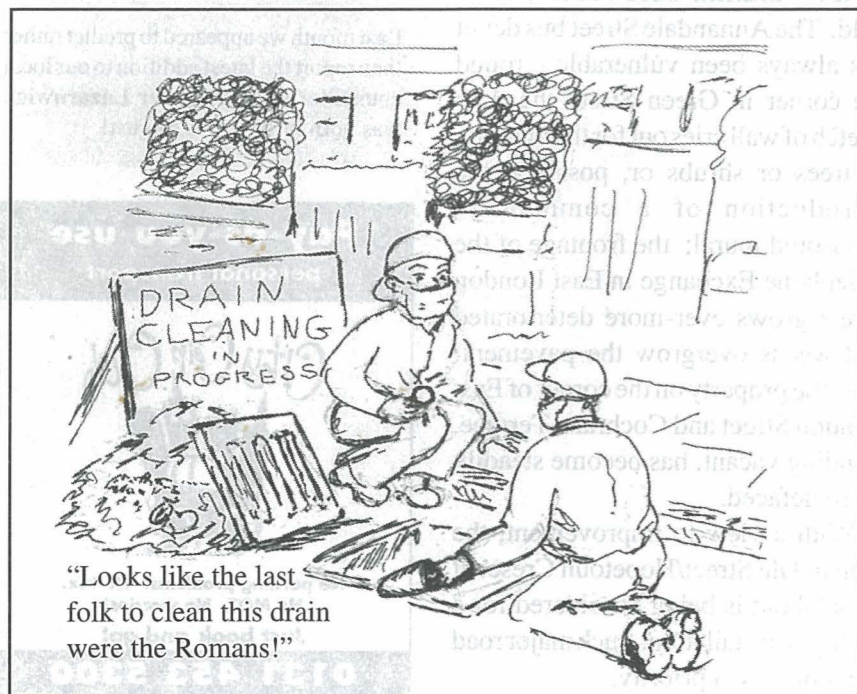


Points for carlessness!

Controlling the car has entered a new phase in parts of Edinburgh - and the City Car Club is due to be extended to the Broughton area in the foreseeable future. A book-and-go car hire scheme which offers an alternative to car ownership, it is operated by Budget Rent a Car in partnership with the City Council and aims to reduce congestion, pollution and parking. It hopes to attract both individual and business users. Annual membership is £99 then, from a minimum hire period of

one hour, you pay a time and mileage charge for what you use. The organisers acknowledge that the concept "involves a change in mind-set", but "once potential members realise the full benefits...they are willing to abandon car ownership". They point to the Swiss scheme on which Edinburgh's is modelled, where a membership of 28 in 1987 rose to 29,000 in 1999.

There are presently 23 sites operational across the City - the nearest to Broughton are at Glenogle Road and Brandon Street, if you're curious. For more information, see the Club's address in their ad. in this edition of **Spurtle**.



"Looks like the last folk to clean this drain were the Romans!"

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 557 1752

Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
Tam Hay 553 2306

Sovereign Court Residents Association
John Davies, 478 4463

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Cllr Mark Lazarowicz
Broughton Ward
529 3283 fax 529 4764
Surgery: Drummond CHS
on Wednesdays from
6 to 7pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland
Street on Mondays from
6 to 6.45pm

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

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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.

Spurtle team for this issue:

Eileen Dickie, 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>

BROUGHTON Spurtle is printed on recycled paper

BROUGHTON Spurtle

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Party in the park

Things didn't look good for Hopetoun's 'Party in the Park' on Saturday, 26th August. The morning was very overcast. Too many selfish car owners had ignored official notices and cones asking them not to park in the Crescent. And at midday it began to rain.

In the end all went well. The rain cleared away and a good crowd enjoyed a fun-packed afternoon. Congratulations to Shanger Yang of St Mary's Primary School, who designed the beautiful poster for the event. His was selected from amongst the many excellent prize entries from St Mary's and Leith Walk Primary.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who helped to make the day a success, including sponsors who made financial contributions, local businesses who gave prizes for the raffle, and local performers (and face-painter Yvonne!) who entertained us for free. The active involvement of our local community police officers was also much appreciated.



