

VIEW FROM THE WINDOW

Looking out of my kitchen window recently, I noticed a fairly new arrival to 74 Broughton Street. I set out to investigate further.

On arrival I was warmly greeted by Paul Younger and his two assistants. The atmosphere is quiet as the customers concentrate on their computer games.



'Reality X' is the first outlet of its kind in the UK, Paul tells me, and the customers come here to play and compete against other players. The challenge is greater than playing at home, with Paul's computers being more High Tech and offering new experiences. Virtual Reality is played using headsets - "this is the ultimate immersive experience"!

Charges are made according to the time spent on the computers. Most of Paul's customers are over 18, and a broad mix of the public.

If you come across any little bit of local information or gossip, let us know and we could include it in this column. Just drop a note in at Broughton Books, or phone Gill on 556 7928.

MUSIC LOVERS

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WE NEED INFORMATION - BE OUR REPORTERS!

Talking to locals about what they'd like to see in the Spurtle, one thing comes across loud and clear - more straight information about what's going on in the area.

But we don't have a team of fulltime staff to ferret out the facts. We need people like you to scribble a note or make a phone call when they come across something that might interest other readers.

- clubs
- other groups meeting regularly
- once-off events
- school activities
- achievements by local residents

Let us know about them! Lots of wee bits and pieces could help build a picture of what's going on in Broughton.

Please contact us whenever you pick up the information - don't delay! Phone 556 0903, or drop a note in at Broughton Books.

LOCAL MUSICIANS BREAK NEW GROUND

'Minimalist Fusion' is the new name of a duo which, 2 years ago, brought out a tape called Music for Discerning Diners.

Jim Crooks (guitar and vocals) and Peter Galinsky (recorders) started out playing traditional music but, inspired by the reception for their first tape (recorded in Jim's spare room in Broughton Street) they graduated to composing and arranging their own songs and tunes. The result is 54 minutes of original music, professionally recorded and mixed this time, though all but one song are recorded live.

"Folk influence is still present," says Peter, "but it is just one among many others, showing the vastly different backgrounds of the two players."

(The tapes cost £4.50, available from Broughton Books)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events. Deadline for our March issue is Fri. 23th February.

Monday 5th February
Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Thursday 8th February
SPURTLE meeting at (2LF)59 Broughton Street, 8pm.

Saturday 2nd March
Bring your pictures of Broughton to Drummond Community High, between 11am and 2.30pm
(See page 3)

CHANGES

Your 'New Look' Spurtle is on the way! We are working on a new look for next month (or the month after!)

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 23

February 1996

THAT EMPTY BUILDING

Yes, the metal shutters have come down, and the door's been painted. Something's happening at No.103 Broughton Street - over a year after the Unemployed Workers Centre being evicted from the premises.

We shouldn't forget what happened then. It's part of our local history. And it's a reminder of just how irrational those in power can sometimes get, if they feel threatened by others trying to do things differently.

But now it's time to welcome newcomers to the building - page 2.



Lest we forget... eviction in December 1994

Resistance to Market Plans

A retail market in Drummond playground every Saturday? Local residents, traders and the Community Council have reacted against the idea.

The proposal was put to the School by Universal Markets in the autumn. An estimated 50 traders would come to a market that would run from 10am to 4pm fifty Saturdays in the year, with the possibility of extra days during the school holidays. The School would get 50% of the income from rents - welcome extra money in a cash-strapped education system!

The School asked the Community Council to comment. About 60 residents signed a petition against the market, and some local traders were worried about the effect on their own businesses. There was concern about the extra traffic that would be generated. The Community Council also felt that such frequent use as a market could rule out other uses of the playground that would benefit the local community - for example, provision for teenagers. So they've written back to the School opposing the idea.

Broughton Teenagers have their Say

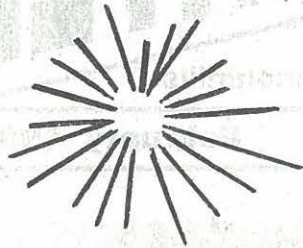
Following discussion in the Spurtle in the autumn, a group got together to look into provision for teenagers in Broughton - 'The Broughton Youth Initiative'.

The group soon focused in on finding out what teenagers themselves think, and want. A questionnaire was drafted, and in co-operation with Guidance staff at Drummond Community High students have now been invited to answer the questions. The local Community Council is supporting the project by meeting printing costs.

Next step is to analyse what local teenagers have said in response to the questionnaire, and then decide what practical steps can be taken to help meet their needs.



NEW LIFE IN BROUGHTON STREET WELCOME TO THE STAFFORD CENTRE



THE CENTRE PROVIDES:

- A drop-in facility where people can enjoy the company of others in a relaxed setting and take advantage of the snack bar.
- A balance of group activities which aim to meet the individual's social, educational and therapeutic needs by developing skills, creativity and providing support.
- Individual support and understanding when needed.
- Respite for the families and carers of those who use our facilities.

