

## *Social Enterprise*

**K**ibble engaged in enterprising activities from its early days. Gaps in our archive mean that there is little information available on these until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; however a 1907 record shows that boots were supplied by Kibble's shoemaking workshop to the Poor House.

In addition to Kibble's own farm production, boys were also very much in demand for outside farm work at busy times, for example potato picking or "tattie howkin", throughout much of the last century, and raspberry picking beginning in summer 1914.

Vegetable growing was one of the most profitable enterprises, so much so that records show the vegetable growing department was extended in 1913 and again in 1919, when profits were almost double those of the previous year. As well as meeting Kibble's own needs, produce was sold to the public throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many local residents, former staff and pupils still recall people turning up at the school's farm shop on Fridays to buy produce: 'They were down there wi' prams, bogeys – everything. And they used to go in there and they used to get cabbage, turnip, carrots, big bag of tatties, you know? £2 or somethin', you know, a pound, two pound... pure fresh, I mean it was just pulled out the ground.' (Sam Hill, Kibble Carpentry Instructor, 1963-1995)



Black and white aerial photograph (Old Kibble building on Greenock Road can be seen just to the right of the centre of photograph) showing Kibble's farm land extending out to the current Glasgow International Airport site  
(Image courtesy of Paisley Museum)

The Kibble farm purchased one cow in 1919, at a cost of £40. By the last quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the farm department had a full dairy herd, a beef herd, and two thousand hens.

Social enterprise activities continue to be to the fore of development at Kibble, with the organisation itself run as a social enterprise since 1996 and the broad range of small social enterprise businesses at KibbleWorks.



Some of the KibbleWorks Social Enterprises

