

What a life!



Here's the third in our occasional series on Broughton folk who do unusual jobs or other activities.

Three months ago an ad appeared in the Scotsman for a measuring scales production technician. You might ask: What on earth is that and who does it? Bellevue resident Archie Bell does - and has for nearly 30 years.

For example, he may produce, by a photographic process, a series of very fine parallel lines (typically 100 per inch) on stainless steel coated with a photographic emulsion. This is then exposed to light and developed before being etched through to the steel using a solution of ferric chloride to give permanent high-resolution gratings for electronic purposes.

These gratings, made to specific sizes and using different materials, can be used to help manufacture products to a high degree of dimensional accuracy. "Everything from a polo mint to a caterpillar tractor," says Archie. They use the principle of Moiré fringes, which you might have seen as a shimmering pattern that rapidly changes as two layers of thin silk move very slightly over each other.

It is a highly skilled job requiring a good eye (looking down a microscope) and a steady hand. Archie was lucky that, when Ferranti closed down his department, a Korean company bought them over, transferred to Livingston and, as IMS(Scotland), have been expanding ever since. They supply companies which massproduce machine parts under computer control. Using his gratings they can identify whether a tool needs to be changed, for instance.

The time has now come when Archie has read enough lines in his life and he's looking forward to his imminent retirement.

Reasonable steps?

Edinburgh Brick Company, owners of Mansfield Place Church, are challenging the City Council's compulsory purchase order - claiming they've taken "reasonable steps" to preserve and repair the building. There's to be a hearing at the new Sheriff Court in Chambers Street, 17th December. The Friends of Mansfield Place Church would like interested locals to attend: be there at 10am, or contact Ian Dunn for further information (557 1662).



Now we miss a month over the festive season.

We'll be putting together the February issue on Sunday 25th January. Thanks again to all our readers, supporters, printers Clyde-side Press, The Graphics Company and advertisers - especially Woodcraft Supplies of Broughton Street, who have placed an advert in every issue since Number 1!

Spurtle
556 0903
or 556 7928

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

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Lodge Pole Pine Scots Pine
Potted Trees Mistletoe Holly
Buy a tree, bring the kids, hot fruit punch and mince pies on sale. We will make a donation to the Children 1st Charity with every sale.
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 44 December / January 1997/8

Drummond Drama Success page 3

What's gone wrong in Hopetoun?

Sharp-eyed residents in the Bellevue/Annandale/McDonald Road area have set the alarm bells ringing. "The speed of demolition and housing going up is frightening!" Hard on the heels of Barratt's housing in McDonald Road and Teague's facing Hopetoun Crescent, there's another cleared site on the Annandale Street corner of the Crescent after demolition of the Scobie Mackintosh building with planning permission for Barratt to put up more flats there. Blandfield House and the Gas Board's stone-fronted building at 125 McDonald Road are "under offer", with housing developers interested;

and the word locally is that someone's trying to buy the site on Hopetoun Street where the old allotments and the HMSO building are - more "luxury flats"?

What about the Hopetoun Village idea of imaginative, balanced development for the area? **Spurtle** has learnt that local worries are well-founded. The Hopetoun 'masterplan', designed to provide guidelines for a good mix of housing, jobs and community facilities, should by now have been fully considered by the City's planning committee. Instead, its progress seems to have been stalled

somewhere in the Council's planning bureaucracy. And when Barratt's architects took their plans for the Scobie Mackintosh site to the planning department they weren't even told of the masterplan's existence! So they failed to include any family housing in their designs.

Fortunately, those alarm bells have been heard in the Hopetoun Steering Committee too. They're urgently seeking a meeting with planning convenor Bob Cairns, to try to get the project back on the rails again.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 47 September 1997

Spurtle gives voice to Broughton voters

On Thursday 17th April, the Election Night organised by Spurtle at Cuthbert House gave the voters of Broughton the opportunity to make their voice heard at a meeting with their candidates in the District Council.

And a well-attended and lively event it proved to be. Some 80 local people took full advantage of the chance to get answers from David Brown (Scottish Socialist Alliance), Hilary Campbell (Lab. Party), Malcolm Robertson (Labour), Anne Sloan (SNP), Sandy Strathairn (Broughton Party) and Brian Stewart (Conservative). Some appeared for 45 minutes before making off to "another meeting".

At the meeting, each candidate was asked to identify who they were in the eyes of Broughton.

