

# editorial

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\*\* LATE NEWS EXTRA \*\*  
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You will already have realised that this is not the full school magazine, to which you are accustomed, but merely the Former Pupils' Section, the production of school magazines having been halted by the teachers' industrial action banning extra-curricular work.

We support that action, but we felt that by accepting advance payments for magazines, we had entered into a contract with our members and that we ought to try to produce the F.P. Section with all its usual features. This we have attempted, using only the school photo-copying and printing equipment, so we apologise in advance if the result is less legible than usual.

An innovation this year is the computerisation of the lists, main, local and services. All of these are now on a "disc" and can thus be more easily updated. They are appended in the form of a print-out. In this we have incorporated maiden surnames in heavy type to make them easier to distinguish and locate. We hope members find this an improvement. May we record here our incalculable indebtedness to Mr. David Calder of the Mathematics and Science Departments who patiently guided our faltering footsteps through the intricacies of Word Processor techniques, and who also undertook the printing of the lists. We are of course even more indebted than usual to our wife who had to adapt her typing skills to the computer to produce the lists! We are grateful also to the Rector for help and encouragement with this project.

You will note from the usual "Don't forget!" headline that we are in the run-up to the 1986 Biennial Dinner. We hope to repeat the success of our recent functions again next year on 2nd May - that date having been chosen in consultation with the Centennial celebration committee of Inverallan Church, as we were sure that there would be members who would be interested in both events. They both take place during the weekend of the May holiday, which may also be of help to those requiring time off to attend. We certainly hope so.

The main events of the Centennial celebrations are to be a tree planting ceremony and service conducted by former Moderator Dr. Andrew Herron on Thursday 1st May, and a service on Sunday 4th May conducted by former Parish minister Rev. George B. Johnston.

Regarding the Dinner itself, we look forward to another enjoyable evening with interesting speeches from Rob Liggat and Gillies Campbell, who as former Assistant Rector and former Head Boy respectively, both have an intimate knowledge of what makes G.C.S. tick! The two have had a long association also, as Gillies profited so well from Rob's teaching that he has become both an Advisor in Art and an acknowledged artist in his own right.

We have high hopes of recreating the ceilidh atmosphere which so enhanced the last Dinner, as Gordon MacGregor and Sandy Mackenzie have both agreed to entertain us again, and Victor Ross is also to bring his fiddle. So please come and join in and enjoy yourselves!

At the A.G.M. of the Clubs held at the end of October it was unanimously decided to appoint John Stuart to the office of Honorary President for 1985-86. John has served the Clubs well over a long period and we congratulate him and wish him a happy tenure of office.

In conclusion may we send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all our readers.

I. S.

Norman Campbell achieved the distinction of being chosen as captain of the Aberdeen University Football Team in his first year, but has been out of the game for some time and is to have an operation because of cartilage trouble. Best wishes for a complete recovery!

Susan Hendry apologises from Spain for "a very tardy reply to your summons" and pleads a busy life, which includes weaving, English teaching and helping friends run a restaurant. With her parents she is to be off to New Zealand in January for the marriage of her brother John.

Betty Mutch is still hooked on wine-making down in East Lothian. When she wrote she was looking forward to a visit from sister Bobby and her husband after the former returned from her second recent visit to Turkey.

We received a handsome school magazine from Allan Grant who now teaches P.E. in N.S.W. (and runs a sports shop into the bargain!). Unfortunately we have been unable to follow up Allan's proposals for an exchange of articles etc., due to the extra curricular ban by teachers and the lack of a school magazine proper. Perhaps once the present discontents are over Allan! Meantime, our apologies and best wishes.

Mrs. John Paterson (Margery Macaulay) wrote us with the news that she and her husband have moved from Oman to Pakistan, where they are running a school in Karachi for two years. John is the Principal, and Margery teaches Music and English. They also have a new home in Dumfries, where they spent the summer.

Allan Chisholm dropped us a line from Surrey just in time for a mention, as did Mrs. Shiach (Margaret Smith). Keith McKerron apologises for being unable to bring his fiddle to the reunion - he is to be visiting his sister Connie in U.S.A. at that time. Bon voyage!

Archie Liggat has completed just over two years as an R.A.F. flying instructor and is now doing weapons training on fast jets.

Iain Brown finds fatherhood more fun than cats. His new daughter Evelyn has even been known to keep him off the rugby field on Saturdays. We hear that parachutist David Ross has been promoted to Warrant Officer, and is still instructing with the R.A.F. Parachute School at Brize Norton.

Congratulations to Eddie Duncan who was promoted to the rank of Inspector on the City-Link buses in October. He is to be based in Edinburgh. Congratulations also to Gordon MacGregor on joining the grandfathers' club! We gleaned that piece of information from Howard Lockhart on one of his Sunday morning programmes recently!

We see that George Flett whom we had posted as missing last year has turned up in Aviemore as head chef at the Strathspey Hotel in Aviemore. We have just learned that Frank Calder has moved from Elmgrove to a new house in the South West High Street development.

Evelyn Grant has sold her house at Dulnain Bridge and is to move into Grantown eventually. In the meantime she is to stay with her sister Isobel at Ballintua.

Just as we "go to press" we learn that Malcolm Smith has passed his H.N.D. at Agricultural College with Credit, winning the Agricultural Science Prize in the process. Congratulations! He is now working on the family farm at Auchernack.

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# Obituary

The Clubs lost one of their senior members last November with the death of retired nurseryman STANLEY BUCHAN at the Chesham Bois Manor Home near Amersham where he had been a popular resident since 1931. He was 84. An excellent correspondent till his health began to fail, he always supported the clubs generously, and wrote appreciative and interesting letters, sometimes including details of the real 'old days' in Grantown before the advent of the motor car, when the visitors arrived by brougham or trap (or sleigh in winter) at the Grant Arms where his father was manager.

