



# Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue IV/ September 2014

## **President's Message**

Welcome to this fourth Newsletter. The feedback we have had from members is very good and we have even been instrumental in putting former pupils in touch after a gap of many years.

The commitment of the FP committee to strengthen the links with the school continues and I hope to be able to report more on this in a later edition and also tell you about one of the local feeder schools, Golfhill Primary, which is co-located on the Whitehill campus. This newsletter contains a report on this year's Head Teacher Lunch by our secretary, Miss Myra Hunter. I was very impressed by the catering skills of the pupils. If we had attempted anything like this when I was at school, the result was likely to have been an outbreak of food poisoning!

If you want to see today's pupils demonstrate their skills then a date for your diary is 7th October 2104 when Whitehill take part in the Kirkintilloch Speakers Club Schools Speech Competition on. Location is the Baptist Community Hall adjacent to Sainsbury Super market, time 7.15pm.

We have now been able our meet objective of bringing another female FP on to Committee and it was a pleasure to welcome Elaine Fernand, (whom some of you will know better as Elaine Ferguson ), to our August meeting. Her commonsense and practical approach is going to be a valuable asset.

Now it is up to you, please do contact us with any stories you may have about your days at school, the teachers or ideas about what you would like to appear in our news letter.

I look forward to meeting you at the FP autumn lunch on 14 November. In memory of the FPs who died during the Great War, the proceeds of this year's wine auction will be donated to the Erskine Hospital.

With best wishes to all FPs.

Jim Aitken

## **Head Teachers Lunch.**

In June, Whitehill pupils taking the Hospitality course entertained about forty guests who in some way had helped the school and its pupils during the last year.

The Head Teacher, Louise Connor welcomed all the guests. Among those present were Councillor Frank Doherty, the local police liaison officer, representatives of the Whitehill School Sports Trust, Cambuslang Golf Club (who sponsor a pupil for golf), PCW (who run a mentoring programme in the school), further education colleges, local firms, exam invigilators and the FP Club President and Secretary.



New Whitehill Campus, Onslow Drive.



Councillor Docherty and Police Liason Officer



Head Boy and Head Girl



The "Hospitality Team"

The invigilators were a particularly interesting and lively group. Many of them had been to Whitehill and some of them still lived in Dennistoun. One lady had been a Wren, working in Bletchley during World War II

The room was decorated in a Scottish theme in honour of the Commonwealth Games about to take place in Glasgow. The meal was prepared by the senior pupils on the course. The menu also reflected this Scottish theme. The starter was "Breakfast" (tiny pieces of black pudding, tattie scone bacon with a salad garnish) the main course was haggis neeps and tatties served with the drink of the day – Irn Bru. The meal concluded with tea or coffee and tablet. The table service was expertly provided by younger members of the course, who explained each dish to the guests.

The boy and girl school captains spoke a few words of welcome and thanks to all present for their contributions to benefit of the school. Subsequently, the guests were entertained by the animated singing of the Golfhill Primary School choir, lead by their Head Teacher Lorraine Dougan (Golfhill is now part of the Whitehill campus). It was clear from everyone's reactions that it a very enjoyable occasion and the guests were full of praise for the work of the pupils who had prepared and hosted the lunch.

**Myra Hunter**

### **Andrew Jamieson's Gift**

Andrew Jamieson, who was awarded the " Lifetime Achievement Award" at our March Annual Dinner, very kindly made a substantial donation via the FP Club, for use by the school for the benefit of current pupils. The school has put forward a list of four proposals, an Allotment Project leading to John Muir Awards, Outdoor Learning Experience, Social Skills Course for vulnerable pupils and a Lunchtime Board Games Class to encourage thinking skills related to numeracy and literacy. The FP committee has agreed the proposals. Our thanks once again to Dr Jamieson for his donation.

## **Committee News:**

The committee is actively pursuing opportunities to allow us to work more closely with the school where we can help senior students preparing for the transition from school to tertiary education or the workplace. We propose that FP's would give a series of short talks on their own careers, preparing for university, interview guidance, etc. Our work to establish a "Whitehill FP Website" is progressing and it is expected that it will be fully operational by year end.

## **Obituary:**

We thought it appropriate in this year when we are commemorating 100 years since the start of WW1 and the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, to remember a distinguished former pupil, who served in WW2.

**Harry McKendrick** who has died aged 91, had the key role of navigator on Lancaster bombers in the RAF's famous Bomber Command during the Second World War. By the end of the war he had spent 359 hours on daylight missions and had amassed 207 hours in the pitch black of night, lit up only by ack-ack fire. He had attended Whitehill School, in the same period as Rikki Fulton and signed up for the RAF as soon as he turned 18 in July 1940. In the final days of the war his squadron took part in Operation Manna, dropping thousands of tons of badly needed food supplies to starving Dutch people in The Hague. The boy from Riddrie was proud of dropping food instead of bombs. After war's end, he took part in Operation Exodus, flying home grateful airmen and soldiers and Royal Navy personnel who had been liberated from POW camps.

Harry went on to Jordanhill and became a teacher. He taught at several Glasgow schools and retired in 1982 as the much loved headteacher at Carntyne Primary. One of his teaching aims was to educate children that "peace was always a better alternative to war". ( Summarised from the obituary published in The Herald, Phil Davison, March 2014)

## **Members E-mail addresses:**

We now have some 105 names and email addresses for communication with FP's. E-mailing invitations and communications to members, saves on paper and the huge cost of postage. If you have contact with other FP's and they are not on the email list. Please have them make contact with me as follows: [whitehillfp@btinternet.com](mailto:whitehillfp@btinternet.com)

## **Note:**

We welcome any input from all former pupils, to include in future newsletters, for example, information on your whereabouts, particularly those now overseas, a what career did you follow section, items of news concerning FP's and so on.

## **Date of Autumn Lunch: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

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