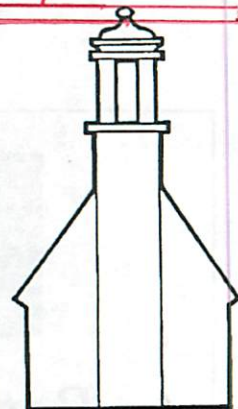


STONEHOUSE YOUTH FORUM

The Stonehouse Lantern

S. T. VALENTINES EDITION



The Stanes of Glassford

What are they ? Who put them there ? How old are they ? Why are they there ?

Why then an interest in three stones that stand in a copse of Yew trees like a marker in the corner of a field?

We believe that the stones date back to the time of the Druids, long before the time of Christ. The Druids were the Priests of our forefathers, the Celts, who came from Europe at the end of the Ice Age. The Druids seem to be connected with the first recorded religion, all be it Pagan, in origin.

In this dark and distant past the Druids ruled what we call Lanarkshire.

On the day of Samian (which fell on the eve of November 1st, our halloween) live stock

not required for the next years breeding would be sacrificed to provide food and skins for the long winter ahead. Human sacrifices would also be given at this time to please the Gods and to ensure their own return the following Spring would bring new life. A life for a life.

What are they ? Possibly a sacrificial Alter. Who put them there ? Possibly the Druid Priests. How old are they ? Possibly two or three thousand years old. Why are they there ? Possibly as signposts should these spirits return to their earthly home.

Ken MacLean



Next issue "The Stanes of Stonehouse"



Return to Forum

The Youth Forum returned to normal when they restarted the year on the 20th January. On the opening night they set about reprogramming the next three months organising events and outings for the Youth Forum to participate in. The club can now look forward to an eventful year with many activities such as skiing, photography, model making, the Lantern, drama, karaoke nights, dance workshops, indoor sports, discos and asking invited guests along for talks.

To celebrate St. Valentine's Day the Youth Forum will be holding a St. Valentine's disco on the 10th of February.

Obviously many of these events cost money and the Youth Forum, along with Community Education tries to subsidise as many events as possible but the money is not ever lasting, thus the Youth Forum shall be holding several sponsored and fund raising events such as jumble sales, bed pushes and sponsored walks.

The Youth Forum would also like to take this chance to thank Macs Driving School, Wai Cheung Lau (Falcon Take away), Hamilton Bros., Adair and Bryden, William McKewan and Sandy Rowan for their support either in money or services.

As another form of income *The Lantern* is also looking for local businesses or organisations to take out an advertising slot in the magazine for a small donation. Taking into account *The Lantern* reaches a fifth to a quarter the population of Stonehouse it's an ideal opportunity to reach the local market.

If you are interested in playing women's football and are aged 14 and over then contact.
Roda Young 793367

Pantomime

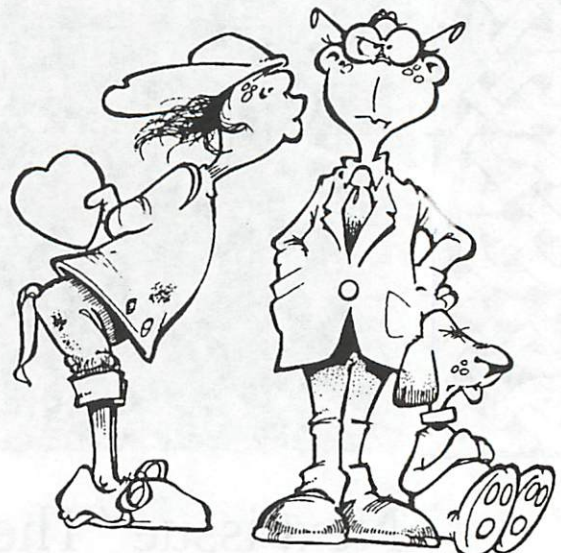
Over the Christmas period Stonehouse Primary opened its doors to 250 screaming children to see the pantomime "Weans in the Wids" performed by Clyde Unity Theatre from Glasgow.

