



# Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter

Lockdown Issue 4, June 2020

The lockdown may be easing but it would seem to make sense to continue to be vigilant with distancing, minimising travel and following the rules on hand washing.

We have some interesting pieces for you this issue including a novel quiz to test how well up you are on the instrumental music of the 1960's, some news from the Antipodes, memories of school camps in the 1960's and the answers to the Chocolates Quiz of the last issue.

## 1) Email received from Alan Wright in Australia.

“My name is Alan Wright married to Jean (nee Hall) and living in Sydney NSW since 1969. We were at Whitehill from 1950 – 1956. Jean was girl’s vice-captain and a classics scholar; I was captain of the cricket, golf and rugby teams (opposites attract!). Regrettably, it has taken me six decades to get in touch being prompted by our lifelong school friends Victor and Margaret Hugo living in Bowral NSW. We are also in regular contact here with Ian and Grace (nee Moffat) Halliday and Bob and Ann (nee Smith) Munro who live in Canberra – all FP’s. I would be grateful if you would add Jean and I to the list of recipients of any newsletters etc. I still wear my F.P. scarf when the weather requires – which is not very often but does occasionally cause comment. I was also able to quote the school motto at a recent meeting when the guest speaker spoke of ‘reaching the heights’ and quoted a Latin phrase - which I do not recall. We also have the school magazines from our time there and to which we refer at times.

If you thought it appropriate, I would be happy to send you snippets of info. from Oz which may be of interest to F.P.’s - why we came to Australia, how we met the friends mentioned previously, etc.”

We look forward to further communication from Alan on life in Australia and about the group of former pupils in New South Wales.

## 2) A great photograph

Sent in by Isabelle Simpson of the “Palais”.  
We wonder how many of you tripped the light fantastic on the Palais’ beautiful dance floor?



### 3) Professor Robert Ramage, FRS

We received emails from Andrew Jamieson, in lockdown in Perth Wester Australia, from John Minelly in London and John Edgar, regarding the story in last issue about Professor Robert Ramage. Both John Minelly and John Edgar knew Bob Ramage at school. J.Minelly commented that Bob had been a high achiever then and clearly continued as such.

### 4) The Shadows Music Quiz - Iain McLean

Many of you will be familiar with The Shadows' hit tunes of the late 50's and 60's. Viewing Lockdown 4 on the website, by clicking on the Music Quiz button below and then pressing play on the icon you can hear 5 short clips from the Shadow's hits. How many can you name?

You may be interested to know that these tunes have been recorded during the Lockdown by fellow F.P.'s Iain Callander (Lead guitar), Ron Fernand (Bass guitar) and myself (Rhythm guitar). We did this whilst in isolation in our respective homes in Edinburgh, Lenzie and Condorrat using the wonders of modern technology, i.e. the internet and laptop computers.

I hope you enjoy the quiz and that the old tunes bring back happy memories. Answers will be in the next edition of the Newsletter.

Anyone submitting 1 or more correct answer to the Secretary before that date will receive the "Prize" of a link to download our full versions of these tunes.

### 5) School Camp - Iain Callander

Whilst some will have memories of school trips to far flung places and Grand Tours of Europe, one or two may remember fun school camps in such idyllic spots as Bonar Bridge, Ullapool, Broughty Ferry and Tignabruaich.

In this issue I will tell a few tales about a two week trip to Ullapool, Wester Ross, in July 1962. The trip started brightly with pick up on Whitehill Street, by grey Corporation Education Department buses, and a short drive to Buchanan St. Station. We had a "special" train carriage to take us to Inverness and on to Strathpeffer where we boarded more buses for the last leg on very single track roads to Ullapool. One memory of the train trip was being held up at Aviemore, and Jim Jackson walking up and down the platform playing his pipes and entertaining other passengers, railway staff and his fellow pupils.



The two weeks in Ullapool were wonderful, we played football against the local school, fished from the pier, had a boat trip out to the Summer Isles, walked to Ardmair Bay, went swimming, shopped in the Captain's Cabin, attended church services both Sundays, once at the "Wee Free" and the other at the regular Church of Scotland. The "Wee Free" was a real education.

