

What a life

Joy Hendry edits Chapman, Scotland's top literary magazine, from her office in Broughton Place. She started it with her future husband when they were both full-time students in 1971 and at first it ran to only a few pages. Initially they were turned down by the Scottish Arts Council for funding but were eventually awarded a £100 grant.

To cover an early printer's bill she ended up selling over 2000 copies at 30p in local pubs, luckily coinciding with the '72 Festival. She was even stopped by a detective who was checking for any pornographic content. Following production of more substantial issues Chapman began to receive a regular SAC grant, now over £13,000 a year.

In 1976 she split from her husband, partly over artistic policy for Chapman. She became its sole editor, changing its international focus to more direct promotion of Scottish issues. She taught in East Lothian for several years, to provide an income, and is proud to have organised a successful pupils' conference on Scottish literature, because of her involvement with the magazine. However, in '84 she decided to leave teaching and spent her savings on setting up desktop publishing for the magazine. The improved profile of Scottish culture has allowed a more international outlook to develop in the last five years. Now she hopes to



provide a more active forum for debate on the new parliament, which she feels hasn't been adequately covered in the Scottish press.

Joy's love and practice of poetry drives her desire to expose areas of ignorance in Scottish literature, especially in schools, and put it right. Her work is "a spare-time hobby that's more than a full-time job", supplemented by freelance journalism. Chapman started off with anti-establishment ideas, which inspired its foundation and, while it may now itself be viewed as the establishment, it still keeps that original spirit alive. And, true to Joy's poetic roots, more than one impoverished poet has crashed out on her floor, needing the train fare home.

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Contacts

Updated 25th October 1998

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Broughton Place Residents Association

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Gayfield Association
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Bob Stewart 557 1267

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
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Broughton History Society
Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

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.

Councillor Douglas Kerr
Calton Ward 529 3279 (if you live in Gayfield) Surgery at Calton Centre, Montgomery St, on Saturdays, 10 - 11am.

Malcolm Chisholm MP
555 3636 Surgery on Saturdays at Drummond Community High School at 1pm.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 55

December/January 1998/9

Hopetoun springs eternal

What better time of year to think on the coming of Spring. Especially when it will be happening in the gardens now emerging from the many years of dereliction in Hopetoun Crescent.

Bluebell bulbs - 2000 of them - were all in a schoolday's work for 80 or so pupils from Leith Walk and St Mary's Primary Schools.

The Hopetoun Village Steering Group and the City of Edinburgh



Council have long been keeping an eye on the extensive developments around Hopetoun. This is only the first of several events intended for the area - watch out for the Garden Party in May '99. And as the gardens mature over the years, providing much needed green space in the centre of the city, spare a thought for those who did their bit on a November morning in 1998!

CASH FOR DRUMMOND

Our local Community High School is in line for £1.7 million for upgrading. Back in March we reported the 'disappearance' of a similar sum that Drummond and local councillors thought had been firmly committed for spending at the school. This time round the money is promised as part of a huge Public Private Partnership. But why should anyone make private profit out of our schools? Tax-payers' money into the pockets of big business? It's an issue we'll have to follow-up in the new year.

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

BRIEFLY

On 26th October the Licensing Board considered a report on an inspection of the **Health Club in East Claremont Street**: all unauthorised changes to the premises had been satisfactorily reversed. We understand that the Club then applied to make the same alterations again, legally; but were refused permission. The local Residents Association continues to monitor developments.

Some months back we covered local demand for a pedestrian crossing halfway up Broughton Street. Now a new traffic island near Albany Street has been approved in principle. Something's better than nothing? Or should this offer trigger off renewed demands for major steps to make the street more people-friendly?

The planning application for **20 flats at 20-22 East London Street**, next to Gayfield House, has been turned down. Reasons given for refusal included both the quality of the proposal and its scale, which was considered "an over-development of the site".

The Government's planned cutbacks in the Territorial Army will mean the Drill Hall in East Claremont Street closing - along with the T.A. garage on the opposite side of the street. Locals will no doubt take a keen interest in what's going to happen on these two prominent sites!

Drummond Civic Association's newsletter on the flats going up in Dublin Street Lane: "The design contrasts between the regularity of the New Town and the informal grouping of houses in what was once Broughton Village. There is an echo of the simple style of village house". Recently a new name has been given to the development: "The Broughton Colonies".

Mansfield Church update

Local residents may have seen a notice on the railings in East London Street from the Mansfield Traquair Trust, about the current and future plans for the building. The AGM of the Friends of Mansfield Place Church was held in mid-November and representatives from the Trust and the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), the future tenants, were present. Duncan Thomson, Trust chairman, was asked if there was any doubt about SCVO's tenancy. He said that other than the completion of some legal documents SCVO would definitely be moving in once the conversion and restoration work was completed (not now expected to begin till after Festival '99).

Good will was expressed at this meeting towards Pete Simpson of Cafe Graffiti and the benefits brought to the church by Graffiti's occupancy over the past few years. Someone asked whether there might be scope in future for the types of event he has organised, especially during the Festival when

church, basement and grounds have all been in use. The answer given was that although the basement would definitely be out of commission from 2000 onwards, the Trust and SCVO do envisage continuing public use of the available space. (This is explicitly stated on the railings notice and is one of the conditions of SCVO's tenancy.)

Shouldn't the Trust/SCVO and Pete Simpson be getting together to talk over ideas for the future? Trust Secretary Rosemary Mann told **Spurtle**: "There is nothing to stop Cafe Graffiti using the building during Festivals after the restoration. SCVO will be looking for a user during future Festivals and Cafe Graffiti could negotiate a contract". And beyond the Festival? If the basement is converted to SCVO offices, that would rule it out for Cafe weekends; but could some types of Graffiti activity be accommodated upstairs throughout the year?

