

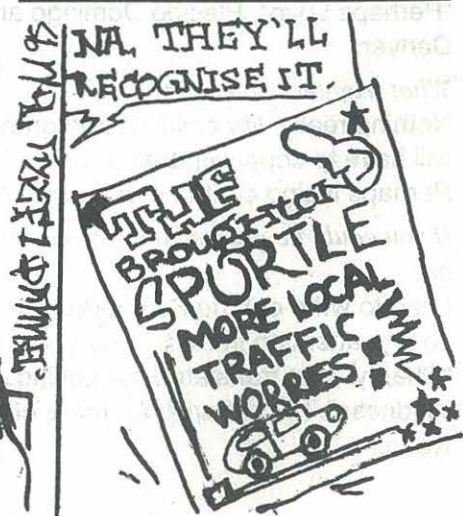
DRUMMOND SCOTTISH WEEK

Each year the Drummond Festivals group chooses festivals to celebrate. Past festivals have included Chinese New Year, Eid, Christmas, Diwali and a Caribbean Carnival. This year, as part of the Lothian Education Week, Drummond is celebrating the rich historical and multicultural heritage of Scotland with a Scottish Week from Monday the 27th November to Friday 1st December.

The week will include special events for students including storytelling workshops, a visit to the 'paraffin' Young Exhibition, projects on multicultural Edinburgh, a debate on Scottish independence and many more activities. Some events are open to the local community who may come into the school and work with the students, others are specifically designed for adults such as a local history walk, a slideshow and talk on the pleasure gardens of Edinburgh, and a Water of Leith walk.

The week will end with a Scottish evening of song and dance featuring The Caledonian Ceidlihd Band on Friday 1st December in the school. Tickets are £3.50 and £1.50 for concessions.

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TRAFFIC NEWS

- Traffic calming in West Annandale Street draws - slowly! - closer. The Regional Council is now inviting comments on the proposed road humps. Comments should be in by the first week in November; there will be opportunities to make formal objections at a later stage. (To phone the Region about the proposals, contact Mr Smyth - 527 5008)
- The Director of Transportation, George Hazel, will be guest speaker at an open meeting organised by Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association - Wednesday 1st November, Drummond Community High, 7.30pm. All welcome.
- Broughton Traffic Action Group are meeting in Broughton Street on Saturday afternoon, 25th November - 3 to 4pm. Come and hold a placard to help slow down the traffic! (phone contact: Jane Coville 556 1851).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events.

Deadline for our December issue is Fri. 24th November.

29 October to 5 November

"Out of the Blue-a life worth living", Special events at St. Pauls and St. Georges. (556 6212)

Wednesday 1st November

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association, open meeting. Guest Speaker George McLean Hazel, Director of Transportation. Drummond Community High, 7pm.

Thursday 2nd November

Vigil for women's rights, outside St. Mary's Cathedral, 5.30pm (and every first Thursday in the month).

Monday 6th November

Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Thursday 9th November

SPURTLE meeting at 59 Broughton Street, 2nd floor left-hand door, 8pm.

Saturday 25th November

Broughton Traffic Action Group in Broughton Street, 3 to 4pm.

Monday 27th November

Scots Week at Drummond Community High - look out for details of many varied events.

Saturday 2nd December

Fundraising Christmas Bazaar for St. Mary's Primary School playground project in St. Andrews Hall, St. Mary's Cathedral, 10am to 2.30pm.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 21

November 1995

ARE YOU UNEMPLOYED?

In October next year the new Job Seekers Allowance comes into force, replacing Unemployment Benefit and Income Support. Employment Office staff will be formed into 'Back To Work' teams, who will be trying to match claimants with jobs each time they sign-on.

There's already a pilot scheme in Reading, known as SBR - Stricter Benefit Regime, and Back To Work teams have already been set up there. The purpose of this is to get all "long-term" unemployed people (over 6 months on the dole) off the books. They are doing this through something known as 195 Action: the long-term unemployed are being asked to apply for hard-to-fill, low wage jobs; if they refuse the offer, or refuse to go to the interview, or agree to go and don't turn up - income support is immediately cut by 40%.

When the new scheme comes into full operation next October this will all be happening here too.

- The Employment Service will have wide discretionary powers to compel unemployed people to "make themselves more employable".
- This could include forcing claimants onto "training courses", and into workfare schemes where they will work in a job but only be "paid" benefit.
- The new law also gives powers to order claimants to have a haircut or change their appearance to make themselves "more presentable to employers".

