



Whitehill F.P.s' Club Newsletter

Issue XXVIII March 2023

Spring is springing, we have daffodils in the garden and the days are lengthening. Not quite warm yet but we can look forward to improving weather and perhaps a reduction in our energy bills. Anyway, positive thoughts and onwards and upwards.

Dr James Macaulay, Memorial Service.



A good turnout of former pupils attended the memorial service for "Big Jim" on Saturday 25th February at Glasgow Cathedral. Sinclair Ferguson spoke of the history of the 6(1) Dinner Club and had many stories of Jim Macaulay both as teacher, form master and as the chair of the 6(1) Club which has met on the last Saturday of February for the best part of 60 years. It was fitting that the Club dinner took place on the evening of the memorial service. I am sure there would be many toasts to Jim's memory.

Committee Meeting

At our meeting of 2nd February, we reviewed the Centenary Dinner and discussed the many items which arose from the event. Whilst it was judged to have been a great success it is becoming clear that we need to modify our events in the future. Numbers attending the dinner continue to fall for a number of reasons. e.g. night time travel, cost of hotel stays, formality of the dinner and other comments received. Of the 56 attending, 10 were guests, 31 were actual F.P.'s and 15 spouses/partners.

We concluded that having two lunches per year would overcome many of the objections and allow us to continue with increased attendance for some years to come. These would be informal lunches, in spring and autumn, with the autumn event still featuring the "Achievement Award", with a presiding President and with the continued participation of the school head teacher, teachers and pupils. We intend that the first of these lunch events will be in October 2023, in Glasgow. Several proposals for a venue were discussed and would be followed up to ensure that good and convenient travel/parking etc is available.

Andrew Failes, pupil 1958-1963 sometime hippy thereafter!

Andrew contacted us via our website some months back. He tells me he was known as "Wee Failsey" back in his schooldays. Andrews tells that "my brother Billy Failes was also a former Whitehill pupil and the day I was allocated my class in 1958 vice headmaster Wilson read out my name, "Andrew Failes 1L1" and then he said, "Are you any relation to Billy Failes? I answered, "Yes" and he said, "Oh no, not another one". Now residing in New York and with a business dealing in South East Asian artefacts, he asks if anyone remembers him at school. The Herald published an article in 1993 on his exploits and the link is as follows:

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12624791.trading-places-on-the-hippie-trail/>

Let me know if you would like to be in touch with Andrew and I will help you connect.

A Further Poem from Anne Bell

Child of the Sixties

*Your hazel eyes
thick fur eyelashes obstruct your view,
painted eyelids, a gaudy sapphire blue.
Your dyed black hair
cream applied to head from a colour box,
backcombed with gusto, stiff and sticky lacquered locks.*

*Your pale lips
pearl pink lipstick bought cheaply at the shops
make you look like a walking corpse.*

*Your ten talons
pink TNT nail polish; an explosion of colour
gives each nail a touch of glamour.*