The Panto was based on a cross between "Babes in the Wood" and "Hansel and Gretel" and not only entertained the children, but had the adults joining in the fun.



The Youth Forum helped organise the event distributing tickets and providing the tuck shop during the show.

The Youth Forum are hopeful of bringing future events such as this to Stonehouse but only through local support can this continue.



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

How safe are we ?

Open any newspaper or look at the minutes of any Tenants association, or Community Council, and it will become clear that safety or rather the lack of it, is a major issue in the lives of many people in Strathclyde.

Strathclyde Safe

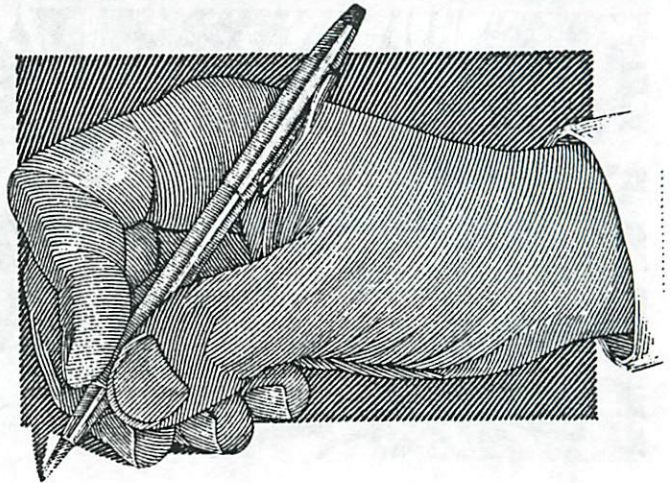


While problems such as poverty, unemployment and bad housing have been the target of local and central government policies over the years, and should continue to remain strategic areas of concern, there is a wider range of safety issues which daily impinge upon the lives of people in Strathclyde.

Statistics show that the residents of deprived areas are more likely to be the victims of crime, to be the victims of road accidents, and to be the victims of accidents in the home. Added to this, the fear of these risks leaves many people feeling vulnerable and isolated.

The aim is to encourage local communities to identify and respond to their particular safety issues. These local initiatives can plug into existing structures, bringing together a wider range of local authority, voluntary and private sector services in a concerned effort to tackle the problems as they are perceived and experienced at a local level.

The issues of safety in an area are always identified locally by the residents through intensive consultation. Areas already involved with Safe Strathclyde Project have identified safety issues such as; poor street and back court lighting ; unsafe play areas for children; road accidents; crime and vandalism; fire safety; and safety beside water. But Safe Strathclyde is all about enabling communities to tackle their own safety issues and does not seek to impose its beliefs about what the issues might be.



Diabetic Suite Officially Opened

On Thursday 25th July 1991, after many months of fund raising by DASH (Diabetic Assistance for Stonehouse Hospital) the Diabetic Education Suite was finally completed.

DASH began in September 1989 primarily to assist meeting the needs of the local diabetic patients. There was a real need for a Diabetic Education Suite like many others throughout Lanarkshire Hospitals. Since many hospitals and departments were competing for a limited fund of money, it was decided that the money would be raised through fund raising. A target of £30,000 was set and the fund raising took many forms eg. Strawberry Teas, Marathons, Car boot Sales and Aerobathon. Many donations were also recieved from local individuals and organisations, as well as large pharmacuetical companies.

Work began on the suite in May 1991 and the building was completed just 9 weeks later. The Suite was formally donated to the Health Board in July 1991.

The Suite was officially opened on the 16th of January by Danny McGrain, himself a diabetic. A buffet lunch was provided and a number of guests were invited to the opening. these included the committee members, representatives of the hospital and the Health Board and some of the people who assisted in the fund raising. The day was voted to be a great success.

environmental issues



Vandalism

Vandalism in Stonehouse appears to be a way of life for a minority of youngsters in the village. But it is these few who make our village an eyesore for us and those who visit the village. Our main street looks like the set for a western after the Indians have left town!

The Co-op, the library and many houses are regularly victims of the jobs abuse of private property. And in Stonehouse we seem to have the only fully air conditioned telephone box I know of!



