

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Broughton Ward
bye-election
HUSTINGS
Monday 8 October
7.15pm
Drummond Community High
Meet the candidates before
you choose your new
councillor later in the week

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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 are not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

Spurtle team for this issue:
Eileen Dickie, Tim Puntis,
Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor,
John Dickie and Alan McIntosh.

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

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References available

Contacts

**Bellevue and Claremont
Residents Association**
Yvonne Pryor 531 1636

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762
(daytime)

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

**McDonald Area Amenity
Society**
Bob Stewart 557 1267

**Redbraes Residents
Association**
George Hosey 467 6151

**Sovereign Court Residents
Association**
John Davies 478 4463

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

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

**Until bye-election on
11th October there is no
councillor for Broughton Ward.**

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

Mark Lazarowicz, MP
Advice sessions every Friday at
274 Leith Walk, 12.30pm (no
appointment necessary) and
every Saturday at Stockbridge
Library, 10.30am.

Malcolm Chisholm MSP
555 3636 Surgery on Saturdays,
Drummond Community High
School, 1.00pm.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 86

October 2001

Local artists team up with shops

The art group at the Stafford Centre approached some shopkeepers in Broughton Street about staging a street-long exhibition of pictures produced specially for each shop. Readers will have seen some of the results in shop windows during the second half of September.

We think this was a really inspired idea. The pictures are very colourful, and we can't possibly do them justice in black and white: but we've printed a few of them inside, just to convey some impression of what was achieved.

Local MP's bill

Mark Lazarowicz, our new MP, came sixth in the draw for private members' bills. That should guarantee him at least a 'second reading' - that is, a vote in Parliament sometime next year - and a "reasonable chance of success if it receives Government support".

Twenty organisations wrote to him with suggestions. He chose a measure backed by the Co-operative movement, on Employee Share Schemes: "the aim is to make it possible for employees involved in a share scheme to cast their share vote collectively - and thus have a say in the choice of Board of Directors etc.". In other words, promoting industrial democracy.

"It's a relatively small measure, but because of that has a reasonable chance of getting through." And it applies to Scotland - not just England and Wales, as did some of the suggestions put to him!

The Stafford Centre artists would like to thank all the shops that took part in this "Shop Windows" project, and Crombie's for providing sausages and burgers for the opening barbecue. "There is talk of making this an annual event", arts worker Bridget Grant told **Spurtle**.

Footnote: *The Stafford Centre is a project run by the National Schizophrenia Fellowship (Scotland) which seeks to provide an opportunity for wider social contact for people who have experienced mental health problems. The Centre offers support through its drop-in facility and by offering a number of recreational groups.*

Broughton bye-election

Mark Lazarowicz has resigned as councillor to concentrate on his duties as our MP. There will be a bye-election to choose his successor on Thursday 11th October. **Spurtle** has organised a hustings meeting - your chance to question the candidates.

Parking problems? Safety on local streets? Bus services? Rubbish collection? Future of our schools? Housing problems? Welfare rights? Parks and playgrounds? Libraries?

Find out what they would try to do about the issues that bother you. Come to our meeting with the candidates on Monday, 8th October, 7.15pm in Drummond Community High School.

**Broughton Spurtle is
free
and completely
independent!**
tel- 556 0903

BRIEFLY

Twenty adults, plus plenty of enthusiastic youngsters, turned out for the CleanUp Broughton group's third action day on 8th September. **Thanks are due to Mamma's** of Broughton Street for free refreshments for the volunteers (and to Lost Sock Diner and Mediterraneo for the same on previous occasions).

We understand that, if things go as the City Council plans, within six months it will be illegal for commercial premises to leave refuse sacks out on the street.

