

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

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**March
2005**

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Silence is golden at Broughton Primary School

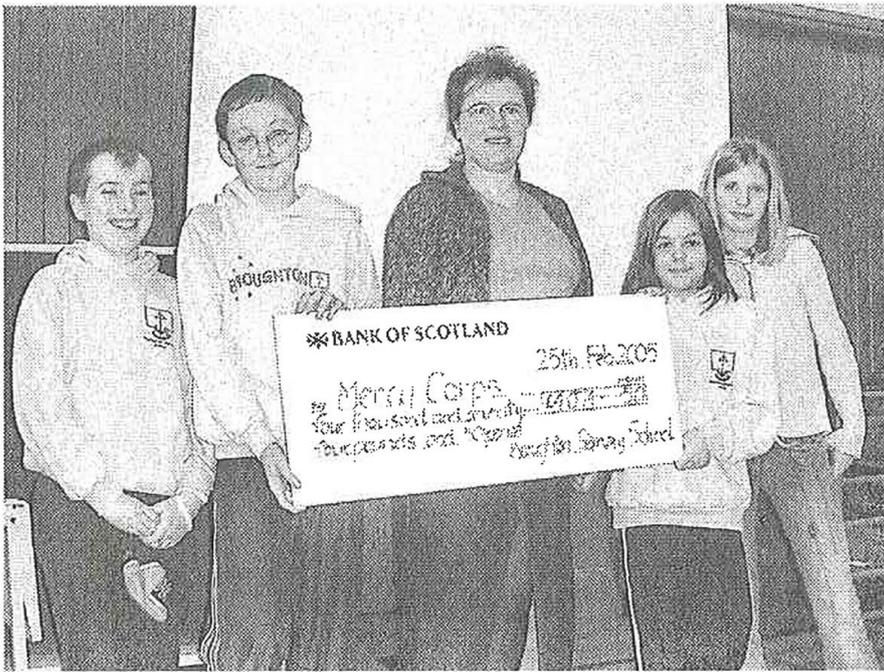
Pupils at Broughton Primary School have raised a staggering £4074.50 to help victims of the Tsunami.

Speaking at a special assembly on

25th February, Headteacher Alan Devine praised the children who had taken part in fund-raising activities, from coffee mornings to sponsored silences.

He paid tribute as well to their generous friends, families and neighbours. One boy had even asked his guests not to bring presents to his birthday party but to make a donation instead. The final figure raised is a splendid achievement, to date the largest sum raised by an Edinburgh school.

Present to accept the cheque from members of the Pupil Council was a delighted Alison Christie, Head of Appeals for Mercy Corps. This charity, which has its UK office in Claremont Crescent, is focusing relief efforts on Somalia, Indonesia, India and Sri Lanka, where about 150 staff and 2000 locals are working to reopen schools and repair houses, businesses and fishing boats. She first visited the school in January to give a presentation about the charity's work, and has promised to return with updates on progress made from now on.



GARDENING COMPETITION

Build on last year's success

So soon after that referendum result, it may seem like spitting against the wind to write about improving our environment. Attitudes to car use are deeply entrenched. It could be a while yet before any radical citywide move to tackle congestion and pollution is possible.

But meanwhile the Council will continue with substantial improvements to public transport. And it is still possible to make worthwhile changes to our immediate

surroundings here in Broughton: inside we report on some local groups' projects.

Last year Broughton won two prizes in the Keep Edinburgh Growing Gardening Competition – Karen Rhodes for her front garden in Gayfield Square, and Ross MacLean for his allotment in Scotland Street Lane. There were also Silver Gilt Certificates for Julie Johnston of Gayfield Square, Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden and St Paul's and St George's Church.

This year the City Council have added some new categories to compete in – for example 'best high rise block'. We hope Broughton will feature in the honours list again.

The deadline for entries is Monday, 6th June. You can get full details and an entry form by calling Karen Hay on 469 5196, e-mailing karen.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk, or by going onto the internet at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing

BRIEFLY

Drummond's Parent-Staff Association meet on Monday, 7th March, 6.30pm at Drummond Community High School. Topic for discussion is **Social Inclusion**. If you want further information about the PSA, or want to discuss a particular school issue, please contact Rob Hainsworth, Chairperson, on 556 1594.

Some 'events on women's empowerment and wellbeing' are taking place locally, as part of an international programme. The organisation Saheliya ('friendship') has one on women and mental health from 10am to noon on 7th March and 8th March, at 14a Broughton Street Lane; and there's another on 12th March, 2-4pm, at the YWCA Roundabout Centre in Gayfield Place. All free, and for women only.

