

Belle's View



Hi fans

Well! It's been a busy few weeks in swinging Broughton and Bellevue, so much so that I will forgo my usual twitterings and get down to what you really want - the real tittle-tattle!

Estelle Murgatroyd and I had a sweaty experience last week when we attended the very select gathering of 43 people that was punk princess **Hazel O'Connor's** appearance at the **Claremont Bar in East Claremont Street**. If you didn't manage to get in, don't worry, as Hazel was so enraptured by her friendly Edinburgh welcome that she's coming back to **The Claremont** in September. Heavens, whatever next - **Joe Strummer** unplugged at the **Bellevue Bar**?

In the week that the real shiny gold Oscars were stolen and recovered in La-la Land, I decided to get the story behind Broughton Street's very own Oscar, who has graced the outside of the **Just Junk** shop for the past few years, resplendent in mini-kilt. Proprietor **Paul Trotter** tells me that it came from a burnt-down **Kirkcaldy** disco dancing emporium called (strangely enough!) Oscars. If you are having any glittering gatherings which need livening up, he's available for hire with kilt (that's Oscar, not Paul!) **Drummond Community High** held a **Festival of Learning** recently, with screeds of enthusiastic and vibrant Broughtonites attending, thirsting for knowledge and enlightenment. Imagine their horror, dear Readers, as they were rewarded with the sight of my ample posterior as I gave a display of Tai Chi in the car park!

Till next time - just do it - I would!

Persephone Belle

Broughton on TV?

- a poem by Richard Love

At last we have the right decision
Now Edinburgh Television
Reviews each night the local scene
On arts with some precision.
As through time and space we hurtle
(Not often written up in Spurtle)
This fledgling service interferes
With video signals. Oh the tears
From angry viewers on Blackford Hill!
Just haud yer wheesht, perhaps we will
Be able to register our concerns
Twice nightly as the station turns
Its interest and its thought on
To goings-on in Broughton.

CROALL NEWSAGENTS

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Contacts

Updated 26th March 2000

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848

Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
Tam Hay 553 2306

Sovereign Court Residents Association
John Davies, 478 4463

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5721

Cllr Mark Lazarowicz
Broughton Ward
529 3283 fax 529 4764
Surgery: Drummond CHS
on Wednesdays from
6 to 7pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland
Street on Mondays from
6 to 6.45pm

Malcolm Chisholm MP and MSP
555 3636
Surgery on Saturdays at
Drummond Community High
School at 1pm.

"I am a Catholic and mother of three sons.

Any teaching guidelines must apply equally to heterosexual and homosexual orientation. There must be no discrimination."

**Eileen Dickie,
Broughton**

**SCRAP THE CLAUSE
A Spurtle Poster**

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 69

April 2000

Scotland Yard threat lifted

There will be no car park of any kind at Scotland Yard. Local councillor Mark Lazarowicz has a firm assurance from Douglas Fraser of the City's Development Department that the idea is dead.

Possible uses for the Tunnel are

still to be investigated. A through route for pedestrians and/or cyclists, or for some form of public transport, is still on the cards. But no such project is likely in the near future. And there would be plenty of public consultation beforehand, says the councillor.

Broughton Television?

Well not quite: but the new EDINBURGH TELEVISION channel is based at Beaverhall and masterminded by Dave Rushton of Bellevue Place.

From midnight to 6pm it offers 18 hours of on-screen advertising and information to link viewers to its local teletext advertising, information and listings pages. And by the time you read this the new channel's 'Edinburgh Review of Arts' should be on the air in the evenings, from 6pm to midnight. The station describes this as "a unique mix of local views, news and

information - combining audio, on-screen graphics, teletext as well as regular TV".

You don't need cable, and there's no subscription - it's free to viewers. You do need a rooftop aerial pointing northwards towards the Craiggelly transmitter in Fife. Pick an unused button on your remote control, call up the menu for tuning and locate the EDINBURGH TELEVISION signal at the frequency for channel 52.

If you have reception difficulties, the advice is to phone 664 5534 for assistance.

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.

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay
Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie,
Jane Coville, Alan McIntosh,
Tim Puntis, and David Aitken.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time
PHONE or FAX - 556 7727 / 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

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

Playground gates to close?

Broughton locals may soon find they can't take a shortcut through Drummond Community High's playground. But only for 30 minutes each weekday morning, 10.30 to 11am.

Head Teacher Frank McGrail tells Spurtle he's worried by the annoyance caused to local residents by some school students, as they hang around in groups during the morning break. At school assemblies he's warned that, if behaviour doesn't really improve before the Easter holiday, all students will be banned from leaving the school grounds during interval next term.

And that would mean closing all the gates for the duration of the break. It may never happen, but Mr McGrail wants to give prior notice to local residents in case it becomes necessary.

"I want each of my children to grow into a decent human being.

I do not want them believing that their sexuality makes them superior or inferior to others."

Sheila Wilson, Cupar

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A Spurtle Poster

BRIEFLY

Redbraes residents are feeling very frustrated. They thought a Council grant for their Association was in the bag but there's been an unexpected hitch; work hasn't started yet on their play area; there's now a question mark over community use of the hut in their local park; and there's even delay over getting their wheeliebins! But representative Tam Hay says they had a very successful public meeting in March, and they're hoping to get things on the move again soon.

