

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No 116 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

**July
2004**

**tel - 556 0903
556 7727**

McDONALD ROAD PLANNING APPLICATION

'One of the most unacceptable proposals I've seen', says MP

Developers Stewart Milne Homes have applied to build housing, with commercial units at ground level, on the Martin and Frost site, 130 McDonald Road. Local MP

Mark Lazarowicz has written to the Planning Department objecting to the proposal:

- 'The size is clearly out of line with neighbouring properties. It

will dominate the area and loom over existing properties.'

- 'The number of dwellings proposed will generate extra traffic, and the proposed points of access to the development will not be able to cope with this extra traffic.'
- 'The appearance of the development will be totally out of character with existing properties in the area.'
- 'There is a shortage of open space in the area. The proposed development appears to consist of little other than buildings. There should be community gain, e.g. by the provision of a small park or green space.'

By the time you read this, the planning application will be available to examine on the City Council's website or at the Planning Department, 1 Cockburn Street, with three weeks' time limit to send in objections: Ref.No.04/01918/FUL.



EAST LONDON STREET TRAFFIC

Calming not working?

In early June **Bob Crombie**, who lives at the Annandale end of East London Street, wrote to the City Council:

'The Council recently carried out road surfacing and installed traffic calming in East London Street. The problem with speeding vehicles has not improved, especially through the wave at the School and over the two humps. The humps

do not appear to be high enough to slow the vehicles. Most vehicles are travelling over them at between 30 and 40mph.

The problem is worse in the evenings and weekends when some vehicles are travelling at 40mph or more. I don't think the majority of drivers using this street even know it is a 20mph zone.'

His letter went on to make specific suggestions. The initial response was encouraging. An official telephoned to agree that two humps along the length of the street were probably not enough, and said he would look into it. 'He also agreed to look into more signs on lamp posts to make drivers aware of the 20mph restriction'. But since then – silence.

BRIEFLY

Kate Joester of Equality Network, Forth Street, says, 'It's good news that the **UK Gender Recognition Bill** has passed, meaning that transgender people will be able to get new birth certificates from early next year; and the Civil Partnership Bill is underway at Westminster'. But she's concerned that the Scottish Executive 'are still punting anything at all queer down south on Sewel motions'.

A Story Keepers Holiday Club will be running in the Church Centre (7 East Broughton Place) from 10am to 12 noon, Monday 9th August to Friday 13th August, for all children who were in P1-7 this year. There will be limited places, so anyone wishing a registration form should contact Joanne Hood on 556 7313.

Eric Robinson of Broughton Place wrote to us: 'Can you investigate (I have tried!) the **metal barriers** which line one side of Barony Street – I presume because of dangerous cellars.'



They have been there for at least two years, they are an eyesore, and attract litter and vandals. I suspect, as a hindrance and danger to pedestrians, they are illegal.' **Spurtle** has been told by the local councillor David Guest that a Statutory Notice has now been issued to the owners and the work on pavements and cellars has begun.

Homeowners living in the top floor flats of pre-1919 stone tenements are invited to participate in the Top of Tenement Pilot Project. Eight lucky homeowners will receive free energy-saving measures such as solar water heating; in return they'll help measure their energy use over one year. For more information phone Warmburgh on 538 7956, or email warmburgh@leep.org.uk

NEW TOWN, BROUGHTON AND PILRIG COMMUNITY COUNCIL

You could be part of it



After a year's break, Annette O'Carroll has once again taken on the job of Secretary to our local Community Council. She writes:

Do you want to try something new and interesting this autumn? Do you feel things could be better in the Broughton area? If the answer to these questions is 'yes', why not come along to one of our meetings and see if becoming a Community Councillor might be right for you. No previous experience is required, and there are members from all walks of life.

The Community Council is a vital link between the local community and the City Council: it makes known the views of local people to the local authority. The City Council has to consult community councils on how

local services are delivered, and on issues affecting their neighbourhoods – for example, any controversial planning or licensing applications.