Shanger Yang receives his prize for designing the Party in the Park poster.

Will there be another Hopetoun event next year? It took a bit of organising: new faces to help are needed - if you'd be interested, contact Gavin MacGregor (556 7727).



Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent

BRIEFLY

'Wha wears the troosers - press, parliament or the people?' A seminar on the progress of the Scottish Parliament will take place at the City Chambers on **Thursday, 14th September, 7-9pm**. There is no charge or booking for this public event - just turn up.

Broughton History Society opens its new session on **Monday, 25th September** with a talk on *Newhaven* by Mr Hackland of the History Group there - 7.15 for 7.30pm, in Drummond Community High School. *New members welcome: come along on the night, or phone secretary David Watt for more information (556 5271).*

Edinburgh's **'Open Doors Day'** on **Saturday, 30th September** will include a chance to see inside the Glasite Meeting House at 33 Barony Street, and the former Broughton Place Church, now used and being restored by auctioneers Lloyd and Turnbull (both 10am - 5pm).

Harassed by sheriff officers for poll/council tax arrears? Ring *Edinburgh Claimants* on 557 6243 for advice and solidarity.

The Mansfield Traquair Trust has announced that grants totalling £3.8 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund have now made it possible to go ahead with the main building contract at the Church. **Work should start in September**, and is scheduled to take about 16 months. Besides restoration of the whole building, the lower area will be converted for use by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations as their national headquarters.

Traffic worries linger on

Last month we reported on the City Council's plans for local traffic control measures, made necessary by the expanding restrictions being put in place in the city centre. Our reaction was a general welcome – with reservations about some of the detailed ideas being floated.

But there are still two big worries locally.

- The timing of things: can we be sure that something will actually be in place in Broughton before the second half of the Princes Street car ban comes into operation?

- The future volume of traffic: some people are quoting forecasts of 100% increases “on most arterial routes” – so what can we expect on Broughton Street?

Spurtle put those two questions to local councillor and transport boss Mark Lazarowicz.

On timing: “I hope so, and I expect so. I would not support the institution of the Princes Street scheme until the most important of the Broughton Street measures were in place.” Councillor Lazarowicz went on to explain that no one can guarantee all proposals for Broughton will come first; there can be hold-ups for technical reasons, or because of objections being lodged. At the same time, it would do Broughton no favours to hold up the Princes Street scheme indefinitely: the scheme will improve bus journey times, and in so doing contribute towards an overall reduction of car traffic throughout the city – apart from making life better for Broughton pedestrians when they go up town.

On traffic volume: “It is not true to say that traffic on arterial routes will generally increase by 100% as a result of the Central Edinburgh proposals.

Some streets will show increases at peak periods, others will show decreases. For example, it is true that for Broughton Street the pm peak going north shows a big increase; but the same period going south shows a significant decrease. The combined figure for that period is an overall increase of less than 7%. In the morning peak period there is an overall decrease of more than 5%.

“These are the worst-case scenarios. They do not take into account the effect of modal shift (travellers shifting from car to bus, etc.), or other transport improvements. Above all, they do not take account of the possible introduction of road pricing. Current indications are that this could lead to an overall traffic reduction of 20% in the city centre (although figures are still being researched).”

A fairer Britain?

Michael Stevenson of Edinburgh Claimants writes in response to last month's article on Norma McKendrick's experiences on Job Seekers Allowance.

I'm unemployed myself and know what it's like, having Job Centre officials trying to force me onto useless Restart Courses and cheap labour schemes. And then you often find that the few government scheme courses that might be useful – eg, about the internet – are drastically oversubscribed.

