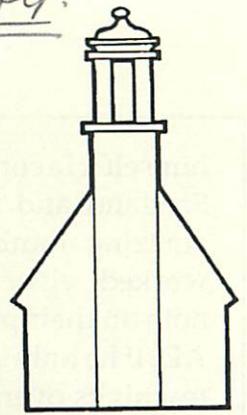


STONEHOUSE YOUTH FORUM

The Stonehouse Lantern

S P R I N G E D I T I O N



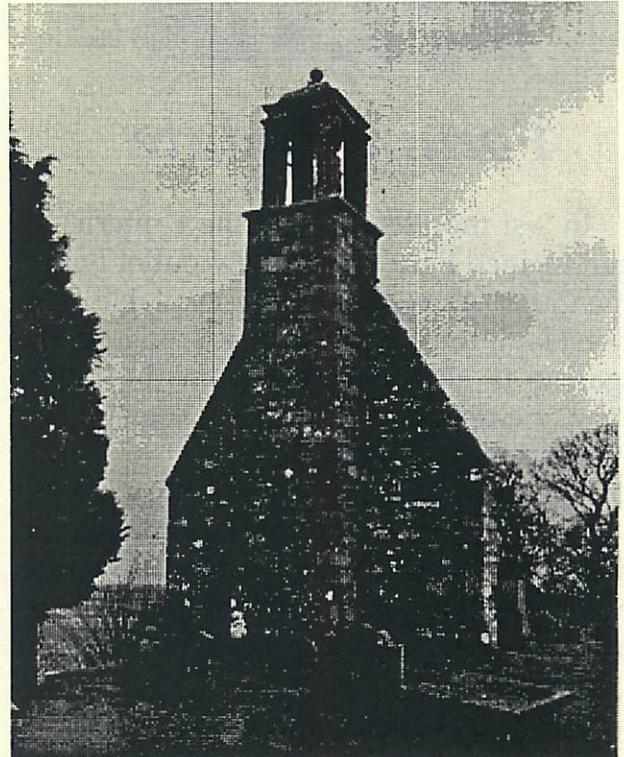
The Stanes of Stonehouse

Before the dawn of recorded history on a small mound half a mile to the west of Stonehouse probably stood the Standing Stones.

On this sacred ground stood a monument to the religion of the time run by priests called Druids. Their hold on the local people would, by today's standards, be classed as very cruel. In far off Rome an army was assembling and in the year 55BC Julius Caesar invaded Britain bringing it under the rule of the Roman Empire. By 142AD a wall had been built between the Clyde in the west and the Forth in the east and although they tried to invade further north they found the Picts and Celts a formidable force. Our weather and our friendly attitude to anything coming north of Carlisle probably put them off.

The Druids of the time probably did not like the intrusion into their way of life and a few Romans no doubt ended up as sacrifices to the Gods of the time.

After the birth of Christ, Christianity spread throughout the Roman Empire and by 300AD had become the official religion of the Empire. About the middle of the 3rd century a man called Ninian was born near the Solway and was later converted to Christianity. He travelled to Rome and after a period of study moved to France to continue his instruction in Christianity. His ultimate goal was to bring Christianity to his homeland of Scotland. Legend tells us that he brought earth from Candida Casa (the house of white stone) and, with his monks, scattered this on an ancient burial ground of pagan origin outside Stonehouse. He later built the first church on this site, and as this was probably of wooden construction no



St. Ninian's as it is today

trace can be found. Later a new church was built on the same site, this one was constructed of stone and stood in the old graveyard where the old Saint Ninians church ruins now stand.

This original site was probably chosen by Ninian as it was the local meeting place for the Druids and to the local people was holy ground to start with. In some parts of Scotland to this day the expression "Lets go to the stanes" is used to mean "lets go to church".

How many other churches are built on these sites leaving no trace of what went on there two thousand years before. Ninian and his monks went on from Stonehouse to Glasford and built another church, again named after

himself. He continued his teaching throughout Scotland and like Bonnie Prince Charlie an amazing number of places claim he ate, slept, worked, visited or performed some deed of note on their premises. Ninian died about 430 AD. If he only knew what would happen to his teachings over the next 1500 years.

Ken Maclean



Forum Update

In last months issue of the Lantern, we began to shed light from a new outlet within Stonehouse. As well as being available from Grace Hamilton's shop in the Trongate, the magazine is also available from the public library, the doctors surgery, the hospital and the senior citizens centre.

