

ALL IS REVEALED

The two new offices at 2 and 4 Bellevue Street have been a bit of a mystery to locals. Readers may remember the Dairy that occupied the same premises up to 1975, with its 24 hour Automatic Shop (woodbine, matches, chocolates etc!), fresh warm milk three times daily' and 'ices hygienically made'. It was replaced by A and A Fruit Store – who stayed until 1989.

Since then the site has been redeveloped for offices. A petition to prevent the pavement parking was unsuccessful; but the new offices did improve the appearance of the shop fronts.



Link Training are at No.2, and this provides vocational training programmes for people seeking employment. They provide the link between employer and trainee, and arrange placements in workplaces.

The other office at No.4 had their business revealed as VOCAL, Voice of Carers Across Lothian, when Princess Anne opened the new office recently. There are many people who care for relatives, etc., who are often under stress and need help, so VOCAL will speak for them on issues which affect their lives and finances. Advice and assistance will be made available to them.

Bellevue Street and Melgund Terrace were cleared of cars for the Princess's visit – a sight not seen for many, many years! The Lord and Lady Provost were in attendance, arriving in their official car, whilst the Princess drove her own Range Rover.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have dates for local events in April and early May, please let us know as soon as possible.

Tuesday 14th March McDonald Rd. Community Meeting in the Nelson Hall, McDonald Rd. Library 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th March Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association open meeting at Drummond, 7pm. Traffic Calming Measures Update + Guest Speaker. Local historian John Dickie will give an illustrated talk on Broughton's past.

Thursday 16th March Spurtle meeting at The Edge cafe, Broughton Street, 8pm.

Friday 31st March Closing day for comments on Broughton Traffic calming exhibition

Monday 3rd April New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets in Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm.

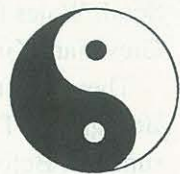
Every Monday "Senior Eastenders" Club for the over 50s, at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 2-4pm – refreshments, games, quizzes, carpet bowls, outings.

Every Tuesday Open Meeting at The Centre, St. Stephen Centre, St. Stephen Street, 6pm.

Every Tuesday Youth Club for 14-18 year-olds, at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 7.30-9.30pm – coffee bar, snooker, table tennis, quizzes, trips, workshops and more.

CH'ING MING

26th March



This Chinese festival is the first occasion in the new year when family graves are visited. After cleansing them and sweeping them, offerings are made to spirits and many picnic by the grave to "join" their ancestors in the feast. Families make a special effort to be together and return to the family graveyard.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

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McDONALD ROAD ALERT

"An ugly joined-up-matchboxes sort of design". The words of local resident George Reiss, after studying plans for flats to be built in McDonald Road.



Proposed site from Hopetoun Street

Barratt Homes, one of the UK's largest house building firms, plans to build 171 tenement flats on the site which is currently British Telecom's vehicle park. It's a 5.7 million pound project.

"In most respects the design is pretty hideous. The materials used are all wrong, orange bricks instead of Edinburgh stone, dull concrete roofing instead of slates. This looks like an attempt to do the job on the cheap, with no regard to anything or anyone else in the locality", says George Reiss.

"And the proposed new flats have 5 stories. Apparently the City Planning Department recommended this on the grounds that the height of the buildings on both sides of the road should be the same. One reason I bought my first floor flat in McDonald Road was the open view and the sun flooding in, even on a winter's afternoon. We must find out exactly how much sunlight will be lost, especially to ground floor flats. One possibility is that the roofline on

any new development could be kept on a line with the Neighbours pub building."

More play space for more children? "I couldn't spot any open space at all in the Barratt proposal – as a minimum any such plan is supposed to include 10% open amenity space." And what about extra demand for parking spaces?

There will be a community meeting on Tuesday, 14th March where you can ask your questions and air your views. The meeting will be in the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library, 7.30pm.

CENTRE COSTS UPDATE

Last month we reported the Community Council's efforts to find out what it cost to evict users from The Centre in Broughton Street.

They've had a two page answer from the Police, explaining what happened on the day of the eviction itself, from their point of view – and giving the cost as £5300, "at a conservative estimate."

The Social Work Department wrote back to say they were not prepared to release information on the costs of keeping the centre closed and guarded – until after some future report to the Social Work Committee. Watch this space – in hope, or resignation?

Do you remember the 24 hour Automatic Shop? – see back page

Clothes off in local launderette: page 3



“Speed cameras elsewhere in Edinburgh make me a better driver, and I think the local measures in Broughton will help do that too”, says local driver.

Raised carriageway, junction tables, chicanes – all last week proposals for traffic calming in the Broughton area were on display in McDonald Road Library. And nearby in Annandale Street, you could see what those ideas look like in practice.

Spurtle went along to sound out local opinion. What did Walter Faulkner of Bellevue Road think? “The exhibition



Walter Faulkner

would have been better with local photographs. It’s a bit too low key. But when it’s all finished it will be a big improvement.” Driver Alexander McCutcheon: “Speed cameras elsewhere in Edinburgh make me a better driver, and I think the local measures in Broughton will help do that too.”

