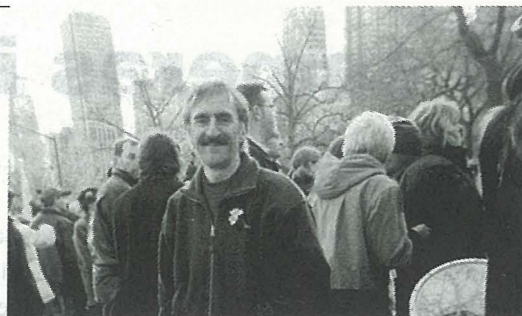


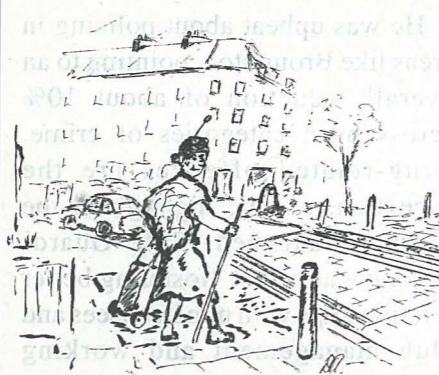
Bellevue Place resident Richard Love after carrying a banner on the New York March of the Pipers on Tartan Day, 6th April. Richard was helping promote Marie Curie Cancer Care, for which the March was a major fundraising event.



East Claremont Street



June 2000



May 2002

At last, Supergran can now cross without losing her trolley.

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Fax: 0131 555 3737 EH6 5EL

Email: lazarowiczm@parliament.uk

Please contact Constituency Office for details of Advice Sessions.

BROUGHTON **Spurtle** aims to:

- 1 provide a contact point for local people who want to get together and change things
- 1 help local action groups publicise their work
- 1 make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton
- 1 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, Alan McIntosh, Tim Puntis, Eileen Dickie 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 556 7727 / 556 0903

or FAX 556 7727 / 557 6752

BROUGHTON Spurtle is now on the World Wide Web on www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk

BROUGHTON Spurtle is printed on recycled paper.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 30 April: Broughton Village Association social evening with history exhibition, between 5 and 8pm, Lyon and Turnbull (the former church), Broughton Place

Saturday 11 May: Local History Fair, 10am to 4pm, Thomas Morton Hall, behind Leith Library, Ferry Road

Thursday 23 May: Public meeting about Hopetoun Crescent Park, 7.30pm at the Mosque, Annandale Street

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 92

May 2002

REDBRAES

Call for police action

Over the past year or so Redbraes folk have been becoming more and more community-minded. They've been tackling local issues; and have now started work on converting the dilapidated old pavilion in their local park into a community meeting place.

But there's been a setback. Young people have started congregating in the park in the evenings, drinking, and sometimes causing a disturbance on into the early hours of the morning.

They leave a mess of broken bottles and empty cans behind them. When contacted by residents about the problem, officers from Drylaw Police Station have made it clear they don't see it as a priority.

Residents' chair Dave Thomson told **Spurtle** he's afraid parents of younger children are now becoming frightened about security in the park. "All we want is for the police to play their part in tackling community issues", he says.

HOPETOUN CRESCENT PARK

Public meeting

Local residents who organised 'Hopetoun's Party in the Park' a couple of years ago then turned their attention to how the park itself might be improved. Regular maintenance certainly needs improving. How about more shrubs and flowers? A play area for children? Can the needs of children and dog-owners be reconciled?

Now a public meeting is planned, to report on progress and propose formation of a 'Friends of the Park' group. The meeting will be on Thursday 23rd May, 7.30pm at the Mosque in Annandale Street. Anyone with any interest in the park - please make every effort to be there!



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and completely **independent!**

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BRIEFLY

An objection has been lodged against the City Council's granting of a licence for the **sauna in Broughton Market**. This means the sauna can't open until the objection has been heard by a sheriff: timing not yet known - it could be as short as a month to wait, or several.

Broughton History Society is getting together with other Edinburgh societies in a special Local History Fair. Organised for Saturday, 11th May, it will take place in the Thomas Morton Hall behind Leith Library in Ferry Road - 10am to 4pm, admission free.

Broughton Village Association has launched a 'Sponsor a Tree' appeal. Their priority is to make sure elms that had to be felled in Bellevue Crescent because of disease are replaced. Depending on how much that takes, and how much they can raise, they hope to plant elsewhere in the Broughton area too. For a minimum contribution of £5 you can sponsor a branch - or give a bit more for a trunk or a whole tree! Contact Association secretary Stephanie Harvey on 557 2762 (daytime).

Local Councillor Davies tells us a 'barrow beat' is planned for Broughton Road: that means regular visits by a real live street cleaner on foot. Let's hope he multiplies to cover the whole of our area.

