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Spurtle

**May
2004**
tel - 556 0903
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BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No 114 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

END OF A LOCAL INSTITUTION

DIY shop to close



Alastair Shaw has been doing business in Broughton Street for 45 years. But now he's set to retire, and Woodcraft Supplies will disappear in June or soon thereafter.

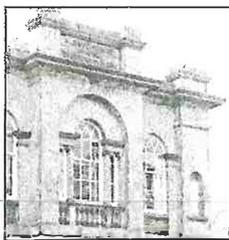
It all started almost by accident. Leaving school at 15, Alastair planned to do a joinery apprenticeship; but he couldn't start that until he was 16, so his mother said he'd better get a job meanwhile. That job turned out to be in Mr McIntyre's shop, No.101 Broughton Street: he enjoyed it, so stayed on

instead of going off to his apprenticeship. Mr McIntyre died in 1972, when there were still ten years to run on the lease of the shop from Sandy Crombie, so Alastair took over. The move down to No.109 came when the lease expired in 1982.

There have been some strange requests over the years, as Woodcraft Supplies became established as somewhere to visit when people weren't sure where else to go for help or advice. Not so long ago Alastair fixed a lady's dentures with a spot of superglue! But in recent years it's become increasingly difficult to run a profitable small business in competition with the likes of B and Q. And recently, when he was advising someone what shop to try for something he didn't stock himself, another customer interrupted to say no need to go

looking, they should buy it on the internet.

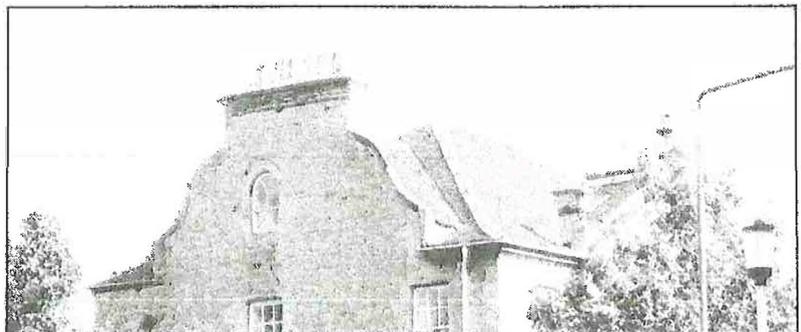
What now? Alastair looks forward to golf, gardening and holidays – including a visit to family in Australia. But we're likely to see him back in Broughton Street. When **Spurtle** interviewed him in 1995, he told us his favourite pub was the Cask and Barrel. That's still true, and he'll be calling in there for lunch from time to time – and maybe again in the evening if there's football on the TV!



Congratulations to **Ian McLaren** of Bellevue Street, who answered correctly that the building in our competition photo

is the Assay Office in Broughton Street, where Scottish silver is hallmarked – and won a bottle of wine generously donated by **Thresher**. Congratulations also to six-year-old **Phoebe Crehan** of Claremont Grove, who also sent in the correct answer – and won the children's prize kindly donated by **Bliss** of Broughton Street.

£10 FOR THE WINNER OF THIS MONTH'S COMPETITION!



Built as a stately home: name the building and tell us where it is in Broughton. Man, woman or child – the winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by Friday 28th May. You can post or hand in your answer to **Spurtle** c/o Broughton Books, Broughton Place, EH1 3RX; or email broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Parents have their say



Over the next few weeks local parents will be receiving questionnaires as part of the City Council's drive to understand how, when and by

which routes their children travel to and from primary or secondary school. Once the results have been collated, working groups will be set up over the summer: the aim is to improve safety along these routes, and to promote the health benefits of walking and cycling each day. Rob Hainsworth of Drummond Community High's Parent-Staff Association reports on a recent meeting held at Drummond:

Some time ago members of the

Parent-Staff Association noted that the congestion charging arms-length company (TIE) set up by Edinburgh City Council were proposing spending large sums (£10 million at least) on 'mitigation' of the likely increased use of routes, 'rat runs', around the edge of their proposed inner cordon by drivers avoiding crossing the cordon. It was felt that a meeting could develop a clearer, area-wide picture of shared traffic management issues such as

- overall volumes of traffic
- levels of atmospheric pollution
- problems for cyclists
- inadequate parking spaces in new housing developments
- speed limit enforcement.

Members felt that this would be a useful process whether or not the congestion charging came into effect.

Thus we invited Safe Routes officers from City Development to talk about their present plans. The general feeling was that many of our children use the same dangerous crossings, cycle on the same unprotected cycle tracks and breathe the same polluted air whatever school they are going to in the area. They were clear that such issues would be best identified and tackled by the local network of PSAs, PTAs and School Boards working together; and that only by working together could we influence long-term strategic thinking.

The group will be meeting again at Drummond on Monday, 28th June at 6.30pm, to discuss the results of the survey and the way forward. All parents, carers, staff and community users are welcome.

DOGHANDLING

Broughton gains an expert

Yogesh Rai served in the Brigade of Gurkhas for over 16 years. Now he's working at the Gurkha Brigade Restaurant in Antigua Street, while his wife does postgraduate study.