If you're unemployed and live in Broughton, we'd like to hear what you think of the Job Seekers Allowance and how it will affect you. Write or phone to the Spurtle!



The Scots Evening will be the climax of a 'Scots Week' at Drummond, Monday 27th November to Friday 1st December. (See article on page 4) Look out for the programme of many events, daytime and evening, which will be publicised shortly - or phone Stephanie Oliver at the School for information (556 2651)

BROUGHTON STREET BIRTHDAY

In mid-October the gay organisation Outright Scotland celebrated its twentieth birthday at a ceremony at its base in Broughton Street. Local MP Malcolm Chisholm proposed the toast.

At the same time a £40,000 appeal was launched, to provide wheelchair access at the Broughton Street centre. Plans for the improvements are on display in the lobby outside the Eating Out cafe.

BROUGHTON FOR TEENAGERS

Last month we looked at what's provided for teenagers in Broughton, and got some ideas for the future from people working with young people in our area.

A small group is now being formed to organise a survey - to get a clearer picture of what's really needed. Anyone interested in helping with this should contact John Dickie in the first instance (556 0903).

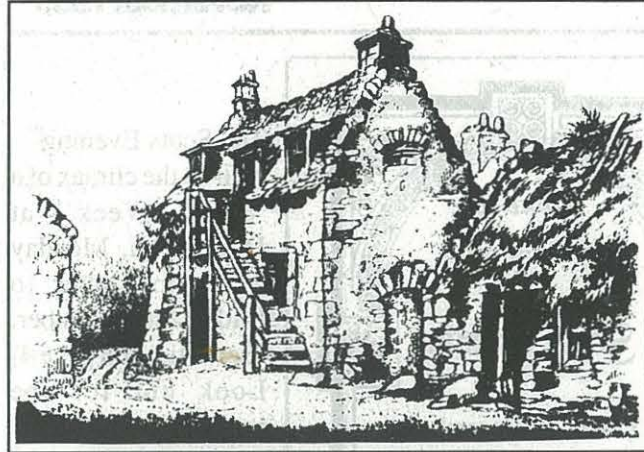


It's Halloween! - page 2

HALLOWEEN

Halloween has arrived and so have short days, dark evenings and wild tree-stripping winds. Autumn is on its way out and another long cold Edinburgh winter is approaching.

But while we're shutting the curtains against the horror of it all, let's spare a thought for our distant ancestors whose lives brought them into daily contact



The Witches Howff which stood in Barony Street

with the elements. No hiding behind double glazing for them. Instead they had a healthy respect for the forces that governed their existence.

In pre-Christian times, and for a long time after, nature was worshipped. The Earth was seen to hold beneath its surface the secret of

renewal and the elements raging wild and free were spirits commanding reverence. The seasons were celebrated by four great Celtic festivals with Halloween as the most important of them all. It marked the point at which the fading of the light led into the quiet still season of death and decay.

The modern world has grown used to nights brightened by the glare of artificial light, but then the moon was the main source of illumination and was revered as a female deity that ruled over the mysterious hidden world which souls passed onto after death. This dimension, lying parallel to the sun-ruled daytime world was an experienced reality to the Celts. The relationship between light and dark, life and death was the basis of their spiritual beliefs. Halloween was a sacred time when the veil between the two worlds was at its thinnest, allowing them to communicate with departed souls on the other side.

As Christianity took hold, any connection to the magical moon-ruled spirit world was considered the work of the devil, and all the Celtic nature festivals were banished.

The ordinary people however, stubbornly persisted in their faith, even though it had been driven underground; but after the Reformation any one suspected of "Nature Worship" was considered to be in league with the forces of darkness. This led to the terrible witch burnings that ravaged Scotland for over two hundred years.

Broughton became notorious for witches and in Barony Street there was a witches' house, which locals were careful to avoid. The inhabitants, old unmarried women, were eventually executed in the Broughton district with such shocking cruelty that complaints were made to the Scottish Privy Council.

Even today, the atmosphere at Halloween can take our imaginations flying to that Celtic "Other World". So if, when you pass by Barony Street you feel a little shiver - don't be too surprised.

NEW LOOK FOR SPURTLE?