Correction: last month we reported that the former George Heriot District School in Broughton Street had been put on an 'at risk' register. That's right, but we got the street number wrong - it's No. 32a, not 22a.

OUR MAN AT WESTMINSTER

Sovereign Court problem discussed in House of Commons

The UK Parliament in London seems a bit remote compared with our own Scottish Parliament. But like it or not, some important matters affecting our lives are still dealt with there.

Our local MP is Mark Lazarowicz: we asked him what kind of issues his constituents bring to him. "A combination of personal problems about a particular UK government department or other public agency, and concerns about policy. As far as personal issues are concerned, the majority of enquiries tend to be about immigration and asylum issues, or problems with the benefits, pensions and tax system. Also problems with the postal service or local sub-post offices; and difficulties with utilities such as transferring between power companies (or finding themselves apparently transferred against their will). Some of these personal problems raise wider issues of government policy. In addition, I have received quite a lot of correspondence about various international issues (particularly since 11th September); world development and environmental issues. Transport issues too, many of which (inter city rail services for example) are dealt with by the UK Parliament".



Carol Fox of Hopetoun Street ran into problems after moving into the Sovereign Court housing development. Damp got in behind the tiling in her en-suite shower, and for months thereafter neither the builders nor the company set up to manage the property would accept any responsibility to put things right. She went ahead and spent over £700 to repair the damage; it was only after making it clear that she was going to her MP and the Press that she got a refund from the developers.

Mark Lazarowicz cited her case in an adjournment debate on consumers' rights and the housebuilding industry that he obtained in the House of

Commons, and pointed out the wider issues that it illustrated. "Something needs to be done to redress the imbalance between the bargaining positions of the purchaser of a new house and the developer who sells it", he said, and suggested some ways in which this might be done - his speech on the issues fills two A4 pages of Hansard. The Minister replying on behalf of the Government agreed that "there is a need for better quality and after-sales service in the new homes sector".

Mind you, it's difficult to imagine that the current UK Government will do anything to seriously inconvenience big business.

BROUGHTON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Broughton Village - past and present

Taking a look back from the issues which are the more usual concerns of Broughton Village Association, the latest BVA event will be an exhibition of images of old Broughton village - to be provided

from their fund of archival material by Broughton History Society.

A 'must-see' for everyone with an interest in our area, it will be held at Lyon and Turnbull, Broughton

Place - the former Broughton Place Church - on Tuesday, 30th April between 5 and 8pm. A ten-minute talk on the history of Broughton will be given at 7pm. Wine and soft drinks will be available.

POLICING BROUGHTON

Surveillance cameras in Broughton Street?



Returned to the scene of his early police career at Gayfield Police Station, Stephen Grieve spoke recently to **Spurtle** a year into his appointment as Superintendent there.

He identified real differences between the problems arising right in the centre of the city, and those in the residential areas surrounding the centre - though he acknowledged

that issues such as traffic management, commercial development and petty crime in the centre had knock-on effects on neighbourhoods nearby.

He was upbeat about policing in areas like Broughton, pointing to an overall reduction of about 10% across most categories of crime. Drug-related offences are the exception, and he highlighted the recently launched 'Safe Guard' initiative aimed at "fostering better relationships with pub licensees and club management and working together to prevent and deal more effectively with unacceptable behaviour".

A vital measure, says Stephen Grieve, is the use of CCTV and camcorder equipment. Using only

two cameras, police liaison officers on duty in the City Council's 'City in View' scheme have a continuous view from the east end of Princes Street to well down Leith Walk. The camera at Picardy Place can even home in on a vehicle registration at the McDonald Road corner! The Community Council are suggesting that CCTV surveillance be extended by installing cameras in Broughton Street. **Spurtle** would be interested to know the views of local people on this.

Superintendent Grieve values contact with community groups, particularly with regard to public perceptions and reducing the fear of crime. **Spurtle** hopes to be part of the process of keeping in touch with our local Station.

EAST LONDON STREET

Family history search from across the Atlantic

Charlie Munro of Dallas, Texas found **Spurtle** on the internet and contacted us for help with his family history:

"My great-great-grandfather Alexander Munro, a coachbuilder and accountant, was listed in the 1881 Census residing at 10 Cochrane Place. I can't find any maps or information on Cochrane Place: do you know of anyone who might help me pinpoint where it was, what the neighbourhood was like in the late 1800s, and so on?"

We've told him that Cochrane Place (which is sometimes spelt with an 'e' in the records) was just round the corner from Cochrane Terrace, and is now part of East London Street. When his ancestor

was living there the tenement would still have been very new, as it was only built in 1872/3. And we've sent him this photo of the Place as it was in the early twentieth century.



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