David Brown: "I'm a socialist, a socialist who believes in a better society for all."

Hilary Campbell: "I'm a Labour Party member, a Labour Party member who believes in a better society for all."

Malcolm Robertson: "I'm a Labour Party member, a Labour Party member who believes in a better society for all."

Anne Sloan: "I'm a SNP member, a SNP member who believes in a better society for all."

Sandy Strathairn: "I'm a Broughton Party member, a Broughton Party member who believes in a better society for all."

Brian Stewart: "I'm a Conservative Party member, a Conservative Party member who believes in a better society for all."

When the voters of Broughton get their say, they'll be the ones who decide who they want to represent them in the District Council.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 28 August 1997

Princes Street Traffic Page 2

THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT - THE FUTURE'S DRUMMOND

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 41 September 1997

Drummond Adult Classes Back page

YES! It is worth learning out to vote on Thursday 11th September. The fact every year since 1978, politicians' antics, and Tony Blair's talk of "Britishness" haven't been the reason for it. But development could mean major changes in all our lives in years to come. You've got to be for or against, you've got to be for or against, you've got to be for or against.

YES! Spurtle wants a Scottish Parliament. We've got mixed views about the Government's proposals. Some of us would certainly prefer much more radical constitutional change. But what's so often being discussed is a meeting where to discuss an idea to start making things differently - and perhaps help shape that "constitution of the future" so many of us have seen to suffer from?

YES! We think the new Parliament should have law-making powers. We should have a Parliament in Edinburgh. We should have a Parliament in Edinburgh. We should have a Parliament in Edinburgh.

YES! We want the Parliament to be in Edinburgh. We want the Parliament to be in Edinburgh. We want the Parliament to be in Edinburgh.

Our May issue this year reported on the issues aired at the election hustings meeting organised by **Spurtle**, with a reader's personal impression of each candidate.

In July we were out and proud for the Pride march from East London Street to the Meadows. And we celebrated our local High School's winning of refurbishment funding.

The September issue was, to say the least, unambivalent about our support for devolution! Inside we covered Broughton Place residents' views on the Palladium debate.

OF BROUGHTON SEAGULLS AND TOKYO CROWS

One of the **Spurtle** team recently visited Japan. Large, raucous, scavenging crows in Tokyo couldn't fail to remind him of the seagulls back home. Then while he was there an English-language newspaper published a feature article on the birds.

Alarming stuff it is too. What's really scary, writes the journalist, is that these well-fed crows are getting bigger. An ordinary crow lays three to four eggs the size of quail eggs; but Tokyo's nutritious rubbish enables a female to produce five to six eggs equivalent in size to medium-sized hen's eggs. Crows are reported to have attacked stray cats when garbage from restaurants was scarce during New Year holidays. "Crows'll eat anything", the article quotes an ornithology professor. "They've been known to go after live prey that are weak or sick. If they keep increasing and there's not enough food, then who knows, maybe they'll even go after homeless people." And a zoo keeper adds encouragingly: "It's a battle of wits that humans don't have a chance of winning. Crows are more energetic, have more perseverance and are

meaner". All this proved too much for the sub-editor or whoever dreamt up the headline for the piece: "Clever crows set sights on babies for supper."

Back home, local residents living close to the Annandale Street bus depot made a more sober assessment of their situation. The depot roof has been a favourite nesting place for seagulls, with resultant mess and noise - some folk have moved their beds from one room to another trying to get away from the racket. But work has been done removing nests from the roof, and this past summer doesn't seem to have been so bad as previous ones. That's not to say the problem's solved. The feeling seems to be that more nests need to be removed in future, rather than any slackening off - otherwise things could quickly get worse again.

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For unusual Christmas gifts, furniture and fabric including Chinese brocade, come to 5 Barony Street. Open on Sundays during December from 12 to 5. Phone 478 7006.

RUBBISH TROUBLE

Changed refuse collection times have raised the hackles of some of our readers. Now some of us can have our rubbish collected as early as 7am - which makes it difficult to insist our neighbours shouldn't put their bags out the night before! Worse, there was inadequate notice of the change - which meant even the best-intentioned of us might put our bags out after breakfast, miss the collection, and be mystified to find our rubbish spreading along the pavement at teatime.

Pippa Tyler of Bellevue Place tells us she's written to the Director of Environmental Services raising those problems, but she's still waiting for a reply. Meanwhile, the shorter rubbish is on the street, the better: the best each of us can do is figure out when ours is now being collected, and put it out as late as possible.