An office worker in Hopetoun Crescent, who drives down Annandale Street everyday had mixed feelings: “The roundabout at Annandale Street is an excellent idea, but I’m not sure that a bus and a car



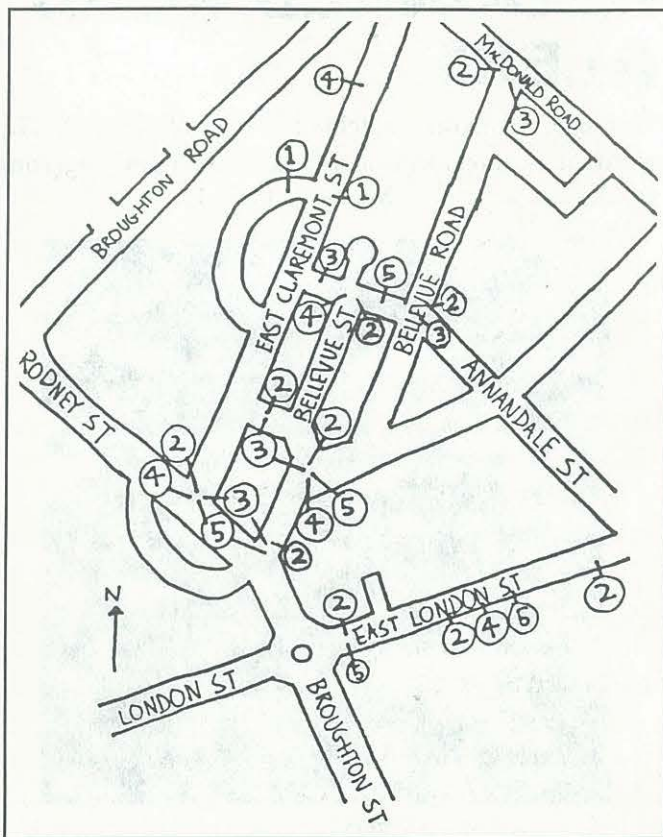
Cloudberry Maclean

could pass each other where the road has been narrowed. There’s a lot of traffic uses this road and it’s going to get slowed down.” Cloudberry Maclean felt this sort of scheme could only be part of the answer: “Traffic calming doesn’t make the real problem go away. We need reorganisation of all traffic, with free public transport servicing all needs.”

If you didn’t manage along to the exhibition, there’s still a chance to catch up with the details at the Bellevue and Claremont Residents’ meeting on 15th March (see DATES FOR YOUR DIARY).

There were reply paid forms available at the exhibition, with an invitation to send in comments to the Region by the end of March. So there’s still time to make your views known. In Broughton we’ve had some bad experience of so-called consultation by the powers-that-be: remember

the Education Department’s “consultation” before they closed down London Street Primary? But this could be the genuine article. The outline proposals do reflect much of what was suggested locally, at a series of public meetings. Write to the Director of Transportation, 18-19 Market Street, EH1 1BL.



- ① one-way traffic system
- ② raised carriageway, forcing drivers to slow down and making it easier for pedestrians to cross at junctions
- ③ blisters, adding to pavements and making crossing distances shorter for pedestrians
- ④ paved area
- ⑤ seeded area (plants)

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.

Contributors to this issue: Archie Bell, Jane Meagher, Jean Bell, John Dickie, Jude Devereaux, George Reiss, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman, and Tom Worthington.

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

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our “postbox”. You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time OR PHONE – 556 7928 or 556 0903

WHO KILLED JOHN FRASER?



Do you recognise this building? Look at the right-hand chimney. It was here that a tragic death took place last century.

Now Alliance offices, this was Albany Street Chapel, built in 1816. Just a year later there was a suspected blockage in the chimney-vent, and the chimney-sweep was called. The sweep’s apprentice was ordered to climb the chimney from bottom to top, and clear any blockage. 11-year old John Fraser started up the chimney, but got stuck. He stayed there all day, while his master first cursed him for being too lazy to move and then tried pulling him down with a rope tied to his ankle. When eventually they did get him down, he was dead.

His master was found guilty of culpable homicide and transported to New South Wales for 14 years. Young John Fraser is buried in a pauper’s grave in Greyfriars Kirkyard, a few yards away from the famous “Bobby”.

There are many buildings which have their own part in the history of Broughton. There are plans for guided walks around the area during the summer. Before that, a group hope to make a frieze illustrating Broughton’s story. And in September Drummond’s programme of adult classes will include one on life in this area during the nineteenth century.

If you’re interested in any of those activities, contact Jane Meagher at the School (556 2651).

THE EDGE CAFE

60 Broughton Street

Open Daily
9am (early in the morning)
to 1am (late at night)
Licensed bar
Hendersons’ food
Friendly mixed atmosphere
10% off to students with ID

BELLEVUE AND CLAREMONT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WHY NOT JOIN?

Only £3 per household,
£1 individual, per annum.
Support our efforts to keep this part of Edinburgh a great place to live!
Phone 556 0903 or 556 5923 or call in at 22 Eat Claremont Street.

CLOTHES OFF AT LOCAL LAUNDERETTE

On Thursday 16th February the launderette in East London Street was the venue for Keith Chegwin and the Big Breakfast Show. Annette the manageress had had prior warning of this, and as she watched it in the comfort of her own home another member of the staff, Joan, was coping with the film crew.

There weren’t many customers in the launderette so early. Joan was asked to explain the process of washing clothes in the launderette – and the intricacies of remembering what washing belongs to whom! A young man, part of the crew, rushed in and removed his outer clothing. Annette tells me this happens sometimes with her customers, with young men sitting in their underwear, waiting for the washing to dry.

Apparently our local launderette is often used by media crews, for documentaries and educational programmes. Annette thinks it must be on a list within media circles, as an interesting place to meet and talk to people.

So you never know what celebrity you might bump into next time you drop in!

MORE COMMENTS ON SPURTLE

“The issue about the Unemployed Workers Centre was brilliant.”

Sonia Exley, Bellevue Road

“I really enjoy the Spurtle, and I’d like to hear more about the history of the area.”

Gina Reilly, West Annandale Street

“It is of paramount importance that there is a centralised voice for people in the area. Spurtle fulfils this – brilliant.”

Jane Coville, East Claremont Street

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