

Belle's

View

Hi fans



The Festival is upon us once again! And while the rest of Edinburgh goes luvvie, what's for fun in hooching Broughton and Bellevue?

Estelle and I attended a fabulous night of music and dancing in Scotland Yard Adventure Centre as part of Scottish Refugee Week recently. Broughton's glitterati were out in force, including **Spurtle** stirrer John Dickie and his lovely wife Eileen. Even more fabulous were the results of the raffle, when Yours Truly won a bottle of vino colapso and John won a free hairdo. Broughton waits with baited breath – what will it be – a blue-rinse poodle-perm, or will he plump for a retro mullet?!

Forza Italia! World Cup fever hit the locality when Italy seized the coveted chalice! Restaurant Mama Ronia of Greenside Place had their huge Italian flag all ready to wave, and were *sopra la luna* when the game limped into penalties with Italy beating France 5-3. Cheers to all local Italians for partying and tooting their car horns until 3am, and letting us all join in the fun (yawn!).

Get Fringeing! Left Field at The Outhouse has The Workers Beer Company presenting politics, comedy, and music, from the crème of Scotland's underground talent with compère Vladimir McTavish (18-20 Aug., 5pm (£5/4)). And up the road at Greenside, Viva Youth Theatre present musical *Back To The Eighties!* (14-18 Aug., 16.20pm £6/5) promising crazy dance routines, blue eye shadow, and hairspray thick as tar – just a usual night out in Broughton then!

Till next time, just do it!

Roslynne Belle

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

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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



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

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

AEROBICS

Broughton St Mary's Church
12 Bellevue Crescent
From Monday 21st August 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

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Tel: 0131 558 8358 Fax 0131 557 6781
Saturday surgeries:
9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 139

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Free

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Tel - 556 0903
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BROUGHTON'S STORY

Nine hundred years of history

After months of preparation, our local history society opens its latest exhibition to the public on Monday, 7th August at 12 noon.

Organised by Broughton History Society, 'Broughton's Story' brings together maps, drawings, photos, 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 – to create a much bigger event. There are introductory panels outlining the earlier history of Broughton; maps and aerial views; then the bulk of the material arranged street-by-street; and then collections of photos on selected

themes such as Schooldays, and Sport.

There should be something to interest everyone who lives or works in Broughton; and, it's hoped, many from farther afield who have any kind of interest in Edinburgh history.

But, judging from the response from visitors to previous exhibitions, it may be those who once lived in Broughton but have since moved away who will find the display most fascinating.

The venue is Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent. The exhibition runs from Monday, 7th August to Saturday, 19th August, daily (including Saturday and Sunday) from 12 noon to 6pm, with an extension to 8pm on Thursdays. And it's free!



Evelyn Graham of Bellevue Road: Assisting with this exhibition, I've enjoyed meeting the people living in Broughton today and hearing their story. Equally fascinating has been discovering the rich history of 'Old Broughton'.



Heather Fry of East Claremont Street: When working with the last exhibition, four years ago, I especially enjoyed hearing memories from past residents who had grown up in the area. It's the interest from visitors old and new that helps to make these exhibitions worthwhile – so do come along!



Joanne Hood, minister at Broughton St Mary's: All the members and worshippers at Broughton St Mary's are thrilled to have the opportunity to host the exhibition. As the local parish church we strive to find ways to serve our community, and what better way than to provide a venue for people to learn and appreciate the history of this wonderful part of Edinburgh.



Broughton's wash house, Union Street (now the Printmakers' Workshop).

BRIEFLY

Last month we headlined proposals to build student accommodation on the McDonald Road Kwik-Fit site. The developers' architect offered a bottle of champagne for the best suggested name for the new complex. Linda Head of Rosslyn Crescent writes: 'I think it should be called **Farmer's Acre** or **Farmersland**. Mainly in recognition of Sir Tom's contribution to employment in Edinburgh and Leith, but also alluding to the area's past as a botanic garden.' More suggestions please!

It seems years (it is years!) since the Broughton to Stockbridge Route Action Plan (RAP) was first discussed. Now it's happening on the ground: throughout July, starting in Broughton Street, there's been work on new drop-crossings (gradual slopes from pavement to road), raised surfaces for people with visual impairments, short-stay parking and loading bays. And the junction of Cornwallis Place and Bellevue Crescent and the top of Rodney Street, where once there was danger in every direction, has been realigned to make life easier for pedestrians. As one local parent put it to Spurtle: This is a good (and rare) example of Council joined-up thinking. It ties up with Safer Routes to School, and continues the good work of the Mansfield Place pedestrian crossing in linking the New Town proper to the Bellevue and Claremont area.

By the time you read this, two more elm trees will probably have been felled in Drummond Community High's playground, reports Head Teacher Muriel Buchanan. 'Two are dying from Dutch elm disease. It is hoped this will stop the others being affected as it seems to have spread via the roots.' It is planned to replace the trees.

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.

