

Broughton winners in city-wide gardening competition

Three green-fingered Broughton folk were amongst those honoured at a City Chambers awards ceremony on 8th September.

Last year **Ross MacLean** won a Silver Gilt certificate for his allotment plot in the lane running from Bellevue Crescent to Scotland Street, and third prize for that category, in the Keep

Edinburgh Growing Competition. This year he boosted that to a Gold certificate and recognition as the second-best allotment plot in all Edinburgh.

Last year **Julie Johnston** of Gayfield Square won a Silver Gilt certificate in the hanging basket and container display category, but didn't

quite make the city-wide prize list. This year she won a Silver Gilt certificate again, but also picked up second prize. And **Stephanie Harvey** of Mansfield Place has won a Silver certificate for her 'Renaissance' shop-front in West Annandale Street, and third prize in the commercial property category.



Ross MacLean: Gold and 2nd prize

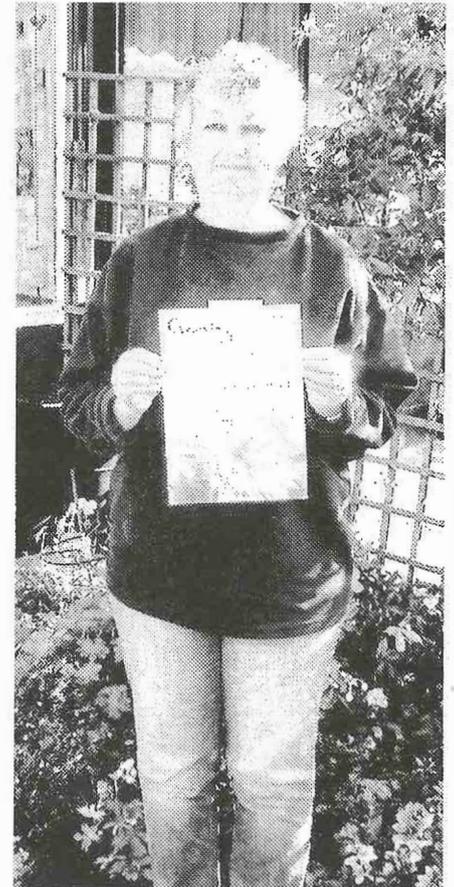
Besides those three city-wide winners, three more local competitors won Silver Gilt certificates in their categories: **Derrick Rogers** of Powderhall Rigg for his hanging basket; **St Paul's and St George's** of



Julie Johnston: Silver Gilt and 2nd prize

Broughton Street for their church garden; and the **Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden** in the community garden category.

The Friends already had a Silver Gilt certificate from last year, and as



Stephanie Harvey: Silver and 3rd prize

previously reported in **Spurtle** major improvements have been made since then – the mushroom sculptures, the big information board about the Garden and the bird boxes – and a colourful 'Welcome' leaflet distributed

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BRIEFLY

Broughton History Society meet again on Monday, **10th October** when the speaker will be Dorothy Baxter on her wartime work intercepting codes for **Bletchley Park**. 7.15 for 7.30pm at Drummond Community High. Visitors welcome (£1).

Ramadan, the Muslim month of fasting, starts around 14th October. Nahid Aslam writes to say: [The Annandale Street Mosque would like to wish all citizens, Muslim and non-Muslim, "Ramadan Mubarak" – Happy Ramadan. All are welcome to take part in the evening meal served in the mosque during the month of Ramadan. Contact the mosque for more details.]

With the help of a grant from the City Council, Broughton St Mary's Guild has installed a **bench in Bellevue Crescent** near the bus



stop. This is to celebrate the work of the church's Guild over a hundred years: and 'it is an invitation to a passer-by to sit, rest and ponder before moving onward', writes Isobel Ward in the September edition of their magazine, *The Broughton Beacon*. In the photo are joint Guild presidents Margaret Watt and Effie Christie with the minister Joanne Hood.

Congratulations to Janice Johnston of Bellevue Road, founder director of Psoriasis Scotland. Her organisation has been awarded a small Lottery grant to hold two events at the Scottish Parliament: a 3-day exhibition in the garden lobby, for MSPs only; and an evening reception and discussion for MSPs, doctors and others from the health field on the 26th. For more information phone 556 4117, or go to www.psoriasisScotland.org.uk

