

# WORLD WIDE SPURTLE

As well as reading the usual paper version of **Spurtle**, you can keep up with us on the Internet! Our home page has now been available on the World Wide Web for the last few months and has proved popular, especially with ex-pat Broughton people from as far away as America and Beijing. We are currently hoping to include an article from a reader in Canada.

The pages we have are developing into a contact point and an archive, so if you have access to the Internet at work or home, or if you go to one of the growing number of Internet cafés, please take a look. Even better, you can e-mail us from the web site with letters, news, ideas for **Spurtle** or ideas about the pages themselves.

All you need to do to find our home page is to use the address <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

Visit the **SPURTLE** stall at the **Scotland Yard Summer Festival** Saturday 21st June, 11.30am to 5pm

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!

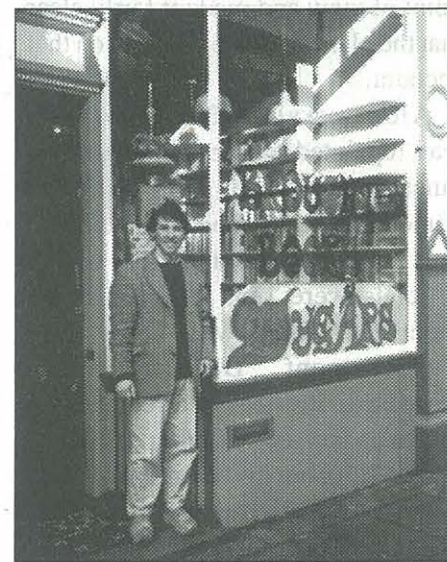
We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

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

**BROUGHTON BOOKS** in Broughton Place is 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.



## INDEPENDENCE JOINERY

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## Summer Playscheme

Managed by Broughton After School Club  
Open to all 4 1/2 to 12 year olds  
4 weeks from Monday 30th June to Friday 25th July  
Full programme of activities, outings and entertainment  
It cannot be beaten for value at **£6 per day per child**  
Registration Thursday 19th June 2.30 to 8pm  
For further information phone 556 9117 or call in at Club, pm. Mon to Fri

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Monday 2nd June**  
Community Council meeting, Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm. All welcome.

**Monday 9th June**  
Broughton History Society AGM. Guest speaker Elizabeth Cumming on Phoebe Traquair, the artist of Mansfield Place Church. Drummond Community High School, 7.15 for 7.30pm.

**Thursday 19th June**  
Registration for summer playscheme, Broughton After School Club, at Broughton Primary School, between 2.30 and 8pm.

**Saturday 21st June**  
Pride Scotland March assembles in East London Street, from 11am, moves off 11.30am.

**Saturday 21st June**  
Scotland Yard Summer Festival, 11.30am to 5pm. Phone 557 8199 if you want a stall.

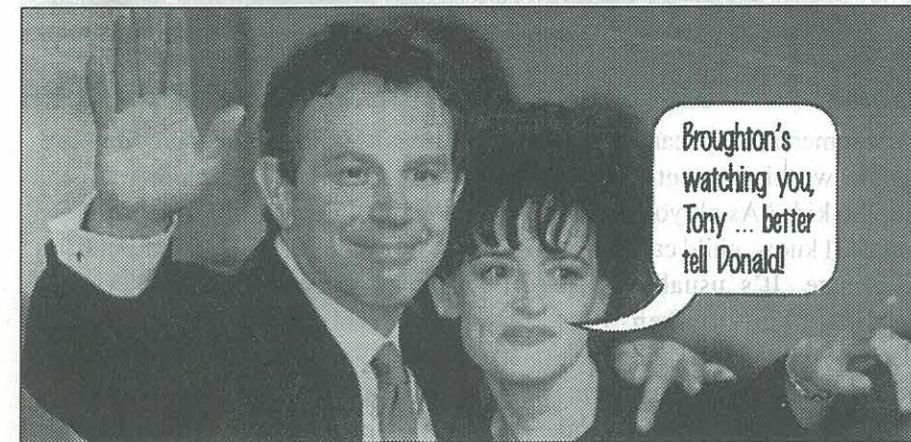
## WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

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# BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 38

June 1997



## THE ELECTION IS HISTORY - NOW FOR SOME RESULTS!

You didn't have to be a Labour Party supporter to get caught up in the excitement. What happened on 1st May certainly changed the political landscape. In the weeks since then there have been let-downs, but things to build hopes on too - like Robin Cook's ban on landmines at one level, our own MP's ministerial commitment to support walking as a serious mode of travel at another.

One thing probably won't change. Over the next few years politicians of various persuasions will quote us statistics to show how things have improved - or how promises have not been kept. But here in Broughton we can monitor just what difference the Election makes in real, concrete terms.

