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seeks to fill this new post. Suit recently retired or self-employed person with word-processing skills and good working understanding of gay equality.  
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## Joiner

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## Contacts

Updated 22 February 1998

**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**  
Allan Wilson 554 9144

**Broughton History Society**  
Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

**Drummond Community High  
Head Teacher**

Frank McGrail 556 2651  
Surgery on Weds. 6-7pm  
without appointment, 7-8pm  
by appointment only.

**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 Nothumberland 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) Surgery  
at Calton Centre, Montgomery  
St, on Saturdays, 10 - 11am.

**Malcolm Chisholm MP**  
555 3636 Surgery on  
Saturdays, 9.30 to 10.30am,  
at Leith Community Centre  
(and 11.30 to 12.30 at Wardie  
Community Centre).

**Phone Spurtle  
on 556 0903  
or 556 7928**

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 46

March 1998

## Monday morning, 23rd February: Furious Drummond parents emerge from a City Chambers meeting with councillors and Education officials. "Yet again politics have taken precedence over children's education in this community", says Andy Shaw.

Last summer **Spurtle** carried the good news that the City's Education Committee had agreed to spend £1.5 million on new facilities and upgrading at our local Community High School, work to start this year. Now convenor Elizabeth Maginnis has told parents and School that there's been a misunderstanding: the upgrading proposals were agreed in principle but no money is earmarked to do the work in the immediate future. Yet our own local councillor Margaret McGregor clearly remembers the undertaking being given. And **Spurtle** understands her fellow councillor Douglas Kerr (Calton) remembers that too. Education officials discussing the proposals with the School never questioned the assumption that the money was committed.

Councillor Maginnis has agreed to tour the School and

attend a meeting to explain the situation on Wednesday 11th March at 7.30pm

This is a serious setback for Drummond, but not the end of the world. Other money, for planned maintenance work on such things as the heating system and windows, is still in place. And local councillor Margaret McGregor told us she intends putting a motion to the City Council on Drummond's behalf. "I am very disappointed that the £1.5 million to meet the immediate needs of the School is not at present available. But I will endeavour to make sure that if additional money becomes available for capital projects that Drummond is at the top of the list."

**Knowing the fighting spirit at Drummond, and the support for the School in the local community, we can expect a fair bit of campaigning and lobbying in the weeks to come!**

**Broughton Spurtle is  
free  
and completely  
independent**

## BRIEFLY

- **Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association** have a public meeting on Wednesday 4th March, 7pm at Drummond Community High School. Local councillor Margaret McGregor will be there - local residents are invited to bring along their questions and problems.
- *At the request of Drummond Community High, work's in progress to make the Bellevue Place/Mansfield Place junction simpler and safer - by reducing it to two flows of traffic.*
- Broughton Place Residents Association tells us that a **Neighbourhood Watch** is planned to cover Broughton Place, Broughton Place East, Hart Street, Gayfield Street and Shaw's Square. Now they're looking for a main coordinator and sub-coordinators - if you might be interested, phone secretary Judith Hallam on 556 4595.
- *Months ago we reported on objections to a garage built by a Bellevue Place resident, and how eventually the Planning Department told him to take it down because it didn't match the planning permission given, being much bigger and more obtrusive. He appealed to the Secretary of State. Now the Inquiry Reporter appointed to investigate the matter has dismissed the appeal and refused to grant listed building consent.*
- Over the Rainbow' has disappeared from Broughton Street. **Spurtle** stuck its nose in to ask the new folk what to expect when the refurbishing is completed: a restaurant with an "eclectic" menu was the reply.





Ian Dunn speaks for the Mansfield Traquair Trust

# Debate

**The Phoebe Traquair murals look safe at last! Two property speculators have bought the Mansfield Place Church and sold it on to the Mansfield Traquair Trust.**

The Mansfield Traquair Trust proposes to convert the lower ground floor as the office headquarters of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, who will move from their current headquarters in Claremont Crescent. The ground floor, which contains the main architectural spaces of the building and the Phoebe Traquair murals, will be converted into a multi-functional venue. This will be used by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations as their own conference and training facility, and would also be available to outside bodies for conferences, exhibitions, Festival use, etc.

The project will create short-term jobs in the building and art restoration trades, and long-term jobs from the use of the building as a conference, exhibition and performance venue. Public access to the building will be guaranteed in the lease agreement between the Trust and Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

The total project costs are £4m. In addition to £2.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Trust anticipates that partnership funding will be received from Historic Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and various charitable trusts. We are seeking funds for the shortfall in acquisition, restoration and conversion costs.

*Pete Simpson rented the Mansfield building from the previous owners to run Café Graffiti, and hopes to be there for a while yet - until the builders move in.*



**But what now for the building that houses the murals? We present two viewpoints on its future.**

*Spurtle shares the Trust's delight that the murals can now be rescued. But we wonder if the planned office development must really shut out Pete Simpson's vision completely.*

*And what about that garden where many of us enjoyed an evening drink last summer - what's going to happen to it?*

Café Graffiti has been in residence at Mansfield Place Church continuously since 1995, having used the building in the '94 and '95 Festivals. A performing arts venue has been created out of the semi-derelict basement and is widely acclaimed as one of the city's most original and civilised places. Projects currently range from theatre, music and community events through to major international exhibitions and shows using the wonderful soaring space of the church itself.

