

FORMER PUPILS' SECTION



* OFFICE BEARERS *

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Mr. A.M. GRANT; Miss JEANNETTE I. MUNRO;
Mrs. JOHN GRANT.

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Mr. J.J. GRANT; Mr. A. LEDINGHAM;
Mr. I. MACPHERSON; Mrs. M. MASSON;
Mr. W. MITCHELL; Mrs. J. MITCHELL;
Mrs. M. ROSS; Mr. J. SHAND; Mr. J.R. STUART.

Secretary and Treasurer - Mr. J.R. SMITH, M.A.

editorial

* ENGAGEMENTS and MARRIAGES *

Our 1989 A.G.M. saw the retirement of Mr. Lewis Grant after 21 years as Rector of the School and President of our Clubs. Mr. Grant's service to the School and the Clubs is to be marked by a presentation which is to take place at a Cheese and Wine Party in the Coppice Hotel on Friday 20th April. On this occasion members will have the opportunity to meet and to welcome Mr. Grant's successor as Rector, Mr. Malcolm MacLennan, B.Sc., who has agreed to continue the tradition that the Rector is also President of the Former Pupils' Clubs.

The Cheese and Wine will also be the first function for our Honorary President, Mrs. Sheila Archibald who began her two year term in this office last October.

A bust of Mr. Grant has been sculpted by former Principal Art Teacher and Assistant Rector Mr. Rob Liggit and this will be unveiled by Mrs. Archibald and handed over to the new Rector so that it may be installed in a suitable position in the School. Many members will already know that Mr. Liggit also sculpted the bust of Dr. Bain which is displayed in the entrance hall of the School.

The Cheese and Wine of course replaces the Dinner which had been planned for 20th April and which had to be postponed till 1991 because of accommodation difficulties. We are happy to say that both the speakers we had invited, Mrs. Jane Lilley and Mr. Nicholas Spence, have agreed to be present on the new date, which is Saturday 13th April 1991, and we have also made a provisional booking for the Coppice Hotel. Further details will be included in our usual December mailing.

At the A.G.M. we were delighted that Mr. and Mrs. Bill Mitchell (Judy Stuart), who recently returned to Grantown accepted appointment to the committee, and we look forward to the contribution they will make to the running of the Clubs.

We continue to help fund the School Prize-Giving, our contribution last year amounting to £75.

Our "daughter" club, the F.P. Swimmers, also made a very substantial donation to the School P.W. Department which made possible the purchase of a replacement resuscitation manikin (used for practical teaching of the techniques of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation). The fact that the funds were available for this is due to the good housekeeping (and assiduous collection of members' fees!) over the past seventeen years by the long serving secretary of the Swimming Club Mrs. Margaret Masson (Margaret Stuart).

Our thanks to all of you who returned well-filled information slips and again made compiling "Outposts" a pleasure. We are most grateful also to those who included donations, both to the presentation and to the funds. We are again indebted to David Calder for his invaluable assistance with the printing of the lists and to our long suffering wife who deciphers our increasingly illegible handwriting in order to type all the text. We are grateful also to Jean Paterson who not only audits our accounts, but also keeps a careful watch on the press for news of F.P.'s. we might miss.

We would like to mention that we have left Mrs. Lilley's entry in the Main List unchanged in the hope that the management of the Press and Journal will eventually see reason and reinstate the sacked journalists. We do miss our local paper, but we prize individual freedom more.

Congratulations and best wishes to the following on their engagement:

Helen Gordon, Lower Delliefure and John McLure whose home is in Sheffield.

and to the following on their marriage:

in March 1989 Raymond McIntosh and Sue Martin, who have now emigrated to Australia;

in April 1989 Alison Paul and Norman Morrison who hails from Harris; and Valerie Grant and Brian Fraser who were married in Edinburgh.

in May 1989 E.D. (Donnie) McGillivray and Janet Grant who were married in Elgin.

GOLDEN WEDDING. Special congratulations to John and Ethel Milne on their Golden Wedding last September.

* BIRTHS *

We are delighted to announce the following 'happy events':

in March 1989 a son to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Glasse (Pamela Main).

in April 1989 a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Hew Dalrymple (Jane Morris).

in May 1989 a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Derek Walker.

in September 1989 a son to Mr. and Mrs. David McCulloch (Shona Grant).

a son to Mr. and Mrs. Iain Beange.

a son to Mr. and Mrs. Scott Clark.

in December

1989

a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wood.

in January

1990

a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Newbould (Rachel Smith).

* NEW RECRUITS *

Our new recruits this year are:

Mrs. Margaret Ewen (Betty Robertson) R.G.N., S.C.M., Crofts of Tulloch, Nethybridge, who now lives in Aberdeen. Betty and her brother Ronald (a former Navyman now in Australia) spent some time in Speyside House, and have grateful memories of the teaching and support they received from the late Mr. T. Hunter, the then Rector. Mrs. Ewen qualified as a nurse, and has also been in local government as a Regional Councillor. She is now the organising secretary of the Services Families organisation S.S.A.F.A. for Aberdeen and District.

Group Captain Angus A. McIntosh visited the school last year and having enquired about the Former Pupils' Clubs, he was directed to our house. We were delighted to meet him and to enrol him as a member. His years at school were 1932-1937, and he subsequently had a most successful career in the R.A.F. rising to the rank of Group Captain before his retirement. Recently he has been deeply involved in the provision of a memorial to those who lost their lives flying with R.A.F. Banff Strike Wing. The stone is situated on the main road between Banff and Portsoy.

We welcome also Mr. John Gill, originally of Granlea, Boat of Garten, who now lives in Droitwich. Mr. Gill was in school in 1936-7 and admits to having delayed more than 50 years before becoming a member of the club! We look forward to meeting him at the 1990 Reunion and trust he will find some "kent faces".

