

Spurtle

BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No 112 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

GARDENING COMPETITION

Make Broughton bloom

Do you have a hanging basket? A wee front garden? An allotment? Business premises? Or do you help maintain a community space of some kind? Here's your chance to win a prize – and help make Broughton a better place to live in.

The City Council has launched an 'Edinburgh in Bloom Gardening Competition', with gift vouchers from Dobbies Garden World as prizes. Entry is free, and you can choose from a wide variety of categories to enter, including:

- best front garden (viewed from road)
- best hanging basket or container display
- best wildlife garden
- best allotment
- best place of worship
- best community garden or project
- best school garden or grounds
- best frontage of a retail premises.

Competition judges will look at such things as the design and quality of floral displays; the use of shrubs and

trees; how clean the area is; the use of sustainable practices including recycling; benefits offered to wildlife and biodiversity; and who has been involved in community areas.

The judges will visit your garden or whatever in July (schools in June); someone will contact you at the end of September to let you know whether you've been shortlisted; and winners will receive their gift vouchers at an awards ceremony in the autumn.

Closing date for entering the competition is 28th May. To get an entry form and more details, phone the Co-ordinator on 469 5196; e-mail her at karen.hay@edinburgh.gov.uk; or fill in the online entry form at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/keepedinburghgrowing

Spurtle will be organising a local prize for any category in which no one from Broughton wins the Edinburgh-wide competition. So if you do enter the City Council's competition, please let us know.



Win a bottle of wine! Tell us exactly where you'd see this in Broughton. The winner will be drawn from all correct answers received by 2pm on Friday, 26th March. You can post or hand in your answer to **Spurtle** c/o Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place, EH1 3RX; fax it to 556 0903; or email broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk

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**March
2004**

**tel - 556 0903
556 7727**

BRIEFLY

Broughton Village Association invites you to an open meeting on Wednesday, **10th March**. An illustrated talk 'Village to New Town – the Story of Old Broughton' by Hamish Scott. Wine and refreshments – donations towards the work of the Association welcome. At Broughton St Mary's Centre, East Broughton Place (just off the far end of Broughton Place), 7.30pm.

This month the whole of Broughton Street will be resurfaced. Work will start on 7th March, at the London Street roundabout, and continue for three weeks: 7pm to 5am Monday to Friday and, depending on progress, Saturdays and Sundays too. Junctions with other streets will have to be closed in turn as the work progresses. The City Council says noise will be kept to a minimum, with noisier operations stopping by 11pm each night.

Blight or blessing? Tesco have applied for an Off Sale Licence, prior to opening an 'Express' outlet in the former Poundstretcher premises on the Leith Walk/Brunswick Road corner. In the short-run this may mean more choice for shoppers; but what effect will it have on small local shops?

Wimpey's plans to build flats on the former Lothian Buses site at Shrub Place have been turned down three times by the Council's Planning Committee – thanks to spirited opposition by Pilrig residents and others. Now Wimpey have appealed to the Scottish Executive: a public hearing will start on Tuesday, 9th March, 10am in McDonald Road Library; it will sit daily for around 14 days, and is open to the public.

We hear there are **problems over disabled access** at Drummond Community High. After the recent multi-million-pound PPP refurbishment, that does seem extraordinary.

**DRUMMOND STUDENTS
MEET AUTHOR KEITH GRAY**

'Books are all Lies !'

Drummond Community High's Librarian, Annie Scanlon, reports:

The author Keith Gray is well known to all children who like a good adventure story. He has published over ten books with popular titles like *Malarkey*, *Warehouse*, *Happy*, *Creepers* and *10,000*. His books are very popular at DCHS and our S2 students were delighted when they had the opportunity to meet him at the newly refurbished McDonald Road Public Library.

Keith kept his audience spellbound with all sorts of stories from his books and from his own life. Here are four of



the student's impressions.

'When we arrived the author was talking about his books and how he liked Edinburgh. The funny part was when he talked about his parrot which could mimic him. He read from his story Malarkey. He stopped at a really exciting part which made me want to read the book. I enjoyed the visit and I'm looking forward to another one.'

