

Bannockburn News

Issue 22: April 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.

Email us at:

Editor.bnews@BTCconnect.com

Advertising enquiries to:

mcquackers1@hotmail.co.uk

Our deadline for contributions for the next issue is:

Friday 16 May 2008

Bannockburn On line

BY JOE SMITH

Last month saw the launching of a community website for Bannockburn, Hillpark and Whins of Milton.

The website (www.bannockburn.co.uk) is in its infancy, but it already has some excellent articles on Bannockburn's heritage plus a growing gallery of photos from Bannockburn's past.

UK web portal www.any-village.co.uk own the domain www.bannockburn.co.uk and last year local councillor Alasdair MacPherson asked them if they would consider lending the domain to the people of Bannockburn for the development of a community website. They agreed.

Remember this website is different from the e-community website which allows residents to raise concerns on topics and communicate with the community council and our elected members. That website still thrives and regularly fosters



good debate on issues that concern all residents. You can get that on:

<http://www.ecommunitycouncil.org.uk/>

www.bannockburn.co.uk has a main aim to provide information on Bannockburn. We hope that it will also generate lots of revenue from advertising that Bannockburn Community Trust agreed to administer. The website advertises content related adverts for Google. They pay every time someone clicks the Google Ads banners, which is at the top of each webpage.

We are also developing a local business directory and intend to charge a small fee for a listing. All advertising revenue will be used by Bannockburn Community Trust for local projects.

The opening page introduction is made by Community Council and Trust member Ian McMenemy. It sets the tone for many additional

pages of facts and photos. The majority of the old photos on the website have been collated by John Dreczkowski, who has put the word around locally for old photos.

John collects the photos, scans them and emails them to Alasdair MacPherson, who then publishes them on the website. The website also has a heritage/history section which already has some "excellent" articles provided by myself and Robert Aitken. Already I have sent the link to my relatives abroad and they are delighted to see some of the older images that they left behind.

The website content will be provided by local people and if you want to add your company to our business directory, want to offer your services to the website or have any old photos, please email us at:

admin@bannockburn.co.uk.

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Read more on page 2 . . .

Jane Miller

BY STEVIE HUGHES

Following on from our feature on boxer Jamie Coyle, we discovered that we have another prominent local boxer in 25 year old Jane Miller from Hillpark.

Jane started going to Stirling Boxing club aged 12 after trying other sports such as swimming, basketball and football. Jane quickly discovered that boxing gave her much more of a buzz than the other sports.

Aged 15 she added sparring to her skipping, pad work and circuits and at 22 took part in her first amateur fight at Dun-

dee University. In was covered by Sky Sports. Jane says that her first fight was her toughest as she fought a tall American girl called Meredith Price. Jane was fighting at 70 kg's (11 stone) at the time and after surviving three tough rounds decided, along with her coaches, that she had to come down in weight as she didn't have the height or reach to compete at this weight.

Three years on Jane's fighting weight is 60kg's (9 stone 6 lb's), but says that the judges are quite stringent about weight, a few grams over can mean you have to fight someone 3kg's heavier than you. So you have to be strict with your diet and training. The fights consist of three rounds of two minutes.

Jane now trains in Alloa and has had 14 amateur fights, winning eight and losing six. This includes three Gold Medals and one Silver at the British and Irish University Championships and three Gold Medals at the Scottish University Championships. Jane has enjoyed the opportunity to travel to Coventry, Cardiff and Dublin as well as Aalborg and Aarhus in Denmark. Eight weeks before a fight Jane increases her training regime to five days a week. This consists of a couple of five mile runs as well as training two nights in Alloa and one night at Dundee University.

Jane's plans for the future include undertaking a Post Grad in Physical Education as well as continuing her boxing career. One drawback is that now Jane has fought more than 10 times, she is in the open class category and can only fight people with 10 fights or more and there just aren't enough boxers in Scotland who have had more than 10 fights. In March Jane will be boxing at the British Championships in Sheffield as well as



being invited to take part in the Box Cup in Sweden in May. Jane's favourite Boxers are five times World Champion Jane Couch and Olympic Silver Medallist & World ranked No. seven Amir Khan.

