

Belle's View



Hi fans

I have been on a cultural odyssey these past weeks, dear Readers, soaking up all that **Broughton** and **Bellevue** has to offer. And what a feast!

At **Gateway Theatre** in Elm Row, students of **Queen Margaret College** recently staged a run of **Blackpool, Irvine Welsh's** first musical, with a score by **Vic Goddard** of **The Subway Sect**. A good time was had by all as the fresh-faced cast rattled through the convoluted plot with an obligatory swearsy-word script and plenty of enthusiastic kilted singing and dancing!

Up at **Ego** in **Picardy Place**, I recently attended the Scottish premier of **The Vagina Monologues** by **Eve Ensler**, held as an event to raise funds for women's charities. The readings, by a mixed amateur and professional cast, were utterly fabulous, spoilt only by the trotting of indignant high heels as several of the blue-rinse brigade fled after the first mention of the c word!

Estelle Murgatroyd and myself have been lucky enough to secure front row tickets for **David Cassidy** at **The Playhouse** on 28th April. I was slightly reluctant to sit so close to the front because I didn't want to be in the moshpit, but Estelle assures me it will be a dignified sit down experience! David, now an amazingly youthful (and some would say surgically enhanced) 53, is doing this tour as a thank you to his fans for 30 years of unstinting loyalty (steady on there laddie, you're giving our age away!)

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Village Association
Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151

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

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5271

Drummond Community High School
556 2651

Cllr. Trevor Davies
Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary School,
Weds. 6.30pm-7pm during school terms

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 MSP
555 3636 Surgery on Saturdays,
Drummond High School, 1.00pm.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP
Advice sessions every Friday at
274 Leith Walk, 12.30pm and every
Saturday at Stockbridge Library,
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

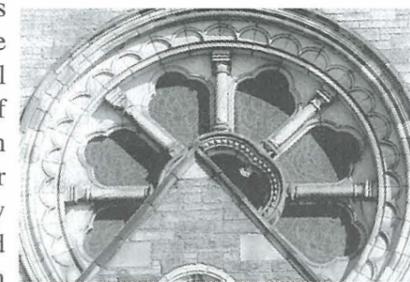
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MANSFIELD PLACE CHURCH

Stonework appeal

The wraps are coming off as the main building work at Mansfield Place Church nears completion. The lower floor will become the HQ of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and the upper, church



floor a multi-functional venue that retains the views of the murals. Restoration of the murals will follow once the building has dried out and the internal environment stabilised.

But there's a problem. Before work started, the cost of stonework repair was estimated at £780,000. But when

the scaffolding went up and craftsmen could look more closely they discovered, for example, bits that looked fine from ground-level but were in fact old cement repairs that would have to be chipped out and replaced with indented stone. Result: another £100,000 required.

So the Mansfield Traquair Trust has launched an appeal, 'Help us finish with a flourish'. Donations should be sent to the Trust, c/o The Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street, EH3 6NX.

BROUGHTON MARKET SAUNA

Misinformation muddies the water

Some local residents still have genuine worries about the sauna planned for Broughton Market - the traffic and parking implications in particular.

But some of the claims made about the development have caused confusion. Mainstream press coverage said that the police had objected to a licence for the sauna: misleading, Superintendent Grieve told the March meeting of the Community Council - they'd simply asked for opening hours to be restricted to midnight. (The licence eventually granted only runs to 11pm.) It has also been suggested that the sauna will lead to more crime in the area, of a kind that will not be reported and dealt with:

Superintendent Grieve challenged the idea that gay-related assaults were not reported saying it was contrary to the experience of Gayfield police.

More recently it was claimed that a company had abandoned its plans to build townhouses at Broughton Market as a direct result of the sauna being approved. **Spurtle** is reliably informed that this is not true: any delay has been caused by a desire to improve the plans for the housing development.

The danger is that all the talk could prove self-fulfilling. If local people - and potential developers - are told often enough that Broughton Market is to become 'a no-go area', it just might happen!

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BRIEFLY

Like many others, we've been **waiting impatiently** for the traffic calming measures Bryant were supposed to be installing at their housing development in East London Street. Now we hear this will be delayed until Smart's office block across the street is completed.

The next Community Council meeting is on Monday, 8th April, 7.30pm at the Broughton St Mary Church Centre in East Broughton Place (please note the change of venue). The agenda includes a report on crime statistics from Superintendent Grieve.

Elections are due for the Community Council: for 16 elected individuals, plus 8 members nominated to represent local interest groups. The Returning Officer for the elections is Councillor David Guest, 7 East Claremont Street (phone 558 8823): he has forms for both individual candidates and organisations which want to register and nominate representatives. Completed forms must be returned to him by Monday, 29th April.

In February we featured David Richardson of Victoria, Australia, who wanted make contact with fellow pupils from his days at Canonmills School. We're glad to report that Margaret McGowan of Broughton Road (maiden name Dickson) has now written to David, telling him she's also in touch with five other contemporaries.

A 'Friends of George V Park and Scotland Yard' group has now been set up. They are applying for City Council money through the Local Development Committee, to launch their improvement plans.

