

Bannockburn News

Issue 24: August 2008



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YOUR COMMENTS

For Bannockburn News to stay 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.

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Our deadline for contributions for the next issue is:

Friday 12 Sep 2008

Durieshill Update

BY JOE SMITH

Plans by Stirling Council for the controversial Durieshill "super village" next to Bannockburn have been given the green light.

Moves by a group of developers to halt the plans were dismissed by the Court of Session in a written judgement. The new village and associated facilities will largely be funded by the Private Sector but will have future resource implications for the local council.

The council said the development, was needed to cope with demand for new housing and cut urban sprawl from small towns and villages.

Durieshill, could see up to 2,500 homes, two or three schools, a business park and shopping complex built and would be about the same size as Dunblane when completed. The appeal, which would have quashed Stirling Council's local plan, was dismissed by three law lords.

Speaking on the Court of Session decision Graham Houston, Leader of the Council said, "I am delighted that we can now press on with this exciting development. This new town is needed to keep up with the demand for housing that we continue to experience in Stirling, despite the

current economic climate. Now that we have overcome this legal challenge we can look forward to creating a distinctive, sustainable and safe community which could be used as a model for new development across Scotland."

The next steps in getting the new super-village underway will be to complete a master plan which will be the subject of consultation. Previously, extensive consultation on the plans took place between 2003 and 2004 and the results formed the Second Alteration to the Stirling Council Local Plan. This Plan

The Durieshill plans, which date back to 2003, would be developed at a site to the west of Plean and south of Pirnhall roundabout, on land by the M9 and the M80 by the Walker Group. This could lead to increased traffic congestion.

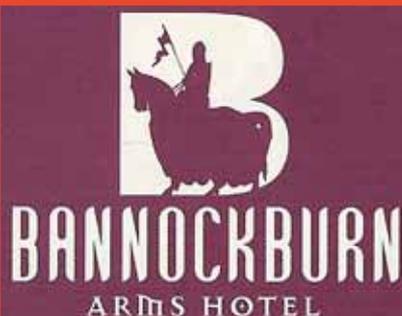
Local councillor Alasdair MacPherson said: "Whilst some are rejoicing at the Court of Session decision, I have still to be convinced of merits of this development, especially in this economic climate. Firstly, it is essential that any Master Plan for the new village is designed so that it takes in to account the

impact the proposed development will have on the existing dwellings at West Plean. Secondly, it is also vital that the Council addresses the impact that the traffic from the development will have on Bannockburn, Whins of Milton and Plean. In my role as Chair of the Council's Planning Panel and Portfolio Holder for Housing Strategy, I can assure my constituents in Bannockburn and the surrounding area that they will be consulted before any Master Plan is finalised or approved. It would not surprise me one bit that it might take years for this development to commence anyway given the national slowdown in the house building industry".

What's your thoughts?



was then subject to the Local Plan Inquiry by Scottish Reporters, which upheld the Council's plans. Consultees have already said landscape, infrastructure, sewage and wildlife are just some of the issues which will require intensive investigation, as well as contamination and gas risks associated with former mining works in the area and from natural sources



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. . . team
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Michaela Farquharson: Globe Trekker

By JOE SMITH

Local lass, Michaela Farquharson (20) has just returned from a year long trip to Australia and the Bannockburn News caught up with her so that she could share some of her travel tales.

Michaela is the daughter of well known publican and chef, Joey, and his lovely wife Moira and they, along with all her family and friends, were delighted to welcome her home safely recently.

Michaela spent her year Down Under travelling and working, and managed to visit 7 out of the 8 states in Oz, the only one she missed was Tasmania and

she hopes to complete the set some time in the future. Everyone who knows Michaela is aware of her infectious personality and I'm sure that helped her on her travels.

During her stay she undertook several types of work including bar and kitchen work, and her favourite - fruit picking, although she did say that she will never eat another Papaya. Michaela also picked up a few new best friends along the way and her Queensland gang consisted of girls from UK, Japan, Holland, Germany and even some Australians. "I think it was safety in numbers or maybe just one big girl's party!"

They still keep in touch by email and are planning a reunion somewhere in the world, sometime in the future.