Why are they doing this, and what is the answer?

The majority of vandalism takes place at night, usually on a Friday and Saturday and always involves a group of youths.

This leads me to think the problem may be peer group related, with children being pressurised by their peers to prove how daring and brave they are by destroying other's property.

What possible adventure and excitement can you get from wrecking a phone box? - You don't see Indiana Jones roaming the streets for unsuspecting phone boxes to destroy, do you?

Maybe one day when these vandals grow up and their house catches fire they'll remember what a phone box is for!

The police can't be there 24 hours a day unfortunately. It may be that only through Government legislation we can prevent such vandalism by preventing public loitering in groups, and underage drinking in public.

Until that day arrives or attitudes change we must learn to understand and educate our growing generations to respect and appreciate their surroundings and public services.

Another Concerned Resident

A71 Video

At the December meeting of the Community Council the Youth Forum suggested to the Council that the youth undertook the task of producing a video highlighting the plight of Stonehouse due to the neverending delays to the Stonehouse bypass.

Since Malcom Waugh had never seen the horrendous conditions and suffering our village has endured due to the excessive traffic

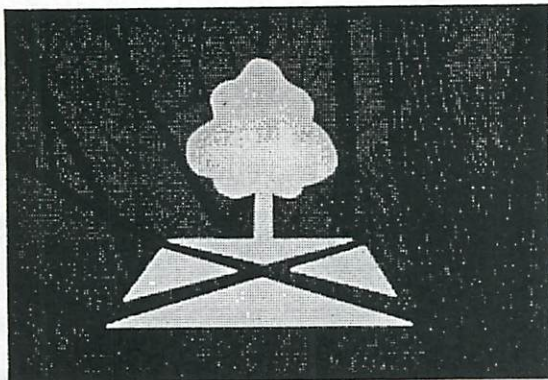
environmental issues



the Youth Forum thought we would send him a 20 minute video for him to see at his leisure during all those rainy nights he has to stay in avoiding the residents of Stonehouse!

The Youth Forum would take the responsibility of scripting, editing and filming the video with the aid of Ian Baker who has volunteered his services.

Anyone who has an interest or is willing to offer their services, is more than welcome to contact the Youth Forum.



Avonside Nature Walk

Since its closure in 1958 the railway line running through Stonehouse has lain derelict and undeveloped as has the banks of the Avon.

The Central Scotland Countryside Trust formed in 1985, has had many successes in redeveloping areas such as this and turning them into areas of conservation by creating walkways, cycle routes and nature trails which are sign posted for public use.

Through projects such as this the trust aims to raise awareness of wildlife and conservation issues among the communities as well as improving all elements of the landscape.



The Youth Forum are following up the possibility of contacting organisations such as this to attract their interest into developing Stonehouse's Avon banks into a public walkway. As well as being conservational the project could also be educational, to both to the community and to the local schools in preserving our environment. After all, our village is what we make of it, and if we can't support projects such as this then we have only ourselves to blame for our environmental surroundings.

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.

4/5 THE CROSS

STONEHOUSE

COMMENTS COLUMN

Crime rate down in Stonehouse

Despite the overall trend for an increase in crime in Scotland, Stonehouse's crime rate has actually fallen by 20%. Some may think this may not be very significant but when you take into account that Stonehouse's total crime rate is 1/7th of the total crimes committed in only one area of Larkhall this drop in crime is welcome by the whole community.



Famous Quotes

Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain on returning from Munich 1938 - "I have here a piece of paper which will secure peace in Europe".

Roads Department, Malcom Waugh in Stonehouse, November 1990 - "I give you my personal promise that work shall begin on Stonehouse Bypass in September 1991".



