



## Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue XIV, October 2018

### Have We Got News For You?

Just to keep you up to date with our FP news, a short report on the Senior School Awards evening, the visit to Oran Mor and our Autumn Lunch.

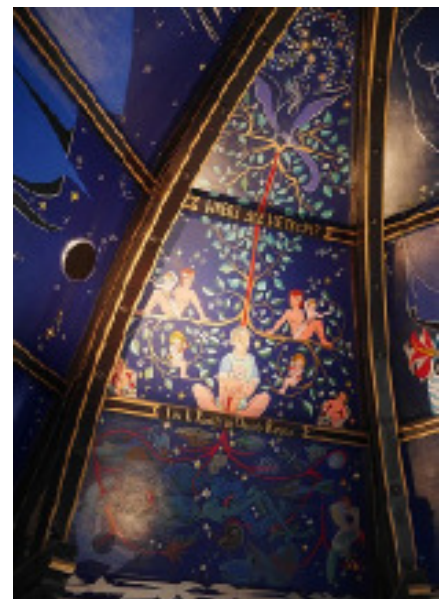
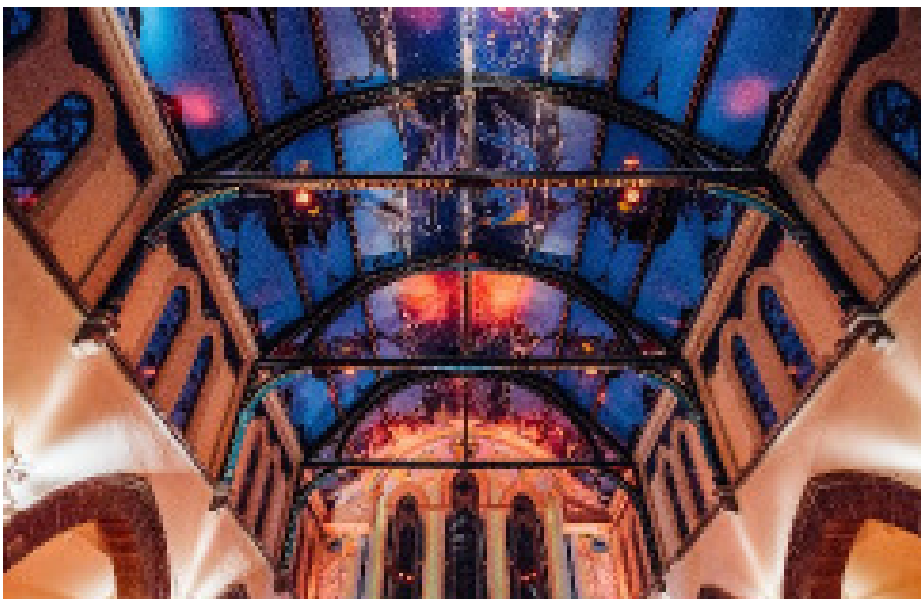
In September, Robin Brunton, President and Iain Callander were invited to attend the **Senior School Awards** evening held at the old Rutherford Church on Armadale Street. Many will remember school assemblies being held there, certainly in the 1960's.

Achievements by the pupils in academic subjects, drama, music, sports leadership, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme and a series of special award categories showed that Whitehill School pupils continue to excel and reach Higher Things. We were impressed by the number of students going on to further education doing Law, Medicine, Engineering degree courses at Glasgow, St Andrews and Strathclyde Universities.

The guest speaker, Mr Jamie Allen Brown, left Whitehill in 2005 and has achieved much in his short career to date. We have invited Jamie to speak at our 2019 Reunion Dinner.

On 27th September, a group of 15 of our number visited **Oran Mor** in Glasgow to view the murals and ceiling painted by our former pupil and Achievement Award winner, Alasdair Gray. We were all astonished by the artwork, the imagination and the sheer technical accomplishment in getting up to do the ceiling. Not far off Michaelangelo.

We completed the visit with an excellent lunch.



## Autumn Lunch

The **Autumn Lunch** was held at the Marriott on Thursday 11th October, attended by 50 FPs and current pupils. We had a very enjoyable lunch, followed by the raffle which culminated with the star prize, afternoon tea for two at the recently opened "Mackintosh at the Willow" on Sauchiehall Street. Gordon Caskie, who has recently moved house found an excellent watercolour painting of the old school building which had been painted by George Taggart, who passed away earlier this year. Gordon offered this painting to be auctioned for club funds. It was "won" for an undisclosed sum by Ron Fernand.

Iain Callander made a short speech highlighting the stories of three former pupils and their sacrifice during the First World War, followed by a reading of a poem by John Munro. A small cross with a poppy remembering the loss of Robert Jeffrey and sent to us by his great niece was given to Molly Reid who will place it on the memorial at the school.

## Rendering to Caesar

*Another contribution from R.D. (Bob) Kernohan.*

I don't suppose too many tears are being shed over the loss of Latin from the Whitehill curriculum but I have a fond memory of it- not for the subject but for those who taught it.

They never got at me in the formal curriculum, for under the system of the 1940's I was arbitrarily allocated to a French first-year class and then opted later to add German. But before I sat my Highers, expecting to do best in English and history, someone realised that I might be blocked from honours courses in these subjects at university by an ancient faculty regulation demanding at least a Lower Latin.

But the classics department volunteered to be crammers on my behalf, giving up free periods to coach me through Caesar's Commentaries in the quiet time between Highers exams (sat earlier in the year than now) and end of term. Donald Duff, the principal teacher did most of it himself but occasionally Miss Gray, always known as Dolly, stood in for him. The aim, in which they only just succeeded, was to get me a Lower Latin at the now forgotten late summer "uni prelims", which were then a sort of alternative Highers and resit opportunity. Later it seemed a needless effort, for by the time I got to taking university options the faculty regulation had been scrapped. But it was not a vain effort by those who went that second mile and rendered me to Caesar- and not just because a little Latin was occasionally helpful. They showed ( as I am sure the best teachers still do) that they hadn't just a job but a dedicated and kindly vocation. But I don't think that their successors will ever do it in Latin.

## A date for your diary

The 91st Annual Reunion Dinner will be held on Friday 15th March 2019 and NOT 8th March as originally planned. The dinner will be held at the Glasgow Marriott, Argyle Street, Glasgow.

## 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 to join us. Why not make up a table of old friends for the Reunion Dinner in March 2019.

**President: Robin Brunton.**

**Past President Bill Sang.**

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