

Belle's View



Hi fans

Well it's here again, my favourite time of year, when the nights are supposed to be warmer (I'm still wearing a vest) and we in **Broughton and Bellevue** can enjoy a bit of culture on our very own doorstep. It's **The Festival!**

And a veritable feast of culture awaits, Dear Readers. Our local Italian deli **Valvona and Crolla** in Elm Row, are putting on the smash-hit stage adaptation of **Captain Corelli's Mandolin**, so you can indulge in a bit of song and dance when you nip in for the messages. Also in Elm Row, **The Gateway Theatre** has a full programme of both theatre and dance featuring **DanzAbierta** of Cuba. Not to be outdone, **CC Blooms** of Greenside Place are putting on **Torch Song Sassy**, starring Amazonian (I think I heard that right - it could be Aberdonian) drag star Sassy, featured recently in Channel 4's documentary series **The Otherside** Over in Broughton Street, **The Arkle Theatre Company** at St Paul's and St George's will be taking us on a journey through the Old Testament in Glasgowspeak verse in **Gaun Yersel' Moses**. Can't wait.

Don't forget the annual **Hopetoun Party in the Park** on 26 August. When the rumour got out that I would be making a personal appearance last year, so many fans and admirers came I was quite thankful when officers of the **Lothian and Borders Police** turned up to restore order. See you there!

Till next time, just do it!

Persephone Belle

"Clean up Broughton"

Littered streets, burst bin-bags, marauding gulls, wheelie-bins - all issues pursued by **Spurtle** in recent times. Cllr Lazarowicz tells us the complaints keep rolling in. Already, demands are growing from residents for on-street communal bins and City officials are taking these up. On a positive note, he is to arrange a **Community Forum** after the summer to involve local organisations and the Council in a

campaign to "clean up Broughton." This is certainly something we'll be returning to in coming months!

The Broughton History Walk

A free event provided by Broughton History Society. This takes place again this year on Wednesday 23 August at 7pm. A conducted tour in small groups lasting about an hour and a bit! For details: 556 0423.

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.

Spurtle team for this issue:

Eileen Dickie, Norma McKendrick, Ken McKay, Gavin MacGregor, John Dickie, Jane Coville, Alan McIntosh, Tim Puntis, and David Aitken.

BROUGHTON BOOKS in Broughton Place are our "postbox". You can put a letter addressed to us through their letter box at any time

PHONE or FAX - 556 7727 / 556 0903
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BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 73

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A Future for Broughton's Traffic?

The Council has reached a further stage in its plans for local traffic control measures made necessary by the expanding restrictions being put in place in the City-centre. "Draft proposals for a Stockbridge to Broughton Route Action Plan" (RAP, for short) heralds fundamental changes in Broughton from St James' roundabout to Canonmills. Further public consultation is promised and increasing scrutiny may yet bring about changes but the intention is to report back to the Council later in the year.

There is, at least, recognition now that traffic on Broughton Street is increasing and will go on doing so. Controls are necessary. The Community Council has already expressed its alarm at the expected increase in traffic flows there and in streets off, and is pressing for clarification of studies carried out. The plans acknowledge the need to make Broughton Street "user friendly." A pedestrian, shopping and, increasingly,

a leisure area at the heart of the community, it cannot be allowed to become simply a congested passageway round town. Included are bus and cycle lanes, vehicle waiting and loading bays and pedestrian crossing improvements, with a new crossing below Albany Street and changed priorities for vehicles and pedestrians at the London Street roundabout. Road entry narrowing, raised tables, hatchings and islands feature on the junctions of side roads with the main road and the intended slowing of traffic generally could allow the introduction of 20mph zones in these areas.

With the growing pressure to improve the quality of city-centre living, reduce litter and pollution and introduce further "greening" by trees and other planting, it is to be hoped this opportunity will be taken. The possibility, therefore, of the removal of the well-maintained roundabout at East London/London Streets in favour

**Broughton Spurtle is
free
and completely
independent**

of a straight lights-controlled crossroads may make traffic sense but not environmental sense and the challenge will be to meet both these priorities throughout the scheme.

