

Belle's View



Hi fans

Hmmmmmm, standing room only on the bus, stepping inside any public building costs you a tenner, your local is full of wall-to-wall Bolly-gurgling luvvies, and the **Russian Cossack State Dance Ensemble** are clogging up the end of the street ... it must be The Festival! A veritable feast for culture vultures like myself! I'm sporting a badge to deter leafleters – **GO AWAY – I LIVE HERE!**

Last week, in the heart of Edinburgh's pulsating theatre-land, **Elm Row** was rumbling to the sounds of African drumming, as residents were treated to the sound of an exciting show by Ghanaian Artistes **Mac Tontoh and his Kete Warriors** at the **Gateway Theatre**. Unfortunately the show started at midnight when most residents were lying in their beds trying to sleep! After a few nights of stuffing ears with cotton wool and a visit from some tired and grumpy residents, the situation was amicably resolved when **Mac Tontoh** found a new (soundproofed!) venue up the road at **Ego** in **Picardy Place**. Hurrah!

Seeing a TV night advertised recently at the **Phoenix Cellar Bar** in **Broughton Street**, I thought it would be just the thing for **Estelle Murgatroyd** and myself. **Estelle** in particular was hoping for a wide-screen to catch **Ground Force** (and a greatly enlarged **Alan Tichmarsh**). Imagine our surprise to be greeted with a room full of glamorous transvestites grooving the night away to DJ **Stephanie Sparkle**. A good time was had by all!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Wheelies on the agenda

Since being set up at a highly successful public meeting in June, the Broughton Village Association has been tackling the many issues raised by local residents.

Focusing on two which were high on the list of priorities, the Association is holding an-

Open General Meeting on Tuesday 11th September at 7.30pm, at Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, East Broughton Place.

- On-street rubbish collection bins to replace the present method of household waste disposal – a Council official will present plans for containerisation in our area
- Update on traffic control in Broughton street – particularly the need for pedestrian safety measures
- Plus a chance to raise other matters of local concern.

The Association will welcome as members anyone in Broughton Street

and streets off, East London Street, Cochran Terrace, Bellevue Crescent, Mansfield Place, and London Street.

But anyone from the wider Broughton area is very welcome to attend this open meeting.



Containerisation of household rubbish in Broughton is not now due until February next year at the earliest. But if you have views on the subject, or just want to find out more, you are welcome to attend the Broughton Village Association's open meeting on Tuesday 11th September, 7.30pm at Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, East Broughton Place.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

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School upgrade one step closer



At long last, the Amey/Miller consortium has been confirmed as

Edinburgh Council's partner in the public-private partnership to refurbish or rebuild the capital's schools, including Drummond Community High School.

After the delay reported in July's **Spurtle**, on 23rd August the Council finally gave the go-ahead for negotiations to be finalised over the next 2-3 weeks, and signature of the contract should follow soon.

According to Council sources, work at Drummond will begin early in the schedule thereafter, and rumours around the school suggest start-dates during September and October. No firm dates for the beginning of work are on offer yet, but the Edinburgh Schools Partnership aims to have all buildings operational by August 2003.

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

Our local councillor has been told that the 'provisional construction completion' date for Drummond is November 2002.

It seems, too, that objections raised by individuals and **Spurtle** about the quality of public consultation in this area may have been noted. Council Communications Officers are planning meetings with local residents to discuss the implications of site-work for the community.

So far, ESP's handling of the Drummond Community High School project has been inept from a PR point of view, muddled and insensitive to local opinion and needs.

Hopefully, Amey's confirmation as the Council's partner will mark a new and better start.

Playgroup still homeless

Drummond Playgroup, which in one guise or another has operated locally for 30 years, did not restart at the beginning of the new academic term.

Forced – at short notice – to leave Drummond Community High to make way for new developments under the public-private partnership scheme, staff have been unable to find suitable new premises. Hence, over 20 children and their parents have been obliged to make alternative arrangements.

