

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 131

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Free

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Tel - 556 0903
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BRIEFLY

There's a **Community Bonfire** at Scotland Yard, Eyre Place on **5th November**, 6 to 8pm. See a Dalek go up in flames, and enjoy a BBQ, snacks and a candlelit procession.

When **Broughton History Society** meet on Monday, **14th November** the speaker will be **Alan Bennell** of the **Botanic Gardens**; he'll tell the story of the **Botanics** when they were in Broughton. 7.15 for 7.30pm at **Drummond Community High**. Visitors welcome (£1).

In August we did a roundup of local residents associations; here's another that's now up and running. **Hopetoun Village Owners' Association** serves the Hopetoun Street housing development. 'The Committee is resolving outstanding issues through liaison with Bryant/Taylor Woodrow Developments and ensuring sound ongoing maintenance through regular contact with the Factor', says Ingrid Astbury. 'In addition we have been speaking with the Council over provision of double yellow lines.' The e-mail address is: HopetounVillage@yahoo.co.uk

Drummond Community High has been doing its bit to help the people of Pakistan affected by the recent earthquake. Librarian Annie Scanlon writes: 'I would like to thank the Broughton community for their support. We have been collecting warm clothes and blankets and the senior students have sorted all the clothing. The need is for clothing which will help people survive the winter; any unsuitable clothing will be sent to the shops of aid agencies who work in Pakistan. To donate money please contact the Disaster Emergencies Committee: 0870 60 60 900, or www.dec.org.uk

TWO MEETINGS ON TRAFFIC

Street closures

Gavin MacGregor of Broughton Village Association writes:

By general consent, it has not been the City Council's finest hour. No matter what your view on the management of traffic in central Edinburgh the spoiling of Broughton Street, which it was promised would not happen, *is* happening. So too are the knock-on effects on East London Street and other surrounding areas of street closures; and, if reports are to be believed, the pantomime-season, yes-it-is, no-it-isn't closure of London Street to general traffic has got even Council leaders themselves bemused.

There is a chance to tackle local councillors and officials on Thursday, 17th November at 7.30pm when the Broughton Village Association will be holding their AGM and Open Evening at Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, East Broughton Place. All local people welcome.

Parking

Community Council transport convenor Ian Mowat writes:

Parking is the bane of most city motorists' lives, and can infuriate pedestrians also. Everyone thinks the system could be better, and this is an ideal opportunity for you to come and quiz the City Council's traffic managers, who have agreed to try and respond to your concerns. Brian Butler, Parking Operations manager, explains that the Council has launched a review of parking policy in Edinburgh to coincide with the introduction of the

new zones. Ideas being actively considered include

- making visitors' and tradesmen's permits available
- increasing the number of 'dual use' parking bays
- and constructing a city-centre underground car park.

But Brian Butler is keen to listen to your ideas, as is the Community Council, so don't miss out on your chance to be heard. The meeting will be held at Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent on Monday 21st November at 6.30pm. All residents and businesses within the New Town, Broughton & Pilrig Community Council area are welcome.



On 14th October pupils at Broughton Primary did a sponsored walk along the walkway from St. Marks Park, through Victoria Park and back via Warriston. The aim was to raise money for school funds to pay for educational outings etc, but the Pupil Council also decided to send part of the money raised to the Earthquake Relief Fund.

BRIEFLY

Broughton Village Association's AGM and Open Evening is on Thursday, **17th November** at 7.30pm (see front page).

The Community Council's public meeting on parking is on Monday, **21st November** at 6.30pm (see front page).

As reported in the mainstream media, if fire chiefs have their way **McDonald Road Fire Station**



(along with Marionville) will be replaced by a new 'super station' in Leith. Critics are worried the plans could mean longer response times. The public consultation period ends as we go to print, but Edinburgh and Lothians Fire Board won't make a decision until January. The Board is made up of the four local councils concerned: Edinburgh hasn't decided for or against yet, so if you feel strongly about the plans it's still worth contacting your local councillor (see Contacts, back page).

