

# Belle's View



Hi fans

Well! Once again the Festival has been and gone, the thundering footfalls of the luvvie estuary-English brigade are but a sweet memory, and the Graffiti Garden in East London Street has taken down its bar for the last time (sniff!).

But stem those tears, dear readers, as liquid refreshment is to be had in two brand new bistros. At 32 Broughton Street, proprietors Eddie Reid and Reg Varma say that C32 (previously DSK) will have a full restaurant licence and exclusively designed tableware by American potter Garry Ritchie. Meanwhile over the road, at 2 Broughton Place, new restaurant Wow has outside tables for diners who like a bit of sunshine and carbon monoxide with their bruschettas!

I hear that Broughton History Society's exhibition during the Fringe attracted 1000 visitors. They asked me if I could contribute something, and I kindly sent along a life-size oil portrait of myself in my diamonds - I dare say they gave it pride of place, thus attracting such record crowds (I was too busy to attend it myself you understand, due to pressure of showbiz parties).

Lastly, it has come to my knowledge that a certain disreputable publication has been vilifying Spurtle on its front page. Readers will be glad to know that my copy of the studenty magazine Shavers Weekly has been put to good use - lining the bottom of the parrot's cage!

Till next time darlings, just do it - I would!

*Persephone Belle*

Persephone Belle

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!

**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 or 556 0903  
FAX - 557 6752

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

**Spurtle team for this issue:**

Ben Freedman, Ken McKay, Norma McKendrick, Tim Puntis, John Dickie, Jane Coville, and Alan McIntosh.

**Phone Spurtle**  
556 0903 / 7727  
or fax 557 6752

Safeguarding our architectural heritage  
Protecting the city's amenity

.. join us

THE COCKBURN ASSOCIATION  
(The Edinburgh Civic Trust)  
Trunk's Close, 55 High Street  
EDINBURGH EH1 1SR  
0131 557 8686  
Cockburn.Association@btinternet.com

## WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing • Keys Cut  
**New shoe repair service**  
Timber Boards Cut to Size  
Monday-Saturday  
9.30am-6pm (Closed Wed. pm)  
109 Broughton Street  
556 9672

## STONE

**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE**  
at 20 Forth Street  
Massage offers an opportunity to truly relax; to leave aside the pressures and stresses of daily living.  
Member of the Guild of Complementary Practitioners  
Rob McNicholls 554 0445

## Contacts

Updated 1st August 1999

**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

**New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council**  
Allan Wilson 554 9144

**Broughton History Society**  
David Watt 556 5271

**Cllr Lazarowicz** 529 3283  
Broughton Ward  
Surgery on Wednesdays at Drummond Community High School from 6 to 7pm (During school terms)

**Cllr David Guest** New Town  
558 8823 or 529 4268

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

## SANAS

Therapies for body mind and spirit  
**Aromatherapy, reiki healing and bodywork, including seated clothed acupressure.**  
Stressless relief of aches and pains in body mind and spirit. *Home visits or clinic appointments available in this area.*  
For info or to book a session contact  
Lin Grahame FHT AOSM 556 2907.

## N KIMBELL JOINER & FURNITURE MAKER

Bookcases, blanket boxes, dressers, etc.  
Hand-built from solid pine by local craftsman.  
Made to measure at affordable prices.  
Modern to Victorian repro.  
Phone or Fax 556 8821  
Mobile 07713 243 341  
e-mail  
Kimbell@alba123.freeserve.co.uk

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 63

September 1999



Loyko - the Russian Gypsy Band appearing at Graffiti

## Local venue's last Festival

Graffiti: top worldwide acts combine with alfresco international food and drink to create excitement and relaxation. Downstairs, find yourself in the intimacy of Café Graffiti; upstairs, lose yourself in the overwhelming glory of Grand Graffiti.

But no more. After a last fling at Hogmanay, Graffiti moves out of Broughton in January 2000. We know what we're losing; what we're gaining

is not yet clear.

Up the street at the Palladium in Broughton Place, recent **Spurtle** contacts with management, prominent residents and punters in the queue suggest a fair degree of harmony has broken out. This is unlike previous years when Festival activities brought complaints from some residents. Unfortunately, financial problems threaten the future of this venue too.