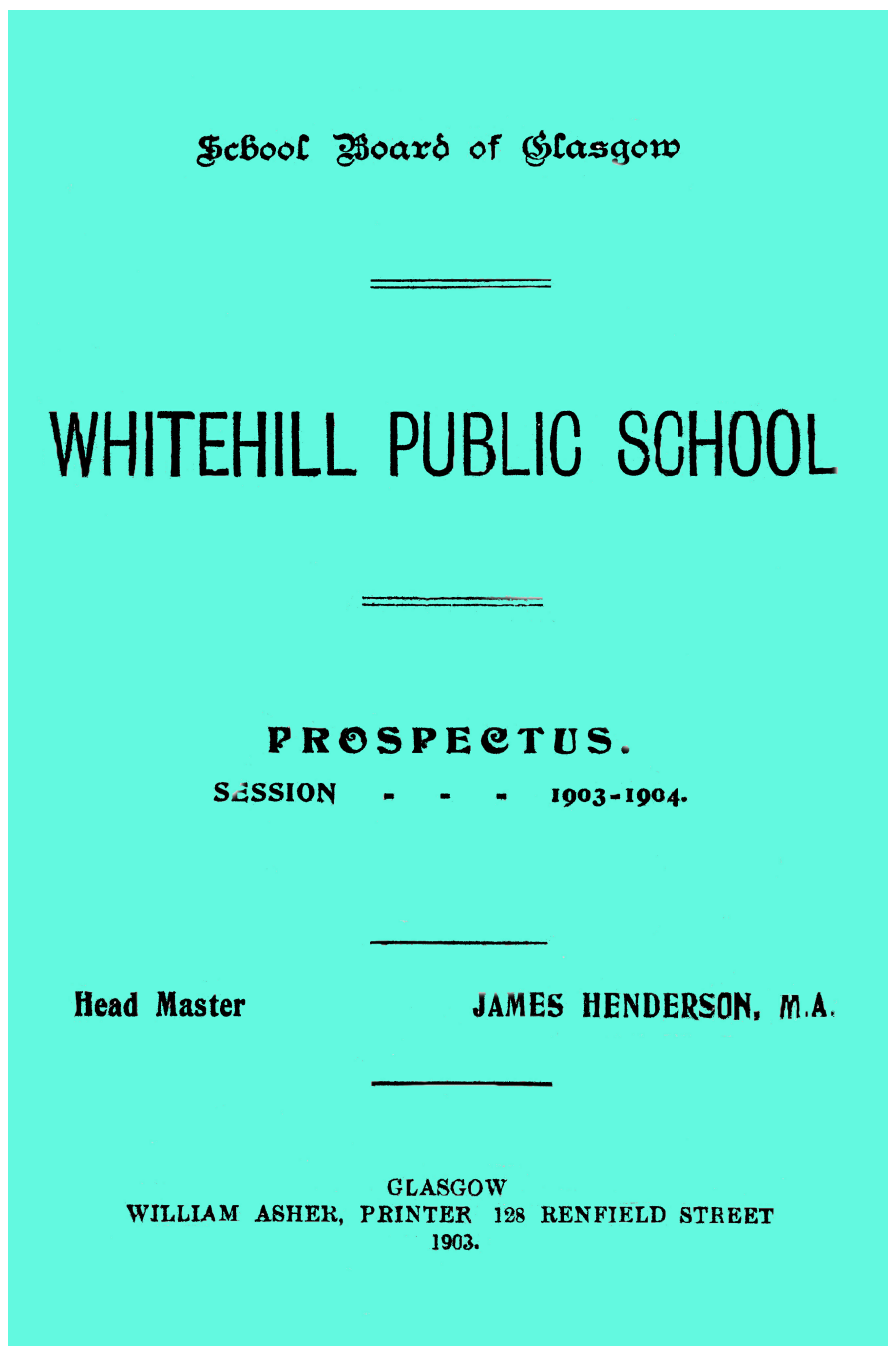
*Your unpierced earlobes
support giant dangly earrings,
a jewellery triumph of engineering.
Embrace your youthfulness
but approach encounters with caution,
a fairytale romance is just an illusion.*

A Bell

An Historic Document

Thanks to eagle-eyed Bill Sang who spotted the Whitehill Public School prospectus for session 1903-1904 for sale by a bookseller in Missouri, U.S.A. We have purchased this document; 24 pages in length covering the syllabus, the staff, examination results, some information on fees and mention is made of the Whitehill School Club donating £2 for the purchase of books for the Dux boy and Dux girl.

We will add the full prospectus to our website within the next weeks, and present the document to the school, as it may form the basis of a history project.



President:	Iain McLean
Past President:	Robin Brunton
Secretary:	Iain Callander, 6a Corstorphine Rd, Edinburgh EH12 6HN: secretary@whitehillfp.org
Website	www.whitehillfp.org Contact: webmaster@whitehillfp.org