

# BROUGHTON SPIEL

## The Plucky Scots?

If the Spiel has seemed recently to be hung up on things gastronomic, it hasn't been by design but because of the occasions for eating and drinking which have coincided.

Burn's Night having recently passed, quantities of haggis will have been consumed, enjoyed by many - whilst usually overlooking the contents. It seems likely that the word itself derives from **hag**, to hack or chop, and frenchified at a time when it was de rigueur to do such things. Marian McNeill (yet again!) in 'The Scots Kitchen' refers to days of the Auld Alliance when "le pain bénit d'Ecosse" - the consecrated loaf of Scotland - was sent to exiles in France, forerunner to the consignments which periodically perplex more far-flung customs officials today.

Up to much more recent times, **haggersnash** described scraps of meat or offal, a word sounding so much what it means it should be in much wider use.

What was hacked included the pluck of a sheep - the heart, lungs and liver plucked therefrom! - a word more usually known today in plucky, courageous by association with the heart. Which is what it takes, even for most Scots, to consider what goes into their much relished national dish. How much it may have to do with the quaffing of accompanying liquors is not recorded.

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## Spurtle July 1994...



Jimmy & Lizzy  
TOMMY PERMAN '94



## ...Scotsman July 1997



Go on, guv - give us your vote ...

# Lollipop tribute

A tribute to our local lollipop people, who suffer poisonous fumes daily in all kinds of weather! We should be concerned for their health, especially since they ensure the health and wellbeing of hundreds of children seeing them safely across busy roads. The traffic fumes at the crossing on Broughton Street and London and East London Streets are lethal at 9am and later in the afternoon.

A petition to the House of Commons for the Road Traffic Reduction Bill is currently being organised by Friends of the Earth. It requires the Secretary of State to draw up a national road traffic reduction plan to reduce traffic in local areas. Copies of the petition can be signed in some local shops in the Broughton area.

Coby Macaulay

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 34

February 1997

## COUNCIL CUTS

Library hours cut. Schools and community centres closed. Old folk without home helps.

How many of us really want services to go, rather than pay a few more pounds on our council tax?

Inside this **Spurtle** Alex Campbell writes about the threat to mental health services, and to our own Stafford Centre in particular.

**Spurtle** says the Council should:

- 1) Make sure all waste is cut
- 2) Tell Scottish Office and public what cash it needs to maintain all services at current levels.
- 3) Mobilise public support for spending at that level.
- 4) If central government won't be persuaded, set the necessary council tax anyway - and face the consequences.

**That's what we elected them for!**

Bellevue wildlife- Page 3



## HERE'S THE BUS!

The replacement service is on its way - Broughton's bus on evenings and Sundays, missing since LRT cut the 19/39 service in June last year.

In December **Spurtle** looked forward to seeing the No.7A in

Broughton Street before the end of January. The financial arrangements took a little longer to work their way through the Council system than expected. But the date for a first sighting is now Sunday, 9th February!

Local Centre under threat Page 3

## BRIEFLY

- Tenders have been received from contractors for the new central reservation and traffic calming measures in **East Claremont Street**, and the process of awarding the contract had begun before we went to print. Work is due to start on 10th February.
- **The Broughton Mural**, featuring highlights in our local history from when **David I** gave Broughton to the canons at Holyrood Abbey through to more recent events like the battle for London Street Primary, is now on permanent display. Given to Broughton History Society by the artists and historians who made it, it is on long-term loan to McDonald Road Public Library, where it can be seen in the Nelson Hall. If the Hall's locked, just ask for the key at the Library desk.
- There's a bad case of "ponding" at the entrance to **Gayfield Square** off Leith Walk. The dip in the road was caused by poor finish by a public utility (since privatised). Gayfield Association wrote to the Council, but two years have passed - and after even moderate rains the puddle's still there!
- If you've been to a Sunday night pub quiz at the Phoenix, you'll already know **David Albury** - he's the quizmaster. Now he's had a 'Quizmaster's Scottish Quiz Book' published by Polygon: £4.99 in the shops, but £3.99 if you buy direct from him (556 4595)
- Thanks to local folk for support from the **Stafford Centre**, who raised £500 at their Christmas Fair; from Annie Coats of Bellevue Road who did a sponsored cycle through Jordan and Israel in November, and raised £4,500 for the **Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund**; and from Ben Flack, whose Bring and Buy Sale in Broughton Street raised £125 for the **Blue Peter Leprosy Appeal** - in spite of wet and windy December weather.

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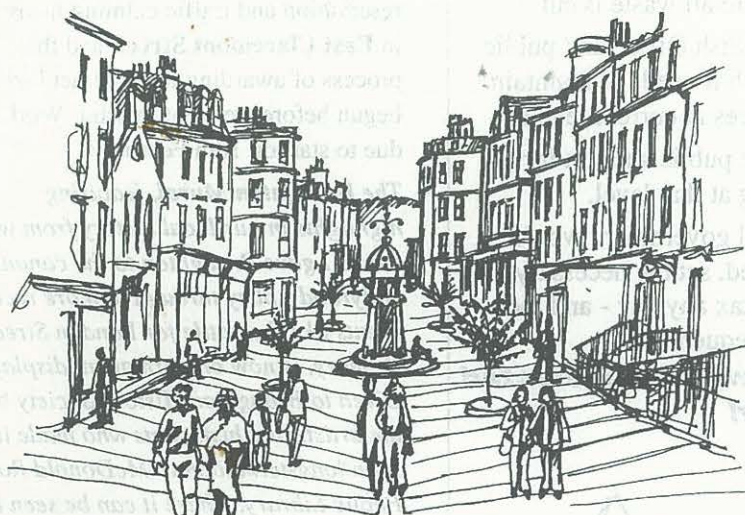
## BROUGHTON STREET TRAFFIC

For most of us, last year was 1996. But for some wrapped up in the local government reorganisation, it was YearZero - the end of recorded history, the beginning of a new era.

