



Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter

Issue XVIII, July 2020

Moving away from the lockdown series of Newsletters and hopeful that we will avoid any future lockdowns if we keep to the rules.

However we have decided NOT to hold our postponed dinner or the usual autumn lunch this year as we feel that it is still too early and risky to be meeting in the hotel environment in September as originally planned. Hopefully we can get together in March 2021 for our dinner with two award winners speaking.

Recently Received Emails

We have had a number of interesting communications from FP's near and far in the last weeks.

Email from Archie Munro

I received an email from Archie Munro, seeking to find a friend with whom he had lost touch.

"I was only given the address of this website today. It came from my brother who lives in Australia and he received it from a school friend, who also lives in Australia. My name is Archie Munro, I was at the school from 1946 to 1950. The name of the person I would like to contact is Angus Stewart, who I believe became a Church of Scotland minister."

With the help of Robert Watt, we managed to find details of Angus Stewart and I replied,

"Dear Archie, after a bit of research, I am sorry to tell you that Angus Stewart died on 11th August 2011. I have added a link to his obituary which appeared in the Glasgow Herald.

<https://www.pressreader.com/uk/the-herald-1130/20100911/283575216780940>

Sorry not to have positive news for you."

Archie replied: *"Thank you so much for your reply and for the research you did to track down Angus Stewart. I was so sorry to learn that he had died, but at our age this is what can happen. I last saw him and his wife in 1950 when I left school. For three years the three of us and two others did Greek together. After spending a year in the School of Navigation at the Tech I went to sea in the Merchant Navy and lost touch with all my former school friends. I left Glasgow in 1967 and did not return until 1990 when I took over the Marine Office for the next four years. After retiring I moved to the Wirral and then to Bath where I live now. I was interested to read Angus's obituary. He certainly had an interesting life in the Church of Scotland. Needless to say I now regret not tracking him down when I was living in Scotland from 1990 to 1996.*

Thank you again for all the trouble you have taken to find out about Angus."

An interesting story and it certainly confirms that our website is effective!

Email from Charlotte Duncan (nee Stewart)

*"This is an email which I never thought I would have occasion to send. I was a pupil at Whitehill Secondary from 1960 - 1964, leaving from S6. Thereafter I returned to my home city of Aberdeen to go to University. Subsequently, I have spent the rest of my life in the city of Aberdeen but predominantly in Aberdeenshire. At school my best friends were **Janice Brand and Eileen Loudfoot** (School Captain and Vice-Captain respectively in 1963 -64). Since then we have lost touch. At University other Whitehill pupils were **Herbert Kerrigan, Sinclair Ferguson, Robin Mc Leish, Sheila Benzie and Wilma Fisher**. I have been in contact with Herbert since then and also with the late John Tulloch, my History teacher and his wife May, who still lives in Nairn, I am reliably informed.*

Yesterday evening I was working on a talk I am to give to my Rotary Club next week and the Latin tag "Altiora sectando" sprung into my mind. As my Higher Latin from 1964 does not extend to this I googled it and was surprised to find whitehillfp.org. Thereafter a number of hours of exploration, education and surprise to find my pictures in Hockey teams etc!

In 1993 my husband, a newly appointed HMI Education based in Glasgow, visited Whitehill School on his first secondary school inspection. He asked the Head Teacher for details of the association to be told it was defunct!! End of trail.

Coincidentally, I also came across pictures of a fellow pupil Ken Logan, known then as Kenny, who is now a Rotarian in Edinburgh Braid Club and End Polio Now Officer in that district. We have visited a number of that district's events so I may well have spoken to him. Edinburgh Braid is the club a good friend of ours also belongs to. It's a small world.

Firstly, then can I please join the association? Also are any of these people or others from this time members or do you know of their whereabouts? I believe Janice Brand's father was president of the Association at one time. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

Charlotte Duncan (Charlotte Stewart then)"

If you would like to make contact with Charlotte, please let me know and I will pass on her contact details.

Message from Alan Wright in Australia.

In Lockdown Issue 4 June 2020, Iain included the text of an email from me showing that we had been in Sydney since 1969. Why did we come to Australia and Sydney in particular? A wee bit history.

After leaving school in 1956, I studied chemistry part-time and worked for Colvilles, latterly in the Technical Services Department at Cambuslang; Jean also studied and worked in Glasgow City libraries. I continued my involvement in sport and was captain of the FP 1st XV for a year and also played for the West v East in a representative match. We married in 1960 and in 1961 I started work in the Analytical Laboratories with Pfizer in Sandwich, Kent.

Consequently, we moved to Ramsgate and Jean was employed in the Pfizer Animal Health Division library.

In Kent I played for Thanet Wanderers and was also in a Kent XV against London All Blacks.

In 1963, Pfizer built a petrochemical plant in Baglan Bay near Port Talbot in South Wales and I was transferred there as Quality Control manager.

We lived in a small village – Bryncoch – near Neath and once again Jean was left to complete a move from our 'old' house to a new house as I was in Conroe, Texas, USA getting technical information for the new plant.

Settling into the village at that time was interesting as we were among the first of half a dozen 'newcomers' but the fact that we were Scottish and I played rugby helped a bit, but nevertheless we made a number of firm friends there.

In the following 5 years we had our two eldest children – Gillian and David. Continuing in sport, I played rugby for the local team - there were only two of us non-welshmen in the side and I was No 2 in the Neath Golf Club team.

In 1968 I was transferred to the Pfizer factory – Kemball Bishop - in Bromley By Bow where I carried out research on food additives, cyclamates and even, hops!

So, we moved to Harold Wood in Essex but after 12 months or so, it was decided to close this old factory and move to a new facility in Ringaskiddy near Cork in Ireland.

The option of Eire in 1969 did not appeal even though it was a fair distance from 'The Troubles' in the north. A quandary indeed!

A few days later, I was asked to escort 'an important visitor' around the factory. It transpired that this 'visitor' was the general manager of Pfizer in Australia. We got on well and over dinner he said, "Jump in a plane and come to Sydney". Problem solved!

We had then to start the logistics of selling up, shipping belongings, visiting Australia House to arrange visas etc. We did have contacts in Australia - Ian and Grace Halliday who had been at Whitehill with us, now living in Wollongong NSW and with who we had corresponded over the years. After a few hiccups we eventually took off on 21st October 1969 but as £10 migrants there were no seats available for our children who had to sit on our laps! How we survived the flight - London – Bahrain - Bangkok – Darwin – Sydney, I cannot imagine but I guess we generated a lot of adrenalin and nervous energy with the prospect of a totally new experience on the other side of the world.

We will have more from Alan in the next newsletter.

If you have a story to tell let me know and we can include it in future Newsletters.

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