

## What a life!

*Drystane-dyker, interpreter, measuring scales production technician, pawnbroker...here's the fifth in our series on Broughton folk who do unusual jobs or other activities.*

You won't necessarily know Broughton resident David McNiven, but you'll probably know his music. He has provided the backing themes and music for such TV favourites as 'Rab C. Nesbitt', 'Naked Video' and 'The Baldy Man'.

At drama college (RSAMD) in Glasgow he studied guitar and acting. He met his future wife Angie at the Edinburgh Festival and later they and Carolyn Davis formed the popular group *Bread, Love and Dreams* in the late 60s, making three records for Decca.

He combined his acting and musical talents when working with the Traverse Theatre Workshop and the Young Lyceum companies in the early '70s, and later with the popular Wildcat touring company.

He got a big break in 1981 when Wildcat's Festival show won a Fringe First award for 'Hot Burlesque'. This success led to contracts for TV theme tunes and incidental music, which now form the bulk of his work.

He has also been both musical director and writer for the Royal Lyceum and still does about one theatre show a year for various companies. He's currently working on the latest 'Rab C.' series and he says there's a 'Baldy Man' in the pipeline (having no words this offers plenty of scope for music!).

A couple of years ago he and Angie formed McNivencent Music, which is now one of the many small companies providing BBC, ITV and independent film companies with their specialist services. He plans to write a stage show and a TV documentary soon - if he can raise the financial support.

P.S. Your correspondent was a happy man when David signed the record sleeve of his personal treasured copy of *Bread, Love and Dreams* first album.

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Updated 22 February 1998

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# BROUGHTON Spurtle

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## Drummond fights back

Last month we reported confusion over the £1.5m we'd expected to be spent on new facilities at our local Community High School, starting in 1998. Education Convenor Elizabeth Maginnis had announced the proposals were only agreed in principle - there was no commitment as to when the money would be spent.

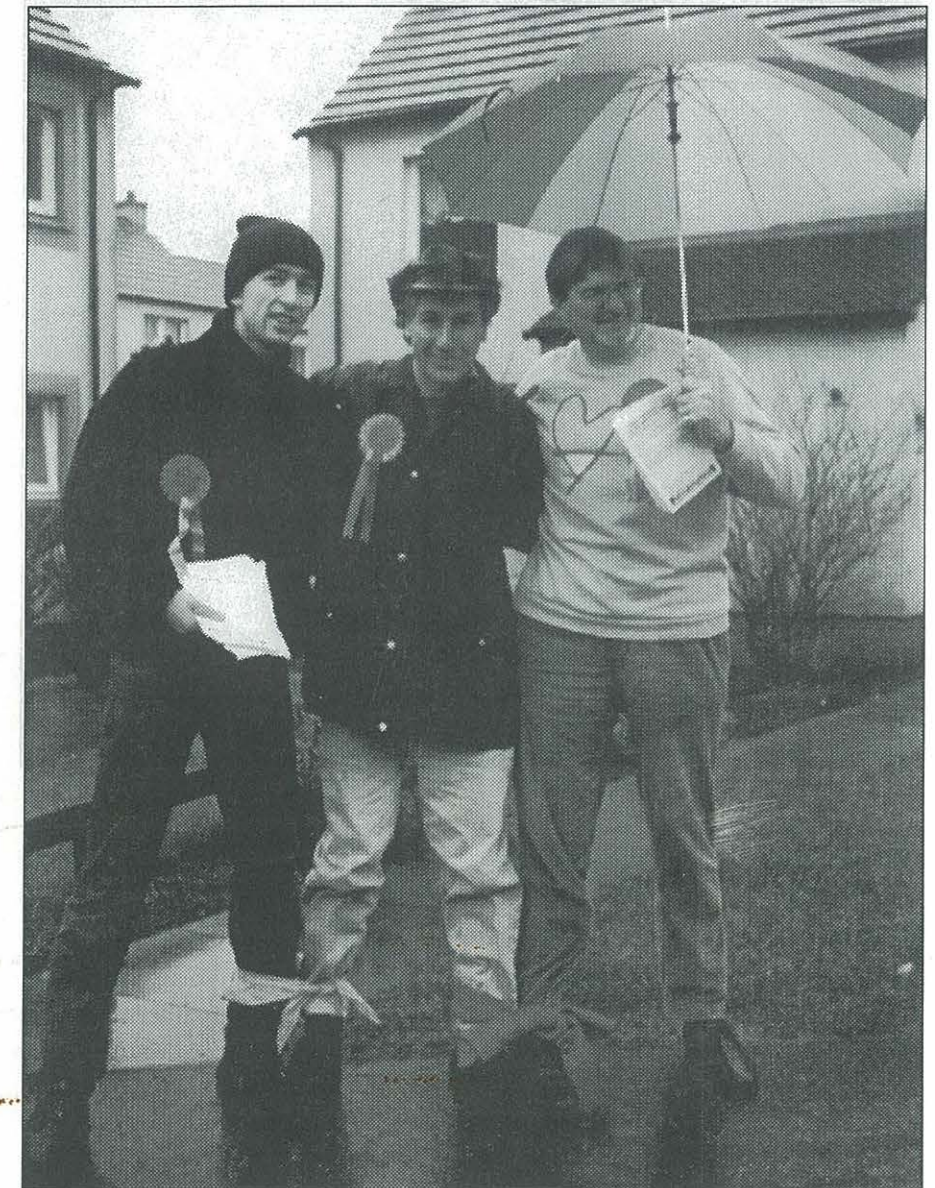
Convenor and Director of Education came to a meeting at Drummond to discuss the situation. Those attending were not impressed by their efforts to explain away the "misunderstanding". Cllr Maginnis said the money couldn't come from the Council's regular capital expenditure before the budget for the three years starting in 2000. She floated the possibility of finding the money earlier through a PPP (public-private partnership). This worried some of those present: recent moves towards a PPP by Glasgow City Council have been branded "wholesale privatisation" and "an expensive way of borrowing money".

