

Belle's View



Hi fans

Has summer started yet? It has? Will someone kindly notify the Meteorological Office then, because I am still wearing my worsted winter attire. Mmmmm, it may be June, but I have yet to cast a clout, and refuse to do so unless these sub-Arctic conditions improve!

Imagine my horror, dear readers, when I noticed a large builder's skip outside my favourite traditional watering hole, the **Windsor Buffet** in **Elm Row**. My fears were calmed, however, when I found out that it was merely undergoing a massive refurbishment. It has now been open for a few weeks and I can say that the restoration has been very sympathetic, so the old soaks among us can go back there without fear of being visually assaulted by any new and violently fashionable décor. The old photies have been given a dust down and re-hung too, so if you haven't seen Scotland's hairiest man yet (known fondly as The Human Skye Terrier), you still have a chance!

Our local MP, **Mark Lazarowicz**, was spotted recently at the **Local History Fair** in **Leith**, drawn like a moth to the flame to the Broughton History Society's stall by the vast range of old fashioned boiled sweets on offer, being handed round by costumed Victorian undermaid Alice Lauder. Efforts to obtain conversation lozenges for this occasion had proved futile. Apparently there is no call for them anymore – I suppose not, why bother with all that ghastly stickiness when you can simply text message?!

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

Annette 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

558 8358 Surgery on Saturdays, Drummond High School, 1.00pm.

Mark Lazarowicz, MP

Advice sessions every Friday at 86 - 88 Brunswick Street, 12.30pm and at Stockbridge Library, 4pm.

Mark Lazarowicz

Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St.

Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,

Fax: 0131 557 5759 EH7 5HU

Email: lazarowiczm@parliament.uk

Please contact Constituency Office for details of Advice Sessions.

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BROUGHTON Spurtle

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June 2002

TRAFFIC CALMING

Councillor reads riot act to developer

With so much house building going on in Broughton, we thought it well worth printing this report from local councillor Trevor Davies in full. We hope it signals a start to the City Council taking a firmer line with developers in general.

As part of the planning permission to build the new houses in East London street, Bryant agreed to install traffic calming there and in Gayfield Square –



St. Mary's School in East London Street

next to St Mary's Primary School. The agreement was that this would be completed before the first house was occupied! All the houses were occupied by February and – of course – Bryant had not fulfilled their legal obligation. Partly this was for legitimate reason – there was no point in doing the work if part of it would be dug up again by Smart's putting in sewers for their small office block opposite. Partly it was because Bryant, despite their agreement, did not want to foot the bill for the work.

There have been months of wrangles between the Council and Bryant over the extent of the work, and who would pay for it. And remember, this is work simply to make it safer for children to get to school.

The situation now is that the Council has decided to undertake the work itself during the summer holidays, so that the traffic calming is in place as winter approaches, with a verbal

agreement from Bryant that they will pay for half the cost. At the moment we are waiting – and have been waiting longer than is necessary – for Bryant to confirm this deal in writing.

Bryant are also dragging their feet over installing traffic lights at the junction of Logie Green Road and Broughton Road.

Again, this should have been done before the first of their Powderhall houses were occupied.

The Council welcomes developers to the City – we do need houses for people to live in. But we expect them to abide by the rules. I shall be asking the Planning Department to draw up a list of all the agreements which Bryant have made as part of being granted permission to build houses – and which ones still remain to be implemented. We can then consider what action to take.

Broughton Spurtle is free and completely independent!
tel - 556 7727

BRIEFLY

MSP Malcolm Chisholm and MP Mark Lazarowicz have moved out of their Leith Walk office. Now you can find them both at 86-88 Brunswick Street, a couple of doors along from the Oddbins shop on the corner. You go through a gateway into a small courtyard, and Mr. Chisholm has his rooms to the right and Mr. Lazarowicz has his to the left. If you are desperate for the loo when you arrive, best visit our MP's office first. (Office hours are Monday to Friday, 9.30 to 12.30, 1.30 to 4.30; see also Contacts on back page.)

Whatever happened to CUB - the Clean Up Broughton campaign? Last year it organised three



successful clean up days, plus lobbying City Council and local shops. Support from local residents for practical activities was good, but getting people to turn up for planning meetings was difficult. Now CUB is teaming up with the Community Council's environmental committee, whose monthly meetings will provide the planning input.

SCVO (the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations) plan to move into their new offices on the lower floor of the former **Mansfield Place Church** on 24th June – although it may be a wee bit longer before work on the church above them is completed. Open Days for local people, when you can see the restored church nave and murals, will take place in July; one has already been fixed for Sunday 14th July from 2 to 5 pm – we hope to have news of more in July's edition.

PARKING

Selfish drivers invade our open spaces



This is the scene in front of St. Mary's Cathedral every Sunday morning; a pleasant public space with greenery and sculpture - but clogged up by parked cars. A notice says no parking on the paved area at any time: why can't the ban be enforced? We asked Superintendent Grieve at Gayfield Police Station and New Town Councillor David Guest to look into it. Supt Grieve tells us: "We are trying to clarify the ownership of the ground and legal authority for the prohibition notice you refer to. As soon as this information is to hand I will consider what enforcement action is appropriate".