Jane would like to thank the Healy brothers Graham and Brian, Alloa coaches Paul and Gibby as well as her big brother

Joseph. Apart from needing more opponents, she would also benefit from sponsorship as travelling to tournaments is costly. If you would like to sponsor Jane you can contact her on 07816 355 307. We wish her well for the future in her boxing career and returning to University.

The Bannockburn Arms Hotel Part Two

Neil and his team continue to develop the Bannockburn Arms services to their customers. Here are some of the latest developments.

Lounge Bar Launched

Neil is proud to introduce the newly refurbished lounge bar. Pop in and see it for yourselves.

Meals

Janice and her team continue to provide value for money, quality and fresh meals. Something for everyone.

Live Acts

12 April
Tumbling Dice
£5

2 May
No Dice
£5

Fundraising Update



In our February issue we brought you the story of Shona McGregor who had successfully undergone a heart transplant in September 2007 and was now raising money for the Scottish Heart Transplant Unit at

Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Shona and her team held a Prize Bingo and a Raffle at the Masonic Hall in Bannockburn on 8 February. As we go to print, money is still to come in but the total is over £5,300.

Shona says a big thanks to everyone who helped make the night a great success: **"Everyone had a great time - even those who had never played bingo before"**.

Shona has been back to the hospital to present the cheques. Already happy with her progress, they are delighted with her fundraising efforts and the inspiration she gives to others.

"The best news I have received is that some people have added their

names to the organ donor register, and I am more proud of that achievement than of the amount of money raised. If anyone else wishes to add their name they can do so at www.uktransplant.org.uk".

If you would like to hear more about future Fundraising Events or would like to donate money, you can contact Shona via email at mcgregor-shona@aol.com.

The proposed music night to raise more funds is now going to take place in October.

Well done Shona and best wishes for the future.

The account of Andrew Mor, Captain in the service of Thomas Randolph



“My name is Andrew Mor and this is my account of the events that I witnessed on the first day of the great battle near Stirling. It was middle afternoon of the fourth Sunday in June. The year was thirteen fourteen and I was in the service of Thomas Randolph as a captain. He was chief of a great division of foot soldiers.

We had hastened from the St Ninian to the old standing stones on the road that led to the great rock at Stirling. Coughing, shouting and sweating we formed our soldiers into a ring using the stones to guide us, as we had done for months. The men in the front rows used holes to set the heel of their pikes against the weight of horse and knight. Then they came into sight; how many I know not. As they drew closer I saw the colours of Henry de Beaumont and thought Robert Clifford was there also but was

not sure. It was hard to see in the light.

The armour on horse and man was bright and shining. I thought they looked like angels, angels of death, for if they had bowmen we would surely die. They could have gone around us to the castle but these men had great pride and suddenly they rushed at us. Pike men around me were praying aloud; some were pale as death, others wanted to flee but could not. The sergeants and foremen were shouting, ‘Abide, abide, stand your ground and live’. Some pikes shattered, others were cast aside by the armour but a few found a weak spot here and there, as crazed horses kicked and wheeled running into others following. More pike men were pushed into the gaps; the horsemen kept coming but not as a one; they battled for themselves; these knights had come for sport and personal glory.

We wrought hard against them, pushing and stabbing with pike and trying to cut and hook with glaive. As the battle wore on a cloud of mist and dust arose above; some knights were unhorsed and dragged into the middle and held prisoner for

ransom. Thomas Grey whom I recognised was pulled in close by me. Others died in desperate attempts to break the schiltrom. In a mad fury they began to throw well-fashioned axes, maces and even swords at us to try to break in. That is when I was struck. It went speedily dark and when I awoke it was to loud cheering. The soldiers were shouting ‘Randolph, Randolph’. A few wounded men were moaning; some were retching and others still praying. My bascinet had a large dent but had saved my head. Our wounded were few when we made the tally and the dead less so. We had discomfited these egotistical knights at little cost and they would now know men on foot could beat them. Apart from the knights for payment we took no spoil as we hurried back to our positions in the park to prepare for the morrow. We shall see what it brings”

Andrew Mor, Captain.