The playgroup – offering very inexpensive care, education, and fun for pre-school children – has been an integral part of the Broughton scene for years, with hundreds of local kids passing through its doors. However, despite intensive efforts and

widespread local support, a new venue has proved elusive. The playgroup has even been turned away from the Church of Scotland's spacious church hall at East Broughton Place, on the grounds of insufficient storage

capacity: but no-one seems to have asked how much storage space it actually requires!

If you can think of possible solutions to the problem, contact **Spurtle** and we will pass the message on.



CleanUp Broughton

CleanUp Day Number Three
Saturday 8th September 11am to 1pm

Join us to pick up litter.

Meet at the roundabout, foot of Broughton Street on the launderette corner.

Gloves, tools and bags supplied by the City Council.
Organised by the CLEAN UP BROUGHTON group.

Last call on current councillor

There wasn't a date for the by-election for Broughton councillor as we went to press, but Mark Lazarowicz told us: "I'll be standing down at some stage before the end of the Westminster Parliamentary recess whatever happens" – that is, before 15th October. So we chased up some issues we've been pursuing with him over the last couple of years.

Europarc are still blocking the pavement in East London Street!

"I have asked the officials to get back to the police about this. You are right to say that the situation appears to be getting worse again, having improved a lot for some time."

Progress on yellow lines to protect the crossing points in East Claremont Street?

"The final order went through Council Executive on 31st July, so I'm promised it shouldn't take long now as that is all the legal hoops gone through at last. It was delayed because 2 objections were received during the formal advertising process – one was dropped, but one was maintained."

East London Street traffic calming didn't happen during the school holidays.

"Apparently during the consultation process a problem arose with the location of some of the street furniture (a BT junction box or some such, I'm told). It had to be redesigned – nothing major, but it took time. A revised plan was sent in a day or so ago by Bryants, who will be doing the work as part of the planning conditions."

Why was a pedestrian crossing dropped from plans for Broughton Street?

"The difficulty is partly funding, but also (hostile) views from traders about the loading/parking space that would be taken away. This is a real problem – you can see from the existing crossing at the bottom of the street how much space is required. The compromise is to have two traffic islands at the top of Broughton Street: as these are less expensive, I am campaigning to try and get these put in before the RAP scheme (still a year or so away).

"I should say that I am somewhat concerned that the revised RAP scheme doesn't have enough in it for pedestrians/cyclists/shoppers, and I am meeting this week with the transport officials to lobby them to include more."

When will we see 20 mph zones in Broughton?

"This is subject to Council and Scottish Executive approval. If that is given, as I expect it will be, it will take a year or so for measures to appear on the ground. The officials have confirmed that this is very likely to include most of the area between Broughton Road, Broughton Street, Leith Walk, and the railway line. This area would of course include many of the streets round St Mary's, Drummond and Broughton Primary. In addition, 20 mph zones are to be provided in and around the Powderhall and Brown Brothers developments. As speed limits are still a reserved matter, I will also support any calls at Westminster for wider introduction of 20 mph limits – my own view is that 20 mph should be the norm in residential areas."

Were there not supposed to be trees in front of the Bryants development in East London Street? And what about the parking outside the Cathedral on Sundays?

"I hadn't forgotten, but I haven't got the answers yet."

Wanted – a pal!

In June we reported that local fundraiser Nancy Blaik feared she'd lose her stance up on the walkway alongside the National Gallery. The walkway was to be closed during work on the Gallery; and anyway, "Timothy Clifford (the Gallery director) wants rid of us".

Now Nancy, of Claremont Bank, has had a reprieve: she can carry on collecting for another six months. Beyond that, the future's uncertain. She thinks that Mr Clifford's ultimate aim is to clear the area around the Gallery of anyone like herself, stallholders and

entertainers – who he feels are lowering the tone of his neighbourhood.



