

# BROUGHTON SPEIL

## The Daft Days Are Here Again!

Anticipating the Daft Days - the unreal bit of the year that lasts from 24th December to Handsel Monday (the first after Neerday) - inevitably brings thoughts of the many guidbreeds associated with various Scots celebrations. At this time, these are bound to be the usual clootie dumplings, shortie, blackbun - unavoidable, but welcome nonetheless.

Just as daft, in the Speil's view anyway, is the stramash thought appropriate to the return of "yon Stone", a cultural kichmaleerie if ever there was one. However this provides a glaikit link with the frequent visits made by the Speil to the wilds of Kintyre. There, basic pastimes are embraced such as the baking of one of the finest of guidbreeds, the humble Scone - on facilities not really up to the

purpose. Hence what has become known as the Scone of Stone!

But as the other Stone passes the Tron en route to its destiny in the Castle, we might reflect that, in the baking of the Scone, we got our weights and measures a bit wrong and that the reliability of tron weight, taken from the name of the public weighing place which nowadays remains in the nearby Kirk, left something to be desired.

And the Tron brings us full circle to Hogmanay and the traditional Het Pint drunk at that time. Meg Dod's Recipe comes from 'The Scots Kitchen' by F Marian McNeill:

*"Grate a nutmeg into two quarts of mild ale and bring it to the point of boiling. Mix a little cold ale with sugar necessary to sweeten this, and three eggs well beaten. Gradually mix the hot ale with the eggs, taking care that*

*they do not curdle. Put in a half-pint of whisky, and bring it once more nearly to boil, and then briskly pour it from one vessel into another till it becomes smooth and bright."*

There is, of course, no mention of how long the consumer remains smooth and bright.

*Happy (daft) Days!*

**S**uperhuman capacity for consuming vast quantities of Smarties?

**P**edal power, but nowhere to go?

**U**nique personality requiring expression?

**R**espect for people whatever their circumstances?

**T**otally forgotten how to play Monopoly?

**L**ethargic but day-dreaming for activity?

**E**dinburgh Sitters would love you to volunteer - phone 557 3121

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 33

December / January 1996/7

3RD BIRTHDAY  
PAGE 2

BROUGHTON SPIEL  
PAGE 4

BRIEFLY  
PAGE 3

## 1,000 REASONS TO GIVE US BACK THAT BUS

Last month we reported on the timetable. Alternatives are being withdrawn of the 19/39 bus service. (discussed The general evenings and Sundays. Since then a thousand...

prote  
Marg  
a hear

As  
Chish  
Lothia  
Charles  
July, at  
the Ba  
Residents  
day Marg  
other occ  
19/39 rou  
City Coun  
Council

copies of  
completed s  
strong feelin  
But keep on  
eventually t  
presented for  
Press invited

LRT say the  
front a commu  
was impossib

That I

At a heated meet  
feelings further  
groups

Since the meet  
written to lay man  
service - and got a

With LRT seemin  
court, what can the

way of persuasion or subsidy?

to sit back and await the outcome.  
too often government and other  
organisations rely on protesting

to be taking this lying  
comes to a lying-ir  
headquarters? The  
Claremont Residents  
organised a petition  
ink. And if you feel  
loss of this service  
Billor Margaret  
chambers. High  
il don't contric  
a stack of letters  
her hand in  
e company.

negation about  
arguments for  
ed Sunday  
ation  
just  
id Begg  
our case with  
e will be  
e again  
at's not  
can be a mistake

So, together, what might we  
achieve for Broughton in 1997?  
Each time it needs people willing to  
get things organised, and stick at it  
when first efforts get the brush off  
- but it can't be the Bellevue and  
Claremont Residents Association  
committee every time! It's a  
struggle, results don't come easy -  
but it can be done!

So there will once again be a bus  
coming up the hill in the evenings  
and on Sundays. It won't go along  
George Street to the West End  
like the 19/39, but on the other  
hand it will go up the Bridges-like  
having a No 8 evenings and  
Sundays again. It's a success story  
for all the local people who got  
those 1600 signatures on the  
petition, wrote to our councillor,  
and packed the stormy meeting  
with LRT officials.

So, together, what might we  
achieve for Broughton in 1997?  
Each time it needs people willing to  
get things organised, and stick at it  
when first efforts get the brush off  
- but it can't be the Bellevue and  
Claremont Residents Association  
committee every time! It's a  
struggle, results don't come easy -  
but it can be done!