CLEANING UP BROUGHTON

Councillor tackles take-away litter

When Councillor Davies stood for election last October, one of his pledges to electors was to find a way of "making fast food shops responsible for their customers' litter". It looks like he's made some solid progress in that direction.

"A working group in the Council is soon going to send out for public consultation new rules for licensing late-night take-away shops" he told **Spurtle**. "And, on my suggestion, one of those new rules will be that owners must clean the pavement 25 metres either side of their shop. If it is

approved, the new rule will be introduced as licences come up for their annual renewal. The Council has

"The licensee shall, during business hours and at the end of each day, ensure the collection and removal of any paper, food wrapping, food container and drinks container from the pavement or footpath fronting the premises and for a distance of 25 metres either side. Where adjacent premises to which Late Hours Catering Licences apply are within 25 metres, then the distance to be cleaned shall be to the mid-point between the premises."

put aside the money to employ nine more Environmental Wardens to help enforce this new rule. If take-away shops don't comply, the ultimate sanction is, after they've received the necessary warnings, to have their licence removed from them."

If we think this is a good idea, Councillor Davies would like us to make our views known to the Council. Write to him at the City Chambers, High Street, EH1 1YJ.

BROUGHTON STREET BUILDINGS

No. 22a is declared 'at risk'

Cleaning up Broughton by getting rid of litter and graffiti will certainly help make it a better place to live. More trees and other greenery too. And the buildings in our streets are also an important part of the environment: their fabric needs safeguarding.

Broughton Village Association are particularly anxious about 22a Broughton Street; it's been looking abandoned and neglected for some years now. In recent years it had housed the Rifle Club, and then become a nightclub venue; but it was built in 1853 as a George Heriot District School – you can see the 'G' and 'H' carved at first floor level. Association secretary Stephanie Harvey told us that since



they raised their concerns about the building, the Scottish Civic Trust has put it on its "At Risk" register.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

MSPs' pay

The Senior Salaries Review Body recommended a 13.5% rise. MSP Shona Robison's amendment wanted an inflation-only pay rise. The majority of MSPs voted for the SSRB recommendation. We asked our own constituency MSP, Malcolm Chisholm: Why not a majority vote for Shona Robison's alternative? Surely that would have been a positive statement by MSPs? In going along with the 13.5%, did you (collectively) not miss a real opportunity?

I of course understand your point but suppose there are three other considerations.

Firstly, this is the last time there will be such a vote and the issue therefore was how this would be fixed in future. Rightly or wrongly, it is to be 87% of the Westminster salary.

Secondly, and perhaps less convincingly from your point of view, it was the recommendation of an independent review body. While we are still in the unacceptable position of deciding on our own pay, that is perhaps of some relevance.

Thirdly, and personally, I could not as a minister vote down a pay recommendation for my colleagues when I already receive more as a minister.

Returning to the first point, pay will now automatically be adjusted each year and this will not happen again. Given that we are to be fixed at 87% of Westminster, why once again is it the Scottish Parliament that takes the flak, while no-one says a word against Westminster?

Spurtle team for this issue:

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

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox".

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EAST CLAREMONT CROSSINGS

Those double yellows arrive at last

When East Claremont Street was restructured in 1997, raised platforms designed to slow down traffic were included. At each platform pedestrian crossings were marked out, the idea being to make crossing easier and safer by creating breaks in the kerbside parking. But, even when white lines were added to reinforce the message, there were still drivers who just weren't interested. So local residents pressed for double yellow lines, and the City Council set the wheels in motion to get the necessary traffic order.

That process completed, a few weeks ago markings appeared to show where the lines should be drawn. Then nothing. **Spurtle** asked local Councillor Davies when we could expect the work to be done:

"Unfortunately, the Council contractors can't get at the road to paint the lines because cars are always parked there. And we can't legally move the cars until the yellow lines are painted! Catch 22."

But as we go to press they've managed to do the lines at one of the crossing points.



David Leslie is exhibiting a series of 15 photographs, each showing a bridge or crossing over the Water of Leith, is on view at Broughton Books in Broughton Place. One has already become an historic photograph: it shows three massive stone pillars which once supported a railway bridge near Bonnington Mills. They were recently removed after the severe flooding in that area.

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BRIEFLY

Pat Eccles of City Trees would like to thank all those who supported the recent exhibition at the Bellevue Gallery. The exhibition will now be at the World Heritage Trust, 5 Charlotte Square during April – so anyone who missed it can see it there.

Still on trees, following a successful application by the Community Council to the City Council, trees are to be planted around the bowling green on Broughton Road, adjacent to Powderhall.

Amateur classical musicians! Haven't played in 20 years? Want to again? The Stockbridge and New Town Community Orchestra meets in Stockbridge Parish Church (St Bernard's), Saxe-Coburg Street, Thursdays at 7.30pm. **Bring a stand and come!** There are no auditions, and if you can handle about Grade 3, you'll do fine. Visit their website, www.snco.org.uk, or call the infoline at 0792 985 0483.

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