

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  
PHONE and FAX :- 556 7727/0903

**BROUGHTON Spurtle** is now on the World Wide Web on [www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk](http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk)

**BROUGHTON Spurtle** is printed on recycled paper.

**COPY DEADLINE FOR MARCH EDITION of Spurtle**  
Thursday 20th February

**THINKING OF LETTING YOUR FLAT?**

We always require properties to meet constant demand  
**Broughton Property Management**  
61 Broughton Street  
Tel 0131 478 7222  
E-mail: [broughton\\_prop@ednet.co.uk](mailto:broughton_prop@ednet.co.uk)



**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.**

**ROWANBANK FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS LIMITED**

*Independent Financial Advice*

- Savings and Investments
- Pensions
- Life cover
- Income/Illness/Unemployment Protection
- Mortgages and Re-mortgages

For your **free, no obligation** consultation call now

Nick Manuel BSc, PhD, MLIA (dip)  
0131 312 7915 or 07947 822 323  
54 Main Street, Davidsons Mains,  
Edinburgh EH4 5AA

Rowanbank Financial Consultants Ltd are regulated by the Financial Services Authority

**Rutherford Cleaning Services**  
**NO TIME FOR HOUSEWORK?**

**Specialist in domestic cleaning**  
Debbie Rutherford  
Tel. No. 0131 476 0201  
Mobile 07747 121494

**KIMBELL JOINERY SERVICES**

Your local tradesman  
All insurance work, bookcases, cellar lining, general joinery, floorsanding  
- City and Guilds qualified -  
**556 8821**  
**WWW.KJS.BUN.COM**

**WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES**

Picture Framing • Keys Cut  
**Shoe repair service**  
Timber Boards Cut to Size  
Monday-Saturday  
9.30am-5.30pm (Closed Wed. pm)  
109 Broughton Street  
556 9672

**SIRACH COMPUTER TRAINING**

*Low cost computer training solutions*

Are you looking for computer training?

*Do you want to know how to use your computer better?*

**Computer lessons available from as low as £25 for 8 hours!!**

Drop in and visit us at  
26 Forth Street

Or telephone us on 477 8645  
Or email us at: [Info@Sirach.co.uk](mailto:Info@Sirach.co.uk)

Or visit our website at  
[www.sirach.co.uk](http://www.sirach.co.uk)

**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  
Email: [lazarowiczm@parliament.uk](mailto:lazarowiczm@parliament.uk)  
Please contact Constituency Office for  
details of Advice Sessions.

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

**Free No 100 Independent**

**BROUGHTON ROAD**

## Council ditches plan to sell off play park to developers

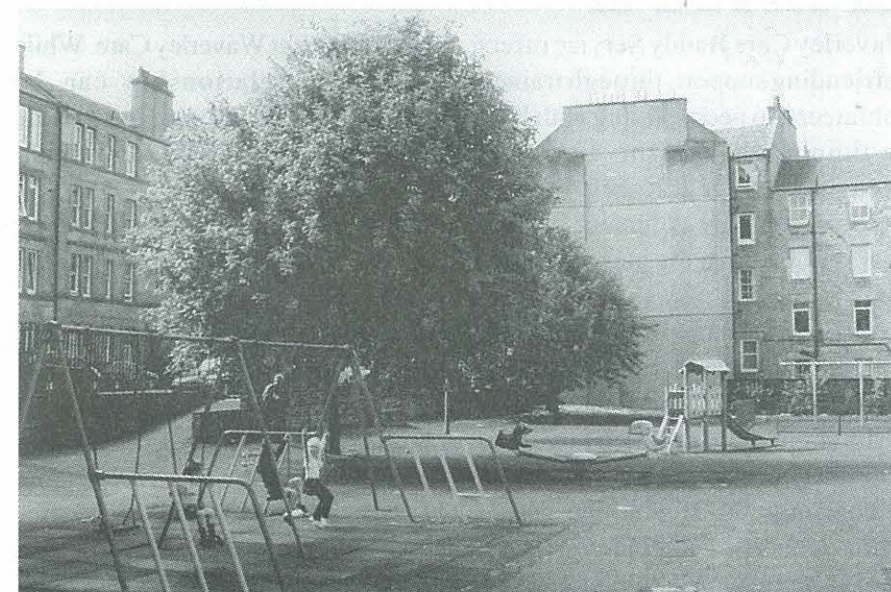
City Council officials were all set to recommend the sale of Broughton Road play park to a meeting of the Council Executive on 11th February. The deal proposed would have meant the developer getting the play park site to build flats on; in exchange the Council would have got £510,000, a new play park behind the flats less than half the size of the existing one, and some new equipment for the teenage play area at George V Park at Canonmills.