We were sorry to learn from her husband of the death, also in November 1984, in Whittington Hospital, Highgate, of MRS. JESSIE SPRINGALL (Jessie Stuart, formerly of The Laurels). Although living in London, Mrs. Springall paid regular visits to Grantown, and enjoyed them greatly. She also kept faithfully in touch with the affairs of the Clubs right to the end of her life. We extend sincere sympathy to her husband, Frank in his loss.

We mourn the loss also of another faithful member with the death in May of retired banker IAN FORBES at the age of 73. Of local farming stock, Ian entered the Bank of Scotland in Grantown in 1929, and served it also in various branches throughout Scotland, finally as manager of the Buckie branch from 1963-1971. A devoted servant of the community, Ian held office in many voluntary bodies, notably the Shipwrecked Mariners Home for the Elderly, the Earl Haig Welfare Committee, the British Legion, the Rotary Club and the Abbeyfield Society. He was also an elder of the South and West Church in Buckie. His work for the British Legion was recognised by the placing of a special wreath at his burial in Nethybridge churchyard. To his wife Ethel and daughter Mary we offer the sincere condolences of the Clubs.

We extend sympathy on behalf of the Clubs to the following members who have suffered bereavement during the past year:

- to Mrs. Birrell and Margaret Donald on the death of their mother, wife of the former school janitor.
- to Ronnie Douglas and Mrs. Catherine Parrott on the death of their father Ronnie, retired head-keeper at Revack.
- to Mrs. Hollins (Maureen Gardner) on the death of her father, former editor of the 'Herald'.
- to Mrs. Rita Khamsi-Stuart on the sudden and early death of her husband.
- to Rev. Sandy MacDonald on the death of his mother.
- to local member Harry Macgregor on the tragically early death of his wife.
- to Mrs. Templeton (Rita Marshall) on the death of her mother.
- to Mrs. Webb (Margaret Templeton) on the death of her husband.

## \*\*\*\*\* \* BIRTHS \* \*\*\*\*\*

We are pleased to record the following happy events:

last December a son to Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Macdonald; in February a son to Mr. and Mrs. Koumides (Sheila Harris), a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Gregor Allan, and a daughter also to Mr. and Mrs. Iain Brown; in March a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Notman (Mairi Paterson), and in July a daughter to Dr. and Mrs. Storey (Barbara Smith); in September a son to Mr. and Mrs. Murray (Maureen McMurray) and a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Lilley (Jane Macaulay); in October a son to Mr. and Mrs. Iain Cumming (Piona Ledingham).

## \*\*\*\*\* \* ENGAGEMENTS and MARRIAGES \* \*\*\*\*\*

Congratulations and best wishes to the following on their marriages:

Kevin Mackenzie and his wife, Christine who were wed in Edinburgh in February.  
Peter McNicol who remarried in Quebec in March.  
Pamela Main who became Mrs. Henry Glasse at Advie Church in May.  
Alison Grant and Gordon McConachie who wed at Inverallan in June.

and to the following on their engagements:

Shirley Masson to Ian Findlay from Forres;  
Daphne Duncan to Stephen Ritchie from Whitehills;  
Wendy Hamilton to Gordon Ross from Nethybridge,  
and Jane Dunlop to William Chisholm from Inverness.

## \*\*\*\*\* \* NEW RECRUITS \* \*\*\*\*\*

We welcome the following to our ranks this year:

Former Head Boy Norman Campbell who is doing a B.Sc.(Eng.) at Aberdeen University; Craig Lambie who is getting some practical experience at the Heather Centre before going to Elmwood Horticultural College, Fife; Colin McBain who is butler to the Lowndes family in Thetford, Norfolk; John Macphail (son of the former postmaster) who is Principal Guidance Teacher at Lasswade, Lothian, where (among others) he has to guide his own son and daughter; Ian Macpherson (Junior) who has been 17 years in the R.N. Supply and Transport service, fifteen of them as a supervisory officer. He has obviously inherited his father's creative talents for he paints and exhibits, and writes as well. (We hope we may have room for a sample.) Andrew Liggat who is "following in big brother Archie's footsteps" as an officer cadet at R.A.F. Cranwell is a further addition to the list.

# Don't forget!

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## BIENNIAL DINNER 1986.

Ben Mhor Hotel, Friday 2nd May 1986.  
7.30 p.m. for 8. Dress Informal.  
Ticket price £8.50 (including toast).

Address and toast to the School and the Clubs:  
R.A. Liggat Esq., Assistant Rector (retd.)  
Grantown Grammar School.

Reply: D. Gillies Campbell, Principal Art  
Teacher, James Gilliespie's High School.

Entertainment and Music for Dancing 10.15 - 12.00.

The Secretary will be pleased to accept orders for tickets any time after Christmas, and will despatch tickets as soon as they have been printed. Orders may be given by letter or telephone to: Mr. J.R. Smith, The Gables Woodside Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey, PH26 3JR. (Telephone: 0479/2365)

For those who wish to stay in the Ben Mhor a concession rate of £12.50 is being offered by the management for bed and breakfast. Bookings for this should be made direct to the Hotel. (Telephone 0479/2056).



# News from the Outposts

Gregor Allan, now established in St. Helier with a firm of C.A.'s sends a friendly greeting to all who know him. "Still finding retirement good" wrote Mrs. Allan (Mona MacLean) from Biggar. Michael Anderson is on a 3 year contract with Ritson Smith and Partners, Aberdeen, training to be a chartered accountant. We wish him well in his Final Exams in late 1985. Bruce Bain leads a very busy life in Belgrade (and elsewhere!) but did manage a week with Mrs. Bain in Elgin this summer. His wife Mira and daughter Tania were able to spend some more time with Grandma however. We met Mrs. Banks (Lorna Stephen) after Kirk one August Sunday and reminisced about her role as St. Joan in one of Mr. Donaldson's concert productions. We couldn't help thinking her handsome young daughter would fit the part excellently as well. It was nice to hear from Nicola Bans that she is playing in four basketball teams in Lincolnshire. She finds time to work for a firm specialising in preserved foods as well. Calum Beange left the R.A.F. in September '85 'hopefully to continue administration in civilian life, but will settle for an extremely rich widow.' (The G.G.S. magazine will expect a commission if this advertisement proves fruitful - the commission to be in proportion to the wealth of the widow!) Iain Beange is attending Glasgow Nautical College for 6 months for Class II (Chief Officer) examinations and an H.N.D. in Nautical Science. He is still employed by World-Wide Shipping in Hong-Kong.

