

Contacts

Drummond Community High School
556 2651

For questions or information about building work, ask for Charlie Traylor or Muriel Buchanan

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

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
John Davies 478 4463

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

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Cllr. Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School, Weds. 6.30pm-7pm during school terms

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

Mark Lazarowicz, MP
Advice sessions every Friday at 274 Leith Walk, 12.30pm and every Saturday at Stockbridge Library, 10.30am.

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alex_t@mac.com

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For more information contact Jackie or Bernie: 556 9960

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 90

March 2002

FUTURE OF SHRUB PLACE SITE

Local residents send Wimpey home to think again

Our neighbours in Pilrig notched up a significant success at a February Planning Committee meeting. Their well-presented case played a major part in convincing councillors that developer Wimpey's revised plans for the former bus depot site were still not good enough. No councillors voted for acceptance: they split evenly between refusal and 'continuation', with the convener's vote cast to give the developer a chance to go away and think again.

Residents argued that some of the proposed buildings would be far too high; the housing too dense; the design not worthy of the site (which is next door to the Pilrig Colonies);

there would be no provision for rented accommodation, and not enough family-sized flats; there would be a lack of open space and trees; and access to the site from Leith Walk presented pedestrian safety problems.

Broughton Councillor Davies (who proposed outright refusal) told **Spurtle**: "I hope that not only will Wimpey's make a huge improvement in what they next submit, but that the message will get to all mass housing developers that they have to improve what they put on offer. They need to learn that they must earn the co-operation and support of local residents - not try and bamboozle or ignore them".



Site of the proposed development at Shrub Place

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

GREENING BROUGHTON

Dolphin study



In mid-March Eileen Dickie of Hopetoun Crescent begins ten days on an old timber sailing ship, studying dolphins off the coast of Spain. Funded by

an Earthwatch Millennium scheme for over-50s, she and other volunteers (including Willa Stewart from Silverknowes) will assist a team of scientists collecting data on the declining dolphin population.

When applying to take part in the Award scheme, each volunteer agreed to come back home and use the skills and insights gained to tackle an environmental project in their own area. Earthwatch will support their efforts with a small grant, and expert advice.

City trees

An exhibition illustrating the vital importance of trees, parks and gardens in the city opens on 6th March. It stresses the need to invest in the green environment of central Edinburgh - particularly Broughton and parts of the New Town and Stockbridge. The artworks celebrate the beauty of trees and plants in the urban scene - colour, seasonal change and form from natural things.

The exhibition, at The Bellevue Gallery, 4 Bellevue Crescent runs from 6th to 16th March, 12 noon to 6pm, Wednesday-Sunday.

ANDY SHAW 1950-2002

A bonnie fechter



Andy Shaw died on 31st January, after a long struggle with serious illness. Andy and his daughter Lana moved away to live near Dunbar a couple of years ago, but prior to that he made his mark as a Broughton resident.

Andy played a prominent part in the fight to save the former London Street Primary School; in 1992 it was he who took the Regional Council to court in a last attempt to stop the

closure. When that cause had been lost, he went on to play a constructive part on the School Board at Broughton Primary – to which the London Street pupils had been transferred; and later at Drummond Community High when Lana moved on there. Meanwhile, he was heavily involved with Edinburgh Direct Aid, going out to Bosnia with convoys and organising local fundraising activities.

Andy's ashes were interred at the Woodlands Cemetery, Corstorphine. A silver birch and wild flowers will be planted on his grave.

BROUGHTON MARKET SAUNA

Local resident questions our view

Stephanie Harvey of Mansfield Place sent us this personal comment:

I would like to respond to your article 'Storm in a teacup?' printed in your February edition, regarding the granting of a public entertainment licence to an all-male sauna.

In answer to your question "Do saunas cause neighbours any trouble?", the answer is "Yes they do". Insurance companies are reluctant to give insurance to neighbouring commercial properties, because they know that they attract crime and vandalism. Saunas never report crime, nor do their customers, for obvious reasons, but the knock-on effect to neighbours should not be underestimated. I have had direct experience of this as I have worked nextdoor to a sauna for four years.

Because many objections were to do with the antisocial opening hours proposed for the new sauna, other arguments got lost. One of which was that the location was inappropriate, this sauna is to be tucked away in a badly lit cul-de-sac. Who is going to report any crimes that take place? Residents are bound to feel nervous

walking through Broughton Market, so it effectively does become a 'No Go Area'. It's easy to have liberal views on such establishments, until you have to coexist next to one and experience the repercussions.

We hope Stephanie's fears will not be realised; and the new sauna turns out to be a good neighbour, that people can come to accept as part of the varied local scene.