They say that travel broadens the mind and Michaela certainly has returned a confident young lady with an appetite for more adventures. The popular tourist attractions of Australia were also on her list and she managed to visit the Great Barrier Reef, the Blue Mountains, Ayers rock and Fraser Island. Her favourite place was a pub in Daly Waters up in the Northern Territory. Daly Waters is a township which comprises a few houses and the very famous Daly Waters Hotel, reputed to be one of the oldest in Australia.

Today, with a population of about 23, the town of Daly Waters has little to commend it apart from its

historical pub which is like no other pub you've ever seen before. Now, however they have an honorary resident in the crazy Scottish girl. If you are ever up that way pop in and let them know Michaela got home safely, they'll remember her!!

This was not Michaela's first trip abroad as she spent 5 months in 2006 working at camp America as a camp councilor working with people with special needs. During this placement she utilised her training from her voluntary time at riding for the disabled in Bannockburn. The big difference during her recent trip was that this time she was able to move around and met different people and pick up new cultures.

When asked what her five most vital travel items are she responded with "money, good pair of walking shoes, mobile phone, camera and more money".

Work hard to get the money then spend it on everlasting memories. She did, however, own up to some homesickness, the worst being on Christmas day when she heard 500 miles by the Proclaimers on the radio, but it didn't last long as she had to head to the beach for a "barbie" and a few "tinnies" of XXXX for her Christmas dinner with her new friends..

Michaela should be applauded for her efforts and confidence in herself to go into the unknown.



Her advice for others is "get off your behinds and do it, there is no excuse or any point is saying 'I wish' all your life".

Another story Michaela told us concerns the time in Sydney when she only had a few days before she flew home and wanted to see the city's sights. The best way is the open top bus tour and she was so determined to complete this tour that she persuaded the driver to take her even although it was the heaviest rain that Sydney had seen for years. Picture the scene, raining cats and dogs, an empty bus with Michaela the only passenger on the top deck and everyone waving to her. A group of Japanese tourists even stopped to take her picture and the local bin men gave her a big cheer as she meandered along the route with the driver shaking his head in disbelief, Michaela responded that she was from Scotland and it was only a shower.....more magic memories, well done to Michaela and good luck on your future travels



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Allotment Growth Reaches 'Burn

By DEREK JENKINSON - DEREKJ@DJENKINSON2.WANADOO.CO.UK

Derek got in touch about raising the issue of allotments. Its a part of community life that's on the increase again so read on.

Derek is currently enquiring with Stirling council as to the possibility of getting an allotment area set up in the Bannockburn, Milton and Hill Park area. He believes that the ideal area is down by the

weir, as it has become overgrown with brambles, nettles and

weeds.

As he is just trying to find out the rules as to how to proceed, he wanted to use Bannockburn news to get your thoughts about the idea.

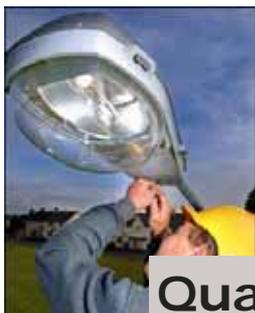
Derek believes that the minimum number of people that have to post notice is six, its plainly more the better, for the council to take notice. People can contact Derek at the email address above.



'Dimmer Switch' for Street Lights

BY JOE SMITH

No, it's not April.... but, Stirling Council have just announced that they are to trial 300 new street lights, each fitted with remotely controlled dimmer switch, in a bid to cut energy bills and CO2 emissions.



The lighting will be installed in Whins of Milton, Cowie and Bannockburn at a cost of £600,000. The scheme is expected to be fully operational by the autumn.

Peter Nowek, from the Council, said "We will be able to dim the lamps in the middle of the night to reduce energy consumption when less light is required". Stirling Council also denied claims that plans to install street lights with adjustable light levels will lead to an increase in crime

We, at the Bannockburn News have been assured that these lights will be operated remotely and there will be no

need to employ a "Leery Man" of old who was responsible for lighting the gas lamps every night, pity really, as I'm sure that this would be a great job for some of our youths, at least it would keep them off the streets at night (no pun intended).