So, together, what might we  
achieve for Broughton in 1997?  
Each time it needs people willing to  
get things organised, and stick at it  
when first efforts get the brush off  
- but it can't be the Bellevue and  
Claremont Residents Association  
committee every time! It's a  
struggle, results don't come easy -  
but it can be done!

## 19/39 BUS LOCAL ACTION PAYS OFF

Broughton is set to get back a bus service in the evenings and on Sundays. This follows months of protest and lobbying sparked off by LRT's decision to cut back the 19/39 service as from 30th June.

At its meeting on Monday, 2nd December the Council's Transportation Committee noted that LRT's action had removed bus services completely from Rodney Street, Bellevue and Broughton Street in the evenings and on Sundays. It agreed that financial support should be given to a replacement service based on the No. 7, extended to include the former 19/39 route between Broughton Street and Boswall Parkway. It will run half hourly, as service 7A - evenings and Sundays.

This proposal will have to go to the Finance Committee because it's not covered in the budget. But **Spurtle** understands this should not be a problem, as the sum involved is not large and the political will exists to give us the

### DO IT WITH



▼ PLANNING PROBLEMS SORTED OUT. FRIENDLY ADVICE

Call Ian Dunn, Elan Planning Advice, 0131-557 1662. Fax 0131-558 1683. Free initial consultation without obligation. 30 Gayfield Square, EH1 3PA



MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT

SUNDAY EAST WEST BRUNCH 12noon - 5pm  
OPEN 7 DAYS  
BREAKFAST LUNCH + DINNER  
CHRISTMAS MENUS NOW AVAILABLE  
39a Albany Street 556 6748

### The Tented Ceiling Company

Creative Fabric Finishes for Ceilings and Walls

Paint Effects and Stencilling

Celtic Stencils made to order

Colour Counselling Available

Telephone 0131 556 3522

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:

Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Jude Devereaux and Jean Bell.

If you'd like to help write, produce or distribute the **SPURTLE** please contact us.

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

BROUGHTON **SPURTLE** is now on the World Wide Web on <http://www.tpuntis.demon.co.uk> BROUGHTON **SPURTLE** is printed on recycled paper.

# 3 YEARS OF SPURTLE

We're coming to the end of our third year: where have we got to?

## Some solid progress-

• 30-plus **Spurtle** Supporters give us a regular vote of confidence by renewing their financial support - some have now sent us contributions taking them well into 1997, even on into 1998 in several cases. "For **Spurtle** - I wouldn't be without it", was amongst their recent encouraging covering notes.

• Some of the shops that serve as our outlets tell us of regulars who come looking for their **Spurtle**, and miss it if it's late.

• Gradually, more people want to see their concerns reflected in the paper - and seem to think it matters if we don't get things right from their point of view!

## -but plenty room for improvement

To get some indication of how we're seen in the Broughton community as a whole, the week before publishing this edition we put questionnaires through about 180 doors and then called back for them. The 90 people who responded were not a scientific sample, but they've provided us with plenty to think about before we start into next year's editions.

• Those who know **Spurtle** all find it easy to read, and most of them think the length of items is just about right.

• Amongst things they like best about the paper are the local information published, the "campaigning zeal", and just the fact that "it exists" - "it's about where I live", somebody wrote.

• Dislikes are mostly once-offs - and often balanced by other people's likes! Some feel we're too "political", or too "anti-establishment". Given our aims and where we came from, that won't be changing: when we started publication in 1994, we explained that we were "inspired by the success of the local anti poll tax campaign, the struggle to save London Street Primary, and achievements by local residents' associations". Others feel we're a bit predictable, or a bit "worthy", could do with more humour. All the critical comments will be carefully considered.

While we won't be trying to please everyone all the time, we certainly don't like the thought that there are still Broughton folk blissfully ignorant of our existence! About a third of the respondents in the survey. We'll be

aiming for a higher profile in 1997 - there were ideas about how we should do that too.

Meanwhile, thanks and seasonal greetings to all our Supporters, advertisers and readers, and to our printers Clydeside Press. We take a break now: back with the February edition.

