

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 12th October
Edinburgh Sitters' Open Day at 13 Gayfield Square, anytime between 10.30am and 1pm. (phone 557 3121)

Monday 14th October
Bellevue School Reunion with entertainment, refreshments and a tour of the School, Drummond Community High, from 7pm

Thursday 31st October
Edinburgh network against detentions and deportations, Drummond Community High - look out for posters with details.

Monday 4th November
Broughton History Society, 'History of Edinburgh Transport', Drummond Community High, 7.15 (tea or coffee) for 7.30pm.

Thursday 7th November
Meeting on resisting the Job Seekers Allowance, at the Gay Centre, 60 Broughton Street, 3pm. All welcome.

Wednesdays
Drummond Head Teacher's surgery, 6-7pm without appointment and 7-8pm by appointment only.

Councillor McGregor's surgery, 6-7pm.

Both at the School.

JUST JUNK

"More treasures than a Pharaoh's tomb!"

87 Broughton Street 557 4835

Who Goes There?

In our last issue Drummond Community High School's Head Teacher, Frank McGrail drew attention to the many uses of the School playground - by young and adult students, pedestrians, leisure users of various ages, daytime/evening occupation etc. - and whether controls on this pattern of use needed review.

Drummond, like all schools, have safety uppermost at all times and at the moment are awaiting developments from the Cullen Enquiry on the Dunblane tragedy.

Any recommendations for improvements all round will be a much bigger issue of general schools management which is sure to have widespread public support.

The Head's current thoughts are on more day-to-day matters particular to Drummond, and **Spurtle** checked back with him on local reaction. Just as well he wasn't holding his breath! He has had no direct local reaction; and at **Spurtle** we had just two responses - one "for" and one "against" tighter controls.

The thing is that the School and its playground is so central to the area that the answer to 'Who Goes There?' is - an awful lot of us at some time or another and probably, the way things are, is taken for granted and sometimes abused.

Which is not much help to Frank McGrail! But real concerns don't just go away and we'll keep in touch on this one.

Jobseekers Allowance

In December we published the feelings of three local unemployed people about the proposed Jobseekers Allowance. Despite protests, the Allowance comes into force as we put this **Spurtle** together.

The Jobseekers Allowance replaces Unemployment Benefit and Income Support. At least a quarter of a million unemployed people will be worse off. Each jobseeker will have a personal agreement drawn up at the job centre, listing tasks they must perform - such as attending a training course, applying for so many jobs, getting a haircut.

"Offenders" failing to carry out tasks will have benefit cut.

It's been described in the mainstream Press as "the most unpopular social change since the poll tax". And there are plans to resist it.

Phone Edinburgh Claimants on 332 7547. Their next meeting is on Thursday, 7th November, 3pm in the Gay Centre at 60 Broughton Street.

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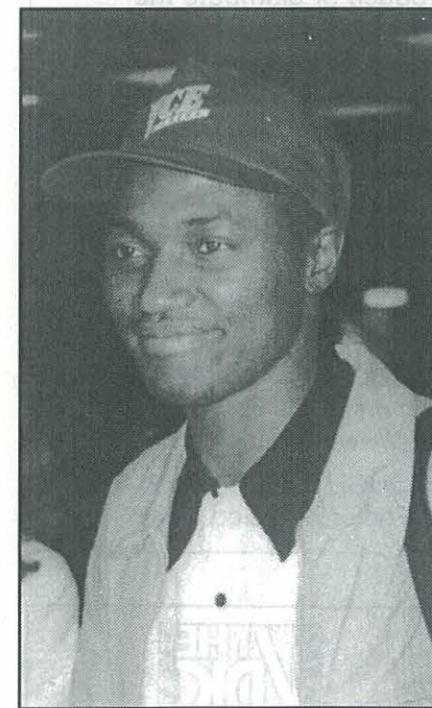
BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 31

October 1996

JOHN DEPORTED

Edinburgh Airport, Sunday 15th September, 5.30am. Immigration officer Hamilton escorts John Gotip through the formalities before putting him on a plane for Nigeria. But they are not alone. Twenty-five of John's friends and supporters have made it to the airport to see him off. Deported he may be, but he goes with dignity, and with the sound of clapping in his ears.



It's a sad ending to a long campaign in which Broughton folk played a prominent part: Eileen Dickie, staff at Drummond Community High, ex-husband Margaret Mackintosh and local MP Malcolm Chisholm. Also making representations on John's behalf was his constituency MP, Lord James Douglas-Hamilton. But before you get too grateful, remember he's part of the government responsible for the policies that caused the problem in the first place!

These policies get worse rather than better, with recent new laws to make life harder for asylum seekers. And it's not just the policies, it's the attitudes that determine how they're implemented - including the reaction to black faces! There are many cases much worse than John Gotip's. But John, with his strong Edinburgh connections, brought the issues sharply into focus for us: a spin-off from the campaign on his behalf is the new Edinburgh network against detentions and deportations (meeting at Drummond Community High, 31st October - look out for posters with details)

As for John himself, there's contact with him in Nigeria - and maybe some day we'll see him back, to complete the studies so wastefully cut short.