News

from the Outposts

"No major news this year" writes Eunice Allan, "but I'm enjoying life! Enjoying science too, and looking forward to a trip to Pakistan with brother Sandy in May 1990." "Just thankful to be alive and fit!" remarked Mrs. Allan (Mona McLean) on her slip. "Still having a great time" writes Mike Anderson from Luxembourg, "Doing lots of travelling, but only improving my French slowly". Ne te décourage pas mon brave! Tu es sur le bon chemin! Mrs. Angus (Ella Wood) is still in Elgin. Mrs. Banks (Lorna Stephen) delivered her slip by hand this year and introduced us to her two charming daughters. The elder, Caroline (at 17½) went to Australia for two months last summer, and would recommend it to all! Especially Aunt Lindsey's hospitality! Lorna also gave us an update on Lindsey's address and reported she has a very busy life-style but loves Australia. Nicky Bans writes that she is still in Great Yarmouth and still engaged to her dentist, but has a new job - "not the most glamorous" she admits, as she is assistant to the refuse and transport foreman! She is still much involved in basketball as player, referee and vice-chairman of Norfolk Basketball association. Mrs. Birrell (Jean Donald) is still in Glasgow. Mrs. Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam) had intended to go to Jordan this winter, but had to cancel because she fell and broke and dislocated her left elbow. "Rather a nuisance!!" she commented ruefully.

P.V. Licence enforcement officer John Calder is "Still based in Inverness and travelling the Highlands and Islands and much to my wife's disgust, still making regular jaunts to Celtic Park at the week-ends!" Norman Campbell is still based in Orkney with Mowlem Construction. We are indebted to Jean Paterson for passing on Douglas Harse's slip to us. Douglas is still in South Queensferry. "Cannot compete with the citizens of Grantown! I've seen you twice on T.V. in the last 6 months - once in 'The Vet' and again this morning during the church service broadcast from Inverallan!" writes eagle-eyed viewer Mrs. Chapman (Irene Edwards). "By comparison, we lead very humdrum lives!" Irene is now a school governor at her younger daughter's school and expresses sympathy with the teachers amid the welter of legislation etc. with which they are now having to cope. We are sure that will give rise to many an approving nod among our readers! Mrs. Chapman (Elizabeth McDonald) sent her slip airmail from New Zealand with another group of attractive stamps. (Thank you!) She also drew our attention to a change in her "home" address from the Crescent to Coppice Court.

After qualifying in August as a midwife" writes Mrs. Hisholm (Jane Dunlop) "I was fortunate to be employed full-time as a staff midwife at Raigmore Hospital on a busy ante-natal/post natal ward. It is amazing the number of local people one meets there!" Mrs. Clark (Janet Barclay) ordered her magazine from "Strathspey" - that is the name of her new home in Brechin. "Family still growing with another grandson last June" writes Mrs. Cowan (Wilma Irving). "Eldest son on his way to Washington D.C. on a new posting with the Army. Should make for an interesting new venue for our holidays!" "John and I plan to marry on 18th August this year" writes Lesley Craib - "John" is John Eehan of R.A.F. Kinloss, and Lesley plans to continue teaching in Kingussie Primary School "until we find out whether John is to be posted away from Kinloss". Our thanks to Mrs. Craig (Dorothy Calder) who sent us a nice Christmas card with her slip. "Now a full-time mother and housewife" confesses/boasts Mrs. Crichton (Lorna Forbes) who moved to a new address in Westhill last September.

Mrs. Davidson (Betty Kirkwood) writes that her elder son, Peter, is doing a Business Studies Degree at Oxford Polytechnic. No 2, Matthew, is in his G.C.S.E. year and hoping to go on to A. levels. "Where have all these years gone" Betty wonders. "Seems hardly any time since I was doing these things myself!" We hear from Mrs. Betty Grant that Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Davidson visited the Grantown Heritage Centre during last summer. Duncan is looking very well and has retired in Ayrshire. They hope to attend a reunion in the near future. We spotted (a little enviously!)

that Walter Dempster won a prize for completing the "Observer" crossword. We have been trying that for years without success! Nevertheless, well done Walter! "Enjoyed my visit to Grantown last year" writes Margaret Donald who is Senior Nurse in an Ophthalmic Hospital in NW1. "It was lovely to meet friends again, visit some old haunts and breathe FRESH AIR!". Your friends enjoyed seeing you too, Margaret! We had a nice note from George Dixon with his slip and magazine order. Your remarks are much appreciated! After many years of teaching Primary 1, Fiona Donn has changed to Primary 3 and finds it much easier. "Most of the 'social training' has been done" she writes "and one can get on with teaching." 'Social training' is as nice an example of euphemism as we have encountered in many a day. We bet it covers an unspeakable range! New recruit Mrs. M.E. Ewen (Betty Robertson) feels so much has happened in the 52 years since her schooldays she doesn't know where to start describing it! Mrs. Fearnley (Maureen Macaulay) writes that she had hoped to come to the Reunion this year, but having been in hospital ("nothing serious" she reassures us) she won't manage it. "And", she goes on "we'll definitely make it next year!" We look forward to seeing you. Sine Fergusson's magazine order duly arrived from her new Edinburgh address. We had a nice letter from Mrs. Fraser (Elspeth Mitchell) who had a holiday in Orkney with her recently married "middle" son last October. She also wrote of her own schooldays and of a primary teacher, Miss MacLennan, "who made school a fun place" for her pupils. Her childish perception of this teacher as an elderly lady had to be revised later in adult life when their paths crossed some 20 years later and she was surprised by this youthful and attractive looking lady teacher who was now a colleague of her husband!