Whatever long-term future there may or may not be for Cafe Graffiti at Mansfield, it would make sense for the Trust/SCVO to talk to Pete Simpson about the conversion of the building. After all, he's the one person with substantial practical experience of running it as a venue!

The Trust on trees

"The aim of the Trust is to retain as many of the mature trees as possible to keep the building in its green landscape setting. The hollies growing close to the church and the baptistry are too close to the building and will need to be removed before they do any more damage to the foundations and the drains. The scrubby trees to the north of the church are by and large self-seeded and in poor condition, and will be removed. The large trees

along East London Street and Cochran Terrace will be thinned, and the large ash close to Mansfield Place will receive the attention it needs to keep it healthy.

"The tree work will be undertaken by fully qualified tree surgeons and has the approval of the local authorities. The result of the tree surgery should be a much tidier site, with plenty of greenery remaining but with the Church less overshadowed than at present."

Invitation from the Trust

"Detailed planning work will start once planning permission and listed building consent have been obtained and the general form of the proposals have been agreed. SCVO are looking for ideas for the use of the upper floor and hope the local community, the wider community of the City of Edinburgh and all those

with an interest in the building will join in the debate and become future users.

"An alternative name for the building, something combining a reflection of both its history and its future and more imaginative than Mansfield Place Church, might be considered. Ideas welcome!"

★
Thank
you to all our
readers, contributors,
Supporters, advertisers, printers
Clydeside Press,
and the
Graphics Company. We take
a break now, but we'll be stirring
again
in 1999 - the
February issue will be
put together on Sunday 24th
January. Until then, best wishes to
all in
Broughton
- particularly to those
who don't have much to celebrate
in the
coming 'festive season'.
We hope the new year
will bring better times.

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. PHONE - 556 7727

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

BROUGHTON Spurtle is printed on recycled paper.

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Wheelie-bin trial verdict

A trial period for communal wheelie-bins has met with mixed responses. **Spurtle** has been looking at the October report to the Planning Committee on the "containerisation scheme within the south Newington trial area".



The Cockburn Association, Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, New Town Conservation Committee, Historic Scotland and local Blacket and Grange Associations gave a thumbs down to the experiment. But Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council gave a qualified approval, and South Side Association commended the scheme and was keen to see it adopted in its area. A "Customer Opinion and Satisfaction" survey of the area was commissioned from Queen Margaret College: 94% of respondents found the system easy to use; 89% believed their streets were cleaner; 77% thought the bins visually acceptable; and overall 87% saw the system as an improvement.

"The main environmental issue relates to the pavement mounted containers along the main radials where pavements can be narrow, heavily used near shopping facilities, and the roadway is too busy to accept containers. There is an impact in visual terms, in relation to road safety, and in relation to the Council's Moving Forward Strategy which seeks to encourage walking by widening footways, removing obstructions, and improving their environmental quality". But "there are locations where containers will be acceptable in many instances, for example, among parked cars.

"Non-contentious areas will be identified where containers can be put in to maximise waste disposal and minimise visual impact." But "a fixed container-based system may not be appropriate in other parts of the World Heritage Site and it will be necessary to consider alternative methods in order that improvements are made across the whole city".

Meanwhile, in Broughton we still have black bags, and local resident Eric Robinson wrote to us about them.

Black plastic bags may not have the political clout of some of the issues usefully aired by **Spurtle**. They do, though, have a depressing impact on our daily lives and are a sad reflection on our sense of neighbourhood.

Despite twice weekly collections, ill-secured and damaged bags can be seen on most Broughton streets every day of the week, spilling their malodorous and sometimes dangerous contents, attracting animals and scavengers, reducing handsome streets to downtown slums.

Complaint is little use, though, without positive suggestions leading

to improvement. It would help, for instance, if Edinburgh Council sent to all householders, along with new black supplies, details of collection days and times. Basically, though, it is residents who can transform the scene by following a simple code:


1. Bags should be put out only on the mornings of collections (Tuesdays and Fridays).
2. Bags should be undamaged and securely tied.
3. Other refuse should be securely contained.
4. If away on collection day, ask a neighbour to put out bags.
5. Tell newcomers which are refuse collection days.

So, how about it?

Flashback

BROUGHTON Spurtle No 47 April 1998
Drummond fights back Ian Dunn (1943-1998)

A small article about Ian Dunn, a local resident who fought against the removal of a building. The article mentions that the building was a former school and was being demolished to make way for a new development. Ian Dunn was a vocal opponent of the demolition and fought a long and hard battle to save the building. He eventually succeeded in getting the building listed as a historic monument, which allowed it to be preserved.

BROUGHTON Spurtle No 51 August 1998
FREE BOOKS - AT ANY PRICE?

A small article about a woman who has collected a large number of free books. The article mentions that she has collected over 200 free books from various sources, including libraries, bookstores, and individuals. She has a special offer made in every issue secondary school in the UK, with half the price being paid by Evergreen, the other half by the Millennium Commission. The article also mentions that Mrs. Scammon was quoted as saying that this selection of so-called "worthless" books was worth an amount from Scotland, USA and the rest of the world beyond Europe and on 20th century authors in general. Besides, students would be turned off by the dull covers.

BROUGHTON Spurtle No 54 November 1998
Good news for Graffiti

A small article about the Graffiti community in Broughton. The article mentions that the Graffiti community has been successful in getting the building listed as a historic monument, which allows it to be preserved. The article also mentions that the Graffiti community has been successful in getting the building listed as a historic monument, which allows it to be preserved. The article also mentions that the Graffiti community has been successful in getting the building listed as a historic monument, which allows it to be preserved.

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