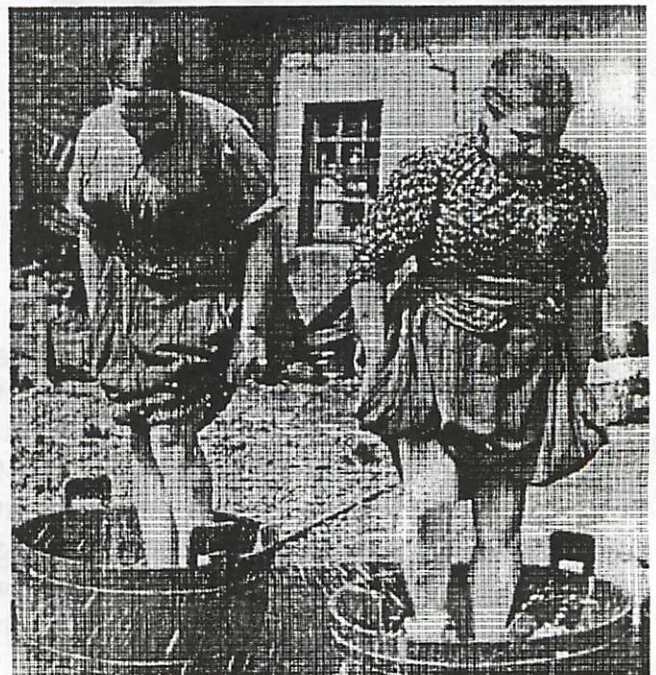
Guess who ?

FLASH FROM THE PAST

"Sober, and religious people"

From a paragraph headed *Miscellaneous Observations from the Statistical Accounts of Stonehouse in 1836* by Rev. Hugh Dewar.

In a moral and religious point of view, the inhabitants of the village of Stonehouse (which contains a population of nearly 1600 souls) are, with a few exceptions, an industrious, sober, and religious people, nowise addicted to the many vices of the inhabitants of villages of a similar population throughout the kingdom, such as excessive drinking, swearing, and fighting. Quarrelling and fighting are seldom or never heard of; and though there are three well attended fairs held in the village yearly, yet many of these pass over without the slightest appearance of a quarrel. The due observance of the Sabbath is likewise a characteristic mark of the inhabitants of Stonehouse. The hallowing of the Sabbath is here most scrupulously attended to, by all ranks of persons, both town and parish; and except in going to and from church, you will hardly see a person on the street. All the public houses are shut on Sabbath, unless to the traveller for refreshment.



Twin Tub - Scotch washers from Stonehouse in the late 19th century.



Stonehouse Heritage Group

The Stonehouse Heritage Group held its monthly meeting in January to begin plans for an exhibition to be held, hopefully in October of this year. The group discussed the various projects to be undertaken by individuals such as weaving and coal mining. Already residents of Stonehouse have responded to our appeals for information, and we are thankful for their help in our research.

In the near future the group will be having a slide show depicting life in Stonehouse before the turn of the century. Through this we hope to gain some knowledge of the slides for the exhibition. We shall be informing the village at a later date when the slide show will take place.

Note: If there is anyone who has information in the form of old photographs, memorabilia, films or general information that may be of interest to the group please contact John Young at: Stonehouse Heritage Group, 3A Kirk Street, Stonehouse ML9 3LR.

Enquiry from Abroad !

The Heritage Group received its first letter of enquiry recently for information on the Covenanters grave stone in the old St.Ninian's cemetery. The letter came from Berks. in England, from a lady who writes poetry.

She was interested in the wording of the grave stone which reads in poetic fashion. Unfortunately the grave stone is no longer legible due to the corrosion over the years.

Despite this in the book 'Martyr Graves of Scotland' the grave is documented.

