

WHAT A LIFE!

There can't be much call for drystone dykers in Broughton, you might think. But two years ago Richard Love of Bellevue Place heard the call of the great outdoors and took up the so-called dying art of dyking as part of his new business. He's lived in Broughton all his married life and used to work at the Institute of Occupational Medicine, where he was a research scientist for 28 years.

I now work anywhere in the country but mostly around Edinburgh: in the Pentlands, by roads and in people's gardens, wherever natural stone does the best job. I've even been as far as southern France. I learnt the basic skills in a weekend, then practised for six months before working professionally. There is an increasing demand for the dyker's craft and you can learn a lot simply by finding some old dykes, taking them apart and rebuilding them.

What I find most encouraging about what many see as an outmoded activity is the imaginative use of stone by artists and architects to enhance otherwise uninteresting features, such as roundabouts. The underpass at the airport and the stone spiral at Straiton are two local(ish) examples. Greater environmental awareness has encouraged a lot more people to think of using one of Nature's oldest, strongest and most versatile materials.

If you know of anyone else in the Broughton area who does an unusual job or other activity, please give **Spurgle** a call.

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing • Keys Cut
New shoe repair service
Timber Boards Cut to Size
Monday-Saturday 9.30am-6pm
(half day Wednesday)
109 Broughton Street
556 9672

EXCEL CLEANING SERVICES

1 carpet cleaned for £16
2 for £24 3 for £30 4 for £35
suite from £24
Day/evening/weekend
for a friendly caring service
Phone: 0131 539 3789
Mobile: 0402 122211

CONTACTS

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848.

Gayfield Association
Ian Dunn 557 1662

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Alan Wilson 554 9144

Broughton History Society
Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh
17 West Montgomery Place.
Meetings on Monday nights,
7.30pm. 557 6242

Councillor Margaret McGregor
Broughton Ward
529 3283 (her office at City Chambers) No surgery during school holidays - phone to consult or arrange meeting.

Councillor David Guest
New Town 315 2101 or
529 4268 for an appointment (The boundary with Broughton Ward runs down the middle of Broughton Street/Rodney Street!)

Councillor Douglas Kerr
Calton Ward 529 4983 (if you live in Gayfield)

Malcolm Chisholm MP
555 3636 Surgery on Fridays,
5 to 7pm, in office at
274 Leith Walk.

STONEWALL

Gay Cafe and Bar
All Welcome
Come awa ben!
7 days, 11am to 11pm
Tel. 478 7069

BROUGHTON **SPURGLE** 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!

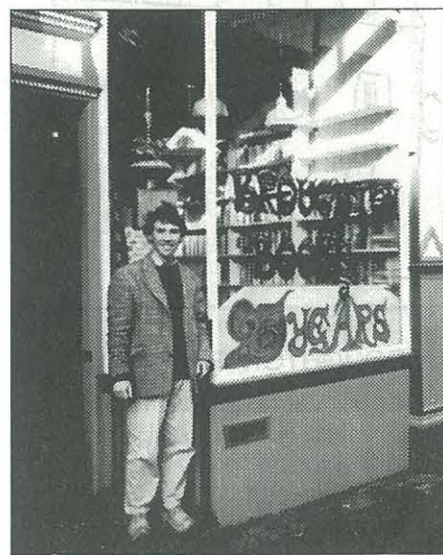
We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the **Spurgle** 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 SPURGLE is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

BROUGHTON SPURGLE is printed on recycled paper.



BROUGHTON Spurgle

Free No 39

July 1997

Princes
Street
Traffic
Page 2



Out and Proud! Pride Scotland set off from East London Street to march to the Meadows.