We do not charge for the magazine but we would be grateful for any donations to enable the magazine to flourish in the future. You can also support your local magazine by contributing articles of local interest or sponsor an advertisement.

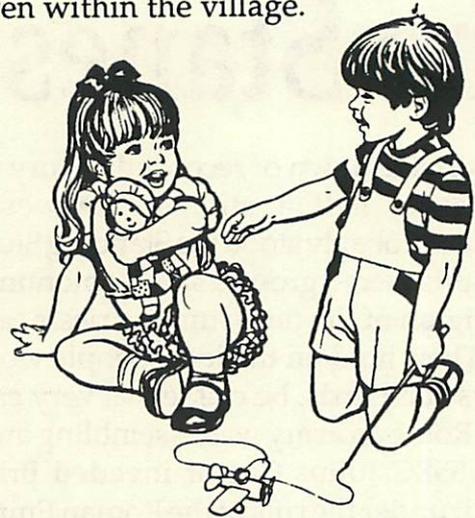
The Stonehouse Lantern is also available from Hamilton Public Library reference section.

As part of the Youth Forum's progress and involvement with the community of Stonehouse they have succeeded in gaining grants to enable them to set up Desk Top Publishing facilities with the village. At the present moment they are looking to purchase Apple MacIntosh computer equipment which will help in the future development of the Stonehouse Lantern and hopefully serve many other organisations within the village.

On the weekend of March the 20th - 22nd the Youth Forum Committee went to Drumclog Training Centre to discuss the future of the youth club and programme future events for the forthcoming months. As well as this there were many other activities to keep them all amused. Unfortunately for the parents they had to return on the Sunday!

Link-up Group

Stonehouse Link-up Group recently met with Hamilton District Planning architect Claire Winch and a representative from the recently established Community Development Team. They met in Stonehouse Primary to discuss the lack of recreational facilities for Pre-5 and older children within the village.



The Link-up Group has already had a great deal of success in bringing childrens play equipment to Hamilton Memorial Park. In general the village is poorly equipped with play facilities. For instance West Mains and around the top end of Stonehouse.

Only through complaining at the lack of facilities and suggesting areas for recreational development to the planning department can the pressure be applied to carry out the needs of the children.

Hamilton Districts problem is that a large amount of their budget is spent on vandalism and repairs before they even think about new developments. There is money to be had, but with so much demand for recreational facilities throughout the district, it is those areas who shout the loudest who will be successful.

So start writing! Already planned for Hamilton Park is a cable slide which shall accomodate all ages!

Statistics on Stonehouse 1991

Population	5033
Housing	1949
Economically Active	2470
Unemployed	168

The Great Duck Race!

As part of the Gala Day celebrations it is hoped that there will be the first ever "Great Duck Race" to be held on the Avon. Anyone and everyone can participate, all you have to do is buy a raffle ticket from which the proceeds will go to financing the Gala celebrations. With that each ticket shall have a rubber duck with its number on it which shall be released with hundreds of others down the Avon and the first duck past the finishing post shall receive a prize. Hopefully the event shall be well attended and that the event can become a regular event on the Gala calendar.



The Girls Group started back on Tuesday 21st of January, when they planned their programme up until Easter. As part of our programme we had a beauty night where we had lots of fun making each other up.

On Thursday 20th February we went to a play about HIV and AID's. The play was performed by Catch Theatre Company, which is a youth company. We all learned a lot of useful information about AID's and HIV.

We recently held a video night and have also travelled to Larkhall Girls Group to have a dance lesson from a professional dance teacher Alex.

The Girl's Group meets on a Tuesday or Wednesday night in the Public Hall at 7pm. We are always looking for new members, so come along and enjoy the fun.

Hazel Morrison

KIAROS Visit

(Greek for something?)

Stonehouse Youth Forum representatives were at Terminal One in Blantyre on the 20th of February. It was an event organised to bring local youth groups together to discuss relevant issues that affected them within the environment, such as, drugs, alcohol abuse, litter, violence and many other problems.

