



Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue XVII, March 2020

Dear fellow Whitehill FPs

This newsletter will be reaching you at just about the time we were expecting to be meeting for our 92nd Annual Reunion Dinner. As those of you who planned to attend will know, just over a week ago we took the difficult decision to postpone this event which is very much enjoyed by the members. Subsequent events in the unfolding of the coronavirus situation and feedback from members have shown that we made the correct decision. I found it interesting to note that the last time a Whitehill FP dinner was postponed was from 1941 – 1945 due to the War.

We truly are in challenging times.

The FP committee is hopeful that, with the measures being put in place by the authorities and the co-operation of the population, the virus will soon be beaten and we can get back to meeting up again. We have provisionally arranged with the Marriott Hotel to reschedule the Reunion Dinner for Friday 18 September 2020. However, we are in a fast changing and unprecedented situation and it will be some time before we can commit to that date or any other date. Any updates will be communicated as soon as possible via email, the newsletter and direct communication for those not on email.

Until our next meeting stay healthy and safe,

Iain McLean, President.

Other News.

This contribution from John Munro, who has been looking to find any of our 1960's teachers still on the go.

“As a matter of interest I have been trying to locate some of our former teachers in the 1960s. By chance I came across a street in Dumfries called Millar Cliff Road and thought that there couldn't be two 'Millar Cliffs'? Right enough the road - the only road with that name in the UK - is named after our Millar Cliff. He left Whitehill in 1974 and took up a post as the head teacher at Maxwellton High School in Dumfries. I called the Council and asked if they knew if he was still alive. A representative confirmed that he was and later that day - having passed on my phone number to the Council - I got a phone call from his wife to say that he is frail and suffering from Parkinsons. He is now 92. I passed on our best wishes on behalf of the FP club.”

Well done John.

Scholarship.

Former pupil, Andrew Jamieson, has set up two talent scholarships in memory of his mother. The scholarships are for two young people going up to Glasgow University, residing or at

Former Pupil: George D. Buchahan (1920's -1930's)

We have managed to acquire a silver medal, awarded to George Buchahan, for Art, in 1930. This medal appeared on ebay and was spotted by Bill Sang who managed to obtain it at a knockdown price.



Further research has revealed the following information on George and his very full life. He was born in 1912 at Kilbarchan in Renfrewshire, but his family moved to Dennistoun and he attended Whitehill School. He was a member of the Boys Brigade and learned piping in the 139th company at St Andrews East Church on Alexandra Parade. He is mentioned in school magazines of that time as a cricketer and also having won a silver medal at the Glasgow schools art competition at Kelvingrove.

He studied design and engraving at Glasgow School of Art and on the outbreak of war he was drafted and became a signaller with the 2nd Cambridgeshire Regiment and was sent to the Far East. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore in 1942 and survived the death marches, disease and deprivation for three years before repatriation to Britain. George emigrated to Canada and settled in Ottawa working as a graphic artist, but continuing to grow his influence in piping. He became Pipe Major of the Cameron Highlanders of Ottawa, a founding member of the Ottawa Piping Club and taught and played in the Ottawa Police Pipe Band. He often complained about the winters in Canada and returned to Scotland, but just as often returned to Ottawa. He passed away in 2002, aged 90 years.

Contributions to the Website and Newsletter.

We welcome all your contributions, memories, stories etc relating to the school, its teachers (printable please) and indeed Dennistoun itself.

Membership of Whitehill FP Club

If you are in touch with other former pupils please ask them to email our secretary to be included in the emailing list, and to obtain details of events. We are keen to attract members from the 1960's, 70's and 80's and up to the present day to join us.

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