. It is essential that RAP becomes central to CETM going ahead if there is to be any chance of the profound effects on Broughton Street being minimised, far less avoided.

Continued on page 2



Redbraes Residents Association are now serving breakfast in the hut in Redbraes Park, 9.30 to 12.30 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. *Spurtle* went along to sample what was on offer. You can have a full cooked breakfast, or settle for a filled roll. Verdict: excellent! To the left, Redbraes residents-and-activists Davie Thomson and George Hosey at work in the kitchen; to the right, some of the satisfied customers get stuck in.

BRIEFLY

The Stafford Centre in Broughton Street is holding an **Open Day on Friday, 10th October**, 12 noon to 3pm, as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. Information, cafe, homebaking, stalls. Free entry. For more information, phone 557 0718.

Hamish Scott of Mansfield Place will speak on 'Buildings of Broughton Street' at the local History Society's next meeting - Monday, 13th October, 7.15 at Drummond Community High.

Residents' associations and other community groups from across Broughton have been discussing **matters of mutual concern**. The idea has been to identify problems and opportunities, and then meet relevant Council figures to find 'tailored' solutions for this ward. Traffic, rubbish and dog mess are the perennial problems facing locals, with worries about planning and green spaces also figuring large. Councillor Trevor Davies will chair a meeting with CEC officials in early November, time and venue to be confirmed later.

In early October, children at Broughton Primary School will record songs for release on a CD. Profits from sales will go towards school funds. A perfect Christmas gift?

As reported previously in **Spurtle**, local MP Mark Lazarowicz campaigned in the UK Parliament to persuade government to oppose plans to abolish the system of hallmarking silver - which could have meant lost jobs at the **Scottish Assay Office in Broughton Street**. His campaign has been successful: the UK Government has now made it clear it will strongly oppose any European rules which would abolish the tradition of independent hallmarking.

'Fed up with the soaps? Life in the fast lane too hectic? Stop the rat-race car and give life a lift home! Promote social inclusion and get involved. Why miss out? Volunteer to share your interests with a young disabled person aged 11 to 21.' If you have a few hours a week or fortnight to spare, contact Rajan at Edinburgh Sitters Befriending Service, on 557 3121.

Continued from page 1

Broughton to take the rap?

Given that it was 'way back in February 2000 that **Spurtle** first reported on the original proposal before the Transportation Committee for what became the RAP plan, it is as well to remind ourselves just how essential the Broughton section of RAP is. Even then, before the full impact of traffic

roads with the main road, and the intended slowing of traffic generally would allow the introduction of 20 mph zones in these areas. (Since then, the only actual development has been the watered-down option of so-called refuge islands at Albany Street instead of the controlled pedestrian crossing originally mooted for there.)

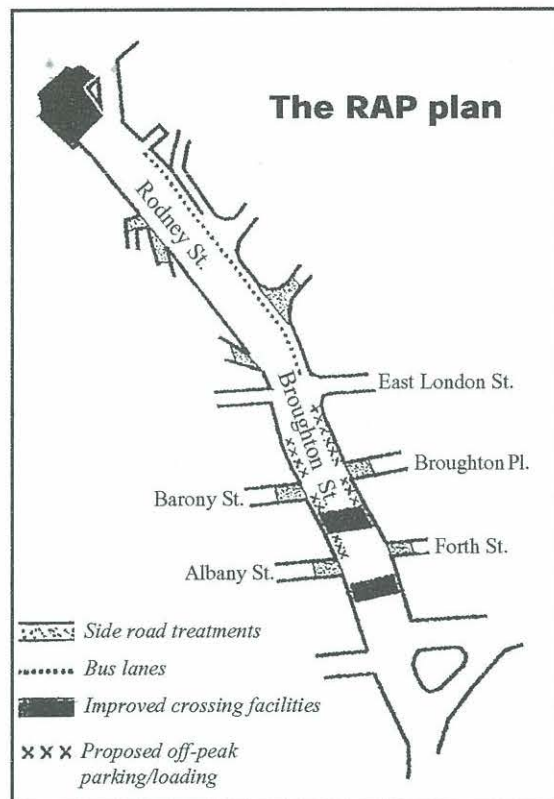
Last month we quoted Gavin MacGregor, Chair of the Broughton Village Association as being 'overwhelmingly disheartened ... that there is no dedicated funding to implement the proposals in full'. He tells us that, since then, he has had assurances from local councillors Trevor Davies and David Guest that RAP needs to be addressed, giving us 'time to lobby' and 'to press hard in coming months and years'.