As cars are banned totally from Princes Street and the housing expansion continues locally, the need for ongoing monitoring of the effects is essential. A number of realities are faced up to in the Route Action Plan - as long as Broughton isn't left taking the RAP.



The Flood - Never Again

The Council called it flooding on an "unprecedented scale." More than three months on, the night the Water of Leith burst its banks is still taking its toll. Residents of the area are still in temporary accommodation, unable to return until their property is dried out, made safe and their devastated homes are again habitable. For many it looks like going on for a while yet.

Meantime, the wall breached by the waters on Warriston Road has been reinstated and repairs are under way at Bonnington Mills. Work will extend

to removal of the disused railway piers at Bonnington. Cllr Mark Lazarowicz told **Spurtle** that this is to prevent rubbish accumulation and reduce any future flooding risk.

These events have, of course, heightened anxiety about the plans for redevelopment at Powderhall, already in local memory subject to flooding over the years. The councillor assures us that "the Council has placed stringent conditions on the developer" to safeguard the area.

Right now, local people and organisations are being invited to

contribute to a major Council flood study of the Water of Leith to be produced late in 2001. Historical information and local knowledge of the flooding of open spaces and property is being sought along with details of problems over the years from defective drainage. These must reach Bob McCafferty, "Edinburgh Flood Studies, "Bridges and Structures Unit, PO Box 12474, 1 Cockburn Street, EH1 1ZL, no later than 14 August. Why not flood Bob with your replies - it could help prevent the same thing happening again.

Broughton at play!

Redbraes has reason, at last, to be upbeat about the improvements around the area. **Spurtle** learns that the



went walkabout round Redbraes Park and the developing "jungle" there is restored to order. Now, the spanking new play area is about to become functional - and well worth all the effort as shown in our photo.

At nearby St Mark's Park, Cllr Lazarowicz promises a start to their new play area at the end of the summer. Residents

are delighted with the planning which provision of on-street communal bins have made an immediate and obvious difference to the litter problem, a solution we have advocated for other local areas. Then, a Council official

involves design ideas from the youngsters of Broughton Primary. We'll welcome the chance to record the results in a future edition.

"...the Vision of a Fairer Britain"

Being out of work is bad enough. Trying to get in again and being knocked back makes it worse. Having only the Job Seekers Allowance to exist on isn't easy. And having to justify yourself to DSS officialdom every two weeks just so all this can continue, eats away at your morale - and your health. It's like this for many people and it's certainly the experience of Norma McKendrick of Bellevue.

Norma was a Care Worker until about two years ago and some months later developed an angina condition. Still applying for work all the way through - mostly around the minimum wage of £3.60 an hour - she was amazed how the most suitable-looking of jobs turned out to require "some heavy lifting!" But, prepared to turn her hand to almost anything she applied for (a lot) or was offered by the Jobcentre (very little), Norma is still out of work. Currently she is waiting to hear if

she will be funded onto a fulltime Training Scheme worth another £10 a week to her.

So, when she read in the press of "tough new measures to clamp down on benefit cheats," she wrote to Chancellor Gordon Brown, asking simply what those "who cannot earn a living wage" should do. It took six weeks but a DSS official did reply. Two densely typed pages of detail on Government policy mostly on Families and Children, Disabled Persons, Credits for those in work... all totally worthwhile but not of much comfort to Norma. For good measure "the Government hopes it can make the vision of a fairer Britain a reality." Norma will bear this in mind as she keeps applying, dutifully presents the proof of her efforts to ensure her Allowance keeps going and hopes the stress of it all doesn't get to her.

If you know of any similar experiences or have advice for others in this situation, let **Spurtle** know.