Quality Gardening (at much cheapness)

BY PERKY GROWER

Liquid feeding is a well-known technique used by gardeners to boost their crops, the only drawback being the expenditure; it is possible to produce liquid fertiliser for virtually nothing!

What you need is a dynamic accumulator, what is that? It is a plant that is very effective at storing nutrients in its leaves, especially nitrogen, and the best plant for that job is the stinging nettle!

Making the liquid is very simple, all you need is a large bucket, fill it with nettles and cover with water adding a weight to keep down the vegetation, after a couple of weeks remove the mush to the compost heap and dilute the liquid until it looks like tea, this can be applied to leafy plants that require nitrogen like most

salad crops.

Tomato feed is also expensive but again you can make your own, first you need to obtain some Russian comfrey, most keen gardeners will have some and as it is a rampant grower they will give you a spare piece if you ask, the plan is the same as the nettles but this time you keep adding comfrey and water as you use the liquid which is rich in potash, ideal for tomatoes, peppers, chillies, aubergines and even the humble potato.

A word of warning, most gardeners will not mind but as the decomposition of the plant material is anaerobic, that is without oxygen, both liquids may have a very slight odour.

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Photo Fun Puzzler



For more old photo's see <http://www.bannockburn.co.uk>

Braking open the charity bottle at Tartan Arms.

Can you name the faces from yester year? If so get in touch with the editor.

Bruce's Bistro

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Dear Daphne . . .

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Daphne is here to provide advice on a range of subjects.

Q I suffer from spots on my face and it's really getting to me. I seem to have tried all powders and creams, changed my diets and still they appear. It's knocked my confidence and I find I now make excuses to avoid going out and about. What can you advise me before I lose it altogether.

A My heart goes out to you, but you can't just give up! To become a hermit just because of a few plukes is ridiculous. Everyone gets spots at some stage in their life - it's just unfortunate for you that you've got it a bit worse than others. It

could be worse, you could have B.O. or rotten breath - although, if you had all three then it probably best if you stayed in at weekends. Yes, having a face like a dartboard isn't good but you need to pull yourself together and live your life to the full regardless. And remember, you could always just wear a balaclava!

Q My boss at work will always find something that I do to pick fault with. Absolutely without fail no matter what I do my boss will always find something to criticise. Now I know I'm not perfect but it wears me down knowing that I'll never get simple "That was a good job". I like the work but I'm thinking about leaving.
Help

A Unfortunately a lot of bosses can be like that so don't take it too personally. They're probably doing it as some kind of test to see what you're really made of, so next time they give you a hard time, look them straight in the eye, stand tall and say "back off little man - you have no idea who you're dealing with here". If you still have a job, they'll maybe have more respect for you and you'll probably get promoted. If not, you were better off out of the place anyway!

Got an issue for Daphne?
Get in touch



Bannockburn Community Council

STEPHEN TRAYNOR

A new Community Council Forum has been set up. Although it's still in it's infancy - we'd be grateful if you'd take the time to join the forum community and take part as we move things forward. Although we will be limited in what we can do with the forum site -it's a start and a means to keep in touch. There will be teething problems but "from tiny acorns..."

The website is >> <http://bannockburn.forumup.co.uk>

HILLPARK and MILTON Community Council

Hillpark and Milton Community Council meets in the Hillpark community centre every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm.

We have been holding meetings now for just over a year and although small in number we are all very eager to improve our area in any way we can.

Our Community Council area starts at the Bannock and covers Firs Crescent, Park Drive, Park Crescent, all of Hillpark and ends at the Glasgow Road.

These are some of the projects we are currently in discussion with Stirling Council about.

TRAFFIC CALMING - last year we were promised that money was available for traffic calming in Morrison Drive and Milton Road. This money was in the council's budget for the year 2007/08, now we are told that only £100,000 is available and

we are still waiting for the work to start.

HERITAGE TRAIL - we have had site visits with Stirling Council officials about the public's safety on the steps on either side of the A9 road and also about the state of the path from the Ladywell Park to the sewage plant. Although everyone recognised that this is a health and safety matter we have been informed that the relevant Council departments don't have any money to address these problems.

