

The Festival is upon us once again! And while the rest of Edinburgh goes luvvie, what's for fun in hooching Broughton and Bellevue?

Estelle and I attended a fabulous night of music and dancing in Scotland Yard Adventure Centre as part of Scottish Refugee Week recently. Broughton's glitterati were out in force, including Spurtle stirrer John Dickie and his lovely wife Eileen. Even more fabulous were the results of the raffle, when Yours Truly won a bottle of vino colapso and John won a free hairdo. Broughton waits with baited breath - what will it be - a bluerinse poodle-perm, or will he plump for a retro mullet?!

Forza Italia! World Cup fever hit the locality when Italy seized the coveted chalice! Restaurant Mama Roma of Greenside Place had their huge Italian flag all ready to wave, and were sopra la luna when the game limped into penalties with Italy beating France 5-3. Cheers to all local Italians for partying and tooting their car horns until 3am, and letting us all join in the fun (yawn!).

Get Fringeing! Left Field at The Outhouse has The Workers Beer Company presenting politics, comedy, and music, from the crème of Scotland's underground talent with compère Vladimir McTavish (18-20 Aug., 5pm (\pounds 5/4)). And up the road at Greenside, Viva Youth Theatre present musical Back To The Eighties! (14-18 Aug., 16.20pm £6/5) promising crazy dance routines, blue eye shadow, and hairspray thick as tar - just a usual night out in Broughton then!

Till next time, just do it!

Perseptione Rene

Have you got a story? Spurtle is your community paper. Phone 556 0903 or e-mail broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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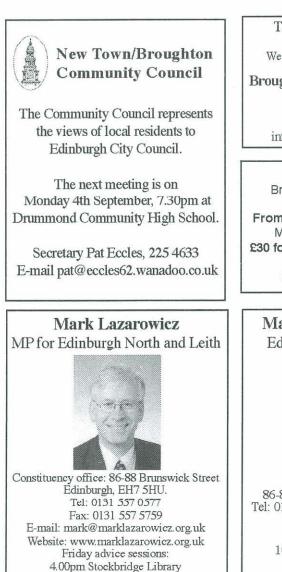
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Spurtle is your local community paper. We aim to inform about local affairs; raise local issues; publicise the work of local action groups; make connections between 'the news' and people's own lives in Broughton; and stir things up a bit!

Contact us and:

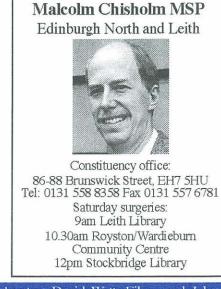
- · react to what Spurtle has had to Sav
- raise new issues
- let us know about community activities
- · tell us what you feel about life in Broughton.

Telephone 556 7727 or 556 0903 Write to us c/o Narcissus. 87 Broughton Street EH1 3RJyou can put a letter through the letterbox at any time.

E-mail broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

THINKING OF LETTING YOUR PROPERTY? We always require properties to meet constant demand **Broughton Property Management** 61 Broughton Street Tel 0131 478 7222 E-mail: info@broughtonproperty.co.uk

AEROBICS Broughton St Mary's Church 12 Bellevue Crescent From Monday 21st August 7.00pm Mixed ability - all welcome £30 for 10 sessions £4 for 1 session Bring mat, towel, water. Fiona: tel. 07931341485



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5.30pm Constituency Office



No. 139

BROUGHTON'S STORY Nine hundred years of history

After months of preparation, our themes such as Schooldays, and local history society opens its latest exhibition to the public on Monday, 7th August at 12 noon.

Organised by Broughton History Society, 'Broughton's Story' brings together maps, drawings, photos, people's memories, and objects illustrating local life in days gone by. Members have taken the content of the Society's 2002 exhibition and added to it, drawing on contributions made by visitors to that exhibition and on their own research since then - to create a much bigger event. There are introductory panels outlining the earlier history of

Broughton; maps and aerial views; then the bulk of the material arranged street-by-street; and then collections of photos on selected And it's free!

Sport.

There should be something to interest everyone who lives or works in Broughton; and, it's hoped, many from farther afield who have any kind of interest in Edinburgh history. But, judging from the response from visitors to previous exhibitions, it may be those who once lived in Broughton but have since moved away who will find the display most fascinating.