Most Sunday mornings David Watt of Bellevue Place is over **picking up litter** in the shrubbery around the edge of Drummond Community High's playground. It's his regular contribution to cleaning up Broughton. Recently he's noted disturbing developments: all the litter bins overturned during the weekend; more broken glass in the grass around the basketball court; and, worst of all, seven newly-planted trees along the Mansfield Centre side destroyed. He's been in touch with Drummond management, who said feedback like his could help support calls for preventative action.

Have you got a story?

Spurtle is your community paper. Phone 556 0903 or e-mail broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

Back to the future

Minister Joanne Hood has turned back to medieval times for inspiration on how to meet the needs of younger people in her parish. During October she mapped out a labyrinth on the floor of Broughton St Mary's, Bellevue Crescent. Labyrinths were popular in the Middle Ages as rituals of spiritual contemplation and personal growth, similar to a maze but with only one path in and one path out of a central 'holy place'.

'I feel as a church we should be doing more to cater for these young people', says the local minister. 'Many members of my generation have a sense of God but don't find anything worthwhile in worshipping in the traditional, Sunday morning communal way. The society we live in is fraught with stresses and strains and I'd like to think that walking the labyrinth will allow young people the

time and space to think about their own spiritual requirements and leave the concerns of the world behind. There is no reason why others, of any age, cannot also gain great benefits from this experience.'

John Dickie from **Spurtle** went along to walk the labyrinth, and found it a bold and thought-provoking initiative. 'What it does for you must be influenced by where you're coming from (for example, I'm not a Christian), and what works for you as an individual. For me, there were too many words on the A4 sheets at the eleven "stations" along the way. Thirty minutes sitting quietly in the church would probably do more towards coming to terms with myself – and with any God there may be out there. But for someone else it could be quite different!'

Broughton Road play park

Nahid Aslam of the Broughton Project Group reports:

Work to refurbish the Broughton Road play park is to start in early November. The contractors expect to finish the work by the beginning of the new year.

The work is part-funded by the Lottery, LINK Housing and other contributors organised by the Broughton Project Group which in turn is sponsored by the New Town, Broughton and Pirrig Community Council.

Besides new play equipment, the park will be transformed into a green place with grass, trees and planting, including a planted pergola with seating. The planting will need to be looked after, watered and weeded if it is to be successfully established and the Project Group is very keen to enlist the help of local people. If you could spare some time and would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to contact Pat Eccles on 225 4633.



New members (especially men!) are always welcome at the Carpet Bowls Club, which meets on Wednesdays at Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent, 2-4pm. 'It's not dead serious – a social occasion', says organiser Margaret Davidson. £1, including tea and biscuit. Enter by the main church door at the front.

'That torn feeling of wanting to belong to the new place without having to give up the past'

We asked three Broughton residents to choose something in the current edition of literary magazine Chapman to write about.



Nahid Aslam of Bellevue Place looked at some poems:

The editorial to Chapman 107 points out the liberating effect of literature. Indeed it can sever the chains that bind us and pave the way to a better future. Something I have seen in the poems of Scotland's refugee and asylum-seeking communities hoping to make their homes here. With this in my heart, I found myself drawn to the poems by Shanta Acharya, a migrant like myself. Shanta writes about the feelings of homesickness coupled with that desire for a 'better' life that most migrants talk about – a better life for their children at least, if not for themselves. She brings out that torn feeling of wanting to belong to the new place without having to give up the past. Yet reality often means choosing between them. Writing down thoughts and experiences in the form of a story or poem can be a great liberator, especially for those who have suffered the trauma of loss. I hope funders – if they are genuine about social justice and inclusion – wake up to the

importance of it, since literature is one sure way of giving solace to suffering hearts, the world over.



Leslie Thomson of Broughton Road chose Louise Welsh's story 'Torchlight':

I enjoyed reading this story. Very evocative of a Glasgow I experienced as a child and teenager of the forties and fifties. All tramcar routes, for most of their journeys, were through tenement-lined streets allowing top deck passengers to see into 'lit up' rooms. Unusual street names could be noted, handy for memory games – e.g. a country, town, street beginning with a specific letter.

