

GAYFIELD ASSOCIATION AGM

The Association held its 25th AGM in the Police Station, Gayfield Square on Friday 26th May with 24 members present.

The Association looks after amenity issues for the area bounded by Broughton Street, East London Street, Windsor Street and Greenside. It came to life when there was a 1968 proposal to drive a motorway through the heart of the area, demolishing 3000 houses in its wake!

Chairman Ian Dunn outlined the year's activities. There had been more conversions of offices to houses, and some sub-division of larger main door houses into smaller flats. A major employer, Standard Life, was to move from Annandale Street to Lothian Road in the next year. A big local hotel, The Windsor, which had at one time tried to buy up the whole of Windsor Street, had withdrawn its application by another 30 bedrooms. There was the usual annual moan at the eyesores around the unfinished building site at Greenside. Members hoped that the grand plans for Annandale Street/McDonald Road would include East London Street at an early stage.

The meeting heard about progress on the Mansfield Place Church. A "Use and Cost Report" will be examined by the Mansfield Traquair Trust on 13th June (Councillor McGregor, David Rushton and Ian Dunn are the three locally-based trustees).

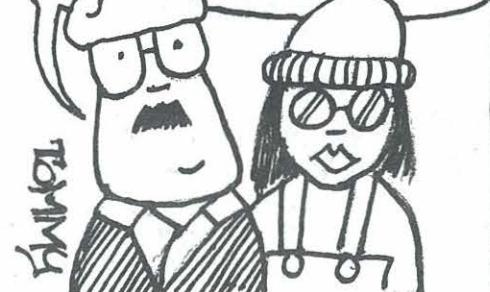
Betty McFarlane was chosen as Treasurer, Mark Cousins as Secretary (558 1721), with Ian Dunn serving another year as Chairman.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON CHANNEL 5

You may have read about the new Channel 5 TV service in the press recently. The Institute of Local Television based in Bellevue Place does research on local TV and believes that Scotland is about to miss out with this new service unless the Scottish people can get their views across. ILT invite Spurtle readers to write to the Independent Television Commission at 123 Blythswood Street, Glasgow G24AN requesting the ITC not to award the Channel 5 franchise because the bidders make no concessions to Scottish interests in their programme proposals. Last time there was a public consultation on television in 1993 there were only 76 responses in all - but 26 of these came from Scotland. We know there's a strong interest in Edinburgh in seeing more local programmes. So let's try and make the Scottish lobby reach 50% this time! The issue of who controls the airwaves in each town and city is important as media jobs become more and more significant to the local economy.

Recently Graham Allen MP Shadow Minister for the Media called for Channel 5 to be introduced as a local service to 'broaden the involvement of citizens in television'. But without your 'citizen involvement' in advance of awarding Channel 5 the service will go on air in 1997 as a blanket UK channel and it will ignore Scotland's democratic debate by overlooking it. Please do write to the ITC before 13th June calling for programmes appealing to Scottish viewers - young and old alike - and send a copy of your letter to ILT at 13 Bellevue Place, Edinburgh EH7 4BS.

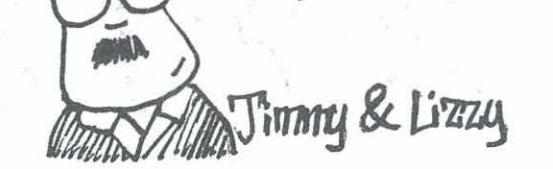
JUST JUNK'S
GETTING QUITE
PRICY THESE DAYS.



HOW DO
YOU MEAN?



'THEY'RE ASKING
10P, FOR THE
COLLECTED THOUGHTS
OF JOHN
MAJOR!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events. Copy deadline for our July issue is Friday 23rd June.

Tuesday 6th June Community Council meets at Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm. Guest speaker - Councillor Begg, on traffic developments.

Thursday 8th June Edinburgh Sitters' Open Day, 1 to 7pm, phone 557 3121 for details.

Thursday 8th June SPURPLE meeting at 59 Broughton Street, 2nd floor lefthand door, 8pm.

Friday 9th June Traffic stall and petition on Broughton Street, all day. Anyone interested in helping please phone Jane Coville, 556 1851.

Sunday 11th June Scotland Yard Summer Festival, George V Park, 12 to 4pm. "Auld Alliance" theme - music, entertainment and cafe, aimed at all the family.

Thursday 15th June "Parent Power" open meeting, Drummond Community High School, 7.30pm.

Saturday 17th June Pride Scotland March assembles in Broughton Street 12.45, setting off 1.15pm.

Thursday 29th June Edinburgh Sitters second Open Day, 1 to 7pm, phone 557 3121 for details

Just Junk
1995
Summer Collection
... "Stunning" T. Conran

BROUGHTON SPURPLE

NEWS VIEWS ACTION

Broughton • Gayfield Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 16

June 1995

THE CALTON HILL STORY



Last month we ran the story of a fence that had appeared on Calton Hill, denying public access to part of the park. Our reporter's enquiries suggested that it had been put up for the convenience of a local householder, who had complained about noise and camping too near her back garden.