Wheelie bins are due in Broughton sometime next year. They can be organised in different ways to suit different streets and types of housing. The person to contact about this is Gordon Greenhill of the Council's Environmental Services.

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!

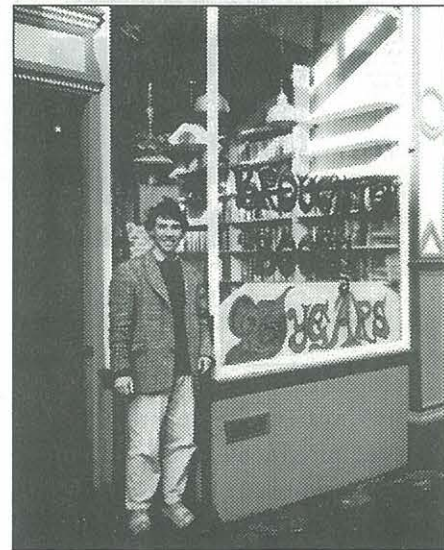
We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected with any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anyone.

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

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place 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**

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

BROUGHTON SPURTLE is printed on recycled paper.



DRUMMOND'S CLASS ACT

Fourth-year students at Drummond Community High have turned playwrights - and had their scripts performed by professional actors.

It all started in June, with a visit to the Traverse Theatre to see round the building and meet actors and directors. Then over the next couple of months a playwright came to Drummond to discuss ideas with the budding writers. After that it was down to the hard work; 8-10 minute scripts had to be completed by the October break. Six plots worthy of performance emerged:

Shona Priestley's *Family Conflict*
 Baqar Mohammed and Asam Raza's *The Batsman Strikes Back*
 Dionne Walker and Shirley White's *What Goes Around Comes Around*
 Jamie Squires' *Truancy*
 Wayne Scheffler and James Williams' *Vermin*
 Lee-Ann Duncan's *Angel*.

After the holiday Traverse directors and actors moved in to discuss production and start rehearsing. The climax came with public performance of all six short plays at the Theatre on 19th November: a nerve-wracking but exhilarating experience for the student playwrights!

Support Stafford Centre

Sale of Work
 Saturday, 13th December
 11am to 4pm.

Here's a chance to find Christmas gifts from amongst the work of Centre users' art, craft and photography groups, plus low-cost woodwork items such as sledges, coffee tables and CD racks (and they'll take orders). There will be books and bric-a-brac too: any contributions will be gratefully received between now and the 13th (phone 557 0718).

Drop in, look around, enjoy some homebaking at the cafe. Staff and users

hope they'll get even better local support than they did at last year's Sale.

The Stafford Centre's mural is now complete, adding a welcome splash of colour to Broughton Street. Congratulations to members of the Art Group who created it. And to the valiant efforts of all at the Centre to keep the area in front of the mural presentable - often a thankless task in face of plant thieves and rubbish dumpers.

BRIEFLY

• Last month our 'Blair and Broughton' feature looked at what difference six months of Labour government had made for jobs, health, human rights, traffic and housing - as seen in Broughton. Schools were closed for the October break, so we held comment over. Now we've asked school staff: Has the new regime brought any improvement in school funding yet? The answer was simple: "No".

• Most drivers respect the pedestrian crossings in East Claremont Street. But there's still a minority who block them by parking on them, including - recently - those with registration numbers:

R846 DGS
 F742 TSX
 P750 GDP
 P312 MVU

By doing so, they don't just risk police action against themselves. They make life more difficult and dangerous for the likes of parents with pushchairs, and folk whose sight's impaired - for whom there are specially textured paving slabs encouraging them to use those crossings.

• Good news for Scotland Yard Adventure Centre. They're to get £150,000 Lottery money over the next three years - which means more financial security, plus the possibility of providing a service outwith school hours.

• Last month we'd heard a rumour that there was to be a mosque in East London Street - in the redbrick building on the junction with Annandale Street, formerly Chambers and Harraps. That turns out to be wrong - but with an element of truth. In fact, it's to be an Islamic community centre.

Sounds like a welcome addition to the 'Hopetoun Village' scene.

• The City Council has asked the Community Council for comments on local bus services - particularly those subsidised by the local authority. Don't delay - phone Allan Wilson before 11th December (daytime 650 6629, evening 554 9144).