"Beginning to feel my age" writes Robin Fraser, then confesses. "I've taken up Bowls! - and I must say I enjoy it almost as much as golf!" He continues "Second grand-daughter born in Nov. 1989 - so am getting good at changing nappies once again!" Mrs. Brian Fraser is a new name to add to our list, but members will recognise her as Valerie Grant whose marriage is reported in our matrimonial column. Husband Brian whom she met in Edinburgh, is originally from the Black Isle. "Very much enjoying the most demanding profession there is - motherhood!" writes Mrs. Glasse (Pamela Main). "Jamie is now almost a year old, and a lot of fun." A move to Suffolk is in the planning stage. Helen Gordon writes "Moved to Sheffield in September and in December got engaged to John McLure of Sheffield. Wedding scheduled for October 6th 1990". We offer congratulations and best wishes. Industrial chemist James Gordon writes that he has been seconded to Unilever's laboratory in Holland for 3 years to work on detergents. He is "Enjoying the work, and taking the opportunity to explore the continent." Mairi Gordon delivered her slip personally to notify us of her new address in Edinburgh. She is still at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary working as a personal secretary at the Diabetic Out-Patient Department.

Martin Grant recently lent us an Australian newspaper which featured an article on his son Allan's latest business venture. Seven years ago Allan, who was previously sports master at Gilroy College, opened a team sports shop, aided by his wife Diane. This has been so successful that they have just moved into a new shopping centre, diversified, and extended their business all over N.S.W., even exporting to New Zealand and Papua New Guinea! Allan also coaches an under 18 Girls' Soccer Team! No doubt Diane keeps a careful eye on that side of the business too! We were pleased to hear from Denise Grant again and to learn she is working as a W.P.C. with Tayside Police in Dundee. We will list her new address to which she moves w.e.f. 1/6/90. Just back from a week in Grantown-on-Spey Graham Grant thought it was "great to see everyone, but the weather!!" By comparison Invergordon is the Riviera of Easter Ross! Donald Grant started a new job as a project manager with Office Workstations Ltd. of Edinburgh in April 89, having spent a month in the French Alps between jobs. (Cleverly arranged Donald!) He is looking forward to a 3 months posting to the U.S. office during this year. The Grant sisters, Fiona and Shelagh share a flat in Montpelier Park, Edinburgh.

A nice letter from Jennifer Grant brought us up to date on her news: we knew she had been working in Turkey for INTASUN as an administrative assistant - this year however she is off to Tunisia as an administrative controller for the same firm. She hopes Tunisia will be better off for

Obituary

We are indebted to Ian Macpherson for the following tribute to his life-long friend the late DAVID (Jock) WINCHESTER who died at Fort William on 28th November 1989.

The sad news of "Jock's" death, although not entirely unexpected, came as a great shock nevertheless. The chain of memories stretching back to the halcyon days of youth had already lost many of its links. But this one had seemed almost indestructible, forged, as it had been, in distant times when we neither guessed nor cared about what the future held.

Boyhood's friendship survived into manhood, even long after our paths had diverged. When we met in later years, half-forgotten memories spanning a lifetime would surface crystal clear, of adventures shared as Eastenders, school playing-field battles, fishing expeditions to Lochindorb, and a hundred other trifling incidents which had seemed so important at the time.

Among Jock's sterling qualities were a strong sense of humour and the gift of being able to enjoy life to the full. We shared a love of sport in general, encouraged and coached by the late Bob Wilson.

Jock was an all-rounder, but it was as a footballer that he excelled. He was never known to shirk a tackle or give up until the final whistle blew. And so it was, later in life. When the once-exuberant sportsman could no longer take part in active pursuits, another quality - probably his greatest - surfaced. Sheer indomitable courage.

I last saw Jock a year or so ago. I was saddened by his condition and humbled by his fortitude. The old spirit still shone through, and the eyes still twinkled merrily. He still retained the precious gift of being able to savour the memory of past happinesses, while turning a blind eye to the dark cloud on the horizon.

Jock's latter years were made tolerable by the love and support of family and friends, but, most of all, by Winnie's constant loving care. Her courage was equalled only by that of Jock himself.

We extend sincere sympathy on behalf of the Clubs to Winnie, Anne and David.

MRS. HOWARD ASTON (Kathleen (Bobby) Mutch) died on 10th December 1989, three days before her 76th birthday. She was the victim of a tragic road accident which took place within sight of her home in Bromley eleven days previously. We are indebted to Miss Betty Mutch, who hastened to her sister's side, for providing us with the information for this obituary.

A talented woman, both academically and musically, Mrs. Aston was proxime accessit in 1930 and went on to qualify as a nurse. Her doctor husband predeceased her 3½ years ago. To her three daughters, Alison, Madeleine and Lindsey, and to her sister Betty, we express sincerest condolences on behalf of the Clubs.

ALEXANDER (Sandy) TELFER died suddenly at his home in Woodburn Place last May. He was for many years a member of the Burgh workforce and was well known and well liked by the local folks he loyally served. We personally remember him taking part in the Old Guard fishing competitions at Lochindorb, and lending a helping hand at functions in the British Legion, of which he was a keen member. We remember gratefully the occasion when Sandy and other Legion members came to help run a fund raising effort for the P.T.A. in the "Old School". It was typical of the nature of the man. To his wife Evelyn we send our sincere condolences on behalf of the Clubs.

We extend sympathy also to the following members who have suffered bereavement in the course of the past year:

- to Mrs. Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam) who lost her mother;
- to Roy McGregor who also lost his mother;
- to Angus, Sandy and Grant Gordon who also lost their mother;
- to Mrs. Walling (Isobel Jack) who lost her brother;
- to Peter McNicol who lost his mother;
- to Mrs. Gallagher (Amanda Dunlop) who lost her father;
- to our Honorary Vice-President, George Donaldson, his son Keith and daughter Sheina (Mrs. Weston), who suffered the loss of wife and mother;
- to Sheena Ogilvie who lost her father;
- to Rev. Sandy MacDonald who also lost his father;
- to Ainslie Cruickshank who also lost his father;
- to Mrs. Alex. Dick (Muriel Morrison) who lost her mother.
- to Mrs. McClelland (Elizabeth Lawrence) who lost her husband.