That Bus Business

At a heated meeting about the 19/39 service LRT spokesmen only inflamed feelings further by saying that they had no legal obligation to consult local groups.

Since the meeting the Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association has written to lay members of the LRT board putting the case for restoring the service - and got a letter from the Director criticising them for doing so!

With LRT seemingly immovable, the ball seems firmly in the City Council's court: what can they do by way of persuasion or subsidy?

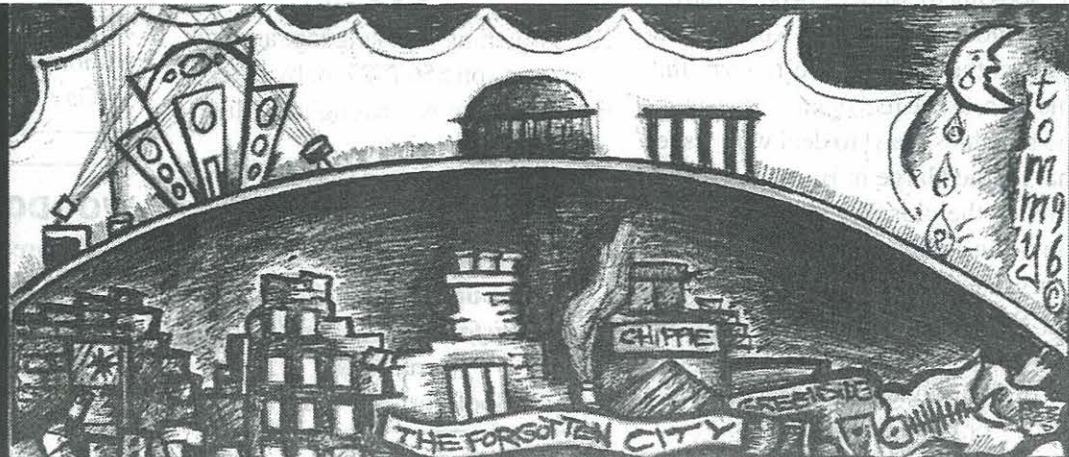
Special
Hopetoun
Insert with
this Issue!

BRIEFLY

- Local residents had a very constructive meeting with Council officials on 11th September, to discuss design details for the traffic calming scheme in **East Claremont Street**. The work is due to be carried out from January to March. Before that there will be another meeting to decide on exactly what trees and shrubs should be used on the widened central reservation.
- For as long as anyone seems to remember, **Drummond Community High's** address has been "Cochran Terrace". As a relative newcomer, this puzzled head teacher Frank McGrail: there's only a pedestrian approach to the School from that direction - indeed, confusion sometimes arises when delivery vehicles try to come via the Terrace. So he raised the question with the City Council: and the answer came back that the School's statutory address is actually "41 Bellevue Place"! Which leaves the question, why did "Cochran Terrace" become so well established: perhaps because that's where the janny's house is?
- Congratulations to **Drummond Lawn Tennis Club**: its two gents teams and the ladies team were promoted after great performances in the East of Scotland Tennis Leagues. Committee member Marcus Mackenzie asks us to pass on thanks to 'The Cask and Barrel', who sponsored the teams this year.

31 Dec 1999

... the £3m
Calton Hill
millennium
laser show
wows the
tourists...
meanwhile in
the city below...



LASERS FOR CALTON?

Before she left the Broughton area, Conchita Pinto used to be a frequent contributor to **Spurtle**. Here she pays a return visit to air an issue close to her heart.

Spurtle readers are probably aware that the City Council is bidding for Millennium funds to develop Calton Hill into a laser-lit mega Visitor Centre.

So far the plans have received a massive thumbs down from Edinburgh citizens who are unhappy with the three million pound contribution towards costs which will come from public funds.



But if you want to stop this development from going ahead - you can! The terms of the Millennium Commission specify that all proposals must be endorsed by popular support. So if the Council receives enough complaints from the public, the proposal will be turned down. It's up to you!

You can register your vote at an exhibition to be staged by the Council from Saturday 12th to Saturday 19th October, at 12 Blenheim Place (near the Leith Walk end of London Road - No12 is the new office building).

HOPETOUN VILLAGE WORKSHOPS

Enclosed with this edition you will find a special newsletter from the New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council on plans for the creation of an "urban village". A new concept, but bang in the middle of old-established neighbourhoods where many of our readers - the new "urban villagers" - already live or work.

Spurtle is glad to co-operate with the Community Council in encouraging both the spread of information and the feedback of views on the plans for Hopetoun Village. It's liable to be a long haul - all the more reason to keep our readers involved in developments.