No pedestrian way past Europcar's premises in East London Street! Sometimes it's clear, sometimes you can pick your way through, sometimes it's totally blocked. Locals were complaining long before **Spurtle** first raised the issue - and that was a couple of years ago. At that time we were told there was uncertainty over who actually owned the area immediately in front of Europcar, and this was being investigated; then silence. Supt Grieve has reopened the

case, and will let us know what he discovers.



Was this pavement extension in Annandale Street (pictured above) really intended as extra forecourt for the neighbouring car rental showroom? Or should it be open space for pedestrians?



This one across the street certainly isn't forecourt - it's just used by those who see it as a convenient parking space. Is that what the City Council had in mind when they spent money creating it? Eventually someone will have to pay for the wear and tear from vehicles riding up onto it.



Cycle lanes aren't much good where parked cars block them: here it's in McDonald Road, but it happens regularly elsewhere in our area too - for example, at the triangle in Rodney Street.



McDonald Road again - and cars have managed to block the cycle lane and encroach on the bus stop space!

We'd welcome other examples of bad parking from readers. And we hope to report on what can be done about it in next month's edition.

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: Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Tim Puntis, and Eileen Dickie.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time PHONE and FAX :- 556 7727

BROUGHTON Spurtle is now on the World Wide Web on www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk

BROUGHTON Spurtle is printed on recycled paper.

HOPETOUN CRESCENT PARK

Organising for action

On 23rd May sixty local residents gathered to discuss the future of the public park in Hopetoun Crescent. After hearing an outline of the history of the park to date, everyone was invited to discuss how they'd like to see it develop in the future. Ideas came fast and furious, including ways the park could be better maintained by the City Council, how new planting could make it more attractive, possible play provision for children and the problem of dog dirt. A good number of those present said they would be willing to do practical work in the park themselves.

Encouraged by the experience of a guest speaker from the Friends of Craiglockhart Nature Trail, the meeting agreed a Friends of Hopetoun Park group should be set up. Volunteers formed a steering committee to prepare the way - and held their first meeting a week later. An inaugural meeting of the Friends has been scheduled for 10th September, 7.30pm - with the local mosque again being offered as the venue. Meanwhile, there's been a very constructive onsite meeting with Parks officials and our local councillor.

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Fresh blood wanted

New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council have an unfilled vacancy for an individual member - that is, one not nominated to represent a particular interest group. They would very much welcome someone from Broughton. An interest in planning, transport or environmental issues would be an advantage - but an injection of fresh enthusiasm is what's most wanted. Any reader who just might be interested should contact

secretary Annette O'Carroll (phone 556 7586).

The Community Council can also co-opt two people aged 16 to 18. They really want to add the perspective of younger people to their discussions. No special knowledge or experience is required: the fact that you're around that age, and that you live in Broughton, is what matters. Again, any young person in Broughton who's willing to consider the possibility should contact Annette.

BROUGHTON ST MARY'S CHURCH

Helping the homeless

What's going on at Bellevue Crescent on Sunday mornings? Why are so many folk going to church with plastic bags and knobbly parcels?

Mrs Noble of Broughton St Mary's Parish Church told **Spurtle** that it all began when a team was set up at the church called 'Community Involvement': where to start? Their first call came from the Edinburgh Churches Scheme to help the homeless by providing items for starter packs. Called 'FreshStart', these packs consist of good quality china and cutlery, pots and pans, cleaning equipment, and curtains, towels and bed linen.

Requests for donations met with an immediate response from members and friends. Soon stacks of goods were gathering, and several car journeys were made at intervals to the depot at Elizafield in Newhaven Road. The demand and the work goes on.

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BRIEFLY

The parliamentary Boundary Review proposes new North West Edinburgh and North East Edinburgh constituencies which would have the boundary between them running down the middle of Broughton Street. It's bad enough that the Ward boundary for Council elections already does just that: **worse if Broughton gets split** between two constituencies! If you'd support an objection against this proposal, let local MP Mark Lazarowicz know (see Contact column on back page).

A lollypop person is needed for Broughton Primary School. Anyone who might be interested in this part-time job can contact the school in the first instance (556 7028).

Mr. Lazarowicz would also like to hear from Broughton residents about an issue he recently raised in a debate he called for at Westminster - 'miss-selling' by energy companies. He said "the voluntary code does not yet seem to be working" and argued for "a few hefty fines and the loss of an operating licence for the worst offenders". If you have had a bad experience over changing your gas or electricity supplier, he'd like to hear from you - to build more evidence in favour of tougher action.

By now most readers will have received a leaflet from the City Council, about their proposal to extend the controlled parking zone to cover Broughton. There's an exhibition explaining the plans more fully: if you missed it at McDonald Road Library (6-8 June) it will be at Stockbridge Library from 13-15 June, and the City Development office at 1 Cockburn Street until 21st June.

CommunityLink, Edinburgh University Settlement acts as a **volunteer agency for University** students, staff and alumni who want to help out in the community. Currently, the organisation is looking for new voluntary projects to promote around the student population. If you would like to know more, contact Rachael Caunt on 650 2570 or e-mail cldo@holyrood.ed.ac.uk