



Whitehill F.P.s' Club Newsletter

Issue XXVII November 2022

Well, as they say, “the nights are fair drawing in” and it is often a “night for your ain fireside”. Thankfully many F.P.s’ partners and friends braved the Glasgow weather on Friday, 21st October to enjoy an excellent evening at the House for an Art Lover, where we celebrated the 100 years of the Whitehill F.P.s’ Dinner Club.

The Centenary Dinner

It was a joy to be able to meet up after more than two years of Covid, and get together with old friends and schoolmates for a celebration.

After our welcome drinks and canapes, guests were called to tables and proceedings opened by Iain McLean, our longest serving President. Iain introduced our guests, including Professor Herbert Kerrigan our award recipient, Mrs Hilda Dalziel MBE a former Whitehill teacher, and the recently appointed head teacher of Whitehill School, Ruth McConachie. When dinner was all but completed, John Munro entertained with a short history of the dinner club and a recitation of Robert Louis Stevenson's poem “The Reunion”.

Ruth McConachie introduced herself and spoke of her pride at being head at a school with such great traditions and history. The present school goes from strength to strength with pupils continuing to excel across the board academically and in social, sport and extra-curricular activities. We enjoyed hearing from current pupils Zahraa Anwar and Bruno Kalmar on their achievements and hopes for the future.

The final part of the evening was the introduction of Herbert (Bert) Kerrigan, a worthy recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award. Bert spoke of his years at Whitehill followed by a long career in law and divinity. We enjoyed his story about dressing up as Pope John Paul for a school debate on religious intolerance. Some years later he met John Paul and told him the story after he had represented the Pope at the Israeli Parliament debate in the Knesset on the inclusion of Christian rights in the Israeli constitution.



Professor Herbert Kerrigan receiving the award.



Headteacher, Ruth McConachie.

An enjoyable evening was brought to a close with a vote of thanks to the staff at the House for an Art Lover, and particularly thanks to Ron and Elaine Fernand who put in many hours to make this dinner a success.

Centenary Mugs

We have special limited edition Centenary Mugs for sale at £7.50 each plus P&P. Hurry whilst stocks last. This is a limited one-off issue only. A very practical mug for all F.P.s' and friends. A nice size with a good handle.

Drop me an email to order: **secretary@whitehillfp.org**



Find a Friend

We have been contacted recently by the following people looking to find old friends. If you would like to get in touch, please reply through **secretary@whitehillfp.org** and I will pass on your contact email etc.

1) From Alice Baird (nee Shortt), who lives in Wellington , New Zealand.

I have just rediscovered the Whitehill FP web page and would like to be put on the mailing list for future newsletters.

I attended from 1953 to 1959. My name then was Alice Shortt and I was a prefect in my last year. Along with about 12 other girls I went on to Jordanhill Teacher's College.

In 1975, we moved to New Zealand and still live here. I have been back to Scotland many times but was never in contact with others from Whitehill.

It was quite exciting to look again at photos and articles relating to the school. I recognised a lot faces.

I would be interested to know of any other former pupils who live here in New Zealand or Australia. I did get to know one person, Bill Mason who had lived in Onslow Drive, but he sadly died some years ago.

2) From Bill Aitken (not a Whitehill FP, but close enough).

I'm looking to contact anyone who left Thompson Street Primary School P7 for Whitehill way back in 1966. At that time, I lived in Millerston Street and was supposed to come to Whitehill but, due to redevelopment of the area, my parents moved out to Knightswood.

In my 5th year at Victoria Drive Secondary, Whitehill debating society invited me and a friend of mine to be guest speakers at Whitehill, and I had the pleasure of meeting Elizabeth Finlayson, one of my former classmates. Later, I trained as a teacher and actually conducted one of my teaching practices in the old "Alcatraz" building. Great fun.

At any rate, I'd love to get back in touch with anyone from that time. I'm not an "fp", but I'm an "almost-fp". Does that count?

The Three R's - Recollections, Ramblings and Recitations by a 1960's schoolgirl.

After attending the Centenary Dinner of the Former Pupils' Club it brought back lots of memories of my schooldays which I would like to share with you.

Like a bunch of buzzing bluebottles smartly dressed in blue uniforms (bought at McColls) we waited expectantly in line all the way down Whitehill Street. Behind the school gates an exceptional and unforgettable teaching staff were ready to impart their vast knowledge to the new pupils.

Here is a poem I wrote in my early years at school and it appeared in the School Magazine.

Surprise, Surprise.

I woke up late this morning
It really caused a fuss.
But it wasn't very funny,
For I missed my usual bus.

The toast I burned. The tea was cold.
I fairly lost my head.
I put my blouse on back to front.
I wish I'd stayed in bed.

I got my books all ready.
My papers for each class,
And found my homework wasn't done,
Alas! Alas! Alas!

I hurried to the bus-stop
At a mile-a minute rate
And as I waited on my bus,
I thought about my fate.

I climbed the hill and reached the gate
To find to my dismay
No-one was there; the gates were shut;
It was a holiday.

There will be more from Anne Bell in later Newsletters, under the same Three R's.

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