

# Belle's View



Hi fans

Hurray!/bah humbug!/yippee!(delete as appropriate!) – it's the party season – what's for festive fun in twinkly-frosted and glittery-baubled **Broughton and Bellevue?**

For festive nibbles, get along to self-confessed ham-boiler **Ailith Anderson's** tomato-coloured **Broughton Delicatessen** at 7 Barony Street. Wares include gorgeous cheeses from **Ian Mellis**, and tasty bread from **Au Gourmand**, with all the food freshly prepared in the on-site kitchen. And for the greenie-minded, all shop packaging is made from corn starch and will decompose in a matter of weeks – mighty! Open 9am-7pm Monday to Saturday. [www.broughton-deli.co.uk](http://www.broughton-deli.co.uk). If you're looking for the perfect Christmas gift for a Broughtonite, how about buying them **Philip Contini's** new CD of Italian love songs, **Napoletano**. Philip, MD of Elm Row deli **Valvona and Crolla** is an accomplished baritone, and trained as a chorister as a lad, when only knee-high to a Parma ham! Snap it up for £12.99 at the V&C shop and Vincaffe, and at [www.valvonacrolla.com](http://www.valvonacrolla.com).

Looking for leurve in 2007? If you're willing to *Give Romance a Chance*, pull on your lucky pants and/or lay the slap on with a trowel and get along to **The Single Connection**, an Edinburgh-based singles club which is holding over 30s discos at **The Claremont Hotel** in Claremont Crescent. Their next event is at 9pm-1am on Saturday 13th January, with tix £6/7 on the door or available in advance from 0131 622 2327 [[www.singleconnection.co.uk](http://www.singleconnection.co.uk)]. Smoochtastic!

Till next time – have a fabby festive season and a happy 2007!

*Persephone Belle*

**Have you got a story?**  
**Spurtle** is your community paper.  
Phone 556 0903 or e-mail  
[broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto: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 5th February, 7.30pm at  
Drummond Community High School.

Secretary Pat Eccles, 225 4633  
E-mail [pat@eccles62.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:pat@eccles62.wanadoo.co.uk)

**Mark Lazarowicz**  
MP for Edinburgh North and Leith



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Website: [www.marklazarowicz.org.uk](http://www.marklazarowicz.org.uk)  
Friday advice sessions:  
4.00pm Stockbridge Library  
5.30pm Constituency Office

## Contacts

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**Dicksonfield Owners and  
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**Friends of Hopetoun Crescent  
Garden**

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**Gayfield Association**

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**Redbraes Residents Association**

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**New Town/Broughton  
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**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 7.00pm (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

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# Spurtle

**BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER**

No. 143

[broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk)

Free

**Dec/Jan  
2006/7**

**Tel - 556 0903  
556 7727**

## Briefly

St Mary's R. C. Primary have their **Christmas Fair** on Saturday, 9th December, 11am to 2pm in St Mary's Cathedral Hall: Santa's Grotto, stalls, children's fun, plus 'live music to lift your spirits'. £1 entry for adults, children free.

*There's another Open Day at Mansfield Traquair Centre on Sunday, 10th December, 1pm to 4pm.*

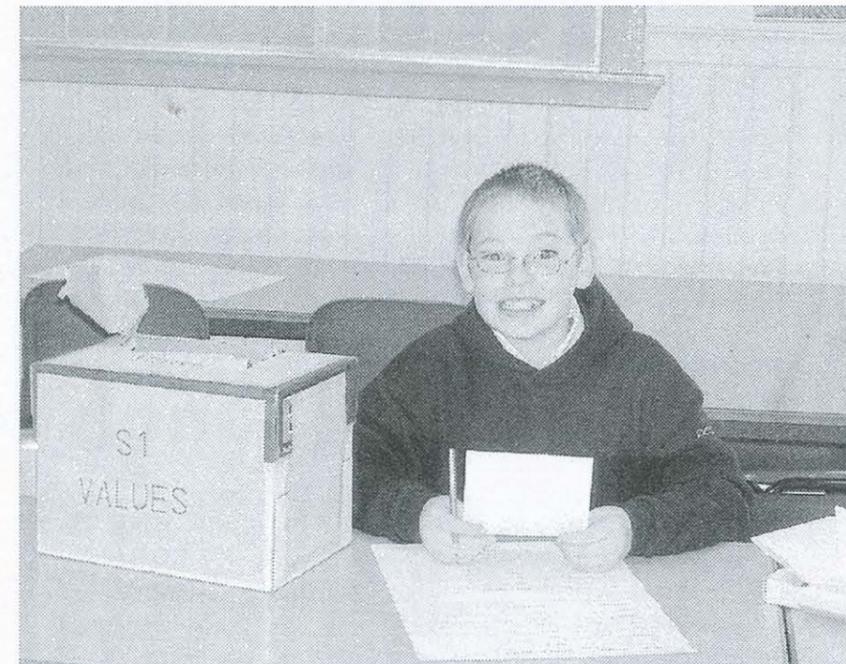
'**The Hidden Life of Women in 18th and 19th Century Scotland**' is the subject at Broughton History Society's meeting on Monday, 8th January, 7.15 for 7.30pm at Drummond Community High. Visitors welcome. £1. (We announced this talk for November, but it was unavoidably postponed.)

