

POST BOX COLLECTIONS

Monday to Friday

London Street Post Office: 8am, 12 noon, 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 6.30pm
Drummond Place, 8am, 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm, 6.30pm
Bellevue Road: 8am, 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm
East Claremont Street: 8.30, 12 noon, 3.15pm, 5.45pm
Rodney Street: 8am, 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.00pm
Royal Mail, Brunswick Rd: 8.30pm. (last chance!)

Saturday

London Street Post Office: 12 noon
Drummond Place, north side: 12.15pm
Bellevue Road: 12 noon
East Claremont Street: 12 noon
Rodney Street: 12.15pm
Main PO in St James Centre: 5.30pm (last one, inside)

Sundays and Public Holidays

London Street Post Office: 11.45am

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents' Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848.

Gayfield Association
Ian Dunn 557 1662

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Alan Wilson 554 9144

Broughton History Society
Gavin MacGregor 556 7727

Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh
17 West Montgomery Place.
Meetings on Monday nights, 7.30pm. 557 6242

Councillor Margaret McGregor
Broughton Ward
529 3283 (her office at City Chambers) No surgery during School holidays - phone to consult or arrange meeting.

Councillor David Guest
New Town 315 2101 or 529 4268 for an appointment (The boundary with Broughton Ward runs down the middle of Broughton Street/Rodney Street!)

Councillor Douglas Kerr
Calton Ward 529 4983 (if you live in Gayfield)

Malcolm Chisholm MP
555 3636 Surgery on Fridays, 5 to 7pm, in office at 274 Leith Walk.

BROUGHTON Spurtle

Free No 40

August 1997

McDONALD ROAD SHOCK

With one third of McDonald Road rebuilt, residents were looking forward to seeing the second third completed before the end of this year. But now there's a hitch.

"You just don't give commitments you can't carry through!"

The word from the City Council's Development Department is that Stage Two will not proceed this year, or in the foreseeable future. Last year residents were told their road was amongst the City's top priorities; now they're told there's been a new

"technical assessment" of projects and theirs is number 43 on an all-Edinburgh list - with only the first 40 to proceed.

So what about the minutes of a residents association meeting held in October last year? According to them, a senior official said "the second phase would be a legal commitment following phase 1"! Speaking for the residents, Bob Stewart told **Spurtle** of their reaction to this U-turn: "You just don't give commitments you can't carry through!" But they hope all's not yet lost, and will be lobbying local councillor Margaret MacGregor to help get the project re-instated.

PROTEST OVER FESTIVAL VENUE

As we go to print Broughton's gearing up for the Festival, with several major venues in our area. But all is not sweetness and light.

Two years ago local residents complained about night-time

Palladium improvements fail to satisfy residents.

disturbance when the former church in Broughton Place was used as the Palladium venue. Since then major improvements have been made, including two designed to meet objections: £50,000 on sound-proofing, and a new internal entrance to the hall under the church to cut

out movement and noise round the back of the building.

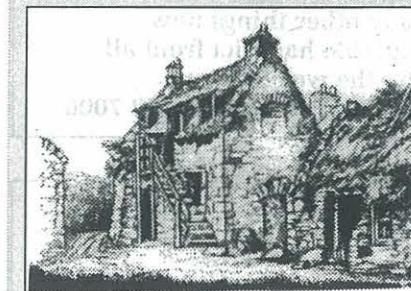
But the recently-formed Broughton Place Residents Association still isn't happy. They're talking about picketing performances, even using cars to block access.

Broughton is both a local neighbourhood, and a city leisure and entertainment area: some tension between the two is inevitable. If it comes to the crunch, residents' welfare must come first. But let's hope this year's Festival experience will show the two can be reconciled in Broughton Place.

Hopetoun Village Masterplan page 2

BRIEFLY

- Action on the uneven causeways at Broughton Market is now in sight. Earlier this year a local resident told us of the danger for pedestrians - there's no pavement, so they have to walk on the roadway. Following correspondence with Councillor David Guest **Spurtle** had an on-site meeting with Council officials, who've promised the worst patches will be put right as soon as possible after the work on Greenways is completed.
- Work to discourage parking across gateways in Bellevue Street has been delayed due to the need to concentrate manpower on Greenways. But residents have been reassured that it should be done in September.
- A History Walk exploring the past of Broughton Street takes place on Monday 18th August.



Meeting in Drummond Community High playground, near the front door, at 7pm members of the local history society will take small groups on a conducted tour lasting an hour and a bit, finishing at Cafe Graffiti for a chat and some refreshment. If you're interested, please phone 556 0903 - or just turn up on the night.