WANTED: 75-80 YEAR OLDS

If you were born between 1921 and 1926 at the old Simpson's Hospital, the 'Lying in Hospital' or Elsie Inglis – you're special!

The 'Simpson's Study' has recently discovered birth records have been kept for nearly 80 years, and the Study is anxious to contact you. Only very rarely is such detailed information preserved for such a long time.

Asking for more information doesn't commit you to anything. Contact: Dr Susan Shenkin, University of Edinburgh, EH8 9JZ; tel: 651 1686; e-mail: Susan.Shenkin@ed.ac.uk.

BROUGHTON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Road closures on agenda

Now well-established and attracting large and regular attendances, the Broughton Village Association will hold its next Open General Meeting at 7pm on Monday 11th March 2002, at Broughton Place Church Halls.

Up for discussion will be developments on the vexed question of traffic and road closures in our area, with public hearings due to be held soon; the application recently granted for the Broughton Market sauna; the impact of the rebuilding at Drummond Community High School, following the consultation meeting at the school on 28th February; the maintenance of green spaces, not least around the school and at Mansfield Church now beginning to re-emerge from behind its scaffolding; plus, of course, other issues which local people think still have to be tackled.

In addition to existing members, the BVA will welcome all local residents and traders who have the interests of the area at heart.

Footnote: Broughton Village Association covers Broughton Street and streets off, East London Street, Cochran Street, Bellevue Crescent, Mansfield Place and London Street. Neighbouring residents associations are Gayfield Association, Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association and McDonald Area Amenity Society (see CONTACTS list on back page).

Spurtle team for this issue:

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

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox".

PHONE – 556 7727 / 556 0903
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EAST LONDON STREET

A priority, says local councillor

When developers Bryant's got planning permission for their flats in East London Street, they agreed to include traffic calming measures – to benefit the neighbouring primary school in particular. That was supposed to happen in July last year. Problems over design led to a delay until the next school holidays, in October. But nothing happened then either.

Spurtle took the issue up with Councillor Trevor Davies. He told us that City officials are once again trying

to get Bryant's to move: "Getting the east end of East London Street sorted is a local priority", he said. "It's more than just the traffic calming – it's the road surface, the pavements, finding a place for trees, and a safe route to school for the kids."

We agree. But we'd like to see the whole of East London Street in the frame. Given better maintenance and the imaginative introduction of more greenery throughout its length, it has the potential to be a really attractive part of Broughton.



The telephone exchange in East London Street. Not a pretty sight; but could the facade be softened, and the wider pavement in front of it be used for greenery?

PRINCES STREET TRAFFIC PLAN

Has City Council loaded the dice?

Objectors to the City Council's Central Edinburgh Traffic Management scheme are up in arms. After a meeting held in mid-February to explain arrangements for a public hearing on the scheme, they feel they've been given too little time to study the case that will be presented by the Council. And even since that meeting access to all the relevant documents has been reduced – they won't be available on

Saturdays as previously promised, we're told. As it happens, Spurtle supports the City Council's plans to cut traffic further on Princes Street. But there's a wider issue here: the need for genuine public participation when policy is being developed. It worries us that people still sometimes get the impression the City Council makes up its mind – and then just goes through the motions.

BRIEFLY

Wheelite bins are on the way! Around 388 individual wheelite bins are due to be delivered to the Broughton area by the end of March. Communal bins for tenement properties are expected to arrive later – towards the end of September at the earliest – after a local exhibition to explain the system.

Redbraes residents have long argued that the dilapidated old pavilion in their local park could be a useful centre for community activities. Now it looks as if it will happen. After discussions with the City Council the Residents Association has a lease of the building from 1st March, and they hope renovation will start later this year – Councillor Davies has been advising them on grants. Residents' chair Dave Thomson told Spurtle they were also grateful to their councillor for double yellow lines at the corner of Redbraes Place and Broughton Road.

Last autumn plans for 13 new flats at the corner of East Claremont Street and West Annandale Street failed – following strong local opposition. Now we hear a new planning application is on its way. A public meeting is likely to be organised by locals; look out for posters!

Life in Edinburgh during the First World War? Not many of us remember much about that! But all will be revealed by guest speaker Susan Marwick, at Broughton History Society's next meeting – Monday, 11th March, 7.15 for 7.30pm, at Drummond Community High.

The Community Council's March meeting is on the 4th, 7.30pm at Drummond Community High. Please note a different Monday in the month and a different venue for the April meeting: 8th April, the Church Halls in East Broughton Place, 7.30pm.

The City Council are working on a 'community learning plan' for our area. There's an open public meeting at the City Chambers on Tuesday, 19th March at 7pm; if you have ideas about local learning opportunities, you'd be very welcome, or phone Riita Matheson or Earl Ross on 558 8222/3545.