We were encouraged and supervised by maybe four teachers, but two particularly stood out: Mr John Kellett, an English teacher and Mr R.I. Mackay, Maths.

A story of fishing must be told, with names omitted. We fished almost every day from the pier and caught mackerel, the occasional saithe and one boy was extremely lucky and landed a fair sized skate. Most fish were put back or fed to the gulls, but this skate was a real prize. There were numerous suggestion on what to do with it so it was carried in newspaper back to the school where we stayed. Somehow this fish found its way into Mr Mackay's bed! We all thought there would be trouble, but Mr Kellett let it slip later on that the other teachers had all had a good laugh at Mr Mackay's expense.

The photograph above shows, Mr Kellett with the swimming ring round his neck, Mr Mackay after a swim (probably to wash off the fish smell). In the background are two 14 year olds with hats and sunglasses trying to be cool. (both are past presidents of the F.P. Club)

This trip was firstly the farthest I had been from Glasgow, it opened my eyes to the West Highlands and Wester Ross in particular. True to say, I was hooked on it. I have to get back to Ullapool at least every couple of years and have done so since 1962. It has changed of course, the road is now a fast two lane highway from Inverness, there is now the Calmac ferry terminal, there are no fish to be had, but the Summer Isles, the Captain's Cabin, Ardmair Bay still remain. What a wonderful place. I can recommend it.

## 6) Lockdown 3 Quiz Results

**Jim's Chocolate Quiz.** Answers in order: After Eight, Mars Bar, Black Magic, Milk Tray, Roses, Flake, Moonlight, Kit Kat, Quality Street, Milky Way or Galaxy, Galaxy or Milky Way, Snickers, Celebrations, Twirl, Fruit and Nut, Wispa, Picnic, Yorkie, Topic, Heroes.

### From the Oubliette: Answers (Lockdown 3)

#### Things you probably always knew, but have momentarily forgotten.

1) Where did Willie Wastle live and what was his trade?

*"Willie Wastle dwelt on Tweed, The spot they ca'd it Linkumdoddie;*

*Willie was a wabster (weaver) gude"* From "Willie Wastle" by Robert Burns

2) What has an uncle to do with Sherry? Tio Pepe. "Tio" is Spanish for uncle

3) What is the longest river in France? The Loire

4) Who links a 1915 pamphlet on Grenade Warfare, the Royal Air Force and Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims?

As a lieutenant in the Royal Fusiliers, in 1915 the composer George Dyson (1883-1964) wrote a pamphlet on Grenade Warfare. As a Major in the Royal Air Force he completed and orchestrated the RAF March Past. In 1931 he composed the Cantata the Canterbury Pilgrims portraying the characters in Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

## 7) Another high achieving Former Pupil, James Hendry, Linguist, Translator, Poet and Author.

James Findlay Hendry was born on 12 September 1912 and raised in Balgrayhill Road, Springburn. He was educated at Whitehill School in Dennistoun, from 1924 to 1930. He is mentioned in the Summer 1930 school magazine having won the prize for French and German. James also took first prize in the 1930 Burns Club essay. He studied Modern Languages at the University of Glasgow although he did not graduate. He served in the Intelligence Corps during the Second World War and when the war was over he left Scotland to travel through Europe, Africa and North America as a translator with the United Nations. He was Director of the School of Translators and Interpreters at Laurentian University, Ontario, Canada. Co-editor of three anthologies: The New Apocalypse, White Horsemen and Crown and Sickle. His poetry collections include The Bombed Happiness (1942) and The Orchestral Mountain (1943). He wrote a novel, Fernie Brae: A Scottish Childhood (1947), based on his childhood memories that has been suggested as influencing Alasdair Gray's Lanark (1981). Other works include Scottish Short Stories (1969), Marimarusa (1978), Your Career as a Translator and Interpreter (1980) and The Sacred Threshold: a Life of Rilke (1982). He had plans to return to Glasgow but died in Toronto on 17 December 1986.

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