

Belle's View



Hi fans
I hope you all had a fabulous festive season, as did I. Of course, I was one of the prestigious few graced with a ticket for the party at **Edinburgh Castle**; but when I heard that the **Krankies** had cancelled their scheduled performance to be replaced by **Texas**, my dear friend Estelle Murgatroyd and I decided to take our chances with the masses at the **George Street Fiesta**. So midnight found me in second-best ballgown and tiara, shaking my thing to **Steel Pulse** and having my tonsils tickled by eager acne-ridden young men in see-you-Jimmy hats. Bliss!

And so with the passing of the year, we bid a tearful farewell to **Café Graffiti** at **Mansfield Church**, closing its doors as a pleasure emporium for the very, very last time. Where are the manic fun-seekers of **Bellevue** going to go now for thrills? What with the passing of **Regular Music's Palladium** venue in **Broughton Place** to Lyon and Turnbull the auctioneers, party venues are thinning out fast. People might have to start going farther afield and (shudder) slumming it in the Old Town!

I see that the **Catwalk** of **Picardy Place** now wishes itself to be known as **WWW.catwalk.com** – and it's had a revamp too, with the big windows being frosted over. Which raises the question in my mind, dear readers: What's the point in frequenting the place to be seen if nobody can actually see you?

Till next time – just do it, I would!

Persephone Belle

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"One change I'd like to see in Broughton this year"



Mohammed Anjum of AA Stores in Melgund Terrace: "No more litter being thrown on the ground; no more dog dirt in the streets; and a 20mph speed limit."



Jean Bell of Bellevue Street: "My wish would be to see less heavy vehicles speeding along Bellevue Street to avoid the 'bumps' in East Claremont Street; and a lower speed limit."



Malcolm Chisholm, MSP and MP: "The full refurbishment of Drummond Community High – unfortunately we may have to wait a bit longer."



Jane Coville, Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association: "The implementation of an overall strategy for transport, with special emphasis on the quality of life of the residents – including an enforceable 20mph. speed limit."



Alasdair Elders, local minister and Community Council chair: "McDonald Road resurfaced completely. One-way traffic in East Claremont Street. At least the beginnings of a plan to connect to a suburban railway system – by having station(s) at Powderhall and/or Shrub hill. Typical minister – always needs 3 points!"

Marie Watt, Head Teacher at St Mary's Primary: "I would like to see our roads being made safer by reducing speeding and parking anywhere near our schools."



Larry Fergusson of McDonald Road: "No heavy goods vehicles in side streets. The diversion which is in place on McDonald Road means HGVs are causing too many snarl-ups in Hopetoun and Annandale Streets."



Councillor Mark Lazariowicz: "The start of a successful 'Safer Routes to School' campaign to encourage, and make it safer, for more children to walk to school. Ideally, of course, it should also make it easier for children to cycle to school – but unfortunately I don't think all the necessary improvements to make a big impact for cyclists will be done by the end of 2000."



Frank McGrail, Head Teacher at Drummond Community High: "A litter-free Broughton!"



Marilynne Pace, lollipop lady, of Broughton Road: "No more double parking in London Street – making the pedestrian crossing safer."



Gina Reilly of West Annandale Street: "More greenery, and seats – similar to the one at the junction of Rodney Street and East Claremont Street."

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 67

February 2000

SECTION 28

"Keeping Section 28 means keeping young people in fear and isolation. These campaigns are reaching new levels of bitterness and prejudice, with young people being told that they or their families are 'perverts' if they are gay. Can you imagine what it is like for a young person who is or might be gay having to pass some of the newspaper bill-boards of recent days? Outright Scotland in Broughton Street have had several letters and calls from people who are very frightened or very depressed at being portrayed as second-class citizens.

"We are confident that the people of Broughton are not prejudiced, but we do know that these outrageously homophobic campaigns have an impact. If people write to us we will send them the text of Section 28 and information about research on Section 28 and bullying. Then people can see the facts for a change, draw their own conclusions and let their MSPs know what they think."