H.M. Services

Major John Clark writes that he is "In the process of purchasing a house in Inverness and he will be in the area more than of late". Meantime he is still with 73 Engineer Regiment near Nottingham. Andrew Liggat has completed a tour on a Rapier Air Defence Squadron at R.A.F. Honnington and has now "reached the dizzy height of the rank of Flying Officer". Rumour has it that he was somewhat dizzier when brother Archie invited him to join in a supersonic trip in his Phantom! Flight Lieutenant Archie Liggat is "Now acting as Central Flying School Examining Wing Agent for the Phantom and is based on No. 228 Operational Training Unit at Leuchars". He is also still busy building his private light plane, and is looking forward to becoming a father about the time we will be going to press. Squadron Leader Tom Stuart writes "Our plans to move to Yorkshire were thwarted by our inability to sell our house in the existing depressed market. so after about 18 months as the Senior Engineering Officer at Linton-on-Ouse and commuting south at weekends as frequently as possible, I am now seeking a posting back to the south of England." Tom has been accepted for the London Marathon on 22nd April and will be lining up with the other 30,000 or so! We wish good luck and a clear run.



Mrs. Stevens (Meta King) sent us quite a catalogue of the things she remembers fondly. We print a selection here so that others may share them.

"I REMEMBER.....

our Brownie Pack and Guide Company meetings in the Woodwork Room, or outdoors on summer evenings, cooking sausages during a "hike" and baking potatoes in the campfire embers. the school choir competing at the Music Festival in Elgin, and returning in triumph with the Banner.

the Senior School outing to the Cairngorms, with the glorious walk from Coylumbridge to Loch Morlich.

the cycle runs to Loch Vea and Loch-an-Eilean, and over the Dava Moor to Lochindorb.

Is sledging still allowed on the Big Brae that runs across the fourteenth and seventeenth fairways? The course seemed to show no ill effects when the next summer holidays came round and we trudged round the "last five", our prayers for rain at the thirteenth having gone unanswered, and the golfers for whom we were caddyding having elected to complete the round. Our school always looked very peaceful sitting above the fifteenth, no doubt dreaming of, or perhaps bracing itself for its next year.!"

golf courses, which apparently don't exist in Turkey! Between her foreign trips she has been "temping" in Edinburgh - the highlight of which was a P.R. job for Ian MacLauchlan at the Scotland v. France rugby international. Unfortunately she doesn't expatiate on whether the attraction was the brawny Scots or the hot-blooded Frenchmen. Mail to Tomdhu please - she says her Tunisian address consists of hieroglyphics! "Plodding on!" writes vet Patrick Grant from Bothwell. He goes on "Happy to report all well and family (Sarah 9 and Andrew 7) growing fast". Nice to hear from you again. Ed. On a recent holiday in Canada Walter Grant took in the Toronto area then went on to Edmonton. He found that "There are many Scots and their descendants out West and quite a few Grants around". Mrs. Greenwood (Mary Winchester) is still in Todmorden, Lancs. "Still enjoying retirement!!" reports Donald Gunn from Dingwall. We look forward to seeing him at the Cheese and Wine.

"I have been working part time at Townhead Nursery in Brechin" writes Mrs. Harris (Kathleen Dunn) "and I have been warranted as a Guider with the 'Rainbows' - the youngest section of the Guide movement and I am enjoying working with them." Like so many "exiles" she watched the televised church service from Inverallan - "Most of the time saying, 'there's so and so' when recognising so many faces!" "It's been a hectic year" writes Mrs. Hobbs (Gillian Henderson). "I had no idea that one small baby could be so exhausting; perhaps 'mature motherhood' has its drawbacks! Anyway, Kate has kept us very busy, and quickly learned that mothers can be manipulated - it was a bit of a shock when I was used to doing any manipulating that was to be done!" Gillian's letter also contained the news that "Brother Pete and his wife Elaine were accepted for immigration to Australia earlier in the year so they have now left Edinburgh and travelled across via the U.S.A. They will slowly wend their way across here to settle in W.A. for a while. It will be nice to have some family here".

Ian Herd had an eventful year. We congratulate him on the completion of his B.A. (Hons. Business Studies) and the completion of his Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award. Now Ian has emigrated to New Zealand, and, when we heard from him, was working for a container shipping company. He has had some problems regarding a work permit, but hopes these are now finally resolved. He attended some of the Commonwealth Games events and enjoyed seeing fellow Scot Liz McColgan win the 10,000 metres! Ian is impressed with the friendliness and informality of the New Zealanders, and thinks the 1990 celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Waitangi treaty with the Maoris and Commonwealth Games have boosted their self-awareness as a nation in their own right and are helping them emerge from the shadow of Australia. Andrew Howlett's youngsters are growing up. His daughter is now 16, and his son 13. Andrew himself is still working for the Argyll Group at Hayes, Middlesex. The management of this supermarket chain, he tells us, is "predominantly Scottish". Andrew's brother Duncan is still at Seabank House in Aberdeen and "Still engaged to a colleague" there. Mrs. Hunter (Piona Henderson) is still in Edinburgh.

We look forward to seeing Edward Illingworth at the Reunion on 20th April. "Everything was perfect for our holiday last summer," writes Marr Illingworth, "the Show was the best that I can remember and I had so many happy reunions with F.Ps. It was great seeing friends that I hadn't seen for up to 40 years." Since his retirement Marr has a new address in North Carolina. John Irving is one tax-man we don't mind hearing from - and he always returns his slip in time too. He is still in Bolton. Grace Kirk sent apologies for the Cheese and Wine but hopes to make the Dinner in 1991. Mrs. Laing (Katharine Templeton) is still active as a Community Midwifery Sister at the Eastern General Hospital in Edinburgh. "Still working for British International Helicopters and have been promoted to Personal Assistant to the Operations Director" writes Patricia Laing. She continues with the following interesting bulletin (just the thing to please the Editor! Thanks!) "Still using my cheap travel concessions - took my mother and father to Toronto for £80 return from Aberdeen and had a great time. Looking forward to two weddings in the family - my cousin Helen in October and my brother Iain and Wendy MacBeath in March 1991. Still an avid football fan and go to see Aberdeen play whenever they play at home." Mrs. Lewin (Edith Kyd) returned her slip from Earlsdon, Coventry where she has a new address.