The news came as a shock to the Community Council, who made their opposition to any such sell-off clear to both developer and City Council away back in May last year. Meanwhile a group of community councillors and local residents have been working on a plan to transform Broughton Road, including the play park, through tree planting and other projects. They've hired a

landscape architect, worked with local schools, explored sources of funding – and the City Council's own local development committee has actually provided some funds for all this!

Local councillor Trevor Davies was equally 'surprised and dismayed' when he heard about the proposed deal. **Spurtle** prepared a front page story to rally opposition: "**Spurtle** believes the bottom line must be no net loss of public open space in Broughton!" Off it went to the printer.

Then came the good news. Just out from a meeting with officials and Broughton Road activists at the City Chambers, Councillor Davies phoned us to say the deal was off! There will be no sale. The play park will stay. City Council officials will support local folk as they develop detailed design proposals from their master plan for the various parts of the overall project.



A master plan for greening Broughton Road was adopted at a public meeting held at Broughton Primary School on 27th January. £5000 has already been obtained for a row of lime trees at the Bowling Green; the headteacher at Broughton Primary is going to apply for funding for matching trees in the front playground – creating an avenue of trees along that stretch of the road. Now a Project Group will seek more funding to improve other sites. And a Clean-Up is planned for Sunday, 6th April – all welcome. For further information on the Broughton Road Project, phone Pat Eccles, 556 7550.

## BRIEFLY

Bellevue parents are worried about the Cochran Terrace steps down into Drummond Community High's playground, closed since building work began on the school. For many years **the steps have provided a safe route** through to the primary school in East London Street: they thought they were going to re-open last October.

*They're also concerned about parking on the zigzag lines outside the Bellevue Place gate to the Drummond playground. But now they're hoping joint action by the two local residents associations, local councillor Trevor Davies and the community police officer will put an end to this hazard for pedestrians.*

Readers may have been surprised (even alarmed) by a notice displayed outside Mansfield Traquair Centre, announcing application for a Public House Licence. The solicitors involved have written to assure us that **there will be no pub in the building**. A 'public house' licence is the only kind of liquor licence which will allow alcohol to be served either with or without a meal – essential for corporate functions, banquets and other such events.

*Last year the City Council approved the licence for a gay sauna in Broughton Market. The sauna duly opened in May. But only for four days: a neighbouring business appealed to the Sheriff Court against the Council's decision, and the sauna had to close again pending the case coming to court. It was an awful long wait, but early this year the Sheriff Court rejected the objector's appeal and the sauna is now free to open again.*

We hear that the Head Teacher at Drummond Community High narrowly escaped injury when the ceiling in her office collapsed!

*Broughton and St Mary's Church now have a web-site offering background information about the church, and dates of forthcoming events:*

[www.broughtonstmarys.org.uk](http://www.broughtonstmarys.org.uk).

## HELP AT HAND FOR PSORIASIS SUFFERERS

# Call for new charity



*Janice Johnson of Bellevue Road writes about the national support group she's setup:*

Psoriasis is a common, non-contagious, chronic auto-immune disorder of the skin. It affects around 3 in 100 people in the UK. It is very variable – red scaling patches, often on the scalp, elbows, etc. It is often itchy and sore. It can look unsightly, so people often hide it, as there is still an ignorance of this common condition.

It is actually just a speeding up of the skin cell layers, which renew too quickly. There is a genetic element. Stress and illness can make it worse; sunshine helps many sufferers. Treatments involve coal tar, photo-therapy at hospital, and many new creams which work well and don't smell. Sometimes people go into a dermatology ward to have intensive treatment.

Around 20% of psoriasis sufferers have the complication of psoriatic arthritis – 'PA' – which causes inflammation of the joints and tendons.

I have had mild psoriasis for 41 years, and PA for 28! The inflammation in the joints is very painful, and is now giving me some deformity in hands and feet. At times, even turning a tap on is painful. It also causes fatigue. It's similar to rheumatic disease.

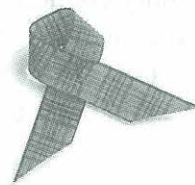
These conditions have a low profile in Scotland – there is no dedicated Scots charity. But I started a local support group five years ago, PSALV (Psoriasis Scotland Arthritis Link Volunteers), and we now plan to obtain charity status. We aim to raise awareness of psoriasis and PA all over Scotland, improve liaison between specialists, and offer support and information to people with the problem. We already have medical backing. Help is always needed with fund raising and secretarial assistance!

One small example of the problems we with PA face: because of the arthritis in my feet and ankles I now cannot get nice shoes easily – and with my daughter's wedding fairly soon, this is upsetting!