Cllr Maginnis did say a different £1.4m, for repairs and maintenance, would definitely be spent. She stressed that she saw Drummond as a permanent part of the Edinburgh schools scene.

Meanwhile a Leith Labour Party call for that "missing" £1.5m to be found for Drummond was supported by the City Labour Party - what effect that might have on the Labour Group on the Council, Spurtle doesn't know.

And Drummond's School Board has sent a letter to Convenor Maginnis, asking her to spell out her commitments to Drummond in writing!

## Ian Dunn (1943-1998)



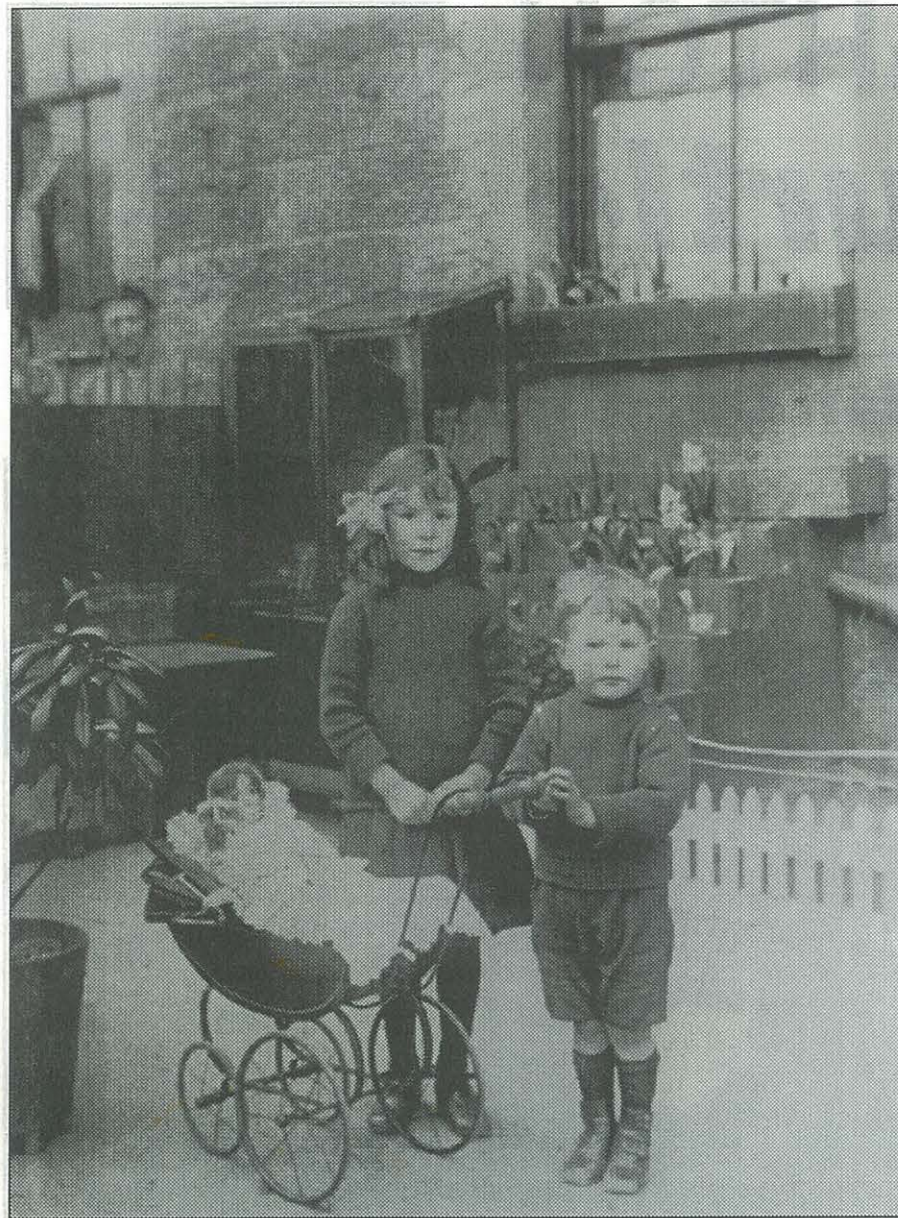
Ian Dunn (on the right) canvassing for the Tactical Vote, April last year.

Ian Dunn's life was commemorated at Mansfield Place Church on 18th March.

Tributes reflected the range and depth of Ian's commitments over thirty years - first and foremost to the struggle for equal rights for gays and lesbians, but also to other causes such as the rescue of the Phoebe Traquair murals

and the winning of a Scottish Parliament.

Ian was a frequent contributor to **Spurtle**, and an enthusiastic supporter. Not long before his death he made a point of complimenting us on saying a lot in a little space. Like many others, we'll miss him and his inspiring enthusiasm.



Jean and Jackie Mackenzie in their back garden, Logie Green Road, circa 1914. Broughton History Society are organising a display of photos to stir up memories of life in Broughton in days gone by. The photos were lent to the Society by local folk, and it's hoped that the display will encourage others to go home and rummage in drawers and boxes to see what they may have to illustrate our local history.

Entry will be free, and all are welcome. Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th April, 12 noon to 6pm at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street.

## Wacky Races

The sad state of the surface of McDonald Road does not seem to deter some drivers in their attempt to break the sound barrier between Newhaven/Ferry Road and the city centre. Particularly concerning is the speed of Cleansing Department lorries approaching Broughton School, and Royal Mail vans heading for Brunswick Road.

Telephone calls to appropriate agencies have brought assurances that drivers will be warned by their managers to watch their speed. However the problem of private car users exceeding the legal limit remains. The police traffic division does intend to monitor the situation if their resources allow, but have many demands on their time. If you are a worried resident or a concerned parent taking children to school on foot and wish to stop Penelope Pitstop and Dick Dastardly in their tracks, police advice is to write to: The Chief Constable, Police HQ, Fettes Avenue, Edinburgh requesting that he give the matter due attention.

**SPURTLE team for this issue:**  
John Dickie, Gill Flack,  
Kate Buchanan, Gavin McGregor,  
Tim Puntis, Jane Coville  
Richard Love and  
Alan McIntosh

## Teenagers in Broughton

Priority should be given to the needs of 12 to 15-year-old girls. That's one of the main conclusions of a recent report on provision for teenagers in Broughton.