King Robert Hotel



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Calling all Forsyths

John “Ian” Forsyth got in touch as he is trying to trace back his family tree and also obtain photos for his Forsyth relatives that he has already identified.

The Forsyth connection in this area goes back to before 1296 AD. And Robert Forsyth, son of Osbert Forsyth fought with King Robert the Bruce at the Battle of Bannockburn.

More recently Ian’s descendants are:

Grandfather

Alexander Forsyth
31 Jul 1871 to 1 Jan 1958

Married Margaret MacGregor Dick

24 Jan 1873 to 18 Jun 1952

Great Grandfather

John Forsyth
1830 to unknown

Married Mary Stirling

1835 - unknown

Great Great Grandfather

David Forsyth

1796 to 1 mar 1864

Married Agnes Campbell

1801 to 1881

Gr Gr Gr Grandfather

James Forsyth

1760 to before 1851

Married Clementina Knox

1765 to 1853

Gr Gr Gr Gr Grandfather

Alexander Forsyth

1740 to unknown

Married Janet Gillespie

1741 to unknown

Come on everyone see if you can help Ian and get in touch with him on: 07789983337

Fam Fit

Pauline McKenzie wants to remind everyone that the Family Fitness is still on in Bannockburn on Thursday nights.

It’s the only one in the village so if we want to keep from having to go into Stirling we need to support it.

You will get

- Circuit Training
- Aerobics
- Games
- Fun Fitness for the whole family.

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-6.30 to 7.15pm

-Adults £2.40

-Kids £1.20

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Dear Daphne . . .

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

Q I Daphne, I've got this flat-mate and, don't get me wrong we get on great . . . when it's just us. However, every week, without fail, he brings back a group of people to party when he knows I work early the next day. I have discussed it and he promised to stop but that was a month ago and still no change. What will I do?

A Grow yourself a backbone for goodness sake. Sounds like your flat mate is the unlucky one, having to share a flat with a big girl's blouse like you! Straighten your

face and loosen up. If that's beyond you, maybe you should volunteer to move and get a quiet place on your own where you won't be bothered by people enjoying themselves you square! In fact, if you do, can you let me know - I might fancy moving into your old room if it's going free!

Q I've known my neighbour a long time and I've always experienced her as a quiet person, like her husband who works away a lot. Lately though she's been strolling home late with strange men. I don't know what's going on. How will I approach her?

A There's no point speculating and whispering behind your friend's back. I'm sure if you sit down and discuss it with her, it'll turn out to be a completely innocent explanation. If she was as quiet as you say, I can't really see her becoming some man daft raver overnight. However, if it turns out that she has turned into a bit of a go-er, you can always voice your disapproval, but personally I'd dust off my boob tube and get down the disco or the pub too!

**Need Daphne's help?
get in touch.**

Bannockburn's Disgrace

BY TERRY BARLOW FOR THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Once again Ladywell Park is littered with dogs s---e!!!!!!

Lots of lazy owners who either sit in cars reading while dogs roam freely and the other regulars who let dogs wander as they stroll around the park. COME ON ALL DECENT DOG USERS AND RESIDENTS OF BANNOCKBURN, LET'S PUT A STOP TO THIS DISGUSTING PRACTICE!!

If you know the offenders report them or report registration numbers to the Dog Warden tele-

phone number is 01786 817058.

