

YOUR LETTERS

Community centre - where?

A better building to use as a Community Centre for the Broughton/Bellevue area would be the now de-consecrated church on the corner of East London Street and Mansfield Place.

The Southside Community Centre is in an ex-church building. So why not such a substantial building here?

Instead of a dilapidated rabbit hutch, or that is what the building used as the Unemployed Workers Centre seemed like, the last time I was in it.

Alan Wiseman
Melgund Terrace

The Mansfield Traquair Trust have been trying to rescue the church building for some time now. The present owners turned down an offer of £500,000; and as we reported a couple of months ago, they're not sympathetic about community use. But the Trust hasn't given up. At its meeting in May an outline scheme for the future use of the building was enthusiastically approved, including community use of some of the extensive basement area. (The Trust has an office at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony Street, phone 557 5039)

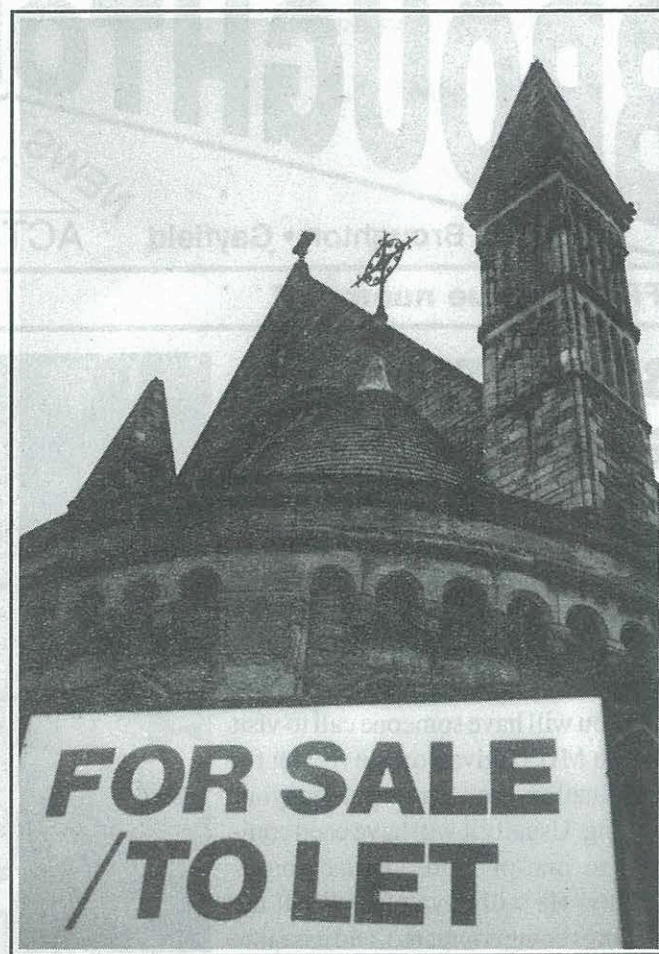
SPURTLE

"The law is an ass"

Remember last month's letter? Liz Raven described her experience of the legal system when she contested her ex-partner's access to their child.

Since then she's been charged with contempt of court because she wouldn't comply with the access order, and been admonished. The period for interim access has expired, and the case will come back to court in September.

Meanwhile a solicitor living in Bellevue Road has responded to the letter we published by writing to Liz direct. Amongst many points, he expressed surprise that she was not given a say in court; and that there was no order for a report, involving appointment of an independent party to assess all the main people involved. "There are many aggrieved parents who simply refuse to allow access



to proceed as they do not perceive it to be in the best interests of the child. There are moves afoot to amend the system, and I personally am in support of any such moves." He welcomes her idea of a support group, and would be keen to meet with it. (If you're interested in the group, write to Liz Raven, 8/18 Heriot Hill Terrace, EH7 4DY)

And another solicitor, consulted by SPURTLE, draws attention to a free and confidential advice service on legal matters relating to children:

Scottish Child Law Centre ADVICE LINE - 041 333 9305 - Tuesday to Friday, 10 to 4. If you phone outside these hours, you can leave a message and they'll call you back.

THE 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.

Contributors to this issue: Alice Lauder, John Dickie, Johnathan Hayes, Liz Raven, Tim Puntis, Tommy Perman and Tom Worthington.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the BROUGHTON SPURTLE please contact us as soon as possible! We plan to publish about once a month.

