

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Broughton • Gayfield

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 18

August 1995

SEAGULLS ARE NO JOKE

The sound of seagulls sends shivers down the spines of some Broughton residents. Back in 1993, when we were trying to find out what local people thought of Broughton before launching the Spurtle, "the seagulls" already featured on the list of dislikes. By last year residents in the Bellevue area were knocking at doors collecting signatures and lobbying their local councillor for action to cut down the noise and mess caused by the gulls.

It's a problem elsewhere in Edinburgh and beyond, but locally complaints centre on the LRT garage in Annandale Street where the seagulls nest on the roof. Locals living nearby say they are woken up in the early hours of the morning. Recently LRT have been reported in the Press as saying they'll be having professionals removing nests from the roof, at the times of year permitted by law.

But local residents are not convinced that an end to the problem is in sight. "The efforts made to solve it over the past year have been pitiful", Bill Davidson of Bellevue Grove told us. "It's really becoming practically unbearable - some of us have seriously thought of moving house. They may have removed some nests from the garage roof, but I've personally watched at least six more chicks growing up over the last couple of months. And they're spreading out: nesting has started in some of the nearby side streets. Culling is the only answer - not just here, all over Edinburgh. If they don't act now it will be all the more difficult to sort it out later."

DRUMMOND STUDENTS GO TO RUSSIA

For a week in June two students and two members of staff from Drummond High attended Caretakers of the Environment conference on arctic ecology in the Russian far north. The Drummond team's presentation on the "Cairngorm plateau, Scotland's arctic" was enthusiastically received by other delegates from all over the world.

The two 5th year students were Hazel McCutcheon and Cheryl Borthwick.

See picture on page 4

GRAFFITI IN THE CHURCH AGAIN

Readers may remember Cafe Graffiti in Mansfield Place Church at Festival time last year. They're back, and this year there's Cafe Maracas too.

Cafe Graffiti's due to open in the church itself on 11th August, Cafe Maracas in the basement the following day. As we went to press in the last week of July the whole building was a hive of activity as 40 semi-voluntary workers raced to get the twin venues ready on time. Lots of cleaning and rewiring throughout, and sound proofing of the basement. A balcony all round the church this year, which will accommodate a cyber cafe, and allow visitors a closer look at the mural paintings. An outside stairs installed to give direct access to Cafe Maracas in the basement. It'll be strictly no smoking at Cafe Graffiti, for the sake of the paintings, but you can light up downstairs in Cafe Maracas. Some performers will appear at both venues, but admission will be to one or the other. For Broughton locals, the easiest way to check what's on will be to consult details posted at the front door of the church itself.

Prices vary from show to show. But when there's no show on there will be no entrance charge and you'll be welcome to drop in, have a look at the murals, and have a drink or something to eat if you like. Director Pete Simpson told us that the origins of the Cafe lay in a "neighbourhood cafe" in Stockbridge, 1979-80:

"We're happiest in a building where we're a part of the community. But that only happens over time, you have to prove your case."



On the long-term future of the building, see MANSFIELD CHURCH GO-AHEAD, page 4.

Locals paint Broughton history mural - page 3

LOCAL CHURCH TEACHES A LESSON

In last month's Spurtle Lizzy had Jimmy flummoxed by her talk of Greek columns. But she's quite right. St. Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent offers a lesson in classical architecture. The steeple is decorated with the three main styles of pillar, Doric, Ionian and Corinthian - or plain, curly and sprouty! (The big pillars at the front door are Corinthian too.)



Built in 1824, the church is "grandly Neo-Classical" on the outside say the architectural historians, while the layout inside "shows the influence of Elliot's Broughton McDonald Church" - and the two congregations have now come together! (Which reminds me: "former resident in the district" Ms McCoy wrote in to chide us, quite rightly, for calling the halls in East Broughton Place "St. Mary's Church Centre." They are of course the Broughton St. Mary's Church Centre.)

Before St. Mary's was built, the site was used as a fairground in the early years of the nineteenth century.