Mrs. Lilley (Jane Macaulay), who was to be a speaker at the Biennial Dinner, reports regretfully, "A year in which everything seemed to be going well - until, in the autumn I found myself out of work, after going on strike for Union recognition. Hopefully the New Year will bring a solution." We certainly endorse that. We sadly miss our daily Press and Journal. Fortunately our indefatigable editorial aide Jean Paterson kept us abreast of any news of interest to F.P.s. "Finished travelling through Tasmania, New Zealand, Australian mainland, Hawaii, Canada and Alaska" writes Douglas Low. "Next - Central and South America! Career - Student of Life!" We might add that he is considering some journalistic outlets for his experiences and his environmentalist views. We wish him good luck. Douglas's sister Karen Low wrote us a most interesting account of her travels in Antarctica, Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru and Ecuador, then on to Colombia and the Caribbean, Guatemala and Honduras - it reads like a gazetteer doesn't it? Then, after a brief sojourn in Grantown, she flew back to Switzerland in December, three days before brother Douglas (no mean globe-trotter himself! - see above!) returned after 27 months abroad. Karen hasn't seen him for 3 years! Mind you Karen does promise "Perhaps sometime next year we will manage to show a few of the 70 films we took on our trip in Grantown!" We were glad to hear of Karen's recovery from a recent bout of hepatitis and look forward to an invitation to that show!

"Never a dull moment!" is the comment of Simon Macaulay on his first year as Assistant General Secretary of the E.I.S. Colin McBain is still working for Millicom Cellular U.K. Ltd. and is hoping to go out to Abu Dhabi to visit his sister Shona this year. We learned from Claire McCann's slip that she has been in Nigeria, is at present working for a publisher in London, but plans to move to Edinburgh this year. Her sister Jane has just celebrated her first wedding anniversary. Mrs. McClelland (Elizabeth Lawrence) wrote to tell us of the sudden death of her husband William on 11th September last year. We hope you are finding the strength to overcome the effects of the shock. Mr. and Mrs. David Macdonald (Marilyn Oliphant) report as follows - "David's work now takes him regularly to Japan in addition to other less distant parts. This year he will have been 25 years with BP Shipping. Marilyn is continuing to enjoy work at Stansted School, next door to the airport. She spends most of her spare time running, and is now training hard for the London Marathon! Their son Rory is thoroughly enjoying secondary school."

"Because I spend quite a time in France I decided to go back to school and polish up my French" James MacDonald reports "so armed with my Higher French I strutted into my first class. Alas, anno domini has taken its toll and Mrs. Jamieson's and Mrs. Nicholson's efforts to teach me French have been long forgotten - pity!" We suggest tuning up a bit with a tape recorded course and trying again! Nil desperandum! (Ed.) Congratulations to Stuart MacDonald on his promotion last year. He now looks after Hyro Sites, worldwide, for his company Kvaerner Boving Ltd. He expresses some wry embarrassment about his designation in the company. (See main list!) "The Golf Course is a great place to be at 9.00 a.m. on a Monday morning!" writes recently retired Assistant Rector Ian MacGillivray from Leven. Like many another he is thoroughly enjoying retirement! Now back from Norway Mrs. Ian McGregor (Annette Hogg) writes "I am now working at Perth Leisure Pool - I choose my hours around Ian's work. Three swimming exams coming up - Bronze Medallion (again!) Lifeguard's Award and basic assessment, I'm training with 14 year olds!" No doubt they keep you up to date with what's in the charts!

New recruit Group Captain Angus McIntosh sent us good wishes from Edinburgh. The juxtaposition of New Recruit and Group Captain must be quite unusual! We had an interesting letter from Donald McIntyre with news of his retirement from his Chair of Geology in Pomona, California and his inclusion in an elite list of the ten best University teachers in North America. (Considering the numbers involved, that must be the equivalent of earning a place in an Olympic team! Congratulations!) Donald also waxed lyrical about his return to Scotland and the new home he has set up with his wife Ann and son Ewen in Kinfauns, near Perth. Self employed Accident Claims Assessor Randal McIntyre sent us a friendly greeting from Falkirk. Congratulations to Gilbert MacKay who was awarded the degree of Ph.D.

and graduated at Glasgow University in December 1989 after having spent November in Budapest on a study tour of the Peto Institute for the Scottish Education Department. November '89 would have been an interesting time to spend in Eastern Europe we imagine! Mrs. MacKay (Rachel MacRobert) reports she is "Still teaching and travelling abroad as often as possible, although this is curtailed somewhat by family life. So far in 1 year of marriage we have seen one stepson married and one engaged - what next!!" Mrs. Mackenzie (Jessie Campbell) telephoned us from Aberlour just to check up that she had filled out her slip properly. Jessie has now reached the ripe old age of 83. (Yes, your slip was correct!) "Now a grandfather" writes Dr. Sandy Mackenzie. "Calum Mackenzie arrived in September '89. I'm pleased to have someone else to visit in Edinburgh besides the inhabitants of St. Andrews House!" Congratulations! Congratulations also to Grahame MacKenzie who graduated from St. Andrews University in July with Honours in Mediaeval History. His brother John is enjoying third year of a B.L.F. course in Aberdeen. He participated in a winter skills mountaineering course at Glenmore Lodge in January. MacKenzie No. 3, Stuart, is also in Aberdeen in the third year of his B.Sc. Forestry Course at the University. Keith McKerron sent us his return from Hopeman as usual.