Meetings of the Community Council are friendly and informal and members of the public are very welcome to come along and either just observe, bring up issues of concern, or apply to join. Current controversial issues under discussion include the introduction of wheelie bins, how the area is policed and congestion charging.

Meetings (which last about two hours) are usually held in the library at Drummond Community High on the first Monday of each month. But because of school holidays the next meeting, on Monday 9th August at 7.30pm, is in the Mosque in Annandale Street.

Put the date in your diary, and hope to see you there!

BARONY STREET HISTORY

Mystery solved

For years now, there have been tantalising oral references to a rowan tree planted at the east end of Barony Street, where Broughton Market once stood – with the suggestion of some tragic story of a dead son commemorated. But no solid evidence unearthed by Broughton historians.

Then, very recently, Elma Birse of Broughton History Society was looking through a box of old lantern slides up in the Edinburgh Room at the Central Public Library. She spotted one labelled as a rowan tree which stood in Broughton Market, in front of a firm called J. Hind: 'The Dead Soldier's Tree', dated 1938. Her fellow-researcher Alice Lauder followed up the clue. She found more documentary evidence, but the next real breakthrough came through talking to Barony Street residents. One contact led to another, until Alice reached descendants of the Hind family

who had once lived in Broughton Market.

The rowan tree was planted by James and Margaret Hind as a memorial to their son Henry, who was 20 when he was killed in France in 1917. According to information from the Commonwealth Graves Commission, Henry was buried in Sauly, France: 'The tree was like a replacement grave because the family couldn't go to visit where he was buried', says Alice Lauder. When the old Market buildings were demolished, Henry's parents moved into a tenement house nearby, and kept a watchful eye on their tree (an old photo indicates that it was protected by a circular stone wall).

The tree's no longer there – it seems rowans don't survive more than 60 years or so in a city environment. But Alice and the local history society are hoping a replacement can now be planted.

GREENING BROUGHTON

The wrong direction?

Like others, **Janice Johnson** of Broughton Road is worried by the trend towards hard-surfacing local gardens. She recently wrote to one of our Green MSPs, **Robin Harper**:

An issue which upsets me is the number of people who are having their gardens paved over, mainly for parking. This means a lot of green space is lost, probably for ever – no wonder we are losing garden birds! Could nothing be done to make it slightly harder to just 'concrete' over – having to get planning permission, etc? Perhaps there should be schemes to assist folk with gardening upkeep. We just think if the councils, and Parliament, are serious about retaining

open green space then this is a very real issue.

Robin Harper has replied:

I hope to get a clause included in the next planning bill. It would require planning permission to create a driveway, and all driveways would have to be 'permeable', they would have to be criss-cross strips, or tram lines, with plenty of grass in the spaces. These have two beneficial effects: water permeates, and does not run off pressurising the local drainage system; insects and grasses can thrive in the gaps.

Spurtle shares Janice Johnson's concerns. We'd welcome other readers' thoughts on this issue.

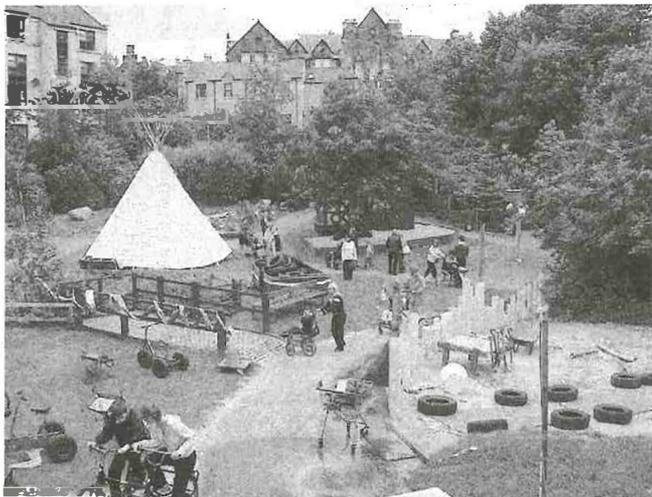
SCOTLAND YARD ADVENTURE CENTRE

Yard and community

Sam Kilby is Volunteer Manager and Community Involvement Worker for the centre down at Scotland Yard and would like to extend a welcome to all Broughton residents:

