



Hi fans

Hello again, and I hope you're all fizzing with the joys of spring, as am I - that extra few seconds of daylight every day makes such a difference to one's demeanour, doesn't it? In fact it was so sunny the other day I found myself gently perspiring, and was forced to discard my winter vest - it's practically Pimm's weather!

There's nothing like a bit of wanton squandering to lift the soul, and on one of my recent promenades down glorious **Rodney Street**, I stumbled across a new shop, *Joey D*, selling the most delightfully flamboyant garments and footwear, the like of which have not been seen before in Broughton. As I have a number of engagements coming up for which the height of elegance is required, I purchased a super pair of purple hologrammed platform boots. (Mmmmm - the sights you see when you don't have your gun! - Ed)

If there's anybody out there who feels they have entered 1999 with a few too many brain cells, I hear that *The Outhouse* in **Broughton Street Lane** has got in a shipment of 70% proof Absinthe (banned in some countries), at only £4 a shot. Apparently it enhances the creative muse - although you're only allowed two shots because the Green Fairy, as it is otherwise known, was the reason Van Gogh lopped off one of his ears - how perfectly ghastly!

Till next time darlings, keep swinging.

Persephone Belle

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Make history

Two months from now we'll be electing the first Scottish Parliament for nearly 300 years! Don't be put off by any tiresome politicians' antics or repetitive media coverage: this could be an historic turning-point, if enough people are determined to make it just that.

We're organising a **Spurtle** Hustings for April - details in our next edition. Meanwhile, if you want to get involved in the campaigning here are the contacts the parties have given us.

Green Party

478 7896 - most office hours

Labour

557 3904 - Nick Gardner

Lib Dems

554 9144 - Allan Wilson

Scottish Socialist Party

557 0426 - Colin Fox

SNP

478 7332 - Hilary Brown

Tories

555 1689 - Jamie Sempill or

Maggie Brown

Public Meeting

Monday 15th March at 7.30pm.

The McDonald Road Upgrade

Councillor Begg to address this 4-year saga
Broughton Primary School gym
Organised by the McDonald Area Amenity Society

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Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848

Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

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

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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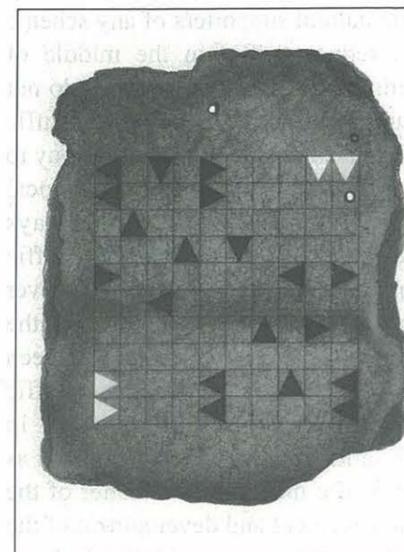
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0131 557 8686
Cockburn.Association@btinternet.com

BROUGHTON Spurtle

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Warren Chalmers' Magic Slate etching will feature in a retrospective exhibition at the Bellevue Gallery from 20th March to 4th April, Wednesday to Sunday 12 noon to 6pm. Further information from Charles Miller, phone 557 6004 or from the internet at www.cm-graphics.demon.co.uk

'Pieces of Art' show

Many Broughton folk remember local artist Warren Chalmers who died in November 1997. He was a highly accomplished painter and printmaker. Born in Dundee in 1944, he graduated from Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, and later lived and taught in Edinburgh. This two-part exhibition will bring together examples of both his earlier paintings and assemblages, and the later etchings created at Edinburgh's Printmakers Workshop.

Many of these works have not been previously exhibited, and some original etchings will be for sale.



Traffic - it just won't go away!

Back in 1994 our very first issue reported on a survey we'd carried out amongst Broughton residents. We asked them what they most disliked about living in this area. "Traffic came out way ahead of all the other pet hates - 30 out of the 50 locals interviewed complained about it in one way or another. Not just the volume and speed of traffic, and the parking, but the noise, the pollution, the wear and tear to houses."

So for our first two years you seldom opened a **Spurtle** that didn't feature traffic issues. Then readers began to point out that there were other things

to talk about, and we eased off a bit. But five years later traffic and the City's efforts to manage it are still a major preoccupation for many of us. In particular, the Transportation Committee's decision in early February to push ahead towards a ban on westbound cars from Princes Street has raised the temperature again. For some, Committee Convenor David Begg is a bogeyman; for others, he makes mistakes but is at least tackling a problem that affects the quality of life of all of us - and with some success.