Tram proposals

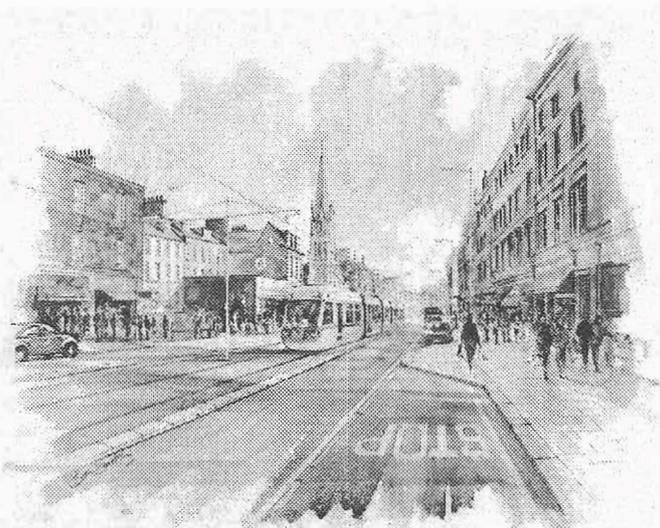
*How many readers managed along to September's exhibition in East Princes Street Gardens, featuring a lifesize replica tram? We got hold of an invitation to a 'private event' one evening; **Spurtle's John Dickie reports:***

Going to the special event meant that we got wine and nibbles; and chatted to former Edinburgh tram drivers amongst our fellow guests – which was the best part of the evening. Private Bills outlining proposals for a new Edinburgh tram network are currently being examined in committee at the Scottish Parliament; it would be a huge project, and the issues involved are

complex. We focused on what things would be like on the ground, locally. In particular, on the route map the stops proposed for Leith Walk seemed widely spaced – Picardy Place, McDonald Road, Balfour Street, Foot of the Walk. We asked a representative of the tram development company what she'd see less mobile people doing if, for example, they were coming back from Haymarket to a place halfway between two of those stops: she said they could take the tram to an interchange at Picardy Place, and then swop to a bus. Then we were

curious to know if the stops would be at the kerbside, or in the middle of the road: that wasn't known yet, she said. Sure enough, the website www.tramtime.com explains that 'tram stop locations are shown on route maps, but are not part of the Private Bills, and will be subject to separate planning applications.'

The project could get



Artist's impression of a tram in Leith Walk

Parliament's approval next year, with the first trams running three years later: but there will be a lot of heated argument before that. I went back to a booklet by Peter Galinsky (late of Broughton Books), where he describes Edinburgh reactions to an earlier tram project, back in the 1870s. 'Many people were against the tramways: some were worried they would give the monstrous locomotives an opportunity of invading the streets but to most it was probably just the unwelcome sight of something new and unfamiliar.'

GARDENING COMPETITION – CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

door-to-door. So we thought we'd check out the winners in this category; we managed to visit two before going to print. At Belleville Lodge Nursing Home (first prize) we were able to walk through the front gate into the garden, but for the uninitiated there was nothing to suggest this was anything other than a private garden. Heriot Bridge Garden (third prize) is a beautiful wee garden, well worth a

prize; but the gate was firmly padlocked on the Saturday afternoon we visited, with no information posted. Maybe there are really two categories here, that shouldn't be combined: Hopetoun Crescent Garden is public and open 24 hours, with all that means for what's possible in planting and maintenance.

Congratulations to all Broughton prize and certificate winners!

Prayer-mat project

Annie Scanlon of Drummond explains:

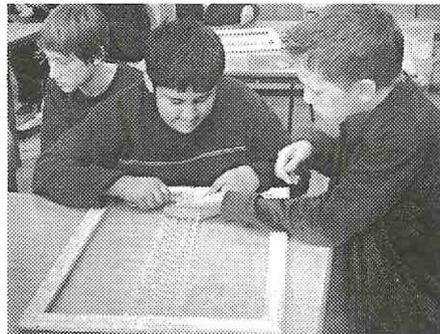
Every year Muslim students at Drummond who are observing the Holy Month of Ramadan are given the



Zainab Abdi and Shamsa Khan measuring the loom before warping

opportunity to pray during the school day and to join the lunchtime Ramadan Club. At the club the students and staff do art and craft work based on the rich background of Islamic culture. This year we are fortunate to have been given a grant to employ a tapestry artist

to organise the design and weaving of a prayer mat which will reflect the rich and diverse culture of our community school. Fiona Hutchison has been a



S2 students try weaving

tapestry artist for over 20 years. Her work is in collections in London, Scotland, Lithuania and the USA. She has taught children and adults in a wide variety of projects.

The junior students at DCHS have researched prayer mats

through Religious and Moral Education and done their own designs in the Art Department during August and September. The chosen design has been translated into a 'cartoon' by the artist. This is the 'pattern' for the weavers to use on the loom set up in the school Library. Weaving will commence on Tuesday 4th October and the project will be completed by Eid (the end of Ramadan) around the 2nd of November.