EROSION IN LADYWELL PARK - we have had several site visits with Stirling Council officials to discuss the erosion caused by the Bannock. Although agreeing with what needed to be done to prevent any more erosion we were left with two Council departments arguing about whose budget

would pay for the work. As yet we have had nothing done in the park.

COMMUNITY PLAN - we have recently asked people to fill in questionnaires about our area which will help us to find out what the residents in our area want and what can be done to improve the area.

As you can see we have in some occasions came up against a brick wall while trying to improve our area **but** we as a Community Council are determined to get Stirling Council to face up to their responsibilities.

If there is anyone who lives in our area who is interested in joining the Community Council or can help us in any way then we would be pleased to see you at our meetings.

All members of the public are welcome at our meetings.

Community Officer Report

BY PC ALEX HATRICK

Email: alex.hatrick@centralscotland.police.uk

Tel: (01786) 456000



Pavement Parking
 June saw the commencement of Operation Neptune, which was implemented to target the issues of drivers parking on the pavement. Many motorists may not be aware but parking on the pavement; obstructs the passage of wheelchairs, prams, as well as obscuring the view of drivers and pedestrians alike as well as possibly endangering pedestrians, who are elderly, partially sighted, blind or disabled.

June 2008 four separate incidents of vandalism and theft happened within Bannockburn Cemetery.

These acts consisted of damage occurring to personal possessions which were at the gravestone and personal items being stolen which were situated at the graveside.

These acts are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. I would therefore encourage anyone with any information to contact myself at Bannockburn Police Office.

Also by parking on the pavement you are more and likely to receive a £30 fine.

Therefore I please advise drivers not to park on the pavements and find an alternative parking place.

Bannockburn Cemetery

I am saddened to report between 7.30pm on Saturday 28th June and 1130am on Sunday 29th

Operation IMPACT
 In relation to Operation IMPACT the team is still patrolling Bannockburn on Friday and Saturday evenings to prevent and respond to youth disorder. Within the last month there has been approximately 45.5 litres of alcohol seized from youths.

Furthermore I strongly believe by preventing youths gaining access to alcohol

early in the evenings there is a visible reduction in the amount of disorder calls and reports of vandalism.

Therefore over the forthcoming weeks along with my colleagues we will be targeting people who purchase alcohol for persons under the age of 18 years. Over the weekend of Friday 27th June to Sunday 29th June there were four separate incidents in relation to this and at present two males have been charged and two are still to be traced and charged. One Off-Licence is also being reported for selling alcohol to persons under the age of 18 years.

Thank you
 Alex Hatrick 230
 Community Officer



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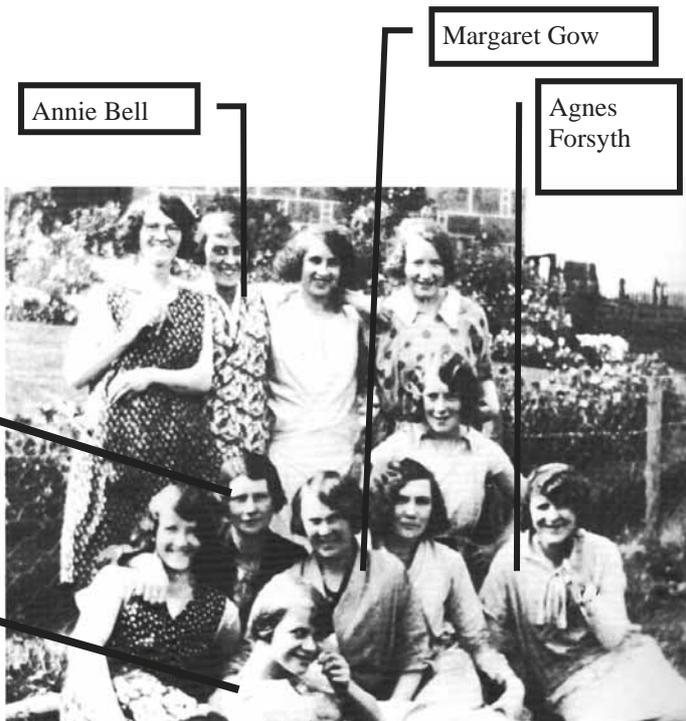
Mill Workers Mystery Stitched Up

BY NUMEROUS

Last time we featured this photo and asked if readers could identify any of the women workers from what we thought was the 1950s.

