

What a life!

In July we featured *drystane dyker Richard Love*. Here's the second in our occasional series on Broughton folk who do unusual jobs or other activities.

Most of us think the Scots aren't very good at learning other languages, so imagine having to listen to three or four different languages and translate simultaneously into English! Not all at the same time of course. Caroline Johnston does this for a few days each month to members of the European Parliament and the Court of Justice in Luxembourg - sometimes for an hour- and-a-half at a time. It can be very tiring work but she says it's a knack you learn.

Ever since childhood, when her father worked in Geneva, she has wanted to be an interpreter. She was one of the first undergraduates to do the new interpreters' course at Heriot-Watt University in the early 1980s. She then went freelance, initially working in Brussels, then Holland to learn Dutch and Italy to learn Italian, to add to the French and German she already had.

She is a member of the International Association of Interpreters - there are only four in Scotland - and there is hot competition for jobs. She fits her European work into bringing up two young children and hopes that the new Edinburgh Conference Centre will gradually bring in more work nearer home. She likes the immediacy of interpretation and only occasionally translates written work.

She once heard a Dutch word in her headphones which she didn't recognise. It turned out that the European Parliament were discussing 'dwarf tossing'. You've obviously got to be prepared for anything these days.

If you know of anyone else in the Broughton area who does an unusual job or other activity, please give **Spurtle** a call.

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BROUGHTON SPURTL
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Contacts

Updated 28 September 1997

Drummond Community High Head Teacher
Frank McGrail 556 2651
Surgery on Weds. 6-7pm
without appt; 7-8pm by appt.
only.

Bellevue and Claremont Residents' Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848

Broughton Place Residents' Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
Ian Dunn 557 1662

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Alan Wilson 554 9144

Broughton History Society
Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh
17 West Montgomery
Place. Meetings on
Monday nights, 7.30pm.
557 6242

Councillor Margaret McGregor
Broughton Ward
529 3283 (her office at
City Chambers). Surgery
at Drummond Community
High School on
Wednesdays, 6pm to 7pm.

Councillor David Guest
New Town 558 8823 or
529 4268. Surgery at
67 Northumberland Street
on Mondays 6pm to
6.45pm. (The boundary
with Broughton Ward runs
down the middle of
Broughton Street!)

Councillor Douglas Kerr
Calton Ward 529 4983 (if
you live in Gayfield)

Malcolm Chisholm MP
555 3636. Surgery on
Fridays, 5 to 7pm, in office
at 274 Leith Walk.

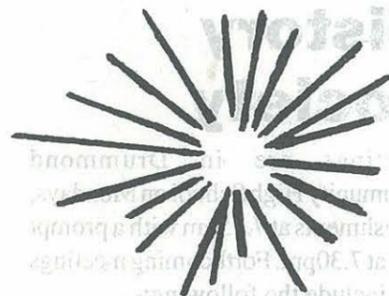
BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 42

October 1997

Stafford Open Day

The Stafford Centre will be holding an Open Day on Thursday, 30th October. Visitors from the Broughton community and farther afield will be very welcome any time between 12.30 and 6pm.



The idea is to help celebrate Mental Health Week. The Art and Photography groups will exhibit their work, the Music group will be playing 2-5pm, and the Woodwork shop will be open and can take orders for any goods that take your fancy. And there will be an opportunity to talk to staff about the work of the Centre.

Refreshments will be available all day from the snackbar.

Exploring our history

"Sources for Local History: Exploring Your Neighbourhood in the Edinburgh Room" - that's the title for a talk and slide show to be given by Ann Landers of the Central Library later this month. Place: the Nelson Hall, McDonald Road Library. Date: Tuesday, 28th October. Time: 7pm.