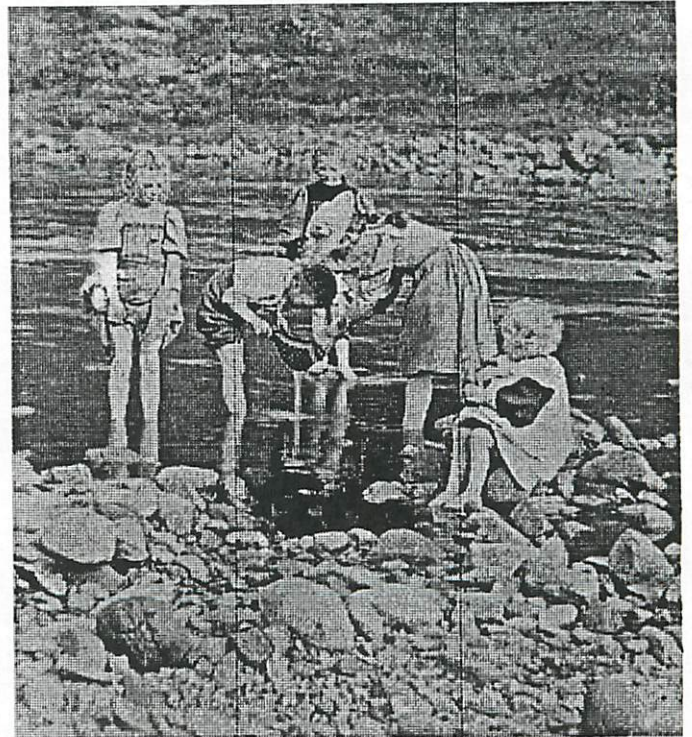
The inscription on the old monument reads as follows:

Here lays or near This Jas Thomson
Who was shot in a Rancounter at
Drumlog, June 1st 1679
By Bloody Graham of Clavers
House for his adherence to the
Word of God and Scotland's
Covenanted Work of Reform
ation. Rev. xii II.

On the other side:

This hero brave who doth lye here
In truth's defence did he appear,
And to Christ's cause he firmly stood
Until he seal'd it with his blood.
With Sword in hand upon the field
He lost his life, yet did not yield.
His days did End in Great Renown,
And he obtained the Martyrs Crown.

As well as this letter the Group have also received appeals for help in the research of local history from children from Stonehouse and Strathaven studying Geography.



Young children fishing for minnows in the river Avon in the late 19th century.

From the past to the present the Covenanters will long always be remembered. Even now the faith and loyalty in which these men believed, are captured in a poem by a modern day poet, and a 'Son of Stonehouse' Henry George Twaddle. He is a strong admirer of their courage and resolve, often in the face of death.

Men of the Covenant From the Preachers stone

An auld reformation kirk stands on the hill
Silently, defiantly, preaching God's will
A solid sentinal to-times gone past
But proof that even stone can't last

These silent stones are standing there
From those windows comes a baleful stare
The old Covenanters have faded away
People are callused and Godless today

Another era another dawn
Their memory faded, their values gone
Men of the Covenant, firm and strong
God fearing men, righting a wrong

Rutherford, Cameron, Cargill and Muir
Their names ring out clear and pure
Courageous, loyal, dedicated, true
This handful but a chosen few

These Christian men of high ideal
Their only crime religious zeal
They preached their cause from mound and brae
Convinced there'd be a Judgement Day.

God fearing men of yester years
The wrath of God their only fear
We'll never see their like again
A few of Scotland's finest men

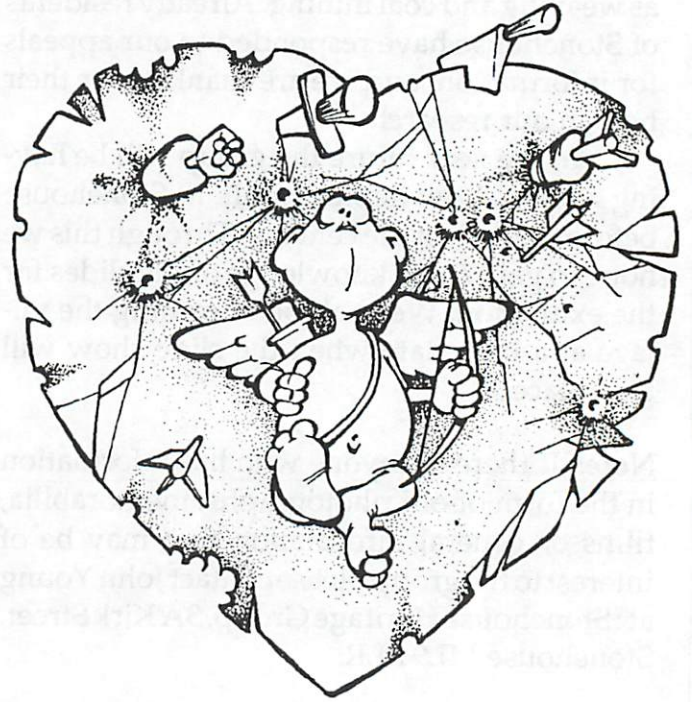
The past lies buried, the future grim
The deeds of heroes faded and dim
Tho' long since gone their memories cherished
Tho' bone and blood and faith have cherished
Resolute and faithful the auld kirk stands
Till the faith of our fathers and God's will demand