In this community project we aim to include as many people from the school and the local community as possible. There will be opportunities for school and adult students, staff, parents and local people to get involved with tapestry workshops, and a chance to book time to work on the prayer mat itself. If you are interested in taking part please contact Annie Scanlon, Drummond's Librarian, on tel: 0131 556 2651 or email: enquiries@drummond.edin.sch.uk

BASKETBALL ON THE DRUMMOND PITCH

'Broughton concrete reclaimed and revered'

Stuart Wilson reports on a project to which he's deeply committed:

An exciting, emotionally charged event with music and marquees in the grounds of Drummond School, held on the 13th and 14th August, will never be forgotten.

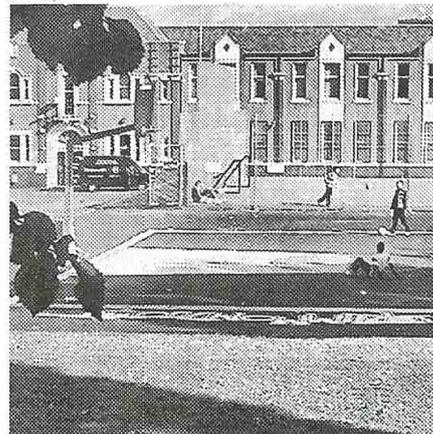
This was the first 'Crombies D C's Finest Annual Invitational Fest-ball': more than just a basketball sport and music 'happening', with extraordinary implications for the area and the community. In a unique collaboration of youth brought up in the area and local business spearheaded by Crombies Butchers, a rundown piece of concrete area in the grounds of 'the old Bellevue School' has been transformed into a mecca for basketball enthusiasts. Tasteful, art-designed 'graffiti' along with new hoops and boards give clever respect for a lasting legacy all year round.

The event gives reverence to the history of the founding fathers of Scottish basketball and the oldest league in the UK, with the Lothian Basketball Association created in 1947. The old gym just inside the front of the School, along with Edinburgh University premises at the Pleasance, were the only suitable, highly sought after facilities in the country, never mind the city.

What goes around comes around, and in 1993 a certain group of kids not even in their teens started to use the outside court as their own - supported by a far-seeing, over-and-above-the-call-of-duty janitor. That group (headed by Grant Gibson) became well-travelled, matured and dreamt of today's reality: of an underused and large site being a major focus for the sport, and incredibly an idea to develop pride and self-awareness by

galvanising the local community unselfishly via other activities such as art, music etc. attached to and carried by the main core event!

These obvious benefits to the area were quickly recognised by Crombies. Future hopes are for dozens of teams from around the world, artists, dancers, musicians and exhibitions in a happy throng.



Broughton Primary School
132, Broughton Road, Edinburgh
Telephone: 556 7028

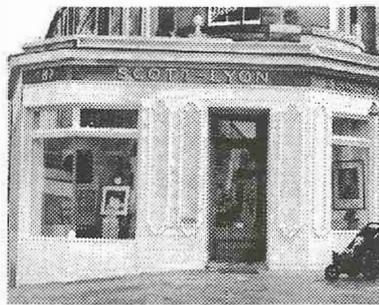
OPEN DAY

Is your child eligible to begin
School in August 2006?
Would you like to see our school in
action and also find out about
enrolment?

Come along to our
OPEN DAY

On Wednesday, 16 November
TOURS OF THE SCHOOL WILL

BEGIN AT:
9.30am, 11.15am and 1.30pm



Our new postbox

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.

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 Merz Art Gallery,
87 Broughton Street EH1 3RJ—
you can put a letter through the
letterbox at any time.

e-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

**Are you fed up with a
local problem?
Have you a story that
needs telling?**

Spurtle is your local community paper.

Contact us by phoning

556 0903

or email

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk



**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.

The next meeting is on

Monday 7th November, 7.30pm at
Drummond Community High School.
Secretary Annette O'Carroll 556 7586
E-mail aocarroll@onetel.net

**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: info@broughtonproperty.co.uk

Mark Lazarowicz

MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency office: 86-88 Brunswick Street
Edinburgh, EH7 5HU.

Tel: 0131 557 0577

Fax: 0131 557 5759

Email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk

Website: www.marklazarowicz.org.uk

Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

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

Powderhall Owners Association
info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

**Redbraes Residents
Association**
George Hoisey 467 6151

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

Broughton History Society
John Dickie 5560903

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary
School, Weds. 6.30pm to
7.30pm

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

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

Editorial, production and distribution: Ross MacLean, Alan McIntosh, Anne Aarsten, David Watt, Eileen and John Dickie, Fiona Watt, Gavin MacGregor, Ken McKay, Davie Thomson, Norma McKendrick, Martin Lander and Tim Puntis.

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