

BRIEFLY

Last month we reported two readers urging that plans for the 'longie' strip of land between Drummond Community High and the Mansfield Centre should preserve its wild character. David Watt of Bellevue Place writes that they 'will be reassured to know that the adjoining SCVO lawn has 6 Rentokil Rodent Extermination traps on it'.

Residents at the Leith Walk end of Annandale Street have received Neighbour Notification of architects Hackland and Dore's plan to demolish their own office and Ford's car rental base and build 16 flats. This would have a major impact on the streetscape: it seems that the opening to Annandale Street Lane would be filled in (with entrance via a pend). A planning application was submitted in mid-June but judged **invalid on receipt** so details are not available to comment on yet – assuming that they'll resubmit. (Ref. No.06/02522/FUL)

Broughton St Mary's Church garden will be open for coffees and teas with home-baking on **Wednesday 26th July** and **Wednesday 23rd August** from 7 to 8.30pm. The garden is at the rear of the church in Bellevue Crescent, along Scotland Street Lane. There will be a minimum donation of £1.

Rising energy prices have had extensive coverage in the news recently. As heating and hot water costs make up over 50% of our energy bills, knowing how to control effectively the heating in our homes can make a big difference to how much energy is used. The Warmburgh Advice Team gives free, independent energy efficiency advice. The advice is tailored to the needs of the individual household. To contact the team, call free on 0800 512 012 or e-mail wat@changeworks.org.uk.

MCDONALD ROAD

Locals' views sought on development



A major development is being planned for the Kwik-Fit site on McDonald Road. If it gets beyond the drawing-board, continuing commercial use will be combined with purpose-built student accommodation.

Spurtle spoke to Mike Pottinger-Glass, regional architect for developers Unite – who already have experience in designing this type of student accommodation elsewhere in Edinburgh. He told us that negotiations with Kwik-Fit and discussions with the City Council are ongoing, and there could well be a formal planning application by August. But only if consultation with the local community has been satisfactorily completed by then.

Local residents we've spoken to find talk of a resident concierge and some kind of student monitor on each floor reassuring. And they seem to have been impressed by the

developer's approach so far, but remain wary. How bulky will the new building be? Will it overshadow Hopetoun Crescent Garden? Mike Pottinger-Glass says there will be 3-D modelling of what's planned for them to inspect before the formal application is made, with provision for modifications to be made in the light of their reactions.

This was Tom Farmer's first Kwik-Fit base. And the adjacent wee public park is a remnant of the eighteenth century botanic garden established by Sir John Hope. Mike is keen that the development should be appropriate in the context of both neighbouring buildings and the history of the area.

That includes naming of the new complex: he's offering a bottle of champagne for the best suggestion – phone, e-mail or post your idea to **Spurtle!**

LEITH WALK PRIMARY 'My friend needs a teacher'

Children at Leith Walk Primary School have been looking at the situation faced by children in the developing world. 100 million children in the world don't have a chance to go to school. The 'My Friend Needs a Teacher' campaign highlights the need for the world to live up to the promises for education for all made at the Gleneagles G8 summit last year.

Leith Walk Primary School children invited local MP Mark Lazarowicz into their school and presented him with two cardboard cut-out teachers to draw attention to the campaign. He took them to Westminster and presented them to the Secretary for International Development.



Local MP Mark Lazarowicz presents the cut-out teachers to Hilary Benn, Secretary for International Development.

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.

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH 'Who wants to be a Health Millionaire'

Annie Scanlon,
Drummond's
Librarian and Camp
Organiser, reports:

All the money in the world can't buy you good health. But it is something you can achieve yourself with very little money if you eat healthily and exercise regularly. This is the message we have promoted at school camp this

year, with a new and exciting menu and lots of fun activities like canoeing and gorge walking.

As part of the campaign to promote health, a competition was held for all S1 students during Camp week. There were two parts to the competition – a 20 question quiz based on work done with Mrs McCredie and Mrs Macinnes in Home Economics and a six activity circuit with star jumps, skipping etc.

Finalists were chosen and



competed against each other in a 'Who wants to be a Health Millionaire' show. Quiz master 'Chris Tarrant' (aka Mr Quinn) ably assisted by 'Flora MacDonald' (aka Annie Scanlon) helped bring the project to a fun ending. It was a close contest but the winners were Khlieeq-u-Zamah Ahmad and Bridgit Kuzaraunye. The prizes – two mountain bikes – were supplied by AMEY (the Facilities Management Company) and Scolarest (the school Catering Company)

A quick word in your ear...