Tweed-Dale
The Plain Man Poet

History of St.Valentine's Day

This is the day when young men and women send Valentine cards to the one they love, or would like to have as a girlfriend or boyfriend.

St.Valentine was a priest who was put to death for his faith by the Roman Emperor Claudius II during the third century A.D. He was known as the 'apostle of true love' because he secretly performed the marriage ceremony for soldiers, who were forbidden by Claudius to marry. When he was thrown into jail he fell



in love with the jailer's daughter, and on the day he was put to death he left a little note for her signed 'Your Valentine'.

Perhaps Valentine was allocated February 14th as a Saint's Day because the pre-Christian Roman festival of Lupercalia was on February 15th - on that day young men chose a girl by a sort of lottery system. The girl would not be sure which boy would be hers. Today Valentine Cards are often left unsigned so that the receiver cannot be sure who the sender is.

POETRY FROM THE PAST

The following poem comes from an extract in the Larkhall and Stonehouse Gazette in the mid-seventies.

Stonehouse Public Park has been described - by a Stonehouse native of course; as "the bonniest place on earth".

The poem below was written in 1936 by a Stonehouse exile in Belfast who thoroughly agreed with that verdict.

The author was Mr Matthew H Thomson, whose late brothers were Mr John Thomson, Postmaster and Mr A MacCormack Thomson, Editor of the "Hamilton Advertiser".

In Praise O' The Kindly Folk O' Stonis

*Ours is a peaceful rural town,
That nestles charmingly aloof;
Fair fields enswathe her like a gown,
With nature's tints in warp and woof.*

*Of mighty hens we may not boast,
No heave of surf our hearing fills,
But pleasant dales where sound is lost,
And gentle undulating hills.*

*No acrid smoke pollutes the air,
Instead the odour of the pine;
No raucous noises anywhere,
But singing birds and lowing kine.*

*A flow'ry park where children play,
On sward that's velvet to the feet,
Anon with elfin laughter gay,
They navigate the polished chute.*

*There, seated neath a hawthorn tree,
The elders of our village sit,
Old jokes are cracked with quiet glee,
A laugh rewards the ready wit.*

*Rab tells his thoughts of long ago
"The warmest summer that we had,
The keenest frost, the deepest snow".
Were those when he was just a lad.*

*The Swallow Brae was steeper then,
Frae kirkyaird wa' to Avon brim;
The Puddocks Hole was deeper when,
He and his cronies learned to swim.*

*Simmer and winter aye the same,
Frae kirkyaird wa' to Avon brim,
When dark a peacock-feather flame,
Frae gas that blinked, but gled nae licht.*

*Then water frae Loch, Well or Spout,
Had to be carried, every drap,
Now, sweet and pure Glengavel route, Comes
aqua pure to the tap.*

*And as for holidays, guid sooth,
Maist o' us tripped on Shank's mare,
But noo, the puirist lass and youth,
Can bus or train or fly by air.*

*"Aye, aye" says Wull, "but look here,
Rab Oor elders too were grumblin' codgers,
And mair than ance we left oor wab,
For Hamilton, to jine the sodgers".*

*"Weel, weel, you may be richt," quo Rab, "But
this at least I will maintain,
A drive in Black Bull brake or cab,
Was faur abune your bus and train".*

*And so, ad lib, they argued on,
Of this and that and the other thing,
Each one debated pro and con,
While we outsiders kept the ring.*