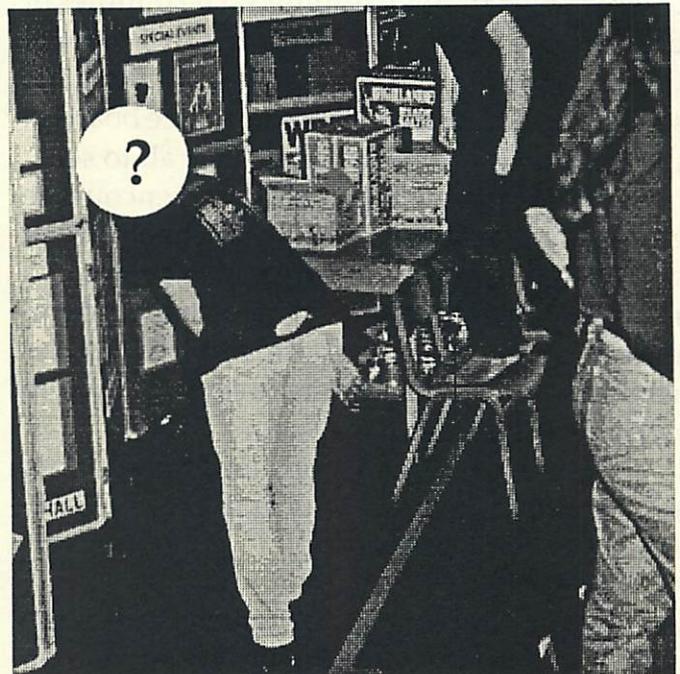
Myself (Gary Leonard), Fiona Hanlan, Jason Houston, Margaret Hughes and John Young were put into groups with people from other areas in Strathclyde to talk about the mentioned issues.

At the end of the evening, the night over, 100 youngsters gathered in the main hall to discuss our findings.

The evening was the first of many forthcoming events to discuss local and regional environmental issues.

Incidentally, for an area given loads a money to reduce vandalism and take children off the streets in Blantyre, John Young's car was broken into. However nothing was taken which doesn't say much for his choice in music!

Gary Leonard



Spot the bum competition

Do you recognise this threatening character if so stay well clear he may be harmful to your health!



Stonehouse Primary School Board

Stonehouse Primary School Board came into existence in November 1989 following Government legislation and thereafter nominations being received from parents whose children attended the school. The membership consists of 4 parents, 2 co-opted members from the community, a teacher's representative and a clerk who has no voting rights. The Headteacher has a right to attend all meetings of the Board and has done so on all but 2 occasions since its inception, both occasions being Joint School Board meetings.

The Board holds regular public meetings to which all parents are invited. The minutes of the meetings are circulated to the Regional Councillor, Education Offices in Hamilton, the school and are displayed on the notice board in the main corridor of the school for all to see.

The purpose of the Board is to encourage closer relationships between the school, parent and the community at large. It represents a means by which parents can voice their opinions on educational matters and raise issues which they consider require further discussion within the educational system.

The most frequent questions raised about the School Board are why is there a School Board and what does it do.

- a) to provide a means by which parents can take part in and influence discussion on educational policy;
- b) a means by which parents can become more involved in their children's school;

- c) a sounding board for parents to raise issues or concern affecting their school and children's education.

It became quite clear to Stonehouse Primary School Board members that it would benefit no one to operate in isolation from other School Boards. As a result, there have been meetings with other School Boards who are feeder schools to Larkhall Academy. These have proved extremely popular with the School Boards concerned and it is intended that a regular system of meetings will be held in the future to tackle issues of common concern to all. Lately, there has been a national initiative to formulate an Association of School Boards in Scotland and there is an initiative within Strathclyde and Lanark Division to provide another forum at which School Boards can meet and discuss relevant issues.

School Boards are still very much in a developmental stage but it is becoming clear that they are an important vehicle for parents to influence their children's education. They provide a statutory means by which parents can and should be involved in that process and there is no doubt that School Board involvement will increase in the future not only in this area but in more local issues such as financial control.

At the end of the day, the School Boards will only be as effective as the input that parents are prepared to give. Meetings are open to the public and are advertised at the school, by personal letter and in the future it is hoped to have regular notification printed in the Hamilton Advertiser. It is indeed unfortunate that Newfield Primary School Board has been disbanded and I am sure enquiries to the School about its reconstituting would be welcomed.

School Boards and particularly your School Board be it Stonehouse or Newfield need you the parents. Interested? Come along. You are cordially invited to participate in this process.

A F Howarth
Chairman
Stonehouse Primary School Board

L E T T E R S C O L U M N

Where now ?

Stonehouse is on the verge of seeing the largest historical exhibition ever shown in the village, yet cannot find premises to exhibit a wealth of information and resources which can only benefit and retain Stonehouse's historical past and future understanding of our cultural background. Despite this need, which can often bind a community together, some establishments fail to recognise the importance of developing project such as this within the village.