Workers' Memorial

The Community council intends forming a sub group to progress this project and is calling for interested volunteers to come forward ,Anyone interested please contact a community councillor. Terry Barlow Secretary

Bannockburn Community Trust

Look out for the dates of our future meetings. Community Centre at 7.30 pm new members welcome

Stirling Core Paths Plans

Following on from Robert Aitken's excellent article about walking in the countryside we have learned of further developments with regard to the setting up of the core path plan for the area.

Over the past two years the Countryside Service has been responsible for co-ordinating the production of the Draft Stirling Council Core Paths Plan. This has been the biggest consultation exercise undertaken by the Service, with more than 2,700 people viewing the Plan during the consultation period. All the comments received have been considered by the Service, with input also from the Stirling Area Local Access Forum.

The Final Draft Core Paths Plan was considered by Stirling Council on the 13th March and now there will be the opportunity for detailed consid-

eration of the proposals at a further open meeting to be held in Bannockburn on Monday, 12 May (2pm to 5pm and 6pm to 9pm) in the Mayfield Centre.

What is a core path?. A Core Path can be basically anything - a right of way, farm track, a route published in a guidebook, or anywhere whether there is a route on the ground or not, and as access rights apply to inland water and along water-courses, basically it is your right to roam. If you wish to.

Further information on any of the above Countryside Matters can be obtained from Robert Hunter, Countryside Development Officer – Tel. 01786 442751 or email hunterr@stirling.gov.uk.

Keep on walking

Community Officer Report

BY PC ALEX HATRICK

Linking in with Bannockburn High

Since the last issue I am pleased to report local community officers from Bannockburn, Hillpark, Plean and Cowie are now regularly having surgeries at Bannockburn High School. They happen during lunch hours and mean anyone who wants to speak with the Police can do so within a school environment and to their local community officer.

Crime

Over the previous two months there appears to be a slight increase of vandalism's at Telford Court and Firs Crescent, Bannockburn. I would stress that this is unacceptable behaviour. My colleagues and I will be carrying out increased patrols in these areas over the forthcoming weeks, in an effort to

identify the person(s) responsible and prevent it happening again.

In February vandals also targeted Bannockburn Primary and caused over £700 of damage to the school roof. This too is unacceptable. Enquiries are still on going into this.

I encourage anyone who has any information about these crimes to contact me at Bannockburn Police Office.

However despite this, the detection for Bannockburn for the last month is 73.2%. It's above the force average.

Youth Disorder

I have reported in past issues that youths were causing annoyance in the area of Ochilmount at the start of this year. I am pleased to report since carrying out increased patrols in this area, there have been no calls in relation to youth disorder.



I am also pleased to report youth disorder calls within Bannockburn over the recent months have decreased compared to the same period last year by 33.

Road Traffic

Within Bannockburn there appears to be a slight increase in the number of road traffic offences being committed. Therefore during April there will be increased traffic patrols carried out in an effort to educate drivers and enforce any offences which we detect.

By Tel: (01786) 456000

Email: alex.hatrick@centralscotland.police.uk

Obituary: John McConnell

BY JOE SMITH

The Bannockburn News lost a great friend recently when photographer, John McConnell sadly died on Friday 14 March.

John contributed many photographs to the News and as well as being a personal friend he was a great supporter of all things local. John was proud to be a "son of the

rock" and was a well known face all around the area. His infectious wit and satire made him a popular figure whenever there was a debate and he leaves behind many memories. Our thoughts are with his wife, Andrena, at this time.

Slainte' Mha wee man.

Youth Club

Its growing. Great to hear that our Bannockburn Youth Club is back and better. It's seen a lot of false starts over the last few years including changes in youth workers and even no youth workers at all.

The Monday night club has 30 or so young people and the new Friday one is packed out too.

Keep it up everyone.

New Service

BY ANDREW STEWART

The Council on Disability starts a new service in Bannockburn Community Centre Starting in April.

This voluntary organisation helps people having problems completing DLA (Disability Living Allowance forms and DWP (Department for Work and Pensions)

forms to claim their Incapacity Benefit. We also help people who have applied for DLA and have been refused. We help them through their appeal process. Providing we have enough volunteers we also do home visits for people who cannot get into our office at Cameronian

Street in Stirling or the new Bannockburn Service.

