

# Spurtle

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER**

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**BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## Celebration!



*Julie McKinna of the Parent Staff Association reports:*

Broughton Primary celebrated the official opening of their new playground equipment on the 1st of October.

The equipment was installed in both the infant and main school playgrounds, so there was a small ceremony at each site. Broughton Primary is one of only a few schools in Edinburgh to have a special-needs 'language unit' within the school and the equipment was selected with the help of teachers, parents and physiotherapists to benefit the entire range of needs throughout the school. The playground is also used by children of the local

community out of school hours.

The opening was attended by children, staff, parents, local Councillor Trevor Davies, Gillian McKenzie for the Education Department, Scotland Rugby Captain Scott Murray and Scottish Basketball Champion and former Gladiator Ali Paton 'Siren'.

Headmaster Alan Devine thanked those who made the purchase of this new equipment possible: North and Leith Local Development Committee - Community Grants Fund, Ronald McDonald Children's Charity and Awards For All. Also the many local businesses who donated gifts and prizes to the Parent Staff Association, who co-ordinated the fundraising: Hibs Football Club, The Smoke Stack Restaurant, Valvona and Crolla, Marks & Spencer's, A Room in the Town Restaurant and The Windsor Buffet. And all the children and parents for their support throughout the fundraising campaign.

## Commuters hit Powderhall

*Susan Jack of Powderhall Village Owners Association reports:*

Powderhall Rd and indeed some of our residents' parking spaces are used by commuters looking for free parking. With others using this road to miss the traffic lights on Logie Green Road, it is only a matter of time before there is an

accident - someone run down by a car mounting the pavement to get by. The Association are working with the local councillor, Trevor Davies, to have parking restrictions introduced but we have been advised that this could take up to a year to complete.

**November  
2004**

**Tel: 556 0903  
556 7727**

## BRIEFLY

*Nahid Aslam writes: Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, started on Friday 15th October. The Annandale Street Mosque would like to wish all Spurtle readers a prosperous and peaceful time. Eid-al-Fitr, the celebration to mark the end of the month of fasting, will take place on 14th November (depending on the sighting of the new moon).*

*Broughton St Mary's Church have their Christmas Fair on Saturday 27th November, 2-4pm in the Church Centre in East Broughton Place. Home baking, stalls and games. Tickets (£1.50 adults, 50p children) cover admission and refreshments.*

In September's edition we reported on the havoc wreaked on the Powderhall walkway. Local Councillor Davies tells us that it won't be possible to replace the trees lost from the walkway itself; but (in addition to repair of pathway and drains) Scottish Power has agreed in principle to pay for replacement tree-planting in local parks. No work will start until the City Council has received written confirmation of all this from Scottish Power!

*Last month we reported that the stink passersby frequently smell going round the Mansfield Place corner into East London Street is much worse for SCVO staff working inside the building. Scottish Water has now decided that the likely cause is the leak in the sewer pipe near the roundabout. The 'deep dig,' a big job, to reach the leak will go ahead - 'hopefully' before Christmas.*

The public inquiry into objections to proposed flood prevention work along the Water of Leith starts on 2nd November, at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel in Learmonth Terrace.

## Contacts

### Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

### Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 556 7550

### Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (day)

### Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

### Gayfield Association

William McNair 556 4493

### McDonald Area Amenity Society

Bob Stewart 557 1267

### Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

### New Town Broughton & Pilrig Community Council

Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

### Cllr Trevor Davies 529 3221

Surgery at Broughton Primary School  
Wednesdays, 6.30pm-7pm, school  
term-time

### Cllr David Guest

558 8823 or 529 4268

Surgery at 67 Northumberland Street,  
Mondays, 6.30pm to 7.15pm

## **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.

### Email:

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk



**JACK SHEA 1950-2004**

In early October Jack Shea died in a tragic accident at his home in Broughton. Born in New England, he settled in Forth Street in 1973 with his wife Yvonne, and his daughters Kiva, Corinna and Natasha were all born there.