Nancy and her son Daniel

Anyway, she finds collecting cash for Children Living With Inherited

Metabolic Diseases is getting harder. It just doesn't seem to capture people's attention the way some other causes can; most of the effort has to come from the families of the children affected – and they've got enough to cope with as it is. So any suggestions for new ways of fundraising would be very welcome.

Meanwhile, it can be a lonely, disheartening business standing out there collecting by yourself. Nancy would really welcome "a pal to help" – someone to chum her sometimes on her collecting stints. If you think you might be that person, ring Nancy on 556 4919.

Greening Broughton

Last month we introduced readers to 'Edinburgh Trees', a project exploring



the possibilities for more tree planting and the creation of small green places

in the New Town and Broughton. Since then we've spotted project volunteers out assessing the condition of existing trees and looking for possible sites for new ones. This fits well with **Spurtle's** own wish list for a greener Broughton: we want more window boxes; more trees, shrubs, grass and flowers; more benches; more good play equipment; more sculpture; and more 'softening' of buildings.

'Edinburgh Trees' aims to present a report to the powers-that-be at the end of the year. If you have ideas you'd like to contribute, phone Pat Eccles on 556 7550 – or write to **Spurtle**, c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place (you can put a letter through their letterbox at any time).



In charge at Gayfield

In 1973, Stephen Grieve pounded his first beat on Broughton Street. In April of this year he returned to take charge of a team of 100 or so, as the new Superintendent at Gayfield Square Police Station.

Spurtle asked him how he might balance the heavy responsibilities of city centre policing with the needs of the Broughton community. Though the appearance of the area had changed, the issues had not, said Stephen, and his responsibility was to "make people feel safe". His years in Corporate Development at Police HQ had also seen the adoption of new policing skills and techniques so that, alongside specialised units operating across the force, Community Officers are able to build up a knowledge of the needs of local areas.

For Stephen, among the main issues at local level are youth disorder, vandalism and graffiti, which deteriorate the quality of life – one of the main impressions he got on his return here. Essential to tackling this are consultation and effective communication with the community. He has promised feedback to the Community Council in September and a 'Partners Survey' with local focus groups is due later this year.

And, the newly kitted out 'bobbies on bikes' will soon be back, joined by a pilot squad of two mopeds! Far superior, says Stephen, at negotiating the hazards of Broughton's traffic – but that's another story!

Spurtle welcomes Supt. Grieve and hopes to be part of ongoing contact between Broughton and the local force.

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BRIEFLY

The new session of adult education classes at Drummond Community High School is about to begin. There's a very **wide choice of courses** on offer. Most start in the week 24th-28th September, but a few kick off in the first week of the month. So don't delay – pick up a copy of the full programme at the school now.

Broughton History Society's new session starts on Monday, 24th September, 7.15 for 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School. **You can go along** to sign up as a member, or just to see what it's like before taking the plunge. Look out for posters with details of the speaker and subject.

Careless driving and **parking is a menace** around Broughton's schools – as it is elsewhere in the city. So worried parents whose children walk to school have welcomed a higher profile police presence at the start of the new term. It seems that parking within the areas marked by zig-zag lines is not a criminal offence as such – only if it can be proved to be dangerous or causing an obstruction. But the police say progress is being made in introducing double yellow lines outside school gates.

Spotted some cleaning up that needs done urgently in your neighbourhood? Phone the Council's Task Force leader for the Broughton area, Billy Wilson – his mobile number is 07788 150 314.

A 'Get Active Week' for the over 50s is being launched by Community Service Volunteers on 10th Sept. This is an opportunity to find out how you might help organisations with limited resources, **meet new friends and keep active**. For more information, contact Liz Hendry or Angela Howard on 662 7766.

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, Eileen Dickie, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh and Tim Puntis.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time. PHONE – 556 7727 / 556 0903 Or FAX – 556 7727 / 557 6752