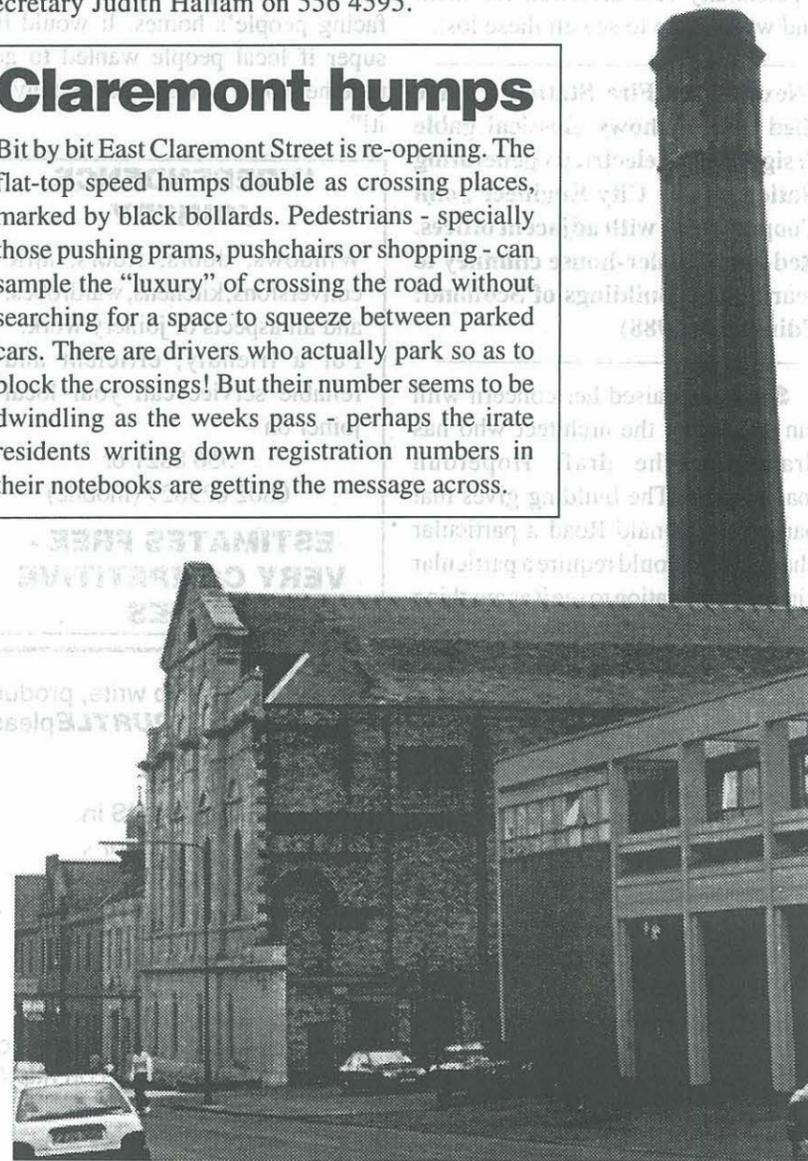
**Drummond
Lecture, page 2**
**Broughton's
Tramspotter,
page 3**

Watch scheme for Place?

In previous issues we've reported Broughton Place Residents Association getting hot under the collar about the Palladium venue there. But they don't see themselves as a single-issue organisation. They're hassling the City Council about dog fouling and weeds in the street. And they're in touch with the Police about the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. A public meeting is likely in the near future. But if you live in Broughton Place, or in adjacent streets, and you're interested in the Neighbourhood Watch idea - contact Secretary Judith Hallam on 556 4595.

Claremont humps

Bit by bit East Claremont Street is re-opening. The flat-top speed humps double as crossing places, marked by black bollards. Pedestrians - specially those pushing prams, pushchairs or shopping - can sample the "luxury" of crossing the road without searching for a space to squeeze between parked cars. There are drivers who actually park so as to block the crossings! But their number seems to be dwindling as the weeks pass - perhaps the irate residents writing down registration numbers in their notebooks are getting the message across.



Historic buildings at risk? See page 2.

Historic buildings at risk? Drummond Lecture

Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road went along to see the Hopetoun Masterplan exhibition at the local public library. It made her wonder about the future of some local buildings.

I was curious to find out if the building at No.95 McDonald Road was in danger, as it is still up for sale. I made a few enquiries, and it's not listed - but surely, the chimney and imposing stone facade are worth saving?

I was wondering if any other locals feel as I do, that we are in danger of losing buildings of character, without really thinking about it! It's nice to have new houses, but a lot of the older buildings were places of employment. I personally feel affection for them and would hate to see all these lost.

"Next to the Fire Station a huge shed with a showy classical gable designed as an electricity generating station by the City Engineer John Cooper, 1899, with adjacent offices. Red-brick boiler-house chimney to rear." (The Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh 1988)

Spurtle raised her concern with Ian Appleton, the architect who has drawn up the draft Hopetoun masterplan. "The building gives that part of McDonald Road a particular character. It would require a particular kind of imagination to see it as anything

else - there would be no standard solution as to how it could be converted into housing." The possibility of some form of community use is also being looked at - for example, a sports centre, with the chimney adapted for climbing practice.

As Janice Johnson says, the building's not listed - so developers can't just be told demolition is out. "Instead we will need to propose positive uses," McDonald Road resident and activist George Reiss told **Spurtle**. "A sports centre in the area could be a great asset, particularly to young people. It might not be that disruptive to neighbours if the main entrance and carpark were not directly facing people's homes. It would be super if local people wanted to get together for a Lottery bid to convert it!"

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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.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the **SPURTLE** please contact us.

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

BROUGHTON SPURTLE is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

BROUGHTON SPURTLE is printed on recycled paper.