So the Bannockburn service will be on the second and last Thursday of every month from 10am till 12noon.

I will run it which is great because I live in Bannockburn.

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Since Our Last Issue

BY VARIOUS

Salsacise Class

Hi there everyone! Denise here.

I'm starting a "Latin Dance" exercise class called Salsacise and its easy, fun and for all abilities and fitness levels. It will be held in Murrayfield United Free Church Hall at 10am on a Thursday from the 20 March. Please come along and enjoy.

For more information please call :07803043263

Coyle on top form in Glasgow

Bannockburn boxer Jamie Coyle, who we featured in the Bannockburn News, recently competed in the undercard of the British title fight between Kevin Anderson v Kevin McIntyre at the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. Coyle, competing in his

18th contest, scored a convincing win over Dewsbury south-paw Tye Williams.

Coyle has a "string bean" physique, but can hit hard. He out-boxed Williams until he connected with a powerful right cross which staggered his opponent. He followed up with a volley of left and rights which compelled the referee to intervene, stopping the bout in the second round. Coyle is not far away from an eliminator for a British title fight. Coyle still trains with Bannockburn AC, based at St Modan's High School, and is an inspiration to the younger club members. The school closes this June and the club who have been active for 27 years, are looking for alternative premises. If anyone can help please call Jack Dormer on 01786 471407 or James Scott on 815908

Easter Rugby Camp 2008

Active Stirling will be running a series of Rugby Camps at Bridgehaugh during the Easter holidays. Details:

7 to 11 April

£9.00 per day

9.30 am - 3.30 pm.

Pitched for boys and girls between 6 and 16 years it offers the chance to get involved in a safe and enjoyable rugby environment. Qualified rugby coaches will help every participant develop their skills. All children attending will receive an SRU certificate.

For further details and booking forms please contact Active Stirling on 01786 432323 or Email. info@activestirling.org.uk Web site.

www.activestirling.org.uk

RDA Success

Bannockburn Riding for the Disabled (RDA) hosted a fundraising ceilidh and raised in excess of £1500 for the charity.

A sell out event, friends and family, along with many new faces joined the Bannockburn RDA for a wonderful evening, with a festive atmosphere, and a full dance floor for every dance.

Bannockburn RDA are heavily reliant on fundraising, with last year's operational costs totalling £100,622. So if you want to help or make a donation get in touch with the Bannockburn RDA fundraising events team contact them at:

events@bannockburnrda.org.uk

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Young People



Hopscotch Wow BPS

We are the Bannockburn Primary Tartan PIG and this is a report about the hopscotch coming to our school.

Hopscotch Theatre have done it again with their hilarious performance of 'Steven's Expanding Stomach'.

On the 22nd of February, Hopscotch arrived at Bannockburn Primary School, to do another of their fabulous, educational shows. Written by Raymond Burke, it was aimed at encouraging children to eat more healthily.

Mr Harvey, Principal Teacher, had this to say, "Once again Hopscotch have performed a wonderful show full of laughs but with a serious message."

The photo is of Hannah P2 and Lewis P6 meeting the hopscotch performers.

P7's Scottish Celebration

On Thursday the 28 February Primary Seven from Bannockburn Primary School, hosted a celebration of Scotland Concert. This included Scottish poems, songs and dances.

During the dress rehearsal 50 pupils and five teachers from Bannockburn St Mary's Primary School were entertained by Bannockburn Primary's skilled but funny performers.

The evening included both old and new poems, songs and dances. The first half was a traditional Robert Burns repertoire. The second half was all about modern poems and songs. The evening's highlight was definitely the poem "Ten Wee Women". This sketch featured ten boys dressed up in women's clothing standing at a bus stop.

The evening was a big success and raised lots of money for the Primary Seven's Leavers Party.