'There was a man called Keith Gray. He spoke about his life and he joked

and told us lies. He said a book was just one big lie. He also said he hated reading when he was young. I did like him though because he was a cool guy, funny and cheeky. So if there was another book author thing and it was Keith Gray I would go and see him and get his autograph.'

'I was sitting enjoying it because he was making up stories. It was like I was there and that it was all happening to me. I quite like his books, his imagination and all that. He speaks well and makes lots of jokes.'

'He talked about what inspired him to be an author. I liked the book about the boys being chased round the school. I think he was pretty funny and had a good sense of humour.'

Thank-you to Mrs Nesbit's class for their comments, particularly **Chris McFarlane, Samaira Pervaiz, Richard Kennedy and Khalim Soltau**. Thanks also go to City of Edinburgh Public Libraries Youth Services who set up the visit.

COMMUNAL WHEELIE BINS

Bellevue welcomes bins, but-



Bellevue residents we've talked to have generally welcomed the arrival of communal bins – but sometimes

with reservations. Ken McKay of Melgund Terrace writes:

The new bins are terribly noisy, they keep banging in the night. It's very loud, and there's no way to stop the banging. Of course, it's due to the wind; but still, drives you crazy.

Also, the bin men don't sit them down on the road right! Sometimes they're on the pavement, and the old people have to reach up and lift the lid – which can be tricky for some of them.

Spurtle asked the City Council to comment and got this response from Executive Member for Environmental Services, Councillor Cairns:

Following the raising of these concerns, officers from the department will inspect the containers in question to ensure that they are functioning normally. It can often be the case that a minor adjustment to the lid of a bin solves the problem or another solution

can be to put rubber dampers on a bin to reduce the noise.

Officers will also closely monitor the placement of containers after servicing to ensure that they are put back in the correct position, which is onto the road and not the pavement.

Spurtle is your local community paper.

We aim to inform on 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.

We invite you to contact us and:

- * react to what you've read in Spurtle
- * 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 letter box at any time

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

LOCAL HISTORY

Memories of Broughton's theatre



Dorothy Newlands was born in Barony Street, moved to London Street when she was six and then on to Broughton Street

when she married – where she stayed until emigrating to Davidson's Mains in 1970. Her father, Jack Trehwitt, was Stage Manager at the Theatre Royal at the top of Broughton Street (burnt out in 1946).

I was associated with the Theatre Royal from the time I was born – or should I say before I was born, as my mother was pregnant with me and was in the chorus of the Christmas pantomime. That year it happened to be 'Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves' – I was known as the 41st thief.

The Theatre was situated in Broughton Street, right next door to St Mary's Cathedral – rather odd neighbours, when you come to think of it. Broughton Street at this point was quite narrow and the trams had to go into one set of rails instead of two to get past the Cathedral and Theatre. The Theatre stretched the length of Little King Street.

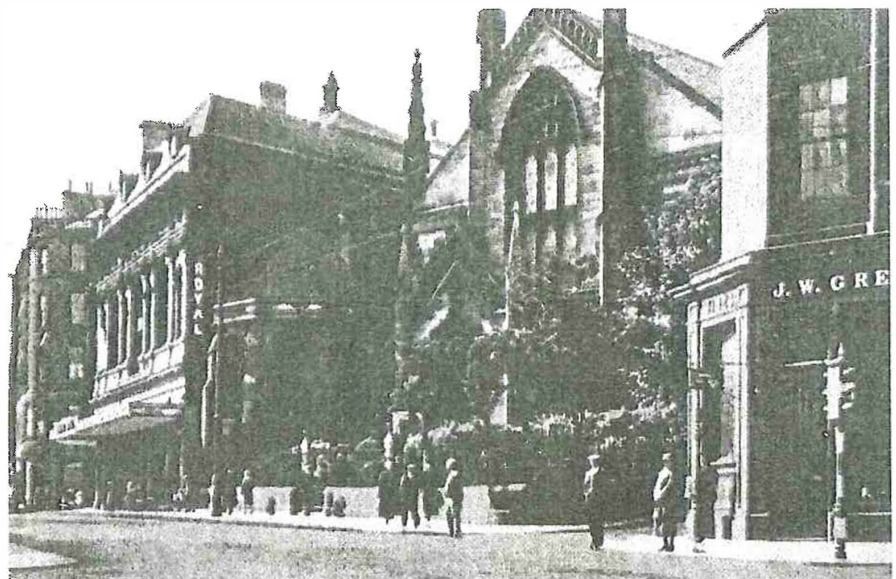
Friday or Saturday nights were my nights at the Theatre. I would sit in a corner at the side of the stage to watch the show. I don't know if anyone remembers, but each act or item had a number on the programme; the corresponding number would come up in lights each side of the stage. When it was my theatre night I used to get the job of changing the numbers electronically so that they would come up for the audience. This would be helping my Dad.