Drummond Lecture

As a tribute to Tom Marshall, the Drummond Lecture this year will be by Roxy Harris, "A new kind of British, or permanent outsiders? Black and Asian youth towards the millenium", on Saturday 15th November.

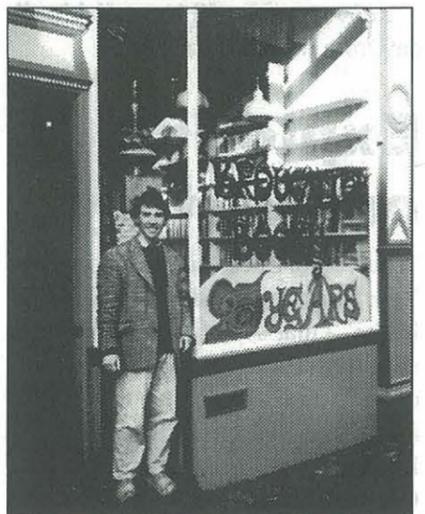
Admission is free, but tickets are available beforehand by post from Annie Scanlon, at Drummond Community High School.

The lecture will be followed at 7pm with a concert by Michael Marra and then a ceilidh. Admission to concert and ceilidh £7(waged) £5(unwaged)

Broughton History Society

Meetings are in Drummond Community High School on Mondays, refreshments at 7.15pm with a prompt start at 7.30pm. Forthcoming meetings will include the following:-

- 3rd November "The Romans in East Scotland"
- 15th December "Seasonal Party" (details to be announced)
- 26th January "The History of Scotland's Postal Services"
- 27th April "Recent Research into our Local Archaeological Past".



Broughton's Trampotter



Malcolm Chisholm MP

Local MP Malcolm Chisholm is Minister for Local Government, Housing and Transport at the Scottish Office. According to a recent piece in the mainstream press, civil servants have nicknamed him "Trampotter" - recognising his enthusiasm for public transport.

Back in May Broughton resident Christopher Lambton wrote to him, welcoming his appointment: "By not having a car you set an example which is enormously encouraging to walkers, cyclists and public transport users who are made to feel like second class citizens." (Yes: it is somehow reassuring to see our MP still toiling

up the hill, heavy-laden from the supermarket). In his reply the Minister highlighted the Scottish Cycling Forum which already exists to explore innovative schemes to encourage more cycling; and his intention to form a Walking Forum to identify and overcome the obstacles to development of walking as a mode of transport.

A Scottish White Paper with proposals for an integrated transport policy is promised for next year. Meanwhile local man Lambton suggests specific action on one aspect of transport - buses:

- ◆ better information on services
- ◆ standard price or 'zoned' tickets
- ◆ ticket outlets in shops and kiosks, with quantity discounts
- ◆ ticket transferability
- ◆ through ticketing.

"With imagination you could transform bus use simply by improving access - improved services would follow."

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Across
1 & 9 across :-
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7 Elicit. (5)
9 see 1 across
10 Discombobulate. (7)
11 Chancy kind of game. (5)
12 Sly grain? (3)
13 Out of town. (4)
14 Warrant. (4)
15 Some little publicity. (3)
18 Second runner-up. (5)
19 Make a selection. (4,3)
20 Roman. (7)
21 Clever. (5)
22 Marker-poles. (9)

Down
1 TV presenters. (12)
2 From experience. (13)
3 Sticking together. (6)
4 Balance precariously. (6)
5 Be irksome and awkward. (6)
6 Provides opposition. (13)
8 Incitements. (12)
15 Accepts responsibility. (6)
16 Jumped. (6)
17 Penny-pinch. (6)

Thanks to Neil Mackenzie of Royston Mains for this 'Customised Crossword'. Solution on back page.

BRIEFLY

- New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council hold their AGM on Monday 6th October - 7.30pm at Drummond Community High School. **Wheelie bins** are on the agenda: they're expected in our area in the fairly near future, having already reached the likes of Stockbridge. Giant wheelie bins running amok down Broughton Street? The Community Council hopes to get a clearer picture of what we can expect, for different types of housing, and when.
- **Tesco in Broughton Road** have an application in to the City Planning Committee to extend their opening hours - 9pm every day, Monday to Saturday. Convenient for shoppers, but **heavy vehicle noise later for local residents?**
- A brand new rubbish bin has appeared on the corner of **Melgund Terrace and East Claremont Street**. Well placed for sweetie wrappers and so on from the popular corner shop. But, as one local pointed out to **Spurtle**, it will lose much of its value if folk fill it up with bags of household refuse - which has happened elsewhere.
- A twelve-week course designed to give you the chance to get to grips with some basic issues of life and the relevance of the Christian Faith" is being organised at **St Paul's and St George's**, at the top of Broughton Street. It starts on Tuesday, 7th October at 7pm. (Contact Rev. Dave Richards on 556 1335, or 332 3904.)

han Pict

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