It is my belief, based on considerable experience both in Edinburgh and abroad over the last 25 years, and from the responses of the 200,000 people who have enjoyed events here, that the building could be a major local, national and international resource.

Quite apart from its architectural majesty and Phoebe Traquair murals, the building can function perfectly on both floors with large and medium sized venues operating in tandem or independently and, together with the garden as a delightful asset, can serve up to 1500 at any one time.

The building can also serve the visiting public on several levels by being a resource for the local community, a cultural powerhouse for the city, and a national and international architectural, historical and artistic treasure. Furthermore, if the building is creatively, flexibly and dynamically managed it can generate very considerable income once restored and sensitively developed.

What would be a tragedy would be any failure of vision resulting in a partial office compromise. The world is full of offices but buildings of this calibre, worldwide, are extremely rare. Its long term survival depends not on being in the hands of the few, as so many buildings are, but on it fostering and enjoying the loyalty and support of a brand new, broad, eclectic and enthusiastic congregation.

# Access Regained?

Last month we reported that once again a locked gate was denying the public access to part of Calton Hill, on the grassy slope opposite St James Centre. A local resident holds the key, and is supposed to unlock the gate throughout daylight hours.

Now Mr Mackay of the Parks Department tells us that staff are monitoring to ensure this is being done.

Calton councillor Douglas Kerr says he'll insist the gate must be removed if it's ever locked during the day. But the question remains, why is there a gate at all? The rest of Calton Hill is open 24 hours. Just suppose there is a good reason for denying access after dark, surely this should be done by Parks staff at specified closing times - like other public parks in the city?

# Another View From Calton Hill

Is anything better than nothing when it comes to filling in the gap site on Leith Street? Well, maybe not. That seemed to be the message being given to the potential developers by the surrounding residents on Thursday evening, 19th February. An invitation having been given to go and find out more, that's just what the locals did and in huge numbers.

The plan is for a leisure complex, for which Warner Village Cinemas is waiting to hear if the Council will give the go-ahead - 12-screen multiplex, bowling, health and fitness, pubs and restaurants, shopping, parking. No doubt the bigger issues of the suitability of this scheme on a prime city-centre site will be given a wide airing elsewhere. It certainly deserves it.

But for those of us in Broughton, we're talking about massive permanent change at the top of our main street; and a much altered outlook from a

favourite local green space, the Calton Hill. As if St James Centre wasn't a bad enough view, this new development must not be allowed to make it worse and is a chance not to be missed to improve matters. Present plans do nothing to give us hope.

No one wants to hold back progress, but we question if yet another flat-pack "concept" should be assembled where some individuality and imagination is what is really wanted. Let the planners make some effort to get it right - it'll pay them in the end.

Find out for yourself - contact your councillor, or the Planning Department (planning application no. A01139/97). The Cockburn Association has formally objected to the plan - and to having their views misrepresented in the leaflet posted to local residents on behalf of the developers! The Association can be contacted on 557 8686.

# BRIEFLY

- Heard the rumours about staff cutbacks at McDonald Road Library? The Council's Library Services have told **Spurtle** that's it all to do with the decision to **save money by cutting library opening hours** throughout Edinburgh. "Staffing adjustments" within all the city's libraries will be needed to suit the new hours, whatever they are. No decisions yet - maybe you'll want to keep your councillor informed how you feel about it! (See CONTACTS list on back page for names and numbers.)
- Latest information from *Environmental Services* is that **wheelie bins** - individual or communal - will be with us all by the end of 1999, following extensive consultation. If you have room for it you will have your own wheelie, if not there will be a communal variety - on specially erected stanchions in the street. So, for the tenement dwellers of most of Broughton it's a trek to the tip - though at least the facility will be constantly available, and the mess of black bags will be a thing of the past.
- Which brings us to the neighbours who don't help! They're the ones who dump refuse on the street - no matter what the day of the week. If you know of any, let us know. In confidence if need be - inconsiderate neighbours are never easy. No-one can blame the Council for this one - let's see if the Council and responsible residents together can do something.

SITUATION VACANT  
**Mansfield Traquair Trust PROJECT OFFICER**  
 to manage the finances and monitor the progress of the £4m repair and conversion of the A-listed Mansfield Place Church. Further details from: *Mansfield Traquair Trust, 33 Barony St., Edinburgh EH3 6NX* or call Rosemary Mann 557 1856

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.

**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.

Stirred but not shaken  
**BROUGHTON Spurtle**  
 I'm a Spurtle Reader

**SPURTLE team for this issue:**  
 John Dickie, Gill Flack, Gavin McGregor, Tim Puntis, Jane Coville and Alan McIntosh