

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 141

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

Free

October
2006

Tel - 556 0903
556 7727

BRIEFLY

Guest speaker at Broughton History Society's meeting on Monday, 9th October is Sebastian Tombs, on 'Architecture and Design, Scotland and Edinburgh': 7.15 (tea/coffee) for 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School. Visitors welcome (£1).

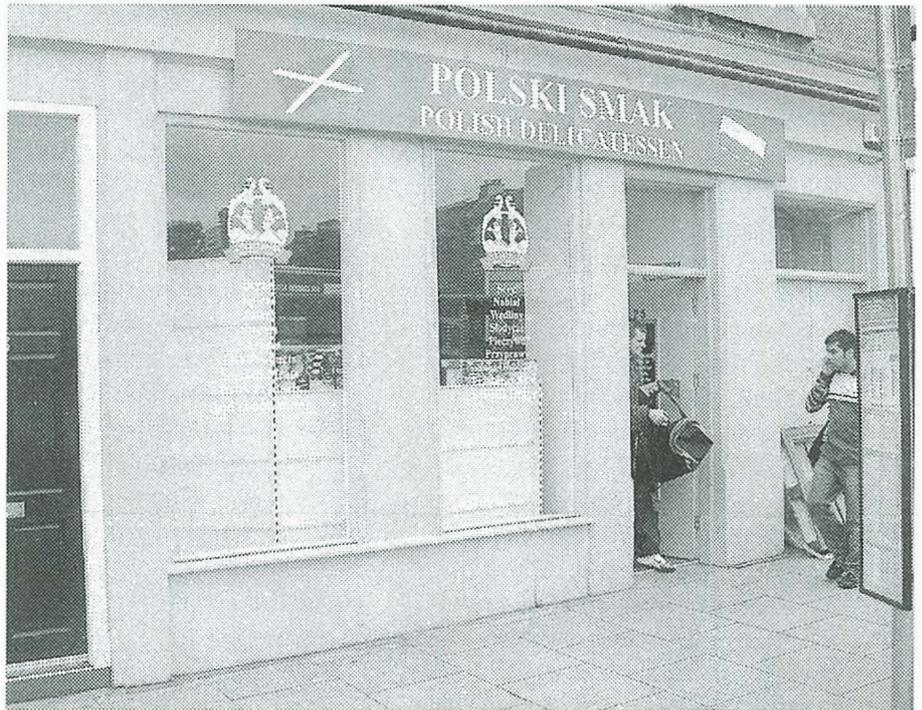
Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden's AGM is on Tuesday, 10th October, 7.15 for 7.30pm at Bield Housing Association, 79 Hopetoun Street. There will be discussion of a longer-term strategy for the Garden.

Broughton Project Group (they organised the excellent refurbishment of the Broughton Road play area) are holding their AGM on Saturday, 28th October, 10.30am at McDonald Road Public Library.

Recently a shop window in Croall Place was smashed. The police were unable to find any leads to pursue; there is a CCTV camera nearby, but it seems to be focussed away across Leith Walk towards the Tesco Express. We asked community police officer Simon Daley to explain who decides where cameras should focus, and on what criteria: 'The camera isn't fixed and is operated by City in View Ltd on behalf of the Council and ourselves. We are in radio contact with the operators and there are police officers working with the operators up there. We also have the ability to access the cameras through our Control Centre at Bilston. The criteria for choosing the focus of the cameras attention is based on the operators own knowledge of the area and crime trends therein and from statistical analysis. Tesco are the hub of activity in that area and the camera does a good job in a preventative manner.'

WELCOME TO BROUGHTON

Witamy w Broughton!



Polish delicatessen Polski Smak is across Leith Walk, not far from McDonald Road. Owner Magda Szpilczynska tells us that she opened the shop five months ago, in response to the growing number of Poles arriving in Edinburgh – although she has many customers from the wider community as well. She herself has been in Edinburgh for six years, previously working in a restaurant.

At the last count she heard, there were about 35,000 Poles in

Edinburgh. A fair number of them have settled in our own area. At September's monthly clean-up in Hopetoun Crescent Garden two young Poles turned up, eager to help: and that after only one month's residence in McDonald Road! **Spurtle** would like to welcome them and all other recent arrivals from Poland. We look forward to many of them getting involved in local affairs. And to hearing from them about their experiences, and impressions of their new home.