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

OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

Daytime Classes for Adults Autumn 1994

DRUMMOND COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, EDINBURGH.

Monday

- 10-12 Sewing
- 11-12.15 Introduction to Computing for beginners. (SCOTVEC module)
- 11-12.15 French for beginners. (SCOTVEC module)
- 1-4 Woodwork N. King

Tuesday

- 9.20- 10.40 Word processing
- 9.20-10.40 Maths for the terrified
- 10-12 French Conversation for students with some knowledge of French.
- 10.55-12.15 Car Maintenance for Women
- 1.05-3.05 Higher English
- 1.05-2.25 German 2 (Intermediate) (SCOTVEC module.)
- 1.05-3.25 Woodwork
- 1.05-2.25 Printmaking for beginners

Wednesday

- 9.30-10.30 Fitness training.
- 9.20-11.30 Woodwork D. Johnstone
- 9.30-12.15 Woodwork N. King
- 10-11.35 Computing for beginners. (SCOTVEC module.)
- 1.05-3.05 Drawing for beginners. (SCOTVEC module.)

Thursday

- 10-12 Parentlink. New ideas for getting on well with our children.
- 10-12.15 Abstract Painting.
- 11-12.15 French 2 (Intermediate) (SCOTVEC module)
- 11-12.15 Working with Clay
- 1-3 Yoga
- 1.05-2.25 Text Processing (SCOTVEC module.)
- 1.05-2.25 German for Beginners. (SCOTVEC module.)

Friday

- 9.20-10.20 Aerobics
- 10-12 Tapestry
- 10.30-11.30 Dance Exercise
- 10.45-12.15 Guitar
- 10.55-12.15 Desk Top Publishing (SCOTVEC module)
- 10.55-12.15 Keyboards(musical) for beginners.

Creche

A creche is available for all our classes

Enrolment

Tuesday 30 August 10- 12 & 2-4

Wednesday 31 August 10-12 only.

Fees

Modules £18 registration plus £8 per Module.

Leisure £18.50 per Term

Senior Citizens £8.50 per term

Special offer- half price for second and subsequent classes.

UB40 Free

Creche 50p. per class.

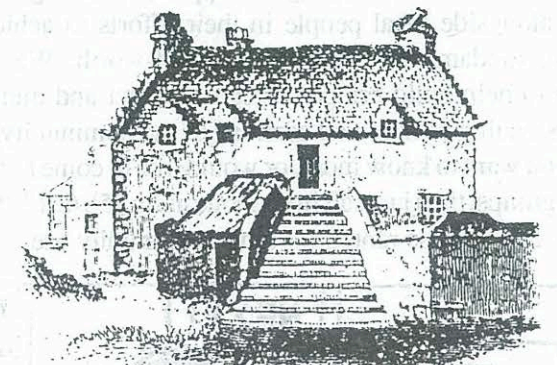
For more information

Phone Jane Meagher 556 2651

Highers

The school offers a wide range of S E B Highers to adults alongside our Senior Pupils during the day. The creche is available and courses are free except for a small examination fee. If you are interested please phone Jane Meagher on 556 2651 to arrange an appointment.

DISCOVERING OLD BROUGHTON



A ten week course for people interested in uncovering Broughton's rich and varied past.

The class will be on Monday evenings, 7-9pm in The Flat, 10 Broughton Street. Starting Monday 5th September Cost - £10 (senior citizens £5, UB40 free) For more details please phone Jane Meagher (556 2651) or Jonathan Hayes (556 6212)

GEEZ YOUR GIRN

Last month's girn brought a response from Michael Dixon from Barony Street.

"I agree with Alice Lauder's comments on traffic. It would indeed be wonderful if we could persuade all those commuters to come into town by bus and leave all our streets free. Our neighbourhood does not have a traffic problem of its own. Instead it is burdened with the commuters that drive into Edinburgh and the traffic that has been displaced by the traffic management policies in the city centre."

This month's moaner is Evelyn Graham, Bellevue Road.

"Year after year, I see from Press adverts that schools like Craigmount High have all sorts of exciting activities for adults over the weekends. Why not Drummond? It's supposed to be our community school, isn't it?"

Well, Drummond?

WHICH IS YOUR ASSOCIATION?

- Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association covers all the Bellevues and Claremonts, Rodney Street and West Annandale Street. Annual membership fee is £3 per household or £2 for an individual – phone 556 5923, or 556 0423 or 556 0903.
- Gayfield Association's catchment includes the east side of Broughton Street, East London Street, Annandale Street, across Leith Walk to include Windsor Street, and up to Picardy Place. Annual membership £1 – phone 557 5003.
- North East New Town Association draws members from the area including Broughton Street, Albany Street, Barony Street, London Street, Drummond Place, Bellevue Crescent and Summerbank. Annual membership fee £2 – phone 556 6512.
- New Town, Broughton and Pilrig Community Council members are elected, but any local resident is welcome to bring issues to their attention or attend their monthly meetings – phone 556 4389.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

If you have dates for local events in October, please let us know as soon as possible

Monday 5th September New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council meets at Drummond Community High, 7.30pm

Thursday 15th September Spurtle meeting at THE EDGE cafe Broughton Street, 8pm.

Saturday, 1st October March and demo to defend the Unemployed Workers Centre, provisional assembly point, Barony Street at 2pm.

Every Monday Open meeting at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Broughton Street, downstairs, 7.30pm.

Every Tuesday Users' meeting at the Centre, 103 Broughton Street, 6pm. New people very welcome.

Every Wednesday District Councillor Margaret McGregor's surgery, Drummond Community High School, 6-9pm.

CLUBS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

If you've got information to pass on, send it in.

- Over 50s' Outdoor Club leaves from Drummond High for walks etc. Phone the School office for details (556 2651)
- Drummond Tennis Club, off Scotland Street Lane, open April till October – apply for details to the Club or phone 556 0423
- Edinburgh Sketching Club (they paint too!) – phone 556 0423 for more details
- Dancing at the Function Hall, Annandale Street Bus Garage, every evening except Wednesday – starting 7pm. Why not go along and make your own enquiries? Names to ask for are Tom Robertson, Jack Maskery, Mrs Ewart and Mrs Scott. (NB. No parking – take care, and follow the signs for 'Function Hall')

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Broughton • Gayfield

NEWS VIEWS
ACTION

Bellevue • Canonmills

FREE Issue number 8

September 1994

EVICTION – Notice served on Centre

Lothian Region have issued an eviction court summons for 103 Broughton Street, for 16th September. Sheriff officers and police could try to evict The Centre two weeks after this date.

One of the voluntary workers at the Centre told the Spurtle: "Brian Cavanagh, chair of the Region's Social Work Committee, claims that by keeping the Centre open we are stopping any evaluation of its future community use, and therefore the Centre must be shut down. This is nonsense. The Committee are welcome to visit the Centre at any time to consider its current and potential uses.

The Region should drop their eviction threats, and seriously consider the application from the local Community Council to take out an interim lease on the building. The Community Council's proposal would mean that the Centre's existing services would continue, and new facilities, such as more child care, be developed.

Our cheap cafe is a valuable local service and a lifeline for many unemployed and homeless people. Many Community groups use our meeting rooms, increasing numbers are seeking advice and solidarity on benefits, poll tax and council tax problems. Our creche is being used this autumn by Women Onto Work for their latest course. The centre has really been buzzing during the Festival with our peoples art project. It is criminal that the Region should be trying to destroy this valuable community activity, all self managed and self funded. We urge all in the Broughton area to join us in making sure that the Centre stays open".

A march and demo are planned for Saturday, 1st October – provisional assembly point and time Barony Street at 2pm. The afternoon's activities will include speakers, acoustic music and the cafe in the Centre, followed by a major social event in the evening.

Meanwhile, anyone wanting to help defend the Centre should call there and ask how they can help. And from Friday 30th September join the occupation of The Centre to stop the eviction. (phone 557 0718)

ORKESTAR SHOIPONJA DE TIRANA



Albania comes to Broughton – see page 3.

Don't let them in

Some non-payers in Broughton have had letters from the sheriff officers again recently. So here's a reminder of what to do if this happens to you.

If you get a letter saying they're coming to do a pointing, and they give you a date, that's straightforward – it's time to get organised by contacting your local anti-poll tax group. They will be able to advise you on what preparations to make.

But if your letter says they're coming to do a pointing "the week beginning...", that's a con, it doesn't make any difference. They can come to your door and say they've come to do a pointing, and if you let them in they can do it. But they could do that anyway, without the letter. Don't let them in. They can't force entry unless you've had a letter giving a specific day, at least four days beforehand.

For more information or advice, phone 556 0903.



Hassles with Restart interviews?