*Outgoing chair Gavin MacGregor reports 'a small but enthusiastic' AGM of Broughton Village Association on 23rd November, with new office-bearers elected:*  
**Ken Lawley** (chair),  
**Sarah Macauley** (secretary),  
**David Smeaton** (treasurer).

Librarian Ewan McCormick reports a successful information day for the Polish community at McDonald Road on 11th November: 'In total over **500 people** attended this event. It provided a tremendous opportunity for library staff to promote and tailor the service to Polish users, but is also a good example of effective partnership working with other agencies to expand and consolidate access to information, advice and practical help about living and working in Scotland for the Eastern European community.'

**DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH**

## School values defined by students



Ryan Wilson at the poll

*Librarian Annie Scanlon reports:*

S1 students at Drummond Community High School are learning to be active citizens. A new initiative has been launched at the school, which encourages students to reflect on the values which underpin the school, local, and global communities.

The Scottish Parliament's mace is inscribed with four values – wisdom, justice, integrity and compassion. Based on these, students put forward their own suggestions and held an election. The S1 students, staff and parents were invited to vote for the four values they felt were most important to the school community – and the winners were: commitment to learn, respect, consideration, and honesty.

Throughout the year staff and

students can nominate others whom they have seen displaying these values for a 'Values Award'. By accepting their responsibility for living up to these values S1 students believe they will have the power to shape their school community.

**The 'festive season' is upon us, with all the family gatherings (or lack of them) and heightened emotions it brings with it. For all our readers, we hope there will be more joy than heartbreak.**

**Thanks to all who have supported us during 2006. Spurtle will be back to start its fourteenth year in February – with a new editor and a strengthened team!**

## BROUGHTON STREET

# Local shops then and now

Ross MacLean writes:

In 1996 John Dickie, our esteemed founder-editor of the *Spurtle*, made a fascinating comparative survey of the shops and businesses in Broughton Street in 1900 and their equivalents in 1996. This is a mine of information for historians, sociologists, and the general public alike.

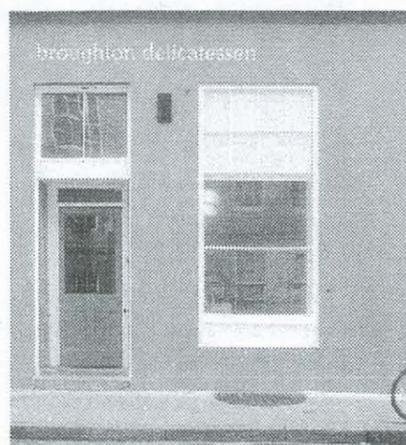
The keynotes are diversity and continuity. In 1900 there were, in Broughton Street Lane, John Wigham, egg merchant; at No.41 Broughton Street, Josaphat Martinelli, confectioner; and at No.48, Miss Hislop's umbrella warehouse. In 1996 there were the Gay Centre and Cafe (No.60), Just Junk (No.87) and the Video Library (No.95).

Some continuity has been maintained. No.97 (Crombies) was also a Butchers in 1900: likewise No.50 (Grocers - now Shamoons) and

No.105 (Chemists). Similarly, five pubs - Mathers (No.25), Baroque (No. 39), The Phoenix (No.46), Barony (No. 83) and The Cask and Barrel (No.115) were all 'Spirit Merchants' in 1900. Clearly, in the Bard's terms, Broughton remains a location where 'drouthy neebors, neebors meet'! (Burns, in *Tam O'Shanter*.)

The superb Albany Street Chapel building (1816), which now houses Scotland's Assay Office, is perhaps the most fitting symbol of Broughton Street's longevity and resilience. The Office continues the ancient craft of testing gold and silver which are verified and stamped with the famous Edinburgh hallmark of a triple-towered castle. It provides a world service, and celebrates its 550th anniversary in 2008.

Currently, in December 2006, there



Just off Broughton Street, a new arrival in September - see Belle's View on the back page.

are circa 60 shops and businesses in Broughton Street, of which 12 are eating-places (cafes, restaurants, etc.); 7 are pubs; and 7 are hairdressers/barbers. The rest - from John of Something Fishy, to Sharon of Narcissus Flowers, to Alan of Villeneuve Wines, to Joy of Scotland's *Chapman Magazine*, to mention but a few, are a testimony to the continuing diversity and allure of the Broughton Village in 2006. Floreat Broughton!

## BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

# Successful launch of development project

Minister Joanne Hood reports:

From the 19th to 26th November Broughton St Mary's Parish Church held a highly successful Open Week with the main aim of allowing the community to view and comment on our plans for the development of our building and our vision for our future within this area.

We had an exhibition set up all week which allowed the many people who came to view it to see a bit of our history, the current problems our building poses for us and the solutions which have been formulated in conjunction with our architect Benjamin Tindall. On two evenings during the week many community group members and leaders along with local councillors and MPs were invited to attend presentation evenings. At these we showed a short DVD of our work and gave a presentation of the challenges that face us, and how the community can become involved in making our

plans reality and in reaping the benefits from what we are proposing to do.

I am delighted to say that the response from those who attended was hugely positive, and donations have already started coming in from these local groups as they are keen to support what we are doing. We do need community support, both in principle and financially, so if you have any questions or any donations you wish to make please get in touch.

I would like to thank the Cello Group of Broughton Primary School for their excellent recital on Wednesday of the Open Week, and everyone who has supported us already by attending the Week and showing interest in what we wish to achieve. I hope in the future you will all benefit, as one of our aims is to better serve this area and so fulfil our mission as a Parish Church. For more information: [<http://bstmchurch.org.uk/>] or [<http://insideout.bstmchurch.org.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!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected to any political party or group. And we don't get a grant from anybody to finance the paper.

Contact us and:

- react to what **Spurtle** says
- 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](mailto:broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk)

## NO.32 BROUGHTON STREET

# Pub plan turned down

Just too late for our November edition was news that planning permission for a pub and restaurant at 32a Broughton Street had been refused - much to the delight of local objectors. The City Planning Committee's reasons for refusal included:

- alterations to the exterior of the original building 'unacceptable due to

their effect upon the character and appearance of the conservation area'

- creation of a separate structure in the rear courtyard, with possible rooftop use, 'likely to lead to a loss of residential amenity in the area due to noise'

- 'the rear terrace and enclosing parapet would cause loss of privacy

and daylight to adjacent residences'.

So the future of this much-neglected local landmark (built in 1853 as a George Heriot District School) is still in doubt. Who can come up with a role for it in the 21st century which is both viable and an asset to Broughton?

## ELM ROW AND MONTGOMERY STREET

# Good-bye to the Gateway



The last-but-one play performed by the Gateway Theatre Company in 1965 turned out to be appropriate.

John Dickie writes:

It seems the days of the Gateway Theatre, Elm Row are numbered. Last year a fire safety inspection uncovered major structural problems. Faced with estimated costs for putting things right, the owners, Queen Margaret University College, decided demolition and redevelopment of the theatre and adjacent buildings would make more sense. The plan is to replace them with houses and flats.

Before the University College took over, Scottish Television had its Edinburgh studios there. But the story goes much further back than that, to 1888 - and a tie-in with Broughton's history. In 1873 there had been trouble at the original Dick Vet College, in

Clyde Street: the Principal fell out with his staff and the Committee of Management, was asked to resign, and stormed off to set up a rival veterinary college in Gayfield House - taking most of the students with him. With some success it seems: by 1888 the house wasn't big enough for all the students, and the college decamped across Leith Walk to newly-built premises at 41 Elm Row.

The college closed in 1904, and for the next six years the premises were occupied by Adam Cramond, coach and cab proprietor. He moved out in 1910, a boom year for picture houses, and what had been the New Veterinary College was reconstructed as Pringle's New Picture Palace. For decades

thereafter, with many ups and downs, this was a place of entertainment - sometimes films, sometimes live theatre, sometimes a mixture of the two. In 1946 the theatre and adjoining shops, flats and billiard saloon were gifted to the Church of Scotland. It wasn't long before the Church started its own repertory company, which performed for six seasons. Then the Church handed over the performing side of things to an independent Edinburgh Gateway Company; but their own Sadie Aitken continued to manage the theatre and front-of-house - I remember her clearly, a well-kent character associated with my earliest experiences of theatre. The Gateway Company performed for twelve years, before bowing out in 1965 rather than competing with the newly-established Civic Theatre, at the Lyceum.

When theatre, workshops and other buildings have been demolished the cleared area will include a gap site opening onto Montgomery Street: the proposal is to use this for 42 flats/townhouses, courtyards, private and communal gardens, and reinstatement of retail premises on Elm Row. Queen Margaret University College hope that they'll get planning permission by spring next year, with completion of the whole project around two years after that.

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