Mrs. Braid (Pamela Gibson) sent a greeting from St. Andrews. We were pleased to see her when she called with the Essay Prize instituted by her late mother earlier in the year. Mrs. Colin Brazendale (Evelyn McMurray) is a Staff Nurse (Intensive Care) at Yeovil District Hospital, Taunton. Mrs. Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam) wrote an interesting and enthusiastic letter about a visit to India and Nepal - "breathtaking country" - which she made at the time of the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi. Jean Paterson delivered the slip from her friend Mrs. Butler (Dorothea Syme) who is still in Forres. Sandy Calder reported on the family: Alasdair is now a printer with 'Speedprint' Inverness, while Eileen has been promoted to supervisor with Lloyd-Bowmaker, also of Inverness. Mrs. Cameron (Margaret MacGregor) reports only one "earth-shattering event." The MacGregors (a family which incidentally provided a rich vein of 'Highers' for the Grammar School to mine!) had a family reunion in Moffat on Midsummer Night. Harum-scarum as ever Margaret 'Had thought of going as Shakespeare's wall but due to transport difficulties with the props. had to go as Puck instead!!'

Mrs. Chapman (Irene Edwards) was planning a programme of excursions for her mother's visit to Notts. when she wrote. We promise to look out for further entertaining nostalgic photos! A fine newsy letter from Mrs. Clark (Alison Ronaldson) reported the doings of the "clan". Alison herself had a chance meeting with Miss Grant and Miss Legge at Raigmore. Asked if she was still driving, Miss Grant replied characteristically, "But of course!" David Clark is now established in Aberdeen as Sales Manager with Marley Roof Tiles. He regrets the departure of his parents from the old house at Cluny Villa to take up residence in Aboyne. George Coutts reports "No change" from Fareham. Mrs. Cowan (Wilma Irving) also has a family reunion to record - the occasion was the marriage of her eldest son in July. Granny Irvine (now 83) was able to travel from Scotland to Darlington for the wedding. Lesley Craib reports a successful first year at Aberdeen University. Congratulations! We met her carrying out her holiday job of steering busloads of German tourists around the Inverness area. Mrs. Craig (Dorothy Calder) sent us a welcome greeting from Montrose. Grant Cumming is now a partner in his veterinary practice in Sutherland, while his sister,

speech therapist Kirsteen Cumming specialises in child language disorders for the Borders Health Board, and chairs a local association for all speech impaired children. Duncan Davidson had no news from Ayrshire, nor had Mrs. Davidson (Margaret McBeath) from Dumfries. Andrew Dobson is still working for William Tawse as a supervising engineer for road surfacing contracts in the north east area. Writing from British Columbia, Keith Donaldson records a family visit to Japan, where his eldest girl, Vicky, is spending a sponsored year. With Vicky's aid, Keith actually addressed Japanese Rotarians in their own language.

Fiona Donn is enjoying the luxury of the refurbished Merkinch School in spite of the problems of a large and lively reception class. She was in Stornoway with Scripture Union and also holidayed on the West Coast with sister Deirdre in July. Daphne Duncan has just been appointed assistant administration manager for U.A.M. Ltd. (Agricultural Merchants) and is moving to Banff. (other important news in the matrimonial column!) "Still a hardworking woman in the bustling city of Edinburgh!" boasts Mrs. Erskine (Michele Heawood) adding "Am going on a belated honeymoon!! in September to Rabat in Yugoslavia - glad you won't be there!" (No offence taken in the circumstances. Ed.) Tom and Pam Ferguson (Pamela MacDonald) are regular visitors to Woodside Avenue where grandchildren are always welcome! George Findlay is still with a telecommunications firm in Papua, New Guinea but will be home in January on holiday. We heard Mrs. Forsyth (Nancy Gray) being mentioned on 'Leisure Trail' for her gardening activities - we also noted that her letter bore an unofficial S.N.P. stamp in addition to that required by the G.P.O! We were pleased to see Mrs. Mitchell (Elspeth Fraser) when she called one day in July to deliver her slip. Robin Fraser who will be remembered by many as a dab hand at the piano accordion has 'resurrected' it again and is 'involved in a Scottish Band, playing at Kirk groups etc., - playing for those who can't afford the extortionate prices for a good band!' He still finds time for golf and a lot of B.B. work as secretary of the Aberdeen Battalion Junior Section.

Shonagh George moved in January from Celle to Berlin where she is teaching six and seven year old children in Gatow First School, an "Open Plan" building. Mrs. Gordon (Ann Paton) hoped to escape the rigours of the 1985 summer by making a trip to Norway. We hope it worked! Helen Gordon, who was one of the attendants of the Grantown Show Queen this year, is "about to start 3rd year of the Pharmacy Course at Heriot-Watt University". James Gordon moved to Sunbury-on-Thames on 2nd September where he is taking up an appointment with B.P. in their new technology department. Congratulations to Lorraine Gordon, who, having passed her finals is now a staff nurse in the Oral Surgery Department in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. She writes "I think I'll probably stay in Edinburgh for a further year, but, as I have been accepted for Midwifery training in Raigmore, I may be moving North again in August 1986". Fiona Grant (Glencairn) is still working in the Eye Pavilion Unit the "Royal" in Edinburgh. Graham Grant called at the end of June and told us of his new appointment with the Cromarty Firth Port Authority and also of his matrimonial plans (see Engagements). Shelagh Grant is "enjoying work with British Midland Airways to the full" and profiting from the travel opportunities. She "spent an eventful week-end in New York managing to fit in a fleeting visit with Mairi Young (nee Grant). This was closely followed by an amazing holiday in Thailand". Ian Grant is now a Petroleum Engineer with Texaco, London, while sister Valerie is with the Civil Service in Edinburgh. Walter Grant has had a memorable year being much involved in Clan Grant affairs. He visited the U.S. (by Concorde and the Q.E.2), attended the Stone Mountain Games, and welcomed American Grants back to visit Nethy Games, Castle Grant and Cullen House.

