



# Bannockburn News

## Local News For Local People

Issue 2 December 2004



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### Your Comments and Contributions

For Bannockburn News to be a success we need your comments and contributions. Let us know what you think. Giving us your comments couldn't be easier. You can:

Phone Derek Robertson on 01786 489 301 or Joe Smith on 07802 186 608

By letter to:  
The Editor  
Bannockburn News  
c/o 52 Myreton Drive,  
Bannockburn  
FK7 8PX.

Email us at  
[Editor.bnews@BTConnect.com](mailto:Editor.bnews@BTConnect.com)

Or talk to any  
Community Councillor or  
Community Trust Director.

Your contributions for the February issue need to be with us by  
**Tuesday, 1 February 2005**

## New School — have your say

**S**tirling Council is currently considering some major changes to the delivery of secondary school education throughout Stirling. The dominant feature in the deliberations includes options to either refurbish many of Stirling's High Schools or to completely replace them. At present, the Council is considering two proposals from private companies to completely replace the schools under a Public Private Partnership initiative (PPP).

A schools PPP initiative would mean a private company would build the schools and then lease the buildings back to the Council on a long lease. The proposals involves knocking down Stirling, Dunblane, Wallace and St Modan's High Schools and building replacements, as well as a new extension for McLaren High in Callander.

Residents of Bannockburn will be affected as the site

currently being suggested for the new St Modan's High School is the land between Bannockburn High School and St Mary's RC Primary School. If the proposals were to go ahead, Bannockburn High School would share some facilities with the new St Modans School.

Bannockburn Community Council would like to hear the views of the Bannockburn Community on this issue.

Please write or email us with your thoughts and views to :

Bannockburn Community Council,  
Community Centre,  
West Murrayfield, FK7 8NB  
or email us at:  
[bannockburncommunity@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bannockburncommunity@tiscali.co.uk).

alternatively come along to the community council monthly meeting held on the first Thursday of every month at 7.30pm. Don't wait till it's to late, let us hear your views NOW.

## Hookie



**M**ention the name James McGill McCabe and many people would reply, Who ? But mention Hookie and everyone knew the name, everyone including the first Minister, Jack McConnell to the recently resigned Scotland manager, Berti Vogts. Sadly, we all lost Hookie when he died after a short illness recently but in his all too short 59 years he made a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Yes, he was loud and often controversial but he got results, he got things done and he would always go out of his way to help others. His love of football, and in particular Bannockburn AFC and his charity football team, Dukla Pumpherson were well known, what is not so well known was the amount of good work he did for the community of Bannockburn, it will take a team of others to carry on this work, indeed it was his idea to restart this Bannockburn News and guess what, he delegated the task.

Condolences go to his wife, Marie and all the family, we will all miss him.

Contd... Page 2



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## Robert Thomson

BY JOE SMITH

**R**obert has lived all his 75 years in Bannockburn and is a "well kent" face in the village. In fact he has lived his whole life in a 1/2 mile radius, moving from Stein Square to Lomond Drive and then to his current home at Station Road. Truly a Bannockburn boy through and through.



old folk who live around you – still working at 75.

Robert has many tales of Bannockburn and will gladly recount them over a cup of tea. 75 years of Bannockburn history – a real local character.

Thanks to Robert. If you know of someone you think we should feature as a Local Character please contact the editorial team.

As a teenager Robert sold firewood bundles round the doors and this enterprise eventually led to a lifetimes work delivering coal briquettes. How many young Bannockburn boys can thank Robert for earning their first pocket money while working on the briquette lorry? Robert gave up the business in 1977 due to the decline in the coal industry and the introduction of smokeless zones BUT still to this day he continues to give firewood to some of the

## Hookie

BY ELAINE SPEED

**W**hen I was asked to do a few words on Hookie, I wasn't sure I was the best person to do this as I had not known him as long as most, but the more I thought about it I realised that anyone who met Hookie for the first time felt they had known him all their life, he had an aura about him that was different to any other.