THE STAFFORD CENTRE History in the stonework

Ross MacLean continues his look at some of Broughton's buildings:

Look up at the douce facade of No. 103 Broughton Street, and you will see an armorial shield dated 1869. This was the crest of the St James Episcopal day school for which the building was constructed.

The school was originally accommodated within the adjoining St James Church building, on the site which extended from the present-day Crombie's butchers to the Olive Branch restaurant at the corner of Broughton Place. Stone steps on the first floor of what is now the Stafford Centre clearly indicate where School and Church conjoined. The rose-window above the doorway is a reminder of the ecclesiastical aspect of the building, while the detailed water-pipes flanking the entrance are testimony to Victorian craftsmanship. Although the St James Church itself moved to Inverleith in 1888, the St James School continued in Broughton on into the 1930s. The much-loved Edinburgh poet, Robert Garioch, was a distinguished former pupil.

After the school closed there were fallow periods when the building lay empty. It later re-emerged as an 'education centre for apprentice painters' and, in more recent memory,



as a day-centre for unemployed workers. Its rebirth in 1998 as the Stafford Centre clearly indicate where School and Church conjoined. The rose-window above the doorway is a reminder of the ecclesiastical aspect of the building, while the detailed water-pipes flanking the entrance are testimony to Victorian craftsmanship. Although the St James Church itself moved to Inverleith in 1888, the St James School continued in Broughton on into the 1930s. The much-loved Edinburgh poet, Robert Garioch, was a distinguished former pupil.

The Stafford Centre is a voluntary sector community resource for people with mental health problems. Its aim is to assist those using the service to achieve independent living through the provision of information, support and a range of group activities. That lightsome spirit, Robert Garioch, would surely applaud the 21st-century transformation of his old school, with its stunning art studio, multi-purpose relaxation room, and the charming secret garden which flourishes at the back of the building. It is indeed a place of light, and enlightenment.

SCOTLAND YARD ADVENTURE CENTRE Parents appeal

'At The Yard I can relax knowing the boys can play safely, and no matter how challenging their behaviour no-one will judge us.' I am the mother of a severely autistic child. Before we discovered The Yard we felt very isolated. The Yard is the best thing that has happened to us.'

The words of parents whose children have benefited from what Scotland Yard Adventure Centre has to offer. The Centre has been developed for disabled children and children with additional support needs; but non-disabled siblings can also have much-needed space and be supported to play together in relaxed

surroundings. There's equipment adapted for a wide range of abilities, and experienced playworkers.

Parents have launched their own appeal, to ensure that facilities at the Centre can be properly maintained and further developed. It's not just hard cash that can help: there are opportunities to contribute in kind – for example, bicycles that need replaced. If you think you could help yourself, or can think of a shop, a company or other organisation that might have something to offer, you can phone the Centre on 476 4506.

LEITH OPEN SPACE GROUP

Opening doors to democracy

Fay Young of East Claremont Street reports:

How can we overcome the obstacles that prevent ethnic minorities taking a more active part in politics, business and voluntary work?

The same question cropped up in different ways throughout our second multicultural Open Space event in Leith. There were many answers including practical projects to bring people together to create something new – a community garden and a multicultural food festival are just two of the ideas that emerged as people talked and listened to one another.

But the first one to take shape is the Shadow Scheme which aims to pair local people with councillors and members of parliament in the constituency of

Edinburgh North and Leith.

Opening Doors to Democracy in Leith will be launched this autumn. The scheme, co-ordinated by the Leith Open Space Group who organised the two multicultural discussion events, is based on successful projects run by Operation Black Vote in Bristol and Westminster.

The strength of the scheme is that it opens a dialogue between politicians and the public. The aim is to encourage people from minority communities to take part in our democratic process – and at the same time to give our politicians new insight into the lives of the communities they represent. The shadow scheme – pairing participants with local councillors, MSP Malcolm Chisholm and MP Mark



Lazarowicz – is likely to run from October to December. Both participants and politicians will be invited to keep a diary recording what they learn from each other. Watch this space!

For more information and application forms email: leithmcevent@btconnect.co.uk

PLANNING Homes for families?

The flurry of applications to build flats in the Broughton area continues. But are there enough homes for families being built? We asked local councillor Trevor Davies:

About 20% of the households in Edinburgh are families with children. This is a big reduction on the past. The biggest demand therefore, at the moment, is for smaller homes and that is where much of the effort is going.

However, it is very important that we have mixed neighbourhoods. Especially in the larger developments, the Planning Committee tries to ensure that we get a good mix of accommodation: we aim for something like that 20% of family-size housing. In smaller developments the mix is part of the neighbourhood, not the individual development. One word of warning however – often those larger 'family' homes are not in fact bought by families but by landlords who will rent them out as HMOs, such is the demand for affordable housing for singles and couples.



Photo: Marc Marnie

if you want to see more live music in Broughton, get along there and support the band.

For more information on VDS and to listen to them online go to www.voces-del-sur.com and www.myspac.com/voccsdclsur