My father would often receive letters from acts requesting digs. There

were a number of landladies around the Barony Street and Union Street areas. I would be sent with a letter to Mrs So-and-So to see if she could accommodate. I always got a tip from the Landlady.

There was a circus appearing at the Royal, and the elephants and ponies were stabled in Pickfords Depository in New Broughton. The animals were walked up Albany Lane and York Lane to get to the Theatre.

(Extracts from a talk Dorothy gave Broughton History Society in January.)



Theatre Royal and Cathedral, Broughton Street, circa 1923. There had been places of entertainment on this site since the 18th century.

BROUGHTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fundraising for playground equipment

Julie McKinna of Broughton Primary reports: The Parent Staff Association are having 6 months of events to raise money to refurbish the school playground.

Broughton is one of the few schools in Edinburgh that has a special needs unit within a mainstream school. We want playground equipment that will provide valuable exercise for all

children and will promote the school's policy of positive integration. The playground is open out of school hours and provides a valuable resource for the whole community.

The PSA have already raised about 25% of the money required, but there is still a lot to be done if the work is to be carried out as planned during the summer school holidays this year.

Fundraising events will include a Ceilidh on 5th March; a Silent Auction; a Summer Fair/Car Boot Sale in June; and, on the last Friday of every month, refreshments and home bakery served in the school dining-hall between 11.45am and 12.45pm.

The Parent Staff Association are relying on local support for these events. If you are interested in finding out more or making a contribution, please contact the School on 556 7028.

Work in progress

Davie Thomson of Redbraes Residents reports:

Redbraes Community Workshops are in the process of putting together their programme of activities for the coming year. These cover 'clubs' from the toddlers to the elderly of the community: computer access, playgroups, craft classes etc. There will also be hairdressing facilities for the senior citizens. We have the Pop-In Café open three days a week and with the terracing being installed, hopefully within the next few weeks, access will be easier for the handicapped.

We now have the first stage of the park project completed. Last week saw the planting of the avenue of trees to form what will be an attractive walkway when completed. Thanks again to Scott Thomson, Bill Wilson and their team from the Parks Department. Work will be starting on reinstating the borders and edgings to enable the pathways to be upgraded. This summer will be a turning-point in making the park a more attractive and functional part of the community.

Why not come along and see what can be done to retain the natural open spaces in your area of the community?

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association

Yvonne Pryor 466 1144

Broughton Road Group

Pat Eccles 556 7550

Broughton Village Association

Stephanie Harvey 557 2762 (daytime)

Friends of Hoptoun Crescent

Garden

Mitchell Manson 557 1933

Redbraes Residents Association

George Hosey 467 6151

New Town Broughton and Pilrig

Community Council

Jessica Miller 558 1025

Broughton History Society

John Dickie 556 0903



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86-88 Brunswick Street, EH7 5HU
Tel: 0131-558 8358 Fax: 0131-557 6781

Saturday surgeries:

9am Leith Library
10.30am Royston/Wardieburn
Community Centre
12pm Stockbridge Library



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: Jessica Miller,
Secretary, 558 1025**

Mark Lazarowicz Member of Parliament for Edinburgh North & Leith



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Friday advice sessions:
4.00pm Stockbridge Library
5.30pm Constituency Office