Locals comment on planning application

Two local organisations have now written into the City Council with their reactions to the proposed development on the Kwik-Fit site, which combines continued commercial use with purpose-built student accommodation. Both praise developer Unite's efforts to consult local opinion; welcome the proposal in principle; but voice some substantial reservations.

The Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden have a special interest in the development, as the site is adjacent to the garden itself. Secretary Jane Ellis raises the following issues:

1. We are concerned about the height of the proposed development which we feel should be in line with the main library roof rather than with the tallest library turret and the office block/pub at 8 McDonald Road. We feel that the proposed roof height is too high and may make the street dauntingly canyon-like.

2. The pavement in Annandale St. Lane as it emerges on to McDonald Rd is already dangerously narrow – barely one person wide. We would request that the developer makes the most of this excellent opportunity to provide a wider and safer pavement. This is currently a busy lane and is the main access to Bright Horizons Nursery. The dreadful pavement provision is extremely unsafe for parents with buggies and small children. We also note that the proposed development has a fire exit opening onto the lane and are concerned that there is a potential danger if people rush out of a fire exit onto such a narrow lane with barely any pavement.

3. The existing corner of McDonald Road and Hopetoun

Crescent is currently angled so that Hopetoun Crescent Garden is easily visible from McDonald Road. This makes it an attractive streetscape and local amenity. If the view of the park is cut off from McDonald Road we are concerned that fewer local people will be aware of it and be able to benefit from it.

4. We are also concerned that the pavement shouldn't be narrowed leading into Hopetoun Crescent.

5. Since the rear of the building will be highly visible on all sides, particularly to residents in Huntingdon Place, we hope that the exterior cladding will be aesthetically pleasing and not of inferior quality to that used on the front of the building.

6. Will the student residents be eligible for parking permits?

Writing on behalf of New Town/Broughton Community Council, Bob Stewart shares the Friends' worries about building height, and about the corner of McDonald Road

and Hopetoun Crescent. He also comments:

5. There is little evidence of landscaping on the site in the application.

7. Extensive use of horizontal timber cladding is proposed. We are concerned that the type of timber and associated treatments are robust so that weathering enhances the character of the material rather than producing an eyesore.

8. The Council will no doubt enforce rigid safety separation between the ground level service provision and resident facilities above, applying relevant restrictions in line with legislation.'

In addition to the usual drawings, which can be found in the Planning section of the City Council's website (Ref. No.06/03443/FUL), the developer has a model of the proposed new building – which the Friends hope to have on display at their forthcoming AGM.



At the other end of Annandale Street Lane, there's a plan to demolish two low-rise buildings and build a block of 16 flats across the opening – with a pend into Annandale Street (Planning Application Ref. No. 06/02522/FUL). Street residents have voiced concerns about parking, and about the pend construction blocking daylight; but the main objection is that the proposed roof and frontage design do not blend with the adjacent Georgian tenements.

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: Broughtonproperty.co.uk

BROUGHTON STREET

In praise of flowers

Ross MacLean urges action:

Surprisingly, in a street which is a cornucopia of specialist shops, cosmopolitan cafes and restaurants, purveyors of spirits, inter alia, with



frontages which range from cobalt to sky blue, there is a singular lack of those simple but stunning features which accentuate the positive in similar streets in continental Europe, and indeed in certain parts of Edinburgh's West End. Viz., floral hanging-baskets and window-boxes.

BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Skills sought

Gillian Hutton of Broughton Primary School Parent Staff Association:

The PSA is the social and fundraising arm of the school, with automatic 'membership' for all staff, and parents/carers with a child/children at the school. Typical activities include discos, cafes, ceilidhs, and the annual summer fair.

As well as general support and help for ongoing events and activities, the PSA would particularly appreciate the following 'skills' from anyone in the community:

There are a select few in Broughton Street, and you will agree they lift the spirits, come rain or shine. But, what if every second shop had its signature display? What if householders, up and down the street, echoed the magnificent window-box high above the Phoenix Bar? Why, then the perennial blue riband held by Real Foods' superb 'forty shades of green' might be contested in the most amicable way.

Why not, therefore, the Hanging Gardens of Broughton? The most individual of 'village' streets should celebrate, even flaunt itself because, to coin a phrase, it deserves it. Moreover the greening of Broughton, given all that pelting blight of metal on the road, is ecologically desirable, and would also probably draw more visitors to its special charms.

