

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No 111 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

**February
2004**

**Tel: 556 0903
556 7727**

Readers give us the thumbs up



Susan Fraser
of *Bellevue Crescent*: 'One of the things I love most about living in this area is the sense of community

within Broughton. The *Spurtle* is a strong contributor to this. How else would we know what's afoot in our local parks, schools, gap sites, clubs and streets?'

Eric Robinson of *Broughton Place*:



'It provides an essential conduit for information and opinion, balanced, well-informed, topical and taking

initiatives. I think it is a classical community newspaper. Without it Broughton would be less well represented and a worse place.'

Gaby Holden
of *Scotland Street*:



'I much admire the continuity of the publication and its informative nature. It is a very valuable

community institution.'

Fay Young of *East Claremont*



Street: 'It's good to have such an active and enthusiastic community publication and I think you raise

public awareness on important local issues. I don't support all your campaigns of course. But it is good to give people a public platform.'

Alice and Martin Lauder of



Bellevue Gardens: '*Spurtle* provides valuable local information for us all. Articles are varied and unbiased.'

John Dickie of Spurtle: At the end of last year we sounded out readers—after 10 years publication, what did they think of *Spurtle*? We got 50 responses to a combination of individual letters and a general invitation in the last edition of 2003. There were many supportive comments like the ones we publish here. There were constructive criticisms: for example, some people felt we could lighten up a bit, others that we should reflect a wider range of views—and make it clearer where opinions were coming from. And there were plenty suggestions about how the paper could develop.

This year we aim to build a bigger *Spurtle* team; get 'out there' more to contact Broughton folk in different ways; and make sure that a wider range of voices are heard in the paper. If you'd like to help make *Spurtle* better, please get in touch!

McDONALD ROAD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Centenary celebration

Our local public library first opened in 1904, following a bequest of £50,000 from Thomas Nelson, the publisher. Nelson's intention was that 'persons of the working class can go and sit, read, write, converse and otherwise occupy themselves'!

A Musical Miscellany

in the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Public Library
Wednesday 18th February, 7.00pm, Admission FREE

Drummond Big Band, OCEAN Chinese Ensemble
Haftor Medboe and Krishna Sree Kumar (indo jazz fusion)
Amy Westwell, Leith Walk Primary, playing traditional fiddle

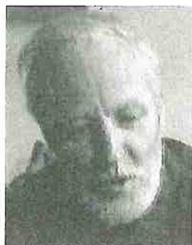
Debate on congestion charges

Late last year we got brochures through our doors outlining the City Council's proposals for congestion charging and inviting us to comment on them. That stage in consultation is now over, but the Final Draft for the scheme is now available at Council offices and you can send in comments on that until 27th February. Then there's going to be a Public Enquiry. If you want to take part in that as either supporter or objector, the deadline to register is again 27th February: Freephone 0800 731 0328. Beyond the Enquiry lies a Referendum!

The aims of the charging scheme are to reduce congestion (by up to 50% in the city centre, the Council hopes) and to raise revenue for projects that will improve travel choices. You'd be charged £2 when crossing either the inner or the outer cordon: but only at certain times of day, Mondays to Fridays; only on inward journeys; and only once a day no matter how many times

you cross either cordon.

The inner cordon is particularly interesting to us, as it runs through Broughton. What do you think of the proposals?



Armin Davies of London Street kicks off the discussion.

The largest class of drivers who enter a city from outside are daily commuters. It is presumably these that the City Council wants to discourage most, as congestion is worst at morning and evening rush hours. (No amount of flexi-time can alter the fact that people want to work during the day and sleep at night.) Others, like shoppers, can avoid rush hours. In fact, our city is quiet, compared with others, outwith the rush hours, the main problem being where to put all the parked cars.

It seems fair that commuters

should be discouraged from driving into town. Proper public transport at a comparable cost to their driving expenses should be offered to them. Public transport may be very costly to install, and tolls will certainly be needed to meet this cost.