The venue is Broughton St Mary's Church in Bellevue Crescent. The exhibition runs from Monday, 7th August to Saturday, 19th August, daily (including Saturday and Sunday) from 12 noon to 6pm, with an extension to 8pm on Thursdays.



Broughton's wash house. Union Street (now the Printmakers' Workshop.)



Evelyn Graham of Bellevue Road: Assisting with exhibition, this I've enjoyed meeting the people living in Broughton today and hearing their

story. Equally fascinating has been discovering the rich history of 'Old Broughton'.



Heather Fry of East Claremont When Street: working with the exhibition. last four years ago, I especially enjoyed hearing memories

from past residents who had grown up in the area. It's the interest from visitors old and new that helps to make these exhibitions worthwhile - so do come along!



Joanne Hood. minister at Broughton St Mary's: All the members and worshippers at Broughton St Mary's are thrilled to have the

opportunity to host the exhibition. As the local parish church we strive to find ways to serve our community, and what better way than to provide a venue for people to learn and appreciate the history of this wonderful part of Edinburgh.

BRIEFLY

Last month we headlined proposals to build student accommodation on the McDonald Road Kwik-Fit site. The developers' architect offered a bottle of champagne for the best suggested name for the new complex. Linda Head of Rosslyn Crescent writes: 'I think it should be called Farmer's Acre or Farmersland. Mainly in recognition of Sir Tom's contribution to employment in Edinburgh and Leith, but also alluding to the area's past as a botanic garden.' More suggestions please!

It seems years (it is years!) since the Broughton to Stockbridge Route Action Plan (RAP) was first discussed. Now it's happening on the ground: throughout July, starting in Broughton Street, there's been work on new drop-crossinas (gradual slopes from pavement to road), raised surfaces for people with visual impairments, short-stay parking and loading bays. And the iunction of Cornwallis Place and Bellevue Crescent and the top of Rodney Street, where once there was danger in every direction, has been realigned to make life easier for pedestrians. As one local parent put it to Spurtle: This is a good (and rare) example of Council joined-up thinking. It ties up with Safer Routes to School, and continues the good work of the Mansfield Place pedestrian crossing in linking the New Town proper to the Bellevue and Claremont area

By the time you read this, two more eim trees will probably have been felled in Drummond Community High's playground, reports Head Teacher Muriel Buchanan. 'Two are dying from Dutch elm disease. It is hoped this will stop the others being affected as it seems to have spread via the roots.' It is planned to replace the trees

Spurtle is looking for a volunteer with basic computer skills (Mac or PC) 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.

THE STAFFORD CENTRE **History** in the stonework

Ross MacLean continues his look at some of Broughton's buildings:

Look up at the douce facade of No. 103 Broughton Street, and you will see an armorial shield dated 1869. This was the crest of the St James Episcopal day school for which the building was constructed.

The school was originally accommodated within the adjoining St James Church building, on the site which extended from the present-day Crombie's butchers to the Olive Branch restaurant at the corner of Broughton Place. Stone steps on the first floor of what is now the Stafford Centre clearly indicate where School and Church conjoined. The rose-window above the doorway is a reminder of the ecclesiastical aspect of the building, while the detailed water-pipes flanking the entrance are testimony to Victorian craftsmanship. Although the St James Church itself moved to Inverleith in much-loved Edinburgh poet, Robert pupil.

After the school closed there were fallow periods when the building lay painters' and, in more recent memory, place of light, and enlightenment.

SCOTLAND YARD ADVENTURE CENTRE Parents appeal

challenging their behaviour no-one will experienced playworkers. judge us.' 'I am the mother of a severely Yard we felt very isolated. The Yard is the best thing that has happened to us.'

The words of parents whose children have benefited from what Scotland Yard Adventure Centre has to offer. The supported to play together in relaxed Centre on 476 4506.

