

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No. 127

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Free

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2005**

**Tel - 556 0903
556 7727**

CLAREMONT COURT

Revamp completed

In early June residents gathered to celebrate refurbishment of their homes at Claremont Court. Built in 1961, it was designed by famous Scots architect Basil Spence and was considered something special; but wear and tear over the years demanded a thorough revamp of both building (including stairwells, re-cladding and external paintwork) and garden areas.

Children were invited to finish off the improvements by helping plant new flower-beds; and the City Council presented a commemorative garden seat. One resident, who has lived at Claremont Court since 1963, was particularly delighted with the work: 'I was one of the first council tenants in the block and the Court is just how it looked 40 years ago. It's wonderful to see the building back to how it should be.'



During work on the improvements, all did not always go smoothly between residents and City Council. But Irene Fekete and other Court residents were determined to see a successful outcome, and at the

celebration all was sweetness and light. Sadly, Irene herself died last November: Local councillor Trevor Davies told the gathering that a plaque honouring her memory would be added to the garden seat.

BROUGHTON PRIMARY

A great wee walker

Pictured is 5-year-old Ruaridh McGillivray-Molica, a P1 pupil at Broughton Primary School. Ruaridh was sponsored as part of the Great Scottish Wee Walk in May, and by completing the 2-mile course around The Queen's Park raised a grand total of £60. On 17th June he presented a cheque for this amount to a delighted Parent-Staff Association Treasurer Aileen Harris. The money will go towards upgrading play equipment at the school, and subsidising the cost of school trips.



LOCAL SHOPPING

Cause for celebration

We've recently lost both our local Post Office and Woodcraft Supplies, each in its own way an important community focal point. But **Eric Robinson** of Broughton Place thinks we should celebrate what we've still got:

Faced with dreary multiple and supermarket shopping, I wonder if we recognise the quality of small business shopping in Broughton Street. The loss of our own hardware shop is a blow, but for the rest, meat, fish, wholefood, flowers, greengrocers and stylish clothes and specialist shops, a gallery and an extraordinary range of cafes, pubs and restaurants. Everything, in fact, that one might want, of quality and served with a personal and friendly touch.

Do we appreciate and use enough? It has taken visitors' appreciation to make me realise just how lucky we are! How about a Festival street party for a weekend, with performers and special presentations? Just a thought...

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform about local affairs; raise local issues; publicise the work of local action groups; make connections between 'the news' and people's own lives in Broughton; and stir things up a bit!

We'll support people looking for a fair deal, but not protect privilege. We're not connected to any political group or party. And we don't get a grant from anybody to finance the paper.

Contact us and:

- react to what **Spurtle** has had to say
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Telephone 556 7727 or 556 0903

Write to us c/o Broughton Books,
2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX –
you can put a letter through the
letterbox at any time.

e-mail

broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

DRUMMOND'S EQUALITY GAME

Fourth edition launched

There's been an Equality Group at Drummond Community High for over 25 years now. One of its achievements has been an equality game for use with students in S1 and S2. Group member **Annie Scanlon** reports:

From a 'home made' photocopied game it was grown into a commercially produced version which is used throughout Britain to educate students and adults about equality. The game allows the players to walk a mile in the shoes of a person who is discriminated against because of their race, gender, disability or class, and

allows students to experience and reflect on how to help change society to give everyone an opportunity to make the most of their talents. This new revised and updated fourth edition comes complete with teaching notes and innovative ideas for extension work. It may not take over from Monopoly but we hope it will change a lot of people's outlook on life.

The game is currently available from Drummond Community High School at £20 (plus P&P), please telephone: 0131 556 2651 or e-mail: admin@drummond.edin.sch.uk

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH

African visitors welcomed

Our local high school has been involved in the pre-G8 events organised by the City Council. Drummond's **Mandy Toogood**:

The highlight was the 'Making Connections' concert on Tuesday 21st June. The packed audience watched a colourful and exciting performance and welcomed groups from Rwanda, South Africa and Ghana who have been working with Drummond students to produce a spectacular ending where the students, visitors and audience all joined together in making a big African-inspired event.

Rwandan students performed an excerpt from their performance (originally performed by 1,000 children in a stadium in Rwanda) which was put together for the 10th anniversary of the genocide. A group of young people from South Africa



performed a song and ended with a vibrant Zulu dance in full traditional costume. The Ghanaian drum group spent 3 days in school working with students undergoing intensive workshops.



Archie and Jean Bell of Bellevue Street wrote to us about this scaffolding opposite their house. It's been there since November last year with no sign of work being done, 'and no-one seems to know anything about it'.

Spurtle phoned the scaffolding firm who told us that the scaffolding had been erected 'as an emergency' for the City Council. So we contacted a Council spokesman, who explained that the chimney was dangerous and that for reasons of public safety it was necessary to keep the scaffolding up until the owners got together and arranged the repairs.

LOCAL LANDMARK HAS A FUTURE

Sixty years of Spartan sparring

*It looked as if the Sparta Boxing Club's days were numbered. Their home in McDonald Road is due for demolition to make way for redevelopment. But now B L Developments have offered 18 months' accommodation at the former Shrub Place bus depot. And hopes are high that the Club will then return to a custom-built basement gymnasium at a new housing project on the old McDonald Road site. **Spurtle's** boxing correspondent **Alan McIntosh** looked into the Club's history:*

The Sparta Amateur Boxing Club (SABC) was set up in 1945, the brain-child of a former middleweight fighter called Jimmy Robertson.

