

**ADULT DAYTIME PROGRAMME 1995**

**COISIR GHAIHLIG**

**Drummond Community High School**  
Tel 556 2651

There are vacancies in the following classes, starting the week beginning 9 January.

- Monday 10-12 Sewing
- Tuesday 9.20-10.40 Maths for the terrified  
10.55-12.15 Car Maintenance for Women  
1.05-2.25 Painting and drawing for beginners
- Wednesday 9.30-10.30 Fitness training.
- Thursday 10-12 Parentlink. New ideas for getting on well with our children.  
10-12.15 Abstract Painting.  
11-12.15 Working with Clay  
1-3 Yoga
- Friday 9.20-10.20 Aerobics  
10-12 Tapestry (woven)  
10.30-11.30 Dance Exercise  
10.55-12.15 Keyboards (musical)

To enrol, come along on the day of your class a few minutes before the starting time.

Fees are £18.50 per Term  
Senior Citizens £8.50 per term  
Special offer- half price for second and subsequent classes.  
UB40 Free  
Creche 50p. per class.  
A CRECHE IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL OUR CLASSES  
For more information Phone Jane Meagher 556 2651

Tha an Coisir Ghaidhlig Lodainn ag iarraidh buill ur. Ma tha sibh ag iarraidh fiosrachadh neo ma tha deagh guth agaibh, rachaibh do'n Ard Sgoil Drummond eader 7f agus 10f air feasgar Diardaoin. Bidh an Coisir a dol don Mod ann am Muile agus Inbhir Nis an ath bhliandhna.

Lothian Gaelic Choir are looking for new members. Fluency in Gaelic is not necessary but a good singing voice would be preferable. If you want to find out more then go along to Drummond Community High School on a Thursday evening between 7pm and 10. The choir are hoping to take part in the local Mods in Mull and Inverness. Siuthad!  
Iain MacAdamh.

**IAN PATTISON**

On St Andrew's Day folk from Broughton were amongst friends who met to celebrate the life of Ian Pattison, who died earlier this year (October's Spurtle). People had a chance to speak informally in tribute to Ian. Then out in the street we released helium-filled balloons with personal messages attached.  
Thanks to friends at the Stafford Centre for making the arrangements and providing the hospitality.

**THE EDGE CAFE**  
60 Broughton Street  
031 556 0852  
For all Queers & non-Queers  
Open Daily Noon to Midnight  
Licensed  
10% to students with I.D.

**WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES**  
Picture Framing - Keys Cut  
Timber Boards Cut to Size  
Open Monday-Saturday  
9am-6pm 109 Broughton Street  
031-556 9672



# BROUGHTON SPURTLE

NEWS VIEWS ACTION  
Broughton • Gayfield Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 11

December/ January 1994/5

## CENTRE CLOSED

EMERGENCY!

THURS 1 DEC.

**"EARLY TODAY POLICE AND SHERIFF OFFICERS SMASHED INTO THE CENTRE AND EVICTED THE OCCUPANTS. AT THIS MOMENT SUPPORTERS OF THE CENTRE ARE AT 103 BROUGHTON STREET TO STOP OUR EQUIPMENT BEING REMOVED AND TO STOP THE CENTRE BEING BOARDED UP. WE ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP THE CENTRE OPEN. JOIN US!"**

Long before this emergency statement was rushed out supporters had begun to gather at the Centre. The action continued through to late afternoon. Vans and personnel sent to remove equipment and board up the building were turned back twice. In the end a force of over 70 police managed to clear a way through for them. 21 people were arrested. They were released in the early hours of next morning - some charged with breach of the peace, some not.

**WHY?**

The number of arrests could lead to wrong conclusions. Centre supporters linked arms and blocked the lane at the back of the building, to keep out the vans. They didn't attack anyone. It was some of the police officers who lost control, picking on individuals and tearing at clothing. That's worrying. Local police chiefs would be wise to take notice. We don't want to see the kind of excesses more often associated with London police.

But responsibility for setting up the confrontation lies with the Region's Social Work Committee. Interviewed for STV, Committee convenor Brian Cavanagh managed to stand the truth on its head: They have deliberately tried to provoke a confrontation with this authority. We did not want a confrontation." We are well aware of the complex history behind the dispute over the Centre. But whatever the earlier rights and wrongs, in recent months it is the Social Work Committee that has refused anything but confrontation.

Faced with the threat of closure, the Centre's users worked out an agreement with the local Community



Council which then applied for a temporary lease of the building. The application included plans to continue existing services offered by the Centre and develop new ones. Social Work refused to discuss those proposals while the current users were still in the Centre. Which also makes nonsense of the councillor's other statement: that his Committee has been prevented from using the building for more vital services to the local community, such as a centre for the under fives and elderly.

**What next for the Centre?**



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Commenting on the eviction, Community Council vice-chairman Dave Rushton said: "It shows the authoritarianism that exists in this city's politics." It's a sentiment that many in the Broughton area will echo. Remember the closure of the independent Citizens Rights Office in Broughton Street, coupled with the opening of the Region's own welfare rights office up the Bridges? And the way another Regional committee handled the closure of London Street Primary School?

### What next for the Centre?

The Centre lies boarded up and empty. But there are already plans for how to continue its work.

- A stall outside the building at lunch times, Monday to Saturday, offering free food and information
- Discussion of alternative premises nearby, following an offer of help phoned in on the day of the eviction
- A demonstration at the Centre on Saturday, 10th December, 2pm

**Contact:** by phone 557 0427, or mail care of the Peace and Justice Centre, Princes Street.

### SPURTLE YEAR ONE

This is your last Spurtle for 1994. We're taking a month's break over Christmas and the New Year so your next issue will be early February 1995.

