

ON YOUR BIKE!



Bellevue Road resident Annie Coats is getting ready for a nine-day cycling adventure, from Petra in Jordan north around the Dead Sea to Massada in Israel.

She'll be part of a group cycling 340km in the heat, rough terrain and strenuous conditions to raise cash for the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Annie's aim is to raise £3,000 towards provision of specialist Macmillan nurses, doctors and cancer care services in the UK. She already has offers of help from Broughton Street shops and many local people. You can contact her at the Fund's office at 9 Castle Terrace, EH1 2DP, telephone 228 9328. (Cheques payable to 'Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund/Jordan')

WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing • Keys Cut
Timber Boards Cut to Size
Open Monday-Saturday
9am-6pm 109 Broughton Street
556 9672

A WALK IN THE PAST

The first event organised by the new Broughton History Society is a History Walk on 19th August. Small groups will move off from the main door of Drummond High at 7.15 and 7.30pm. At the end of the walk (about 1½ hours) there will be refreshment and conversation in a local pub.

There's no charge for the walk, but if you want to come please register beforehand - we need to be organised in small groups, each with its guide. Just phone 556 0423 or 556 0903, by Thursday, 15th August.

New! THE TAPAS TREE
No 1 Forth Street, Edinburgh
RESTAURANTE
ESPAÑOL
Open 7 days, 11 pm - 11 pm
* Tapas bar open all day
* a La Carte Restaurant
Monday to Saturday
12 noon - 2 pm, 6 pm - 10 pm
0131 556 7118
Robert Scobie, John Alvarez, Luis Letelier

THE KRIS
MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT
SUNDAY EAST WEST
BRUNCH
12noon - 5pm
OPEN 7 DAYS
BREAKFAST LUNCH
+ DINNER
39a Albany Street 556 6748

HAPPENINGS AT BROUGHTON AND ST MARY'S

Broughton and St Mary's parish church on Bellevue Crescent will be holding coffee evenings in their "Coffee Garden" behind the church every second Wednesday from 7th August to 4th September, 7pm to 8.30pm. Coffee, tea and home baking available for 50p - the chat is free, and all are welcome. In the event of bad weather, things will move indoors to the church vestibule.

Also, as part of 'Scotland's Churches Scheme', the church will be open on the four Wednesdays in August from 10am to 4pm. Tours will be available explaining the history of the church and its buildings. All welcome.

MANIK-MANIK
"All the stuff you couldn't carry home"
Ethnic Jewellery
Fabrics, Furniture
44 Broughton Street

BROUGHTON STREET BRUNCHERIE
Sandwich Bar
71 Broughton Street
Wide variety of hot and cold rolls.
Outside Catering - Business
Buffet for that special occasion
Open 7am to 4 pm. Mon to Fri,
8am to 2pm Saturday
Telephone orders welcome
phone 0131 556 9732
Quality Food
Competitive Prices
Personal Service

BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 29

August 1996

1,000 REASONS TO GIVE US BACK THAT BUS

Last month we reported on the withdrawal of the 19/39 bus service, evenings and Sundays. Since then over a thousand people have signed the protest petition. And local councillor Margaret McGregor says she's received a heap of letters on the same subject.

As we go to press, Malcolm Chisholm our local MP has just met Lothian Region Transport director Charles Evans (on Tuesday, 30th July), along with representatives of the Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association. On the same day Margaret McGregor and all the other councillors from along the 19/39 route met David Begg, the City Council's transport convenor.

Councillor McGregor took along copies of all the petition pages completed so far, to show just how strong feeling is about this issue. But

keep on collecting signatures: eventually the petition will be presented formally to LRT, with the Press invited.

LRT say the 19/39 was unworkable from a commercial point of view: it was impossible to stick to the timetable. Alternatives are being discussed. The general impression so far is that it will be an uphill struggle to get the full service restored.

The Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association will have a delegation at the City Council's Transportation Committee on 12th August, to see what they can do for us in terms of pressure on LRT or a subsidy.