Mrs. Greenwood (Mary Winchester) had nothing to report from Todmorden. Donald Gunn is another F.P. who is "still enjoying retirement". Mrs. Harris (Kathleen Dunn) says her two year old, Jill "keeps us on the hop - also Granny and Grandad on our visits to Grantown". In spite of family commitments Mrs. Harvey (Catriona Johnston) managed to achieve Higher Spanish and start spinning and dyeing wool this year. Albert Hastings is still running his Gift Shop in Nairn. Gillian Henderson has been back to visit the family before resuming teaching physiotherapy in Australia. Father



(Dr. Lindsay) returned from his visit down under sporting a beard, and Peter is "still with the Inland Revenue in Edinburgh". A nice letter from Mrs. Hollins (Maureen Gardner) reports she has been sampling the delights of teaching a class containing one of her own youngsters for a week. "a novel experience to say the least," she comments. John Holmes, now retired, sent details of his three sons: the eldest, Jonathan, has a menswear shop in Sydney, the middle one, Peter, is a Primary teacher, and the youngest, Alan works in the outback of the Northern Territory. Andrew Howlett finds "working among the predominantly Scots employees of the Argyll Group the next best thing to actually being in Scotland"! Brother Duncan reported in by telephone this year. Thank you for the call! Mrs. Hunter (Fiona Henderson) is "working part-time as a social worker in the Fostering Section of Lothian Region S.W. Dept." Tom Hunter keeps busy in retirement - still consulting at a local nursing home - being a grandfather - running the kitchen - "rather like an operating theatre except that I have nobody to place the instruments in my hand!" He has been rereading "The Little Minister" and wonders what became of the other members of the cast of the circa 1935 production. Marr Illingworth had little news except the hot weather in N. Carolina this summer. So that's where it went! It has maybe been a poor summer, but it seems to have been a great year for grandfathers! Edward Illingworth's teacher daughter Anne had a son last December. His son Niall (also a teacher) was married last October. Congratulations to Arthur Innes on a new appointment as Scottish Transport Manager, (Wimpey.)

John Irving enjoyed "a good blether about Grantown" at the family reunion reported by Wilma (Mrs. Cowan). We were pleased to hear from Alistair and Susan Jack (nee Archibald) that they are enjoying the beautiful scenery of both Northern and Southern Ireland in spite of being based in troubled Londonderry. "Nothing to report" writes Alistair Jack from Twickenham. We trust no news is good news. Grace Kirk is quite definite: "I do enjoy my new life - i.e. retirement!" Our thanks to Mrs. Knopping (Ruth Mathieson) for her complimentary remarks on the magazine. We were glad to have contact with Mrs. Koumides (Sheila Harris) restored, and to hear of the birth of her son, the new restaurant venture started by her husband in Edinburgh, her parents move to Fife, (that's why we couldn't locate them in Dunbar!) Harry's move to a fresh ecology based research project in Canada, and the predicted expansion in his family. We heard from brother Paddy that Mrs. Laing (Lindsay Wood) had moved from Fraserburgh to Dyce, and that Jaclynn (Mrs. Innes) now has a house in Nairn.

Mrs. Laing (Katharine Templeton) is now a Community Midwifery Sister at the Eastern General Hospital in Edinburgh. Patricia Laing has become a secretary in the Commercial Department of British Airways Helicopters, Aberdeen. William Ledingham is retired in Aldershot. Congratulations to Jill Lennon on her Hons. Degree in Librarianship. She is now to join the Metropolitan Police! What price "Jill of the Old Bill" as a rival to "Juliet Bravo"? Mrs. Lewin (Edith Kyd) has "moved into the realms of computer accounting"! Mrs. Lilley (Jane Macaulay) has been on maternity leave from the Press and Journal for the birth of her second child in September. Douglas Low is "entering the Honours year of a B.Sc. (Environmental Chemistry) at Edinburgh University. A keen environmentalist Douglas's future plans include 'travelling east, by land, then to New Zealand, then tour South America, while the jungles are still there.' Karen Low writes "spent most of '85 in Interlaken working, and will be finishing at the end of October when I will be going on a tour of America and perhaps Mexico for a couple of months before returning to Scotland". She reports a meeting with Sheila McCulloch who was "busking around Europe with her accordion" prior to starting at Gordon's College this August. Susan Low finished S.H.N.D. Legal Studies at Napier College in May and joined Lothian and Borders Police Force in June. Tell us girls, is it the attraction of the uniform (or the proximity of all those beefy police - MEN) that draws you to the force?

Mrs. Lugg (Jean Burgess) keeps busy with a multitude of activities. She had a wonderful visit to Malta at Easter: "fourteen days of sunshine and warmth". That's a lot better than the Grantown summer this year! "Still plodding on" reports Mrs. Lynch (Pam MacPherson) from Derbyshire. We have a new address for Robert McAllister who is now manager of a Building Society office in Broughty Ferry. Simon Macaulay has been much involved in the Teachers' Salaries Campaign through his work as an E.I.S. Field Officer. We saw him interviewed on T.V. one evening in this connection. Mrs. McClelland (Beth Lawrence) reports her daughter Karen's Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award and her husband's move from Scott Lithgows to a French firm in Clydebank. Ici on parlons Glesca? Alistair MacDonald is involved in two Oilfield Service Companies in Australia, but still finds time for golf, tennis, badminton and squash. A brief visit home in February proved to be the coldest week of the Grantown winter! T.V. Controller James Macdonald reported in from Surrey. We quote Jay Ward's highly condensed curriculum vitae. "Golf Handicap - 8: Personal Handicap - Golf: Work Handicap - Boss: Historical Handicap - born English: Financial Handicap - Mortgage: Life Handicap - 3 children. Aspirations: To retire, to bowl instead of golf, owe the Halifax nothing, get the kids married and take out Scottish nationality by virtue of residence." Of course we approve of such a noble ambition for a Sassenach! Jay had news of Rev. Sandy Macdonald, now minister in the growing parish of Nielston (Renfrew). Sandy has two children and two dogs and "is a very fine minister indeed". High praise from his former session clerk!

