

# Belle's View



Hi fans

Summer! Ooops, was that it then? Chill winds are now a-howling – time to look out my faux-fur leopard skin coat and matching bum-bag!

I heard recently that our local environs, **Broughton and Bellevue**, is included in an area of Edinburgh designated as a **World Heritage Site**. Imagine – the **Phoenix** bar and the **Rapido** chippy ranking alongside the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China and the Taj Mahal!

The **Hopetoun Gardens Party in the Park** held in August went swingingly as always. The slightly inclement weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of the organisers or the hundreds of participants, who were treated to live music from **Gaita** and entertainment from magician **Tricky Ricky**. A brace of celebrities were in attendance (besides myself of course) – local councillor **Mark Lazarowicz** looked particularly pleased with his prize in the raffle: six bottles of wine! Who shouted “fix!”?

Now that the nights are fair drawing in, what do Broughton residents want to do? No, we do not want to sit with our tartan slippers on and a nice camomile tea, we want to party! party! party! So for those of you who like a bit of a swerve, join Frankie Sumatra and co of **Club Vegas** at **Ego** on **Picardy Place**, on the last Saturday of every month. It's £7 to get in, and £5 if you're fabulously dressed! So look out those sequined hotpants and get down!

Till next time, just do it!

*Persephone Belle*

Persephone Belle

## November Spurtle

The deadline for November **Spurtle** is Saturday, 28th October. We welcome information or opinions on local affairs. Drop a note in at Broughton Books, 2a Broughton Place or phone 556 7727 or 556 0903.

## Support us!

Broughton **Spurtle** survives on a combination of Supporters' contributions and advertisements. We're completely independent, and have never looked for grants from anywhere.

You can become a **Spurtle** Supporter by giving us a pound per issue: in return you get it delivered, plus one or two other items.

Contact John Dickie, 556 0903

### CROALL NEWSAGENTS

6 CROALL PLACE  
0131 557 4331

#### Great customer service

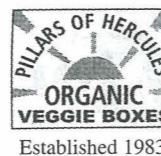
**COKE 2 litres for £1.09.**  
**BONUS! If you buy**  
**2 X 2 litres you get a**  
**FREE GLASS**

GREAT SELECTION OF BOXED CHOCOLATES

**£1.09p**  
VELVET  
WIPE AND CLEAN  
KITCHEN PAPER

**NEW LINE!**  
**KETTLE CHIPS**  
BUY 2 - 50p OFF

A selection  
box of fresh  
organic  
vegetables or  
fruit from £7.



- Grown on our farm in Falkland, Fife, or locally whenever available.
- All leaf greens picked fresh on morning of delivery.
- Collect orders on Fridays from Willie at Indian Motorcycle Shop at 5 Scotland Street Lane.

557 5801

www.pillars.co.uk

Soil Association Organic Standard

## Contacts

**Bellevue and Claremont Residents Association**  
Yvonne Pryor 557 1752

**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 5271

**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.

### N KIMBELL

#### Joinery Services

SPECIALISTS IN NEW TOWN CELLAR  
LINING

Let us convert your dark, damp cellars  
into valuable work or storage space!  
Tel/Fax 0131-556 8821

-City and Guilds approved-

### WOODCRAFT SUPPLIES

Picture Framing • Keys Cut  
**New shoe repair service**  
Timber Boards Cut to Size  
Monday-Saturday  
9.30am-6pm (Closed Wed. pm)  
109 Broughton Street  
556 9672

# BROUGHTON Spurtle

No 75

October 2000

## The good news...

- Where once there was just a slab of concrete, the Stafford Centre has made a fine wee garden for its users, complete with fountain, barbecue and benches in shady corners. Now they are thinking of ways to improve the space at the front of the building - report and pictures on page 3.
- Positive moves towards improving our local green spaces continue, including initiatives by individuals – like the notice that's appeared on the gates of Hopetoun Crescent Garden:
- The City Council is planning a community workshop in Broughton. Dog dirt; trade waste; burst black bags; dropped litter – which problem do you think is the most urgent? The workshop will be your chance to say, with Council staff there to tell us what they can offer to help tackle the problems as we see them. It's planned for the second half of November – more details in next month's **Spurtle**.
- As more rubbish bins become available, where should they go in Broughton? The Hopetoun Steering Group, chaired by Councillor Mark Lazarowicz, will discuss this at their meeting on 24th October. If there's a spot you feel really needs a rubbish bin, phone us before then (556 7727).

