

# Belle's View



Hi fans

Ooooooh, there's a real nip in the air - its time to get that nice woolly warm coat out of the wardrobe again - yes missus, the very same one you put away at the beginning of August when a freak sun-ray struggled through the clouds to hit Broughton and Bellevue!

Love! Excitement! Military hardware! No, I'm not talking about Broughton History Society's recent visit to the Territorial Army Drill Hall in East Claremont Street (where Estelle Murgatroyd and myself were extremely impressed by a large mounted caribou head in the officers' mess), but the staging of the musical *Miss Saigon* at the Playhouse in Greenside Place between 11 October and 25 January. This theatrical extravaganza, which takes ten whole days to set up, has an incredible scene in which a helicopter is simulated landing on the stage. Hold on to your toupee if you're sitting in the front two rows gentlemen!

I am pleased to see the newly named Mansfield Traquair Centre (previously known as Mansfield Church) is looking very dapper after its recent refurbishment. The good news is that world-renowned *Café Graffiti* may be making a comeback at this venue during the festival next year, and talks are in progress. Local residents have recently been given a chance to tour the building to see the *Phoebe Traquair Murals* and the response has been very favourable. The rest of the riff-raff can get a look in on Doors Open Day on September 28 between 12 noon and 5pm!

Till next time, just do it!

*Persephone Belle*

## All welcome

There will be a fashion show on Friday, 11th October in Broughton St Mary's Church Centre, 7 East Broughton Place, 7.30pm. cost £2.50 (refreshments included) pay at the door.

All clothes will be available for sale after the show.

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## 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 6.30 to 7.15pm

### Malcolm Chisholm MSP

Phone 558 8358 Saturday surgery at  
Stockbridge Library 12 noon.

### 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  
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Please contact Constituency Office for  
details of Advice Sessions.

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 97

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## LOGIE GREEN TRAFFIC PROBLEM

# Cross the Tesco exit - at your peril!

Marie McPherson of Logie Green Gardens has written to say that she and other Logie Green residents are very concerned about escalating traffic in their area.

New traffic lights have been installed at the junction of Logie Green Road and Broughton Road, which we hope will make the roads safer for our children and ourselves. However the

main nub is the alarming speeds from the vast amount of traffic which exits from Tesco onto Logie Green Road. At this exit there is no zebra crossing or any traffic calming measures to ensure a slow exit from Tesco.

There is genuine concern regarding this exit, and it appears quite bizarre that you can now cross safely from Broughton Road to

Logie Green Road but cross the Tesco exit at your peril!

We suggest residents get together, speak to local councillor Trevor Davies (he has a surgery at Broughton Primary School, Wednesdays, 6.30 to 7pm, or phone 529 3221); and maybe get a petition together, asking Tesco to instruct drivers appropriately?

## BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Big ticks for local teachers

There were smiles of relief and pride at Broughton Primary last month when a report by school inspectors gave a glowing account of life and learning at the school.

After an absence of 17 years, H. M. Inspectors arrived en masse for a week in June, examining in depth all aspects of the school: everything from curriculum to bricks and mortar, staff morale, management, parental involvement and pupil development. Was that a classroom assistant we saw weeding the playground the day before?

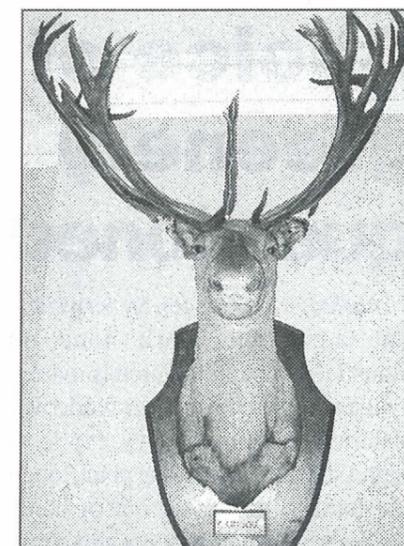
The report found Broughton a friendly and welcoming place where staff and pupils were mutually supportive and strong links existed between school, parents and the local community. In English and Maths, pupils were generally reaching the

appropriate levels of attainment for their ages, and in many cases exceeded them. Overall, "the quality of teaching and learning was very good".