Stuart Macdonald has spent 3 years in Ghana, 3 years in the Sudan and is now off to Java for a spell "looking for water and a sun-tan!" Mrs. McGregor (Annette Hogg) is in Norway for 2½ years - she works part time at the British Forces School, St. Georges in Bekestua, as their swimming teacher and helps out at the sports complex on camp. She has tried cross-country skiing - "a lot of hard work but fun." Mr. and Mrs. Johnny MacGregor (Pot Lawrence) also wrote approvingly of the family reunion at Moffat and the opportunity of nearly all the cousins to meet. Johnny is manager of the Treasury (i.e. the Royal Bank's, (not Maggie Thatcher's,) though a G.C.S. trained Scot might well do better in that post too.) Actually Johnny is already cutting his teeth in a takeover of English assets being heavily engaged with the merger of the Royal Bank with William and Glyn's. "Still on the fiddle!" reports Gordon MacGregor who has promised to prove it to us by entertaining us again at the Dinner in May.

Douglas McInnes says he doesn't get through to Grantown as often as his Nairn-based parents do, but he enjoys life in Inverness. David McIntosh has now moved to the United States where he is working as a microwave engineer for a company in Maine called Microwave Techniques. Gaining entry to a notelet from Mrs. McIntosh (Iris Forbes) almost called for a jemmy (four staples and two stickers!) It contained the news that she is now on the permanent staff at Mosstodloch Primary School following a full year's teaching there. Her youngsters Fiona and Stuart are completing secondary and primary education respectively. An interesting letter from Donald McIntyre reports on a visit to China "such history, culture, kindness and consideration, but outside toilets, primitive living conditions and, we suppose a police state." Following a series of lectures, Donald was awarded the medal of the Geological Society of China. He has also been honoured at home, having been named "California Professor of the Year", one of only ten professors from all fields and all universities in the U.S. to be so recognised. We offer our heartiest congratulations. Dr. Sandy Mackenzie, happily recovered from a spell of illness, has also promised (we are glad to say) to contribute to the entertainment at the Dinner. Kevin Mackenzie, now a Grade 3 Technician, is still with the Anatomy Department at Marischal. (Do they still call it "the Drain"?) Most of his time is spent doing electron microscopy on cells magnified up to 30,000 real size. For further important news see "Marriages". Retired Science teacher Mrs. Edith Mackintosh landed in the Ian Charles instead of in Angus's holiday home when she visited Grantown in early summer due to problems with her knees. Her most recent communication came from Bangor however, so she is thankfully more mobile once again.



Bert Mackintosh is spending a good deal of time in Nethy these days. Still a U.N.A. enthusiast, (membership secretary and treasurer of the Edinburgh branch) he met the Secretary-General on the latter's visit to Edinburgh. Pleased to hear Bert's health has improved since an operation in March. Isobel Maclean had nothing to report from Glasgow. Morven MacLean completed a postgraduate diploma in Office Automation (computing) and starts as a trainee manager at the Kensington Hilton, London for a year. Sounds like a plum placement! Congratulations! We noted that Mrs. MacLeman (Dianne Duncan) and her husband were among the judges for the "Farmers' Queen" this year. Neither Mrs. McLeod (Elizabeth Macgregor) nor Nethy loon James Macpherson had any news. Peter McNicol was remarried this year, and has made his home overlooking the Plains of Abraham ("the best view in Quebec"). He hopes to be able to be here for the reunion in May, and invites any travelling Grantonians to visit him in Quebec - just ring 418-525-9937! John MacPhail is P.T. Guidance at Lasswade, where his son and daughter are also pupils. New recruit Ian Macpherson (Jun.) is both poet and painter and is "still able to exhibit paintings regularly, despite advancement to Inspector in Naval Logistics, and two teenage daughters!" Keen piper Peter MacPherson was not denied a Scottish celebration of Hogmanay although he spent the winter with his daughter in the Canaries. A Scottish night was arranged with Spanish friends and - everyone wore the kilt! Rachel MacRobert is "still sticking it out at Farr Secondary in Bettyhill" but had a Far East tour planned to visit brother Alasdair in Papua New Guinea. Do send us a report!

Mrs. MacSween (Margaret Ross) popped her slip through our letter box one day in July. Alan McTaggart writes: "We should have a qualified vet and a "remote sensor" in the family if Natalia and Anya pass their uni. exams!! A half qualified ballet dancer, if Steven can keep up the pace!! He may appear in Aberdeen next year if all goes well - and who else gets as far as Scotland remains to be seen. I farm, and Josephine paints - which is satisfying to both!!" An interesting entry - but what is a "remote sensor" please? We thought it was something that activated a sprinkler system! M.O.D. Physicist Michael McTaggart writes "From being a scientist doing research, I have had to acquire new skills such as understanding the legal aspects, and becoming an educator, explaining the knotty questions about the effects of radiation." This was to deal with the complaints being made in Australia about the nuclear tests made there in the fifties. With his family now away from home, he leads a very active leisure life involving skiing and canoeing and even attempts at sailboarding. Brother Neil reflects: "Passing time cannot be disguised when one looks at the maturing of one's offspring - daughters studying Land Economy and Physiotherapy - both enjoying Aberdeen - son at school whose trout-fishing enthusiasm has got Dad hooked now. Re-living youthful hours by the River Dulnain - suitable for wet summer holidays in Scotland '85!" Sue Martin is now in final year nursing at Raigmore.