Hookie worked endlessly for many projects, past and present, and always put great efforts and passion into what he felt strongly about. None more so than for the village of Bannockburn itself. He joined the Community Council in the mid 90's and ruffled more than a few feathers on his way. He was always on the look-out for "keen, enthusiastic volunteers" and once you were on board there was no way off. He has pioneered a few projects in the village and had us all out on a Saturday clearing paths

and walkways which then went onto become the Village Green Club.

The earlier issues of the Bannockburn News continued due to the hard work and gentle sales persuasion of Hookie with the local businesses, any fund raising events he worked tirelessly at promoting them and making them a success. He will be greatly missed by all he left behind (and still spoke to!), a true, good hearted Community inspiration to us all.

**Elaine Speed  
Bannockburn Community Council**

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## Cringate Gardens

Dick Cochrane

**O**chilview Playsafe successfully secured funds of approximately £25000 to refurbish the park on the ochilview estate through both local fundraising and obtaining grants.



These pictures were taken at the opening of the park which is proving to be a great hit with local children.

Thanks to everyone who helped make this project possible.

**Ochilview Playsafe Committee**

## Brilliant Bannockburn Employee

What a great response. We had several entries from customers and employers and we promise to feature them all in the future. For this issue the focus is on Grace O'Rourke from McNaughton Butchers.

Isabel Farquharson nominated Grace and talked about her smile and cheery words with everyone as some of the things that make Grace this issue's Bannockburn Brilliant Employee. Her helpfulness and kindness, particularly with whom Isabel describes as the "auld yins", sealed it for Grace this month.

If you want to add your Brilliant Bannockburn Employee to the list for a future issue please get in touch.



# Forgotten Industry on the Bannockburn

BY ROBERT AITKEN

The Bannock Burn arises north of Earl's Hill and falls roughly southeast to meet the Cringate road. From this 1000 foot vantage point on a summers day, looking down past the tinkling stream, you can see the heather moor land, the forests, the crags high above the shimmering water of North Third and can only think "what a perfect landscape". Hidden in that landscape is the remains of the forgotten industry of lime burning. Go down the burn half a mile to its junction with a small stream from the west and you are now at Swallowhaugh Quarry, limestone workings extending a mile along both banks. The quarry faces are hidden by spoil and later collapse. Among the spoil are around forty lime clamps built as simple stone structures. Leaving the quarry we reach the road and the Bannock turns north then east. At the foot of the crags several kilns can be seen, one 22 feet in diameter and 6 foot high, other structures of varying sizes are nearby. Further downstream we come to Craigend Lime Works, a bank of kilns with front draw arches and high tunnel-mouths. Further lime works can be seen at Murrayshall, similar to Craigend, forming a long bank of kilns.

At its height in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century at Craigend and Murrayshall the lime industry would produce one ton of quicklime (calcium oxide) for every two tons of rock burned. Ten to fifteen tons of lime was needed for each two to five acres of field and as most of Stirling was under cultivation as well as the demand for mortar these kilns were in use for most of the year. In spring and summer they would burn day and night. Part payment for lime burners was a quart of beer, thirsty work! Quick lime was a dangerous product, it could cause severe burns and if it entered the eyes blindness would often be the result. Asphyxiation was also a real hazard for the lime burners. In winter vagrants would seek the warmth of the kilns, but some fell victim to the fumes and others actually fell into the kiln itself. Adding water produces slaked lime (calcium hydroxide). The further addition of sand forms a superior mortar for building purposes. It was common practise for farmers



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to load lump lime onto carts to take directly to the fields, dump it in piles then cover it with soil to allow it to slake then later spread the powder, sometimes the lime would get wet prematurely and the subsequent reaction would set the cart on fire. Despite the problems, lime burning on the Bannock helped to build Stirling in all senses of the word. So if you are lucky enough to pass through or look on that landscape spare a moment to remember the people who worked here.

Further Information

**It is understood that some locals refer to the Bannockburn upstream of the North Third reservoir as the Swallowhaugh or Swallowhall.**

We would be happy to hear from anyone from Bannockburn or further afield who has knowledge of these place names or of lime burning in this area of the Bannock.

# Brown bins arrive in Bannockburn



Stirling Council's brown bin rollout has reached Bannockburn. This means a change from a weekly collection of the green/grey bin to a fortnightly collection. Every second week we will empty your brown bin. These are for garden waste and cardboard only.