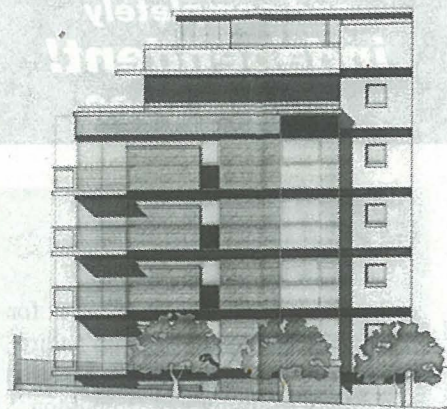
The **pavement repairs** on the east side of Broughton Street are due to be continued up to the top of the street. The workmen doing the job had to be withdrawn to complete work associated with the opening of Ocean Terminal in Leith, but will return shortly.

Redbraes residents are getting impatient. Ground at the foot of Redbraes Place was dug up to get access to the waterfall on the Water of Leith when it needed clearing after the floods. Re-landscaping was promised, but hasn't happened: and they don't get through when they ring the phone number they're supposed to use to contact the appropriate Council official!

Some time back the Community Council wrote to the Planning Department expressing concern over the height and density of recent planning applications. "Is it now general policy to allow **eight storey developments?**" they asked. No reply yet.

*The Autumn issue of Drummond Community High's newsletter records many achievements of former pupils. Just two examples: **Sonia Exley** gained a First Class honours degree at Edinburgh University. **Martin Ferguson** was the first British runner to finish at this year's Boston Marathon.*

Residents oppose new flats



Proposed new flats as they would appear from West Annandale Street

Plans for 13 new flats at the corner of East Claremont Street and West Annandale Street have met widespread local opposition, and unofficial sources suggest Edinburgh Council's Planning Department has been swamped by objections.

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association has coordinated the campaign, and invited Frank Nowacki, a director of W. and W. A. Architects to a recent meeting. He first explained that he had been away when the plans were made, but asserted that he

favoured "bold punctuation marks at corner sites" and innovative designs over period pastiches.

To the rising incredulity of his listeners, he then made clear that the plans did not represent the materials or colours of the proposed building, that equations to determine the effect upon neighbours' light had not been done, and that - owing to a misunderstanding with the Council - not all nearby properties had been notified. To the suggestion that the proposed development was inferior to nearby buildings, Mr Nowacki said "You raise an interesting point".

Disturbingly, it became clear during the meeting that developer Gregor Homes hopes to provide end-on parking in West Annandale Street as part of its plan to finance a "road improvement scheme". Quite how an accident black spot can possibly be improved by the introduction of more cars remains unclear.

Mr Nowacki, wearing a tired expression, was thanked for his attendance and departed amid polite but sceptical applause.

Dog dirt again!

David McLetchie is one of our eight MSPs, and leader of the Tory group in the Scottish Parliament. Writing in response to our recent coverage of the dog dirt issue, he tells us of a positive response to the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Bill proposed by fellow Tory MSP Keith Harding. This would allow specified Council employees such as dog wardens and street sweepers to levy fixed on-the-spot fines on those who allow their dog to foul a public place and then fail to clean up after it.

The original motion proposing the Private Member's Bill attracted the second largest number of signatures ever from individual MSPs, and from right across the political spectrum.

The Bill will be designed to help change people's attitudes so that they clean up after their pets, rather than drive up the number of prosecutions for dog fouling.

It is hoped to introduce the Bill to Parliament in the autumn. Mr McLetchie would welcome any comments to feed into the discussion - send them to him at Scottish Parliament, EH99 1SP.

Of bins and super-bins

Broughton Village Association recently convened a busy public meeting to update residents on containerisation and other topics. (*Spurtle got the starting time wrong - our apologies to the organisers and those who arrived late because of our mistake.*) Peter Gray of the Association reports.

Colin Baxter of the Council's Environment Department outlined the advantages of the 1280 litre wheelie bins used in areas such as Leith and Marchmont. These, however, were being outperformed by the new 3200 litre bins on trial in Fountainbridge. Mr Baxter fielded queries on issues such as accessibility, smelliness and the aesthetics of bins, which one speaker described as "looking like bits of an oil refinery".

