

# Spurtle

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER**

No 125      [broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk)      Free

**May  
2005**

**Tel - 556 0903  
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**ELECTION HUSTINGS 2005**

## Broughton voters put the questions

The **Spurtle** Hustings took place at Broughton St Mary's Church on 21st April. In the hot seats were candidates from six parties: Mike Crockart (for the LibDems), David Hutchison (SNP), Mark Lazarowicz (Labour), Bill Scott (Scottish Socialists), Mark Sydenham (Scottish Greens) and Ian Whyte (Tories).

After brief introductory speeches from the candidates, questions came from the 120-strong audience. Points raised included the Iraq War and occupation, house prices, the

effect of interest rates on quality of life, and the role of Scots MPs at Westminster. In responding to

*'Yes, Iraq is only one issue, but rather in the way that Mount Everest is only one mountain. It looms over everything.' George Galloway – whatever you think of him, he does sometimes hit the bull's-eye!*

questions from the floor candidates took the opportunity to put each other on the spot: the LibDem candidate had to defend his party's voting record on the M74 extension, GM crops and ID cards.

There were many more questions bubbling up, but inevitably not

enough time to put them all to the candidates. One local resident, an immigrant herself, wanted to tackle

the Tory candidate on the more outrageous statements made about immigration by his party leader. She didn't get the chance to put her

question publicly, but managed to corner him afterwards! As far as we know, the Labour candidate escaped questioning on his party's contribution to the hostile climate now facing asylum seekers and other immigrants arriving in Britain.



### **Edinburgh North and Leith: 2001 Westminster Election results**

Labour 15,271 (45.95%),  
LibDem 6,454 (19.42%),  
SNP 5,290 (15.92%),  
Tory 4,626 (13.92%),  
SSP 1,134 (4.01%),  
Socialist Labour 259 (0.78%).  
Electorate 62,475. Turnout 33,234 (53.20%). Labour majority 8,817. But there have been constituency boundary changes. In the new Edinburgh North and Leith constituency, 83.2% of the electorate is from the old constituency, 10.1% transferred from Edinburgh Central and 6.7% from Edinburgh West.

**A personal view of the candidates – page 3**

## GARDENING COMPETITION

# Don't miss the deadline!

Last year Broughton won two prizes in the Keep Edinburgh Growing Gardening Competition, plus three Silver Gilt Certificates. This year the City Council have added some new categories to compete in. The deadline for entries is Monday, 6th June. You can get full details and an entry form by calling Karen Hay on 469 5196, or e-mailing karen.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk, or by going onto the internet at [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing)

### COMPETITION CATEGORIES

#### Private

- Best front garden (viewed from road)
- Best hanging basket/container display
- Best wildlife garden
- Best allotment

#### Commercial

- Best frontage of a licensed premises (hotel, pub, restaurant)
- Best frontage of a commercial property (shop, B&B)
- Best retail park/office block

#### Community

- Best allotment site
- Best place of worship
- Best community garden or project
- Best school garden/grounds
- Best shared tenement garden
- Best street (minimum of 6 properties)
- Best urban village (population 2, 501 to 12,000)
- Best high-rise block

# Elizabeth Girling

Elizabeth Girling of Drummond Place died peacefully at home on 24th March, aged 92, to the sound of 'The Internationale'.

A lifelong socialist and peace



activist, Elizabeth joined the resistance to Franco in the Spanish Civil War. In Spain she cared for refugee children – and met her future husband, Frank, who died last year. His career as a social anthropologist took them to several English universities before Edinburgh; thereafter they were based

in Drummond Place for more than fifty years. Elizabeth founded the famous Partisan Coffee House, Victoria Street, in 1959 – a place of

