

The Claremont traffic saga

It was billed as 'The Return of Mr Couper' - another meeting of the Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association, to discuss revised proposals for traffic calming measures brought by Mr Couper and his team from the Council's Development Department.

Local folk at the meeting were torn between barely suppressed fury at the way previously agreed plans had been disowned following local government reorganisation, and the need to work with a new set of officials if there was to be any hope of getting something done. There was the beginnings of constructive discussion of new drawings presented, including points about raising the curb on the central reservation, bollards to protect it and widening it to make double parking impossible without stopping the traffic. The thought that this would inconvenience parents dropping children off at the nursery didn't arouse much sympathy!

Still no guarantee if and when work will be done. The budget for projects in North Edinburgh will be known by August at the latest, all local councillors will then be consulted, and the priority to be given to projects should be known to us by Christmas. One very strong argument in Claremont's favour is that work was

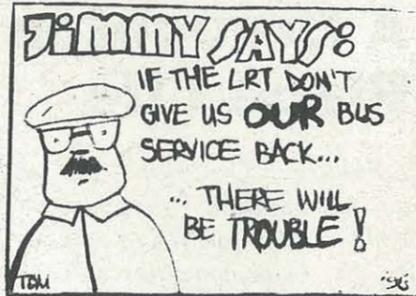
actually started - setts relayed, with gaps left for traffic calming platforms - before the change of councils. Unfinished work!

The dialogue will continue at a meeting on 11th September, before which Resident Association members will all get an outline of the officials' suggestions with a chance to comment on paper. (To join the Association, phone 556 0903 or call in at 22 East Claremont Street - £3 household, £1 individual.)

Good start for history society

Broughton History Society was formally established at an inaugural meeting on 17th June. After the business of adopting the constitution and electing a committee, the meeting enjoyed a very interesting talk on the history of Broughton Primary by Fay Young - who recently researched the subject for the book and exhibition to celebrate the School's centenary.

The newly elected committee meets in July to plan a programme of activities. The Society already has thirty paid up members (£6 for the year, £4 concessions): if you're interested in joining contact treasurer Alice Lauder, 31 Bellevue Gardens (556 0423). Other office-bearers elected were John Dickie (chair), and Gavin MacGregor (secretary, 4 East London Street, 556 7727).



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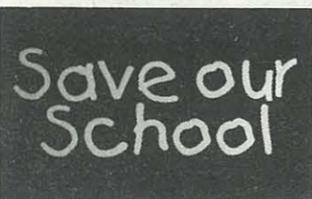
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Contributors to this issue:
John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom and Dougal Perman, Jude Devereaux, Ian Dunn and Michael Shearsby.

Local history book now available



The struggle for London Street Primary edited by John Dickie
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July 1996

Official opening
of Broughton
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Heartless Home Office

Still no decision for John Gotip, the Drummond former student threatened with deportation to Nigeria. News was expected to follow a meeting of his MP and an immigration minister in London, on 19th June, but all that came back was that his case would be given further consideration.

"On humanitarian grounds"! Certainly, no news is better than news that he's been deported. All who know him or who have followed his case will be outraged if the decision does eventually go that way. But there will be no cause for gratitude if he's allowed to stay. John's position in this country should never have been threatened in the first place. The fact that it was just illustrates the injustice of our immigration policy and regulations.

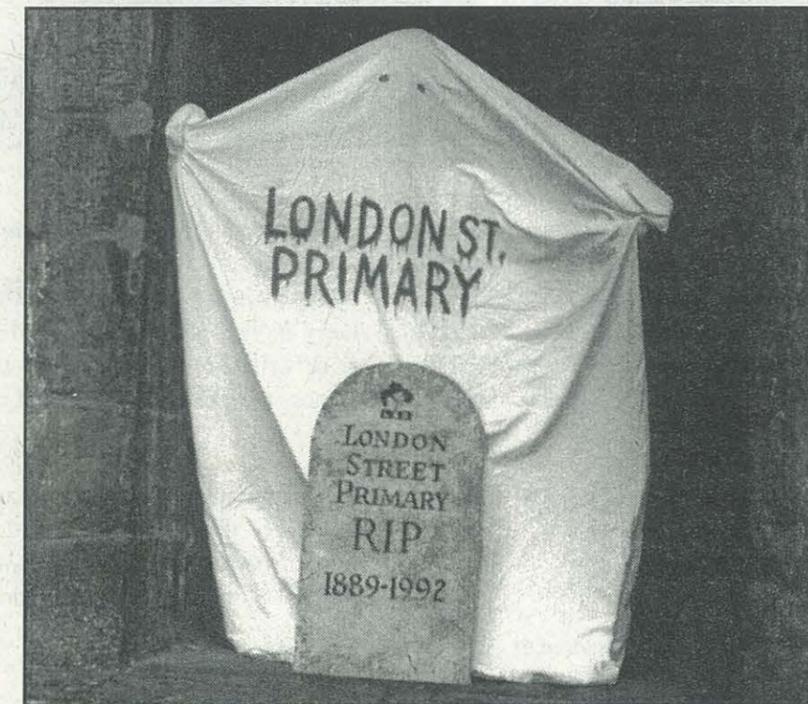
Give us back our bus!

