

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 136

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Free

**May
2005**

**Tel - 556 0903
556 7727**

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Ideas invited for 'the longie'

Head Teacher Muriel Buchanan reports:

The piece of ground between Drummond Community High School and the Mansfield Centre is, I am told, known as the 'longie' or 'longy'. The correct spelling remains a mystery, at least to me!

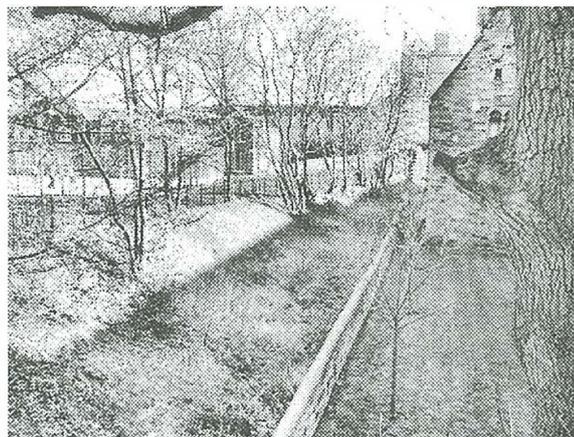
This area has been neglected for some time, as you will be aware. We have now obtained agreement from the Council that it be cleared and brought up to standard. The company undertaking the work, Land Engineering, have already started work. There is a lot to do as some self-seeded small trees have grown through the fence. There is insufficient depth of soil in some areas and there is a danger that these trees will topple over.

One of our S3 classes is hoping to work alongside Land Engineering to improve the area and we hope to get ideas from the local community.

At the side gate of the school we have lost one of our lovely elms. It was badly diseased and was removed over Christmas. Sadly, some of the other trees may also be diseased.

We hope to update you regularly on progress and welcome any information **Spurtle** readers can give us about the grounds.

Gavin MacGregor of East London Street has known the longie since childhood in the 40s and 50s. He thinks



it got its name from the long grass you could disappear into then; or maybe it was because it was a long, narrow strip! He'd like to see it enhanced with suitable planting while retaining its essentially natural, 'wild' character.

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

Sale of church centre



*Local minister
Joanne Hood reports:*

This is an exciting time for all of us at Broughton St Mary's Parish Church. As I'm sure many of you are now aware, we have plans for the redevelopment work that needs carried out on our building on Bellevue Crescent to equip it to better serve the inhabitants of its parish. We resolved to sell our Church Centre at 7 East Broughton Place to help fund the

building project we are embarking upon, and it has now been on the market for a few weeks. The amount of interest in its sale has been encouraging and if anyone in the area knows of other interested parties we would suggest you inform them to act promptly as a closing date for offers will shortly be fixed.

In addition to this excitement we are also launching our fundraising appeal, initially by engaging the members and adherents of our own congregation, with a Family Meal in Drummond Community High School on Friday 12th May. After this first event other evenings and events will be held to allow the whole community to view our building plans, our intentions

for the ministry such work will enable us to provide in the area, and the ways in which we can all be involved.

Dates for your diary

Monday 15th May:

'The History of the Playhouse', Broughton History Society, Drummond Community High, 7.15 for 7.30pm. Visitors welcome (£1).

Wednesday 24th May:

'Barony Street Play Area and Community Garden', public meeting, Church Centre, East Broughton Place, 7.30pm. (See page 2)

Saturday 27th May:

'Broughton Goes Bananas' (See page 2)

Action on violence against women

Since devolution, the Scottish Parliament and its MSPs have been under much closer scrutiny here in Scotland than Westminster ever has been. It's right that they should be watched closely, and criticised when they get things wrong. But sometimes the criticism gets blindly negative: plenty of mistakes have been made at Holyrood, but there's a lot to be proud of too. We asked our constituency MSP Malcolm Chisholm to choose one of the best things the Parliament has done since it was established:

There are several areas of policy where I have seen a new approach in the Scottish Parliament compared to Westminster. One of these concerns domestic abuse, and violence against women more generally. This has been given a great deal more prominence and action has been taken in relation to prevention, protection and the provision of services.

Prevention

The media campaigns with their hard messages about domestic abuse have received international recognition and have been adopted in some other countries as a result. They

have challenged men directly, have emphasised that there is never any excuse for domestic abuse and have broadened our awareness to include psychological as well as physical abuse.

Protection

The Parliament has introduced new laws, such as the *Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act* which allows the court to attach a power of arrest to an interdict obtained for the purpose of preventing abuse. There has also been a pilot domestic abuse court which has fast-tracked cases, supported women in the court process, and resulted in far more effective action against perpetrators.