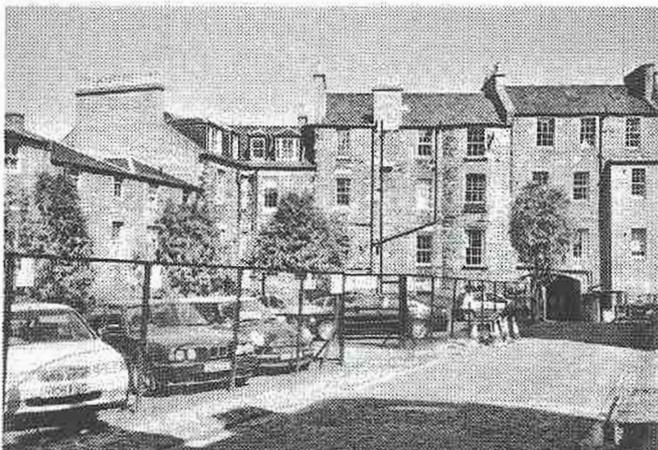
good conversation and warm friendship and part of the 1960s scene that also included the early Traverse Theatre and Jim Hayne's Paperback Bookshop. More recently she was a founder of the Lothian Allergy Support Group which took its cause to the new Scottish Parliament through the petitions committee.

At a celebration of her life in early April it was clear just how many people will miss Elizabeth's presence in their lives – most of all her children Robert, Joanna and Andrew, and her granddaughter Anna.

## BROUGHTON STREET LANE

# Three-storey threat

The alarm bells started ringing nearly two years ago. A developer came up with proposals for a 3-storey with basement block of flats, to be built



on the wee car park in Broughton Street Lane shown in our picture. Apart from blocking the main source of daylight for residents in Forth Street, the sheer size of this plan would farther degrade what was once

a well-proportioned mews lane.

Last year the proposal was knocked back by the City Council; but now an amended version has surfaced – still 3 storeys high. We understand that planning officials, having opposed the original application, are minded to recommend approval this time round. By the time you read this, the revised planning application will be available to view, with about two weeks left to lodge any objections: at the Planning Department, 1 Cockburn Street, or on the City Council's website. (Ref No 0301779/FUL.)

# Politics and personalities

We invited veteran hustings-watcher **Richard Love**, of Bellevue Place, to give us his personal view:

Democracy is alive and well, judging by the large turnout at Broughton St Mary's Church on 21st April for the **Spurtle**-sponsored hustings. In a good-humoured and polite performance (from the candidates at least) we all got a chance to judge the strength of their political platforms as well as their personalities.



**MARK LAZAROWICZ** (Lab) had the (dis)advantage of defending his government's record. He admitted that Blair 'taking us to war' was their

biggest mistake but defended their overall international record, handling of the economy and housing policy. Well briefed but he had to check some details of his own manifesto.



**Ian Whyte** (Con) wanted to encourage free enterprise, freedom with responsibility, ambition and excellence. He defended the Tory

record on Iraq, based on the available intelligence; praised the policy to make the Bank of England independent but, rather than provide costly benefits, would give tax breaks to the less well-off when employed. A solid performance.



**David Hutchison** (SNP) claimed that Scotland had rejected nuclear weapons. He wanted to end poverty, supported Scottish Parliament control

over immigration – and wait for it – independence. He was against the Iraq War (a 'false prospectus'), wanted coalition troops replaced by the UN; supported expansion of 'affordable

housing', however that was defined, and local taxation. Radiated energy and enthusiasm but disbelief at some of the other parties' proposals.



**Mike Crockart** (Lib Dem) saw his party as the 'real alternative', claiming their 'figures all add up'. They had been consistent in their

opposition to the Iraq War. Under challenge from the audience, he defended the Lib Dems' role in investing in public transport (M74 extension was only a small part of the package); in making it difficult to grow GM crops; and voting against ID cards. Methodical but not much passion.



**Bill Scott** (SSP) tried to focus on Scottish inequalities in wealth. He believed that Iraq was all about US oil interests; we need fewer cars, a fairer

tax system and more public housing. In a dig at Scottish Labour's autonomy: 'If the government at Westminster says jump, Labour in the Scottish Parliament says: how high?' An engaging and impressive performance.