Whilst bins were intended to get rid of the "black bag menace", opinions differed as to whether the cure was worse than the disease. Traders were also being targeted, and there were fears that Broughton Street and its side

streets would be overrun by bins. Although the Council promises public consultation on siting, it appears determined to implement the scheme. Depending on the results of the trials, Broughton could be containerised "early next year".

Traffic matters

Stephanie Harvey reported that a Public Hearing on the Route Action Plan would start in April. The meeting also heard that a pedestrian island just down from Broughton Street/ Albany Street junction was planned "before Christmas". The Association has since heard a traffic calming "platform" is to be installed shortly at the Gayfield end of East London Street.

The Broughton Village Association covers Broughton Street and streets off, East London Street, Cochran Terrace, Bellevue Crescent, Mansfield Place and London Street. To join BVA, call Stephanie (556 8159) or Peter (557 2298).

Greening Broughton

Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road writes:

I'd like to point out a couple of areas which hopefully could be preserved. There are some nice trees in the middle of the forthcoming Bryant site in the middle of Hopetoun Crescent (behind the wall). All too often trees are lost when flats are built, as happened at Blandfield (Barratt's). And what about the abandoned allotments in Hopetoun Street? There are many nice shrubs and trees in this now derelict area. Who owns this site: could it become a little park for the Bellevue/Hopetoun area, or will it be more 'concrete jungle'? What happened to the Hopetoun Steering Group and diversity of use?

Pat Eccles of 'Edinburgh Trees' is not optimistic about the survival of the trees in Hopetoun Crescent (she thinks they're already undermined); but she's enthusiastic about the old allotment site in Hopetoun Street. She'd like to hear from anyone who knows about its history.

How long is it since the allotments were worked? Does anyone remember them, or even worked on one themselves? What should happen to this wee wild space? It is one of the very few remaining open spaces in our area, and could be a precious resource for the future.

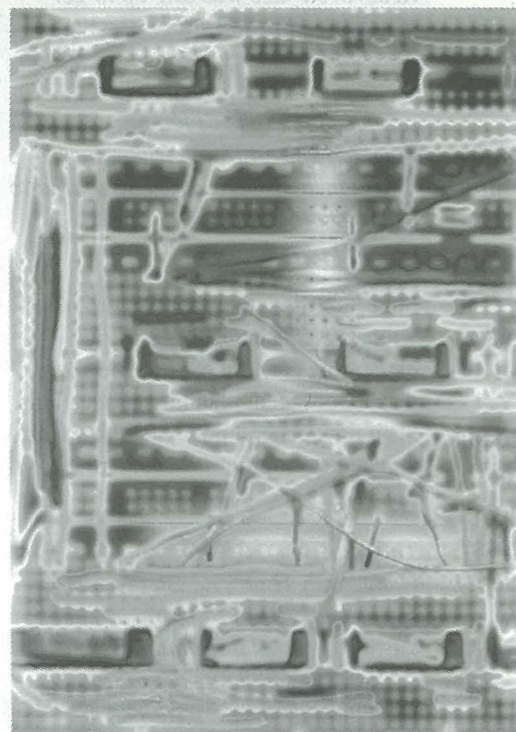
Local artists please note

Pat Eccles also reports that the work on recording the condition of existing local trees and possibilities for new planting is progressing well. She's very encouraged by the number of people - "mainly **Spurtle** readers" - who contacted her with their concerns about our environment and trees.

An exhibition on her project's findings is planned for early next year, in the Bellevue Gallery. There will be space for local artists to provide a contrast to the 'problems and issues' side by illustrating the beauty of our existing mature trees in their urban setting. Any artists who would like to exhibit should contact Pat on 556 7550.

Shop Windows

Nexus, Narcissus, Something Fishy, Egg Hairdressing, Crombie's, The Barony Bar, Woodcraft Supplies, Just Junk, Sundial Launderette and James Ritchie and Son all took part in the Stafford Centre art exhibition.



Julie Morton
'Untitled'



Graham Ettles
'Still Life'



Linda Allan
'Fishy'



Morag Ironside
'Untitled'