*But thro' it all, 'twas clear as day,
They loved their toon so sweet and trig,
From auld Westoun to Cobber Brae,
From Cander Toll to Glessart Brig.*

*Each ancient landmark, lane and street,
Held something dear for these old cronies,
Each burn and brae and meadow sweet,
And all the kindly folk o' Stonis.*



Do you belive in Reincarnation ? (Part 2)

By
Harry Krishna

Multiple Choice Questions

1. When your English relatives come to visit you, do you ...

- A. Close the curtains and turn on the answering machine.
- B. Ask them to bring a translator and don't feed the rottweiler for two weeks.
- C. Shout "Up the Jacobites !" and slice off their heads.

2. If old Mrs Brady asks you to help her across the road do you ...

- A. Tell her "What do you think I am a scout".
- B. Tie her knicker elastic to the traffic lights , then release her when you reach the other side watching her travel at the speed of light.
- C. Say that you're too scared to aid her as you were a hedgehog in a previous life.

3. When your girlfriend/boyfriend asks you to help him/her with their homework do you

- A. Say you're washing your hair and doing a spot of ironing.
- B. Tell them you have found someone else and you're going to be married.
- C. Yell "Ug", Club him/her over the head and drag her off to your cave.

4. When Marvo the magician produces a rabbit from up his sleeve do you ...

- A. Boil up some carrots and water and stick it in the pot.
- B. Set free your ferrets up his trouser leg for the other rabbits.
- C. Accuse him of witchcraft and burn him at the stake.

5. When visiting the Eiffel Tower in Paris do you ...

- A. Say "Oh what a splendid view, I can see my house from here!".
- B. Climb to the top and bring up the frogs and snails you've been eating.
- C. Shout out " I used to be a Kamikazi pilot in a past life" and jump over the side.

If you chose A for most of your answers you shall probably be reincarnated as a train spotter. If you chose B for most of your answers you are obviously a member of the David Iyke Fan Club. If you chose C for most of your answers you must be a turnip or you can look forward to becoming one in your next life!



No Puffin

BANDS IN DEMAND

Sticky Fingers

by Lee Malone

In the summer of '91 a boy from Larkhall wanted to get a band together. He played drums and got his friend to play guitar, and now Prune and Mug are the only original members of the band left. they were then joined by Foxy to play bass.

This line up only lasted a couple of months until Andy the Des, other members of the band left. They then found a new drummer and guitarist and set up a new line up.



guitar and last but not least Hutchy on drums.

John and Foxy started playing when they were 13, Cameron started at 16 and Hutchy at 9 years old.

Foxy started playing bass because he had seen Steve Harris (Bass player for Iron Maiden) playing and thought he was great. John started playing guitar when he looked at all the other bands playing in the area and thought it would be great to get into a band of his own. Cameron wanted to play guitar because you can pull off great riffs on it and also because he wanted to play a rock instrument. Hutchy just wanted to be different from his dad who plays guitar and the bass. Mug just sings because he can't play any instrumnets.

Mugs favourite bands are - Ozzy Osbourne and Overkill. Foxy's favourites are Iron Maiden and Ozzy. John's are Megadeath and Alice in Chains. Hutchies are Motely crue, Ozzy, Whitesnake and W.A.S.P. And last of all Cameron's favourites are Poison and Motely Crue.

The bands influences come from a wide range of groups and performers including Vince Wroll, Ozzy, Steve harris, Joe Satriani, Steve Vai, Tommy Lee, Angus Young and C.C. Deville.

Mug is the member of the band who gets slagged the most. The band work as a team and make all their decisions together.

The most popular song they like playing is Monkey Business by Skid Row. Others are Peace sells by Megadeath, Kick Start my Heart by Motely Crue, but Hutchy disagrees with them all.

The bands aim for the imediate future are to start playing most of the local clubs and become reasonably well known locally and try not to get trown out of any off them!

The bands first gig is set for february the 29th at the Tudor Lodge in Hamilton when they will be supporting another band from Stonehouse called Sioux Nation who were highlighted in the last issue of the Lantern.



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