In my experience the golden rule when dealing with benefit officials is – NEVER MEET THEM ALONE! You've the right to take someone with you to any benefits interview. Your accompanying friend can act as witness, moral support – and can also chip in with a few well-chosen words if the dole official gets out of order.

I'm involved in a group called Edinburgh Claimants, and we encourage the unemployed and all

claimants to support each other and battle for what we need.

Politicians will never create a genuinely fair society – what's needed is more self-organised ‘people power’. People can contact Edinburgh Claimants by dropping into the Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh (at 17 West Montgomery Street) any Tuesday between 12 and 4pm, or by leaving a message on 557 6242.

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Greening Broughton



New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council have set up a special committee to pursue some of the suggestions in **Spurtle's** discussion paper, “Towards a greener Broughton”. They're looking at the possibility of two or three sites in Broughton being suitable for pieces of public art – with a view to liaising with the Scottish Arts Council and looking for funding for sculptures. LRT have been approached about a mural on the Green Street wall of the bus garage. And a committee member has discussed the idea of a fountain at the Annandale Street roundabout with the nearby mosque.



People and Places Officer, Diane Smith told **Spurtle** of a number of successful initiatives elsewhere in the City. Council “task forces” responsible for their own patch and its general litter, bin-bags, dog-fouling and the like have encouraged maintenance of neighbourhood standards and taken the pressure off the Rapid Response service. The Broughton area is due for this “next year.” Watch this space! Voluntary schemes, sometimes with funding available, can be put in place for residents groups, Community Councils and other such bodies, and local businesses are encouraged to take an active part and perhaps sponsor “clean-up” events or projects.

With the city-centre due for new litter bins, the existing ones will be available for siting elsewhere, mainly in parks and open spaces but intended also for roadside black spots. **Spurtle** understands that Broughton has long been earmarked for on-street communal containers to solve the ever-growing blight of black-bagged domestic refuse but a major obstacle has been that they would encroach on World Heritage Site areas. Civic

sensitivity does not seem to have been compromised in many other equally splendid European capitals where full recycling facilities are to be found at almost every street corner. The alternative is accepting the present uncontrollable decline. This argument must be put to rest.



The Hopetoun Village Steering Group have recently been considering these and other matters and Chair, Councillor Mark Lazarowicz's intention is to hold a Community Forum later in the year to bring together a number of related issues. Graffiti, once started, takes hold. The Annandale Street bus depot has always been vulnerable – round the corner in Green Street the drab stretch of wall cries out for the planting of trees or shrubs or, possibly, the introduction of a community-sponsored mural; the frontage of the Telephone Exchange in East London Street grows ever-more deteriorated and weeds overgrow the pavement; even the property on the corner of East London Street and Cochrane Terrace, standing vacant, has become steadily more defaced.

With a view to improvement, the Annandale Street/Hopetoun Crescent roundabout is being considered for a sculpture installation. Such major road junctions are a priority.

Along the road, the Broughton Street roundabout is a vital part of the “green corridor” running through Broughton, and with the management of the school premises at Drummond passing to the private sector in the foreseeable future, the need for the maintenance of trees and bushes there has been registered with the Education Department. The pressure is also being kept up for the proper maintenance of Hopetoun Crescent gardens. Only recently restored from dereliction, this has become an invaluable open space amidst much intensive new building.

BRIEFLY

Last December/January **Spurtle** mentioned a new ‘Broughton, Hopetoun and Bellevue Directory’ planned for March. Due to a number of unforeseen delays it is now hoped that it will be ready by the end of September. Contact person is Eileen Dickie (556 0903).

We quite often hear folk bemoaning the disappearance of local shops, with the loss of personal service and community focal points that it means. All the more reason for valuing and supporting those that remain. Amongst many, we'd like to single out Woodcraft Supplies in Broughton Street. Apart from anything else, Alastair's the one advertiser that's been with us since the very first edition of Spurtle!

Last month we appeared to predict rather than report the latest addition to our local councillor's family. **Peter Lazarowicz** was born in July, not August!

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