The Paterson Church at one time held the 250 19th century glass slides which will hopefully to be exhibited. Many, of which include the funeral of Paterson himself who preached in the church in the late 19th century. Yet despite this link the Heritage Group have been refused permission to use the hall without being given reasons or trying to work round any problems there may have been. This was a perfect opportunity to support the community and bring in church involvement in preserving Stonehouse's heritage. If the church can't help you who can?

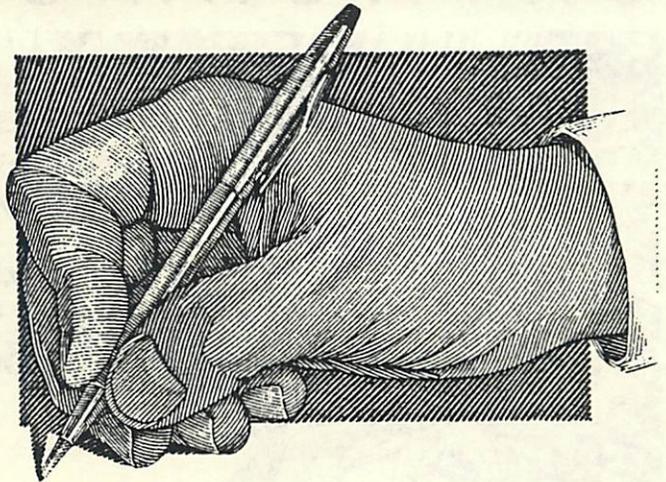
Stonehouse has to wake up, before it dies in silence, a memory of what could have been. Our needs as a village need to be heard and seen to happen. Stonehouse's future is in your hands, what can you do to help the community?

We have only ourselves to blame if we do not have the facilities we need. What we don't ask for we don't get. We all have a responsibility to support the community to the benefit of all the inhabitants of Stonehouse.

Both Stonehouse Primary schools have set examples to us all, undertaking various projects on how they would like to see Stonehouse progressing into the future, but still remembering the village's past.

How many of us on the day we die can say that we have put more into the village than we have taken out? (For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.) Corinthians 5:10.

Cousin of concerned resident

**careers service bus**

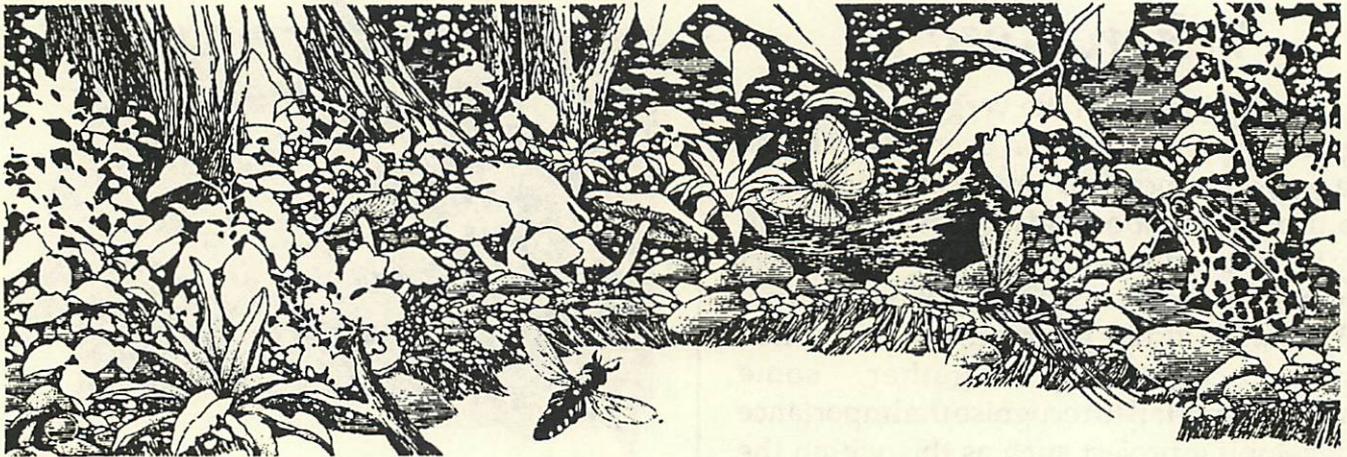
In recent months I have been holding discussions with various Council officials with regard to extending and developing the level of Council services to rural areas. The Careers Service, which is based in Larkhall and serves all of the area I represent have agreed to carry out work in Stonehouse on a weekly basis. It is hoped that in the coming months this will be extended to Ashgill and Netherburn.