Photo: Andrew Murphy

The future's bright - the future's Drummond

There will be major improvements at our local Community High School in 1998. In response to proposals put forward by Drummond's School Board, Edinburgh City Education Committee have agreed to spend £1.5 million on:

- redecoration and flooring coverings throughout the main school building
- new furniture and equipment to class bases (for a 200 student roll increase)

- a new dining hall in the main building for Drummond students, and a replacement kitchen
- upgrading of Science, Craft Design & Technology, and Art Departments

- improvements in PE facilities
 - improvements to student toilets and wheelchair access.
- Besides these new developments, mechanical and electrical maintenance work (£1.4 million) and fabric and structural repairs (£300,000) will be

phased in over the next few years. The School Board pressed for whole-school computer networking - this will come as part of a city-wide initiative within the next three years.

This is good news for Drummond, and good news for the community it serves. At last some of the School Board's more ambitious plans have been taken up by the Council, and this won't be the end of the story. As School Librarian Annie Scanlon once told **Spurgle**: "Drummond is the place where anything is possible."

MIDSUMMER MADNESS

'Midsummer Dreams' seemed more like Midsummer Madness as we trekked down to Scotland Yard in the pouring rain. But folk like our friends from the Stafford Centre just put their hoods up and smiled bravely. There were more dry spells in the afternoon, but too late to bring out the crowds. Commiserations to the organisers, who put in so much effort to organise an impressive programme of events. The Adventure Centre was the hub of Festival activities. It is run by a private limited company with charitable status, set up in 1986 to provide adventure play facilities and activities for children with physical disabilities, learning difficulties and behavioural problems.



Volunteers wanted

The Centre is seeking volunteers to work in their maintenance team. "We have many jobs that need doing; lots of gardening, bike repairs and anything



else that crops up", says team organiser Andy Rockall. "We offer complete training and support for all jobs, and people are welcome to choose the work they get involved with. Scotland Yard will pay bus fares and provide lunch. Our building and grounds are fully wheelchair accessible, and we particularly welcome volunteers with disabilities."

For further information and to arrange a visit, contact Andy on 557 8199.

Murals still at risk

The future of Mansfield Place Church is still unsettled. In May the Mansfield Traquair Trust thought they had reached agreement on a price with the owners, but it came unstuck; negotiations continue - hence the 'UNDER OFFER' sign at the church. Meanwhile the murals are still at risk. So the City Council is pursuing a Statutory Repair Notice: if they're not

satisfied that the owners have committed themselves to an acceptable repairs programme, the Repairs Notice will become a Compulsory Purchase Order. But the process can take a long time, even years, as the owners can make legal challenges at each of several stages. Let's hope they decide settling for the Trust's offer is the best bet!

Cars off Princes Street? YES!

Spurtle has many friends on the Community Council, but we can't agree with their stance on the Princes Street traffic scheme. A leaflet distributed locally in their name urged folk to write into the City Council objecting to the removal of traffic from Princes Street.

We're aware of the worries over displacement of traffic into the New Town and elsewhere. But the Princes Street scheme is just one part of the programme to tackle Edinburgh's traffic problem and make the city more people-friendly. Traffic calming in residential areas is already working - people are queuing up to have their own streets treated. 'Greenways', to help make the bus service more efficient, were held up by the Scottish Office but will start operating in August. Park-and-ride facilities on the edge of town are to follow.

Let's welcome the safer, friendlier Princes Street on offer. Look for ways of mitigating any immediate knock-on effects in Queen Street and elsewhere. And lobby the Scottish Office to give the City Council the legal and financial wherewithal to press ahead quickly with a comprehensive programme.

INDEPENDENCE JOINERY

Windows, doors, floors, attic conversions, kitchens, wardrobes, and all aspects of joinery work. For a friendly, efficient and reliable service call your local joiner on-

556 8821 or
0802 629829 (mobile)

**ESTIMATES FREE -
VERY COMPETITIVE
RATES**

GET OFF AND PUSH

Last month we raised the issue of adult cyclists riding on the pavement. We sympathised with the danger they may face on the road; but pointed out that their presence on the pavement was threatening to many pedestrians.