You did brilliantly because together we have suggestions for each person. And its from the 1930s . . .we think.

So, we have got five and we need to get the rest. Come on.



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Since Our Last Issue

BY VARIOUS

Sauchieburn Question

John Watt emailed (maybe from abroad) to ask if any reader can tell him the exact site of the battle of Sauchieburn. He is researching this incident which is quite important in Scottish History, as it resulted in the death of a King, who was murdered at Beatons Mill, now within the Whins of Milton.

Email the Editor if you know.

Church Theft

A callous thief stole a three-figure sum of cash from the church collection box at Our Lady and St Ninian Church, between 11am and noon on Sunday, July 6. Police are keen to trace a man seen in the area around the time of the theft. He was described as being 20-30 years old with short, black, unkempt hair. He

was wearing a luminous yellow workman's jacket with a light coloured top underneath and dark tracksuit bottoms with white lines down the side.

Bannockburn Beavers

We had a successful 07/08 season where kids' numbers doubled from Primary three through to Primary seven and we were involved in the very successful central rugby festivals which ran throughout the Rugby calendar. Also Bannockburn coaches gave rugby sessions along with Active Stirling in all primary schools in the local area last season and will be involved with the local schools again.

We train on Sundays at 10.30 – 12.00 and matches and Rugby festivals are on Sundays throughout the season. There is a £20 per year membership fee and £1 weekly charge.

The new season kicks off on the Sunday 24th August 10.30am St Modans Sports and Community Club just behind St Mary's Primary School. We would welcome kids aged 7 to 11 for our minis section and kids who are in 1st and 2nd year of high school which will be a new addition to our Rugby Club.

For further details

Please contact Paul Millar on 01786 815212 / 07913738450

Quakerfield Recycle Area

It is with regret that we have to announce that the recycling banks situated in the Quakerfield car park will be removed due to misuse. For some time now people have been using the area for illegal tipping and after complaints from locals the council have decided to remove the banks and return the spaces for car parking. If you require to

recycle any goods please use your blue box or visit the recycle centre at Polmaise. If you require extra recycle blue bins contact the council on 0845 277 7000.

Scribblers Picnic

The annual Scribblers Picnic is taking place this year on Sunday 24th August.

Remember readers that this event raises funds for 5 cancer charities. Entry is a very reasonable £5 for adults and £3 for unaccompanied under 16's. £12 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

A line up is still being finalised but I have listed performers booked so far www.scribblerspicnic.com PS Stalls still available to community groups and charities to raise funds for themselves.

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Message in a Shoe Box



Alex, Christina, Ellen, Tibor and Rev Barclay.

Alex and Ellen Morgan are well known faces around Bannockburn . . . and Benidorm too for that matter. But now another "B" has entered their sphere of influence – Budapest!

For over 10 years, Alex and Ellen have organised and co-ordinated the Christmas Shoebox Appeal from Murrayfield Church. This is when people fill empty shoeboxes with small gifts to be given to needy children in poorer countries at Christmas. During these years

over 1000 boxes have been lovingly filled and sent from Bannockburn to children in many different countries.

Some people enclose a card with their name and address so the children know from whom and where the gifts come from. No one really expects to hear back from the recipients of their boxes, but a few people have received 'thank you' notes from grateful families. One of these notes came to Alex and Ellen from the Kairios family in Budapest whose daughter, Christina, had received their Christmas shoebox in 2002.

The Morgans wrote back, and a correspondence and friendship developed between the two families. As Hungary's economy grew and they joined the European Community, boxes were no longer sent there but went to poorer nations instead. The Morgans, however, continued to send Christmas gifts to Tibor and Eurika and their (now) three children, Christina, Barnabas and Aaron. They even visited the family in Budapest in 2006.

Intriguingly, the Kairios Family and their church in Budapest have taken over the task of filling and delivering Christmas shoeboxes to poorer children in Hungary themselves.



At the end of June, Alex and Ellen were thrilled to welcome Tibor and his daughter Christina to Scotland, and on the Sunday to Murrayfield Church, where he told the story of the first shoebox Christina received from the Morgans and how their own shoebox delivery service has developed from there.

