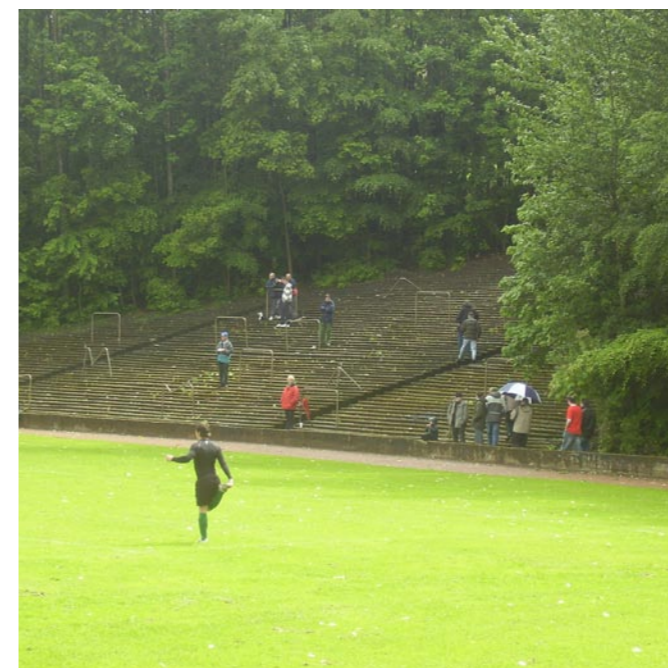




▲ The spire of Crosshill Queen's Park church peeks out behind the trees. A few twisted old barriers remain on sections of terracing. The place: **New Cathkin Park**. The date: May 19 2007, when to mark the 40th anniversary of the Hi Hi's last outing, the recently revived amateur Third Lanark took on a youth XI from the ground's original tenants, Queen's Park.

All over Britain there are sites where evidence of former grounds can be found; a wall here, a mound there. Highbury Stadium in London has been turned into flats and gardens. Middlesbrough's Ayresome Park, now a housing estate, is dotted with artwork marking the former pitch and penalty spots. But nowhere is there a site quite like Cathkin Park, where football,

albeit now in the lower reaches of a local Glasgow league, can still be watched. True, the barriers are not the originals. Sections of the terraces have been re-concreted, others planted with trees, and there is no trace of any former stands. Here then, is Glasgow's Olympia, an historic stadium, hidden in the woods. Here is heritage, literally, at grass roots level.



Crudely carved but reverentially placed by an anonymous hand, the words of Hippocrates carry a surreal resonance on a bank at the not-so-New Cathkin Park, while behind the north west corner, studs in a pathway depict the old Third Lanark badge (left), with its number three in the centre. For Glasgow nostalgics and visitors from around the world, this modest arena is a place of pilgrimage. Haunted, but magical also.