You can put all of your garden waste, including hedge clippings, grass, weeds, small branches and leaves in your brown bin. If wet, then wrap them in paper or put them in a cardboard box to prevent them from becoming stuck. You can include all sorts of cardboard such as cereal boxes, food packaging, toilet roll tubes and egg boxes.

It is important to keep your brown bin free of plastic bags and other material that won't rot down. We are also asked to remove sticky tape and staples from cardboard and to make sure that no tetrapak containers (such as fruit juice cartons) are included.

The Council take all our brown bin material to the large scale compost facility at Lower Polmaise. Here the garden waste and cardboard is screened, shredded, piled into long "windrows" and left to compost. It is turned regularly by a special machine.

Bannockburn Primary eco-group carried out an informative school assembly about how the new system works and how important it is. Used along with the weekly collection of the blue recycling box, this scheme allows residents to recycle over half their household rubbish.

For more info. call 442805 or 442696  
NOTE: Brown bins will be delivered week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> November. First uplift will be 3<sup>rd</sup> of December.

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## Festive Season 04

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- Friday, 17th Tom Jones
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## Murrayfield UF Church - Old and New

**T**he original Murrayfield UF Church at 1 Main Street has recently been renovated by Newlands Builders and converted into luxury apartments but the Church itself has a long history and many memories for those connected to it.

The original Church was a Burgher congregation dating from April 1796. and entered the Union in 1929, returning to UF Church on 2nd October, 1945. The congregation then moved in 1959 to a more adequate building, the former Ladywell Church at McAllister Court where they still worship today. The old building stood for many years and has been used by various groups and business concerns but the re-generation is now complete with a full restoration.

During research it was uncovered that the Church was in fact reopened in 1963 for the wedding of well known local couple Willie & Roberta Gibb. At this time the building was being used as the BB hall but the then Minister, Mr Porter decided to decorate the "new" Church and with the wedding booked at the same time an alternative venue had to be used, leading to the transformation from BB hall to UF Church once again.



William & Roberta Gibb,  
on the steps of the former  
Murrayfield UF Church, 1963

Roberta Thomson & William Gibb were married on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1963, but only after the families had set about cleaning the church in readiness for the ceremony. The building may now be used for dwelling but will always hold memories for all those connected to it.

P.S, Willie & Roberta celebrated their 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary recently and Willie says he is as much in love now as he was then, Roberta refused to comment !!

## Bannockburn Rugby Club

**B**annockburn Rugby Club was started by former pupils from St Modans High School in Stirling in 1978, playing under the banner of St Modans FP's until the name was changed in 1996 to Bannockburn Rugby Club.

The club play their home matches at the Bluebellwood Clubhouse sited in Bannockburn and presently run 2 senior XV's. The club played their first match in 1979 against HMS Neptune and entered the Midland league in 1980 until they joined the Glasgow set up in 1982 where they stayed until 1994 before rejoining the Midlands set up. The club played in the National leagues briefly and are now in the Midlands District league but throughout have provided many players who have since gone onto greater things with other clubs, namely former Scotland & Newcastle Prop George Graham and Scotland B player & former "County" coach, Eddie Pollock. President this season is once again, Ernie Frain with Andy Devine as Captain and Alan Ford looking after match day details. Anyone wishing to play rugby for the first time or indeed return to the sport are welcome at the Bluebell Wood. Training is on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 7pm. **All welcome.**

**Feedback from Issue 1:** "What a great read! The new and improved Bannockburn News is a fantastic example of a community newspaper providing local news for local people. It truly reflects the vibrancy of the Bannockburn community and the "Let's All be Proud" headline is a message I am sure the people of Bannockburn will identify with. I wish the publication every success in the future." **Anne McGuire**

## Community Trust Update

Alison Hotchkiss

**T**his past few weeks have seen record numbers of new people joining the family fitness class in Bannockburn Community Centre. At this time of year with Christmas parties looming we may find ourselves a few pounds heavier than we want to be, so it's no surprise that people want to burn off loads of calories and get fit quick, so what better way to do that than a good workout. But the fact that exercise improves our general health may be the best reason of all to do it. Along with improving cardiovascular fitness for a healthier heart, exercise lowers cholesterol in the blood to further reduce the risk of heart disease. It also helps prevent adult-onset diabetes, hypertension and certain cancers, and as death from these accounts for 60% of deaths in Scotland every year then making exercise a priority in your life is essential.



