



## Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter

Issue XXIV, September 2021

Dear FP Club Members,

I hope you are all well and are getting back to more normal activities now that the Covid restrictions have been substantially eased.

The committee has been giving some thought to how and when we can resume our normal F.P. Club activities, particularly, the annual lunch and dinner. Clearly there are still some challenges ahead in beating the virus and we have no immediate plans to restart our program of events, but, we expect to be able to hold the annual dinner in March next year. After a break of 2 years it will be good to get back together again, meet up with old friends, and we have an outstanding Lifetime Achievement award, delayed from March 2020, to be presented to Herbert Kerrigan QC.

The arrangements for the March 2022 dinner will be sent out in due course. In the meantime the committee and I wish everyone the best of health and look forward to meeting up next year.

Iain McLean, President.

### **Ralph Thomas Langdon**

The following story reaches back to the early years of the last century and is by far the earliest former pupil story yet.

Bill Sang discovered a small silver medallion which had been awarded to Ralph Langdon a pupil of Whitehill Higher Grade School in 1907-08. When he was 11 or 12 years old!



**The Queen Victoria Medal was awarded for excellence.**

Ralph was born in Linlithgow in 1896 and his family must have moved to Dennistoun shortly afterwards. His father was a railway clerk and mother Alice, a dressmaker. We can find no information on Ralph's school years and the 1911 census shows he had two younger brothers, John and Dudley. Alice is shown as head of household and as a dressmaker working from home.

After an internet search we discovered that Ralph was an accomplished musician and by 1911 (at age 15) was Assistant Organist at St. Paul's Church in Parkhead, Glasgow. After service in the army, based at Galashiels, he held a number of posts, culminating as organist and choirmaster at St. John's, Princes Street Edinburgh. He was a Bachelor of Music and was President of the Edinburgh Society of Organists from 1933-35. In 1940 he joined the Home Guard.

Ralph T. Langdon died in 1956, aged just 60, described on his death certificate as a Teacher of Music. He had lived at 16 Strathearn Place, Morningside, Edinburgh.

## **John Dykes**

Another great story for the archives. We were contacted via our website by Shona French, seeking to purchase an F.P. tie for her uncle's upcoming 90th birthday. John had been a pupil at Whitehill in the 1940's, and after national service went on to study pharmacy at the Royal College (now Strathclyde University) where he met his wife to be, Margaret, also a former pupil and also studying pharmacy. John attended F.P. dinners in years gone by, so some of our more senior members may remember him.

John and Margaret both had chemist shops and latterly had a shop in Westwood Square, East Kilbride. Shona's mum, Jessie Dykes, now 85 years young, was also a pupil at Whitehill.

We sent a tie and a Happy Birthday note to John, who will be 90 on 12th September.

## **David Hornsby, (Pupil 1966-72)**

David emailed looking to connect with F.P.s of his era. If anyone would like to get in touch with him, we have his email address. We have asked him for better scans of some of his caricatures for inclusion in future Newsletters.

*It's a pity that, as you say, people from my 'era' seem less interested in getting in touch with other ex-pupils/students. I once was on the 'Friends Reunited' site (before it folded) which had a Whitehill stream but, I only managed to get in touch with one or two people. Despite lots of names being there, most didn't seem to be actually participating!*