We plan a major rethink on the appearance of Broughton Spurtle in January - after two years of the paper. We'll announce date and place for a workshop to discuss this in the December issue. But if you have ideas - on the masthead, for example, or general layout - post them in anytime now, or phone us.



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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: Tim Puntis, John Dickie, Tom Perman, Dougal Perman, Annie Scanlon, Jane Coville and Conchita Pinto.

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

A WEEL-KENT FACE



Jean Bell, Bellevue Street

Where were you born?

At home, 38 Dumbiedykes Road, Edinburgh - now demolished.

How would you describe your jobs?

Secretarial work in many City offices, last in Social Services, RIE. Theatre work, including first wardrobe mistress at Playhouse Theatre. Supervisor, Tote staff, Powderhall. Now retired. Main interest is St. Anne's Reminiscence Group, having organised production of five books of Old Town memories.

What is your favourite restaurant/pub?

Any Chinese. Sad the Loon Moon in Broughton Street has now closed for "carry-out"!

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Anywhere! Itchy feet would make me travel anywhere and I'm a frustrated linguist. I'm jealous of the opportunities for travel young people have today. Just back from Gozo.

What makes you angry?

The way older people are dismissed as imbeciles sometimes. They have all got stories to tell and have done their learning the hard way.

What do you do to relax?

Theatre, swimming, writing and reading.

What paper do you read?

Evening News, Sunday Post.

What is your favourite song?

"Perhaps Love", Placido Domingo and John Denver.

What frightens you most?

Nothing really. My children and grandchildren will have to cope with their own world. Perhaps losing control of my own future.

If you could be granted a wish, what would it be?

I had to write out the Beatitudes for not paying attention in class, and noted that "Charity" was translated as "Loving Kindness". I would wish for more of this in the world.

OUR 'POPULIST' MP

Malcolm Chisholm has been MP for Leith since the last general election - before that he was a teacher. He knows Broughton well: he lives here, and his children went to Broughton Primary and then Drummond. In September he was guest speaker at a meeting of the Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association.

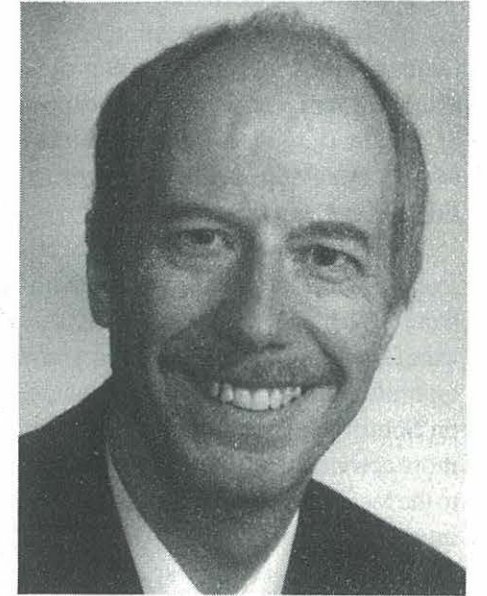
Being an MP is a full-time job, he said, with much of the work at Westminster going on behind the scenes in committees, etc. He feels it would be impossible to do it properly if you had other paid jobs or interests. An MP should focus on his own constituency - he's accountable to the people who live there, and first and foremost should reflect their concerns. So he will take up all his constituents' requests - unless they are positively harmful to other people

(for example, racist). Because of this some of his colleagues regard him as a 'populist politician', and seem to find this amusing; some of them might be more in touch with the electorate if they followed his example!

The biggest part of his constituency work is dealing with individuals' problems: housing, health and social security benefits come top of the list. Then there are constituency issues: pursuing projects that will bring jobs into his part of Edinburgh, for example. And in between there is work with groups. He challenged Broughton folk as to why there are fewer active community groups in this area than in some other parts of his constituency.

Asked about lobbying councillors on local issues, he said he can sometimes add his voice to ours without treading on toes. Councillors can be influenced. Should we be polite or aggressive in our approach? The main thing is to keep up the pressure on an issue - be persistent.

You can consult Malcolm Chisholm himself at one of his Saturday morning surgeries at three Community Centres: 9.30 to 10.30 at Leith, 11.30 at Royston Wardieburn and 12.30 at Craigroyston. All correspondence should be sent to his constituency office, 274 Leith Walk, EH6 5EL (open 9.30 to 12.30, 2 to 4 weekdays, phone 555 3636)



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