In this occasional column, contributors express in a nutshell something they would rather talk about at length or yell through a megaphone.



This month, PC
Simon Daley,
our local
community
police officer:

I thought I'd write about the subjugation of masculinity in post-feminist society. (Got your attention?). Instead I opted for an emotive subject, Parenting.

Five years ago I became a very proud father. It's a role I take very seriously. My daughter will always have the best I can provide, in both material terms and guidance. I am unashamedly in love with my child

and pity help anyone who tries to hurt her.

Sound familiar? We all enter parenthood with lofty ideals and promises of protection, but the battle of protection versus liberty always ends with a victory for liberty. Quite right, I hear you say! Children need freedom.

But answer me this: do you know where your child goes at night or who they're chatting to on MSN?

Our children need our protection. It's a parent's duty, and not to be abdicated to teachers or the social services.

Who's next? A maximum of 150 words!

BROUGHTON STREET

Just look up!

Ross MacLean writes:

Writing on what makes Edinburgh special for her, the distinguished contemporary poet, Kathleen Jamie, suggests that we 'just look up' and we may discern marvels, eccentricities, and histories carved in stone. This is as true of Broughton Street as it is of the capital's more celebrated streets and buildings.

Look up at No. 32A, and there is the weathered facade of a notable school which was a central feature of the bustling Broughton community in the 19th century. The building which now includes Khushi's and Santorini Restaurants housed the Heriot School in Broughton, one of seven day schools, or satellites of George Heriot's Hospital, 'for the gratuitous education of poor children', founded in 1853.

The entrance to the school comprised four large archways – to

accommodate horses and carts, as well as pupils and teachers. The outlines of the arches are still clearly discernible in the vestibules of Khushi's and Santorini. The empty niche at the top of the facade was adorned with the figure of a boy with a mallet in his hand. He is still in situ above the Crown Office in Chambers Street, formerly Heriot Watt College, to which he was transferred when the Heriot School was taken over by the city's School Board in 1886. The building was sold to St Mary's Free Church in 1889, and the pupils relocated to the new London Street School in that year.

Perhaps, the church fathers might not have approved the building's recrudescence as a night club in the 1980s and 90s. The Rifleman's Lodge, adjacent to Thresher Wines, thrived briefly as a lively fringe theatre venue during the same period. Alas, both



locations now lie empty. Are there plans afoot for their reinvention? A cutting-edge theatre, retro cinema, and art gallery would be nice. Dreams cost nothing!

Next month: No. 97 Broughton Street – look up!

BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY

Major exhibition in August



Last month we published a school class photo from London Street Primary in the 1970s. Suzanne Carse of Broughton Street phoned in to say she'd spotted herself and classmates, including

Douglas Bell and James Ferguson sitting cross-legged at the front. Suzanne lived in Gayfield Square in those days. And several readers offered Broughton History Society their own

class photos to copy and use in their August exhibition.

'Broughton's Story' will piece together what we know about our local history using not just photos but also maps, drawings, people's memories and objects illustrating local life in days gone by. Members have taken the content of the Society's 2002 exhibition and added to it, drawing on contributions made by visitors to that exhibition and on their own research since then. If you have anything you'd like to add to the display, phone John Dickie on 556 0903.

The exhibition will open on Monday, 7th August and will be open daily up to Saturday, 19th August in Broughton St Mary's Church, Bellevue Crescent.

Pictured on the right are 6-year-old Angelica and Ruaridh MacGillivray, who on 23rd June presented £50 to Broughton Primary School's Parent Staff Association. They raised the money on a sponsored 2-mile hike around Princes Street Gardens in April, part of the Great Wee Scottish Walk 2006. Primary 1 teachers Alexa Pope (with the cheque) and Lisa Bradley accepted the donation on behalf of the PSA.



Have you got a story?

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

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

TRY SOMETHING NEW...

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New Town/Broughton Community Council

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

The next meeting is on
Monday 4th September, 7.30pm at
Drummond Community High School.

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

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AEROBICS

Broughton St Mary's Church
12 Bellevue Crescent
Mondays at 7.00pm

Mixed ability – all welcome

£30 for 10 sessions £4 for 1 session

Bring mat, towel, water.

Fiona: tel. 07931341485

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

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

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