**Mark Sydenham** (Green) had the difficult task of converting a strong global message into one relevant to local concerns. He believed the US had

no intention of leaving Iraq; castigated the government parties on their halfheartedness in funding public transport, and tried in vain to explain their Land Value Tax to release land for housing. Engaging but his arguments were sometimes tortuous and muddled.

There was a general feeling, except for the Conservative, that Scottish MPs should continue to vote on UK-wide

issues, as there are very few purely English ones. So, even if you did not have the chance to have your views changed or confirmed in person, get out there on 5th May and vote yourself – for somebody.

## BRIEFLY

Broughton St Mary's have a coffee morning and home baking stall on Saturday, 7th May, 10 to 12 noon at the Church Centre in East Broughton Place. Adults £1.50, children 50p.

The Community Council's May meeting is on the 9th – the second Monday of the month, not the first as usual. All welcome: 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School.

'Broughton Memories' will be the focus of the local History Society's meeting on Monday, 9th May, 7.15pm at Drummond Community High. There will be brief talks by long-time residents Martin Lauder, Kate Love, Gavin MacGregor and David Watt.

Edinburgh company BL Developments has bought the former bus garage site at Shrub Place, and are inviting local people to have their say on plans for its development. By the time you read this there will have been a first public meeting (on 28th April), to outline the company's own ideas so far. There's a second meeting on Thursday, 12th May to get feedback from local people: 6.30pm in McDonald Road Library.

Gayfield Association has its AGM on Wednesday, 18th May, 8pm at Lyon and Turnbull's in Broughton Place. Guest speaker will be David McDonald, on 'The Cockburn Association – Past, Present and Future'.

Last month we reported worries about the fate of old wrought-iron lamp posts in Forth Street, some of them with the name of the street incorporated into the ironwork. Now some reassurance has come in a City Council letter to a local resident: the post that disappeared is in storage, and it is hoped to refurbish and restore it by the end of August; 'funds permitting', the same will be done with two other posts.

# Belle's View



*Hi fans*

HURRAY! Spring has now sprang, and the entire population of **Broughton and Bellevue** are casting off their cloots and baring their attractive off-white bodies to the pale watery sun. Well, some of them are anyway – I'm keeping my big hairy hat very firmly on until July!

Estelle and I put WD40 on our knee joints to go clubbing recently, and have discovered a super new club at **Ego, Picardy Place**, on Wednesdays, the charmingly named **Disko Bloodbath**. Billed as the first queer alternative night at Ego, it promises electro, indie, punk and rock, with pre-club indie sessions from **Planet Out** DJs – something for everyone then! However, the more mature clubber might want to avoid **2Hot**, also at Ego, a night of hip hop urban R&B on Saturdays from 6.45 till 9.45 for wrinkle-free, midriff-baring young persons aged 13-17 only. Heavens – shouldn't these young people be at home, eating egg-and-chips in front of *Dr Who*?!

Out for a wee donder down **London Street** the other week, I came across fabby basement shop **Snapdragon**. This toy shop is stuffed to the gunnells with all sorts of toys and games, purses and bags, with a great range of pocket-money toys, and I took the opportunity to replace my pneumatically powered rubber spider (it's been to too many Halloween parties – don't ask!). **Snapdragon** is open every day of the week, so very handy when you need an emergency pressie! Till next time, just do it!

*Persephone Belle*



## New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

### Vacancy for Community Councillor

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

There is a vacancy on the Community Council. If you think you might be interested phone the Secretary for a chat, or come along to our next meeting on Monday 9th May at

**Drummond Community High School,**  
7.30pm

Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

E-mail: [aocarroll@onetel.net](mailto:aocarroll@onetel.net)

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61 Broughton Street

Tel 0131 478 7222

E-mail: [broughton\\_prop@ednet.co.uk](mailto:broughton_prop@ednet.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

## 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

**Gayfield Association**  
William McNair 556 4493

**Redbraes Residents Association**  
George Hosey 467 6151

**New Town Broughton and Pilrig  
Community Council**  
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

**Clr Trevor Davies**  
Broughton Ward 529 3221  
Surgery at Broughton Primary  
Weds. 6.30 to 7pm (school terms)

## **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](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk)