

STOP PRESS

Were you at Drummond Community High in the late '80's as student, teacher or parent? Do you remember John Gotip, who was a senior pupil at that time?

John was originally from Nigeria, but came here when his father was a diplomat in UK. He's been in this country for nearly ten years now, going on to college after Drummond. For the last two months he's been locked up in Saughton Prison, waiting for the Home Office to make up its mind whether or not to deport him because of a query over his visa.

We only heard the news as we put together this issue of Spurtle. Next month we'll have more detail on how our crazy immigration laws put John in jail. But by then it may be too late. If you're concerned about him write to our local MP, Malcolm Chisholm, at 274 Leith Walk. And you can visit John in prison, without a pass because he's on remand (phone the prison for visiting hours on 444 2000)

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DON'T JUST DO SOMETHING - SIT THERE!

Edinburgh Sitters are organising an Art Exhibition at the Undercroft, St Andrew's and St George's Church in George Street. Art from the families, volunteers and friends of Sitters will be on display.

All are welcome to go along to buy or just admire the art on offer. And for those interested there will be a chance to discuss the many volunteering opportunities available through the organisation.

The exhibition opens on Tuesday, 26th September, 5.00-8.30pm, and then runs Monday to Friday, 12 noon-2.00pm, until 10th October. For further information call 557 3121.

ADULT CLASSES AT DRUMMOND

It's not too late to think about enrolling. There is a wide variety of daytime and evening classes. Crèche available, and access to the school library etc. Phone 556 2651 or 557 1490

SHAMOONS

Convenience Store
50 Broughton Street
Newspapers,
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We welcome details of forthcoming local events. Copy deadline for our October issue is Friday 22nd September.

Monday 4th September Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 6th September Local history exhibition with Broughton Mural, McDonald Road Library, 12 noon to 8pm. Same hours on Thursday and Friday, 9am to 12 noon on the Saturday.

Thursday 7th September Vigil for women's rights, outside St Mary's Cathedral, 5.30pm (and every first Thursday in the month).
Thursday 14th September SPURTLE meeting at 59 Broughton Street, 2nd floor left-hand door, 8pm.

Wednesday 20th September Public meeting in McDonald Road Library about the trees, 7pm.

Monday 25th September Local history class, "Broughton in the 19th Century" starts at The Flat, 10 Broughton Street, 7pm. Contact Stephanie Oliver or Linda Brown at Drummond, 556 2651.

Tuesday 26th September Edinburgh Sitters' Art Exhibition opens at the Undercroft, St Andrew's and St George's, George Street, 5-8.30pm, and thereafter noon to 2pm, Monday to Friday, to 10th October.

Every Thursday Gaelic Conversation Circle, SNP Club Rooms, North St Andrew Street, 7.30pm.



BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

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FREE Issue number 19

September 1995

McDONALD ROAD FACES NEW THREAT

"It would be an absolute sin to destroy all those trees. They're part of the character of the street."

Mrs Reid of McDonald Road phoned Spurtle to protest against the Regional Council's plan to uproot all the trees in the street when they reconstruct the roadway and the pavements. The work is scheduled for January to June next year.

And Keith Taylor from farther down the street sent us a copy of the letter he's addressed to the Transportation Department: "Surely it is only the elms which are susceptible to Dutch elm disease which have to be removed. Other species, such as the flowering cherries, which contribute to the attractiveness of McDonald Road, especially in the springtime, do not have to be felled. These others are small trees without the large root systems which can damage road drainage."

Keep the cobbles, they slow traffic

And on the proposal to lift the existing whin stone setts and replace them with bitumen: "At a time when a large area of the rest of Edinburgh is being returned to traditional whin stone setts as part of traffic calming measures (it is a well-known fact that cobble stones slow down traffic) is it wise to encourage the use of greater speeds on a road which already sees a great deal of use as a 'rat run'?"

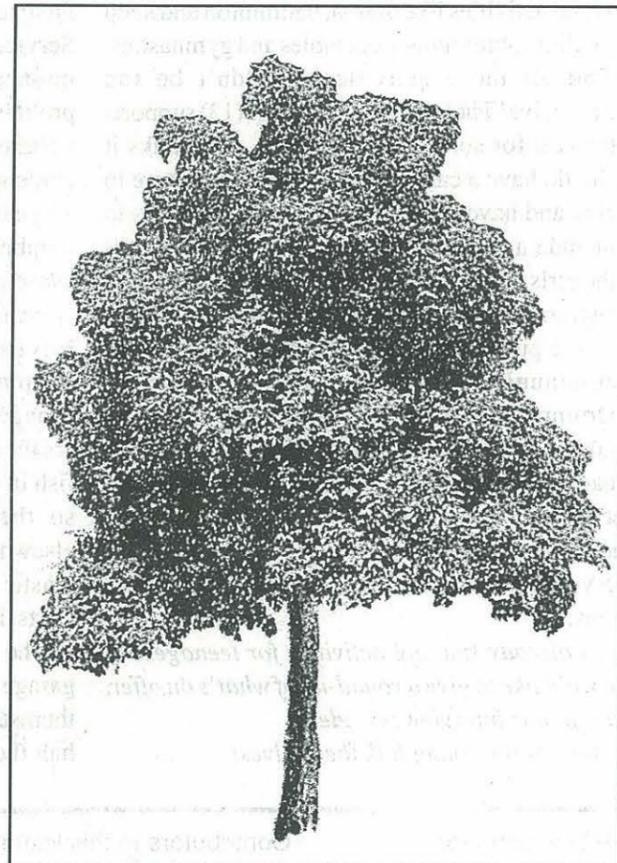
Their concern is shared by the McDonald Area Amenity Society, already spearheading resistance to that other threat to the street - Barratt Homes' application to build a seven storey block of flats on the Telecom site. Society spokesman George Reiss:

"Although they propose to replant, residents see the destruction of mature and growing trees as little short of vandalism. The letter from the Council tells us that some elm trees are diseased. There are lots of other types of trees - cherry, rowan, etc. - soon to reach their prime, but the Roads Department want to tear out all the trees." But the Council say the large tree roots are affecting the surface water drainage and underground services, and damaging road and pavement surfaces? "Residents would rather have mature trees and bumpy surfaces than see them torn out. The Roads Department needs to think greener."

Locals vote green

Local residents certainly seem to be thinking green. In a recent survey the Society asked them to vote on the amenities most missed in the McDonald area. Half the total votes cast were for "green areas" or "playspace".

The Area Amenity Society has called a public meeting for Wednesday 20th. September, 7pm in McDonald Road Library. If you live in the area, please go along.



WHAT'S BROUGHTON LIKE FOR TEENAGERS?

Spurtle wondered how well Broughton provides for its teenagers. So we went out and spoke to half a dozen of them.

Chris (15½) of West Annandale Street is really quite happy with things as they are. He plays football with his friends on the astroturf at Drummond, table tennis there on Wednesdays, and goes to Scouts at St Mary's Primary School. His friend Gordon (14½), round in Bellevue Road, suggests a roof over the astroturf. And what about a putting course?



Chris

Over in East London Street, Paul (15) complains that the astroturf is rented out to older people from outside our area during the football season - so local young folk can't use it. Didn't the Safer Edinburgh Project provide it for locals? Paul would like tennis courts, and ramps for skate boarding.

Also in East London Street, Sophie (13) says we need some kind of youth club, or community centre, where teenagers can come in off the streets for discos and activities like drama, badminton and keep fit. Her friend Amy (12) agrees, adding table tennis, pool tables and gymnastics. And all those activities shouldn't be too expensive! Their neighbour Danny (13) supports the call for some kind of centre, and thinks it should have a cafe of some kind, somewhere to chat and have a coke. He'd like the facilities to include a stage, table tennis and badminton as the girls suggest, a computers/TV/video room, a swimming pool - and an indoor football pitch!



Sophie

We put those ideas to Stephanie Oliver, the community education worker attached to Drummond Community High. Shortly after taking over from Jane Meagher she broke her leg badly in an accident: housebound, she's not been able to get to know our area yet. But she was interested in what the young folk had to say, and told us that she and the youth development worker for North Edinburgh would be reviewing youth provision in our area in the near future - we should expect some changes.

There are other organisations already running activities for teenagers in Broughton, though. Next month we'd like to give a round-up of what's on offer, and what the providers think about our interviewees' ideas.

And we'd like to hear from more of the young folk themselves!

SEAGULLS

Last month's coverage of the seagulls issue included a local resident's call to cull the gulls. This brought an anonymous protest phone call to the Spurtle. We welcome open debate; but we don't give much weight to anonymous comments.