BROUGHTON SPURTLE

Contributors to this issue:

John Dickie, Tim Puntis, Alan McIntosh, George Reiss, Dianne Laing, Ian Dunn and Tommy Perman.

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.

STONEWALL

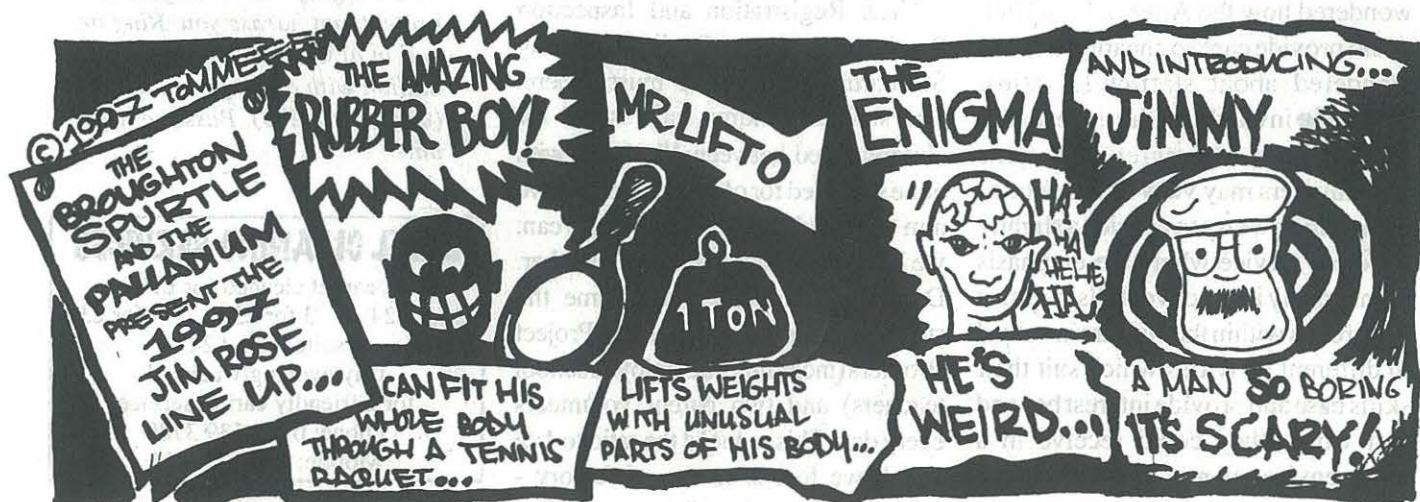
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HOPETOUN VILLAGE MASTERPLAN

The 'Hopetoun Masterplan' has been drawn up over the last year, and local residents are now invited to comment on it. Your comments can influence amendments to the plan before it is considered by the City Council.

The Hopetoun area has lots of potential for development. The idea is to lay down a framework within which future individual developers would operate - criteria they would be expected to take into account if they wanted planning permission.

The masterplan is presented in a small exhibition in the entrance hall to McDonald Road Library. It will still be there when the Library re-opens after its fortnight's closure.

We hope many local residents will make a point of going along to add their tuppence worth in the week beginning Monday, 25th August - forms are provided for you to write down your ideas.



George Reiss is a community worker at St Paul's and St George's Episcopal Church at the top of Broughton Street, and a

member of both the Community Council and the Hopetoun Steering Group. Here he presents a personal view.

If you take the small part of Broughton known as Hopetoun Village, the money going into current projects exceeds thirty million pounds. It could go up to one hundred million pounds.

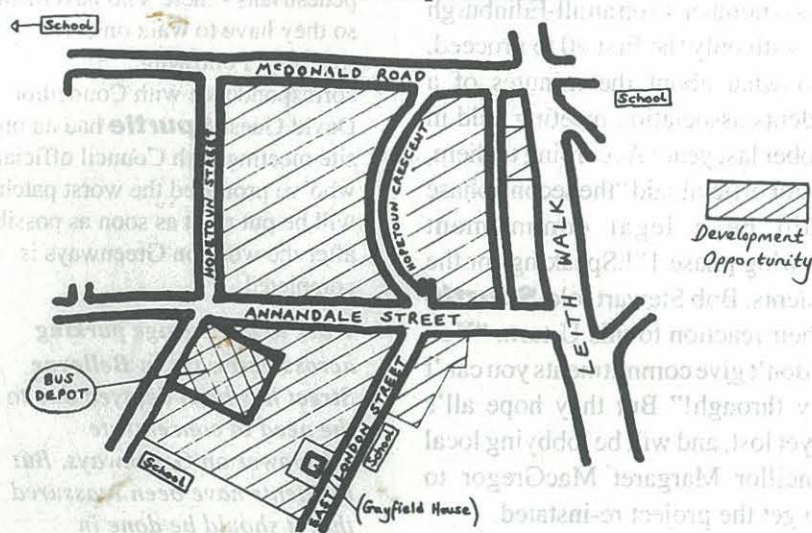
People often fall into one of two camps: there are the fatalists - "You cannae do anything and the Council's useless" - and the thirty-years-behind-the-timers who expect the Council to be able to buy up all the land and develop it all itself. The truth seems to be somewhere in between. Residents' groups can influence the Council, who can influence some things through the planning process - and the developers control the cash.