This is less than reassuring. Council officials have stated that £100K is available for financial year 2004/5 - to be applied to a problem junction at Stockbridge. (And fair enough. Remember, there are other areas on the RAP route with equal claim!) A further

£135K is budgeted for 2005/6, so far untargeted. Further, the Council 'do not have any plans available... as nobody is actually working on the project presently. Funding... next year... would allow... drawings and consultation'.

So, three-and-a-half years after **Spurtle** first raised this, and a risible amount of funding in the offing for what everyone (sort of!) acknowledges needs to be done, where are we? This is simply not good enough. Yes, the city centre needs managing. But it is not Broughton which should be taking the rap.

We can surely now unite in campaigning for the full implementation of RAP in Broughton.



management proposals had thudded home, the Council recognised the need to 'mitigate the adverse effects of traffic as a result of any changes in the city centre'. Now that these changes are about to become a reality, there is still no commitment to financing the strategies to cope with them. There was a need to upgrade Broughton Street anyway - now, this is vital.

Our diagram shows what RAP intended. Included are bus and cycle lanes, vehicle waiting and loading bays, and pedestrian crossing improvements with changed priorities for vehicles and pedestrians at the London Street roundabout. Road entry narrowing, raised tables, hatchings and islands feature on the junctions of side

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

New minister chosen



The congregation of Broughton St Mary's will have a new minister at work in November. After sifting through applications and hearing various ministers who had applied, the vacancy committee unanimously recommended Joanne Hood as 'sole nominee'. Trainee Minister at Colinton Parish Church, she has now reached the end of her training and this will be her first charge.

In the church's September magazine, committee convener Stuart Brown urged the congregation: 'As a committee we would ask you to set aside any preconceptions you may have about the gender, or age (or place of birth!) of a Minister and accept Joanne for the gifts she will undoubtedly bring to our church'. The congregation did just that on 14th September, when they voted after hearing her preach.

'We're all very excited', church magazine editor Diane Chisholm told **Spurtle**, 'with lots of ideas and raring to go!'

HOPETOUN CRESCENT GARDEN

The Bug Lady reports

On 11th September the Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden held their first AGM. Around 20 people attended and the official AGM Agenda business was moved through swiftly. But there were three items about which everyone got very animated.

Dog Crap: There was general agreement that it was a small group of irresponsible owners who spoiled the Garden for everyone; but there was also approval given to the suggestion that dogs should be kept on a leash; and a strong voice for pursuing the idea of getting dogs banned from the Garden altogether.

The Setts: Bryants have offered to pay for six new benches in the Garden to replace the present trestle-style seats, and the Parks Department have offered Caithness Stone for the bases - as we cannot keep the setts 'for Health & Safety' reasons.

There were reports from three members of the committee: the Tree Lady (Julie Johnston of Gayfield Square); the Bird Man (Mitchell Manson of Huntingdon Place) and maybe most interesting of all the Bug Lady (Jane Ellis of Annandale Street). Jane reported that two bugs (yellow leafhoppers) have made their home in the Garden which is the *only known* site for these bugs in the Lothians - and one of them is rare in north Britain.

Alan Bennell from the Botanic Garden gave an enthralling talk, illustrated by slides, of how the Leith Walk Garden came about and its move to the Inverleith site. Not only fun but we learned a tremendous amount of history too!

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Eileen Dickie and Tim Puntis.

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Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

Friends of Hoptoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

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

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, Weds. 6.30pm-7pm during school terms

Cllr David Guest

New Town Ward

558 8823 or 529 4268

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Malcolm Chisholm MSP

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Mark Lazarowicz, MP

557 0577

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