We take up the discussion again inside this issue.

Broughton Spurtle is
free
and completely
independent

BRIEFLY

Mansfield Traquair Trust still have a lot of money to raise before major alterations to the building can begin. **Cafe Graffiti** now expect another extension to their lease, and hope to have full use of Mansfield Church until at least January 2000.

Bryant Homes have a **planning application in for Hopetoun Crescent** - 54 flats (2 one-bed, 36 two-bed, 16 three-bed) to fill the gap between the two original Georgian blocks. At first sight the plans are quite attractive, with a central opening between the buildings from the Crescent and provision for a future pathway out from the rear of the site. But surely with less space given over to parking these could be wider? And what about including some workshops in the complex?



Congratulations to Farid Layeri of London Street. At the end of January he did a sponsored run for Cancer Research, 31 miles

from Galashiels to Edinburgh - and managed to finish with a sprint! 25 year-old Farid did the walk on his own, supported by his family - and raised £800.

Joanne McTavish is a **Primary Seven Buddy** at Broughton Primary School, and wrote to tell us what that means: "Buddies are Primary Sevens who volunteer to be on a rota to help look after the infants once a week in the playground. You have to apply for the job and think of what skills you have, e.g. caring, listening and new games. You really get to know the children and they really get to know you. The system has been going for about three years and we hope that the Primary Ones just now will become the buddies of the future."

Driving the debate on traffic



Spurtle supports the removal of cars from Princes Street, as part of a wider strategy to tackle Edinburgh's traffic problems. But Michael Dixon of Barony Street thinks differently.

The *Evening News* editorial, on 1st July 1997, proclaimed that the case for the removal of eastbound traffic from Princes Street had "not been proven". It is now a widely held view that the Council's Central Edinburgh Traffic Management Scheme isn't working!

Banning cars in Princes Street fails to reduce traffic volumes in the city centre. The only way to reduce the use of cars in the city centre is to provide viable alternatives. Cars taken off Princes Street are merely displaced onto streets in the surrounding areas. Streets that are in the main residential

streets, and which were neither designed nor built for carrying through traffic. The Council's own studies report that traffic in the area north of Queen Street has, at a stroke, increased by 15% since the removal of eastbound cars and that accidents involving injuries have increased by 31%. Some streets, notably Broughton Street, Howe Street and Raeburn Place have borne the brunt of this. The proposed removal of westbound cars from Princes Street will further increase the traffic displacement through the surrounding areas, with the associated consequences of increased congestion, increased pollution and increased accidents.

The Council has been pursuing its intention to remove all cars from Princes Street since 1995, but the scheme is no longer relevant. It was devised before taking into consideration the building of a Scottish Parliament, the proposed

redevelopment of the St Andrew's Square Bus Station, the proposed redevelopment of Waverley Station, the proposed underground shopping mall underneath Princes Street and the rapid changes in land use that are now taking place on George Street.

The City Centre residents are surely the natural supporters of any scheme to reduce traffic in the middle of Edinburgh. The fact that they do not support the Central Edinburgh Traffic Management Scheme is testimony to its failures. For its part, the local Community Council has always supported the idea of reducing traffic in the city centre but it has never believed that the current scheme is the right solution. Furthermore, it has been saying to the City Council that traffic control cannot be undertaken in isolation, but must be approached as part of a much greater matter of the management and development of the whole of the centre of Edinburgh.



After talking to Michael Dixon we put three questions to David Begg, the City Council's Transportation convenor.

Spurtle: Is it true that accidents in central Edinburgh have in fact increased since the first stage of the Princes Street project came into force?

Begg: No, accidents in central Edinburgh have not increased since we banned cars from the north side of Princes Street. In fact fatal and serious injury accidents have fallen by 48%.

Spurtle: Has anything been done to mitigate the knock-on effects in Queen Street and elsewhere?

Begg: Council officials are currently devising traffic management arrangements (which could include traffic calming) to improve conditions for pedestrians and others in areas which would, or might, be affected by the removal of westbound traffic from

Princes Street. We invited the New Town Forum to propose its own scheme, but it declined. However, the offer is still open.

Spurtle: So far as Princes Street is concerned, is the consultation process simply a case of going through the motions - the decisions have already been made?