Local residents are up in arms over the withdrawal of the 19/39 service, evenings and Sundays, as from 30th June - without consultation or any chance to comment before the decision was taken. This leaves us without any bus service running through the centre of the area in the evenings.

But we won't be taking this lying down (unless it comes to a lying-in protest at LRT headquarters?). The Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association have organised a petition demanding a rethink. And if you feel strongly about the loss of this service, write to Councillor Margaret McGregor, City Chambers, High Street. The Council don't control LRT any more, but a stack of letters will strengthen her hand in negotiations with the company.

Ghost of London Street haunts City Chambers

The Ghost of London Street Primary returned to haunt councillors as they arrived for the Education Committee's meeting on 6th June. Its appearance marked the launch of 'Save our School', a book about the struggle to stop the school being closed in 1992 - written, edited, designed and published in Broughton! (see page 2.)



NO MORE SECOND DELIVERY?

On the last Wednesday and Thursday of June many of us got our morning mail late, and there was only one delivery. When **Spurtle** asked a local postie what was going on, he told us that the first he heard about the single delivery was when he reported for work on the Wednesday morning.

He put it down to the management trying to provoke an unofficial

walkout, to pre-empt the trade union's planned official action on the Friday by sparking off illegal action. He thought we'd probably be back to two deliveries by the following Monday. By the time you read this we'll know if he was right.

But management's longterm plans for the second delivery? Our guess is likely to be as good as his. "We posties are usually the last to hear what's planned", he told **Spurtle!**

Open Day at the Stafford Centre

103 Broughton Street is a lovely Victorian building, built in 1885. In the past it has been a church school, a pre-apprenticeship school and a science lab. Now it is the Stafford Centre, a drop in centre for people with mental health problems.

The previous premises of the centre, in Stafford Street, had become too small so the offer of the new premises in Broughton Street was welcomed by manager Alex Campbell and the others involved with the centre. The opening ceremony on Monday 30th May was performed by Ruth Wishart, well kent Scottish journalist and broadcaster. And in the evening the local public were invited to have a look round the large light spacious rooms, and admire the excellent arts



Ruth Wishart performs the opening ceremony.

and crafts created by the people who use the centre. Between 170 and 200 people visited on the opening day.

Alex Campbell and the other people involved have worked very hard to create this lovely place, and all

decisions on decor, furnishings and layout were taken collectively. Boxes of plants greet you on entering, and then a warm welcome from a member

of staff. The atmosphere is of serenity and harmony.

The centre was awarded £60,000 Lottery money and this was used in the refurbishment - reflooring, electrics, new facilities etc.; and on

arts, crafts and sports equipment. The centre is used by 45-50 people a day. They can participate in creative, leisure and support group activities. There is a very pleasant spacious cafe area too. The users unanimously agree that one of the best parts of the centre is to be able to drop in, and also the chance to make friends.

Funding is by the Social Work Department and Lothian Health Board, but lack of money is a constant problem. Alex would like the centre to be open at the weekend, and he would like to offer more facilities to the users, but lack of money forbids this. Any donations would be most welcome, financial or equipment relating to any of the activities provided - arts and crafts

materials, or sports and games equipment; and they would like to start a library.

If you think you might be able to help, phone the Stafford Centre on 557 0718.

'Save our School'

"It had a lovely atmosphere, it was a very special school."

"It was a social thing, built up over the years, that's what was destroyed."