Mrs. Edith Mackintosh intends to be in Grantown after Easter and hopes for better weather than the continuous rain they have been having in Helensburgh. Marjory (Mrs. White)'s daughter is now studying at Strathclyde and established in a flat in Glasgow. "Mrs. Mac" is planning a trip to Eastbourne in September "a suitable place for 'oldies' we're told." We are sure Richard Surtees will be able to show you the bright lights! Bert Mackintosh is hoping to spend April in New Zealand with his cousins. Isobel MacLean is still in hotel management at the Stakis Grosvenor in Glasgow from where she was one of the first to return her slip. "Have at last reached final (4th) year of the B.Ed. course at the Northern College of Education (Aberdeen campus)" writes Vikki MacLean with that mixture of relief and anticipation which will be familiar to all those of us who have waited apparently interminably for that first salary cheque! Mrs. MacLeman (Dianne Duncan) and family are to be spending another year in the South Seas. "Our daughters Cara and Iona" Dianne writes "are both attending Honiara International School where they are not allowed to exercise their pidgin english in the playground!" Unfortunately Dianne departs from Grantown to return to Honiara on 19th April, so will be unable to make the Reunion. Mrs. McLeod (Elizabeth MacGregor) is still in Aviemore.

Peter McNicol cannot manage to attend the Cheese and Wine but hopes to make the 1991 Dinner. Last autumn his wife and he did a comprehensive European tour, then finished up in London and New York. Peter also gave us disturbing news about Mrs. Squires (Isa Moyes), one of our oldest members. She is in hospital in Montreal after being seriously injured by a skidding car. Both her legs were broken and also an arm and a shoulder. We trust she is making a good recovery. Ian Macpherson (Junior) sent us an interesting article describing an exhibition of his art work which took place in America, in a place called McPherson in the state of Kansas, which Ian hopes to visit one day. He is also obviously proud of the academic achievements of his daughter (now in first year Law at Edinburgh). At school she did six Highers and got 5 A's and one B. - "Yes she obviously worked much harder than I did at school." admits her Dad! We are looking forward to meeting Mr. and Mrs. James Macpherson at the Reunion Cheese and Wine and hearing some tales of doings in the Croydon Scottish Society. "A glorious year for roses and chrysanthemums." writes Peter Macpherson from Burrelton. Yes, the greenhouse effect seems to be making life easier for Northern gardeners. Of his trip back home from Australia after an absence of 15 years Alan McTaggart writes - "Great to see Strathspey, and the people have changed only a little - and for the better! My apologies to those whom I did not manage to visit in the two days I was there!! Hope the '90's are good for you all." Mrs. Main (Sheila Mann) is still in Stockton-on-Tees. Unfortunately Mrs. Marshall (June Grant) and her husband were unable to come to the Reunion this year, however we are glad they intend to

be at the Dinner next year and look forward to meeting them then. Mrs. Mason (Mary Tulloch) has now sold her flat in Glasgow and is living permanently in Spain. Congratulations to John and Ethel Milne who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 16th September '89. John's grandchildren are distinguishing themselves as chess players. He writes "Granddaughter Tamsin played chess in Denmark with some success and was invited back as a guest but schoolwork must now take priority! However younger brother John has won his first chess trophy!" Mrs. Mitchell (Jan Templeton) returned her slip via her sister (Betty Grant). "With 1997 approaching and all our problems with Vietnamese refugees, Hong Kong is certainly an interesting place to be at the moment" writes Michael Moir. He goes on "We all enjoy life here however, and have no plans to leave yet." We hope and pray that the Far East may find just and peaceful solutions to all their problems. Shaw Mortimer reported to us the birth of his first grandchild in April! Iain Craig McDonald of Mill Road, Nairn. Congratulations! Edwin (Sam) Munro is "Still going strong and enjoying life despite the closing of our Elgin Indoor Bowling Stadium". He now enjoys travelling to games in other Grampian Region Stadiums - "even as far away as Arbroath!" We had a nice letter (as usual!) from former F.P. Club Secretary Jeannette Munro sympathising about the bother with the Dinner arrangements (thank you for your understanding!) and letting us know that she is facing a cataract operation in Spring. We are sure all members join in wishing you a successful outcome - and it will be an added bonus if we are able to welcome you at the Reunion afterwards.

We are pleased to be back in touch with Mrs. Napier (Lindsey Stephen). She writes "Thinking of G.G.S. I am especially sad to note Mrs. Donaldson's death - a family friend, and a very patient teacher of a chatter-box like me in Primary Class 6!" She goes on "I added an M.S.W. to my letters a couple of years ago, and seven years ago exactly, we were on our way to meet Rohan, my son, then a few weeks old. Academic life is challenging, to say the least - I think parenting still 'takes the cake' in terms of highs and lows, though. Australia seems to have become the mecca for young people to trek to of late. this year brought Janet and Lindsay's son, Peter, amongst others. I could go on and on! Greetings from OZ." Reciprocated! (Ed.) "Another daughter arrived in January to our and the grandparents delight!" writes Mrs. Newbould (Rachel Smith), "Ken now has three women demanding his attention, he and the dog are outnumbered!" Mrs. O'Connor (Dorothy Cameron) has a busy time keeping the flag flying in Canada and the U.S.A. She is Chaplain of the Seattle Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, and she was again chosen to raise the Union Jack at the Seattle Scottish Highland Games last August. She is also in great demand for Burns occasions both as singer and reciter on both sides of the border. We are pleased to publish a little nostalgic poem Dorothy has written. No doubt it will stir memories of that "sweetie shop" for other members.