Begg: Transportation Committee agreed on 8th February to develop the scheme to remove westbound traffic from Princes Street, through a process of consultation leading to the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders in due course. The Council is obliged by law to go through certain consultative processes with respect to schemes like this. We are consulting to a greater degree than we are statutorily required to do; and I think we are right to do so given the importance of this scheme.

As I have already said, the Council has invited groups of local residents to propose their own schemes, if they believe that ours is flawed.

Michael Dixon represents the views of three community councils, and residents associations west of Broughton. But in Broughton itself Bellevue and Claremont Association don't have an "official" position on the issue; although individual office-bearers would like to see the ban on cars go ahead, while recognising that there are knock-on effects that need to be addressed. Gayfield Association doesn't have any special concern about the Princes Street ban either.

Only quite drastic action will have much impact on our traffic problem. We'd welcome readers' contributions to a continuing discussion of both the overall strategy for Edinburgh, and practical steps that might be taken to improve the Broughton situation in the immediate future.

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Anne Drummond Anderson

(1901-1998)



Anne Anderson (née Laird) was known as Nana from childhood and lived most of her life at the family home in McDonald Road. After her death in November a cousin gave Kate Buchanan, a neighbour and friend, a well-preserved exercise book containing Nana's compositions when she was at Broughton School in 1914-15. These are very well written and paint a fascinating picture of Edinburgh during the first year of the Great War.

with the McGregor Timber Company, but the nature of his job prevented her joining him till 1934. They were married in the Scots Kirk in Rangoon and lived together up-country.

Unfortunately Nana had at least one miscarriage and soon after his call up, when Japan entered the war, Oliver died following a short illness. When the Japanese overran Burma, Nana worked in Lahore until late 1944, when she returned to live with her mother in McDonald Road.

In her last years she struck up a friendship with Kate's son, Jack, who was entertained by Nana's "magic" collapsible walking stick. Reading her

In the early morning, before anyone is about, you hear the lugle sounding reveille. Later on, you may come across a company of soldiers, going for a long route march, into the country, to do some hard training. If they are not accompanied by a band, they march along quite cheerily, whistling or singing popular songs.

Nana's father was a Pilrig publican. She was born in Albert Street in 1901 and the family moved to McDonald Road when she was four. She attended Broughton School, where she was a bright pupil, later working as a typist at Usher's Brewery.

At fourteen she met Oliver Anderson on a cycling trip to Cramond and they later became engaged. He went to Burma, becoming a director

school jotter now you can almost see and hear the bright young girl, whose life spanned the century, earnestly talking about the virtues of thrift, patriotism and the railway system described in her school work.

Her school work and photographs will form part of the Broughton History Society's 'exhibition of the century' at St Paul's and St George's Church during this year's Festival.

An exhibition of photographs, maps and other memorabilia of Broughton through the ages, particularly the last 100 years, will be held in St Paul's and St George's Church at the top of Broughton Street from 13th to 24th August.

There is still time to search your attics and family albums for photos,

pictures, etc. that relate to Broughton people or locations. The more material we have to choose from the better the exhibition will be.

If you have anything of interest, don't throw it out! Instead, ring the Chairman of the Broughton History Society, Richard Love (556 1488), who'd like to look at it first.

BRIEFLY

We hear new equipment for the children's play area in St Mark's Park will arrive in April.

Mrs Robson of Claremont Grove writes: "At the top of Claremont Grove the road has been in a shocking state with holes all over. Over the years we have tried to get these holes filled in. Better still tried to get this part of road resurfaced. The last time I wrote the Roads Department I was told that they could do nothing for us. As a last resort I wrote to Councillor McGregor and it didn't take long for her to have these holes filled in. I feel that through your Spurtle the residents who live here and use this road would like to send their thanks to her."

Elizabeth Elliott of Mansfield Place would like to remind readers that it's never right to park your car at a bus stop - including in East London Street!

Eric Robinson of Broughton Place was worried about the derelict former taxi garage in East London Street - "deep, dark and full of broken glass, equipment and rubbish and with forecourt parking blocking pedestrian movement. Worrying on both counts, given the neighbouring school." After frustrating weeks of telephone calls to the Council, he wrote to MP and Councillor and the building was eventually boarded up. But now it looks as if someone's managed to break in again: so more effective action by the owners needs to be enforced.

Spurtle enjoyed a preview of the Cameron Morgan exhibition at the Bellevue Gallery in Bellevue Crescent. Full of bright colours and fun. There's still time to see it: open Wednesday-Sunday, 12 noon to 6pm, until 7th March.

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