Miss McClements, Acting Head teacher, has this to say,

"Our P7 pupils were fantastic. Their skills, talents and humour captivated the audience from start to finish. Their hard work was enjoyed by all."

The photo: P7 entertain their invited audience with songs, poetry and dance both traditional and modern.



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Prize Competition

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Well done to J Hastings for winning the February issue quiz. Sandy from McNaughtons, butchers picked the winner from the many entries.

Here's new twist on our regular quiz. This time it's modes of transport.

To enter for the £25 prize, send your answers, by 16 May 2008, to The Editor, (address on page 1). The Bannockburn News Committee will draw the winner from all the successful entries. Good luck.

- 1 Dilly dally before the ship (1) _____
- 2 Used to net fish (1) _____
- 3 Aqua runner (2) _____
- 4 Shore (anag) (1) _____
- 5 Ship of the desert (1) _____
- 6 Tree follows a chocolate bar (1) _____
- 7 Could mean to train (1) _____
- 8 The R Police (anag) (1) _____
- 9 An elephant spray (2) _____
- 10 Collection of literary works (1) _____
- 11 Nod goal (anag) (1) _____
- 12 Rope motor (2) _____
- 13 Cargo coach (2) _____
- 14 Blank craft (1) _____
- 15 Part Roma Blue (anag) (1) _____
- 16 Double period of time (1) _____
- 17 Richard Shaw maybe (1) _____
- 18 Shopping vehicle (2) _____
- 19 Water sword (1) _____
- 20 Rose cot (anag) (1) _____

Entry

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

What's On

Taekwon-Do

Hillpark Community Centre
Morrison Drive

Tuesday and Thursday

5.30 pm-6pm infants
6.00pm-7.00pm juniors
7.00pm - 8.00pm seniors

Carpet Bowls

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

Family Fitness

Community Centre
Every Thursday
6.30-7.15pm

Youth Church

Allan Church
Every Wednesday
6.30 - 8 pm
(Ages 5 upwards)
Everyone welcome

Boys' Brigade

Allan Church
Thursdays
Anchor Boys (P2 & P3)
6.30 - 7.30pm
Junior Section (P4-P6)
7.30 - 9.00pm
Fridays
Company Section
P7 upwards 7 - 9.30pm

Guide Hut

Rainbows
Mon 5 - 6pm
Tue 6.15 - 7.15pm

Last Time's Solution

- | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. 101 Dalmatians | 6. 32 Degrees Fahrenheit at which water freezes | 11. 1746 Battle of Culloden | 16. 168 Hours in a week |
| 2. 57 Heinz Variety | 7. 10 Downing Street | 12. 35 Coral wedding Anniversary | 17. 13 A Bakers Dozen |
| 3. 24 Hours to Tulsa | 8. 5 Continents in the world | 13. 3 Blind Mice see how they run | 18. 7 Deadly sins |
| 4. 88 Piano Keys | 9. 1 Wheel on a unicycle | 14. 240 Old pennies in a pound | 19. 200 pounds for passing go in Monopoly |
| 5. 7 Little Girls sitting in the back seat | 10. 18 Holes in a golf course | 15. 76 Trombones Lead the Big Parade | 20. 55 Days at Peking |

Bannockburn couple Raymond McLachlan and Susan Hunter handed over an enormous presentation cheque for £1,093.13 to Bob Taylor, Volunteer Treasurer with the Stirling Local Committee of Cancer Research UK.

They organised a poker tournament that attracted over 150 people plus the help of Ladbrokes and Ladbrokes Poker.com



BANNOCKBURN Heritage Centre Seek Volunteers

200-300 School pupils visit Bannockburn Heritage Centre every week.

The Centre is looking for volunteers to help during the week with everything from basic administration to help the Learning Officer to customer service

At the week ends they need volunteers to run drop in arts and craft sessions for visitors and to help families with quiz activities.

Interested?
Get in touch with Evelyn Wilson
01786 812664

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.