Provision of services

There has been an extensive refuge development programme, the creation of a 24-hour-a-day helpline, support for Rape Crisis centres across Scotland, a £6 million Violence against Women fund which is supporting 86 projects across Scotland, and a £6 million fund to support children in families where there has been domestic abuse.

There are also many other initiatives, such as the Training Strategy

for staff, which I have not been able to describe in the space available. There is a great deal more to do but we should recognise the step change that the Scottish Parliament has brought about in dealing with this extremely serious problem, which has been hidden away for so much of our history.

SUMMER FAIR 'Broughton Goes Bananas'

Saturday 27th May, 1-3pm
Broughton Primary playground
Home baking, bric-a-brac,
bouncy castle, tombola, raffle
PLUS AN ACTIVITY THEME:
aerobic sessions, basketball,
beat the goalie, scavenger hunt,
cycling

Free entry - all welcome. All proceeds will go towards buying new equipment to complement the increased P.E. provision scheduled for the new 2006-07 school year at Broughton Primary.

The Parent Staff Association would welcome your support!

BARONY STREET PLAY AREA

Community garden

Nick Ball reports on behalf of the Broughton Village Association:

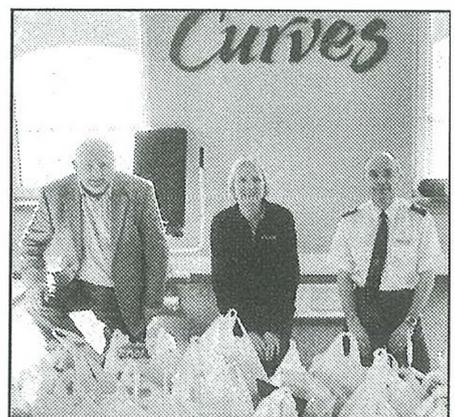
Two issues ago we thanked everybody who responded to our consultation on the Barony Street Play Area and Community Garden. Space allowed only the shortest summary of the results, so the BVA is holding a public meeting on 24th May where people can learn exactly what was said.

Aside from a complete run-through of the consultation results, we will report on the City Council's comments, tell you about plans for all-important fundraising efforts and answer all questions anyone may have.

The BVA will also be showing its first film, shot to show the existing environment and the most recent plans for the play area. Of course, one of the most pleasing aspects of the overwhelmingly positive consultation was the number of people who indicated they would like to help - so have your names at the ready!

If Films and Plans and the chance to contribute to our local environment aren't enough to tempt you, please note that the BVA offers a wine bar at its public meetings.

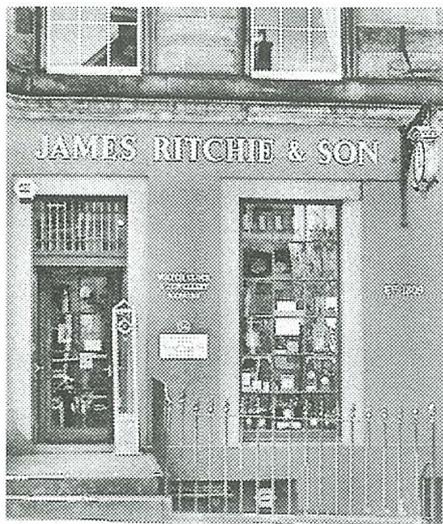
The meeting will be in the Church Centre, East Broughton Place, and starts at 7.30 pm.



During March women donating a carrier bag of non-perishable food were offered membership of the Curves Gym in Beaverhall Road. Existing members were also encouraged to donate. In the photo is staff member Christine Riley handing over the bags to Allan Barlow of Edinburgh City Mission and Iain Wilson of the Salvation Army.

BROUGHTON STREET

Clockmakers with a long history



Ross MacLean writes:

The firm of James Ritchie & Son (Clockmakers) Ltd., at No. 56 is one of Broughton Street's oldest established businesses, with a prestigious and fascinating history.

Prior to 1953, the premises at 56 housed a variety of businesses including: Adam Cormack, Tailor; the Misses Hunter, Dressmakers; and Alexander Miller, Cabinetmaker.

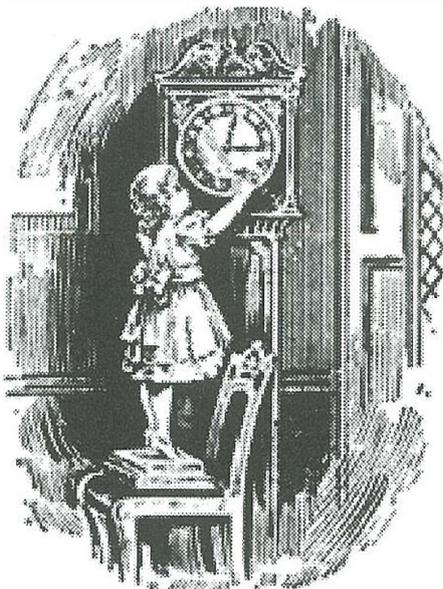
The eponymous founder of James Ritchie's began the business in 1809 at No. 29 Leith Street. The firm rapidly prospered and acquired a national reputation for excellence in clock and watchmaking. Illustrious clients included Sir Walter Scott, and Madame Tussaud who had her silver watch cleaned at Ritchies in 1810, for the princely sum of three shillings.