Spurtle contacted Mrs. Gillespie again just before going to print. She agrees that the area in question is public land. "But my title deeds give me freeish entry to Calton Hill. How can I have free entry if the grass outside my gate is covered in dog dirt and frequented by drug addicts? There always used to be a fence and gate there, they were only taken down after the war. Anyway, I'm not going into it, you can do what you like about it, goodbye."

Our own local councillor passed the issue to Calton District Councillor Douglas Kerr, who's now been to see the fence for himself:

"I was unaware that it had happened and will certainly be raising the matter with the Parks Department. If this is land that is held for the public good then I would be seriously concerned about the people of Edinburgh being denied access to it. I have been involved in campaigning against the sections of the Criminal Justice Act which allows landowners to restrict public access to vast areas of the Scottish countryside. This certainly seems like double standards to me. I will be pursuing this, and will give you the latest in the next issue."

Meanwhile, if you want access to this part of Calton Hill, you can write to Mr. McKay in the Parks Department or phone him on 529 7911 and ask him for a key.

PARENT POWER

Do we really have any?

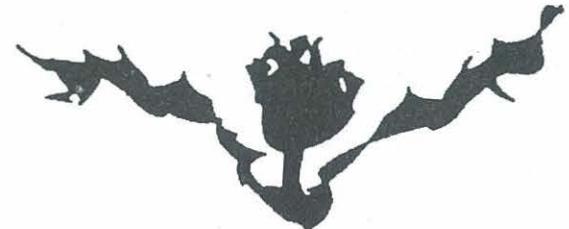
And if we have, are we using it?

Drummond Community High School Board have organised an open meeting to give parents the opportunity to voice their opinions on the provision of education in Lothian, now and in the future. Brian Boyd, Associate Director of Quality in Education, Strathclyde University, will give a short talk and pose questions on various aspects of your children's education.

Thursday 15th June, 7.30pm, Drummond Community High School. (Wheelchair users, please arrive early)

SAY IT WITH PRIDE!

"Pride Scotland" March and Festival is an annual event to celebrate the pride that lesbians, gay men and bisexuals have in themselves. This year the March assembles in Broughton Street on Saturday 17th June at 12.45, setting off for the Meadows at 1.15, where the Festival will take place 2 to 8pm.



"Non gay/bisexual residents and shopkeepers are definitely welcome to join in", says local resident and gay activist Ian Dunn. "Don't be shy, give it a try. We're all together on the 17th!"

For further information, you can contact the organisers on 661 8640 or 667 5661.

Plan your own environment - page 2

PLANNING YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The Community Council's May meeting focused on ideas for the future of the Annandale/McDonald Road area – beyond the immediate question of Barratt Homes' application to build flats (see McDONALD RD UPDATE)

About 26 people attended: a discussion of planning ideas perhaps doesn't seem so urgent as protesting against a particular application; and it was a beautiful spring evening, when sitting indoors at a meeting wasn't the first thing that sprang to mind! But encouraged by some suggestions from the Appleton Partnership, plenty of ideas did emerge. Afterwards Spurtle spoke to Pat Robertson of McDonald Place:

"I found it very interesting. Certainly everyone had a chance to air their views – and there were very varied views. But there is room to satisfy everyone's interests, if we are all flexible. And I was surprised to discover what a broad range of subjects the Community Council covered. I'd certainly like to go to another of their meetings."

If you didn't get to the meeting but have views on the future of the Annandale/McDonald Road area, contact Allan Wilson, secretary of the Community Council, 2 Shaw's Street, Pilrig, EH7 4PH (554 9144)

Pupils at Broughton Primary are busy shaping their own immediate environment. We hope to hear from them in our July issue.

THE BROUGHTON SPURTLE aims to:

- provide a contact point for local people who want to get together and change things
- help local action groups publicise their work
- make connections between "the news" and people's own lives in Broughton
- and generally stir things up a bit!

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

MCDONALD RD UPDATE

In our April issue we reported on the public meeting about Barratt Homes' plans to build 171 flats in McDonald Road. People at the meeting were overwhelmingly against the plans. A McDonald Area Amenity Society was set up to pursue the matter. Here MAAAS chair George Reiss reports on developments.

We are aiming at two results:

- to get a good development in the whole area between McDonald Road and Annandale Street which will make this a better area to live in
- to stop the high building on the McDonald Road frontage, which will block light and view to people living there.

The main reason the affair is so complicated is that there are two things happening which are intertwined. The Council is having to decide what to do with the wider area (should it stay industrial, or go residential, should there be a "prestige project" on the site); while Barratt are applying to build flats on one part of the whole site. If you wrote to protest the Barratt application, you may have received a report written by officials for the Planning Committee, bringing together different ideas of how to develop the area. "The report has already been circulated to interested bodies and their views will be made available, with supplementary report if necessary, before the Committee meeting on the 27 April." And when did this report arrive on our doorsteps? Why, on 26 April, a whole day before the Committee meeting.