"ROSIE'S"

Walking one day in the city,
I came on a candy store,
Filled with luscious chocolates,
Hard candy, and liquorice, and more.
And right away I remembered
A wee shop from my childhood days,
Where I'd climb on a rock by the window
And just stand there and gaze
At the tempting jar of bullseyes,
Coloured red, and purple, and blue,
Lucky bags, sherbet fountains,
And crunchies and bubble gum too.
And inside a patient old lady,
Known only as Rosie to us,
Watched as we picked each penny's worth,
And never made us rush.
I walked on slightly wistful,
As I thought how great it would be,
To turn back the clock and climb on that rock,
And again be just two times three.

Mrs. Paterson (Margery Macaulay) writes from Pakistan "We leave here in July, after 5 years here and 11 years abroad altogether. We hope to settle in St. Andrews, where John will take a 3 year Divinity Course. I hope to get a teaching job in the Fife area". We wish you

both success with these important future plans. Mrs. Perk (Ann Stuart) has started Social Work with Childrens Aid. Mother Marion Stuart paid her a visit in December and January last. Ron Philip's slip reached us safely in spite of being addressed to J.R. Stuart! That took us back to the days when the fishing committee contained three J.R.'s. - John Stuart, Jimmie Wright and your editor - and none of us thinks we are a bit like Larry Hagman! Ron will be in St. Andrews for the Open with brothers Raymond and Bob at the Woollen Mill. "Still working for the Bank, and still enjoying life in Cheshire in general." reports a contented John Rattray. Mrs. Ritchie (Daphne Duncan) is "Still teaching in Turriff, but looking out for something nearer home, now that Stephen has found employment with a local building company!"

Ian Ritchie's magazine order arrived in good time as usual from Saffron Walden. Mrs. Robertson (Davis Thomson) denies rumours of her canonisation, though she admits to having become a ST. This is to be interpreted as "Senior Teacher" (of English as a Second Language in Davis's case). She also confesses "I am becoming greyer by the day dealing with the ramifications of Standard Grade, both for my pupils and son Iain, now in 3rd year!!!" "I am just completing my 3rd year on the Murder Squad" writes Alex. Ross "and have just been notified of my transfer to the Complaints Investigation Bureau at Scotland Yard, (i.e. complaints against the Police). This will be the worst job I've had to do in over 25 years!!!" We sympathise - investigating and if necessary disciplining one's colleagues is difficult and stressful. Congratulations to David Ross who was made an M.R.E. prior to his retirement from the R.A.F. in September '89. He reports "I am now working as a Gardener/Handyman at a Nursing Home near Hind Head - Betty says, I am a 'Toy Boy' on a 'Granny Farm!'" Charles Ross has a new address (temporarily) at Easter Curr, as he is having a new house built in North Kessock. Meantime daughter Zoe aged 8 is attending Grantown Primary School.

Recently retired Margaret Ross (ex Broomhill) has found herself some very worthwhile voluntary work - taping reading material for the visually handicapped. "The material which I am asked to record is exceedingly varied - much of it for use by students." Mrs. Ross (Patricia MacDonald) dodged the Canadian winter last year by going to Florida. She is looking forward to another trip to Scotland before too long. "Bill Sellar's youngsters are all doing well, Sonya in her Honours Year of Psychology at Aberdeen, Barry at Rannoch School and Peter is Head of the Senior House in Merchiston Castle. "So sorry that the Biennial Dinner had to be postponed, writes Mrs. Selman (Elise Kirk). "Hope to make it next year." We hear that Mrs. Shoesmith (Dr. Elizabeth Stuart) has spent two camping holidays in Iceland in the past two years and enjoyed the solitude. We are sorry we missed seeing Mrs. Smith (Elspeth Cow) by a hair's breadth when she was home at the festive season, and through to Grantown helping her parents clear out some of the stores behind Donaldson's. However we were delighted to receive (around Burns Night) a colourful card from Singapore with good wishes for the (Chinese!) New Year. Congratulations to Mrs. Smith (Janette Macdonald) who crowned a long singing career at last year's Mod in Stornoway when she won two Gold Medals. Janette previously won the Junior Silver Medal in 1969, when the Mod was held in Aviemore. She now lives in High Wycombe with her husband and two children and is teaching Geography part-time. She wrote us a nice full account of her doings with her slip, especially her role as taxi-driver to take son and daughter to cubs, swimming, piano, youth club and ballet, swimming, gymnastics and tap dancing! As a result of her Mod success she has been invited to the Islay Celtic Festival this August and also to perform in London this spring. "But the best news of the year", she concludes, "was the return of Dad's sight after his cataract operations."

John Smith has moved from Nottingham to Wimbledon where he hopes to buy a house. He is back with GECO after a temporary absence (spent, it seems, sailing and getting paid for it - this was managed by delivering yachts, including one to Gothenburg!) He plans to visit David Wilson in New York this year and to go hill walking in Torridon.

"Still enjoying our retirement, and managing to fill our leisure time quite nicely," writes Mrs. Spalding (Isobel Gunn) with that special contentment known to the retired! Mrs. Stevens (Meta King) was inspired by Miss Mariel Grant's article (1988 issue) to list some of her memories. We have printed them under the title of "Nostalgia Corner". "I continue running household and job in tandem" reports Mrs. Storey (Barbara Smith). "My work-place (the W.Q. of Rooker-Tate) is right on the doorstep - not many people have the Chief Executive's office overlooking their dining room!" She goes on, "At New Year I am having a trip down memory lane by going back to Switzerland, where I spent a year out in the course of my languages degree." Her daughter Catriona is growing up fast and will start primary school in September 1990. She likes to sing down the phone to her grandparents - all goes well till she forgets the words!