Contacts

Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association
Alan McIntosh 556 4848

Broughton Place Residents Association
Judith Hallam 556 4595

Gayfield Association
William McNair 556 4493

McDonald Area Amenity Society
Bob Stewart 557 1267

Redbraes Residents Association
Tam Hay 553 2306

Sovereign Court Residents Association
John Davies, 478 4463

New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council
Annette O'Carroll 556 7586

Broughton History Society
David Watt 556 5721

Cllr Mark Lazarowicz
Broughton Ward
529 3283 fax 529 4764
Surgery: Drummond CHS
on Wednesdays from
6 to 7pm

Cllr David Guest
New Town Ward
558 8823 or 529 4268
Surgery at 67 Northumberland
Street on Mondays from
6 to 6.45pm

Malcolm Chisholm MP and MSP
555 3636
Surgery on Saturdays at
Drummond Community High
School at 1pm.

Hopetoun's PARTY IN THE PARK

from 2pm Saturday 26 August
in Hopetoun Crescent Gardens
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Children in Need - Need YOU

There are children around you who need help. At a Children's Hearing, decisions are taken to help improve their lives. The decisions are made by people like you, who are members of the Children's Panel.

Sometimes, all that is needed is short-term support. Children at any age, and their families, can get into difficulties not unlike ones we may all experience. At the other extreme, some go on to more serious offending or, sadly, become the victims of neglect or abuse requiring fundamental action to turn their lives around.

Members of the Panel are volunteers, men and women aged 18 to 60 who live or work in Edinburgh. They come from a wide range of personal backgrounds - there is no "typical" panel member. All new members are given

comprehensive training and the chance to develop skills which they may or may not have already put to use. As important is the ability to communicate with the families depending on them. Panels meet during the day and availability on about two mornings or afternoons a month is required. If in work, members are entitled to reasonable time off but an employer's co-operation should be sought. Though certain expenses are available there are no financial rewards. But, become a Panel Member and the personal rewards are well worth it. For you and the children who need your help!

The Edinburgh Children's Panel will shortly be recruiting new members. Information Evenings are being held so you can find out more (or Phone 529 4105/4342) -

Wednesday 13 September - Drummond Community High School, Bellevue Place
Thursday 14 September - City Chambers, High Street
Wednesday 20 September - Craigroyston Community High School, Pennywell Road
Thursday 21 September - Wester Hailes Education Centre, Murrayburn Drive
Tuesday 26 September - Leith Academy, Academy Park, Leith
Wednesday 27 September - City Chambers, High Street
Thursday 28 September - Boroughmuir High School, Viewforth
All sessions start at 7pm.

Primary Colours!

Another lesson from Leith Walk Primary. With some professional help from a community artist, the pupils there have done big and colourful things on the walls and ground round a fairly drab corner of their playground. This is just a



part of the transformation made to their environment. If you're passing along Brunswick Road, pause at the school garden and see what making the City a greener place really means!

BRIEFLY

The 14th Scotland Yard Summer Festival 2000 offers stalls, fun, music, food... and lots more to do. At George V Park (near Canonmills) on Saturday 19 August from 12-5pm. Applications for stalls (£10) from Mike - 557 8199/fax 476 2581.

SHELTER, the Scottish Campaign for Homeless People, offers voluntary speakers to talk about their work on homelessness in Scotland. Groups drawing up a talks programme can send for a Speaker Request Form to: Nick Fletcher, Shelter Scotland, Scotiabank House, 6 South Charlotte Street, Edinburgh EH2 4AW. They hope to hear from you!

After a worrying gap of several years, parents at Broughton Primary will be pleased to see a new "Lollipop Person" installed at Bellevue Road/West Annandale Street after the summer break. And following George's retirement after many years at St Mary's Primary on East London Street he, too, will be replaced then.

A big event takes place in Redbraes Park on Saturday 19 August - and on into Sunday. **The British Cycle Speedway Veterans Championship 2000** has attracted competitors from far and wide. For those just watching, there's a Refreshments Tent. "Tapes are up" at 12 noon.

The next phase of **upgrading on McDonald Road** is expected to start "during August." Major upheaval between Dryden and the Sparta as parking is suspended and through traffic is closed off but worth it as this long-running saga gets nearer completion. And yet another plan further down at No 95, the old power sub-station. Flats and retail/commercial units are proposed.

Spurtle sends congratulations to local councillor Mark Lazarowicz and his family on the birth of number four, a son, on 26 August.