One way or another, we want that service back. Is the petition enough? What else needs doing, to back up the arguments of our local representatives?



PROGRESS ON CLAREMONT TRAFFIC

Councillor McGregor has just let us know that £53,000 has been allocated from the City Council budget for traffic calming in East Claremont Street.

So we're back on track for action during the current financial year. Discussion of exactly what's to be

done with this money will continue at a public meeting called by the Residents Association for 11th September. Before that all Association members will get an outline of the officials' suggestions, with a chance to comment in writing.

London Street closure- page 2

Festival at Mansfield Place- page 3

BRIEFLY

- Still no decision from the Home Office on **John Gotip's future** in this country. Barred from seeking employment, John is now dependent on handouts from friends.
- Following our article on the **Stafford Centre** last month, the Centre (103 Broughton Street) was donated some very useful equipment. If you think you can help with arts and crafts materials or sports and games equipment, phone them on 557 0178.
- We hear that the former health clinic premises on the corner of Broughton Street and Broughton Place will shortly come alive again as a **brasserie**. Taking down the clinic partitions has revealed some of the old interior decoration, which the new occupants hope to make a feature of.
- On the other side of Broughton Street, remember how the old Blue Moon premises became The Edge, and then The Edge became Eat Out? Well, it's all change yet again: **Cafe Streuselkuchen** is due to open on Saturday, 24th August.
- Bellevue resident **Jean Bell** suggests **Spurtle** should give a welcome to the beautiful display of flowers that has appeared outside the Barony pub - we're glad to do so. Others in Broughton Street are doing their bit too, amongst them the Phoenix and Real Foods; and there are some fine window boxes round the corner in Forth Street. We look forward to seeing more additions to 'Bloomin' Broughton'!





The London Street Closure

Alan Mason chaired Broughton Primary School Board during the struggle for London Street Primary, 1991-92. 'Save Our School' is based on interviews with some of the London Street parents. **Spurtle** asked him to read the book and comment. (Save our School, local price £5, from Broughton Books, Broughton Place - or phone 556 0903.)

A BROUGHTON PRIMARY PERSPECTIVE

The first that we, the Broughton Primary School Board, heard of the potential closure of London Street Primary was through the local grapevine, not through the receipt of any consultative documents. We were however quick to obtain these, and convened a meeting for their discussion. By the time of the meeting we were aware of the reaction of London Street parents via their School Board and knew there was the potential for a battle royal. Fervour and tenacity were already showing and we knew that we would be involved.

We had no desire for change. We had no desire to see any school closure. We had no desire to see Broughton Primary grow in pupil numbers. Maintaining the status quo had never seemed so appealing! We knew it was not to be. Our task was clear - assess the potential effects on the children at Broughton Primary both now and in the future. Our position was simple - to work with London Street to avoid their closure, but if the closure were to be, then we had to ensure that the merged school won out in terms of resources.

The Consultative Document and its process were obviously a complete sham. Everyone could see that 'Educational Improvement' was being directly substituted for 'Economic Imperative' aimed at justifying a conclusion which had already been determined. We planned a rebuttal of the proposals on educational and economic grounds. On this basis we believed that the fallaciousness of the options

would be exposed, and the plan would lose credibility. We hoped to proceed from there with a reasoned negotiation.

When did it go wrong? The turning point was when battle lines became so firmly drawn between London Street School and the Education Committee, in particular on a personal level with Elizabeth Maginnis, that we now found it difficult to get straight answers to any question, and obtaining commitments was almost impossible. It even became difficult to work with the London Street Board, as in hindsight some now seem to recognise: "We got the siege mentality - everybody was out to get us and nobody wanted to help."

The process was too confrontational, too personal, too quickly. We did not wish to weaken London Street's case, and so had to hold back to almost the last minute in our efforts to negotiate the best deal for all out of the merger, a term we preferred to closure! Limited negotiation meant that in the end the combined school did not get as much as it could have. We could have made the Education Department pay heavily.

