

# Family remember tragic son a year after knife murder

By **TRISTAN STEWART-ROBERTSON**

A FAMILY campaigning for tougher knife laws today asked Scots to raise a glass to their innocent son – as they marked the anniversary of his brutal killing.

Damian Muir was 34 when he was stabbed eight times in an unprovoked attack in July last year as he made his way home from a night out in Greenock.

His family gathered at his graveside on Monday in an emotional remembrance of how Damian lived, not how he died.

Since the attack, the family have launched a petition for mandatory jail sentences for anyone caught carrying a knife.

But this week they have taken time out from their campaigning to remember the innocent

**“It doesn't matter that it was a year ago, it doesn't get easier**

victim, not the criminal who so cruelly took Damian from them.

And the family are asking others to take time to remember their son.

Dad John said: “Raise a glass and think of

Damian's smile. As a family we have to thank the public for their support over the past year.”

The family find solace in remembering happy tales of Damian's life.

When he was just three or four years old, Damian went missing in the centre of Greenock and the family had everyone, including the police, searching for him. He was found sitting on the floor in a Video Vision shop watching TV.

Damian's sister Karin, 33, said: “It doesn't matter that it was a year ago. It could have happened yesterday.

“We have been waiting for this day to come

around, but it doesn't make it any easier.

“If you keep thinking about what happened to Damian, then you think about who did this to him. That wasn't part of his life, just how he died.

“When you're feeling down, you just start to remember stories about him.”

Damian's eldest sister Vicky said time doesn't make the loss any easier.

The 43-year-old said: “It just comes from nowhere. I just want to hear his voice. I think I feel worse than a year ago. I pass Damian's grave every day and do pop in most days.

“We make sure there's a candle lit every Friday at his grave.”

Damian worked at an IBM call centre and was a keen sportsman who enjoyed football.

His brothers Christopher, 40, Stephen, 36, and many other family members and friends have also been remembering him this week.

There has been huge support from the community for Damian's family and now their campaign for tougher sentences for those caught carrying weapons.

Barry Gavin, now 22, was jailed for life last November for the murder.



Family want to remember Damian as he really was

## Singer Sandi swaps her guitar for a paint brush

SCOTS singing star Sandi Thom revealed she has turned into a DIY queen because she wants the perfect home.

Instead of hiring tradesmen, the Pink and the Lily singer has been painting and tiling her new £300,000 Brighton flat, which she bought with her boyfriend Jake Field.



The 26-year-old said: “I've been painting, tiling, grouting, and plastering. I am even sewing my own curtains.”

The singer who had a hit with I Wish I Was A Punk Rocker said Brighton reminds her of Macduff, Aberdeenshire.

She said: “It's cool to wake up in the morning and hear the seagulls, it reminds me of where I grew up.”



The Muir family have been devastated by the killing of Damian, seen here, far left, with his mum May and brothers Christopher and Stephen, right

## Bomber 2 returns to theme park

A TERRIFYING thrill ride is to return home to a Scots theme park.

The Bomber Mark 2, the world's tallest thrill ride will be back at M&D's Theme Park in Strathclyde Country Park from today.

Billed as one of the scariest rides in the world, the Bomber was made in Italy and took two and a half years to construct, at a cost of more than £1.2million.

At 55m tall and spinning at 65 miles per hour with a G force of 4.4, it attracts thrill seekers looking for the ultimate rush.

# Councillor loses age discrimination appeal

A COUNCILLOR who accused his own local authority of age discrimination after it failed to interview him for a job he couldn't get has had his case rejected on appeal.

Bill Martin, 63, previously an independent councillor with Renfrewshire Council, was the first in Scotland to fight his age discrimination claim since new laws came into effect.

He appeared in front of an employment tribunal after the new age equality laws banning bias on

the grounds of age came into force in October 2006.

Mr Martin complained he was well qualified for the part-time post of pupil support worker for the council. However, he was hurt when he was rejected without interview and complained of discrimination.

The council denied discrimination but argued the case should not go ahead as Mr Martin was a member of the council at the time.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act prevented councillors from working

for the authority they were members of.

However, a preliminary employment tribunal heard the personnel department may not have been aware he was a councillor at the time of the selection process.

Renfrewshire Council appealed to the Employment Appeal Tribunal where the judge ruled the tribunal's ruling in Mr Martin's favour should be quashed and his complaint should be dismissed on the grounds it had no reasonable prospect of success.

## train service alterations

- **Glasgow Central - Neilston/Newton and Cathcart Circle**

Tuesday 22 July - Sunday 17 August 2008 (inclusively)



Network Rail are carrying out urgent repairs as a result of subsidence which will affect Glasgow Central - Neilston/Newton and Cathcart Circle services.

A half-hourly train service will operate between Glasgow Central and Newton, via Maxwell Park.

A half-hourly train service will operate between Glasgow Central and Neilston, via Kings Park.

There will be no train service to/from Glasgow Central to Pollokshields East, Queens Park, Crosshill, Mount Florida and Cathcart stations.

A half-hourly replacement bus service will operate between Pollokshields East and Kings Park, calling at all intermediate stations (including Cathcart), connecting into and out of train services to Glasgow Central, Newton and Neilston.

- Season Ticket holders travelling from Pollokshields East, Queens Park, Crosshill, Mount Florida and Cathcart to Glasgow Central can use the following bus operators' services on production of their Season Ticket: **Arriva, City Sprinter and First Glasgow.**
- Customers with Zonecards are reminded that their tickets are also valid for travel on these, and other bus operators' services.
- Customers who do not hold a valid rail ticket can use any bus operators' services on payment of the normal bus fare.

Please note that some journey times may be extended.