Other points that came in for praise were:

- The headteacher's leadership in enabling all staff to work as an effective team to raise attainment and share good practice
- The support and interest shown by the School Board and PTA
- The school's "inclusion" policy and provision for pupils with special educational needs
- Communication and consultation with parents.

The Inspectors have promised to return after a year or so to make sure the good work continues, and to monitor how staff address recommendations for further improvement.



Members of Broughton History Society recently had an interesting visit to the T.A. Drill Hall in East Claremont Street. Dominating the meeting room was this caribou's head and antlers: presented to the Royal Scots by the Canadian Scottish Regiment back in the 1920s.

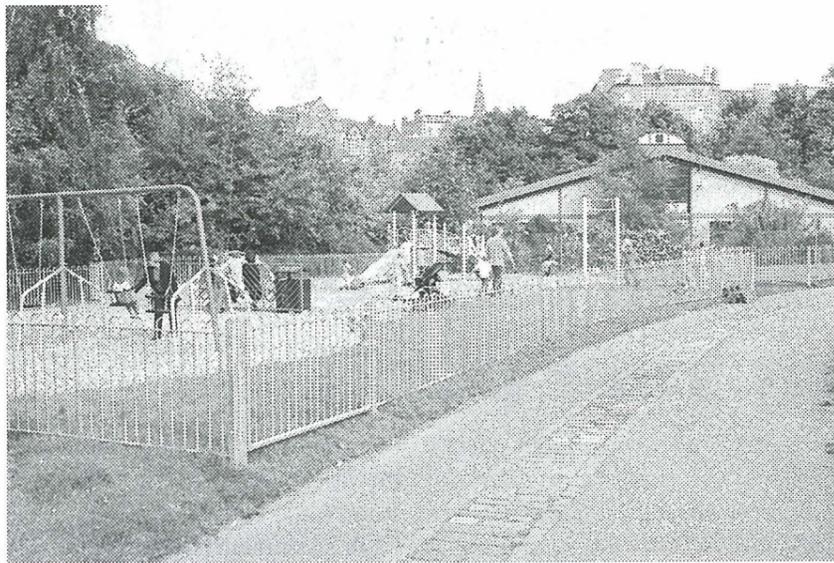
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## SCOTLAND YARD

# Fun and games launch for Friends

George V Memorial Park was built after World War II – on a site with a long history that included curling loch, the Royal Patent Gymnasium, a football park and a railway station. It was renovated in 1986 with the addition of Scotland Yard Adventure Playground for children with special needs.

The latest improvement to the public area has been renovation of the toddlers' playground pictured here, just a few weeks ago. Wilfrid Treasure of the Friends of George V and Scotland Yard Parks pointed out to **Spurtle** that visitors to Edinburgh can conveniently walk through the Park on their way from the city centre to the Botanic, and perhaps should be made more aware



of its presence. The Friends was formed in April and is organising a launch on **Sunday 6th October** with the aim of developing the Park for all users. All are welcome to join the fun from 10am to 4pm. Refreshments (including wine and ice-cream) available.

## MANSFIELD TRAUQUIR CENTRE

# Choice of greenery questioned

Armin Davies of London Street writes: The admirable work done on Mansfield Traquair Church is marred by the strange choice of groundcover plant under the trees – ivy. Ivy is an aggressive, fast-spreading plant, tough and hard to destroy if out of hand. Unless strictly controlled it will climb the trees, railings, and the building itself. It also spreads a sad, funereal aura, dark and gloomy. Will the Trust have enough funds or manpower to fight back the tide of gloomy greenery that they have prepared for the future?