Once the merger was committed, the Board saw its duty as ensuring smooth integration, with no possibility of a school within a school. With merged staff and classes, a re-elected school board and a new headmistress I hope that this has been achieved.

• Next month - the view from St Mary's RC Primary



Gravestone created and photographed by Charlie Miller, as was the London Street Ghost

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: John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Tom Perman, Alan Eustace Gavin MacGregor, Dougal Perman and Jude Devereaux.

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

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time OR PHONE - 556 7928 or 556 0903

PHOEBE AT THE FESTIVAL



Phoebe Traquair painted the murals in Mansfield Church during the 1890's

Soon to be opening for the Edinburgh Festival is Cafe Graffiti, in the large Gothic church in Mansfield Place with its beautiful murals by Phoebe Traquair.

The building is now in far better shape than it has been for many years, and the surrounding garden area is noticeably much tidier. Many renovations have been carried out including plumbing throughout, toilets installed, work on blocked drains which were causing damage to the murals within; and a volunteer has mended the wee leaded panes of glass where necessary.

Pete Simpson who is caretaker for the church and also the organiser of Cafe Graffiti told **Spurtle** what is on offer during the Festival. There will be four bars, two in the main church and two downstairs. Snack food will be available upstairs and

downstairs, and there will be a barbecue in the garden area behind the building. There will be a small market with a variety of stalls selling interesting goods; and visitors to cafe

Graffiti can sit outside and be serenaded under the trees.

Their will be a special 'neighbourhood ticket' available for selected shows: watch the railings for further details.

Pete is still waiting for planning permission on his proposal to put the lower floor to community use throughout the rest of the year. He hopes to hear in August. The other party who are interested in the future of this building, the Mansfield Traquair Trust, are expecting to hear very soon if they have been successful in their application for money from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. If they receive the money they hope to buy the building from the present owners, London and Edinburgh Enterprise.

Cafe Graffiti box office opens 9th Aug, 11am, in the foyer. (557 8330)

Accommodation needed for Cafe Graffiti performers - phone 557 8003

SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL

From among various suggestions for our occasional column on neighbourhood language - words once familiar and perhaps due for revival - we decided to go back to basics. In terms of both good taste and association with the earlier years of our lives.

The word "behouchie" - far from having an off-putting or childish ring to it - has an innocent, childlike sound, at once uniquely descriptive but entirely inoffensive. Dictionaries give an alternative spelling as "bahookie", which we find markedly less satisfactory. No - "behouchie" has a roundness to it (so to speak) which conveys precisely what is intended. It sidesteps the inherent vulgarity of "b-m" and avoids totally "a-s-".

Behouchie withstands all manner of accents, from even Leith Walk to Drummond Place; from shrill

youngster to booming matron - try going into one of our temporarily empty playgrounds and declaiming it through the full range of pronunciations.

It can be skelped, fallen on, covered up, or otherwise commented on without any of the misgivings that attach to other words for that particular part. Why, then, has such a word fallen into neglect? Can you think of any other acceptable, all-purpose alternative? English doesn't come up with anything (rump, hindquarters!); French has given us "derriere" (a self-conscious and trivial expression if ever we heard one); only the German "hintern" comes anywhere near (a straight swap for "hint-end" which we have already in any case.)

Why look farther when we have a perfectly good word, ignored but not, we suggest, unwanted. The revival of the BEHOUCHE is long overdue. Let us hear it again throughout the land. Well, in Broughton at least for starters.

Get off your behouchies and tell us about local Scots language - words for places, people, objects, anything. Phone 556 7727, or jot something down and deliver it to **Spurtle** c/o Broughton Books, Broughton Place.

MUSIC LOVERS

The Edinburgh Guitar Studio is in your area. Book **now** and learn to play. **Satisfaction and results guaranteed.**

54 East Claremont Street
Telephone: 557 3215

JUST JUNK

"Perfect for wedding gifts"
87 Broughton Street
557 4835

