



Whitehill F.P.s' Club Newsletter

Issue 34 January 2025

A guid new year to ane an' a'

Clear away the empty bottles, reach for the Alka Seltzer and the indigestion tablets. Trust all in good spirits after the festivities.

Reverend John Munro



Firstly, after some encouragement, it is with pleasure that I received the following contribution from our own Reverend John Munro, presently ministering at the Scot's Kirk in Paris. As he says someone has to do it!!

Tour of Duty (2)

Armed with little more than what I could remember of Higher French, I set off for a second time to Paris at the end of November 2024.

It was last year when I was first recruited by another Dennistoun boy as a locum minister at the Scot's Kirk in Paris that has been 'vacant' for several years such is the shortage of ministers generally in the Church of Scotland. Like me he had found his way to the University of Edinburgh to study for the ministry, a well-trodden path taken by many Whitehill F.P.s in the past. He had called me up and asked if I would be interested in going to Paris for a period of two months. Having thought about it for a moment, I reluctantly agreed. After all, somebody had to do it. Right?

Paris is lovely in the Spring and there were plenty of opportunities to visit some, if not all, of the art galleries and places of interest to be found tucked away in corners of Haussmann's grand boulevards. Fortunately, I was no stranger to Paris having at an early age been on two school trips to France's capital organised by Miss Hutcheson. There was more to Miss Hutcheson than PLJ.

While in Paris I was visited by another Whitehill F.P., Gordon Caskie, whose uncle Donald had been the minister of the Scot's Kirk during the Second World War. Donald, who hailed from Bowmore, became famous with the publication of his book "The Tartan Pimpernel" which tells the story of how he organised an escape route for Britain's airmen and soldiers who had got lost in France following the evacuation from Dunkirk. It's a fascinating story and one which many will have read. In fact, his book first published in 1957, has never been out of print and will soon be reprinted by a major publishing house.

The Scot's Kirk was also the church where the legend that is Eric Liddell, Scottish rugby internationalist and Olympian, preached a sermon on the Sunday he was supposed to have run the heat for the 100 metres race in Paris. During the Paris Olympic Games in August 2024, a plaque was unveiled which marks the occasion when someone's conscience prevented him from almost certainly winning a gold medal.

Now, for a second time, I am back in Paris as the locum minister and will be here over the Christmas and the New Year period. The church itself is in the middle of the area known as "The Golden Mile." It is where many of the 'high end' shops are located and people queue on a Sunday to view the latest fashions. Incidentally, since Notre Dame cathedral has been re-opened to the public after the fire in April 2019, the demand to see inside the building has been great. Tickets, if you can lay your hands on one, will make visiting much easier. However, getting a cathedral ticket is harder than getting a ticket for a Taylor Swift concert – or so I have been told. In the meantime, I have just received an invitation to attend the British Embassy in Paris for a carol concert and a glass or two of mulled wine. Somebody must do it. Right?

Any Whitehill F.P. will be made most welcome at the Scot's Kirk which meets at 11am every Sunday morning in the Rue Bayard just off the Champs Elysée. (Nearest metro station Franklin D Roosevelt).

*A bientot,
John.*

This newsletter has a Munro theme.

At the end of November we enjoyed a visit to the National Film Archives at the Kelvin Hall. This was arranged by John, just before he left for Paris, and the talk was presented by his daughter, Dr Emily Munro, Moving Image Curator at the archive. Emily had put together an entertaining and informative presentation mainly of the east end of Glasgow, but also included many film clips from the wider collection covering the industry and culture of the city. The moving image archive is extensive. Emily indicated that there are years of work ahead to digitise what they have in storage.

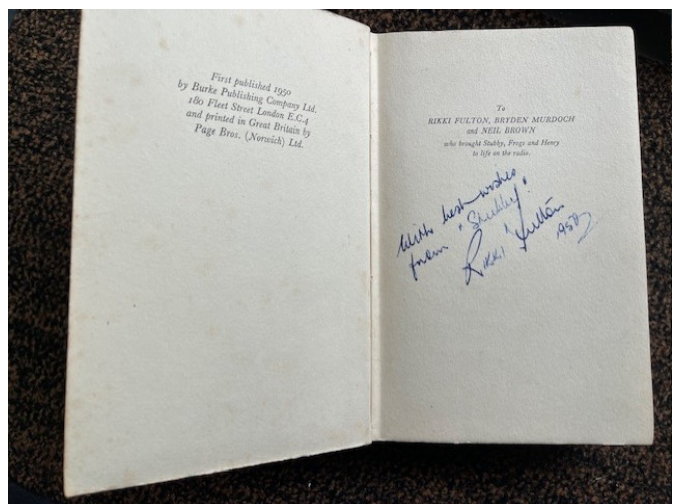


However there is a scarcity of footage of the Dennistoun area and she has asked the following: *If you could spread the word that we are short of Dennistoun footage, that would be marvellous. Who knows what might be lurking in lofts and cupboards? If anyone wishes to enquire about donating footage, the information is here: [Help us collect | National Library of Scotland](#)*

Robin Barr / Rikki Fulton

I received the following from Robin Barr, our Orkney correspondent, resulting from the photograph of Rikki Fulton in the September newsletter.

It was interesting to know that actor/comedian Rikki Fulton was a Whitehill F.P. I think he grew up in Riddrie, though my sister Joyce Barr (1946-51) says he was a pupil from Stepps. My brother's family grocers shop (Gavin Barr) was at 343 Cumbernauld Road which was just 2 doors along from Rikki's family (Tom) Fulton's newsagent shop.



I used to pop in with messages for Tom Fulton when I was of school age, but did not have the good fortune to meet Rikki as he was a bit older than my brother Gavin and already in the post-war theatre productions in Edinburgh and Glasgow. However, I was pleased one year to receive a birthday present from Tom - a copy of the schoolboy thriller "Stubby Sees it Through" by the popular author Angus Macvicar.

This was serialised on BBC Scotland Children's Hour about 1952/3 which was one of the early drama gigs with Bryden Murdoch and Neil Brown in which Rikki performed at BBC Queen Margaret Drive before he went big-time nationally with the BBC Light Programme Show Band Show.

In the radio serial, Rikki played the schoolboy hero "Stubby" at a fictional Strathmungo Boarding School somewhere in the West Highlands. With his schoolmates Henry, Frogs, and Midge, Stubby forms a secret society "The Dark Avengers" getting up to a series of unfortunate escapades culminating in imminent expulsion, (having brought a very lively horse on stage at the school concert). All is forgiven as the brave lads rescue School Chairman, Sir Philip Andrew's daughter Sally from the rocks of the Boiler Reef off Laggan Point. Yes, such was the teenage fiction of yesteryear.

Because I was the wee boy from the shop next door, Tom got Rikki to sign my book with a personal message from "Stubby", so it's probably quite a rare link to his early career.

Sadly, both grocers and newsagents shops have succumbed to modern Dennistoun life, with fitted kitchens and bathrooms replacing what was once a row of individual shops - a greengrocer, newsagent, optician, grocer, baker, butcher and of course The Bundy Cafe.

Autumn Lunch

And finally, we had an excellent Autumn Lunch at the House for an Art Lover. We were joined by the headteacher and two senior pupils and we were delighted to welcome, Christine Campbell (Thomson) all the way from Mississauga Ontario, who just happened to be in Scotland on holiday. Thanks to Christine for her support in drawing the raffle.

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