Retired headmaster John Milne had "No news of any import.", while Wishart Milne finds "Retirement still keeps me busier than ever, but I can't identify how!". Mrs. Mitchell (Jan Templeton) is looking forward to the F.P. reunion in early May. Bill and Judy Mitchell are getting used to the "Darby and Joan" life and enjoyed both a trip to the Gambia in February and a nostalgic ride on the Boat to Aviemore train with Betty and John Grant, Rita and Bill Templeton and Evelyn and George Hamilton in July. Michael Moir "recently paid a visit to British Columbia which recalled many of the facts learned from Mr. Hendry years ago." He occasionally bumps into Martin Riley (Heatherbrae, Nethybridge) who is General Manager of Acorn Computers in Hong Kong. Shaw Mortimer achieved a life-long ambition by walking through the Lairig, and surprise, surprise, in this drenching summer he got a dry day to do it.

Amanda Munro has finished her midwifery course at Aberdeen Maternity and decided R.G.N., R.M. is enough for the present. She hints at a change of name next year but is tantalisingly secretive about it. Jeannette Munro writes: "Life seems busier than ever - or is it that I am slowing down?" She is "Looking forward very much to the '86 Reunion." Anne Munro has forsaken Baked Beans to become a Commercial Analyst for British Tissues. We would sack these two puppy dogs who waste so much for a start! Michael Munro has been running his own building contracts firm for two years now and says "my hair is turning greyer by the day". Anne and he and their two sons have a new home in Lanark. Mrs. Murray (Maureen McMurray) was "looking forward to a Nappy Time" when she wrote. The reason is announced in our "Births" column! Congratulations! Mrs. Murray (Ann Stewart) reports her daughter is a budding ballerina (Primary 2!), while her son is a swimmer. Ann herself finds one day a week teaching hard work! We agree - it is harder than it was! Brother James will be back from Australia at the end of the year, "unless some more exotic country takes his fancy". Mrs. Murren (Fiona Macdonald) is a staff midwife in the Special Care Baby Unit at the new Raigmore Hospital.

Mrs. Newbould (Rachel Smith) is due for another spell of separation from her serviceman husband. After a posting to the Falklands last year, he is now bound for Saxa Vord on the northernmost tip of Shetland. New Mum Mrs. Notman (Mairi Paterson) writes: "Have retired from nursing meantime, for the more enjoyable, though just as exhausting, occupation of motherhood! Katherine Elizabeth arrived on the 3rd March and life will never be the same again!" Ernie and Amelia Oakes (nee Edwards) are on the move again back to the distillery in Alness due to the vicissitudes in the whisky industry. They caught up on Grantown news from two sources recently, Margaret McRobert in Hopeman and Elizabeth Bremner (nee Mackenzie) in Forres. "It has been an absolutely marvellous summer here", wrote (in her immaculate hand) Mrs. O'Connor (Dorothy Cameron) from Seattle, "temperatures in the 80's and 90's every day since May". Jealous? Of course we are! Dorothy and her husband are planning a trip on a cruise liner as entertainers after the latter retires in November. Using some "golden oldies" from the Clachan Players days Dorothy? Beatrice Oliphant left midwifery at the John Radcliffe last December to resume psychiatric nursing at the Warneford Hospital, Oxford. "Different ---? but most interesting". Pity you didn't do another half year at the J.R., and witness the arrival there of our granddaughter! Unfortunately we missed seeing Mrs. Orford when she popped her slip through the letter box one Sunday in June. "The mid-forties approach quickly - help!" writes Mrs. Parrott (Catherine Douglas) on discovering that she no longer trips over toys, but hears her boys talk of girl friends, driving tests etc. She leads a very busy life, mother, minister's wife, P.R.O. and fund-raiser for a home for abused children, and finds it "a real challenge to juggle home, job, church responsibilities, school and functions - but we seem to manage!" Congratulations to Mrs. Perk (Ann Stuart) who graduated B.S.W. in Winnipeg. She is returning to Africa, to Lubumbashi in Zaire, and spent two weeks with mother and sister Rita at St. Malo, Brittany and in Paris en route. Dr. Ron Philip thought his sabbatical was "all in all a very worthwhile year" and hopes to manage a trip to Grantown in '86. (Round about 2/5/86? Ed.) Mrs. Rae (Mona Grant) recalls "a great afternoon of much coffee drinking and reminiscing of the social life of Grantown and the secrets of the prefects' cloakroom of the mid sixties" was had when she had a reunion with Margaret Cameron (MacGregor) and her sister Karen this summer. Ian Ritchie reported in from Saffron Walden in Essex. Mrs. Ritson (Mina Keith) enthuses about a drive her husband and she made through the Rockies from British Columbia to Edmonton to visit their daughter. "An abundance of great lakes, rivers and wild-life, always an outstanding scenic pleasure." Mrs. Robertson (Davis Thomson) spent a memorable family holiday with sister Wilma in Johannesburg last year and Wilma's elder daughter was to be in Scotland this year.

# LOCAL NEWS

The drenching summer weather of 1985 has produced two population explosions - that of the ducks on the Grant Park Lochan and that of the hedgehogs, who seem to have thrived on the ample supplies of slugs and snails which have also flourished in the rain.

The fishers have been pleased with high waters and big catches, but not so the golfers, though Dr. Jimmy Allan did enthuse to us about a 72 scored with wet clubs on a sodden course. Earlier in the year, Jock Paterson was equally delighted when frosty weather permitted a 24 rink bonspiel on the Lochan and gave him a chance to emulate his father by winning a trophy the latter had won in 1930 and 1931.

Surprisingly enough however the sun did shine for the major local events, the Farmers' Show, Nethy Games, the Round Table Fayre and the revived Highland Games all taking place in fair weather.

Discussion has been lively locally about the relative merits of an artificial ski slope by the caravan site, an indoor sports centre and further development of the Grant Park Lochan area. All are good ideas, and would answer needs in the town, but finding adequate finance will be the problem.

There was universal regret at the untimely death of Eddie Gardner, whose tenure of the editorship of the 'Strathie' was memorable for the ideals of service, accuracy and tact which Eddie so modestly embodied. We miss a friend.

