

Belle's View



Hi fans

It's official! Summer is here! Cast they cloots and get on the string bikini!

Ooooh, this warm weather puts me right in the mood for the great outdoors, and conveniently, **The Outhouse in Broughton Street Lane** has now started its Sunday summer barbecues. The bar is open from 12, with a free BBQ from 1pm, with sounds supplied by DJs **Spaceface** and **Tokyo Blu**. Next dates are July 4, Aug 1 and Aug 29. *Hot dog!*

Estelle and I were thrilled to be invited along to a local event recently, which was billed as a cheese feast. Partial as we are to a sliver or two of gorgonzola, we beetled along looking

forward to an evening of choice dairy produce, perhaps even cubed and impaled on cocktail sticks and stuck in half a grapefruit to make a frighteningly realistic hedgehog. Imagine our surprise when we arrived at the venue, the **Mood Club**, in **Omni Centre**, to discover that it was a night of cheezy tunes from the 70s 80s and 90s, by DJs **Polysuper Pete**, **Ali** and others! On every Monday, 10pm-3am for fromage frolics!

Attention all girls! Check out **Gertrude and Lily**, a new shopping experience on **Broughton Street**. This bijou boutique is bursting at the seams with interesting fairtrade bags, clothes, cards and gifts from Denmark, Sweden, Indonesia, China and other far flung places. They have a discount of 15% off bags over the summer, so if you're needing something new to dance around down at the discotheque, get down there!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

Contacts

Spurtle - 556 0903 or 556 7727
e-mail - broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk
address -
c/o Broughton Books
2a Broughton Place EH1 3RX
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
Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493
Redbraes Residents Association
George Hosey 467 6151
New Town Broughton and Pilrig
Community Council
Jessica Miller 558 1025

Malcolm Chisholm MSP Edinburgh North and Leith



Constituency Office:
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

Mark Lazarowicz MP for Edinburgh North & Leith



Constituency Office: 86-88 Brunswick St
Tel: 0131 557 0577 Edinburgh,
Fax: 0131 557 5759 EH7 5HU
Email: mark@marklazarowicz.org.uk
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The Community Council represents the views of local residents to Edinburgh City Council.

We are looking for a Secretary to help with the administration of the Community Council. This is a great volunteer opportunity for anyone wanting to get involved in the community and make a difference. Please contact Jessica Miller
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email: jessicacurelop@hotmail.com

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Spurtle

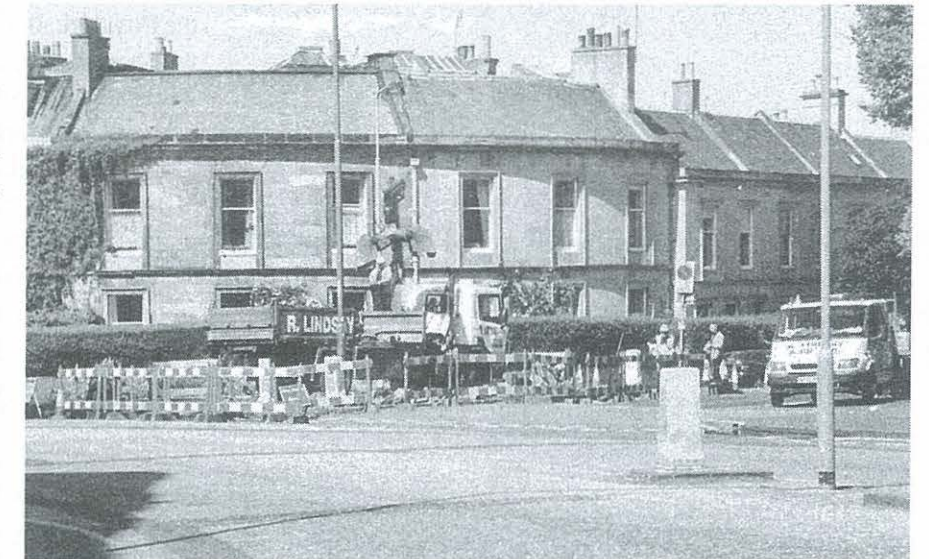
BROUGHTON'S INDEPENDENT STIRRER

No 115 broughton.spurtle@blueyonder.co.uk Free

Roadworks bungle 'hard to tolerate'

By any reckoning it's been a pretty inglorious saga. Our photo shows work finally under way on reinstatement of the traffic island at the junction of Bellevue Place and Mansfield Place.