And to think it all started with Alex and Ellen's message in a shoebox!



Struan Mixed Camp 2008

We spent an awesome week at Struan in Perthshire at SSC Camp. Every year a field in the middle of nowhere is transformed in to the most magical place in the world. We met loads of new friends from across Scotland. We enjoyed playing sports, trips on the mini-bus, adventure tubing and the evening entertainment show. Chloe did some highland dancing with a friend called Kate from Oban. Some of our new friends helped us write this story:

"It was a great week and I wish the camp had been longer. I met lots of new friends including Chloe and Laura" [Toby, 12, Edinburgh] ... "You've got to be here to understand what camp is all about" [Nadyne, 16, Oban] ... "Camp is the best and we are going to miss all our new friends. You need to experience Struan to discover what SSC is all about" [Heather and Abbie].

We made so many great friends that we will remember for the rest of our lives and can't wait to go back to Struan next year. Laura and Chloe McGregor.



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Prize Competition

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Well done to Mrs S Palmer for winning the June issue quiz. Davie Curley from Tartan arms picked the winner from the many entries correct entries.

This time the Bannockburn Bamboozler has looked at quotes. If you think a quote is from a film we need the character name, not the actor.

To enter for the £25 prize, send your answers, by 12 September 2008, to The Editor, (address on page 1). The Bannockburn News Committee will draw the winner from all the successful entries. Good luck.

- 1 You cannot be serious?
- 2 Another fine mess you've gotten me into.
- 3 Education, education, education.
- 4 Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn.
- 5 Just a drink, Martini, shaken, not stirred.
- 6 Being a Princess isn't all it's cracked up to be.
- 7 Play it once Sam, for old times' sake.
- 8 You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning.
- 9 It's the way I tell 'em. It's a cracker.
- 10 In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.
- 11 When 900 years you reach, look as good, you will not.
- 12 It's better to be unhappy alone than to be unhappy with someone.
- 13 I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears, and sweat.
- 14 Nae man can tether time or tide.
- 15 You kill 'em, we grill 'em.
- 16 You must be the change you want to see in the world.
- 17 When seagulls follow the trawler, it's because they think sardines will be thrown into the sea.
- 18 I am a marvellous housekeeper. Every time I leave a man I get his house.
- 19 You talking to me?
- 20 Life is what happens to you while making other plans

Entry

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

DPYK

Coming to 'Burn

How to Drug Proof Your Kids® (DPYK for short) is an education, prevention and intervention programme developed by the national charity Care for the Family, in association with Hope UK, specialists in drugs education.

It is really about groups of folk, primarily parents getting together to share experiences, knowledge and learn together.

Derek Robertson (Editor) has been accredited to run courses and with the help of Bannockburn High's Parent Council plans to run a programme over 6 Thursday evenings between 18 September and 30 October.

It will be open to all not just people with a Bannockburn High connection. If you want to know more you can surf the DPYK website at <http://www.dpyk.org.uk/pages/aboutdpyk.asp>. And look out for local publicity during August and the start of September.

Last Time's Solution

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Wedding ring | 6. Fraternity ring | 11. Engagement Ring | 16. Tie Pin |
| 2. Necklace | 7. Wristwatch | 12. Navel Stud | 17. Anklet |
| 3. Solitaire | 8. Bracelet | 13. Coronet | 18. Carbuncle |
| 4. Diadem | 9. Medallion | 14. Cufflinks | 19. Eternity Ring |
| 5. Trinket | 10. Amulet | 15. Cameo Brooch | 20. Bangle |

You may have read in other local papers about Bannockburn Amateur FC's successful 40th anniversary celebrations. The Bannockburn website uncovered this Amateurs team snap possibly at Hampden and possibly in the early 70s. Recognise anyone???????



Editorial Policy Statement

Bannockburn News is a free community newspaper, produced by volunteers for the people of Bannockburn. The views in it do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Group. The Editorial Group reserve the right to edit, shorten or not publish any article or letter. We will attribute contributions to the author and any vested interest will be declared where applicable. The newspaper is funded by our local businesses.