Or so it sometimes seems to local residents, when discussing traffic calming and other matters with City Council officials. It happened again at a small meeting called by local

environment, not on easing the flow of through traffic.

Specific suggestions for Broughton Street taken away by the officials included wider pavements, a new pedestrian crossing halfway up the Street and a change to the lights system at the foot of the Street to give pedestrians right of way (rather than being shunted away along London or



Broughton Street pedestrianised? Maybe not yet. (Local artist- Miguel Vivanco.)

councillor Margaret McGregor in mid-January. The existence of detailed, costed proposals for improving East London Street was reluctantly acknowledged; but treated with some disdain.

Fortunately the meeting took a more positive turn. The idea of introducing 3-lane traffic in Broughton Street was firmly squashed by all the locals present. The emphasis should be on creating a more pedestrian-friendly

East London Street to cross). Given limited cash, we'd prefer limited measures over a spread of neighbouring streets, rather than something fancier in Broughton Street alone. So East London Street's back on the agenda!

Nothing's guaranteed. Except that officials promised to carry out a survey - including levels of pollution from traffic - and report back in a public consultation. Within two months.

## Build it - then ask permission?

Correspondence with a planning official has left some Bellevue residents mystified. They'd complained about a garage that didn't match the application originally publicised, and so turned out more intrusive than expected.

What you do is tailor your application to ensure easy acceptance by the planners. Then build it as you actually want it. Then put in an amended application retrospectively.

The trick is to judge just how much you can get away with. If the changes aren't judged too outrageous, you'll be OK.

If we've got this wrong, we'll be happy to stand corrected!

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**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** 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, Alex Campbell, Ian Dunn, Janice Johnson, Coby Macaulay, Tommy Perman and Jean Bell.

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

## STAFFORD CENTRE

At a meeting on 21st January attended by members of the Edinburgh and Lothian Mental Health Forum and invited representatives from the Social Work Department, the decision on how the Department intends

that mental health community services have always been under-resourced. To contemplate further cuts on top of the no-increase policy of last year will have a serious detrimental effect on service users, their families - and ultimately on the community.



Christmas party at the Stafford Centre

Our additional problem is that mental health issues do not capture the public's attention as much as, say, cuts to education. And the people directly affected are some of the most vulnerable groups in society, and understandably reticent to identify themselves as sufferers due to inaccurate public perceptions of psychiatric problems.

implementing to the voluntary sector was revealed as a policy to close some projects to maintain others. A working party within Social Work will report to their managers early in February, recommending which projects should have their funding removed.

£650,000 has been identified as a 9% cut in the funding presently given to fund mental health projects in Edinburgh. The position of all associated with the Stafford Centre is

The 200-plus people who use the Centre are signing a petition to the Social Work Committee, protesting at the possible closure or cuts to service which may result if we are identified as "non-priority" in their eyes.

We ask anyone in the community who has feelings on the subject to convey these feelings to local councillors and MP, to try to gain support for our case (a proforma letter is available from the Centre).

Alex Campbell

## The Bellevue Maze

Perhaps like me you are frequently asked directions from people confused about the numbers in Bellevue Place, which extends from the junction at the foot of Melgund Terrace, right round to the main street.

I have been in touch with Mr Mossman of City Development who is to arrange for a survey to be carried out to assess their obligations, as I had suggested that they make the Street/Place signs clearer, with house numbers included. However, they point out that their planners would not be keen to see directional plates added to the front elevations of the listed buildings. They did, however, paint

the rather dirty black sign above the area at 1a Bellevue Street into a nice white with black lettering. Much to my son's disappointment - he wanted to take the old black one back to Australia!

The statutory address of Drummond School is 41 Bellevue Place (across the street from the other odd numbers). Even numbers start at the stair after the two offices opposite the foot of Melgund Terrace. Some houses are clearly identified by their numbers, but what do you think? Are we being kind to our visitors to Bellevue? Is Bellevue Place, Street, Road, Gardens, Grove easy to find? Jean Bell

## Brush with Reynard!

Just after New Year my daughter, who is a staff nurse and comes home at differing hours due to shifts, spotted a rather emaciated fox in our back garden around eight in the morning.

Here, at the corner of Bellevue Road and Annandale Street, the large gardens at the back form a considerable area and the trees and bushes seem to attract a fair variety of urban wildlife. We've seen many families of hedgehogs over the years, mostly very tame - they will happily eat cat food, with several humans around! There's been the odd grey squirrel in our trees, and quite a colony of magpies live in the large fir tree near here.

I was intrigued about the fox. I knew they'd been in the area, originally on the railway lines and Scotland Yard, and also spotted at Bellevue Cash and Carry. Last summer there was one in an overgrown front garden near here. Obviously they are scavenging for food. My only worry is that they may attack someone's cat!

How do other locals feel about Mr. Fox? Some people regard them as vermin, but it is still quite special to see one of our larger native wild animals. Janice Johnson

## Community cafe plan

Yet another cafe at the Gay Centre in Broughton Street - but this time it won't fail! I'm preparing a business plan to run it as a popular, licensed, community-based cafe. Called 'Stonewall', it will be my livelihood.

Local residents, of all sexualities, will be welcomed in. I'm thinking of being open 7 days, noon to 9.30pm; smoking in the lobby, smoke-free in the room itself. I will pitch my prices to suit leaner pockets.

You have a chance to say what elements you'd like to see introduced. Phone 557 1662. Ian Dunn