At present there are 105 young people aged 16-18 in the area I represent who have not been given places on the Youth Training Scheme, despite legislation which states that such places are "guaranteed". In addition, Income Support is not available to 16/17 year olds unless the severe hardship criteria can be met. (About 2 out of 105 satisfy this criteria) Clearly there is a significant group of young people who have no money and no training place and who are being ignored by society. These young people are powerless, helpless and angry. Their hopelessness motivates me to campaign for their problems to be recognised.

Due to the difficulties of cost and travel from Stonehouse to Larkhall to get Careers advice, many young people in Stonehouse are penalised because of this lack of accessibility. As a result of discussions, the Careers Service Bus will be visiting Stonehouse every Friday between 10.30am and 12.30pm starting on Friday 21st February. The bus will sit at the Cross and will receive those, young and old, - who seek Careers advice.

Jackie Burns

environmental issues



Bypass Update

The planned starting date for the Stonehouse bypass still remains as December 1992, but don't take this date seriously! Everytime we hear that we all have deja vu as if we had heard it before somewhere.

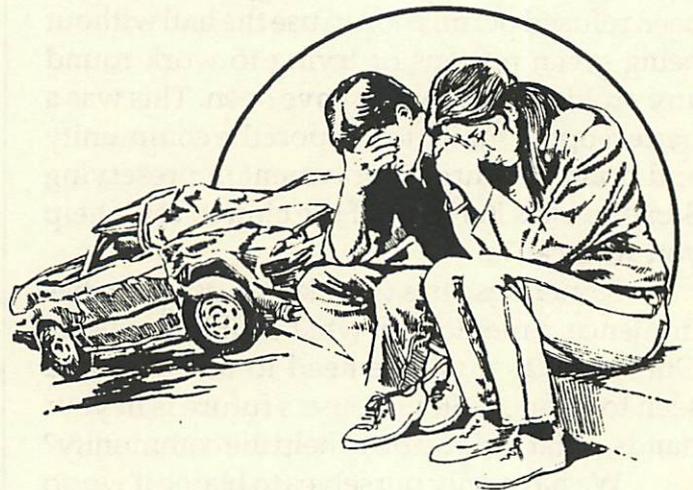
The first phase of the bypass takes the route off to the right of the Cander bridge, then rejoins the A71 at the garage before the hospital. This unfortunately holds little comfort for those living on Strathaven Road and West Mains. There are however proposals to combat the speeding down Strathaven Road by possibly putting a central reservation down the centre to prevent overtaking and reduce speeds.

In an area where there is a high population in young children maybe we should follow the example of many villages down south and install sleeping policemen or reduce speed limits down to 15mph during peak times. This policy has had great success down south, and if it saves just one child's life then no amount of money can replace that.

Many lorries have been clocked doing over 60mph down through the village. Many of those contain dangerous chemicals. If we had regular police checks we could prevent this by charging the companies rather than the drivers, thus hitting the company where it hurts most.

Another problem we face on our local roads is speeding teenagers, racing up and down the village often wheel spinning and

burning rubber at the Cross. Not only do these people risk their own lives but they also risk the lives of others. Their stupidity serves no purpose other than to boost their ego.



Unfortunately, the police can't always be there but by phoning the police in Larkhall and reporting their registration number it will be followed up, as every call is recorded. The police won't visit you unless you request it, so there is no fear of recriminations. Maybe through the loss of their license they will realise what their car is for.

Note. We would also like to hear from other youth clubs or organisations within Stonehouse who would be interested in placing any articles in the magazine.

environmental issues



Avonside Nature Walk

During the summer Hamilton District Planning Department shall be carrying out a survey on the banks of the Avon between Strutherhill and Glassford bridge with the intention of extending the Avonside walk which begins at Strathclyde Park.

At present much of the Avon is unwalkable and in bad disrepair. Constructing a walkway would open a door to many issues such as protecting the environment and educating local children of the needs to preserve our wildlife habitat. The Avon provides shelter to many rare species of plants found nowhere else in Scotland. Many remains of the past can also be seen along the intended route such as Ringsdale Castle, roman remains, Iron works and many more reminders of Stonehouse's past.

Nature conservation is a major issue today and Stonehouse can be part of the changing awareness of our environment by supporting and suggesting ways in which we can help a project such as this.