## Double yellows on the way

The Council's Transportation Committee has approved double yellow lines for East Claremont Street humps, to stop parking at the bus stop and approach to the crossing in East London Street, and from the opening to Huntingdon Place to the health centre. This now has to go through the formal statutory process, public advertisement, etc., but the lines should

be in place some time next year.

Local Councillor Mark Lazarowicz has asked if existing markings in East London Street can be repainted meanwhile. And he's also drawn the Department's attention to a number of street junctions where double yellow lines have faded, resulting in dangerous parking blocking sight lines.

Broughton Spurtle is  
**free**  
and completely  
**independent**

## Factors challenged

Carol Fox of Hopetoun Street is just about ready to declare war on Peverel Management Services, the Sovereign Court factors. She says the fee they charge has gone steadily up over the past 2 years; and bills for electricity, cleaning, gardening and insurance have increased nearly 100%. She's written to them asking for a detailed breakdown: failing a satisfactory explanation, she plans to cancel her direct debit payments to them - and thinks other residents will do likewise.

Local doubt has arisen about the status of the play area. At the planning stage, developer Barratts promised it would be open for public use; but who'll pay for maintenance - the Council or Sovereign Court residents?

Sovereign Court Residents Association will meet on **Wednesday, 8th September** at 7pm. (Contact John Davies: 478 4463.)

## Redbraes organises

Redbraes residents will meet on **Monday 13 September** to set up a tenants association: 9.45am in the training room at Powderhall Refuse Works.

Meanwhile residents hosted Parks officials and Councillor Lazarowicz on a walkabout to look at local problems - for one thing, they hoped to have their stretch of the Water of Leith fenced off. And they have the promise of a new play area within this financial year, with the plans to be discussed with them before designs are finalised. (Contact Ann Donohoe for further information: 538 9965.)

## BRIEFLY

Many readers will want to join us in thanking Agnes Drummond of Melgund Terrace for the two **Drummond benches** recently installed: one in memory of her sister Anne, "who loved this City", at Bellevue Terrace – a welcome resting-place after the climb from Rodney Street; the other for her brother Harry, near Drummond Community High's front gate – with shelter from a tree in the playground.

*Hopetoun's Party in the Park* was a great success. The sunshine helped – the organisers would like to thank the nearby Mosque for having hall space ready, just in case it rained. They would also like to thank all the local shops and businesses who gave very generous prizes for the raffle; and sponsors New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council, LRT, Barratt Homes, Standard Life, Gayfield Association, Bryant Homes, Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association, and Carter McGlynn Landscape Architects. And a special thanks to all the local folk who came along and supported this first-time event!

An application to redevelop the 'Neighbours' site at the east end of **Hopetoun Crescent** is likely to be considered in mid-September. We understand that Sparta Club in McDonald Road may be sold, thus extending the site to be developed.

The August local history exhibition 'Broughton – a village in the City' sparked widespread interest amongst Festival visitors and locals alike, some of whom suggested new leads for Broughton History Society members to follow up. Part of the exhibition is now at the Glasite Meeting House, Barony Street, throughout September – weekdays, 9.30 to 5pm (admission free).

Road rebuilding, the local public library and the need for new active members will be top of the agenda for **McDonald Area Amenities Society's** AGM on **Wednesday, 15th September**, 6.45pm in the Nelson Hall.

## Living in Broughton



Broughton Court children (exhibition photo lent by Ella Brodie)

The recent exhibition 'Broughton – a village in the City' illustrated the history of our area in photos, maps and pictures. It also featured contributions from current residents of all generations, including one from Kathryn McTavish of Claremont Grove, who presented a very positive picture of our community:

I'm 17 years old and I've lived in the Broughton area all my life. I went to the playgroup at Drummond Community High School when I was two years old before progressing onto Broughton Primary's nursery, Broughton Primary itself and then back to Drummond in 1994 to start high school.

