

Whitehill F.P.s' Club Newsletter

Issue XXXI February, 2024

Thankfully Spring is springing, and not before time. It has felt like a long winter, but its just a month till the clocks change.

One or two interesting reads to include in this newsletter and a "heads up" as they say, about the Spring lunch which will be on Thursday, 25th April.

Firstly a trip down memory lane.

In the 1960's when I was a lad, Dennistoun was awash with cafes and many a summer evening or Sunday afternoon was spent nursing a cola for as long as possible, whilst listening to the juke box or waiting for Alan Freeman with the Top 20 on the radio. The most famous cafes were firstly the Rendezvous at the corner of Sword Street and Duke Street, with Tony Togneri serving the best Macallans in town supervised by his big sister. The Bungalow on Ally Parade had the best juke box, with 45's renewed on a Saturday afternoon and with a brisk business selling on the replaced singles. Then there was the Swallow, the Parade, the Ideal (The Coppola family), the Ally Bar and lastly the Venice Cafe, across the road from the other entrance to Alexandra Park. The Venice was spotlessly run by Guido, who was known to lift ones coke bottle to wipe away the ring made by condensation from the cold bottle base. All of these establishments were favourite haunts and I think are greatly missed.



The Rendezvous Cafe in Duke Street, Dennistoun.

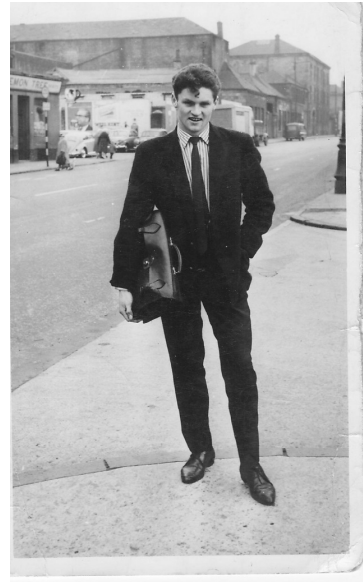
Mr. Togneri came to Glasgow in 1920 from the village of Barga in Tuscany, Italy. He worked at first in a cafe in Anderston, but some years later he and his cousin set up on their own at the Rendezvous. The cafe had a reputation for its ice-cream which Mr Togneri made himself, getting up at dawn to collect the milk and start work. It was also very popular with courting couples. The Togneris owned the Rendezvous until the 1970s.

The shop front and interior was saved during demolition and is reconstructed at the Riverside Museum in Glasgow. (Photograph above, right)

Old Friends

Our website continues to help reconnect old friends and classmates. We had an enquiry from Tony Mackay seeking to make contact with anyone from his years at school. We were able to put him in contact with Robert Rankin and they have had communication back and forth. Tony lives in Quelp, Ontario and Robert is in Bishopbriggs. Small world.

(Photo of a 16 year old Tony in Glasgow.)



Andrew Failes

A recent email from Andrew Failes from Sri Lanka. (Whitehill folks certainly get around.)



This photo is of me and the bagpipers at the Galle Face Hotel Colombo, Sri Lanka, built in 1864 and where Mark Twain, Arthur Conan Doyle and Arthur C Clarke amongst others all stayed. On 2nd November every year they have the mixing of the Xmas cake and the bagpipers lead out the 20 odd cooks carrying the ingredients, and playing Scotland The Brave! The cake weighs 2000kg, including 300kg of cashew nuts, 60 litres of Brandy and Arak and 300kg of flour. A restored car bought by the Duke of Edinburgh for 12 pounds in 1942 is in the lobby of this beautiful hotel.

Drew Failes, Whitehill Senior secondary, 1959-63.

In the next issue will have more from our Aussie Correspondent.

Now an important note for your diary

Our spring lunch will be held at The House for an Art Lover, Bellahouston Park, on Thursday 25th April. The letters with menu details will be sent out by email and mail, mid-March. We have been working to both maintain the quality of the venue where we hold our events and minimise the cost to ensure good value.

The House for an Art Lover has plentiful free car parking and we know that the food is excellent. It is located outside the Glasgow LEZ.

For those arriving by public transport there is a good service of buses, 9, 9A, 10, 38 Switch and 38A Switch from Renfield Street to Paisley Road West at Helen Street, then a 5 minute walk through the park to the HFAL.

The lunch will be informal but will have some of the features which we normally have at our formal dinners. There will be an Achievement Award, a Raffle and a President handover to a new incumbent.

Please note, we will be limited to 35 or so in attendance, so please don't delay in making your booking when the invitations are received.

Please note: Secretary Telephone Number is now +44 (0)7780 991505

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