The Council explained to **Spurtle** that, as a condition of getting the contract for building and upgrading schools throughout the city including Drummond Community High School, construction firm Amey were required to improve road safety features in the area. Though consent is required from the roads authority to ensure that alterations conform to road safety and construction standards, Amey simply went ahead with demolition of the existing installation without informing the Council or seeking approval. On finding this out, the Council stopped the work and, only then, were Amey required to submit formal designs and seek authority to proceed. Designs having eventually been agreed, even then, dates given to the Council by Amey for the work to be done were not honoured and



promises of workmen on site did not materialise. The Council tells **Spurtle** that that they have found all this 'highly frustrating' and suggest that readers will find it 'increasingly hard to tolerate'. This, at least, is accurate.

A major pedestrian route, particularly for nearby schools, and a hazardous junction at any time, it has been left simply uncontrolled while procedures, precautions and promises were flouted. This should

See you around - on CCTV

The city's streets surveillance network will be extended very shortly to Broughton. Observers (even without hi-tec aids) of the local scene may

have noticed a seemingly redundant pole on the south island of the Broughton Street roundabout and a solitary notice at the west end of Drummond Place signalling the operation of CCTV cameras in the neighbourhood. Ever curious, **Spurtle** contacted the joint Police/Council unit who keep their eye on these things. During the week starting 7 June, a new camera will be found atop the pole and several more

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tel - 556 0903
556 7727

have been unthinkable in such a major and costly city-wide undertaking and one that already is not without its critics on the whole principle of private involvement in public works.

Though at the time of writing there seems (again) to be a marked lack of activity, the latest word is that the island should be back in place in 'a couple of weeks', completed to the highest standard. If not, there really will be more questions to ask.

advisory notices will go up within about a 200-metre radius. A two-week trial and adjustment period will follow and, after that, the city's Anti-Social Behaviour Team will hope to have another facility at their disposal for the good order of the neighbourhood. Protection or intrusion? Opinions are divided. Let **Spurtle** know what you think. Details of how to contact us can be found on the back page.

Planning ahead

The Broughton Network



New and affordable housing is needed. But there is a real fear in Broughton that unacceptable over-development of sites in areas simply inadequate to the purpose could be

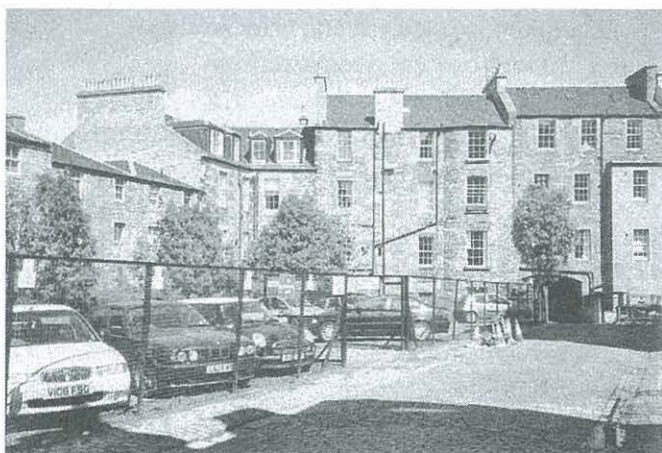
leading to the very city-centre blight that we are trying in other ways to avoid.

On the initiative of local councillor Trevor Davies, the Broughton Network was set up last year, an informal meeting of local bodies, on occasion with Council officials, with an interest in 'looking ahead, before things happen' on a wide range of issues. Needless to say, planning has been high on the agenda. One large potential site discussed is at the Powderhall incinerator which, if the Council move out, will become a major focus of attention. Next to valuable green space in St Mark's park and the adjoining bowling and putting green, with the Water of Leith nearby, and with an already fragile roads and services network around it, it simply cannot be allowed to fall victim to yet another extended battle which, at the end, leaves everyone the less for it. Just one example, but a good one, of the need for all of us to think ahead.

A couple of cases in point

Developers can be nothing if not determined. Bellevue and Claremont Residents first objected to the bad design of plans for the corner of East Claremont Street and West Annandale Street over three and a half years ago! They were relieved, then, that at the third time of trying, the latest plan was also rejected by the Council, on 12 May. But still, this does not stop the developer trying again. And so, it goes on.