*Phone Janice on 558 7221, or go to [www.psoriasisScotland.org.uk](http://www.psoriasisScotland.org.uk) for more information.*

## SUPPORT FOR FOLK WITH HIV

# More Buddies wanted



Waverley Care Buddy Service offers befriending support, through trained volunteers, to people living with HIV in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Broughton resident Robert Pollock has been a Buddy volunteer for five years. What have the gains been for him?

"I get satisfaction from being able to help someone during a difficult period in their life. I contribute directly to the community in which I live, and hope that in my own small way I help to challenge the stigma that people living with HIV continue to face. I have gained new skills through training

opportunities at Waverley Care. While my Buddy relationship can be challenging at times, the whole experience has been extremely rewarding and valuable."

Waverley Care are currently looking for new volunteers. Training is "in-depth, challenging, and hugely enjoyable", with ongoing support, further training opportunities and expenses. The next induction course is this March-April. For more information call Tony Stevenson (Buddy Service Co-ordinator) on 441 5405, or e-mail [tonyandbuddies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tonyandbuddies@yahoo.co.uk).

## McDONALD ROAD

# Double parking

*Paul Harris of McDonald Road calls for action on a persistent problem in his street – and elsewhere in Broughton:*

I write regarding the almost endemic situation now in McDonald Road, where careless drivers persist in double parking their vehicles next to others parked in designated spaces, making it impossible for drivers to move out of these spaces.

Is it not high-time the law took action against these persistent offenders and started uplifting the

obstructing vehicles? It is bad enough driving around trying to find a space without having to hang around whilst the owners of these obstructing vehicles can be traced before you can go about your business.

The pattern is repeated by the same offenders over and over again. I appeal to the Authorities to take action now against these repeat offenders, before others follow suit and aggravation becomes the norm.

## WAR ON IRAQ?

# Local MP tells us where he stands

**Spurtle:** Do you think war against Iraq may become justifiable?

**Mark Lazarowicz:** The overwhelming priority must be to avoid war if at all possible. Military action could only be considered as a last resort if either: (1) clear evidence of Iraqi possession of weapons of mass destruction is uncovered; and/or (2) the UN weapons inspectors report obstruction or lack of cooperation in their work.

**Spurtle:** However, we understand that you believe any action against Iraq should only be taken in the context of UN approval?

**M.L.:** Yes – not just because of the crisis in Iraq, but because the long-term security of us all depends on strengthening the international rule of law through bodies such as the United Nations.

**Spurtle:** But the Prime Minister has now made it clear that he reserves his options – there could be circumstances in which he would go to war with Iraq even if the UN Security Council had not passed a resolution specifically sanctioning military action. Do you agree with him on this particular point?

**M.L.:** I do not believe that this country should take part in any war against

Iraq without a clear mandate from the UN, through a 'second resolution'.

**Spurtle:** Supposing it did come to that – the Prime Minister declared his intention to go to war in the absence of specific UN approval. What would you do?

**M.L.:** The Prime Minister has made it clear that he would want any military action to have the support of a second resolution, so I think it is unlikely that the situation you describe is likely to happen. Personally speaking, I could not support military action against Iraq without a second resolution – if I was asked to do so. Again, I emphasise that every effort must be made to avoid war, not to bring it about. We must never forget the awful consequence of any war.



## BRIEFLY

'Heraldry and the Lyon Court' is the talk at Broughton History Society's next meeting: **Monday, 10th February, 7.15** (tea or coffee) for 7.30pm in Drummond Community High School.

*Diane Smith is a City Council official known locally for the support she's given to 'Clean-Up Broughton' efforts. Now we hear she's won a national award from Keep Scotland Beautiful, recognising her work in helping the Council improve local environments, particularly the control of litter. Congratulations!*

Local MP Mark Lazarowicz has had a letter from Europcar's European HQ, apologising for cars still being parked on the pavement in front of their East London Street premises and promising to deal with the problem: in the light of past promises, **don't hold your breath!** Meanwhile Councillor Davies is pressing City Council officials to investigate if there really isn't any way a pedestrian right-of-way can be enforced.

*Last year Claremont Court residents were feeling upbeat about work being done to their homes; now they are despondent. Some of the work on the buildings that was supposed to be completed by August is still not done; and some of what has been done is poor – you can see the difference between the good quality of the East Claremont Street frontage and the rest, says Irene Fekete of the residents' association. She's also furious that the landscaping carried out goes right against the expressed wishes of the residents.*

The Friends of Hopetoun Garden plan a **clean-up in late March**. Phone Eileen Dickie on 556 0903 if you want to know more about their activities.

*Third time lucky? After being turned down twice last year, Wimpey have put in another planning application for the former Lothian Buses site at Shrubhill – plus one for the smaller site next door currently occupied by the Freemasons' Social Club. Harald Tobermann of Pilrig Residents says they've improved on previous efforts: but "a development that is only just not quite bad enough to reject would not be acceptable for this prominent site".*