Universal sympathy was also felt at the savagely short notice of dismissal given to long serving local Forestry employees Frank Calder and Basil Dunlop by their employers, the Seafield Estate. We are glad to say Frank, who is one of our vice-presidents, has now obtained similar work. In another capacity Frank was to be seen proudly leading the Pipe Band at the Grantown Games.

Mrs. Bettoli (Susan Grant) and her husband have now moved into a house in Woodside Avenue. Sister Sally (Mrs. Brook) drives a natty vintage sports car, and often gives us a wave from her vantage point in the Police Office.

John Burgess still qualifies as a 'local' by having a home here and paying frequent visits. He has had a year of varying health - we wish him continuing progress. Eddie Duncan, still bus-driving locally, has also been playing some effective football. Ski instructor and member of the British Ski Squad, Colin Grant, will be racing from November till April in Europe, then hopes to be going to America at the end of the season.

The computer literacy of our President (the Rector) has extended to putting much school documentation on the Word Processor, and also to writing a programme for dealing with the scores in Golf Tournaments! He is in office this year as well as President of the Scottish Ski Council.

Martin Grant continues as Chairman of the Durnain Bridge Community Council. Appropriately it was Mrs. Booth (Netta Hunter) who presented the Hunter Badminton Cup this year.

The McLeod family building firm continues to flourish. They were recently awarded the contract to build a visitor centre at Ralia on the A9. The retirement of draper Jim Mackenzie brought a closing sale and another empty shop in the High Street, where the family business had run for more years than most people remember. Jim and his manageress, Elsie Keith, now also retired, were well pleased with the quick response to the sale, but sad that the tradition had to come to an end.

John ("Bookie") Stuart was more fortunate in being able to sell his fishing tackle business as a going concern when he also retired in July. Ian Paterson took part in a 5-a-side football team representing Grantown which won a competition organised by the Aberdeen Supporters' Club. Walter Grant is another combined local/exile member, having homes in Nethy and Elgin. He has been playing an active part as host for visiting American Grants this year.

Jean Paterson passed on to us a cutting from the "Scotsman" about Colin Keith (Jnr.) who at 16 was 'capped' both as a junior and a senior international squash player this year. The story continues by saying that the 1958 Scottish Universities javelin record set by Colin (Senior) still stands to-day. That must have been some throw over quarter of a century ago! Congratulations to both!

A removal for Mrs. Murray Beattie (Elizabeth Reid) has almost brought her back to Grantown. She and her husband are now at Auchnagallin in "the Braes".

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\* SWIMMING CLUB \*  
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In spite of being bedevilled by repeated plant failures which always seem to mar the start of their "season", the Swimming Club had another successful year under the able direction of their enthusiastic secretary, Mrs. Margaret Massor. The list of members for 1984-85 is appended:

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\* SWIMMING CLUB MEMBERS \*  
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David Bairstow; Sandra Bairstow; Lynda Beveridge; David Bruce; Dorothy Bruce; Susan Burns; Heather Cruickshank; Jennifer Davidson; Sally Marquhar; Eddie McTavish; Judy Milne; Pamela Paterson; John Rennie; Alison Ritchie; Liame Shand; Marie Shand; Ann Stewart; Elaine Thomson and Margaret Masson (Secretary and Treasurer).

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\* DRUMMOSSIE MOOR \*  
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A poem by Ian Macpherson (Jnr.)

The shining banners all are torn, and darkly stained w' blood.  
God knows how many of my friends are lying in the mud.  
And Kingston's Morne are butchering the wounded where they lie.  
Drumossie Moor, I'll aye curse ye, till the day I die!  
To Naïra and back, yon mid night march - So many weary men  
Lay down to sleep around the field - and never woke again.  
As Butcher Billy's legions spured not innocent nor child,  
But murdered all, and rode them down, as 'long the roads they filed.  
The hellish round-shot, bouncing through the driving wind and sleet.  
To part so many brave boys from their heads, and arms, and feet.  
And then the grape and musket balls that thinned us even more  
Till we could wait no longer - Chattan's broke with fowled roar!  
We crashed against the bayonets of Price's and Munro's.  
(The same who ran at Falkirk, but today they stood, God knows!)  
Like reapers, with our broadswords high we hacked and stabbed and fell  
But no-one lived who didn't turn and run, the truth to tell.  
The Athollmen and Camerons, who held the right of flank,  
Were beaten back by Barrell's troops, beside Culwhinniac's bank.  
Behind the dyke, with muskets primed, to take them from the side.  
Argyll Militia volleyed at the milling tartan tide.  
Ah, "Cruachan!" That hated word, the traitor Campbell's cry.  
As lackies of the German laird, they caused their kin to die.  
I saw Lochiel, the gentle chief, with grape his ankles broke,  
And carried from the field amidst the fire and swirling smoke.

(continued on last page).



Jessie Ronaldson is still soldiering on in the Inverness Post Office. She keeps contacts with the local area through W.R.I. activities. Brother Michael who lives just "down the road" in Westhill, was looking forward to a family celebration of his son's wedding in August. "Life goes on as usual" writes D.C.I. Alex Ross who is now on the Regional Crime Squad at New Scotland Yard. "Best wishes to the F.P. Club. 40 years on - I wonder if any of the 5th year class of '45 will attend the Biennial Dinner in May 1986?" This plea (or is it a challenge?) came from Margaret Ross (Broomhill). Come on now! What about it? Victor Ross is another who has promised to "bring the fiddle" to the Dinner. We look forward to a good going ceilidh! Victor and his wife (Dorothea Geddes) have been in Canada visiting their family. Walter Ross, his assignment at Buckingham Palace completed, is now Chief Superintendent, Metropolitan Police, at Chelsea Police Station. Dr. Bill Sellar's sons continue to do well in sports, Peter winning his school cup for the best all-round athlete, and both boys contributing to the unbeaten record of their rugby and hockey teams. Daughter Sonya is at 'O' level stage and thinking about a career in psychology. Mrs. Selman (Elise Kirk) will be retiring shortly from nursery teaching. One son is a town planning assistant in Fife and is "becoming a real Fifer" while the other, who graduated M.B.Ch.B. from Aberdeen this year, has mastered the Scotland the What? dialect to perfection. Following her husband's promotion, Mrs. Ian Smith (Janette Macdonald) was due to move in September to Perth where they have bought a house. "Cumbernauld continues to be a most enjoyable home town - near enough Glasgow for extra activities" writes Kay Smith who finds there is never a dull moment in retirement.