For the sixth year running, Drummond Community High is holding a 'Festival of Learning' on Saturday, 12th March, 11am to 4pm. Billed as a free event for the whole school and local community, there will be adult education taster workshops, exhibitions, live music, stage performances, a cafe and a creche for under-5s. This year's highlight will be the unveiling of four wall hangings produced by students and members of the community with an artist-in-residence at Drummond.

In 1822 King George IV visited Edinburgh, and dressed up in kilt and pink tights to meet his subjects. But how did fashionable citizens dress to meet their monarch? All will be revealed in an illustrated talk by Annie Scanlon to Broughton History Society on Monday, 14th March, 7.15 pm at Drummond Community High. Visitors welcome (£1).

The Edinburgh Saltire Gaelic Choir practises every Wednesday evening at 7pm in Drummond Community High. The choir are always looking for new members, especially male voices, and would welcome anyone who would like to join them. Knowledge of Gaelic is not essential, as tuition is given by a fluent speaker of the language.

HOPETOUN STREET

Give us some green!

The former Royal Bank site in Hopetoun Street, on the corner with McDonald Road, has just been cleared in preparation for new flats and offices. Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road is not happy:



Hopetoun Street is going to be a solid concrete jungle, with all trees removed, and virtually no greenery. Did any planning go into this – a narrow street, the allotments and fine trees gone, is this the best that can be done? There's a lot more flats to go up – can anyone ask for a bit of grass?

Spurle asked Councillor Davies to respond:

We are adding trees – not taking them away. The planning for this area was done jointly by the Council and the local people through the Hopetoun Village Action Plan, including a tree-lined walkway coming right through from Hopetoun Crescent to Hopetoun Street and then on into the back of McDonald Place. It doesn't look so good now with building work going on – but we need to look to the future.

But, says Janice:

Adding trees – what, spindly wee things, when they've just razed about two dozen mature trees to the ground at the RBS site? The 'Action Plan': what happened to the 'diversity' we were promised a few years ago – a mix of different types of houses, shops, offices and green space?

In a document 'Hopetoun Village Action Plan' dated July 1999, the walkway referred to by Councillor Davies is dealt with in a section headed 'Hopetoun Street South'. The allotments and the RBS site are dealt with in another section, 'Hopetoun Street North':

'An existing business/industrial policy area as defined in the adopted Central Edinburgh Local Plan. Business is the preferred use on redevelopment, although other employment generating uses compatible with planning policies may be considered. An area of open space should be provided on the Hopetoun Street frontage, as shown on the attached plan ... The loss of the allotments is only acceptable if this, or an equivalent, redistribution of green open space is incorporated.'

MCDONALD ROAD FIRE STATION

Service commended

Gavin MacGregor of East London Street writes:



Following a recent house fire in the neighbourhood, community firefighters took the opportunity of calling door-to-door in the area to offer a home visit at a convenient time, safety check advice and free fitting of a smoke alarm.

As they say in their handout, they 'understand the anxiety such an incident can cause and are able to provide expert advice on how to reduce the risk of fire in your home'. Most of

us can get just a bit complacent about things we hope will never happen and coming face-to-face with an outbreak certainly makes us more aware of how simple precautions can make home a safer place. It was the Fire Brigade taking the initiative at the right time that prompted me to take advantage of their service, which was courteously and efficiently carried out.

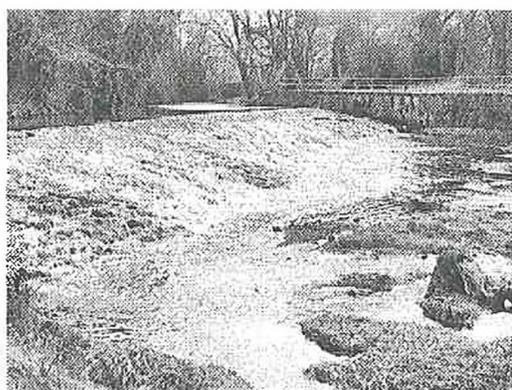
They are anxious to promote this service. A single phone call is all it takes and it could make a vital difference. The freephone number is 0800 169 0320.

Local effort gets results

*What makes your community a safer, cleaner and more attractive place to stay? Davie Thomson reports for **Spurtle**:*

Thanks to the efforts of all the groups of residents who spare the time, effort and enthusiasm to address issues which they think are important to the surroundings they stay in, we can notice the fruits of their labour by the achievements made so far.

Hopetoun residents have taken the initiative to restore what was formerly part of the Botanic Gardens. The careful planning has produced an attractive, well laid out park area in what could have been just another piece of land suitable for development. One must admire their patience and hard work to ensure that the green space is kept for the good of the community.