The Centre currently has groups for music, art, photography, craft, writing and relaxation. There are also women only and men only groups, individual music tuition, and a newcomers' morning on Mondays.

The building at 103 Broughton Street started life in 1869 as St James Episcopal School, which continued on into the 1930's. After other uses, in recent years it became home to the innovative Unemployed Workers Centre until it was evicted by the building's owners, Lothian Regional Council, in December 1994. Now the building will once again come alive when the Stafford Centre moves in, at the beginning of March.

The Stafford Centre is a community resource for people who have experienced mental illness. The aim of the Centre is to build up confidence and self-esteem and to work towards the continued wellbeing of those who use it. It has already gained recognition for work carried out at its current base in Stafford Street, but is moving over to Broughton to get more space. Cash from the National Lottery is helping to prepare the building for this new use.

We welcome the Centre's users, and the half-dozen staff headed by manager Alex Campbell, a local Broughton man. He tells us that they'll be organising some kind of open day as soon as they get settled in. Watch out for more information in next month's Spurtle.

Since 1992 the Stafford Centre has run a 'therapeutic earnings scheme'. Nineteen people are working on the scheme, their hours varying from one hour a week to a maximum of four.

By providing on the spot training in running a snack bar, food preparation and food and hygiene requirements, the Scheme encourages people to develop practical skills which assist in building their confidence and self esteem. There's a supportive environment, and each worker can develop at their own pace.

The Centre works closely with other voluntary and statutory agencies to ensure client needs are met.

Strong emphasis is placed on the element of choice that people have in how they use the Centre and how it runs. A weekly meeting gives everyone the opportunity to put forward their opinions and ideas for change and developments.

Contributors to this issue: John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman, Charlie Miller, Jude Devereaux and Peter Galinsky.

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

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.

A VILLAGE NEXT DOOR?

Back in the summer we reported on discussion of the future of the Annandale/McDonald Road area - initiated by the Community Council. Since then local ideas have developed apace, alongside dialogue with the powers-that-be.

Now a steering committee has been set up which brings together local residents, business interests, council departments and councillors. The idea is to come up with a masterplan for the area: as sites come up for re-development, the planning applications would be judged against criteria set out in this plan.

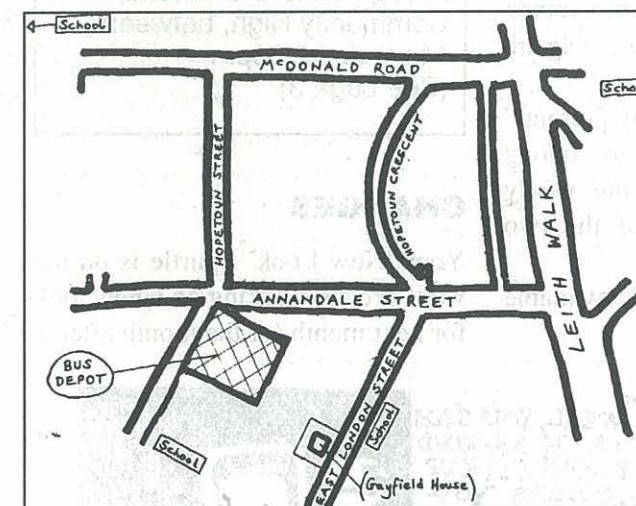
The name 'Hopetoun Village' has been adopted for the project. The idea of an 'urban village' doesn't mean thatched cottages, but rather an area that's as self-sufficient as possible - with a balance between number of residents and local job opportunities, a good mixture of different forms of housing, traffic calming, open spaces and plenty of facilities for social activities.

Last April we posed the question, Can we shape our own local environment? At the first meeting of the Hopetoun Village steering committee Dave Rushton suggested that pupils and staff at Broughton Primary School had provided a "metaphor" for Hopetoun and other future planning projects. Pupils and teachers came up with their own ideas on what they'd like to see in their playground - and then brought in the professionals to help them work those ideas into a plan.

The next meeting of the steering committee will be on 21st March. Meanwhile, if you live in or around the Hopetoun project area and you'd like to contribute ideas or get more information, contact your local residents' association - they're represented on the committee.

- **McDonald Area Amenity Society,** George Reiss (day, 556 6212)
- **Gayfield Association,** Ian Dunn (557 1662)
- **Bellevue and Claremont Residents,** Eileen Dickie (556 0903)

Map of the proposed Hopetoun Village area



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JUST JUNK

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is a steal!
557 4385

Pictures of Broughton



May Crawford. A great 50's look!

In the last issue of the Spurtle it was reported that Charlie Miller had the idea for a project to make a collection of local people's snapshots.

We now have a date and a place for you to bring your old and new snaps to add to the collection. The final aim is to create an exhibition to run during the Festival this summer. The photos should show what life was like in the past and what it's like today. It could be a wedding or a street party or the kids in the back green, as long as it happened in and around Broughton we would like to see it.

Come along to Drummond Community High School, Cochran Terrace on Saturday 2nd March between 11am and 2.30pm. Or phone Charlie Miller on 557 6004

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