Going to the pictures was very popular and the style of cinemas varied from flea pit to luxurious. Our local, The Kenmure, built in the early thirties as the village of Bishopriggs was becoming bungalow land. Queuing was common, often one had plenty of time to eat a poke of chips before reaching the foyer. As programmes were continuous, the queue moved forward according to the number of folk leaving. Usherettes, doormen who manned kiosks and sold ice-cream as well as their main duties. Smells of damp clothing in cinemas, tramcars ...



And **Joe Patrizio** of Albany Street:

'Up to 200 words' John said. 200 words! How am I going to read the damn thing and write 200 words in a couple of days, and still do all the other stuff that I call life?

'Notes for a Manifesto' – by Carl MacDougall. This looks interesting. Written for the inaugural meeting of the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group for Literature. That's MSP Chris Balance's baby (good lad Chris).

Hmm, MacDougall makes a good case for Scottish literature, past and present. Says interesting things about the Scots language too – not sure I agree with it all, though – but he does have a point ... Hey, haven't heard a lot of those words in a long time, and all of them meaning being drunk (trust the Scots). 'How can a language with such precision be useless?' he asks – good question. In fact, one way or another there's a lot of good questions in this article.

Now, about that review for John. Oh well, I'll give it a go. But how am I going to keep it down to 200 words?

A year's subscription to Chapman is £20, single issues £6.50 (including p&p). 4 Broughton Place, EH1 1RX (557 2207)

Drummond Equality Game goes Greek

The Equality Group at Drummond Community High School was invited to a conference on Global Citizenship in Greece, during the October break. Annie Scanlon and fellow staff member Eileen Simpson travelled to Thessalonika:

The new improved version of the Drummond Equality Game was launched in June this year and is selling like hot pakora. From Shetland

to London they are clamouring for a copy. This is not just a fun board game, it's a fairly tough experiential education process where we ask the players to 'walk a mile in the shoes' of the many people in our community who suffer inequality. It deals directly with the institutionalised inequalities of race, gender, social class and disability and indirectly with age, homophobia, learning disabilities and mental health.

Delegates from Greece, Scotland and South Africa gave the game an enthusiastic reception and several copies, along with their Greek translations, have gone to the education departments of Thessaloniki, Athens, Crete and the Peloponnese.

At an informal level contacts and projects were brainstormed between the three countries and it is hoped that Drummond will develop links with Greek and South African schools.

Belle's View



Hi fans

Imagine the horror, dear Readers, as I opened my door to a large orange-faced apparition on **Hallowe'en**. Someone bearing a neep lantern? No, only **Estelle Murgatroyd** showing off the ghastly effects of a sun-bed on her grinning coupon!

We were both up **Calton Hill** recently for the thrilling Hindu festival of **Dusheera**, with the burning of 30ft papier-mache effigies of **Ravana**, **Kumbhkarna**, and **Meghnad**. The big lads were well stuffed with firecrackers, which made a very satisfying din, but this event is now so popular that Estelle and I found it impossible to squeeze into the tea-tent!

Broughton just *oozes* culture! Opera/dance/horse/flower lovers are in for a real treat at **The Playhouse**, with Bizet's **Carmen** by the **Chisinau National Opera** (8/9/11/12 Nov). Featuring real Roma dancers, fountains, bougainvillea, a full orchestra, chorus, and two magnificent stallions, this is truly a show with something for everyone. Neigh doubt about it!

Till next time, *just do it!*

Persephone Belle

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

Broughton Primary School

132, Broughton Road, Edinburgh

Telephone: 556 7028

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?

OPEN DAY

On Wednesday, 16 November

TOURS OF THE SCHOOL WILL BEGIN AT:

9.30am, 11.15am and 1.30pm



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 meetings are on
7th November and

5th December, 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

Hopetoun Village Owners

hopetounvillage@yahoo.co.uk

Powderhall Owners Association

info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Anette O'Carroll 556 7586

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