The report's findings are based on a survey questionnaire completed by students at Drummond Community High School. The survey was organised by a group that came together after **Spurtle** ran a feature on how Broughton's teenagers saw local provision for their leisure needs. The four main questions put to the young folk concerned current provision; what teenagers actually do in their spare time; what they would do if they could do anything they

liked; and what activities/facilities they would like to see provided. Information was also gathered on such things as spending habits, attitudes and the background of respondents.

Other recommendations in the report focus on the need to improve sports facilities, and provision of a local drop-in centre where teenagers could meet their friends, have light refreshments at minimum cost, "hang around" in comfort and safety.

The report is being circulated to organisations likely to be interested in making informed decisions about provision for teenagers. For further information, contact Stephen Fischbacher on 556 6212.

## Hopetoun Village - watch these spaces

It's seemed a long time coming. But suddenly the reality of a new town-centre community is all around us. The village area is roughly bounded by McDonald Road, Haddington Place, East London Street and Bellevue Road. We can only celebrate the rapidly emerging garden in Hopetoun Crescent after generations of dereliction. And welcome the new residents of the homes springing up around Annandale Street and Hopetoun Street. Other building is visibly in progress, and there's potential for development in unused areas like McDonald Road. Some misgivings? Well, yes - **Spurtle** learns that planning permission is being sought for a slab of flats in the gap site next to Gayfield House. Not a good idea in our view!

In other words, the community needs to be informed and involved if all this rush of activity is to keep Broughton a good place to be.

The Community Council and the Hopetoun Steering Group have long been involved in plans for the area. On 12th March the City Council's Planning Committee agreed that an Action Plan, produced by the Group in co-operation with City officials, should be the basis of guidance on all these developments.

Between them, all these bodies will shortly be bringing you more information and a chance to have your say. **Spurtle** hopes that Broughton will respond.

And don't forget, you can always get in touch with us at our usual address (Broughton Books, Broughton Place).



Following objections from local residents, an application for a year-round theatre licence by the owners of the Palladium in Broughton Place has been turned down by the City Council.

Martin Burke of the Palladium told **Spurtle** that he is still committed to finding a positive future for the venue. He says that such a future must both meet local feelings about its use, and

ensure the proper preservation of the building architecturally. He'd welcome suggestions for community use; but there has to be some income generated, to maintain the building.

So it seems to **Spurtle** that the ball is now firmly in the local residents' court. What positive suggestions can they come up with for the use of the building?

**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.

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**BROUGHTON SPURTLE** is printed on recycled paper.

## BRIEFLY

- It seems that the developers pushing the proposed **Drum leisure complex for Greenside** are claiming public consultation has been a resounding success. But this seems to be on the basis of 165 questionnaires completed, out of about 4000 distributed to local residents! And as reported in last month's **Spurtle**, the many local folk who actually attended a presentation on the project came away with serious misgivings.
- Work on the **garden at Hopetoun Crescent** has really taken off in the last few weeks. The garden is a remnant of the Botanic Garden that existed there from the mid-18th century until it moved down to Inverleith in the 1820s. Now Broughton History Society and the City Council are discussing display boards that will commemorate that connection - perhaps with some financial help from Lottery funds.
- **Snagging work on East Claremont Street** still drags on, taking much longer than originally announced. Meanwhile there are still a minority of drivers who put their own immediate convenience before the comfort and safety of others by parking on the crossing points. But let's accentuate the positive: most of us are not that selfish!
- Reactions to the prospect of **wheelie-bins** are still mixed - especially the communal variety. Some folk look forward to the end of all those burst black bags; but others like Armin Davies of London Street point out that bins will be "a permanent eyesore instead of the temporary eyesore of black bags". In a letter to his local councillor, copied to **Spurtle**, Armin also raises sanitary considerations, and questions of general tidiness. "During the 1939-45 war, I dreaded being sent with a basin of food scraps to the pig-food-bin on the street corner because of the clouds of wasps surrounding it."