



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
Mitchell Manson 557 1933

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

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

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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
Tel & Fax: 556 0903 / 556 7727 Email: broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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

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Eml.: broughton_prop@ednet.co.uk

Malcolm Chisholm MSP
Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU
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Fax: 0131-557 6781
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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,

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Mark Lazarowicz
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EH7 5HU Tel: 0131 557 0577
Fax: 0131 557 5759
mlazarowicz@email.labour.org.uk

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

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 109

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BROUGHTON TRAFFIC

Residents demand action

Last month we urged Broughton residents and businesses to unite in campaigning for the implementation of RAP – the City Council's 'Route Action Plan' for improving the Broughton to Stockbridge traffic corridor.

Broughton Village Association have allied themselves firmly alongside this move. The occasion was the BVA's Open Evening and AGM on 23rd October, when local people had the chance to examine the Council's

original plans for transforming the Broughton Street area. The association have been at the forefront of moves to bring the RAP proposals back to the top of the agenda – in the face of impending deterioration of conditions on Broughton Street when the city-centre traffic management plans are implemented, and the Council's general disinclination to commit to RAP action which was foreseen by their own plans back in April 2000.

Continued on page 2

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Who's in charge?

Recently representatives of the Community Council met the School Board of Drummond Community High, to discuss ways of improving communication between school and local community. The general feeling amongst community representatives was that all was not well; and that consultation had been seriously lacking in the school's move to close the pedestrian route via the steps in Cochran Terrace. More positively, practical suggestions were accepted all round on how to improve future relations between Drummond and the local community.

When the question of community access to the playground was raised, the response from the City Education official in attendance seemed only to confirm unanswered questions rather than provide answers. He said that though the position will remain unchanged for the meantime, future access arrangements could not be confirmed until further negotiations with the private company that will now be responsible for managing

facilities at Drummond. An undertaking was given to local groups to inform them of the outcome. So just who will determine the extent of community access to the school's facilities and under what conditions remains a wide open question.

Community access to Drummond's playground was one of the issues raised in the petition signed by 700 local people earlier this year. Since the petition was presented to the City's Education Department in July, there has been no response to this. So the petition organisers arranged to present it again, this time at a meeting of the full City Council. This was to have happened on 17th October: but when it emerged that the Council would be overwhelmed by the inquiry report into the tragic case of Caleb Ness at that meeting it was agreed to postpone until the November Council meeting. Executive Member for Education Cllr Aitken has now invited the 'Save Our Steps' Group to meet him prior to that full Council meeting.

**November
2003**
Tel: 556 0903
556 7727

EVENTS

Scotland Yard Adventure Centre's annual **Community Bonfire** takes place on **Wednesday, 5th November**, 6-8 pm at the Yard, 70 Eyre Place (next to George V Park). The fire will be started after a musical and torch-lit parade by children in masks and costumes. Music, BBQ, tea and coffee, soup and pakoras. This is a free, family event – no fireworks, no alcohol!

Back in March thousands of young folk from schools including Drummond Community High took to the streets to protest against war in Iraq. 'Old Enough To Know Better' is a film made by Edinburgh teenagers to document their experience, using camcorder coverage they took at the time. It will be shown at the Filmhouse, Lothian Road on Saturday, 8th November along with John Pilger's new film 'Breaking the Silence'; – 12.30 to 2.30pm.

In July and August we published extracts from reports sent back from the West Bank by Andrew Dickie, who'd joined Palestinians in non-violent opposition to the oppressive Israeli occupation. Symbolic of that oppression is the wall being built that divides families, cuts off homes from fields and workplaces, and makes it dangerous to access hospitals and other public services. **'The Wall Must Fall'**: join a protest meeting outside the City Chambers in the High Street, **Sunday 9th November** at 2pm.



EAST CLAREMONT STREET

Wheelie bins versus parking spaces

The arrival of communal wheelie bins in East Claremont Street has brought protests from some residents. 'An outrage', one anonymous protestor has been quoted as saying. 'They have no benefits for the environment. They are just big, ugly, smelly bins.'

Spurtle went to have a look. Yes, the bins could maybe be made more attractive looking. But 'giant bins', as they've frequently been called? Some of the vehicles parked alongside them were more bulky. And smelly? Unlikely to be as noxious as the fumes from parked cars as they arrive and depart.

Loss of parking spaces to make room for the bins is perhaps the main cause of discontent. Since they were installed some drivers have begun to park in the centre of the street, beyond the end of the central island. As we go to press, we understand the police have put warning notices on some windscreens but have not yet removed offending vehicles.