'At The Yard I can relax knowing the surroundings. There's equipment adapted boys can play safely, and no matter how for a wide range of abilities, and

Parents have launched their own autistic child. Before we discovered The appeal, to ensure that facilities at the Centre can be properly maintained and further developed. It's not just hard cash that can help: there are opportunities to contribute in kind – for example, bicycles that need replaced. If Centre has been developed for disabled you think you could help yourself, or children and children with additional can think of a shop, a company or support needs; but non-disabled siblings other organisation that might have can also have much-needed space and be something to offer, you can phone the

LEITH OPEN SPACE GROUP Opening doors to democracy

Westminster.

with

local

Fay Young of East Claremont Street Edinburgh North and Leith. reports:

How can we overcome the obstacles that prevent ethnic minorities taking a more active part in politics. business and voluntary work?

The same question cropped up in based on successful projects run by different ways throughout our second multicultural Open Space event in Leith. There were many answers including practical projects to bring people together to create something new - a community garden and a multicultural food festival are just two of the ideas that emerged as people talked and listened to one another.

But the first one to take shape is the Shadow Scheme which aims to pair local people with councillors and members of parliament in the constituency of

HOPETOUN CRESCENT South American beat

Fiona Watt reports:

Hopetoun Crescent was athrob with the hooky riffs and rhythms of the deep heart of South America recently, when band Voces Del Sur gigged at

Chilean singer Valentina Montova Martinez and Scottish virtuoso guitarist David Russell, who have recently been joined percussionist by Gerardo Ballesteros. The band have an extensive repertoire covering Latin folk American styles, chacareras, zambas, joropos. valses, Cuban son, Afro-Peruvian and songs and cuecas.

Song Movement.

It was a handy gig for Valentina and David, as they have just moved to listen to them online go to into Broughton, and the Hopetoun Inn is now effectively their local! Their www.myspace.com/vocesdelsur

regular bassist was in London playing with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra for the TV proms, but that didn't stop the band giving the locals a rousing blast of jumping South American the Hopetoun Inn. VDS are a four dance beats. Squeezed in between the tomato sauce bottles and the omnipresent TV, VDS gave a foot-stomping, gutrattling couple of sets, winning over the startled locals and causing an outbreak of peculiar gyrating from men in flip flops and shorts - and the Spanish lyrics didn't deter the crowd from joining in if they recognised the tune! Their Hopetoun Inn dates are on a trial basis so Photo: Marc Marnie if you want to see much of it based on the Chilean New more live music in Broughton, get

along there and support the band.

For more information on VDS and www.voces-del-sur.com and



as a day-centre for unemployed workers. Its rebirth in 1998 as the Stafford Centre continued the ethos of inspirational care, creativity and selfadvancement.

The Stafford Centre is a voluntary sector community resource for people with mental health problems. Its aim is to assist those using the service to achieve independent living through the 1888, the St James School continued in provision of information, support and a Broughton on into the 1930s. The range of group activities. That lightsome spirit, Robert Garioch, Garioch, was a distinguished former would surely applaud the 21st-century transformation of his old school, with its stunning art studio, multi-purpose relaxation room, and the charming empty. It later re-emerged as an secret garden which flourishes at the 'education centre for apprentice back of the building. It is indeed a



Opening Doors to Democracy in Leith will be launched this autumn. The scheme, co-ordinated by the Leith Open Space Group who organised the two multicultural discussion events, is Operation Black Vote in Bristol and

The strength of the scheme is that it opens a dialogue between politicians people from minority communities to take part in our democratic process and at the same time to give our the communities they represent. The space! shadow scheme - pairing participants councillors, MSP Malcolm Chisholm and MP Mark



and the public. The aim is to encourage Lazarowicz - is likely to run from October to December. Both participants and politicians will be invited to keep a diary recording what politicians new insight into the lives of they learn from each other. Watch this

> For more information and application forms email: leithmcevent@btconnect.co.uk

PLANNING **Homes for** families?

The flurry of applications to build flats in the Broughton area continues. But are there enough homes for families being built? We asked local councillor Trevor Davies:

About 20% of the households in Edinburgh are families with children. This is a big reduction on the past. The biggest demand therefore, at the moment, is for smaller homes and that is where much of the effort is going

However, it is very important that we have mixed neighbourhoods. Especially in the larger developments, the Planning Committee tries to ensure that we get a good mix of accommodation: we aim for something like that 20% of family-size housing. In smaller developments the mix is part of the neighbourhood, not the individual development. One word of warning however - often those larger 'family' homes are not in fact bought by families but by landlords who will rent them out as HMOs, such is the demand for affordable housing for singles and couples.