Yogesh holds the Royal Army Veterinary Certificate for training and care of both domestic and Service dogs. He can be seen in the Broughton area most mornings, walking or training dogs for local owners. He gives advice and one-to-one training sessions for dogs and their owners. 'He's very good', says John Mackintosh of Warriston Crescent. 'Believe me – I used to be dragged all over the town by a nutcase German Shepherd, until I met him!'

Yogesh can be contacted on 07799 374 078, or visited on his website at www.doghandling.co.uk



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 and:

- react to what **Spurtle** has had to say
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Telephone 556 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

e-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Botanics founder honoured

John Dickie of Broughton History Society reports:

In mid-April members of the Society paid a visit to Greyfriars Church. Our excellent guide showed us round the graveyard before we went inside for refreshments and an introduction to the interior.

Amongst the graves we visited was that of an Edinburgh doctor who asked to be buried along with a case of good claret: leave it with me for 100 years, he said, and then let the medical students from nearby dig it up and drink it. His wishes were followed to the letter, and a century later the claret was dug up and found excellent – or so the story goes!



We also saw the Hope family graveyard plot, and on it a newly placed memorial to John Hope, an eighteenth-century King's Botanist. This brought us back to Broughton's history, as it was this Hope who established the Botanic Garden off Leith Walk, in the area now occupied by Huntingdon Place (he marked out the boundary of the Garden with Huntingdon willow)

and Hopetoun Crescent Garden – where it remained until the move down to Inverleith in the early 1820s.

In spite of this project, and his services to the Royal Infirmary and to botanical education in Scotland, for some reason John Hope was never



Ann Hope who led the campaign

honoured by name on the Greyfriars family plot. Now that wrong has been righted, thanks to a campaign spearheaded by Ann Hope – who married one of his descendants.

BRIEFLY

There's a fundraising coffee morning and home-baking stall at the Church Centre, 7 East Broughton Place, on **Saturday 8th May**, 10am to 12 noon.

April's Equality Network News announces a meeting to discuss the Gender Recognition Bill, to be held on Saturday 29th May, 2 to 4.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Victoria Terrace. Anyone is welcome to go along on the day, but if you're definitely going it would be helpful to let them know beforehand (tel. 07020 933 952).



Equality Network, based in Forth Street, campaigns for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality in Scotland.

Redbraes Park was the venue on Saturday, 24th April for the **Scotia Cycle Speedway Meeting**. Davie Thomson of Redbraes Residents tells us: 'It's become a very popular event, and can be seen regularly at what is the only track of its kind in Scotland.'



Come along and see the excitement and spills of this sport. It's free, and if anyone would like to learn Redbraes Community Workshops hold modules where you can see videos and get hands-on training from experienced riders'. (Contact Davie on 467 3879.)

Pedestrian safety! Some time ago the traffic island at the junction of Bellevue Place and Bellevue disappeared, leaving an awful long, unbroken crossing for those on foot; and there's still no sign of it being replaced. We hope to have a full explanation from the City Council for next month's Spurtle.

POWDERHALL BOWLING GREEN

Discussion has started on how this public space could be better used. Meanwhile all are welcome to use the current facilities.

Opening times:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays – 12 noon to 4pm and 5-9pm

Saturday – 11am to 5pm

Putting: only 50p

Bowling: from 90p.

Everything necessary is provided, and Graham of Edinburgh Leisure is there to help you.

GARDENING COMPETITION

Deadline to register is 28th May

You can enter the City Council's 'Edinburgh in Bloom Gardening Competition' if you've got a couple of hanging baskets, a wee front garden or an allotment; or if you help look after a community space of some kind. In fact there are 13 different categories to choose from.

The judges will visit your garden or whatever during July (June for schools); and the prizes on offer are gift vouchers from Dobbies Garden World. Spurtle will be organising a local prize for any category in which no entry from Broughton wins the Edinburgh-wide competition.

But you must register your entry by 28th May at the latest! To get an entry form and more details, phone the Co-ordinator on 469 5196; e-mail her at karen.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk; or fill in the online entry form at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing



Trees and daffodils at Redbraes. Davie Thomson says the shape of his photo symbolises 'what can be achieved by a small circle of residents to retain and extend the natural beauty spots that exist within your locality'.



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Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents
Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Road Group
Pat Eccles 556 7550

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

Friends of Hoptoun Crescent Garden
Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151

New Town Broughton and Pilrig
Community Council
Jessica Miller 558 1025

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Constituency Office:
86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU
Tel: 0131-558 8358 Fax: 0131-557 6781
Saturday surgeries:
9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library



New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council Secretary Wanted

The Community Council represents
the views of local residents to
Edinburgh City Council.

We are looking for a Secretary to help
with the administration of the
Community Council. This is a great
volunteer opportunity for anyone
wanting to get involved in the
community and make a difference.

Please contact Jessica Miller
tel: 558 1025
email: jessicacurelop@hotmail.com

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St
Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,
Fax: 0131 557 5759 EH7 5HU
Email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk
Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk
Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office