So to stay in shape and feel your best you must exercise. Good intentions are not enough, nobody can do it for you and if you don't do it, it's not going to get done. So what are you waiting for, we'll see you at the Community Centre on Tuesday's 6-6.45 and Thursday's 6.30-7.15pm.

## Operation Overlord

PAUL COLQUHOUN

Hello again and welcome to this my second chance to speak to you in this local forum. I would like to take this opportunity to address an ever growing problem in our society, the misuse of drugs. Central Scotland Police is fully committed to tackling this issue and to targeting the people who sell them. Recently in the Force area under the Safer Central Banner, Operation Overlord resulted in numerous addresses across the force area including addresses in Stirling and Bannockburn being searched.

Since Operation Overlord began in February 2001 drugs with a total street value of £2.6 million have been recovered across the

Central Scotland Police area. Since only April of this year 122 dealers have been arrested. CSP are actively targeting local dealers and continue to be pro-active in the fight against drugs.

As the local Community Constable for the Bannockburn area I will not tolerate dealers in this area and can tell you I have already been pro-active in this regard. The help of you the public is as ever crucial in carrying on this type of work and to bringing offenders to justice.

If anyone has any information they can contact me at Bannockburn Police Office, or



contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Stirling Police Office:  
01786 456000.

Bannockburn Police Office:  
01786 812222.

## Christmas Services

**19 December , 6.30pm**  
Ladywell Church  
Carol Service with Ladywell Singers

**24 December, 6.30pm**  
Ladywell Church  
Christingle

**24 December, 7.30pm**  
Allan Church Family Service

**24 December, 11.15pm**  
Allan Church,  
Watchnight Service

**24 December, 11.15pm**  
Murrayfield Church  
Watchnight Service

**24 December, 11.30pm**  
Ladywell Church  
Watchnight Service with soup afterward

**24 December, 11.30pm**  
Our Lady and St Ninian's  
Carol Service

**24 December, Midnight**  
Our Lady & St Ninian's  
Midnight Mass followed by reception in the hall

**25 December, 10.00am**  
Allan Church Family Service

**25 December, 10.30am**  
Ladywell Church  
Family Worship

**25 December, 12 noon**  
Our Lady & St Ninian's  
Christmas Day Service

## More feedback from our first issue

"I am so pleased that the Bannockburn News is up and running again. It is a very professional looking community newspaper and the Community Trust together with the Community Council should be commended in their efforts in getting together the various community groups, organisations and services to become involved in the publication. I wish it every success and I look forward to contributing in the future."

**Dr Sylvia Jackson MSP**

"Congratulations to the editorial team on producing what is an informative and enjoyable regular local newsletter. My wife's family used to live in Bannockburn and it is good to keep in touch with what is happening." **David Lonsdale**  
**Conservative Councillor for Campsie Ward (incl. Carron Valley)**

"I was delighted to read the first issue of Bannockburn News. Bannockburn residents can be justly proud of an illustrious history but must also look ahead to sustaining a vibrant and active community in the 21st century. There are many different ways of getting involved in one's community. I'm sure future editions of the Bannockburn News will be full of articles highlighting progress." **Helen Munro**  
**Director of Community**

## We Loved it

That's our conclusions after the dust settled on our first issue, great interest, great feedback, all added up to a great success.

Here are some of the vital statistics from our first issue.

- 32 dispensers throughout Bannockburn
- 3000 copies taken by you
- Morrisons Garage top distributor with 420
- Copies read from Chicago to New Zealand
- 35 entries to the prize competition
- 30 articles and suggestions for articles
- The advertisers and public information pieces generated enquiries for services
- At least 10 new companies wanting to advertise

So, it seems that the effort was worth it as we look forward to future issues. It is great to have Caroline Bennie joining the production team. The more volunteers we have the more issues we can produce.