John Smith writes: "have escaped the tropics and find myself in pastoral New Zealand". He is a marketing geophysicist with a Norwegian company selling and travelling throughout Australasia. Besides this he is enjoying N.Z. skiing (in August!) and oysters. Thanks to Mrs. Spalding (Isobel Gunn) who sent us a friendly greeting from Aberdeen and says she is looking forward to the Dinner as well. Nick Spence, as sales and marketing manager for Marconi Instruments, seems to pack as much travelling into a month as many people do in a life-time! In June Paris, Munich and U.S.A. with visits to Cairo and Oman planned. He has recently run into Harry Moir who had "tender" memories of application of the slipper in the Prefects' Room, and who is also with Marconi. Nick runs into Mrs. Fotheringham (Margaret MacLennan) regularly as well. A nice letter from Mrs. Squires (Isa Moyes) has an enthusiastic account of her meeting with Peter McNicol, his wife and daughter at Dorval Airport when the McNicols were en route for Cincinnati. "We rolled back the years - some 40 of them," she writes. Mrs. Stevens (Meta King) had no news from Leeds. James Stewart in Australia was pleased to be in an English-speaking country (of a sort!) after a year in Korea. He is still not sure what some of the things he ate actually were, while on that tour! Mrs. Storey (Barbara Smith) gave up her commercial promotions job with the arrival of her daughter in July, and now devotes her time to the latter (and entertaining visiting relations!) Mrs./Dr. Elizabeth Shoemith (Stuart) is "getting involved in researching the medical effects of low-level radiation as we are threatened by the expansion of Dounreay. Retired policeman Lachlan Stuart sends best wishes to everyone from Portgordon. Neil Stuart has had a heavy year at the Examination Board with the new exam developments and all the other frustrations which have brought education into turmoil over the last year. We hear that Rita Stuart-Khamsi is to be spending 6 weeks at a UNESCO Conference in Bulgaria. We look forward to hearing her reactions to Eastern Europe.

Alistair Surtees is to retire sometime in 1986, perhaps before or perhaps after his department of the M.O.D. is dispersed to Glasgow. Brother Bobby is recovering and trying to take it easy after a heart attack at Easter. We wish him well in his retirement. Richard and Joyce Surtees are "still actively engaged as grandparents". They babysit two days a week for Stuart's family while their daughter-in-law goes about her district nurse's duties. Gordon Templeton booked in as usual from Aberdeen. Brother Hamish writes: "The highlight of this year was the wedding of my niece Alison Grant. It took place on the 1st June - the only really summer day we have had!" All three sons of Billy and Rita Templeton (Rita Marshall) are now in Banking - while Billy now has two branches to look after, having taken over Methil in March. James Thomson has a new position as Financial Controller/Secretary, D.A. Capp & Sons Ltd. Derek Walker has moved on to the Station Hotel in Aberdeen after two years spell at the Gloucester. Fiona Walker writes: "Completed two years probationary period and had appointment confirmed within Northern Constabulary so now a 'fully-fledged cop'. Still playing badminton, - now for the police." Mrs. Webb (Margaret Templeton) is hoping to retire to Allanton Village this year. Mrs. Wilson (Helen Scott) has retired from teaching after 30 years, and moved out to Balmedie. Our good wishes go with you.

Mrs. Weston (Sheina Donaldson) was back in Grantown in July. While in the North one of her sons "discovered the pleasures of camping at Glenmore" - a great moment in a lad's life that! Mrs. Wilson (Ada Inray) has had at least one member of her family at Glasgow University for the past 15 years! Her youngest Iain has just graduated in Civil Engineering. Ada herself started a new job teaching maths at Killingarth High School in September. David Winchester checked in from Fort William but had no news. Journalist Barry Wood is still with the Sunday Express in Glasgow. Brother Michael had done 1 1/2 marathons this season, Loch Rannoch and Glenrothes. He also has an expanding family. We are indebted to Paddy Wood for news of the rest of the Wood family (see under Laing). Paddy himself is still living in Culloden. Alan Wright is "Entering second year as a trainee chartered accountant with Thomson McLintock, Aberdeen." and sister Alison is entering 3rd year at Aberdeen University, studying microbiology.

Report by John Stuart  
(Secretary)

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\* FISHING CLUB \*  
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The series of fishing competitions held annually at Lochindorb by the above Club were, this year, less successful than usual due to poor attendances. During the entire season only five local members attended and on one or two evenings even the regular honorary members and visitors failed to turn up, with the result that prizes cost more than the income from entry money. The time seems to have come when it is no longer worth the effort of trying to keep the Club going but those who do attend always enjoy themselves.

This year the members were: I. Macpherson; J. Stuart; G. Paton; J. Shand and D. Rose who all attended most evenings. Honorary members were A. Logan; A. Rennie; R. Dunshea; I. Brown; J. Scott; J. McBain; A. Heyes; A. Patterson; D. Willox and B. Thomas although some of these attended on only one or two evenings. Visitor attendances were also very poor, with seven on the best night, and only one on the worst.

It is perhaps fitting that, in what might well be the last year, the Trophy should have been won by Ian Macpherson, whose name already appears on the cup on many occasions. Second place and the Norman Stone cup for the heaviest Catch on any one evening went to A. Patterson, last year's winner, who has also been champion a few times, and third place went to R. Dunshea, a regular attender. Consolation prize went to our own D.D. Rose, who never gives up!