In Scotland he made films and taught film-making. His first

documentary was *The Shepherds of Berneray*, one year in the life of a tiny island in the Outer Hebrides; *The Search for Alison MacDonald*, *Bliss Behind Bars* and *Terry Gets Married* followed. Over the past nine years he had also been working on 3-D computer animation and graphics, building websites and writing songs.

At home, Yvonne describes him as being 'a great tale-telling Dad who told stories with chapters in them to get his children to the tops of mountains. A fearless Dad who skied straight down those hills, who could hit a baseball way up into the sky and out of sight. A father who cooked a mean Irish spaghetti, who sang bits of the Latin Mass at the dinner table'.

A new interactive tribute website created by Jack's friends will be up soon:  
[www.jackshea.co.uk](http://www.jackshea.co.uk)

## THE STAFFORD CENTRE

# Awareness week

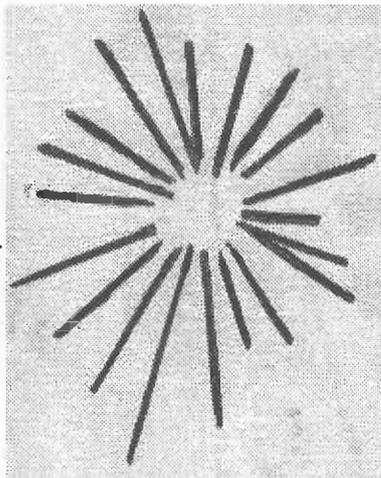
*The Stafford Centre in Broughton Street held an Information Day on 13th October, to mark Mental Health Awareness Week. Manager Nicola Moll reports:*

The Centre is a community resource, run by the National Schizophrenia Fellowship (Scotland) for people with mental health problems. It operates as a drop-in with a small cafe, and offers a variety of recreation groups as well as an employment support service. The aim of the centre is to help people gain more self-confidence in their everyday lives. The Information Day provided an opportunity for people working in the field of mental

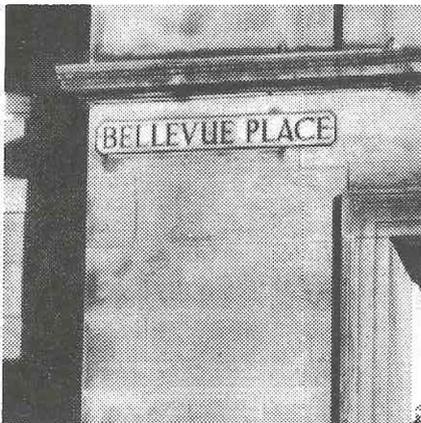
health to find out more about the centre's work, chat to some of the regular users and enjoy some free refreshments in the process.

Fundraising was also part of the day, and we are grateful to the following for providing gifts for the tombola: Tesco Stores, The Stag's Head, Chequers Sandwich Bar, Villeneuve Wines, Lindsay & Gilmour Chemists, Eastern Union, The Cask & Barrel, Fioritalia Florists and Malone & Wilson Newsagents.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the Stafford Centre or the work of NSF (Scotland) can phone 557 0718 or contact the main website [www.nsfscot.org.uk](http://www.nsfscot.org.uk)



# Consultation causes confusion



After much local agitation about pedestrian safety, by early this year a proposal for two new pedestrian crossings seemed to be emerging, one at Mansfield Place and one farther down towards East Claremont Street. But then a month ago the City Council sent out an invitation to comment on a proposal for just one crossing, from alongside the south section of Bellevue Crescent gardens to where Bellevue Place begins on the main road.

Broughton Village Association and the Community Council have now sent a response to the City

## confusion

Council. First they discovered that, although they were being asked to comment on only one crossing, the intention is still to provide a second one eventually - at Mansfield Place, from No.9 to the opposite pavement adjacent to Drummond Community High. As they say in their response: 'The effects of two crossings so close to each other are clearly interconnected, should be considered as a single project (even though they may not both be installed at the same time), and should be consulted on as such.'

If one of the crossings has to be delayed for financial reasons, BVA and Community Council argue in favour of installing the Mansfield Place one first. And they've made a strong case to the Council for siting the second one a bit farther down the road - in order to avoid a very narrow pavement at the Council's proposed site, amongst other reasons.