CHILDREN ENJOY PLAYING  
IN THESE GARDENS  
BUT  
DOG DIRT  
SPOILS THEIR FUN  
THANK YOU TO ALL DOG OWNERS  
WHO CLEAR UP AFTER THEIR DOGS

## ...and the bad news

The City Council seems to support the greening of Broughton. But a story from our neighbours next door in Pilrig rings warning bells. They seem set to lose public green space. The Council want to get rid of 14 allotment holders over at Hawkhill, so they can sell off the site for a company's warehouse expansion. The proposal is to fence off a bit of Pilrig Park to make new allotments for the folk displaced from Hawkhill. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the case, this will mean a net loss of green space open to the general public. We have the story on page 2.

Broughton Spurtle is  
**free**  
and completely  
independent

## BRIEFLY

In June we reported on the trial of Simon Hackin, volunteer at the Scotland Yard Adventure Centre. With 27 others, he'd been arrested for taking **direct action** against a farm-scale trial of GM maize in Norfolk. The jury has now found them all not guilty of criminal damage, on the grounds that they aimed to prevent a greater evil – contamination of nearby crops and the environment through pollination. Glad to have you back safe and sound, Simon!

*Consultation on the City Council's plans for local traffic control measures continues, with Andy Conway of City Development going the rounds of Community Council, resident associations and local traders, armed with maps. There's been a hostile response to the idea of losing the roundabout at the foot of Broughton Street, with its grass and flowers. We understand that idea is likely to be ditched. If you want to discuss any aspect of the plans with Andy, you can phone him on 469 3785.*

September's issue of the gay newsletter 'SHOUT!' honours one of Outright Scotland's patrons, MSP Nora Radcliffe – who was prominent in the battle against Section 28. "We are proud that Nora is a patron and thank her for her continuing support and hard work for liberty, democracy and justice".

*Financial and contractual details have taken a bit longer than expected, but work on Mansfield Place Church really should start soon. In future progress will be reported on a new website, which carries background information on building, murals and project, all illustrated by specially taken photos:  
www.mansfieldtraquair.org.uk.*



## The Hawkhill allotments: is it really jobs versus green space?

It's a double whammy. Fourteen allotment holders have been told they must leave plots they've cultivated over many years; and Pilrig residents face losing a chunk out of their public park. The reason: building supplier D F Wishart want to extend their premises at Hawkhill, and the allotments are just next door.

### The case for

The City Council owns the land in question, and in early September its Executive agreed that it should be sold to Wishart. More recently this decision has been upheld by a cross-party 'scrutiny panel' of councillors, after hearing arguments from both Wishart and objectors. Council leaders say they sympathise with those who will have to move: but if Wishart are not allowed to expand at Hawkhill they'll go elsewhere, and local jobs will be lost (the company employs 100 people). The Council will use the price paid by Wishart to provide replacement allotments at Pilrig Park, and to improve the allotments already there – so overall allotments won't lose out.

### The case against

Hawkhill and Pilrig allotment holders, and Pilrig Residents Association, object. They don't think Wishart have made out a full enough case for the expansion at Hawkhill; they question the valuation of the land, which they think is low; and they argue that the sale goes against the

Council's own policies. A report by the Director of City Development dated 11th May 2000 lists allotments in North East Edinburgh, including those at Hawkhill Avenue, and says: "It is the Council's view that all of the above allotments are protected by policy E6(b) of the Local Plan... This view was supported by the Reporter when dismissing an appeal against the refusal of planning permission for a housing development on the privately owned Telferton allotments". The objectors also complain that the quality of consultation throughout has been abysmal: certainly some invitations to meetings seen by **Spurtle** seem extraordinarily offhand. One Pilrig resident warned us: "They are favourable to local green issues so long as it doesn't affect anything else".