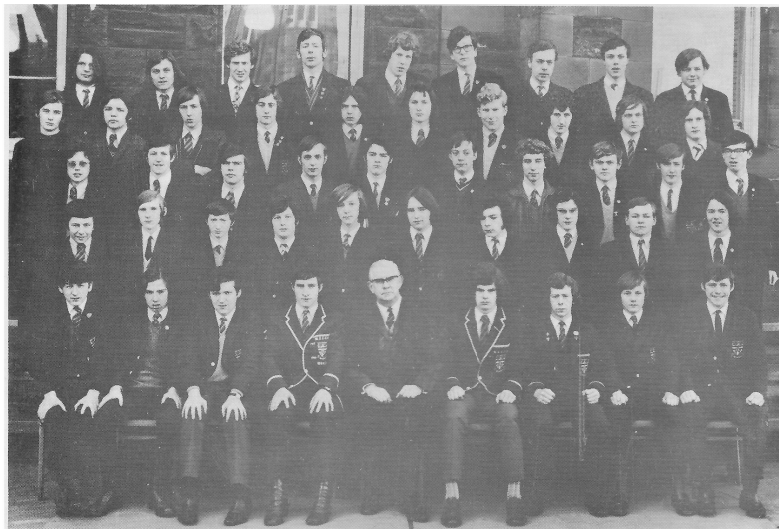
*I have lived in West Yorkshire these past 42 years but still keep in touch with Glasgow and Scottish news via the internet. I support my football team, Partick Thistle (started 1963) and keep in touch with them via membership of an online site, seeing full games shown later as live etc, interviews with players and other input. I often wear my Thistle badge and scarf and have even given away a few badges to interested people down here. This includes, a stallholder from Hamburg who thought I was wearing a German badge (red/yellow/black colours) when I was meandering through a German Christmas market in Leeds! I am a bit of an evangelist for Thistle amongst the Sassenach football fraternity!*

*Incidentally, I wonder if you are aware of the fact that 1970s/1980s footballer Jim Melrose, who played for Thistle, Celtic, Leicester and Charlton etc, started his football career, whilst at Whitehill. There is a picture showing a young boys' Whitehill team in the 1972 magazine with a skinny, young Jim Melrose in there! I discovered that after I'd left the school. Of course, I myself am in the 1971 and 1972 issues.*



**SENIOR AND JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAMS**

**Front Row:** R. Miller, R. Young, E. Black, J. Crossan (Captain) I. Clark, A. Barr, A. Grant.  
**Second Row:** A. Miller, I. Young, J. Richardson, J. Stevenson, R. Gordon.  
**Third Row:** S. Robb, A. Burley, I. McLeod, I. Brodie, S. Logan, J. Melrose  
**Fourth Row:** I. Gillespie, B. Morgan, D. Hill, I. Gilmour, H. Denmark.



**FIFTH YEAR BOYS**

**Front Row:** I. Rae, D. Hoey, D. Prentice, D. Crosbie, Mr. Mundy, J. Crossan, F. Thomson, W. Owen, R. Gordon  
**Second Row:** J. Collins, W. Robin, R. McAllister, A. Dalziel, A. Brown, J. Cox, A. Welsh, D. Palmer, D. Reid, S. Mackie  
**Third Row:** R. Millar, J. Houston, T. Thomson, J. Dalgleish, R. Livingston, G. Watt, J. Prentice, R. Whyte, C. Harvey  
 R. Walker.  
**Fourth Row:** F. Johnston, M. Hendry, K. Watson, W. MacLelland, R. Young, I. Clark, R. Edwards, A. Grant  
 D. Anderson, J. McMahon.  
**Fifth Row:** R. Malcolm, R. Ashford, G. Gilmour, K. Strickland, D. Hornsby, . Raitt, J. Carmichael, R. Woodrow  
 G. McGrath.

*Whilst at Whitehill, one of my 'specialties' was Art and I have happy memories of Mr Livingstone, Mr Fraser (and even!) Miss Kerr (who could be slightly intimidating!) I didn't follow Art as a career but there were aspects of it that I was able to utilise. During lockdown I enjoyed filling time doing caricatures and was able to produce versions of people from Glasgow and Scotland with whom I have an interest. I also produced about 200 caricatures of past Partick Thistle players. I have included a few here, who attended Whitehill, which might interest you.*

*You have my email, thus, if the situation changes with regards to the 1966-1972 Whitehill 'generation', perhaps you'd get in touch.*

*Best wishes and regards,*

**David Hornsby**

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