How do you think we have done in our first year? We print 1000 copies each month, and they seem to disappear fast. We've had some encouraging comments.

But we do want more feedback to make sure we continue to get things right for our second year.

How well do you think we are pursuing our aims listed in the box below?

What do you think of the content over the first 11 issues? What about the way Spurtle is presented, especially the layout and design?

Your comments would be very welcome. Before 1995 arrives!

THE 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!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

### BURN YOUR FUEL BILLS



Protesters met at The Mound on Tuesday night, 29th November, to light a brazier and invite members of the public to burn their fuel bills.

Hopes had been dashed earlier in the day that the Chancellor would scrap the planned rise in VAT on domestic fuel, from 8% to 17.5%.

Ian Lang failed yet again to stand up for Scottish interests on such a crucial issue. Explanations of the compensation package available to low incomes were even less convincing - on average these amount to £6 a year, or 10p a week. Even less comfort to me is the claim that the VAT levy is aimed at reducing carbon dioxide emissions, in order to achieve Rio Earth Summit objectives!

Get fired up and show your opposition, you can't afford to ignore this tax. Everyone can and should take part at any level they feel comfortable with:

- non-payment of total fuel bills
- withhold the VAT element
- write to your local MP, power company, media
- build up your local group.

For more information contact Evelyn Graham 556 6203

Contributors to this issue: Evelyn Graham, Jane Meagher, John Adams, John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Worthington and Tommy Perman.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the BROUGHTON SPURTLE please contact us as soon as possible! We plan to publish about once a month.

**BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place have agreed to be our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903**

### SLOW DOWN BROUGHTON

#### Letters About the Demo

I thought the Slow Down action, in spite of heavy rain, was excellent, but it is quickly and easily forgotten, especially by the drivers, most of whom probably gave it no more thought once they had passed the last sign.

Because of that I think it would be good to do something on a regular basis: whatever is necessary to make drivers aware that people's lives are more important than cars or the time needed to get somewhere.

You mentioned a racetrack where drivers can work off their need to speed - but let them do it by getting on their feet and giving their legs a chance to move.

Peter Galinsky  
Broughton Place

We must continue with these demonstrations, to ensure that the authorities are left in no doubt about the concern of the majority of residents in this area for the safety of pedestrians.

More power to your excellent publication.

George and Stella Shearer  
East Claremont Street

#### Saturday morning vigils

Local folk have started a series of Saturday morning vigils in Broughton Street. You may have seen a small group, armed with SLOW DOWN placards, standing at the Just Junk corner. It only takes a few people to make a bit of an impact.

Join in! We meet at the bus stop near Crombies at 11am. Just for 30-45 minutes. Please phone beforehand to let us know you're coming, and make sure it's happening that Saturday (556 6203 or 556 0903).

#### Lobbying the Region

Remember previous Spurtle reports on deputations to the Transportation Committee? The Region's committed

to traffic calming measures in Annandale Street, Forth Street, Hart Street and Broughton Place.

They also said that there would be more public consultation about proposals for elsewhere in the Broughton area. There's to be a public exhibition held locally "early in 1995". But members of Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association had been given the impression that consultation would get under way before the end of this year.

Now they've written to transportation convenor David Begg to find out what's going on.

#### Attention Broughton Drivers!

Here's a simple way to support the campaign for safer local roads. Display a "Slow Down in Broughton" sticker on your rear window.

And they're free! Phone 556 0903 if you're interested.

### SCOTTISH REFUGEE COUNCIL



This month we profile an organisation which has a national remit, but has its base in Broughton Street.

We exist to provide support, advice and practical assistance to refugees arriving and living in Scotland. Our clients come from a range of countries - for example, Bosnia, Sudan, Somalia, Iraq, Iran, Sri Lanka.

Refugees are people who have escaped intolerance, persecution, torture or fear of death. Britain has a long tradition of giving refuge to such people, and is a signatory to the UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951). This Convention recognises the rights of refugees to seek protection in another state if she or he has well-founded fear of persecution of his or her nationality - for reasons of race, religion,

nationality, political opinion or social group.

However in recent years legislation has made it increasingly difficult for those seeking refuge to enter Britain. For those who do, the likelihood of being refused asylum is becoming greater. Refugees are being criminalized as they are now required to be fingerprinted and are subject to detention.

We campaign for better services and understanding of the problems that refugees in Scotland face. Given the opportunity, refugees can make a positive contributions to our society, as many bring skills and qualifications. Unfortunately, the reality for most of our clients is isolation, depression, racial harassment and poverty.

We help refugees to articulate their experiences, to put their case for asylum effectively, and to settle and build a new life, whether they hope to stay in Scotland or return to their country of origin when it is safe to do so.

A Christmas concert in aid of the Council will take place in St. John's Church, Princes Street, on Saturday 10th December at 7.30pm. Centrepiece of the programme will be the "Missa Luba", a mass in the Congolese style. A limited number of tickets will be sold on the door (£6, £4 concessions).

The Council's office, at 43 Broughton Street, is open from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. (phone 557 8083/4)

#### ADVERTISE IN SPURTLE

We are now taking local adverts  
But only a few each issue!  
A space about this size costs £5  
If interested, phone 556 0903

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN ANNANDALE STREET

This issue of the Broughton Spurtle is being delivered to your door but we can't afford to do that every time.

Look out for the February edition in local centres, shops and pubs.