



Whitehill F.P. Club Newsletter.

Issue XIII, March 2018

The Beast from the East has come and gone, spring is in the air and the Calcutta Cup is back in Murrayfield after too long an absence.

We had our 90th Annual Reunion Dinner at the Glasgow Marriott on 9th March with around 60 FPs, current pupils, school staff and friends, enjoying an excellent dinner and evening of entertainment.

This year we honoured Alasdair Gray with our achievement award which all agreed was richly deserved. Alasdair is an accomplished author, artist and for over half a century has contributed much to the art and culture of Glasgow and Scotland. Robin Brunton gave a humorous speech of introduction on Alasdair's many achievements before presenting the award and opening the question and answer session.

Alasdair took several questions from the current pupils and FPs and signed menus and books for several guests.



Alasdair with head girl and boy, Amy Williams, Connor McLeod, and pupil group.

The silent wine auction raised almost £200 which was passed to headteacher Pauline Swan for school funds. Pauline gave a short speech on the activities and progress made at the school and was followed by speeches from Amy and Connor on their achievements and plans for the future.

Richard Bell spoke of the work of the Whitehill Sports Trust, its foundations, development and the disbursements made to pupils, former pupils and teachers to promote sporting achievement.

ST. MUNGO CELEBRATION

In January, Glasgow celebrated the birth and life of its patron saint, St. Mungo or Kentigern and a short service was held at the Cathedral with pupils from both Whitehill School and St Mungo's Academy presenting the story of the life of St Mungo. Wreaths were laid at the tomb of the saint in the crypt of the cathedral. The former pupils club was always delighted to take part in this event and was happy to provide the flower tribute. It is also good to see pupils of both schools working together. Any opportunity to bring together children of many faiths and traditions is to be encouraged.



Pupils of Whitehill School and St Mungo's Academy at the tomb of St Mungo.

ROBERT WEIR (Contribution from R.D. (Bob) Kernohan.)

It's the role of head teachers to appear set in authority and their situation helps them leave an impression on their pupils. But in a long life involving journalism, politics, the Church, National Service, and sundry diversions I have rarely encountered anyone whose power of personality equalled that of Robert Weir, head master of Whitehill before, during, and for a couple of years after the Second World War. Here are two contrasting memories of Bobbie Weir (as we called him out of his hearing), one stamped on a first-year class, the other intensely personal.

A boy was suspected of stealing money from others in the class and eventually confessed. The "heedie" himself came to administer public execution before the class: six thunderclaps of the belt, bravely borne. And then an order to the class: the matter was finished. There had been guilt, confession, punishment, and absolution. We had perhaps been thrilled by the spectacle but we respected the process and obeyed the order.

A year or two later I had a teacher of French whom I both disliked and feared. As we awaited our turn to read extracts from a "French reader" my nervousness brought on a speech impediment, leaving me breathlessly tongue-tied or tongue-twisted. As time went on it got worse. But the lady had more kindness than she showed. One day she sent me to see the head master, with whom she must have discussed my case.

For about a quarter of an hour he talked things over with me. I hope it does not seem blasphemous to say it was like a talk with a loving God, but a burden of my fear rolled away (and, on a quite different plane, it was to alter my then sceptical attitude to some miracles recorded in the New Testament).

My tongue was loosened, my breathing controlled. If anything remains of the problem Bobbie Weir cured, thanks to the concerned teacher, it is that in broadcasting I have always disliked speaking any words not of my own choice and phrasing.

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 lunch in October. (date to be announced)

President: **Robin Brunton.**

Past President **Bill Sang.**

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