Speaking of charms, where will you find a cute little dinosaur peering through foliage in Broughton Street? In a window-box of course. Have a look!

If you spot the dinosaur, phone 556 0903 by Sunday 15th October at the latest. There will be a small prize for the first correct answer pulled out of the hat.

- IT/website expertise to establish/maintain link to school website
- Advice in making Constitutional amendments/additions
- Project planning and/or management skills
- Fundraising/processing of grant applications.

If you would like more information on the work of the PSA, or would like to volunteer your time in some way, then please contact me via the school office at Broughton Primary (556 7028).

BRIEFLY

A member of the **Spurtle** team spotted a **planning notice on a lamp post in Broughton Street**, for permission to turn No.32a into a pub with restaurant attached. But he remembers being told that, not so long ago, when a similar application was made for the former DIY shop it was turned down on Police objections – the grounds being that the street had enough licences already. As we go to print, Broughton Village Association's secretary Stephanie Harvey tells us local residents have lodged objections to the plan for No.32a: it includes an open-deck extension at the back of the building, and they're worried about night-time noise. (Planning Reference No. 06/03016/FUL, closing date for objections 13th October. Advice and information from Stephanie Harvey, 557 2762.)

The City Council is planning a major new landscaping of Calton Hill, and our local Community Council is amongst those being consulted before the brief for the landscape architects is prepared. The CC hopes to discuss this at its 6th October meeting; but any interested local group or individual is welcome to contact secretary Pat Eccles meanwhile (225 4633).

Only one Broughton prize-winner in the Keep Edinburgh Growing Gardening Competition this year. Last year **Derrick Rogers of Powderhall Rigg** won a Silver Gilt certificate for his hanging basket: this year he struck Gold, and a prize for coming in third city-wide. Congratulations! There were other certificates too, including a Silver Gilt in the 'Housing Tenement' category from a new entrant in Gayfield Square. Hopetoun Crescent Garden was not entered in the competition this year; but was nevertheless included as a featured garden in the City Council's entry for the parks section of the nationwide Scotland-in-Bloom Competition.

Belle's View



Hi fans

Ach, the nights are fair drawing in, but are we donning the big tartan baffies for a wee quiet one in front of the telly? No way José! What's for fun in swinging **Broughton** and **Bellevue**?

Got a spare couple of grand? In November you will get the chance to drink pints and play darts with celebrities **Madonna**, **Kate Moss**, **Kate Winslet**, and **Tom Jones** (oooooh be still, my beating heart!). Uber-swanky celeb's retreat **The Hallion in Picardy Place** is set to become **Home House Edinburgh**, sister club to London's exclusive Home House private members' club. Strapped for cash? Next door, lesser mortals can get into **Ego** for a fiver on a Saturday night!

Attention aficionados of the absolute tat! **Bonnie Scotland Promotions** are due to re-open the popular Sunday **Omni** Car Boot Sale on 8 October, to fill the void left by the closure of the Ingliston Sunday Market. Running from 9am-1pm, pitches are £15 on a first-come-first-served basis, with food stalls and music. Turn trash into cash ... and then buy more trash!

Local watering-hole the **Hopetoun Inn** has undergone a major refurbishment after being bought by Maclay Inns, with an attractive new light and fresh interior, great new range of wines and cask ales, and a wide selection of traditional lunch dishes for the discerning diner. Well – as long as they still have Taboo and maraschino cherries on the gantry, they can be assured of the continuing patronage of Estelle Murgatroyd and myself!

Till next time!

Persephone Belle

Have you got a story?
Spurtle is your community paper.
Phone 556 0903 or e-mail
broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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



**New Town/Broughton
Community Council**

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

The next meeting is on
Monday 6th October, 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
E-mail: 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 225 4633

Broughton Village Association

Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

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@hotmail.co.uk

Powderhall Owners Association

info@powderhallvillage.co.uk

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

New Town/Broughton

Community Council

Pat Eccles 225 4633

Broughton History Society

Patrick Tyler 556 5036

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

AEROBICS

Broughton St Mary's Church
12 Bellevue Crescent
Monday 6.45pm Wednesday 7.30pm
Mixed ability – all welcome
£30 for 10 sessions £4 for 1 session
Bring mat, towel, water.
Fiona: tel. 07931341485