Brian Dempsey
Assistant Secretary,
OUTRIGHT SCOTLAND
PO Box 23253
EH1 3XD

**Spurtle
comments and
MSP statements
inside**

**Broughton Spurtle is
free
and completely
independent**

BRIEFLY

Local highlight of the **Hogmanay celebrations** took place in East Claremont Street. Outdoors to watch the fireworks, residents turned to the loud honking of a taxi's horn. Caught in its headlights was a gallant streaker. The little procession reached one end of the street, then turned for the return journey – and had to run the gauntlet of a host of flashing cameras. We look forward to seeing some of the prints!

Readers may remember that the **planned traffic island** at the **Broughton Street / Albany Street junction** was being delayed to allow the **Water Board** to put a new main down first. But that now won't be happening until 2001 at the earliest – so the **City Council** are going ahead with the traffic island in the near future. (It may even be done before you read this!)

Meanwhile, Councillor **Lazarowicz** tells us he's putting a motion to the Transport Committee asking for "an investigation of traffic issues along the whole Broughton-Canonmills corridor – Broughton Street, Bellevue, Rodney Street".

Many readers will remember the **Unemployed Workers Centre** in **Broughton Street**, forcibly closed down by the old **Regional Council** in 1994. The collective who ran it eventually found a home at 17 **West Montgomery Street**: this February the **Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh** celebrates its third birthday there. ACE "provides space and resources for local independent campaign groups, and encourages individuals to take direct control over their lives by working collectively against social and ecological injustice". (phone 557 6242)

Section 28 was inserted into the Local Government Act by the Thatcher Government in the late 1980s. The Scottish Executive plans to repeal it through the Ethical Standards in Public Life Bill, due to come before the Scottish Parliament within the next few months.

The clause says that a local authority shall not:

- (a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality;
- (b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship.

The first part is a nonsense: you are either homosexual by nature or you are not; and even if this were not so, do

we seriously believe that local authorities are just waiting for repeal of the clause to start "promoting" homosexuality? The second part gives the show away: this is all about whether we should accept that some people are heterosexual and some homosexual, and whether all should be treated equally and non-judgementally. The intention is clear – to reject the possibility of homosexual partnerships which can be equally genuine, loving and long-lasting as heterosexual ones.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the STUC, the EIS and head teachers – amongst others – have now publicly supported repeal. And the Scottish School Boards Association's claim to represent parents throughout Scotland in championing the clause has been discredited (locally, parents

tell us that Drummond Community High and Broughton Primary boards were not consulted, and have not discussed the issue).

But there is no room for complacency: this issue seems to connect with the murkier depths of human nature; and a lot of money and effort is being put behind the campaign to keep Section 28. The final decision will be made by the Scottish Parliament. If you believe in equal human rights, write to your MSPs at Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP:

- Malcolm Chisholm, MSP
- James Douglas-Hamilton, MSP
- Robin Harper, MSP
- Fiona Hyslop, MSP
- Kenny MacAskill, MSP
- Margo MacDonald, MSP
- David McLetchie, MSP.



It's A Human Rights Issue

We are pleased to print positive statements from two of our MSPs; we hope to hear from the others in time for our next edition.

Kenny MacAskill, MSP:

"I believe that the existence of Section 28 represents discrimination and should have no place in a modern, inclusive Scotland. As a Scottish

National Party MSP I will be upholding longstanding party policy to repeal Section 28.

"I trust teachers to deal with issues of sexual orientation in a sensitive way and would wish to see them issued with clear guidelines which allow them to do so without feeling compromised."

Malcolm Chisholm, MSP:

"I shall be voting for the repeal of Section 28 and I am sure the vast majority of my Labour colleagues will do the same. It's not about promoting homosexuality but about promoting respect and tolerance. It's a fundamental issue of equality, justice and human rights."