At the other end of Broughton, it's only about a year since the car park site in Broughton Street Lane, shown in our photograph, first raised alarm. This originally mews back lane, is the main source of light and privacy for the flats and back gardens of Forth and Union Streets. Already despoiled and subject to other increasing traffic and commercial disturbance from new development, the current proposal is for a 3-storey with basement block of flats here. Existing flat dwellers



maintain this will totally destroy what amenity remains to them and increase congestion and pedestrian risk. Does this sound like city-centre blight in the making?

A way ahead?

Can we pin some hope on current Scottish Executive consultation on 'Rights of Appeal in Planning' brought to our attention by local MSP, Malcolm Chisholm? Consideration is being given to whether 'third parties' – neighbours, residents and the like (or, in other words, you and me) – should be given a right of appeal on decisions made by the Council as planning authority. At the moment, a developer can appeal to Scottish Ministers against plans turned down by the Council. But others can't appeal when planning permission is granted.

Why not take the chance to contribute to the consultation.

Contact information is as follows -

- The consultation document is available on the SE website, www.scotland.gov.uk/about/Planning/papers.aspx or phone Richard West, 0131 244 7060
- Send responses by email, rightofappeal@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or to Richard West, Rights of Appeal in Planning, Scottish Executive Development Dept, Area 2-H (Bridge), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, by 30 July.

MANSFIELD TRAQUAIR CENTRE

Container unit 'crucial for restoration work'

Spurtle has long supported the restoration and reoccupation of the Mansfield Traquair building as a feature at the heart of Broughton. It was hoped therefore that concerns about the appearance some months ago of a container unit dubbed 'obtrusive and unsightly' by local residents would prove unfounded. Set back from the East London Street

gate to the Centre where access is easiest, the unit stores scaffolding and equipment 'crucial for restoration work' on the murals in the church but is already showing signs of rusting. **Spurtle** understands that it can be on site for 5 years before it stops being 'temporary', though the Centre anticipates that the need for it



should be over by August 2005. Residents group, the Broughton Village Association, accepts that the work must go on but is suggesting that as a 'semi-permanent' structure it could simply be painted to landscape it into its surroundings.

MOTORISTS v PEDESTRIANS

Obstruction? Who me?

There is much that could be said (most of it best not) about the reconfiguration of the roads in the area, but all credit to the Council for following through on Cochran Terrace where kerb access for pedestrians was recently reinforced



by the painting of white lines to indicate where parking is an obstruction. It's just a pity then that, within 48 hours, who should turn up but those motorists who appear to be

exempt from the normal courtesies. They do say public education is the key. Happy to do our bit – the message might get through eventually.

BRIEFLY

A reminder that **Powderhall Bowling and Putting Green** is open Tues/Wed/Fri: 12 noon-4pm and 5-9pm; Sat: 11am-5pm, with help and equipment on hand. Bowling, from 90p; putting, 50p.

The Parent Staff Association at Drummond CHS is holding a Summer Fair and Car Boot Sale at the school on Sat 19 June, 10am-2pm with bouncy castle, auction, music, food and other goodies and attractions. Vans, £10; Cars, £5; Tables, £3 – details and more information from Rob Hainsworth, 556 1594.

The Hub, at the LGBT Centre, 9 Howe Street, is a new service where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people can check out the Centre's activities, health and community issues and much else, over a cup of coffee with trained helpers. Tues/Thurs, 4.30-7.30; Wed, 12.30-4.00. Information on 523 1100; info@lgbthealth.org.uk.

A 'sumptuous cream tea' is included in the price of admission (£2, adults; 50p, children) to the Summer Fair being held at Broughton St Mary's Church Hall, East Broughton Place, 2-4pm on Sat 12 June. Bric-a-brac, jewellery, plants, books, gifts, homebaking and bottle stalls.

Hoping to make her name, Bellevue 16-year old singer Catriona Mitchell will be doing her first live gig at the Claremont Bar, East Claremont Street on Fri 25 June. Catch her for her hour's performance during the music and disco night starting at 7.30pm.

Do you fancy reporting on local events, letting off steam or telling others about your secret passions and interests? Spurtle wants to hear from you! See our 'Contacts' information and get in touch.

Broughton's stately home was the subject of the competition in May's edition. It is, of course, Gayfield House in East London Street. The first lucky name out the hat was – near neighbour Bob Crombie, also of East London Street! Congratulations, the £10 prize is on its way.