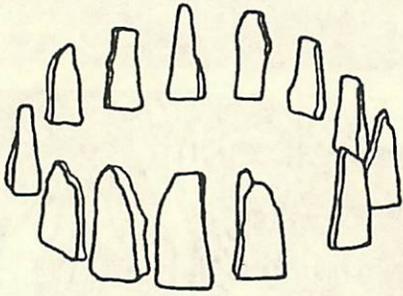
It is hoped that the funding can come from various organisations such as the L.D.A., The Countryside Trust, The Countryside Commission for Scotland and Hamilton District Council.

GET A GRIP ON LITTER



**THE NATIONAL
SPRING CLEAN
3-12 APRIL**





Stonehouse Heritage Group

The Heritage Group recently met to discuss the forthcoming exhibition it hopes to hold in Stonehouse. One problem discussed was the problem of where to hold the event. An exhibition of this size needs a hall to accommodate the excellent response in the number of villagers willing to contribute material to the exhibition.

There is unfortunately a lack of facilities in Stonehouse to hold such an event. But the advantages to the community as a whole in retaining Stonehouse's historical past must be secured or much of the material and interest in this project may be lost forever. We are hoping that a venue for the event can be volunteered or suggested by someone within the village.

The Heritage Group are also seeking any information or artefacts on weaving or coalming to aid the exhibition. Please contact John Young either through the Youth Forum or the Heritage Group at 3A Kirk Street, Stonehouse, ML9 3LR.

Roman Encampment

A strong military position of encampment conjunction of the Avon and Cander waters. Still known as Double Dykes. Comprises an extent of between 3 and 4 acres. Surrounded on all sides by precipitous rocks, 40 or 50 yards from rock to rock. The narrow rock is fortified by three high dykes, or walls. These are curved like segments of a circle. In some places they are entire. In others considerably broken down. Before the introduction of gunpowder the position must have been impregnable.

These statistics were approx. 1850-1860.

From the Statistical Accounts of 1790 by Rev. James Morehead, under miscellaneous observations:

There are 4 alehouses, who have taken out a license, all in the village. No very bad effects, on the morals of the inhabitants, have yet been felt by them; but many suspect, that this will not be long the case. - The difference betwixt employing cottagers and hired servants, in agriculture, cannot be ascertained here, few or none in the parish; having employed the former. - There is no jail in the parish; or were any of the parishioners in prison, during the year 1790. Indeed there has been no justiciary trials of any of the people of this parish, for these 30 years, one excepted, who was punished by whipping. - The people in general, are of a middle size; - healthy in their constitution; - decent in their conduct, - and, though they may have some real, and some imaginary grievances, yet they are as much contented with their fate, as most of their neighbours.



Above, Col. Paterson inspecting the 1st Stonehouse Troop of Scouts at the Alexander Hamilton Public Park. With Col. Paterson is Scoutmaster Whitley. The Scout Troop at Stonehouse was established in 1928.

Hospital Closure 1997 ?

There is soon to be a disclosure for the proposal for Stonehouse Hospital to be closed in 1997. Due to the expansion at Hairmyres and Strathclyde Hospital it is felt that Stonehouse Hospital is no longer needed.

This is far from the truth, Stonehouse Hospital has never been needed so badly in its history.

During the war the hospital was used for tuberculosis victims throughout Scotland and as Stonehouse grew and the population increased the hospital developed geriatric wards and specialised in eye complaints and operations. The hospital is the largest employer by far within the village and provides an essential emergency casualty not only for Stonehouse but many other outlying towns and villages such as Larkhall, Blackwood, Ashgill, Netherburn, Lesmahagow, Coalburn etc.

How long would it take for an ambulance to come from Hairmyres to Lockart Street and back if a child was lying critically injured after a road accident ?

The Team at the Icebowl



The team from right to left Gary Leonard, Jason, Fiona Walker, Fiona Hanlan, Scott Mackie, Lee Malone, Hazel Morrison and Susan Walker.

Community Council

If you would like to air your grievances or suggest ideas to help in the development of Stonehouse here are the dates of future meetings of the community council which every villager is invited to attend.

March	30th
April	27th
May	27th
June	30th
August	19th
September	21st
October	26th
November	30th
December	14th

Gala day Committee

The Gala Committee met in Stonehouse Primary to discuss the forthcoming Gala Day on June 20th. Yet again the festival celebrations shall be held at the Tilework Park due to the ongoing development of the running track at Hamilton Memorial Park.

