



Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter

Issue XXIII, June 2021

"Oh the summer time has come, and the trees are sweetly bloomin"

The Newsletter this month whilst sad, should also give us pause for thought on the contributions that two quite different lives have made to our world.

Victor Hugo sent me an email just a few months before he died which I will reproduce in full, together with a couple of photographs sent to me by his cousin, Irene Rutter (nee Gourlay), who was also a pupil at the school in the 1950's. Irene now lives in New Zealand.

I can also share some of the emails I received from former pupils who benefit daily from the research and development of life changing drugs made by the late Ronnie Cresswell.

Victor Hugo



A young Victor Hugo



Victor speaking at a Rotary meeting

Victor emailed me with his comments regarding the stories in the last Newsletter about the wartime service of Robert Newton in Bomber Command and the story by Tom McNab about the Rangers Sports meetings.

Hi Iain,

Hope you and the Family are well. After reading the last Newsletter I felt I had to write and thank you for the work you do in selecting and editing the Newsletter. It is amazing the pleasure I get in reading the articles. Each month something stirs in my blood. I often think that I should put my fingers to the keyboard and respond to an article. Well in the latest edition there were two such articles that I felt I must respond to.

Attached are a few words which you might like to use to see if others are similarly affected by your choosing.

Yours aye,
Victor Hugo

The article that affected me most was in relation to Robert Newton, a pupil of Whitehill between 1933 to 1939, well before my time. There is so much more behind the statement that he served in the Royal Air Force, as a Navigator in Bomber Command. During World War 2, the Bomber Command Aircrews were, in my opinion, true heroes. Having served in the Royal Air Force, as a Navigator with Bomber Command, flying the Vulcan Mk 2 Bomber, between 1963 and 1968, virtually sitting on the hydrogen bomb, I have some appreciation of the stresses the wartime Aircrews experienced. But only some.

Flying from his Lincolnshire Base, over France and Germany, Robert, trying to guide is Halifax or Lancaster Bomber to their target, would have been exposed to hostile enemy fighter planes and significant anti-aircraft gun fire. To fly these missions, night after night must have taken tremendous courage. My admiration is boundless.

To give some perspective to his bravery please give the following statistics some thought, Bomber Command aircrews suffered a high casualty rate, of a total of **125,000** aircrew, **57,205** were killed (a 46 percent death rate), a further **8,403** were wounded in action and **9,838** became prisoners of war. Therefore, a total of 75,446 airmen (60 percent of operational airmen) were killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

Hat's off to Robert Newton.

On a much happier note, Tom McNab's article on the Rangers Sports brought memories flooding back and a huge smile to my face.

The annual Ranger's Sports was a pilgrimage of my youth. Like Tom, I was at the 1947 event. I could have been standing next to him but not known. We did not meet until some four years later. I remember getting free admission to the Ground, my father lifting me over the turn-style. Who else has been guilty of that?

I was always amazed by the number of events that were taking place at the same time. The main attraction was the 5 a side knock out football competition, with all the top teams competing, The August date was just before the start of the football season and the fans had been starved from football since the end of May. Hence 60,000 spectators. As the football competition progressed, the stadium was filled with all sorts of athletic events. My favourite was the 2-mile steeplechase, I would take a seat opposite the water jump and be enthralled by the variety of styles of the athletes clearing or not this obstacle. When Tom McNab described Alan Paterson's jump, a thought crossed my mind, I had a couple of things in common with Alan. Firstly, in my school days, I competed in amongst other things the high jump and like Alan, my technique was the Western Roll. Although I got nowhere near the heights of Alan, I did win a couple of Glasgow School titles.

Secondly, believe it or not we had the same Coach. At Victoria Park Amateur Athletic Club, I was coached by Mr. Paterson, always Mr. Paterson, Alan's father. Fast forward six years to 1953. Ranger's Sports, this time I am there as a member of the Whitehill Relay Team, competing in the Invitation Schools Relay. I recall standing within touching distance, no Covid Safe Distancing restrictions then, of an Olympic Champion. Bob Richards, the US pole vaulter, he was about to attempt a vault of 15 feet, the first time that height had been reached in Britain. The cheer when he was successful was as tremendous as it was memorable.

In my mind, running in the Relay Race was just as memorable. The Whitehill team was, Gordon Watson, Victor Hugo, Alan Wright and Stuart Hunter and we ran in that order. The result first Whitehill, second Shawlands. That was a result that happened at several events that year. I still remember the prize we received, a set of six Coronation Teaspoons in a blue pseudo leather box. Well used by my proud Mother over the years. I was lucky enough to compete, as an individual, in a few more Ranger's Sports but nothing beats my time as a Member of the Whitehill Team. Thanks for the memories.

Ronnie Cresswell

Some of the comments received:

- Ronnie was an extremely intelligent and polite lad. I was not a close friend of Ronnie but admired him, especially when we both played for the first XV. He was fast on the wing and scored several great tries.
- A very full and loving obituary about an astonishing F.P. at dignity memorial.com. Dr Cresswell was well before my time but I will thank him every day I take my statin after a heart attack 10 years ago. He discovered Lipitor.
- Thanks for this history of Ronnie Cresswell. I barely knew him although we were close enough in vintage. Well done the man and the school that enthused him with learning, research and leadership.
- Thank you for sending the Obituary for Ronnie Cresswell. I'm proud to say that I am one of the beneficiaries of his drug Atorvastatin as I, like many thousands of others, benefit from the Cholesterol reducing properties of the drug.

Several other F.P.s spoke to me with comments on the life changing drugs which they take daily and which were developed by Ronnie Cresswell.

THE QUIZ.

Perhaps you will think this a little flippant in view of the above, but here are the answers to the Scottish Towns quiz in the last issue.

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| 1. Very Small Drinks.....Shotts | 9. Not in a medal position.....Forth |
| 2. Stupid ChipsDumfries | 10. Can't live without this.....Ayr |
| 3. Won't find hot water here.....Coldstream | 11. Not staying.....Leven |
| 4. Two parts of your face.....Eyemouth | 12. Church surrounds.....Kirkwall |
| 5. Trip outside the church.....Falkirk | 13. You and I are fit and healthy.....Bothwell |
| 6. One of your parents is fit and healthy...Motherwell | 14. Use a spoon for this fish.....Stirling |
| 7. Good looking card game.....Bonnybridge | 15. Popular drink from the abbey.....Buckie |
| 8. Murder with a garden tool.....Kilsyth | 16. Adds up to 21.....Dyce |

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