"I'm a Muslim, and I wouldn't support a Muslim school getting priority over a mixed school."

"These decisions aren't made on rational grounds, and they're certainly not made on grounds of what's best for the children."

The words of parents who fought long and hard against the closure of one of our local schools, as recorded

in the newly-published book 'Save our School - the struggle for London Street Primary'. In the end they lost: the school closed in 1992, their children



were transferred to Broughton Primary, and St Mary's RC Primary moved into the building. The book shares the parents' sense of outrage at the lack of genuine consultation over the closure; the education department's

refusal to consider alternative ways of 'rationalising' primary schooling in our area; and the fact that a denominational school with a similar sized role was considered 'viable' in the building they were forced to leave - whereas their school was not.

But others were affected by the struggle too. Next month we hope to bring you contrasting perspectives on the experience, from the points of view of parents at Broughton Primary and St Mary's RC Primary.



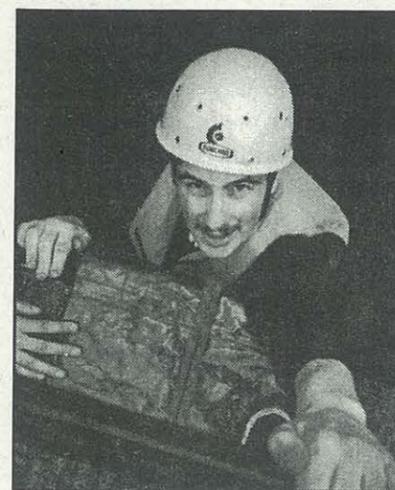
A Broughton Place Life

Edinburgh Cyrenians provide accommodation, support and opportunities for young homeless people, in communities of young homeless people and volunteers and through tenant led housing projects (556 4971). Michael Shearsby is a resident in the hostel they run in Broughton.

I have been a resident at Edinburgh Cyrenians at Broughton Place for the last eight months and I have really enjoyed myself in Broughton Place.

Since I have been a resident at BP I have been keeping myself very active doing Fairbridge which is a charitable organisation for young disadvantaged adults who can do activities such as abseiling, canoeing, and general personal development and self confidence, trust building games, nightline and a Tyrolean traverse.

Since I have been at Cyrenians you have the opportunity to play football, go out socialising, or even just sit in and watch television and videos.



Michael in action with Fairbridge. Fairbridge aims to "support and motivate young unwaged people from urban areas and enable personal development. The Project aims to do this through the medium of outdoor activities and informal education." (555 4449)

Community Action in Haringey



Spurtle exchanges editions with the newsletter 'Haringey Community Action'. This cartoon appears in its latest number.

"We are seeking to build up a community of people who accept the fact that things need to be changed and who are prepared to support each other to do it", the editorial says. "We do not have to agree on everything, in fact it would be unhealthy if we did. We just

have to be prepared to communicate with each other, learn from each other and work together in a spirit of solidarity.

"We emphasise action because we do not think it is any good to just sit around complaining whilst waiting for others to do something about it. If we don't like the way things are we have to get out there and take action to change things."

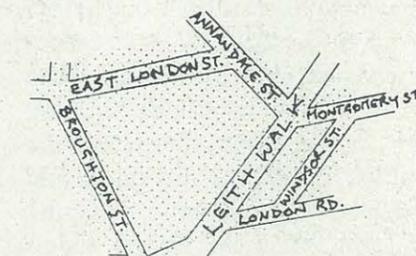
Gayfield AGM

The Gayfield Association held its 26th AGM in the Police Station Hall, Gayfield Square, on 27th June.

The Association, like many local amenity groups in the city, was formed to fight the 1966 Inner Ring Road which would have smashed through Gayfield demolishing 2,000 houses en route. Today the Association presses for new building in East London Street, and the greening of Leith Walk and Picardy Place.

Office-bearers were elected: Ian Dunn (Chairman), Betty McFarlane (Treasurer) and Col. Willie Macnair (Secretary).

Terry Levinthal, Cockburn Secretary, was the Guest Speaker.



The Association's catchment area. (Subscriptions payable to treasurer Mrs McFarlane, 31 Gayfield Square.)

Greenside Newsflash

We've hear an amended planning application has been lodged for the big Greenside site. The office block in the existing plans would be replaced by a multiple cinema; there would still be an hotel.

Anyone interested should contact the planning department as soon as possible.

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