Contributors to this issue: Spike Flack, Tim Puntis, John Dickie, Tom Perman, Ian Dunn, George Reiss, Charlie Miller, Dougal Perman and Dave Rushton.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the BROUGHTON SPURTLE please contact us as soon as possible! We publish about once a month.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time OR PHONE – 556 7928 or 556 0903

The big decisions have still to come. Write to Councillor McGregor at the City Chambers, EH1 1YJ; and to Hazel Foster, Inspector of Planning (McDonald Road Area), 1 Cockburn Street, EH1 1PL.

NEW CAFE COMING

We were sorry to see The Edge Cafe in Broughton Street go under recently. But in mid-June we'll be able to welcome "EATOUT" to the premises at No 60. A partnership of Rachel Sherratt and Brendan Nash has signed a lease until June 2000. Until recently they were running "EAT OUT" in Glasgow, with very popular unlimited coffee-cup top-ups and a tasty menu.

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

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MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT

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Lunch 12 noon – 2.30pm,
Monday to Saturday.
Dinner from 6 to 10.30pm

LOCAL RELIC ON VIEW AGAIN

The Baxters land 1686

When the service station at Canonmills was demolished last year, to make way for a brand new layout, a bit of local history disappeared. The Baxters lintel, rescued from one of the old mill buildings, had been set in a modern brick wall nearby the service bay – no longer!

But it's back, now in a wall facing out to the street. And there's a new plaque alongside it, giving a bit of historical background to the site. The same royal charter that gave the mills to the canons of Holyrood Abbey also gave them "Broctun with its right marches".

If you're interested in local history, you might like to join a group that have started planning a big mural to show the history of Broughton from earliest times to the present day. If you have any drawing skill you'd be particularly welcome! (phone John Dickie, 556 0903)

BROUGHTON STREET CENTRE'S FUTURE?

After talks with the previous users of 103 Broughton Street, staff and users of the Stafford Centre are now in serious negotiations with the Social Work Department – with a view to moving in. The lease on their current premises expires in December, and they really need more space to offer more services.

There are plenty of practical points to sort out yet, so it's by no means a foregone conclusion that they will come to Broughton Street. But manager Alex Campbell told Spurtle that Stafford Centre users had visited No 103 and were very enthusiastic about the possibility.

Meanwhile the group who were evicted from the building back in December are still active, operating from a base at St Stephen's Church, now under the name of the Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh.

SITTERS WANTED

Edinburgh Sitters of 13 Gayfield Square desperately need volunteers, over 18 years of age and especially from this area of Edinburgh, who are sensitive to the needs of carers, tolerant of different lifestyles and who can sit on a regular or flexible arrangement for periods of up to four hours – at a time suitable to the sitters.

Out-of-pocket expenses are paid, and sitters are well prepared and supported. Edinburgh Sitters are holding Open Days for those interested in becoming volunteers on Thursday June 8th and Thursday June 29th, 1 to 7pm. Further details are available on 557 3121.

Even Cowgirls Get The Blues

C&A Video

93 Broughton Street
Edinburgh EH1
Tel/Fax 0131-556-1866

Your local friendly video store

Priscilla Queen of the Desert

HOPETOUN CRESCENT

Drummond Community High School Pupils were once again at work in Hopetoun Crescent gardens last week. This time they were there celebrating Environment Week by putting up bird and bat boxes that they had made themselves, and by clearing some of

the Himalayan Balsam, a non native plant which is gradually pushing out other species from the garden.

Their efforts are being rewarded in many ways, including a picture and article about their work in the Evening News, and a prize of £100 from British Telecom.

The next stage in their plan to create a Local Nature Reserve in Hopetoun Crescent Gardens is to produce a long term management plan which will enable them to apply for funding further work.

CONFERENCE SAYS LOCAL COMMUNITIES MUST BE HEARD

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council hosted a conference in New Parliament House on Saturday 27th May, on the theme "Planning and Transport: New Opportunities for Edinburgh?"

70 community councillors and members of the public heard speakers including town planner Clara Greed – "dead keen on public toilet provision, and sceptical of 'men of Vision' planners", according to our reporter! There was a very encouraging convergence of opinion, which was that local communities have a right to be heard and, vitally, their views must be incorporated into local government work.

In the afternoon workshops mulled over two "propositions" tabled by our Community Council. There was firm support for a East-Central Scotland Transport Authority. This would regulate bus companies and railways, and ensure there was through ticketing. It would co-ordinate all passenger transport in its area – south Fife to near Borders including the four Lothian authorities. It would preserve concessionary travel. Its income would come from pollution and parking fines, fares and development grants.

The second proposition was about getting better resources to Edinburgh's community councils; councils don't really want more powers. There are elections on 26th September. Nominations close on 29th August: please think about standing, it's good for local democracy! Community Council secretary is Allan Wilson – phone 554 9144.

SHAMOONS

Convenience Store
50 Broughton Street
Newspapers, flowers, general groceries, frozen foods
Open 7 days 7.30am to 8pm