TRAFFIC CALMING NOT ENOUGH

Good luck to the Broughton Traffic Action Group who collected 588 signatures for a petition pointing out the need for traffic calming in Broughton Street. But how many car drivers would have signed an opposing petition if they had been stopped and given the chance to do so?

Slowing the traffic in Broughton Street will make it safer, a little less noisy, a little more polluted. Drivers will look for other routes without such restrictions.

Traffic calming is a good thing, but it is not half a drop in an ever swelling ocean. Imposed measures and restrictions will never bring about change. Much more is required. Every time you use a car,

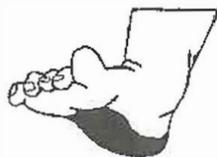
whether calmed or not, you are producing pollution, health hazards, noise, additional grounds and reasons for those in favour of building more roads etc.

It's not good enough to blame poor public transport. Use it! Forget about getting there as fast as possible: slow down: walk a bit and take a bus, or cycle. Half the people who loudly lament the closing down of local shops hardly ever bought anything from those shops: they went to supermarkets and superstores to save money (and of course they went by car). No wonder the little shops go bust. Here you have to spend more time, there a bit more money. It depends on you making these so-called sacrifices to improve the human quality of life.

On Friday 30th June traffic in Broughton Street was slowed down drastically - if only briefly. Cyclists riding en masse down the Street dictated the speed of traffic behind them, and they weren't hurrying! There's a Critical Mass bicycle demo last Friday of every month - in June they chose to include Broughton in their route to show solidarity with the local Traffic Action Group. If you're interested, they meet at 5pm at the foot of the Mound.

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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: Tim Puntis, John Dickie, Tom Perman, Peter Galinsky, Conchita Pinto, and Ian Dunn.

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

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time
OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

A WEEL-KENT FACE

Alastair Shaw, Woodcraft Supplies



Where were you born?

At home in Edinburgh, Boswall Parkway.

How would you describe your job?

Most rewarding helping customers with their D.I.Y. jobs and problems. Original shop was at 101 Broughton Street, I was there for 26 years. New shop at 109 Broughton Street for 10 years.

What is your favourite restaurant/pub?

La Rusticana in Cockburn Street. Cask and Barrel, Broughton Street.

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Austria in winter (On honeymoon)

What makes you angry?

Customers who don't acknowledge your greeting when they come into the shop, and don't close the door behind them when they leave.

What do you do to relax?

Gardening.

What paper do you read?

Evening News

What is your favourite song?

Everything I do, I do it for you, Bryan Adams.

What frightens you most?

The loss of so many small shops. It might happen to me one day.

If you could be granted a wish, what would it be?

To retire early to the country .

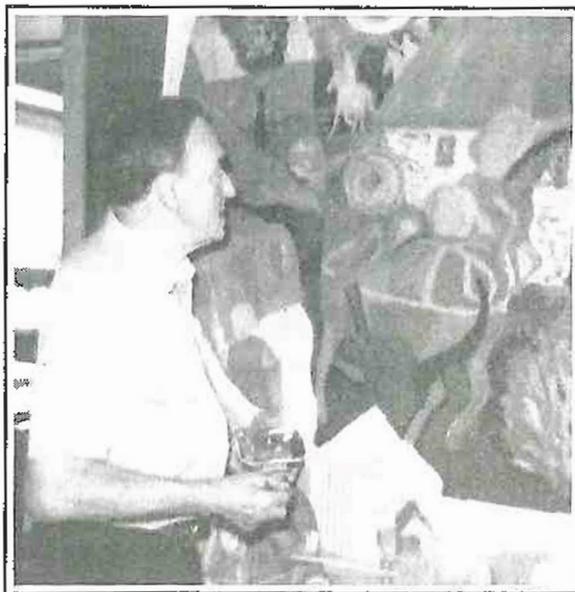
HISTORY MURAL TAKES SHAPE

Since schools broke for the summer holidays, local history enthusiasts and artists have been in and out of an Art room at Drummond Community High almost daily. They've been working on the Old Broughton mural - a big, bold, colourful representation of some of the outstanding events in Broughton's long history.