A quick phone-call to the police at St Leonard's Divisional HQ confirmed the legal position: cycling on the pavement is just not allowed - "a footpath is a footpath" - but they turn a blind eye as far as small children are concerned.

Spurtle contacted Dave du Feu of the cyclists' own campaigning group, SPOKES. He pointed out that the total number of cyclists has greatly increased in recent years, so it's not

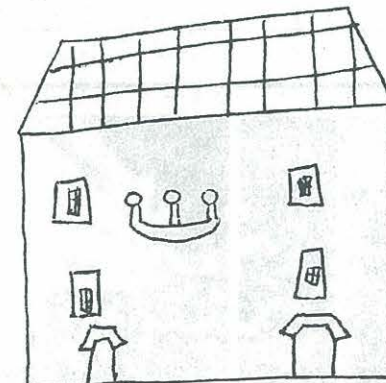
surprising if the number taking to the pavement has also risen. But SPOKES would advise adult cyclists not to ride on the pavement - except in the special case of less populated areas away from the centre of town, where some pavements have been designated for shared use (there are signs up explaining this).

We invited comments at the Scotland Yard Summer Festival. George Reiss (McDonald Road) called for improved provision on the roads for cyclists, especially at the London Road/Leith Walk junction; opening the Scotland Street tunnel; and cycle teaching in schools. Charlie Miller (Royal Crescent) suggested "special prizes for young cyclists avoiding old boring people who never stop complaining." And Catriona Anderson (East Claremont Street) was brief and to the point: "Get off and push."

Down at the Scotland Yard Festival, we invited drawings for **Spurtle**. Alan McIntosh designed a new multi-storey carpark for East Claremont Street...



... and young Georgia Scott-Brien drew us the new Barratt flats in McDonald Road.



BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Contributors to this issue:
John Dickie, Richard Love,
Tim Puntis, Andrew Murphy,
Alan McIntosh, Eleanor Gaw
and Ian Dunn.

FACE & BODY THERAPY

NOW OPEN

WAXING, EYELASH TINTING,
FACE AND BODY TREATMENTS
Specialised treatments include:
AROMATHERAPY, REFLEXOLOGY,
ELECTROLYSIS.

Consultations are
free and confidential
Friendly relaxed atmosphere
Gift vouchers available
June Short and Jane Wilson,
trained therapists, C.G.L.I, H.N.D.
8 HOWARD STREET 624 7123

BRIEFLY

- Gayfield Association held its AGM on 19th June. Guest speaker Ian Appleton spoke about the guidelines he's drawn up for the **Hopetoun Village scheme**. Contrary to the impression given by an 'Evening News' columnist, we understand folk at the meeting gave his presentation a warm welcome whilst raising questions about some of the details. More on the Hopetoun guidelines in a future issue of **Spurtle**.
- The recently opened block of serviced flats at Canonmills has been christened '**Canon Court**' - but a picture of a gun above the entrance! The spelling's right, the picture's wrong. The name's derived from the clergy of Holyrood Abbey who once owned the mills on this stretch of the Water of Leith. The canons had a monopoly from the king: many farmers were obliged to bring their grain to be milled there, and pay for the service.
- Outline planning permission has been sought to build a 600-seater **conference centre in East London Street**. The £4 million scheme, on the present site of Europcar garage, would be 10 floors high and include a 203-berth multi-storey car park, a restaurant, 10 maisonettes and 9 serviced flats. The impact of such a scheme on local traffic flow is a cause for concern, as is the rather austere appearance of the building as shown on plans. It's so out of kilter with guidelines for the Hopetoun Village area within which it lies that it seems impossible it could be accepted. But local resident associations are registering objections, just to be on the safe side!
- Exiled Nigerian writer **Wole Soyinka** will open Edinburgh's **first Independent Radical Book Fair** on Thursday 10th July, 8pm at McDonald Road Library. Events over the next two days are all free - pick up a leaflet from the Library, or phone the organisers at Word Power Bookshop (662 9112).