Since then, the club's coaches have trained successive generations of young locals, bringing focus to the lives of many and fame and fortune to a few.

The former featherweight champion Bobby Neill, and the Scottish welterweight champion Eddie Phillips both practised here. But probably the best known hero associated with the gym was Ken Buchanan. Born in Edinburgh in 1945, he joined Sparta at the age of 7 and trained here for all his fights before turning professional in 1965. He went on to win the British

lightweight title in 1968 and two years later became undisputed lightweight champion of the world. In 2000 he took his place in the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

More recently, 27-year-old Southsider Alex Arthur, who began training with Sparta at the age of 10, has won renown as British and Commonwealth Super Featherweight Champion, IBF International Super Featherweight Champion, and WBO Intercontinental Super Featherweight Champion. In a recent interview for Channel 4 he recalled his introduction to SABC:

'I remember the first time I ever walked into the Sparta Boxing Club, the noise of the ball rattling off the wood and big guys slamming on the heavy bag and people skipping, jumping rope, and the grunting noises in the back with people doing stomach exercises you know and after that first time I knew when I actually left the place that that's what I wanted to do.'

Despite the forthcoming move, Sparta chief George Forsyth is determined to save an important part of the nation's boxing history. He has offered the ring – already the survivor of a bad fire in 1991 – to the sports history section of the Royal Scottish Museum.



BRIEFLY

Last month we were glad to report that the former **bus depot site at Shrub Place** now has an owner who wants to consult locally about plans for its development. The third public meeting (30th June) will probably have taken place by the time you read this. But there will be another on 14th July, 6pm for 6.30pm at McDonald Road Library, at which local responses to detailed proposals will be welcome.

*Readers may have noticed a new fence nextdoor to the **Stafford Centre** in Broughton Street, and gravel along the front of the building. This, plus planting due on 27th June, are thanks to a grant obtained by New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council. Community councillor Pat Eccles tells us that a **Community Noticeboard** should follow within a few weeks.*

The Community Council held its AGM on 6th June. Alan Welsh stood down as chairperson, being replaced by Stephanie Harvey of Mansfield Place. John Knight is now vice-chair, while Annette O'Carroll and Joe Patrizio continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. It was agreed that meetings of the full Council be reduced to 8 annually (much of the work is done in subcommittees): **the next full meeting will be on 5th September.**

*During the summer months Broughton St Mary's Parish Church, on Bellevue Crescent is open every Wednesday morning from 10am–12noon. Visitors can look round at the **beautiful interior** of the building, read the information on its 180 years of history, have a coffee and a chat, or take a look at the plans for the **Restoration and Development Project.***

Local MP Mark Lazarowicz has won fourth place in the annual ballot for Private Members' Bills. His **'Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Bill'** aims to promote renewable energy sources, including microgeneration and renewable heat, and would oblige the government to report thereon annually.

Belle's View

Hi fans



Ooooh, these sultry summer nights are making me yearn for the roar of the greasepaint and the smell of the crowd – and not long to go until the Fest is upon us! What theatrical thrills are in store for residents and visitors to swinging **Broughton and Bellevue**? Get in there for your tix before the luvvie throngs descend!

Wake up you dozy mare, it's the Festival! Prince Charming is on the loose and frenziedly roaming the streets of **Broughton**, but heading towards **Elm Row** in a determined manner! Catch him, and the rest of the snoozy cast of **Dr Edfuls Theatre Company** children's play **Beauty Sleep** at the **Gateway**, (Aug 23–28 12:00 £8/6).

Meanwhile, grown-ups at the **Outhouse Café Bar** in **Broughton Street Lane** can catch a local happening upstairs in the **Detrich Lounge** with **Left Field** exercising their own brand of political comedy, music and debate with **David Hayman** and pals (Aug 19–21 17:30 £5/4). **Picardy Place's Ego** will also be stuffed to the gunnels with exciting events, including two cabaret goddesses who will be exploring Welsh and Cornish Celtic history through language song and dance (Aug 22–23 16:15, £6.50). *Croeso!*

Finally, you don't get nowt for owt these days, but the **Botanic Gardens** are hosting **The Winter's Tale** by **The Lean and Slipper'd Pantaloons**. Billed as the most unseasonable Shakespeare of the fest, it promises a fun, interactive open-air performance of heartbreak, hilarity and other hoo-ha (Aug 12–14, 14:30, Free!). Don't forget your rain-mate!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Spurtle is looking for someone with basic computer skills (preferably Mac) to help produce the paper. On-the-job training in desktop publishing skills can be provided. If you might be interested please phone John Dickie on 556 0903.

Mark Lazarowicz

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Friday advice sessions:

4.00pm Stockbridge Library

5.30pm Constituency Office

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New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Vacancy for Community Councillor

The Community Council represents
the views of local residents to

Edinburgh City Council.

There is a vacancy on the Community
Council. If you think you might be
interested phone the Secretary for a chat.

The next meeting is in September –
details later.

Secretary Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

E-mail: aocarroll@onetel.net

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

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Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 556 7550

Broughton Village Association

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(daytime)

Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Gayfield Association

William McNair 556 4493

Hopetoun Village Residents Association

John Blackwood 557 1245

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council

Anette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society

John Dickie 556 0903

Cllr Trevor Davies

Broughton Ward 529 3221
Surgery at Broughton Primary
School, Weds 6.30pm to 7pm

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 Edinburgh North and Leith



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Saturday surgeries:

9am Leith Library

10.30am Royston/Wardieburn

Community Centre

12pm Stockbridge Library

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