

THE FLAT

St Paul's and St George's Youth and Community Centre

You've noticed all the people going in and out, and you're curious. What does go on behind the big red door at number 10 Broughton Street?

The answer is literally something for everyone, from youngest to oldest. If you're between 0 and 2 and a half years old, and you like playing with loads of toys, then get your parent or childminder to bring you along to the Parents' and Toddlers' Group on a Thursday morning. If you're elderly and like a good blether over a cup of tea and a game of dominoes, then why not try the Senior Eastenders Group on a Monday afternoon. Maybe you're neither an older person or very young, well don't despair! If you're still at Primary School then Streetwise is the club for you, on Friday evenings. If you're at Drummond or another secondary school, then you'll definitely enjoy the Tuesday evening Youth Club, and Friday afternoon Drop-in.

Two things which really are for anyone and everyone are the Wednesday Lunch time Cafe, good food at cheap prices, a great place to meet people who live and work in the area; and the Neighbours Drop-in Centre on Wednesday afternoons.

All of these groups are already well supported by local people, but there's always room for more. You don't have to have any church connection to come to the activities at The Flat.

There are also some things which are organised from The Flat but which happen off the premises. On Monday nights Stephen, the Youth Worker, coaches a five-a-side team of local teenagers at the Astroturf, Drummond. Jonathan, the Community Worker, being less energetic, co-ordinates a befriending scheme for house bound or frail elderly people.

At The Flat we're aiming to support, encourage and work alongside local people in their efforts to achieve justice, fundamental security, and self-worth. We are trying to help build bridges of care, respect and mutual understanding between all sections of the community.

If you want to know more, or would like to come to one of the groups, then just call in or phone us on 556 6212. The rooms can also be rented for other community use.

GEEZ YOUR GIRN!

Our new feature gives you a chance to share a moan - briefly! This month's is from Alice Lauder, Bellevue Gardens.

"Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could persuade all those commuters to come into town by bus and leave our streets free for the bairns to play in safety - like the old days when we played Peevers, Skipping, Tig, My Father Worked IN..., Dodge the Ball and Hide 'n Seek - with only the odd horse and cart to worry about?"

Who's next to let off a bit of steam?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have dates for local events in September, please let us know as soon as possible

Thursday 18th August Spurtle meeting at the Bellevue pub in Broughton Street, 8pm.

Monday 5th September New town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm

Every day except Sundays during the Festival Cafe at the Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 11am to 11pm.

Every Monday Open meeting at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Broughton Street, downstairs, 7.30pm.

Every Tuesday Users' meeting at the Centre, 103 Broughton Street, 6pm. New people very welcome.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR READERS IN BROUGHTON PLACE AND HART STREET

This issue of the Broughton Spurtle is being delivered to your door but we can't afford to do that every time.

Look out for the September edition in local centres, shops and pubs.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Come and meet us in the upstairs room at the Bellevue, Broughton Street on Thursday 18th August at 8pm.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 7

August 1994

BEAT THE SYSTEM!

Did you write in, objecting to your council tax band? Thousands who did are still waiting to have their cases decided. Here's advice and encouragement from a Broughton resident who won - but only because she stood up for herself.

● You will have someone call to visit you. He MUST give you the reason for the valuation they have put on your dwelling. Usually it will have been compared to one or more similar houses close by. He will have plans of all the dwellings being compared, and it is quite possible they will be about the same size. This in itself does not justify an identical valuation.

● If you can see obviously unfair comparisons, tell him so. If you can't, still state that you are not happy, and that you intend to take it further, to a hearing. Tell him you will study the other flats, and after all, they may have been over-valued too.

● He may get in touch with you, and tell you that you can't bring any more information to the hearing, or raise any points you have not previously discussed with him - this is rubbish. You can raise any points you wish. Get as much info as you can. Compare the quality of the buildings, the design, and local amenities. Anything that would affect the valuation. You can get someone to represent you if you wish. You may have to be there all day - but it is worth it.