The Community Council is holding a **public meeting** on 'Traffic and Transport Issues in the City Centre' on **Monday, 3rd April** at 7pm in the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library.

East Claremont Street residents have been promised that **Evening News vans** will slow down on their way through from the Bonnington depot. Resident Simon Challoner has spoken to the depot manager, who says drivers will keep to 20mph or face disciplinary action.

Still in **East Claremont Street**, the Council's done a good tidying up operation on the central reservation, thanks to the efforts of Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association and Councillor Lazarowicz.

The problem over the **blocked pedestrian way at Europcar** in East London Street seems to be part of a wider picture. The City Council is asking for an amendment to the Scottish Parliament's Transport Bill, to make parking on pavements a clearcut offence.

Councillor Lazarowicz tells us that work to improve **Broughton Street pavements** has been approved for the new financial year.

The tendering process for work on **Mansfield Church** should be complete by the end of April. Meanwhile, specialists are looking at lighting designs of the 1880s, similar to those that would have been in the church at that time.

Lacklustre Parliament?



Ray Perman of East Claremont Street (Chief Executive of Scottish Financial Enterprise) says the Scottish Parliament does have the power to create a modern economy in Scotland, with full employment and social justice for all.

It was a South African friend who told me: "Don't worry too much, this is a young democracy. Things will get better as they get used to the feeling of power."

I had been bemoaning the lacklustre start of the Scottish Parliament, which started life loaded with 300 years of a nation's expectations. Those are hard aspirations to live up to, but nevertheless the Parliament, now approaching the first anniversary of its election, has not exactly inspired confidence in even its most ardent supporters.

No sooner had we got over extra holidays and expenses for MSPs, the ridiculous 'Beattiegate' and the departure of not one, but two political advisers, than we were into the ham fisted handling of the abolition of Clause 28 and the escalating cost of the Parliament building.

Support us!

Broughton Spurtle survives on a combination of Supporters' contributions and advertisements. We're completely independent, and have never looked for grants from anywhere.

● We don't want to swamp our pages with adverts, but currently we have space for a couple more. The larger boxes cost £15, the smaller ones £8.

● You can become a Spurtle Supporter by giving us a pound per issue: in return you get it delivered, plus one or two other items.

Contact John Dickie, 556 0903

But look deeper. Buried beneath the headlines, solid work is being done. Education Ministers Sam Galbraith and Peter Peacock have worked quietly at improving schools. Fundamental reform of the health service has begun. Scotland is - at last - getting National Parks to preserve its priceless natural heritage, the first attempts are being made at a truly integrated transport policy and an ambitious plan has been unveiled to eliminate poverty.

It's a start, but there is much, much more to be done. What we need to reassure us is a sense that the Parliament has a vision of what Scotland could be like with a modern economy, without unemployment and with social justice for all.

It is achievable - look at what the Irish have done in the last 20 years. And make no mistake, the Scottish Parliament has most of the tools it needs to do it: power over education, transport, the environment and economic development, health and local government - and £16 billion a year to spend.

The Press and the cynics (like me) need to give our tyro politicians the room to relax into their new roles, get the trivia of politics into proper perspective and concentrate on the big picture.

Then, perhaps, my South African friend will be proved right.

"I am a gay member of a large, happy, extended and Catholic family.

I am accepted and valued in that family without reservation."

Nick Thompson, Glasgow

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A Spurtle Poster

Cycle clips

Not exactly what some of us remember as "bobbys on bikes", these hi-tech guys are now a couple of months into the pedal-power pilot scheme based at Gayfield Police Station. Operating at present in a north-easterly area from Comely Bank to Easter Road,

it is fully expected that the team of ten officers will be expanded to cover other areas of the City.

Spurtle spoke to one of the team, PC Dougie Cleeton, who was highly enthusiastic about results so far. Speed, responsiveness and unobtrusiveness are the main



advantages on the heavily used roads of their patch. Dougie emphasises that they are performing exactly the same job as their more "conventional" colleagues but, being more easily on-the-spot, are better placed to deal with offences relating to traffic lights, pedestrian crossings, bus lanes and vehicle faults.

And, with the more environmentally-minded among us spurning the car and taking to buses and bikes, the members of the team are now more aware of what it's like to be a cyclist in a busy city. Dougie reminds the motoring public that it's OK for cyclists to ride two-abreast! We suggest that if it's him and a colleague doing so you don't argue anyway, but check your Highway Code. He's done so already, as part of a 2-day course covering all the necessary road awareness needed to be safe and effective on two wheels.

Any mickey-taking? Well, yes - but it doesn't last long and it doesn't faze them. And if, just when you need a bobby, they're there first, they're entitled to look well-pleased with themselves.

New bus services

There's been a mixed reaction to the changed bus services. Local councillor Mark Lazarowicz has been in touch with LRT, asking the bus company to pay particular attention to the following points in their monitoring of the changes over the next few months:

- * the lack of a direct service through Broughton to the Western General Hospital
- * re-routing of the No.8 - the route's better in some ways, but journeys take longer
- * No. 34/35 doesn't take us everywhere it did previously.



"The poor chap collapsed when he heard there was no 39 bus to the Western!"

"I am the mother of two young children, and appalled by 'Keep the Clause'.

Encouraging an atmosphere where a child may feel threatened, isolated or lonely should be condemned."

Pauline Cookson, Perthshire

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