You have told us that you've read it and put it back in the dispenser. You've told us that you've sent it to your relatives and friends abroad. You've asked us to add some controversy into the newspaper (always good for a heated debate). You've said how much you liked the local character.

# Bannockburn Abroad

**T**hanks to Mitch Dreczkowski for being first to respond to the Bannockburn abroad. His wife Margaret's Auntie, passed through Australia's Bannockburn and sent us excerpts from their local paper. This Bannockburn is 50 miles south east of Melbourne on the Midland highway. It began in 1850s during the Aussie goldrush era, though a squatter named George Russell settled there first in 1837. Surprise, surprise the township adopted the name Bannockburn by ex-pats who wanted to "remember the battlefield where Robert Bruce's Scottish warriors defeated the English Army in 1314." In 1863, the small town was "shifted" to be closer to the new railway station.



They did this by either dismantling and rebuilding the houses or moving them on rollers! Today it has some 2000 residents. They reckon that by 2020 it will have 8000 of a population. It's growing just like our town.

We already have several Bannockburns to feature so keep your pictures and stories coming about Bannockburns around the world.

# What's on?

**Youth Church** (Ages 5 upwards)  
Allan Church  
Every Wednesday  
6.30 – 8 pm  
Everyone welcome

**Carpet Bowls**  
Community Centre  
Every Wednesday 2-4pm £1 inc. drink  
Every Thursday 8-10pm £1.50 inc. drink

**Family Fitness**  
Community Centre  
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Every Thursday 6.30-7.15pm  
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## Bannockburn Youth Club Update

### Community Youth Work

For more information please contact Heather MacPherson, Community Worker (Youth) on 818410 or macphersonh@stirling.gov.uk

The last few months have been busy for the members of Bannockburn Youth Club. Our weekly club night has been running every Monday night in Bannockburn Community Centre since the 30<sup>th</sup> of August. We have had nearly 400 young people attending the club aged 11-19.

activities such as pool and table tennis. Halloween saw us 'dooking for apples' and singing songs/ telling jokes for 'trick or treat'.



We have set up our Bannockburn Youth Club Committee where a group of our members discuss and decide how the club should run including the activities that will be offered on a Monday night. So far we have offered activities such as badminton, t-shirt printing, music making, clay art, football, tennis and other drop in

Our main achievements have included the set up of our Wednesday night indoor football sessions at Bannockburn High School from 8-10pm. The cost for members is 50p. We are currently waiting to hear if we have been successful with a Youth Challenge grant to help us pay for our coaching and

hopefully to fund future games against other youth clubs in the Stirling Council Area.

Some of the girls have met to plan a 'girls group' for local girls aged 12-19. This group will allow girls the opportunity to try new things and have a night where they can learn new skills and have some fun. Hopefully this group will start soon after Christmas. Watch this space for more details

We also continue to work with local adult groups in Bannockburn around the improvements at Ladywell Park.

All of the above activities are open to Bannockburn Youth Club members only. If you want to become a member please come along to the Youth Club on Monday nights or contact Heather on

818410 or macphersonh@stirling.gov.uk New members are always welcome – we hope to see you soon!!.

Here are details of our activities up until the Christmas Holiday and some photos of our recent club nights/football sessions. Please note that some of these activities may change.

**6 December, 7-9pm**  
Bannockburn Community Centre  
Bannockburn Youth Club  
(50p entry)  
Chill Out Room, Pool/Table Tennis, Big Paint Pens, Tuck Shop

**8 December, 8-10pm**  
Bannockburn High School  
Indoor Football  
(Entry fee 50p, **no entry after 8:10pm**)

**13 December, 7-9pm**  
Bannockburn Community Centre  
Bannockburn Youth Club  
(50p entry)  
Basketball, Karaoke, Pool/Table Tennis, Christmas Crackers, Cooking, Tuck Shop