**BROUGHTON SPURTLE**  
Broughton • Gayfield • Newlands • Belveris • Camerlino  
FREE Issue number 22 February 1995

**THAT EMPTY BUILDING**  
You do not have to come down to the...  
The building's...  
Resistance to Market Plans  
Broughton Teenagers have their Say

**BROUGHTON Spurtle**  
Inside your local High School  
Free Issue 23 May 1995

**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Happy Birthday, Broughton Primary School...  
The school's...  
That Bus Business

**BROUGHTON Spurtle**  
Official opening of Broughton Street Centre Page 2  
From No 20 July 1995

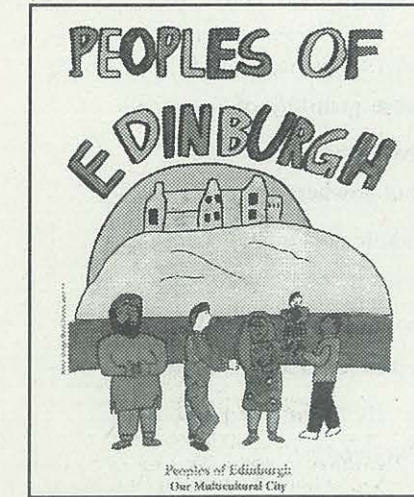
**Heartless Home Office**  
Ghost of London Street haunts City Chambers  
Give us back our bus!

**BROUGHTON Spurtle**  
Special Hopetoun insert with this issue!  
From No 24 October 1995

**JOHN DEPORTED**  
**BRIEFLY**  
That Bus Business

# DON'T MISS IT!

Librarian Annie Scanlon and others at Drummond Community High School played an important part in helping prepare this fascinating exhibition at the City Art Centre, Market Street.



Exhibits include Drummond School's Equality Game; and look out for other Broughton connections - with slavery, French weavers and an Italian Confectionery and Refreshment Salon opened in Broughton Street in the early years of this century. The Exhibition is open from 10am to 5pm, admission free, until 4th January.

# Just Junk Christmas!

87 Broughton Street 557 4835

# BROUGHTON STREET BRUNCHERIE

Sandwich Bar  
71 Broughton Street  
Open 7am to 4 pm.  
Mon to Fri,  
8am to 2pm Saturday  
Telephone orders welcome  
0131 556 9732  
Quality Food  
Competitive Prices  
Personal Service

# OUR RUMANIA CONNECTION

A well-kent and respected face gave a talk at Broughton St Mary's Women's Guild the other week. Dr Charles Mercer may have 'retired' from the practice at Bellevue Place, but is no less busy!

After the Ceaucescu Regime in Rumania was toppled in 1989, a call went out for a doctor to accompany about 24 nurses in a convoy to Rumania to assist in the orphanages there. Dr Mercer was the only one to volunteer (no Army man he!). However, after a fortnight's travel overland by bus, he was appalled by the conditions there, and realised how futile their efforts were.

On returning to Scotland, he arranged for transport and accommodation in Edinburgh for two young doctors to study here for a time and update their medical knowledge. This was so successful that the work has continued under the banner of Scottish Rumanian Medicaid, and 198 doctors from Rumania have now had this advantage. Dr Mercer feels that he has helped the orphanages and people of Rumania in a more positive way than just delivering supplies which would inevitably end up on the black market.

Congratulations, Dr Mercer - long may your 'retirement' continue!

**BE COOL**  
Develop your creativity by learning guitar at the Edinburgh Guitar Studio  
Satisfaction and results guaranteed.  
Booking: 557 3215

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

# BRIEFLY

- Local residents meet with Council officials to discuss trees and shrubs for the East Claremont Street central reservation on Wednesday 11th December, 7pm at Drummond Community High.
- October's Speil column championed the local name for Annandale Street Lane - 'Coo's Lane'. Stuart Harris, author of the excellent big book on 'Place Names of Edinburgh' published recently, wrote in to say this couldn't be an early name as the meuse was opened up over open ground and known as Annandale Street Lane in the mid-19th century. He's not aware of any dairying in or about the Lane. The origin of the nickname needs further investigation. But our column-writer's mother told him of cows there in the early 1900s; and by 1964 the nickname was still widely enough known to be mentioned in James Ritchie's book, 'The Singing Street'.
- Christopher Lambton of Bellevue Place has sent in ideas for making Broughton Street more pedestrian-friendly. Some of them overlap with proposals for Forth Street and Broughton Place which were drawn up and costed in connection with the Council's 'Greenway' down Leith Walk - which was then delayed by the Scottish Office. We'll pursue this one in 1997!
- Cafe Graffiti plans five big nights at Mansfield Church over the festive season - 20th, 21st, 27th, 28th and 31st December. Attractions will include ceilidh bands, Egyptian dancing and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. Leaflets out soon - or phone Pete Simpson on 557 8003.
- Ben's Bring and Buy Sale for the Blue Peter Leprosy Appeal is on Saturday 14th December, 11am to 2pm outside Just Junk - courtesy of Calum. Phone Ben (aged 6) on 556 7928.