



Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue VII/ November 2015

Welcome to this 7th edition of our Newsletter. We have surely had a busy “summer”, the quotes are certainly relevant for those of us living in Scotland. It was the wettest summer in living memory however we did enjoy a good spell of weather in September and October. We have two events to report on together with other items of news.

Dennistoun Historical Walking Tour.

On Saturday 17th October, a fine sunny morning, 13 members gathered at the new Whitehill School gates on Onslow Drive, for a walking tour planned and admirably led by John Munro. John although a local boy who grew up in Dennistoun had clearly researched the area and was able to impart lots of snippets of information and stories along the way. The new school is built on the site of the Golfhill Cricket Club.

We walked up Cumbernauld Road to its junction with Alexandra Parade and Appin Road, where we discovered the location of the newsagents shop owned by (FP) Rikki Fulton's mother and father. After a discussion about the Lea Rig public house and the Alexandra Parade Cafe and its jukebox, we had a short walk in Alexandra Park, to the fountain. Many had stories to tell about Aly Park, the bandstand, boating ponds, fishing and other matters, not for this Newsletter. Walking on along the Parade westward we talked about many friends who lived in the apartments along the way, and the cafe culture which existed in the 1960's in the area. Only the Swallow Cafe at the top of Meadowpark Street and the Bungalow (renamed) remain as eateries. Alas the Park and Parade Cinema's are also long gone. Many will have fond memories of the back row in the Parade. The good news is that Alexandra Parade School is still there and looking good after recent renovation.



Turning into Whitehill Street, John pointed out several of the remaining “wally closes” which are in good condition. These are beautifully tiled entrances to the flats. On the west side of Whitehill Street we looked over at the opulent Victorian villas, once the residences of ministers of the church, high

flying bank managers and businessmen. We carried on down the street again looking at flats where friends grew up and ended the walk at the gates of the old school and Buffalo Bill's statue. After a photo session we adjourned to Coia's Cafe on Duke Street for an excellent lunch and blether. A great day was had by all.

Next year, we plan to have a walk covering the area west of the school.

Annual Autumn Lunch

We held the lunch on Friday 13th November, attended by just short of 50 former pupils and guests. The event was joined by Mr Simon Easton, current acting head teacher accompanied by head girl Anna Morgan and head boy, Christopher Tough. It was good that so many braved Storm Abigail to make the journey to the Menzies, now renamed Hallmark Hotel, Glasgow.

Ron and Elaine Fernand had prepared a photo exhibit of school magazine photos of the 1960's and a rogues gallery of our teachers of that era. This encouraged swapping of many tales. The raffle was a great success. The committee had contributed a number of items which Elaine made up into a Christmas Hamper. This first prize was won by Norma Reid.



The raffle raised over £110 and there was a brisk sale of the new golf and ladies umbrellas. Lunch was very good, and we all had plenty of time to circulate afterwards and meet old friends and chat.

News Item.

Louise Connor, who was head teacher has taken up a new appointment in education management in Argyll & Bute, based at Lochgilphead. A new head is expected to be appointed in the new year.

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 88th Annual Dinner: 11th March 2016

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