**15 December, 8-10pm**  
Bannockburn High School  
Indoor Football  
(Entry fee 50p, **no entry after 8:10pm**)



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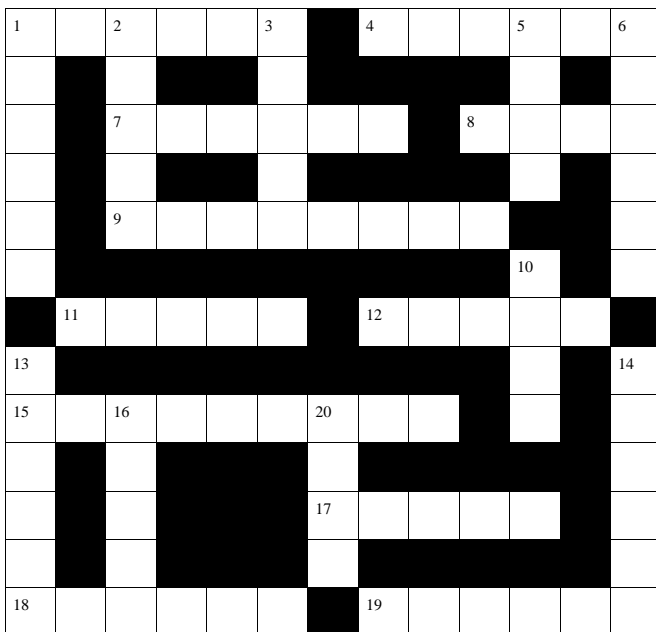
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# Prize Competition

Here is Margaret Robertson's Christmas Crossword. It's open to everyone who lives and works in Bannockburn. To enter for the £20 prize send your completed answers by 24 January 2005, to The Editor, Bannockburn News c/o 52 Myreton Drive, Bannockburn, FK7 8PX.

We will draw the winner from all the correct entries at the Community Trust meeting on 26 January 2005.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

### Across

- 1 Small fowls (6)
- 4 This wine is drunk at Christmas(6)
- 7 The red nosed one (6)
- 8 Deep and crisp and \_\_\_\_ (4)
- 9 Another name for Christmas (8)
- 11 Red berried decoration (5)
- 12 Firs, pines, etc. (5)
- 15 Gifts found in this draw (6,3)
- 17 This name could be talons (5)
- 18 Mostly fairy ones (6)
- 19 Brandy, cranberry or mustard? (6)

### Down

- 1 Found in a Christmas pudding (6)
- 2 Most people attend one at Christmas (5)
- 3 Buy presents from here (5)
- 5 \_\_\_\_ came down at Christmas (4)
- 6 One of Santa's Reindeer (6)
- 10 Have yourself a \_\_ merry Christmas (4)
- 13 The first \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 14 Sung by choirs (6)
- 16 A highland one may be danced (5)
- 20 Used in board games (4)

## September Competition Winner

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the initial competition. We will try to have a Bannockburn related competition as often as we can. The winner, drawn at the October Community Trust meeting, was Mrs H Donaldson of Firs Crescent. The answers to September's quiz are:

- 1. Bruce    2. Main Street    3. Balfour    4. Ladywell Park    5. Quarryknowe    6. Hedges Loan    7. Stein    8. Bowling Green
- 9. Academy    10. Forthview    11. James    12. Wilson    13. Corbiewood    14. Benview    15. West Murrayfield    16. Duke Street
- 17. Coal    18. Newmarket    19. Telford    20. Bluebell Wood    21. Queen Street    22. Quakerfield

Thanks for all the photos and articles that you have sent us. Keep them coming. We will publish them as soon as we can. Remember to recycle your Bannockburn News.



## Bannockburn Amateurs

Gordon McColl

**B**annockburn appointed Jake Zelman as new team manager in the close season and the rewards are now being seen as the team go from strength to strength.

Four new players were added to the squad and competition is as fierce as ever, especially at training. The players are working hard at training and their confidence is growing with every game.

We have qualified for the 1/4 finals of the League Cup and are in the 3rd round of both the Scottish and West Cups. After an opening day defeat away to Viewfield, Bannockburn have gone undefeated in several games and have scored over 30 goals in the last six games. Bannockburn also celebrated the opening of their excellent new playing surface at New Ladywell Park.



### Editorial Policy Statement

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