



## Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue VI/ April 2015

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Newsletter. We have some important information to report concerning FP activities and ongoing success at Whitehill School.

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March, the annual dinner was held at The Menzies Hotel in Glasgow, attended by more than 60 FPs with their friends and we were very pleased to again welcome a table of current pupils together with Head Teacher Louise Connor. After an excellent meal and the formalities over we were entertained with a speech from Bill Sang, who proposed the toast to the school. Headteacher Louise Connor replied on behalf of the school and well prepared she was. She had combed the archives and had with her a copy of Bill Sang's final report which she shared with us. Louise followed on by informing us of the significant successes and achievements of pupils this academic year. Clearly with the hard work of both teachers and the students, the school continues to "punch above its weight", and all can be proud of the success reported. At the close of her speech Louise was presented with the cheque from the club, used for the FP prize, and then called upon several of her star pupils, each to give a short speech on their activities and achievements this year. As well as a world renowned karate exponent who has secured a placement with Ernst & Young, we have a soccer player finding success with Annan Athletic, but who has an unconditional acceptance at Glasgow University to study Pharmacology. Thanks to Daud Sarwar, James Coulter, Kirsty McAdam, Jude McKechnie and Rabin Omar for their inspirational presentations.

Our recipient of the "Lifetime Achievement Award" this year is Iain Burns, President and CEO of Philips Canada, based in Toronto. Iain lived in Carntyne and attended Whitehill from 1963 up to 1967, when his family emigrated to Canada. He completed his education at Central Tech High School in Toronto and then at Waterloo University where he gained his degree in Economics. He worked in computer operations with a mining company and a bank before joining Philips in 1980 as a Product Manager and through a series of promotions rose to become CEO and President, positions he has held since 2001. Philips Canada is a C\$1 billion subsidiary of Royal Dutch Philips and employs 2500 people in Canada. He is married to Jean Watson (from Kirkintilloch) and they have two daughters and six grandchildren.

Iain was unable to make the trip from Toronto in March, however his old school friend Professor Joe Clarke accepted the trophy and quaich on his behalf and spoke warmly of his memories of Iain and his time at Whitehill School. Many memories of teachers, school soccer teams and some guidance from Joe, using Iain as an example, for the the young people present who are just about to go out from school to the wider world.

At the close of the dinner, President Jim Aitken, passed the badge of office to Iain Callander who will serve as President for the 2015-2016 period. Iain made a short speech of introduction.

**2014: CEO Burns (still the same pose)**



**1963: Whitehill Schoolboy Burns**

**Now can you shed any light on this?**

Fraser Speirs forwarded a copy of a letter which had been sent to Glasgow & West of Scotland History Society, by a Mr W.J.Anderson, now living on the Wirral in Cheshire. The letter asked if anyone could throw light on a mystery which had “bugged him for umpteen years”. Whilst a pupil at Whitehill School in 1944, all of the pupils had been lined up and proceeded along the balcony on the first floor to pass a teacher with a camera on a tripod. Each pupil had his name taken and was then photographed individually. When asked what it was about they were told “ it's because of the war”. He wonders if anyone else remembers this episode and knows anything about it.

We have been in touch with Bill Anderson, and summarise his story as follows: He attended Whitehill for just over a year before his family moved south. One schoolmate who stands out in his memory is Jim McMaster an enthusiastic piper. He remembers a few teachers, Miss Smellie ( Maths) and a Mr Brown who was a Scottish Nationalist and always late on a Monday morning. He remembers Craigen, Harvest Camp at Turriff in Aberdeenshire. Bill's career in local government culminated in the English equivalent of Burgh Chamberlain in the Wirral.

Please let us know if you remember Bill or have any information on the photograph story.

**Whitehill FP Website.**

The FP Club website is now live and we will be gradually populating it with archive material and keeping it updated with latest activities and information.

**[www.whitehillfp.org](http://www.whitehillfp.org)**

We wish to encourage you to submit documents, annotated photographs and other memorabilia relevant to your years at Whitehill for inclusion on the website.

Please send either by email to [whitehillfp@btinternet.com](mailto:whitehillfp@btinternet.com), or if the file is large, send good quality copies by mail to Myra Hunter, 20 Almond Street, Riddrie, Glasgow. G33 2AT.

It is our intention to scan and upload as many of the school magazines as possible together with archive material as yet unseen which is held at the school.

We hope that you will take time to look at the website now, and going forward as it develops and assist us to make it a useful record of the history of this great school.

### **Do You Remember**



Thomson Street Primary School. Now converted to very nice flats. A very good building given a new lease of life. Many will have memories of this primary school.

### **Sandy Duncan**

On a sad note, please see the following obituary notice published by the Bermuda Ex-Police Association. Sandy attended Carntyne Primary then Whitehill in the 1960's, played Rugby 1<sup>st</sup> 15, and was an all round good guy, clearly he continued to make many friends in Bermuda and in Arizona. Sandy passed away April 2014.

<http://expobermuda.com/index.php/hof/279-sandyduncan>

### **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: November 2015 ( date to be confirmed)**

President: Iain Callander, email : [iacpac@hotmail.com](mailto:iacpac@hotmail.com)

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