The Yard is a purpose-built facility for children with additional support needs, providing creative adventure play opportunities for families, schools and playschemes. There is a large area outside and an indoor area with a large playhall. We're on Eyre Place Lane, just by George V Park.

Local families with children 5 years or over can join us on Saturdays (1.30-3.30pm) and during the Easter, Summer and October holidays Monday to Thursday (1.30-3.30pm). We also have an annual Summer Festival, on Saturday 14th August this year – posters will be displayed closer



to the time. We would like to strengthen existing links with our local community, and would be very interested to hear your ideas on this.

You could become involved in events such as the Festival, gardening or tidy-up days. Or are you in a local group that would like to use the facilities at the Yard?

Please do contact us with any comments or questions. Phone 557 8199, and ask for Sam or Katie.

The Yard, 22 Eyre Place Lane, EH3 5EH.

E-mail: sam@syac.org.uk

BRIEFLY

In early June the pavement in front of the telephone exchange in East London Street was fenced off and 'demolition' signs went up. Later it turned out there had been a **masonry fall**; the police had asked for urgent repairs for safety reasons, and the work was to be completed by mid-June. No sign of that as we go to press: but at least there's now a safe walkway round the blocked pavement – for a while pedestrians had to walk unprotected on the roadway.



Erick Rainey of Broughton Road is busy preparing for the August Toastmasters International competition in

Nevada, USA, when he'll be up against 'eight of the world's greatest public speakers'. A professional life coach, Erick teaches students fire-eating during seminars to underline the great power of self-belief.

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

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75 + 3.3 412
35A 25A 17A
220W 220W 240W
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- 5 - 12 + 15VSE
0.3A 0.8A 2A
1.5W 4.0W 10W

EAST CLAREMONT STREET Catriona's debut gig

Up-and-coming young chanteuse Catriona Mitchell of East Claremont Street made her first public appearance at the Claremont Bar and Restaurant on 25th June. Fiona Watt was there:

The summer night was hot, and the air charged with fag smoke and expectancy as pretty eighteen-year-old



Catriona took to the stage to treat the audience to several sets of cover songs. The pace was set by starting with a spirited rendition of Joan Jett's 'I Love Rock and Roll', which was well received by the enthusiastic audience, which included quite a few of her

mates and family members who were there to cheer her on. Catriona also sang a few soulful ballads and some spunky Shania Twain numbers, and there was a dizzying array of costume changes in between sets. Although the height of the stage in the Claremont might daunt even the most seasoned performer (it towers 15 feet above the punters' heads, giving the front row a good view of next week's washing!), this didn't deter young Catriona, who belted her repertoire out in the manner of a true aspiring Pop-Idol candidate.

Catriona has some more gigs lined up over the summer, so if you would like to catch her act she can be seen at the Tides Inn, Portobello, on 9th July. The Claremont Bar is also running other live music and disco nights at the weekends over the summer – for full details see their website at www.claremont-bar-edinburgh.co.uk or phone 0131 556 5662.

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

Gäyfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151

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

Broughton History Society
John Dickie 556 0903

Drummond Community High School
556 2651

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School, Weds. 6.30pm-7pm during school terms

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street on Mondays from 6.30 to 7.15pm

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New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Vacancies for Community Councillors

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

We are looking for three people to fill vacancies 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 August at 7.30pm in the Mosque, Annandale Street.

Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586
E-mail: aoc1@onetel.net.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

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North & Leith



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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office

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