### Our local councillor's response

Quite apart from the allotment holders' grievances, there's no denying that the proposals will result in a net loss of public green space – in Pilrig Park. **Spurtle** put it to local councillor Mark Lazarowicz that this didn't sit comfortably with his commitment to greening Broughton. He told us that, to compensate for this, the Council might now retain a vacant building plot in adjacent Cambridge Gardens for use as a community garden – instead of selling it off for development. But it looks very small on the map!

The value quoted for the land at Hawkhill is the value for industrial premises, he says; any other future use will mean an extra payment to the Council. On the justification of the proposal, he told us that he and other councillors were satisfied that 40% of Wishart's employees did live in North East Edinburgh, so that if the company moved away there would be a substantial loss of current and future local jobs. But he agrees that the consultation process had serious shortcomings: "Lessons have been learnt".

### It's not over yet

We understand planning permission has yet to come – another chance to object. And the way consultation was handled has left some objectors wondering about going to the local government ombudsman. Whatever the outcome – whatever the rights and wrongs of this particular case – it leaves us feeling uneasy. Does Wishart's future in Edinburgh really depend on those Hawkhill allotments? Could they not wait to find a more appropriate solution in due course, with help from the Council? How low in the City Council's priorities are allotments, and public green spaces? Is it sometimes just too easy for business to blackmail both national and local politicians by raising the spectre of jobs to be lost, or not won?

And how safe are our own open spaces in Broughton?

#### 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!

#### **Spurtle** team for this issue:

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

**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

#### We apologise

The phone number for Edinburgh Claimants is 557 6242 and not as we printed it in our last edition. And the address of the Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh is 17 West Montgomery Place  
Sorry for any inconvenience!

## Stafford Centre garden

If you take a stroll up Broughton Place Lane, and peer through the gate at the end, you'll see a beautiful new garden. It's in the backyard of the Stafford Centre, Broughton Street. Funded by a grant from the City Council's 'Agenda 21' (money raised by taxing companies who use landfill sites to dispose of waste), the Centre has created a peaceful little haven for its users.

Designer David Langton from the Four Winds Inspiration Centre planned and created the garden, with plenty input from the users themselves at every stage. **Spurtle** recently joined them to celebrate the official opening with a barbecue (a permanent feature built by a user), sausages etc. donated by neighbour Crombie the butcher;



David Langton at work on the garden.

and live music from the Centre's own group of musicians.

The Centre is now considering how the area in front of the building might be improved. Good luck to them!



## Police surgery for gay community

From September's 'SHOUT!' Lothian and Borders Police Surgery is an initiative set up to support the gay community and is based at Gayfield Square Police Station. You can talk confidentially to an officer at the Police Surgery in Nexus Cafe, Edinburgh LGB Centre, 60 Broughton Street, every Monday 6-7pm. Or telephone

your local Police Community Officer on 0131 620 5138/5140.

If you want to talk to the police but don't feel you can do it on your own, then Outright Scotland can help. A member of our team can support you by attending the surgery with you. Contact Outright Scotland on 0131 558 9216.

## Opportunity knocks!

Are you interested in local planning, transport issues or the environment? Here's a chance to influence what happens in your own area. The New Town Broughton and Pilrig Community Council want to co-opt two members to fill vacancies on the Council. They'd particularly welcome you if you live in Broughton, Pilrig or the eastern part of the New Town.

The Council discusses local issues and feeds information on local concerns to the City Council and other appropriate authorities. It has the right to be consulted on planning and some licensing issues. It meets on the first Monday evening of each month, usually in Drummond Community High School.

If you think you might be interested phone the Secretary, Annette O'Carroll – 556 7586.

Pay as you use  
personal transport



No parking problems. No tax.  
No MOT. No worries!

Just book and go!

0131 453 5300

www.citycarclub.co.uk

## Bellevue Newsagents

Not just a newsagent!

Cash machine,  
mobile top-up cards,  
international phone cards,  
toys, stamps,

Littlewoods Pools agents,  
dry cleaning and  
shoe repair service  
42 Bellevue Road