This year the Gala queen comes from Stonehouse Primary School and so the procession takes in the bottom end of Stonehouse round Lockart Street, along Cannethan Street and down Union Street. Despite last years rain, there was a great turn out and this year it is hoped that facilities will be arranged in the event of rain. Last years rain was the first in 15 years so let's hope it's not the start of 15 years with rain.

If there are any organisations who wish to help or contribute to the Gala they can come along to any of the meetings which are held monthly and advertised in the Hamilton Advertiser.

Navy Visit

Every so often the Youth Forum invites speakers along to the Forum to discuss their job and give a talk. One of these night's the Royal Navy was invited to give a careers talk and video to those interested in joining the forces.



Photography Class

As part of the Forum's programming the Youth Forum invited along Ken McLean a local photographer to discuss his work and give a few helpful tips in photography. As



usual our guests are open to question, and one question asked was "How much money do you make?" Ken said "enough" and the reply was "how much is enough?"



The Brat Pack!

The night went down well and the pictures here are the results of their experience. Hopefully this class will be followed up with another at a later date. Thanks again to Ken for his help and patience!

COMMUNITY POLICEMAN GEORGE PATERSON

Police Visit Forum

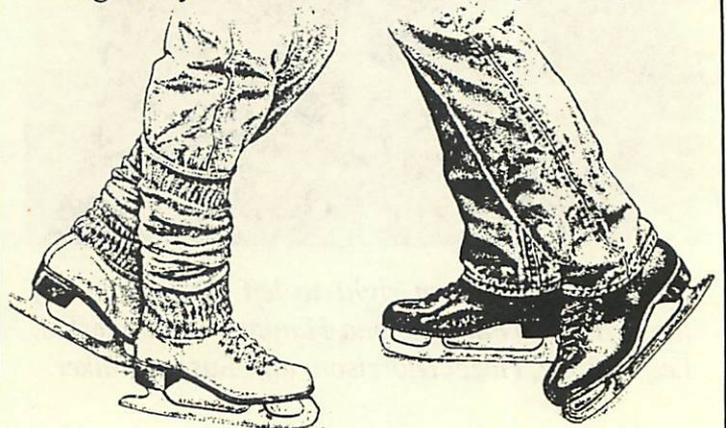
As another part of the Youth Forums Programme our local community Policeman George Paterson was invited along to give a general talk to the youth. The night proved to be successful and very interesting. The topics discussed included underage drinking, drugs, lack of facilities and the career prospects in the police force.

According to Community P.C. Patterson there has been an increase in the number of serious weapon offences and underage drinking. However, there has been an overall decrease in crime as a whole in Stonehouse. (See last issue for details).

Fiona Hanlan

Ice bowl

In early March 42 members of the Youth Forum and the Larkhall Girl's group went along to the Icebowl in East Kilbride free of charge on yet another entertaining outing.



INGLE OF THE MONTH SINGLE OF

Madness - It must be love

A re-issue of the age old classic song. Coupled with a new compilation 'Divine Madness' the nutty boys will be rolling in the cash right now. Who said Madness were just a video band? Tsk! Tsk!

IEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NE

Our local band 'Sticky Fingers' have three new gigs lined up at the Tudor Lodge Hotel in Hamilton. Friday 27th March (Ticket Only), Sunday 5th April, supporting 'Abraxas' and their first headline gig on Saturday 18th April with support from 'Stoap Sleverin'. Good luck lads.



Killer Clown's Disc Depression

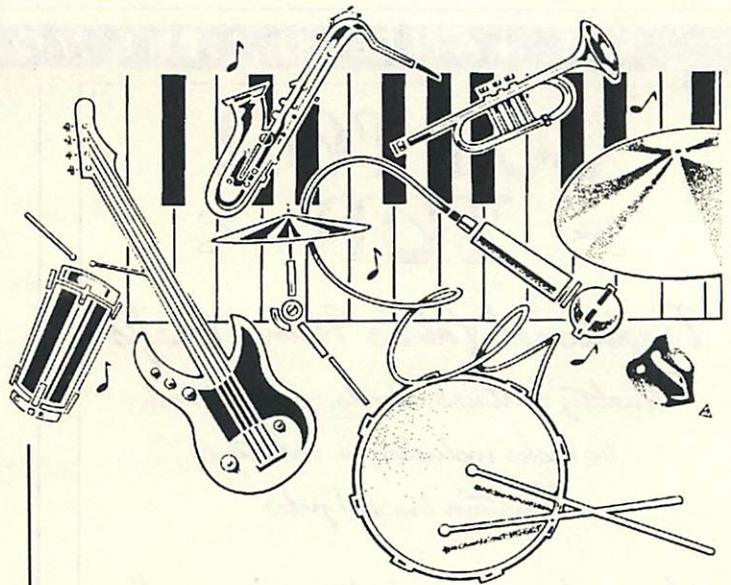
Ha! I'm back by popular demand, to bore you senseless with all my whining and moaning. This month I'm going to highlight the disgraceful high price of compact discs. i.e. Albums £12 - £14, singles £4 - £5. Who said that the price of CD's would go down after a few years? The prices have gone up by about two pounds in the last year alone. Congratulations to Woolworths who have reduced their CD singles to £2.99. Lets hope the other shops follow suit.

IEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEW

Extreme - Pornograffiti

These guy's are a typical rock band. Hard drums, bass and vocal with a frenzied lead guitar thrown in for good measure. It's all very loud and it's all very good. The album features the singles 'Get the funk out', 'Hole hearted' and the accoutic love song 'More than words'. I quote the back cover of the CD, "A funkcd up fairytale". This is true. It's funky, its groovy and it's unbelievable. Buy it now!

Rating 9 Stars



by Whackie Scott Mackie

Ride - Going blank again

After the huge success of 'Nowhere', Ride's second album was going to have a problem living up to it's predecessor, but 'Going blank again' blows it away and leaves the other bands standing. Forget 'The Stone Roses' and 'The Charlatans', Ride are now thee Indie band.

The album opens with 'Leave them all behind' eight minutes of groovy guitar melodies and vocal harmonies, and then along pops 'Twisterella' containing all the jollyness of 'Shiny happy people'.

Then we settle down into 'Time machine' a spaced out melody along the lines of 'Inner flight' by Primal Scream. Finally the last song 'OX4' another dreamy melody. To enjoy this song play it loud at night, lie back, face the ceiling and think of nothing! Fabulous

Rating 10 Stars



Primal Scream - Screamedelica

Scot's rockers (all the way from sunny East Kilbride) Primal Scream's latest album 'Screamedelica' is unbelievable. The album contains eleven weird and wonderful songs, in a kind of psychedelic - Indie - Techno - Dance style, including singles 'Loaded', 'Higher than the sun' and the superb 'Movin' on up'. This is another Scottish band destined for the top.

Rating 8 Stars

THE LANTERN : THE VOICE OF STONEHOUSE

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Traditional Fabric Hand Crafts

Quality curtains, blinds, pelmets and tie backs including a variety of curtain tracks/poles

A superb range of novelty cushions, wall plaques and wall hangings

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ORDERS TAKEN

**2 CAMNETHAN STREET, STONEHOUSE ML93NQ
TELEPHONE : 0698 792311**

Fabric trade revival in Stonehouse

In a trade that died in the early 20th century in Stonehouse, it is now making a small but significant resurgence in Camnethan Street.

Camnethan Street once a thriving area for weavers in Stonehouse, now provides the base for "Cotton Top"; a business run by Lorna Logan producing traditional fabric hand crafts. The house in which the goods are designed was once producing the finest quality silk fabric and now like a ghost from the past the same

house is making quality fabric goods keeping the fabric crafts alive.

Cotton Top hopes to become well established within the village and throughout the area.

The Youth Forum would like to wish Lorna all the success she deserves for the future in reviving a once popular trade in Stonehouse.

Sioux Nation & Sticky Fingers

by Lee Malone

On February 29th two local bands played at the Tudor Lodge Hotel, Hamilton.

For Sticky Fingers it was the bands first gig supporting Sioux Nation who have just made a demo tape with their new singer A.J. which was his first gig as well.

Sticky fingers were nervous to start off with but as they kept playing their nerves didn't bother them at all. They got a great reception as did Sioux Nation. The gig itself was a sellout. Most people knew the bands and came to support the local talent. You couldn't get moving the place was that busy.

As Sticky Fingers played tragedy struck, Foxy the bassist of the group snapped a string but kept playing and covered it up well. They then played another two songs after they finished their set then Sioux Nation came on to finish off the night.

Sticky Fingers are playing again on the following nights - Friday 27th March with another two bands, Biofeedback and Instinct. Then on April 5th supporting Abraxus and finally headlining their own show on the 18th of April at the Tudor Lodge Hotel in Hamilton.



**Vote for Harry Krishna's
(Gouranga Party)**

- Tax on tambourine's
- Reincarnation pension
- Free woolley tammy