Ever since Beeching was ordered to savage the railways in the sixties we have assumed or hoped that car travel would serve our transport needs. A poor and expensive public system has been offered to those households who have no cars, still a half of all households. During that time, the cost of driving has decreased while that of public transport has increased. Cities (where people live) have been damaged in countless subtle ways to accommodate cars. This is an injustice that congestion charges will go some way to remove.

But maybe only commuters should pay, not city centre residents?

Greening Broughton Road

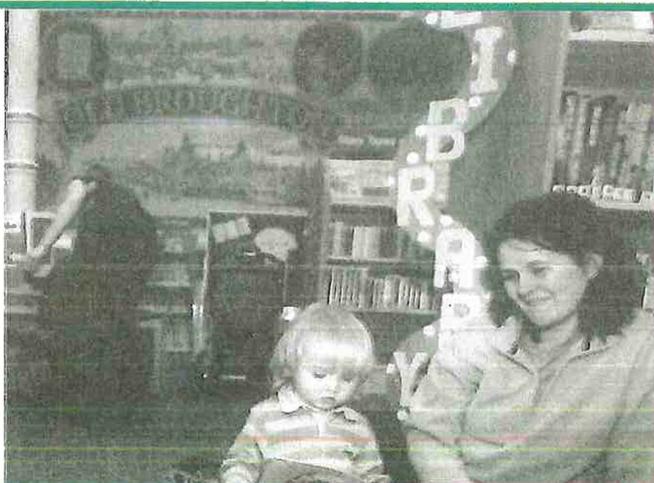
The Broughton Project Group's AGM on 31st January heard the story of real achievement over the last 18 months. Pine and birch trees have been planted at the rear of the bowling greens. A lime tree avenue has been created by planting at the bowling greens and at Broughton Primary on the opposite side of the road. And there's replanting and landscaping at the Rodney Street triangle. There's also a tree and land survey at Redbraes Park; and a clean-up day last April, when Group members removed litter from pavements and planted areas.

The big ambition for 2004 is to raise money for a complete

transformation of the Broughton Road playground, making it into a green oasis for the whole community - detailed plans were on display at the AGM. Leading

the campaign will be newly-elected chairperson Susan Miller, joint secretaries Nahid Aslam and Pat Eccles, and treasurer Ian Mowat.

McDonald Road library re-opened on 17th December, after major refurbishment. Yvonne Pryor of East Claremont Street and her son Dillon were there to enjoy the new bright surroundings and the improved facilities.



Local resident honoured for helpline service

Anne Patrizio of Albany Street was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours, 'for services to the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender community in Scotland'. We asked her what led to the award.

I've been working with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender groups in Scotland for about 15 years, since our own son told us that he was gay. Now I am co-ordinator for Parents Enquiry Scotland which is a helpline service started by a parent, Marjorie Cameron, 30 years ago. The award was a complete surprise and I was delighted when I heard about it.



Our primary commitment is to helping parents when their sons or daughters 'come out'. It is often a traumatic time, parents can feel completely isolated and the helplines are operated by parents who have been through the experience ourselves. We send out information booklets, give talks, arrange meetings. We are

befrienders, not counsellors, offering peer support to parents for as long as it takes.

Parents Enquiry grew as the political climate changed. We campaign for equality, lobbying the House of Lords and giving evidence in the Scottish Parliament and we are proud of Scotland's lead in legislation towards equality for LGBT people. The anti-bullying campaigns are very high on our agenda.

The award reflects the dedication of the whole team, the many organisations who support us and the value of the LGBT community. It would not have been possible to get this far without the fantastic help and support from my husband, Joe, and from more people than I can possibly name.