**Jobs** The unemployment figures for Broughton are amongst the highest in Edinburgh. How soon will they improve?

**Health** How soon will the Stafford Centre see better funding for mental health services?

**Housing** How soon will homeless people disappear from our streets? (Not swept out of sight, housed!)

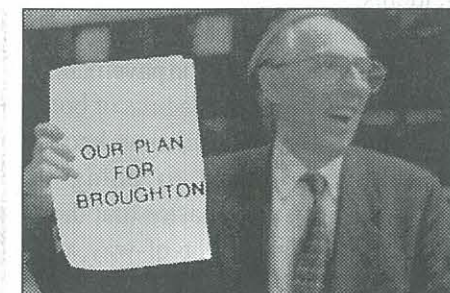
**Schools** How soon will Drummond High and Broughton Primary stop worrying over cuts?

**Human Rights** How soon will they be celebrating equality before the law at the Gay and Lesbian Centre in Broughton Street?

**Traffic** How soon will our City Council have the wherewithal to meet all our demands for safer streets?

Tony Blair has set his face against dogma and ideology, and taken "fairness" as his touchstone. So in the months ahead let's look around us, and ask, "Is this fair?"

It could turn out to be a very demanding criterion!



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## BRIEFLY

- On Saturday 21st June, East London Street will witness a splash of colour, noise and gaiety at the start of Pride Scotland's March. Bands, floats and marchers assemble there from 11am before setting off up Broughton Street on their way to the lesbian, gay and bisexual festival at The Meadows.
- Bellevue and Claremont Residents' AGM on 21st May closed a very active year for the Association, including the battle over bus services and the winning of improvements to East Claremont Street. Flowers given to retiring chair Eileen Dickie acknowledged her work for the Association. Office-bearers are now Jane Coville, chair (556 1851), Alan McIntosh, secretary (556 4848) and Karen Haston, treasurer (556 6547).
- 'Midsummer Dreams' - this year's Scotland Yard Summer Festival will be held on Saturday 21st June. From 11.30am to 5pm the whole park will be filled with stalls, music, entertainers, lots of activities for children and adults and a 'Dream Cafe'. To hire a stall, contact the Scotland Yard Adventure Centre (557 8199) - £5 for the pitch, plus £5 if you want a table supplied.
- Latest venture at Cafe Graffiti is a resident theatre company. Telling Tales is presenting 'Burke and Hare', a play based on an historical study by Owen Dudley Edwards of Edinburgh University, from now until Saturday 28th June (not Mondays). If it's a success, they hope to stage a special production of 'Casablanca' in the autumn.



## HUSTINGS HANGOVER

One small indicator of the battle remains visible which calls for comment. Affixed to lamp standards locally can be seen a sticker bearing the pungent message:

"To all canvassers and politicians - f \_ \_ k off."

But if the intention was to bring down the political system, this seems a singularly puny and inarticulate way to do so.

It makes no counter-argument, and it is not attributed to any group or individual. If you're out there reading this, let **Spurtle** know what you're about. Here's your chance to really get your message over. Because maybe - just maybe - you have something worth saying!

## WELL DONE!

Regular Stafford Centre user John Morrison will be attending a Meritorious Awards Ceremony at Police Headquarters, Fettes Avenue on Tuesday 27th May. Before the ceremony John and his guests will be given a conducted tour of the headquarters building.



In July last year John was walking along Trinity Crescent when he heard a scream, and saw there was someone in the water. He rushed to pull them out of Newhaven Harbour: the award is in recognition of his prompt action. Congratulations!

## SUMMER PLAYScheme



The summer holidays can be a difficult time for working parents. What to do with the kids? As all you parents out there will know, child care is not easy to arrange. It's usually a case of juggling the children between relatives, friends and child minders. It can also be extremely expensive - full-time child care does not come cheap!

With this in mind Broughton After School Club are setting up a Summer Playscheme to run for the first four weeks of the holidays (Monday 30th June to Friday 25th July). It is open to all children between 4½ and 12, and will run daily from 8am to 6pm with a full programme of activities and

outings. All this at the incredibly low cost of £6 per day per child.

While enjoying the support of the school, Broughton After School Club is independent of Broughton Primary School. It is a registered charity set up and managed by parents (on a voluntary basis), for parents - employing play leaders to run the club. It is open to everyone, and is there to provide a service to the whole community.

Registration for the Playscheme is in the Club on Thursday 19th June, 2.30 - 8pm. If you would like more information, ring 556 9117.

## CYCLISTS v. WALKERS?

"Could we make our community aware of safety on our pavements?" asks an East Claremont Street resident. "The other day an elderly lady was knocked down by a big boy on a skateboard. Thanks to staff in the Infirmary, she had stitches and X-ray without other lasting injuries. The police say there is no law against skating on pavements. So it is up to us residents to report incidents."

Which made us think of what seems a growing trend: cycling on pavements. Not just "big boys", but adults of both genders. Speaking to cyclists we know, some have admitted to doing it themselves - but emphasise that they respect pedestrians' right-of-way, and cycle carefully.