Equally local groups can have a go at making things happen by their own efforts. Hopetoun is a big opportunity for us to improve the environment. Any of the following projects could attract funding:

- 1 sports centre, perhaps a joint venture Lottery/private developers
- 2 architectural competition to complete Hopetoun Crescent
- 3 refurbishing Nelson Hall and the Library
- 4 a community centre in the area.

The masterplan presently on display at the Library is just a framework for developers to work within. The sting is that unless we, the local community, get moving, then our bright ideas will remain just a wish-list. So get to that Library and make your voice heard!

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CLAREMONT HUMPS

As the "new" East Claremont Street emerges, residents have been admiring the improvements - but wondering about the traffic-calming humps. Are they enough to slow down drivers?

City Council officials assure us that the Claremont humps are at the upper limit for height and gradient as laid down in the relevant regulations and guidelines. The maximum height for flat and round humps is 100mm. The

minimum width for a round-top hump is 3.7 metres, and the maximum ramp on flat-top humps is 1:6, i.e. approximately 1.6 metres long.

By the time you read this the first section of the Street may have been re-opened, between Melgund and the Bellevue Crescent end. This has been delayed because of complications over the laying of new water pipes by East of Scotland Water.



SUMMER PLAYScheme

The summer playscheme run by Broughton After School Club was a great success. 40 children enjoyed a wide variety of activities, both on the premises and on excursions to local places of interest.

When we first mentioned the playscheme a couple of months ago, a Broughton resident with past child-minding experience raised some questions arising from our report. She was unhappy at the suggestion that childminders were "expensive"; she wondered how the After School Club could provide care so cheaply; and she wondered about staff/child ratios.

Spurtle invited the Club to respond:

"Although we regret that some childminders may view our service as competition we try to provide a slightly different service where the emphasis is on socially interactive skills. Various age groups within the club are involved in different activities which suit their skills base and provide interest beyond that which they could receive in a home environment.

"We were able to operate the summer playscheme by charging parents £6 per day plus outing expenses because of very careful costing. We have received no grant subsidies or other funding this year, but remain bound by the principles of our charitable status and set fees accordingly. Obviously this is much less expensive for parents than a childminder would be, especially where there are two or three children in the family.

"The Registration and Inspection Service provide the Quality in Caring Standards to which we must adhere. The staff to children ratio is 1:8 for children aged between 4½ and 8, with none specified for older children. As we aim to provide the best quality we can, we like to reduce that ratio still further. During the summer playscheme the staffing consisted of 6 qualified Project Workers (including unemployed school teachers) and two parent volunteers every day. This reduced the ratio to 1:5, which we feel is more satisfactory - especially for outings."

BRIEFLY

- **McDonald Road Library** will be closed for a fortnight starting 11th August, re-opening on the 25th. This is part of a programme of closures affecting all local libraries in Edinburgh, the result of Budget cut-backs. "We have been unable to employ seasonal staff to keep libraries open over the holiday period", librarian Eleanor Gaw told us.

- Last month we reported breakdown in negotiations by Mansfield Traquair Trust to buy **Mansfield Place Church**. And moves by the City Council to bring the current owners to heel for the sake of the neglected mural paintings inside. Councillors were set to ratify a Compulsory Purchase Order on 7th August. The idea is that the Council will then sell the building on to the Trust, who plan that the church itself should be used for events such as conferences, concerts and weddings, while the basement's converted into offices and leased to the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations.

- "Take Care When Out and About", reads a poster recently put out by the police. "In recent weeks there has been a spate of violent attacks after dark on men who are cruising the open spaces off Royal Terrace and Regent Road. Police would like to catch the culprits and seek your help with any information which may lead to their arrest. We too will be out and about with a highly visible uniform to protect, not harass you. Ring or call in at Gayfield Square Police Station with any information (0131-556 9270). Pass the word on!"

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