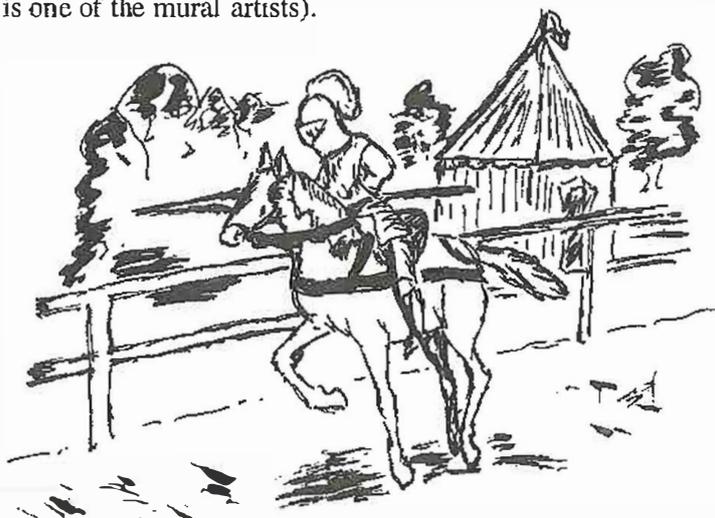
First nine big hardboard panels had to be built, and given a good undercoat of paint. Then scenes based on local research and old illustrations were sketched in, following an overall plan drawn up by local designer Charlie Miller. Now the artists in the group are busy with the detailed drawing and painting, while others help with such things as colouring in the border (the mural's 36 feet long!) - and preparing other aspects of the exhibition in which the mural will be the centrepiece.

The mural will be publicly displayed for the first time in the third week of August, at Drummond.

There will also be old maps to study, history books with more details of the story outlined by the mural, and taped memories of Broughton as it was earlier this century to listen to. And don't miss the coat-of-arms of the Baron of Broughton, recently rediscovered by local historian Alice Lauder (a family team here - husband Martin is one of the mural artists).



Local artist David Aitken working on the mural



David's sketch for the jousting at Greenside

Just Junk

"Beyond the bounds
of good taste...
Utterly appalling"

B. Sewell

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LOCAL HISTORY EXHIBITION

14-18 AUGUST

10AM TO 4PM

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL

ENTRANCE FREE

MANSFIELD CHURCH GO-AHEAD

The Mansfield Traquair Trust has approved a report which shows that Civic and assembly uses for the East London Street building will give it a secure future at the same time as allowing maximum public access. Estimated cost is £3,500,000.

The plans show two big halls at ground and basement levels, with new internal stairs and lifts connecting them. A fully-equipped kitchen is planned. The halls would lend themselves for various public concerts, plays and celebratory occasions.

Now the Trustees have lodged an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for money to purchase and equip the building. Historic Scotland and others are to be approached for grants to restore the Phoebe Traquair murals and repair the roofs. The New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council, at its meeting in July, enthusiastically backed the Trust's plans. If work can start next Spring, the building would open late in 1998.

The Church is open until early September (Cafe Graffiti). Emergency repairs to the murals start later in September, paid for initially by the Planning Department.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events. Copy deadline for our September issue is Friday 25th August.

Wednesday 2nd August A new cafe/bar, "Eat Out in Edinburgh", opens at 60 Broughton Street, in the Gay Centre building.

Monday 7th August Community Council meets at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 7.30pm.

Thursday 10th August SPURTLE meeting at 59 Broughton Street, 2nd floor left-hand door, 8pm.

Friday 11th August CAFE GRAFFITI opens at Mansfield Place Church. Continues through to 3rd September.

Monday 14th August Local History Exhibition opens, with OLD BROUGHTON MURAL as its centrepiece, 10am at Drummond Community High School. Continues through to Friday 18th, 10am to 4pm.



Hazel McCutcheon, one of the Drummond student delegates to the Caretakers of the Environment conference in arctic Russia learning to tap spoons the Russian way!

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