Redbraes Community Workshops have created a woodland walk, opening up a derelict area of their Park – with assistance from Barclays Bank, the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and the Parks and Recreation Department. Now a survey carried out at the Water of Leith has shown that for the first time in over 150 years, salmon has

been recorded. With the proposed scheme to alter the weirs at Redbraes and further upstream we will see salmon coming upstream into the New Town area – thanks to all who have worked to clean up the river.

Broughton Road Project Group have focused on what is a derelict play area and are enthusiastic that, within the next few months, they will have achieved their target of funding the project. What they plan for the site is a first-class facility for all ages, which will raise awareness of the need to strike a balance between development and retention of open space for community use.



We all need to contribute something towards making the community a more attractive, safer place to stay. **Spurtle** provides a platform to draw awareness to the important issues we feel need addressed. It also provides information on groups near you which need your input and support.

BRIEFLY

Craig Newsome, a cycle speedway rider who trains at Redbraes, leaves for Australia to take part in the **World Cycle Speedway Championship**. Craig, with 9 years' experience, was part of the Scotia team who can be seen most Sundays during the season at the track in Redbraes Park. Let's hope he achieves his aim of bringing the championship home. Training most weekdays and recovering from a broken arm, he deserves some luck.

Since local opposition saw off Wimpey's plans for Shrub Place, The Building Development Company has emerged as the likely coordinator for development of the site. High-quality design involving several architects, mixed use and a cooperative approach to local concerns are promised. Their timescale involves a planning application this September and, if approval is granted, a site start in spring 2006.

The mainstream media have given generous coverage to the story of the big timber 'Wendy house' built in a Bellevue Crescent garden as a children's Christmas present. It was built without planning permission, a neighbour complained, planners recommend retrospective permission should be refused, and its fate now depends on what councillors decide after a site visit. Meanwhile there has been a bit of a witch-hunt in media attempts to identify the neighbour who complained. Amongst reactions to this coverage was a letter to *The Herald*: 'When this structure is demolished, a worthier gift could take its place. Give the children a corner of the garden, some bundles of wood of varying shapes and dimensions and an assortment of suitable tools. Let them use their own imaginations and powers of creativity. Let them build their own playhouse, hideaway, den, bird-table, boat ...'

Spurtle is looking for someone with basic computer skills (preferably Mac) to help produce the paper. On-the-job training in desktop publishing skills can be provided. If you might be interested please phone John Dickie on 556 0903.

Belle's View



Hi fans

So what if there's a little bit of snow and ice about? Drag on those tennis-racquet snow shoes and big scary hairy hats – get out and experience the cultural delights of swinging **Broughton and Bellevue!**

You may already know about the **Andy Warhol** exhibition *Self Portraits* on at the **Gallery of Modern Art** (until 2 May) but you may not yet have seen our own fabulous sneak preview of it on the side of **The Omni Centre** in **Greenside Place**. Four of the portraits have been replicated 20 feet high – bigger, brighter, and better than the real thing, totally free – and you can eat popcorn!

A new club for music-industry luvvies has just started up at **The Street, Picardy Place – Born to be Wide** (fortnightly, Thursdays 9pm-1am, free). Aimed at all musos, journalists, promoters, record shop workers, sounds are provided by DJs from a wide source of actors, writers and musicians, and recently have included **Shaver's Weekly** contributors (anyone remember it?!).

Just when Estelle and I had managed to master the intricacies of the Slosh, it would appear that fifties dance moves are all the rage. If you want to learn swing, jitterbug and boogie woogie from scratch, get down to **The Jitterbug Club** at **Ego, Picardy Place**, every Wednesday (8pm absolute beginners, 9pm improvers www.boogienights.net). Oh, it all sounds sooooo energetic – anyone for a nice bit of **Joy Division** and a lie on the floor for the **Dead Fly**?!?!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform about 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

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



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

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY?

We always require properties to meet constant demand

Broughton Property Management

61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail: broughton_prop@ednet.co.uk

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 Hopetoun Crescent
Garden**

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

McDonald Area Amenities Society

Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosay 467 6151

**New Town Broughton and Pilrig
Community Council**

Annette O'Carroll 556 7586



New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Vacancies for Community Councillors

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

There are vacancies on the Community Council. If you think you might be interested phone the Secretary for a chat, or come along to our next meetings on Mon. 7th March at 7.30pm in the Library, Drummond High, and Mon. 4th April at the Mosque. Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586 E-mail: aocarroll@onetel.net

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North & Leith



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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