Anent the buses

From March 2000, LRT will start focusing on fewer but more frequent and reliable bus services in Edinburgh. Changes – yet to be confirmed – are expected to affect local services:

- * The 19/39 route will be renamed and connect Granton with Bellevue and, for the first time, Princes Street and Tollcross. Waiting time will be in the region of 15 minutes
- * The old 7A/8/9 service will simply become the No. 8, and will run at 10-minute intervals.

* Once the McDonald Road upgrade has been completed, the 13 route will run along Bellevue Road – at its present rate – to service new residents in local housing developments.

In addition, LRT is to introduce 125 new 'easy access' single-decker buses in an effort to entice more car users and footsore residents to use public transport. Buses on major routes will run at 10-minute intervals.

Councillor Lazarowicz, who

outlined the LRT proposals at a meeting of Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association members, welcomed the changes as 'a radical shift in LRT's philosophy'. Those at the meeting agreed that the plans sounded a very positive step forward for those in the Broughton area, meeting needs that have long been voiced but little heeded.

Meanwhile **Spurtle** awaits LRT's official announcement. We remember that there is often a huge gulf between high promises and hard fact.

Drummond gets wired in

The start of 2000 saw Drummond Community High School's Head Teacher, Frank McGrail, in upbeat mood – and, appropriately, poised over a spanking new lap-top as he got to grips with the new technology in place around the school. Every classroom is now on the Internet and staff are in training mode for making best use of this new development in teaching aids. Soon, it is planned that each pupil will have a personal e-mail address and controlled access to the wonders of the web. To add to the transformation of the classroom as we all know it, a 2-year programme of carpeting is underway and, already, the library,

games hall and 6th-year lounge have all been upgraded.

This reflects the upturn in standards generally. Mr McGrail reports that the financial cuts of recent years are now behind them. Service levels, including staffing, have been restored and maintenance and equipment needs are being met. Sports provision has been increased and new funding for revision classes and implementation of a behaviour strategy provided.

Drummond also remains in the front line of schools to be brought into a Private-Public Partnership. A private provider is likely to be selected around the middle of the year with the first effects to be seen possibly during 2001.

It's good to get a positive buzz – whatever one feels about PPP developments.

In November we heralded a new initiative in police patrolling of our streets: bobbys on bikes. Seeing no sign of them, we contacted Superintendent Urquhart at Gayfield.

He explained that there's been a delay until the official launch of the scheme can be organised, but that we should see patrols on bicycles before the March edition of **Spurtle**.



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 Spurtle is printed on recycled paper

Spurtle team for this issue:

Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay
Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie,
Jane Coville, Alan McIntosh,
Tim Puntis, and David Aitken.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time
PHONE or FAX – 556 7727 / 556 0903
BROUGHTON Spurtle is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk>

BRIEFLY

Wheelibins are coming closer!

They've already appeared in Rosslyn Crescent/Terrace – and are not very popular with residents, we've heard. On the other hand Redbraes are asking for them! Our local councillor says no decision has been taken yet on what area to tackle next: the Council does want to switch to containerisation wherever possible, but circumstances in different streets have to be carefully considered.

Mansfield Traquair Trust's secretary Rosemary Mann tells us that a two-stage tender process for work on the church has started. First, selection of the main contractor; then the specialist sub-contractors: the process should take until the end of March. "With agreed tender prices, the Trust will then start a round of negotiations with the main funding bodies. Subject to their agreement, it is hoped to start on site in the summer."

Dates for the next two meetings of New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council are Monday 7th February and 6th March – both at 7.30pm, in Drummond High. **Anyone can go along**, listen and take part in the discussion.

To celebrate the start of the new century, Broughton Books has an exhibition of books from the middle of last century – all published around 1950. Proprietor Peter Galinsky tells us there are nearly 560 books in his collection, with some magazines, pamphlets and items of ephemera. Books can be bought, but should remain on display until 16th March. Amongst highlights, Peter mentions the first TV Annual, for 1950-51, "illustrated appropriately with black and white photographs." (2a Broughton Place, Tuesday-Friday 12-6, Saturday 10.30-5.30.)

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