At workshops held on 18th and 25th September for people in the Hopetoun area, the co-ordinator, the community council and Teague Homes (potential developers in the Hopetoun Crescent Area) all explained their role in the proposals so far and in achieving their long-term development.

There was much in a promised new vibrant identity that local people could give their support to - planning for renewal, elimination of blight areas, improved for daily living. But clearly

the sheer scale of the project was making people think. The hard realities of seeing it through to a conclusion - despite conflicting official, commercial and local interests. The preservation of the existing community against something, if not better, at least as good. All this caused disquiet at this stage. A commitment to continuing public awareness will be crucial if an underlying "them and us" uneasiness is to be avoided.

The residents of Haddington Place gave evidence of this - a vociferous group who felt that, already, they were falling foul of "the system". This was because of the proposed redevelopment of Annandale Street Lane at the rear of their homes. Their plans to organise themselves to protect their interests will be worth watching - they could yet be repeated elsewhere as the markers are plotted on the Hopetoun map.

Spurtle is already on record with "a healthy scepticism when it comes to being 'consulted' by politicians and professionals - but we remain optimistic about the project".

There is much to be optimistic about.

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:

John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman, Conchita Pinto, Gavin MacGregor, Alice Lauder and Eileen Dickie (John Gotip photo)

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the **BROUGHTON SPURTLE** please contact us.

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

BROUGHTON SPURTLE is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>
BROUGHTON SPURTLE is printed on recycled paper.



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LONDON STREET STORY



Four years ago this month, the children of London Street Primary left the school for the last time. A recently published book tells the story largely from the point of view of the embattled parents there; but others were deeply affected by this episode in our local history, notably the other two primary schools involved in the closure. **Spurtle** decided to look for their perspectives on the affair.

We were glad to publish a piece by Alan Mason in August - he chaired Broughton Primary School Board during the struggle for London Street. Next we planned a contribution from a St Mary's parent who had been through the Catholic school's move from York Lane to London Street, and had read the book. But after playground conversations she told us she felt it would be better if we approached the current School Board, and gave us a contact name.

When contacted, Board vice-chairman Dougie McLeod emphasised that he did not think it would be wise for an individual parent to comment independently, but said he would seek a contribution from amongst parents who had been more involved in representing St Mary's at the time of the struggle. But when we checked back on progress he told us the answer was "No Comment" - all who he'd spoken to thought the School should be "looking forwards, not backwards."

So no St Mary's perspective, at least for the moment. We're sorry that this is so, as we feel open discussion is the healthiest way to deal with issues that loomed large in Broughton at the time of the closure - and which still rankle in many people's minds four years later.

('Save Our School- the struggle for London Street Primary', local price £5, from Broughton Books, Broughton Place - or phone 556 0903)

BROUGHTON DEAD SPEIL

If the 'Speil' this time seems a **tapsalteerie** it's because this **weel kent besom frae Leith came ramstamin'** in wi' this great list o' words, enough tae fill a **kist**, tae pass on tae our readers. Enough to gie ye henners, so it wis. Maybe we look **glakit** at the 'Speil', but nae Leith **limmer's** gaun tae have the **hinmaist** word roond here. It was a **dreich** enough day tae begin wi', **pechin'** around, covered in **glaur** we were. Nae doot, in Leith they're sitting there, a' **perjink**, their **peenies** oan and their **toories** oan their heids, singin' away like **linties**, their **wee cockaloories** playin' wi' their **peeries** an' their **bools**. An' ah don't think - **keelies** all o' them, spierin' away when we've got a 'Speil' tae write.

('Speil' is grateful to Alice Lauder for the list of words - we disown the text!)

•••

Good to see Radio Scotland is following the **Spurtle's** lead! Have you noticed that Auntie is asking for contributions to a new series, 'My Favourite Scots Word'? You heard it here first. Listen in and report back - we always need your contributions.

•••

Elsewhere in this issue you'll read about Hopetoun Village. One of the current building developments is on Annandale Street Lane. Whit a moothful! Don't we all, round here, remember it as Coos Lane - just the thing for a village. The Speil is starting a movement to have it adopted formally when all these grand new houses arrive - we're serious. What do you think?

•••

Keep watching your language and pass it on to us - on 556 7727, or by letter to Broughton Books, Broughton Place.

BE COOL

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DEAD INTERESTING!



The first season of the new Broughton History Society got well under way on 23rd September, when a capacity audience got dug into 'Warriston and Other Edinburgh Graveyards'. This was the subject of the presentation by Michael Turnbull, author of the 'Edinburgh Graveyard Guide'.

The Society has been delighted by the response to its formation. Membership is already nearing 50, but anyone interested in joining will be made very welcome. The programme goes through to June 1997 - the membership card gives full details!

The next meeting is on Monday, 4th November at 7.15pm when LRT's Alex Scott will give an illustrated presentation on 'The History of Edinburgh Transport'. Visitors will be welcome - contact secretary Gavin MacGregor on 556 7727 for further details.

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