● The representative who calls is there to put you off: you have nothing to lose, they have. It's costing them a lot of time and money. My neighbour and I were offered 1 band lower by the rep, and really discouraged by him not to go to a hearing. We felt justified in going ahead and asking for 2. We won at the hearing. If you would be happy with an on-the-spot reduction when he calls, that's fine. Just ask for confirmation in writing as soon as possible.



The cafe at 103 Broughton Street - still going strong!

● If your neighbours are objecting, it's quite possible you'll appear on the same day. We didn't mind being heard at the same time, and it cut down the time considerably. Get together and compare notes.

I felt that the hearing was fair and not at all biased towards the Assessor's Department. I hope the panels are all like-minded. Best of luck!

THE PLAY'S THE THING!

Broughton's to have its very own play during Edinburgh Festival. A group has already got together and worked out the basic story. It involves a legend from the past and a vision for the future - a brighter future, created by our children.

This will be a community play, and anyone living locally who's young or young at heart is welcome to join in and help create a real success. Phone 557 0718, or drop in at The Centre, 103 Broughton Street - the venue for the play and other arts activities during the Festival.



Adult day classes at Drummond

YOUR LETTERS

Community centre - where?

A better building to use as a Community Centre for the Broughton/Bellevue area would be the now de-consecrated church on the corner of East London Street and Mansfield Place.

The Southside Community Centre is in an ex-church building. So why not such a substantial building here?

Instead of a dilapidated rabbit hutch, or that is what the building used as the Unemployed Workers Centre seemed like, the last time I was in it.

Alan Wiseman
Melgund Terrace

The Mansfield Traquair Trust have been trying to rescue the church building for some time now. The present owners turned down an offer of £500,000; and as we reported a couple of months ago, they're not sympathetic about community use. But the Trust hasn't given up. At its meeting in May an outline scheme for the future use of the building was enthusiastically approved, including community use of some of the extensive basement area. (The Trust has an office at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street, phone 557 5039)

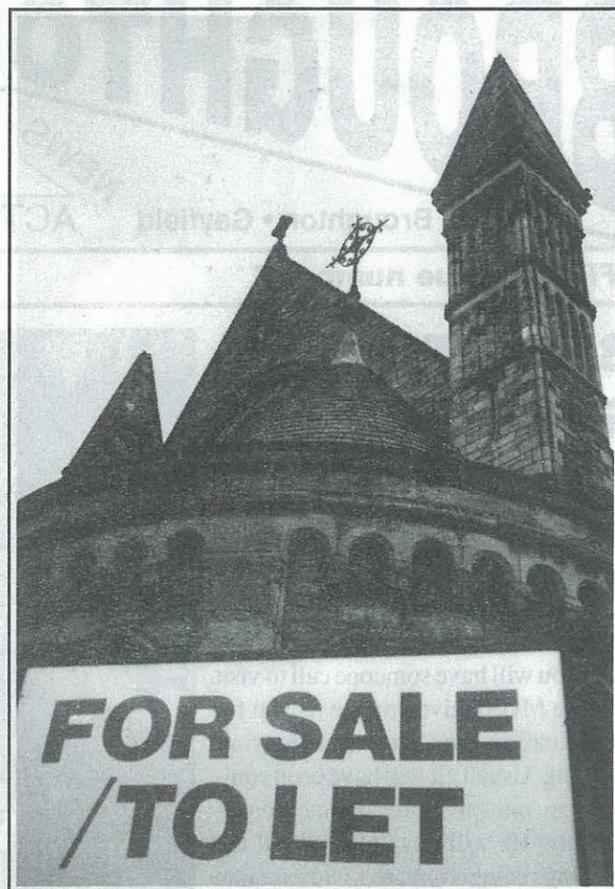
SPURTLE

"The law is an ass"

Remember last month's letter? Liz Raven described her experience of the legal system when she contested her ex-partner's access to their child.