## BRIEFLY

Conall Boyle of East Claremont Street plays for a boys' football club, Inverleith Star (300 places, waiting list of 150). Along with other teams, it seems they may lose their training ground and pavilion in Inverleith Park - because a new skate park is to be built on the site. **Talk about robbing Peter to pay Paul!**

*The Lottery has granted £45,000 towards refurbishing the Broughton Road play park. Other grants and donations bring the Project Group's current funds up to £54,000: total cost of the work is estimated at £140,000 - they are applying to the Landfill Tax Fund and the City Council for the balance. The plan is to take up the old tarmac and replace it with trees, shrub beds, exciting new play equipment, a large planted pergola with seating - somewhere for older people to relax. The metal railings and ramped entrance will be refurbished, to give an attractive boundary onto Broughton Road.*

Another planning application is on its way for **84-86 East Claremont Street** (on the corner with West Annandale Street). For only 10 flats this time, but some local residents still feel the design is not in keeping with the surrounding buildings.

*The Discovery Award Association meets at Drummond Community High, usually at 10.30am on the first Monday of the month. It's a social group for people aged 50+, based on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Members are encouraged to further their knowledge and experiences, and take up new challenges. There will be guest speakers and the occasional outing. Phone chairperson Ella on 669 5946, or secretary Grace on 661 8544.*

The future of St James House came up at the Community Council's October meeting. According to the minutes: 'Since there were problems about demolishing this without affecting the St James Centre, current proposals were to **slice off two floors.**'

*Broughton Village Association are holding a social evening & AGM on Monday 1st Nov 7.00pm at Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, East Broughton Place. Current members and others interested are welcome.*

## Magic mushrooms

One afternoon in early October children from our three local primary schools came to Hopetoun Crescent Garden, to help unveil a fairy circle of giant mushrooms - and enjoy some storytelling. 'The best field trip ever,' was the verdict from St Mary's Primary 3A. In the evening adults joined in another 'Mushroom Celebration', with food and drink and music from the Drummond Big Band in the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library.

*Charlotte's having fun!*



# The cycle lanes question

When the road was resurfaced, the red cycle lanes at the roundabout were not renewed. Last month we reported that, following a cyclist being knocked off and injured, Councillor Davies had asked officials to review safety for cyclists at the roundabout. **David Sterratt** of Bellevue Road wrote in:

As a cyclist, I think it's safer to have no cycle lanes on the roundabout. They encourage cyclists to cycle round the outside of the roundabout. This is dangerous, particularly when a cyclist turning right is followed by a motorist going straight on: the car may not realise the cyclist is turning right, and cut across the cyclist's path. Currently the safest procedure (apart from dismounting) is to behave like a car and use the central lane of the roundabout if turning right. Of course, this can be intimidating, especially if cars are moving quickly.

The safest solution would be to replace the roundabout and the

pedestrian signals in East London, London and Broughton Streets by traffic lights with pedestrian crossings at the crossroads. Proper traffic lights would be an improvement for pedestrians walking along either the Broughton Street-Mansfield Place or London St-East London Street axes. The only loss would be the flower bed in the middle of the roundabout: but flower beds could

be put in the corners of the junction, where they would be more visible to pedestrians, and/or more space could be made for pavement seating for Mezz and Cask & Barrel.

David has since been told that both Edinburgh Cycle Forum and City Council officials agree that the red lanes should not be reinstated. But what about his other suggestions?

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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 two people to fill vacancies on the Community Council. If you think you might be interested please phone the Secretary for a chat, or come along to our next meeting on Monday 1st Nov at 7.30pm in the Mosque, Annandale St. Secretary: Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

E-mail: [aoc1@onetel.com](mailto:aoc1@onetel.com)  
Please head emails 'Community Council'.

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Saturday surgeries:  
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10.30am Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre  
12pm Stockbridge Library

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Friday advice sessions:  
4.00pm Stockbridge Library  
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Many thanks to Gordon Dow of [SimpliCity Training](http://SimpliCity Training), 3 John's Place, Leith for allowing us to use his IT facilities. 0131 553 8888