Parents Enquiry Scotland
Central Helpline No. 0131 556 6047. (9:00 am —10:00 pm, 7 days a week).

www.parentsenquiryscotland.org

BRIEFLY

Jack Budge (1928-2003) of Bellevue Road died peacefully in his home on 8th December. His funeral took place in Caithness. But Jack was widely known and liked in Broughton, so friends arranged a memorial service in Broughton St Mary's Church: 70 local people turned out to pay their respects.

On Sunday 1st February Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden were invited along to the celebration of Eid ul-Adha at the neighbouring Annandale Street Mosque. This festival commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son, and also marks the end of the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. The invitation and hospitality were much appreciated.

Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road tells us the January launch of Psoriasis Scotland Arthritis Link Volunteers (PSALV) as a registered charity was a great success. All her hard work was rewarded when 70 nurses, patients and others turned up at the City Chambers to hear a panel of politicians and medical specialists and enjoy a buffet. And there's been a spin-off in media coverage for her cause. 'Now all we need is more cash - I wish local firms would help!'

Readers will have seen the signage and roadworks going in for Broughton's 20mph zone. We asked local councillor Trevor Davies when the speed limit will come into force: 'At the moment there's uncertainty over the weather and the ability of Scottish Power to deliver on signage. But officials tell me they are confident the scheme will be operational by 31st March.'

The road safety charity Brake nominated our local MP, Mark Lazarowicz, 'Road Safety Parliamentarian of the Year 2003'.

The Parent Staff Association at Broughton Primary School are fund raising for new playground equipment. They are holding a Ceilidh on Friday, 5th March. For more information phone the school on 556 7028.

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform on local affairs; raise local issues; publicise the work of local action groups; make connections between 'the news' and people's own lives in Broughton; and stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected to any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anybody to finance the paper.

We invite you to contact us:

- react to what you've read in *Spurtle*
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton

Telephone 566 7727 or 556 0903

Write to us c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX - you can put a letter through the letter box at any time.

Belle's View



Hi fans

A happy New Year! It's hard to believe that *The Spurtle* has been going for 10 long years now! It's true - local stirrer **John Dickie** and pals have been hard at it for over a decade, and the great news is that *Spurtle* fans have screamed for its continuation - hurrah!

Uch! February is such a drab and dreich month - we all need some retail therapy! I highly recommend you treat yourself to a trip to new girlie emporium *Bliss* at 111A **Broughton Street**. Home of everything glitzy and glittery, this sister shop of Stockbridge's **Blackadder** shop has lots of interesting and unusual bags, clothes, jewellery, gifts and cards for those of you of a pink and fluffy persuasion!

There's nothing like a bit of a nosh on a cold winter's day - check out new eatery in **Broughton Street**, **The Olive Branch** bistro. Mrs Murgatroyd and I enjoyed a real blowout there recently, from its varied continental menu with a Scottish twist. We wore our tartan slacks with elasticated waists in anticipation, and we weren't disappointed, especially with the sticky toffee pudding in an even stickier toffee sauce!

Frazzled by urban life in swinging **Broughton** and **Bellevue**? Get along to **Energetics**, at 14A **Broughton Street Lane**, a calm and comfortable oasis in the city centre, with a treatment room and studio offering complementary health therapies, yoga and pilates. Dig out those old navy gym knickers and stretch away those winter blues!

Till next time - just do it!

Persephone Belle

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (day)

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

New Town Broughton & Pilrig Community Council

Jessica Miller 558 1025

Broughton History Society

John Dickie 556 0903

Malcolm Chisholm MSP

Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:

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Fax: 0131-557 6781

Saturday surgeries:

9am Leith Library

10.30am Royston/Wardieburn

Community Centre

12pm Stockbridge Library

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**New Town
Broughton and Pilrig
Community Council**

represents your views to the City Council and other public bodies. We need to find out what your views are on planning, transport, environment and licensing matters. Get in touch with us or come along to our meetings on the first Monday of every month (except for public holidays) in the Library of Drummond Community High School. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Jessica Miller

Secretary 558 1025

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Mark Lazarowicz

Member of Parliament for
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Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency office

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