Since then she's been charged with contempt of court because she wouldn't comply with the access order, and been admonished. The period for interim access has expired, and the case will come back to court in September.

Meanwhile a solicitor living in Bellevue Road has responded to the letter we published by writing to Liz direct. Amongst many points, he expressed surprise that she was not given a say in court; and that there was no order for a report, involving appointment of an independent party to assess all the main people involved. "There are many aggrieved parents who simply refuse to allow access



to proceed as they do not perceive it to be in the best interests of the child. There are moves afoot to amend the system, and I personally am in support of any such moves." He welcomes her idea of a support group, and would be keen to meet with it. (If you're interested in the group, write to Liz Raven, 8/18 Heriot Hill Terrace, EH7 4DY)

And another solicitor, consulted by SPURTLE, draws attention to a free and confidential advice service on legal matters relating to children:

Scottish Child Law Centre ADVICE LINE - 041 333 9305 - Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 4. If you phone outside these hours, you can leave a message and they'll call you back.

THE 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.

Contributors to this issue: Alice Lauder, John Dickie, Johnathan Hayes, Liz Raven, Tim Puntis, Tommy Perman and Tom Worthington.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the BROUGHTON SPURTLE please contact us as soon as possible! We plan to publish about once a month.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place have agreed to be our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time.

OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

Daytime Classes for Adults Autumn 1994

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH.

Monday

- 10-12 Sewing
- 11-12.15 Introduction to Computing for beginners. (SCOTVEC module)
- 11-12.15 French for beginners. (SCOTVEC module)
- 1-4 Woodwork N. King

Tuesday

- 9.20- 10.40 Word processing
- 9.20-10.40 Maths for the terrified
- 10-12 French Conversation for students with some knowledge of French.
- 10.55-12.15 Car Maintenance for Women
- 1.05-3.05 Higher English
- 1.05-2.25 German 2 (Intermediate) (SCOTVEC module.)
- 1.05-3.25 Woodwork
- 1.05-2.25 Printmaking for beginners

Wednesday

- 9.30-10.30 Fitness training.
- 9.20-11.30 Woodwork D. Johnstone
- 9.30-12.15 Woodwork N. King
- 10-11.35 Computing for beginners. (SCOTVEC module.)
- 1.05-3.05 Drawing for beginners. (SCOTVEC module.)

Thursday

- 10-12 Parentlink. New ideas for getting on well with our children.
- 10-12.15 Abstract Painting.
- 11-12.15 French 2 (Intermediate) (SCOTVEC module)
- 11-12.15 Working with Clay
- 1-3 Yoga
- 1.05-2.25 Text Processing (SCOTVEC module.)
- 1.05-2.25 German for Beginners. (SCOTVEC module.)

Friday

- 9.20-10.20 Aerobics
- 10-12 Tapestry
- 10.30-11.30 Dance Exercise
- 10.45-12.15 Guitar
- 10.55-12.15 Desk Top Publishing (SCOTVEC module)
- 10.55-12.15 Keyboards(musical) for beginners.

Creche

A creche is available for all our classes

Enrolment

Tuesday 30 August 10- 12 & 2-4
Wednesday 31 August 10-12 only.

Fees

Modules £18 registration plus £8 per Module.
Leisure £18.50 per Term
Senior Citizens £8.50 per term
Special offer- half price for second and subsequent classes.
UB40 Free
Creche 50p. per class.

For more information

Phone Jane Meagher 556 2651

Highers

The school offers a wide range of S E B Highers to adults alongside our Senior Pupils during the day. The creche is available and courses are free except for a small examination fee. If you are interested please phone Jane Meagher on 556 2651 to arrange an appointment.

DISCOVERING OLD BROUGHTON



A ten week course for people interested in uncovering Broughton's rich and varied past.

The class will be on Monday evenings, 7-9pm in The Flat, 10 Broughton Street. Starting Monday 5th September Cost - £10 (senior citizens £5, UB40 free) For more details please phone Jane Meagher (556 2651) or Jonathan Hayes (556 6212)