*Heuchera* is a brighter glossy green plant, which blossoms every year. Lavender, strawberry *Berberis*, a host

of alternatives could have been chosen, even a cheerier variety of ivy.

*We showed Armin's letter to the Trust Secretary, Rosemary Mann, but she hasn't managed to get a response from their landscape architect yet.*

**Footnote:** Mansfield Traquair Centre (including SCVO offices) will be open to the public on Saturday, 28th September, 12 noon to 4pm; and then the ground level only on Sunday, 13th October, 10th November and 8th December, 2-5pm.

## UPDATE ON RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS

# Working together

Last month we reported on Redbraes Residents Association's progress on their new base, the old pavilion in the local park. Now the city Council's housing manager for the area has promised help with a hot water system

and other facilities for the kitchen.

Dave Thomson, who chairs the Residents Association, says: "It's important that people in the area recognise the part **Spurtle** plays in addressing local issues, and hopefully drawing groups together to work for improvements". He would like to invite other groups to make contact, come and see what they're doing, see if they can help each other in any way. Phone Dave himself (467 3879) or secretary George Hosey (467 6151).

Meanwhile, Claremont Court Residents Association is up and running, with constitution and office-bearers in place. They've had a walkabout with City Council officials; they've now got a letter spelling out clearly what the Council owns and is responsible for; and they're now waiting for a detailed maintenance plan.

And they're meeting with Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association, and the local Community Police Officer, to discuss setting up a Neighbourhood Watch.

## EUROPCAR, EAST LONDON STREET Managing Director says sorry

Last month we reported that local MP Mark Lazarowicz had written to the chief executive of Europcar (UK), complaining about "the anti-social behaviour displayed by your rental office at East London Street". In early September he received a reply from the

acting Managing Director, Marie Barry: "With immediate effect, no vehicles will be parked on the pedestrian footpath, allowing all local residents and pedestrians to go about their day to day business safely."

"The anger and frustration shared by you and local residents are valid and I do not condone this lack of responsibility on our Company's behalf. Please extend my apologies to your constituents for the inconvenience this poor operational practice has caused."

There was a marked improvement following this correspondence, but things soon began to slide again. **Spurtle** has e-mailed the UK Managing Director to point this out.

## THE STAFFORD CENTRE

# New mural planned

Scottish Mental Health Week runs from 7th to 13th October. The Stafford Centre in Broughton Street will mark the occasion in a very visible way.

Some years back Centre users painted a mural on the fence alongside the building. The colours are now very faded, so it's planned to create a completely new mural on the same surface – maybe involving the local community in the process.

The Centre provides an opportunity for wider social contact for people who have experienced mental health problems, and offers a drop-in facility and recreational groups. In

September a report on the Centre's work, commissioned by the City Council's social work department, recommended ways things could be improved. But overall, the report says, "for the considerable majority of users the Centre adds to their quality of life and helps to attain and maintain independent living".

## CLEAN-UP BROUGHTON Invitation to a workshop

The informal group that organised Clean-up Broughton (CUB) activities has now teamed up with the Community Council's environment committee for a relaunch. There will be a workshop on Monday, 14th October to plan a practical programme for the future, with Diane Smith of the City Council joining local residents to contribute ideas from elsewhere.

If you want to help improve the local environment, come along to the Church Centre, 7 East Broughton Place on 14th October – 7.30pm.



## New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

represents your views to the City Council and other public bodies. We need to find out what your views are on planning, transport, environment and licensing matters. Get in touch with us or come along to our meetings on the first Monday of every month (except for public holidays) in the Library of Drummond Community School. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Contact: Annette O'Carroll, Secretary, 556 7586.

## Broughton's Story

local history in pictures, photos, maps and memories



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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!

**Spurtle team for this issue:** Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Alan McIntosh, Eileen Dickie and Tim Puntis.

**BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place** are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time  
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