



## Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue XII, November 2017

We trust that all our readers had a great summer and the weather was better where you were. Now we are well into autumn but strangely the daffodils are already through in the garden, before all of the leaves are fallen.

The **Autumn Lunch** was held on 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Hallmark Hotel in Glasgow and it was good to see a number of new faces and a pleasure to welcome headteacher Pauline Swan and the head girl Amy Williams and head boy Connor McLeod. Robin Brunton opened proceedings with a short speech, and later asked Pauline to update us on the achievements of the school both in academic results, sport performance and particularly the “Cheerleaders Team” who won the Gold Medal at the Scottish Schools Championship. Well done.

The raffle draw, with tickets picked by Connor and Amy saw a spread of the prizes across all tables, however we were delighted to see that our ticket pickers walked off with two of the star prizes, a hamper and a bottle of Scotland's national drink. The other hamper was won by Elizabeth Patterson. Thanks to the committee and others who donated prizes for the raffle which raised over £200.



### Glasgow Cathedral Visit

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October we had a group visit by 24 former pupils, led by Dr James Macaulay. Dr Macaulay, many will remember as a history teacher at Whitehill during the 1960's and readers of the previous Newsletter will know that he was honoured with our Achievement Award at the dinner in March. He is an authority on the history and chairman of the Friends of Glasgow Cathedral, so it was both an educational and entertaining morning followed up with lunch at Amore d' Italia ( The Bungalow Cafe) on Alexandra Parade.

A grand day out.



**Whitehill Memories:** A further contribution to our Newsletter from R.D.(Bob) Kernohan

**Arthur Meikle.**

Arthur Meikle was an exceptional teacher of English at Whitehill and later at Hutchesons' , where he retired as depute rector. He became a life-long friend but I owed him more than an abiding enthusiasm for Shakespeare. He provided an outstanding example of the way good teachers contribute far more than can ever be set down in a class-room syllabus.

I think of two great debts to him. One, which I share with many contemporaries, was the introduction to the joys of choral singing through the after-hours mixed senior choir. The other is very personal. When I was his pupil in the sixth-year Bursary Class I rather fancied myself as a master of English prose. Then one day Arthur took me to see a first-year class and showed me the astonishing work of a gifted youngster called Alasdair Gray. I felt properly humbled.

I felt mildly annoyed with that distinguished novelist and artist recently when he was quoted as saying that he may have learned more in Riddrie Library than in school. Then I remembered an earlier piece in "The Herald" by him, obviously no great respecter of persons in authority or of authority itself. He seemed to allow one exception: it was his old teacher and mine, Arthur Meikle.



**Whitehill Shopping Bag in France !!**

## **Membership of Whitehill FP Club**

If you are in touch with other former pupils please ask them to email our secretary to be included in the emailing list, and to obtain details of events.

We are keen to attract members from the 1960's, 70's and 80's to join us. Why not make up a table of old friends for the dinner in March.

**Diary Note:** 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Details to follow in January.

**Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year.**

**President: Robin Brunton.**

**Past President Bill Sang.**

**Secretary: Iain Callander, 6a Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh EH12 6HN: [secretary@whitehillfp.org](mailto:secretary@whitehillfp.org)**