The most innovative force behind the business in the 19th century was Frederick James Ritchie (1825-1906). Under his leadership the company specialised in the manufacture and service of large clocks, and also dealt in

jewellery and pocket watches. Ritchie's were also leaders in the new field of electricity. Alex Bain, who invented the first electric clock, and Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, were among the Ritchies' friends.

In 1953 the Leith Street premises were sold and, under Robert Mitchell – the sole remaining family member – Ritchie's moved first to South St James Street and then to their present location at the heart of Broughton.

The distinguished insignia of James Ritchie is found throughout the city. The world's first public Floral Clock was built by them in 1903 (with a diameter of 12 feet, and a cuckoo to mark the hour and quarter hours). Ritchie's also proudly maintain the Calton Hill Time Ball, the Balmoral Hotel clock, and in Bellevue Crescent our own Broughton St Mary's great clock of 1826, which was re-gilded in 2004.



The wee girl in the clockmakers' logo was Catherine Ritchie, later to be mother of David Ritchie Watt who is now resident in Bellevue Place.

Belle's View



Hi fans

Yaaay! The scary **May Queen** and her faerie attendants are dancing on **Calton Hill** – summer is upon us! What frolics are to be had in sunny **Broughton and Bellevue?**

Holy *Dali!* One of **Broughton Street's** landmarks has disappeared – the peculiar **surrealist mural** on the old **Merz Gallery** wall. Commissioned by **Calum Buchanan**, it previously graced his glorious **Just Junk shop**. But art lovers need not despair – get down to the **Botanic Gardens Exhibition Hall** for some arty fun at *Art-tastic* on Sunday 7th May (12-4pm) – a free drop-in afternoon of messy and arty activities for all ages!

Need a bit of a rib-tickle? Just to prove that life *is* actually all ha ha, hee hee, there's a **Comedy Benefit Night** on 10th May at **The Stand, York Place**, for the **Scottish Community Foundation**, (7.30, £6/£4). With **Gary Little, Susan Calman** and **Scott Agnew** – chuckles galore guaranteed!

Finally, there's a fabby exhibition on at the **National Portrait Gallery, Queen Street** – *Fizzers* (7th April – 2nd July, £2/£1), featuring caricatures of Scots entertainers, including **Lorraine Kelly, Carol Smillie, Rod "the mod" Stewart** and **Colin and Justin** (remember *them*?!). Devoted fans will notice that *my* portrait is missing – I was asked to pose, but I just *couldn't* fit it into my schedule – the art world will have to wait!

Till next time – just do it!

Persephone Bane

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!

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 Narcissus, 87 Broughton Street EH1 3RJ – you can put a letter through the letterbox at any time.

E-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Spurtle is looking for a volunteer with basic computer skills (Mac or PC) to help produce the paper. On-the-job training in desktop publishing skills can be provided. If you might be interested please phone John Dickie on 556 0903

AEROBICS CLASSES

Broughton St Mary's Church
12 Bellevue Crescent
Mondays at 6.30pm and
Wednesdays at 7.30pm
£30 for 10 sessions, 1 free!
Bring mat, towel, water.
Fiona: tel. 07931341485

Edinburgh Community Food Co-operative

runs 16 food co-ops to promote healthy eating in Edinburgh. Each co-op provides a wide selection of fresh fruit and vegetables direct from the market, giving customers the benefits of freshness and savings. Other goods such as eggs, milk and cereals are also stocked at very attractive prices.
Where can you find your local ECFI Co-op?
Redbraes Park Centre,
Broughton Road
Wednesdays 9am -12noon.

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

Have you got a story?

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Saturday 10am to 8pm
Closed Sunday



New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

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

The next meeting is on
Monday 8th May, 7.30pm at
Drummond Community High School.

Secretary Pat Eccles, 225 4633
E-mail pat@eccles62.wanadoo.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

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We always require properties to meet constant demand
Broughton Property Management
61 Broughton Street
Tel 0131 478 7222
E-mail:
info@broughtonproperty.co.uk

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)

Dicksonfield Owners and Residents Association
Scott Richards 557 8879

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
Pat Eccles 225 4633

Broughton History Society
John Dickie 556 0903

Drummond Community High
556 2651

Cllr Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School, Weds. 6.30pm to 7.30pm (Term time only)

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