These phases in my life so far have given me a number of good friends (as well as an education, of course!) and a strong feeling of belonging to a community. This feeling of belonging is, I think, very important and is echoed through the schools, churches and other organisations in the area who put on clubs and activities for youngsters so that they can feel a part of it too. The ethos of Drummond reflects this in its motto of "promoting mutual respect and life-long learning", and the diverse nature of our community is shown in the many different styles and ages of the houses

and by the integral part played by the ethnic and homosexual communities within it. We also have a strong sense of community spirit that is highlighted by the Broughton **Spurtle** and the interest shown in our schools by the students, teachers, parents and the members of the public who turn out to support us at our summer fairs, barbecues and concerts.

Often when I'm walking in the area with my friends who do not live here, they are surprised by the number of times I say hello or stop to speak to people in the street. They don't understand this because of the anonymity of their area, and I am always equally surprised at the lack of care and interest that makes up their so-called community. I'm glad I live here surrounded by people who care (as well as the area's great location in the centre of town which makes shopping, meeting friends and going out a much easier task!).

**DR MING CHEN ROBERTSON**  
BACc  
Acupuncture, Chinese massage,  
Herbalism for all conditions  
Plus a full range of other  
complementary medicine  
Now at 24 Bernard Street, Leith  
554 7888

## Towards a greener Broughton?

"Think of the towns and cities you admire and enjoy and inevitably squares, parks, green and open spaces will be part of your memory. Open

thoughts about Broughton's open spaces in a recent letter to **Spurtle**. But "sometimes spaces are neglected, overgrown, litter strewn – or just dead, grim paving with no tree, no seating, no reason to linger. They neither enhance neighbouring buildings nor make those buildings more agreeable to live or work in". How does Broughton score in this context? Mr Robinson

looks at the pluses and minuses of Hopetoun Crescent Gardens, Gayfield Square, Elm Row, Cathedral Close, the Greenside area; applauds the pots and

boxes "increasingly visible at doorways and on

window sills"; and contrasts roundabouts that offer attractive focal points at Broughton Street and London Road with the "ugly and empty" ones at Picardy Place and Annandale Street.

**Spurtle** suggests a 'greenwatch walkabout' of the kind that's taken place elsewhere in Edinburgh, in the Southside, to see what's good and what's bad in Broughton and what action is needed by the City Council or ourselves. **If you'd be interested in taking part, please phone 556 0903.**

spaces, grass, trees, set off and define buildings, give relief from noise, traffic, bustle – a relief from urban pressures."

That's how Eric Robinson of Broughton Place introduces his

## Stafford Centre garden plan

Meanwhile, we welcome news of the Stafford Centre's plan for a garden in the backyard area of their building. "We worked with David Langton of the Four Winds Inspiration Centre to assess what service users and workers would like from a garden", Assistant Manager Simon Glen told **Spurtle**. "From here we developed

a plan which was submitted for funding to the Council's Agenda 21 Grant. (This is money which has been raised from taxing companies who use landfill sites to dispose of waste.) This has now been passed, with the condition that we get planning permission – this should take around another 2 months."

## BRIEFLY

Mansfield Traquair Trust's secretary, Rosemary Mann, tells us that the Historic Buildings Council has agreed to offer a 40% repair grant for **Mansfield Place Church**. The sum will not be settled until the exact repair costs are known, but could be up to £785,200. There's also a £75,000 grant offer for the project from the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, and £7,500 from the J. Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust. "We're now a long way towards achieving full funding, but there is still some way to go!"

*The Stafford Centre* has an **Open Art Day on Saturday, 4th September**, between 12 noon and 4pm. There will be a photography exhibition, art work, cafe, and information about their mental health service.

There have been a lot of objections to a **proposed housing development between Boat Green and Munro Place, Canonmills** – with particular concern about the use of Munro Place as access route. Planning officials were recommending approval but, at the request of local councillor Mark Lazarowicz, Planning Committee members have agreed to a site visit to see the situation for themselves before making a decision.

*Jemima Scott of the Regent House Hotel, Forth Street, is interested in the history of the building when it was the Victoria Hotel: "I wonder if any local residents have memories or photos of the two Grant sisters who owned and ran the Hotel from 1942 until the 1970s? Does anyone remember the tearooms they used to have? We are hoping to open a tearoom in the spring of next year, and would welcome any memorabilia – an old menu or photograph which we could display in the tearoom – even a photograph of the Hotel from the street. I would copy and return these to the owners, of course." (Phone 556 1616.)*