Mr Burns of Cochran Terrace wrote in: "Someone recently dubbed them 'landgulls'. Like the urban fox they can now forage more easily in cities. Restaurants put out reject food overnight, with dire results. Householders put out litter (containing food) days before collection. Solve those problems and the result - no more seagull pests."

Spurtle spoke to Mr Walker of the District Council's Environmental Services. He told us that councils have no statutory duty to deal with the gull problem as gulls are not classified as vermin. He doesn't think there is any evidence that they are a health risk. The easy pickings from an increasing number of takeaways are the main cause of the problem.

Nearer home, Graham White of the Environment Centre housed at Drummond Community High says changes in the seagulls' natural habitat are the root cause. There just aren't the fish in the Forth that there once were, so the gulls are pushed to look elsewhere - and learn to tackle our plastic refuse sacks. Once the cycle starts, it escalates: birds born and bred on the roof of Annandale Street bus garage will come back there to nest themselves. Only drastic action can halt the spiralling numbers.

EURO CITY OF PUNK ROCK! MURAL MAKES ITS MARK

Local establishment The Venue was one of the venues hosting the musical side of a new festival to hit Edinburgh. The Euro City of Punk Rock '95 hosted over twenty gigs in ten days as well as a 'Punx in Trunx' visit to the pool, a visit to Pollock Free State, a Punk Pub Quiz and many other activities.

Some famous names like UK Subs (veterans of Top of the Pops in the '70's) and GBH played, as well as local bands and co-organisers Oi Polloi and Unique Freak.

Oi Polloi, who have just finished recording the first ever punk record in Gaelic, played with Punk/Ska merchants Citizen Fish to 400 people at The Venue to help raise money for worthy causes like Anti Fascist Action and The Centre.

Punks came from Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, Germany and the US.

VIGIL AT ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL

On the first Thursday of every month there is a short vigil outside St Mary's Cathedral. This is in support of the demand by both men and women for genuine acknowledgement and acceptance by the Catholic Church of the talent and spirituality of women.

And yet women are not allowed to bring their gifts and use them in the ministry of the Church. Women too have priestly vocations!

Is the Church listening? Come and add your presence and your prayers - we can and will make the Church hear! Thursday, 7th September at 5.30pm.

Jean Bell of Bellevue Street helped staff the local history exhibition at Drummond High, where the Broughton Mural made its first appearance:

I was very pleased to be involved in this project which encompassed my hobby, which is the history of my 'ain toon'. The Mural itself was extremely well done, and was very well received by all who came to see it. I think the comment of one of our first visitors "not enough" was complimentary, as most of the people who came to see the exhibition wanted to add their own memories of the area.

As I have been involved in oral history for some years in connection with the Old Town, it was particularly interesting to speak to local people. Some of our visitors included the Sutherland Twins from East London Street, who kindly supplied a photograph of their class at London Street School in the coronation year of 1936 with their teacher, Miss M. Forrest. This, in turn, linked them with



Broughton Mural Group

Jessie Mackie, the daughter of the rather impressively moustached Constable Mackie, a photograph of whom appears in our archive photos. Much to my surprise, the class also included my own sister-in-law, Lily Bell, who died in South Africa. Needless to say, a copy of the photograph is going to her family. These sort of reunions help to keep alive the history of the area, although many of the families have dispersed to "a' the airts".

I hope that the Broughton Mural will be further enhanced with additions, and that it finds an appropriate home in the area to educate future citizens.

The Mural is indeed being enhanced as we go to print, and will be shown complete with its ninth panel and captions at the McDonald Road Library, 6-9 September. Details can be found in *Dates for Your Diary* The taped reminiscences of local residents Ella Brodie and Mr Hope have been transcribed in the book 'Auld Reekie Memories' - available from Jean at £2 a copy (phone 556 0965)

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

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BROUGHTON IN THE 19TH CENTURY

10 week course on the social history of Broughton last century. Monday evenings, starting 25 Sept. 7-9pm in The Flat, 10 Broughton Street.
Contact Linda Brown, (556 2651).

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.

Contributors to this issue: Tim Puntis, John Dickie, Tom Perman, Jean Bell, John Adams, Jude Devereaux, George Reiss and Eileen Dickie.

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



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