Since wheelie bins arrived in East Claremont Street some drivers have started parking in the centre of the street



Some parked vehicles are bulkier than the 'giant' bins

Continued from page 1

Residents demand action on traffic

The meeting looked at particular matters contained in the Council's definitive Report of 18th September – or rather *not* contained. Omitted was a statement in the Scottish Executive Inquiry that, though it is 'considered acceptable' – 'according to the Council's risk assessment, the highest level of risk of pedestrians being struck by vehicles as a result of the increased traffic on this route is in Broughton Street'. Nor was it mentioned that the Inquiry had 'no doubt that the City of Edinburgh Traffic Management proposals would result in a significant increase in overall traffic along the (Broughton to Stockbridge) corridor'.

What was in the Council Report was a further statement that 'The Council is already committed to introducing

the first 20mph zone in the city centre area (Broughton) on 26th May 2003'. This will come as news to the residents of Broughton! So much for the fairness and accuracy of the information before our Council when making far-reaching decisions on long-term policy for city-centre living.

But the cudgels are now being taken up. These and many other issues contained in RAP remain wide open. The city-centre plans and the RAP proposals are inevitably interlinked. The BVA hope you will support them in making the Council accountable for this. Contact can be made with the Association's Chair, Gavin MacGregor, on 556 7727 or Secretary, Stephanie Harvey, on 557 2762 (daytime).

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BROUGHTON TO BARCELONA

Local campaigner at health conference

Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road is not long home from a big international Dermatology conference in Barcelona. She was invited to attend as the founder of a support group for psoriasis sufferers:

they wanted to find out what's happening in Scotland, she says.

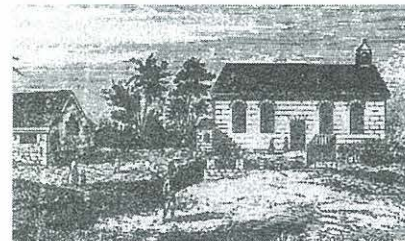
The interest was welcome, as even in neighbouring England 'you wouldn't believe how clueless they are down south about what happens in Scotland'. The London

media often doesn't acknowledge the existence and work of charities in Scotland – for example the BBC programme 'City Hospital', as far as work on psoriasis is concerned. But Janice hopes a film due for release in November will spark increased general awareness of psoriasis, with a positive effect for her own campaigning in Scotland. Mel Gibson and Robert Downie star in Dennis Potter's 'The Singing Detective', which shows in dramatic form what it can mean to suffer from psoriasis.

Psoriasis is a non-contagious chronic auto-immune skin disorder. For more information phone Janice on 558 7221, or go to www.psoriasisScotland.org.uk

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

The Jamaica connection



An historical link between Broughton and the Caribbean was recently reinforced. The congregation of Broughton St Mary's Church presented three silver communion cups to their mission partners working in

Jamaica. The cups belonged to the Broughton Place Church (which became a 'united charge' with St Mary's eleven years ago), one going back to 1856 and the other two to 1912.

And the historical link? Back in 1835 the Broughton Place congregation appointed a missionary and sent him to Jamaica. A church and school were built: and the mission station was named 'New Broughton'. New Broughton was fully supported by

PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Invasion of our pavements by drivers looking for a convenient place to park is a growing menace for pedestrians in Broughton – as elsewhere in Edinburgh. Prompted by Councillor Brian Meek, earlier this year the City Council called for a report 'on the increasing practice of cars being parked on pavements and what can be done to restrict it'. Apart from blocking the way for pedestrians, parking on pavements damages them – which means both a worse walking surface and expense for the Council. Last month councillors considered the report prepared by officials.

* *Driving* on a pavement is an offence, but *parking* on one is not: so there has to be evidence that the vehicle has been seen to be driven on the pavement. 'The offence cannot be assumed from the circumstances of a vehicle being parked on the footway'!

* Another offence that does exist is causing a vehicle 'to stand on a road so as to cause any unnecessary obstruction of the road. A footway is part of a road and therefore the police, in principle, can apply this offence in relation to vehicles parked on footways'. But case law has established that it is very difficult to do so in practice – and would require the police to give it high priority.

The Council decided to ask Scottish Ministers to urgently review the relevant legislation; to consider promoting local legislation to tackle the problem; and to convey its concern to the Chief Constable and the Procurator Fiscal Service.

the home congregation for the next hundred years, with the connection continuing through the 'mission partners' scheme thereafter.

Inspired by recent visits to and from Laing's Foundry in nearby Beaverbank, pupils at Broughton Primary created the mural that can now be seen along the front of the School.