Pedestrians can't read the minds of cyclists. Cyclists on pavements are unsettling for many of us, positively alarming for the elderly. We sympathise with the danger cyclists face on the road, but if you have to seek safety on the pavement, please dismount.

Cyclists and pedestrians should be allies in the movement for safer and healthier travel.

### BROUGHTON SPURTLE

**Contributors to this issue:** Jean Bell, Jake King, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Eileen Dickie, Christopher Lambton, Alan McIntosh, and Stafford Centre Photography Group

## BROUGHTON SPIEL

### "Auld Lang What?"

It doesn't take the shrewdness of a lang-heid or the inquisitiveness of the lang-nebbit to conclude that calendar changes render one of the original dates during June just a bit confusing nowadays.

But we're fast coming up to the last eleeven of June - 11th June, the longest day of the year. Not that it needs any more confusion anyway as someone always claims the 21st or 22nd - or is it the 20th. So maybe we should re-adopt 'lang eleeven' and agree to disagree. No more sulky lang-lip; put off all lang-drachtit for our own way; let it become the lang-kent compromise, even unto the lang-day, when Judgement comes.

By that time it will all be, lang syne, a memory of the past and even the lang-luggit would be pushed to overhear that the whole thing was but a langsome, tedious business anyway.

## STREET MUDDLE

In February we reported a traffic meeting convened by Councillor MacGregor, at which local residents vigorously opposed a plan to create two lanes southbound (uphill) in Broughton Street. The officials present seemed happy to accept the community point of view and made it fairly clear that the plan would be dropped on that account.

A few weeks later, Broughton Street was repainted to accommodate two lanes going south. "So much for democracy", was one local comment.

It now appears that the wrong officials were sent to the January meeting. The way the City Development Department is organised, Broughton Street lies on the boundary of "Edinburgh North" and "Edinburgh Central". The boundary actually runs down the centre of the street, but it seems the road's been put in the jurisdiction of

### Clouting Kids

Jean Bell of Bellevue Street recalls: There's been a lot of talk recently about chastising children. One of my Mum's looks was enough for us six kids (I was the eldest), as she had a pretty mean left hook if it was required. However, my own treatment was the "one, two, three count, or after three your bare bottom gets smacked in front of everyone." I therefore never had to smack anyone, as order was restored by the count of two.

However, this bounced back to me when one of my friends laughingly told me, when she had smacked her wee lassie, she had sobbed out "Mrs Bell always counts tae three before she hits ye!" Rough justice indeed!

## SUPPORT SPURTLE

The money for **Spurtle** comes from adverts and from regular contributions from supporters - roughly half from each. We limit the number of adverts, so they don't take over too much space.

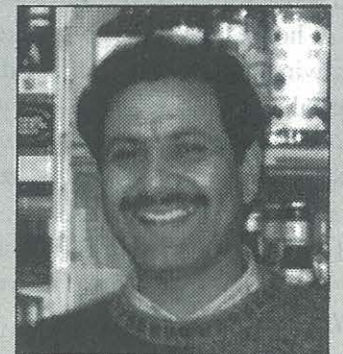
If you'd like to support **Spurtle**, beyond reading it, you can send us a contribution: in return we deliver your copy plus other bits and pieces each month. Some Supporters send us £5 a time, to cover five months, some send £10 to keep going for ten months, etc. Broughton Books is our postbox; or phone 556 0903.

Edinburgh Central. The officials who came to the meeting to discuss traffic proposals and local concerns were from Edinburgh North - and so powerless.

Maybe both sets of officials could get together - so that Broughton Street traffic problems can be considered in the context of adjacent streets, both sides of the - to locals - imaginary boundary? As we go to press, another meeting looms!

## BRIEFLY

- Back in February we reported local concern over a garage built in Bellevue. It didn't match the application originally publicised, and so turned out more intrusive than expected. And the owner seemed to be getting away with it. But now the City Planning Committee has decided to "take enforcement action to secure the **removal of the unauthorised development**". We understand it's possible to appeal to the Secretary of State against this decision.
- *Our sympathy goes to **Mohammad Anjum and his family**, whose corner shop in Melgund Terrace was broken into recently.*



*Mohammad has appealed to local residents to phone the police immediately if they see or hear anything suspicious around the shop.*

- Bellevue Street residents have been plagued by cars **parking across their gateways**. But now the City Council has just responded to their pleas and promised to "issue an order to have access protection introduced at the driveways in Bellevue Street". We think this involves white lines, but await developments on site.
- *In March we drew attention to **causeystanes in the Broughton Market area** which had been poorly replaced after being dug up for cable laying. Local councillor David Guest took up the complaint with the City Development Department, who met with Telewest Communications and agreed on what had to be put right. But that doesn't seem to square with what locals think needs doing - we'll update next month.*