"Pity about the Pinner," wrote Angus Stuart. "Better luck next time!" Our sentiments entirely - hope you will manage to come Angus! Mrs. Rita Stuart-Khamsi continues her work with UNESCO in Paris. "Have streamlined my garden because of advancing years," writes Iachlan Stuart, then he tells the truth - "but it is also to give me more time to play golf!" When he returned his slip in February Neil Stuart was "Just about to resume work again after 6 weeks illness." This was due to a recurrence of a condition from which he has suffered for seventeen years. We hope you enjoy better health this year Neil. "Life is busy!" writes Mrs. Sutherland (Elspit McIntosh). She goes on - "Up to my eyes in paper - Standard Grade, Work Experience, Girls into Engineering and so it goes - on and on!! Daughter Phairi is getting married on the 18th August, so this will be a busy summer. Looking forward to coming to Nethy at Easter. Met Bill Reid at my husband's P.T.A. Dance - makes me feel old!"

"No change since last year!" wrote Mrs. Vickerman (Seonaid Grant) from Bearsden. Derek Walker reports he is "Now employed by Swallow Hotels and working at Chollerford". He has rented out his Inverness house and is meantime "living in Hexham with my daughter Linzi - 7 months old - and wife Catherine - 2 years old! Both are enjoying life!" W.P.C. sister Fiona has, we hear, been transferred from Inverness to Kirkwall Police Station. Mrs. Walmsley (Ella Slater) is still in Northwood, Middlesex. We were sorry to miss Jay Ward when he called last October on his first holiday in Speyside in 21 years. He had been introducing his teenage son to the beauties of Speyside by bicycle. Mrs. Webb (Margaret Templeton) won't manage to attend the Reunion this year (she wrote from Duns) but we hope we may see her in 1991. Mrs. Weston (Sheina Donaldson) has spent a busy year travelling to and fro between Grantown and Morpeth attending to her ageing parents. Now, following her mother's death in December, and her father's move to the nearby retirement home at Riversdale, she is occupied with the disposal of "Morven".

Mrs. Wilson (Ada Inray) reports - "I am still doing some supply teaching, but also enjoying leisure time activities: Scottish Country Dancing, Flower Arranging and Ornithology. What a mixture!". But variety is the spice of life! (Ed.) Michael Wood writes - "As from April 1st of this year I was promoted to a Senior Teacher Post". Then he asks "Could the date be significant?" With the birth of his baby daughter Liza on 7th December he has also succeeded in mixing his family and providing a sister for Michael and Jamie. No doubt she will help her ex-M.P.C. Mum keep them all in order! We understand from John Smith that lawyer David Wilson is still working with Clifford Chance in New York. "I am currently working in Mintlaw, and have been here 4 months" writes Alison Wright. "I am Quality Control and Development Manager with Abacus Frozen Foods Ltd. - a very interesting but sometimes smelly job as we process mainly 'FISH'!! My brother Alan gets married in September. He works with BP in Dyce as an accountant."

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone wishing to become a member of the Clubs should send £2 (this is quite a bargain still isn't it?) for life membership to the P.I. Clubs Secretary, The Gables, Woodside Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey, PE26 3JR who will then send on the appropriate enrolment form.

LOCAL NEWS

Whatever else it may have been, the past year will certainly be remembered as the year of the T.V. The seven part B.R.C. series "The Vet." featuring a T.V. 'Natural' in the person of George Rafferty, certainly gave Strathspey some valuable exposure to a very wide audience, and this was followed by the most successful Grampian T.V. broadcast of Morning Worship from Inverallan Church which was also widely seen in fact in all the independent network regions except one. Even allowing for selective viewing by exiled Grantonians, we have been greatly surprised by the number of people who have reported seeing the broadcasts, and much gratified by the favourable reception of them. There must follow, one feels, a favourable spin-off effect on the local tourist trade.

The winds and the floods have also made their mark on the past year and the Spey Valley together with Fort Augustus, North Wales and Southern England have suffered considerably. Snow has been in fairly short supply, having often been removed quickly by sudden switches of wind direction to the south.

After 113 years Duthil School pupils have moved into their new building at Carrbridge, whose builder appropriately was a Grant, and one of our members, namely Walter Grant. There is word of the old building being put to use as a mountain training centre.

Provision for the growing number of elderly citizens has increased greatly in recent years, with Mount Barker and Riversdale, and now the former Palace Hotel (renamed "Grand View") already in operation in this field. Two of the residents of Riversdale will be well known to many of our readers - they are Mr. George Donaldson and Rev. Joseph Grant. Behind "Grand View" (i.e. the former Palace) local builders McLeods have been engaged on a one million pound Hanover housing development incorporating 28 flats and accommodation for a warden. This construction is now well advanced as we write.

Local events prospered last year, both the Show and Methy Games being very successful, and the Heritage Centre continues to arouse and satisfy interest.

Other things the returning exile might notice are: the disappearance of ironmongers McKenzie and Cruickshank after more than 60 years, the shop having been taken over by the Spar grocery; the floodlighting of the War Memorial and (at the appropriate time of year) the excellent display of Christmas lights - plans are under way also to make permanent the floodlighting of Inverallan Church.

In the future we may be seeing a Nursery School in the Black Park for 3-4 year olds and the reinstatement of the railway line between Boat of Garten and Grantown which closed in 1964.

On now to the doings of local members. Our Honorary President, Sheila Archibald, is not only active in the F.P. Clubs, she has been for many years one of the small but lively band of Baptists who have kept the church alive in Grantown, so it was appropriate that she was the one who officially welcomed their new lay Pastor Sam Smith who arrived last year. Mrs. Guthrie Booth (Netta Hunter) is one of the enthusiastic over sixties swimmers who gather weekly at the school pool for their "dook" - other "dookers" are Mrs. Marion Stuart, Vera Campbell and your editor!

Frank Calder, Harry McGregor and Ernie Oakes all have daughters who became engaged during the year. Good wishes to them all! We noted that Ernie was also flying the flag (and wagging the kilt!) for the whisky trade on a trip to the U.S.A. We see too that Graham Clark now operates an Off-Road Driving School called Highland Drivers. We wish John Duncan a speedy and complete recovery from the serious injuries he received in a car accident at Boat of Garten in February. Martin and Chrissie Grant are still active in all sorts of social activities at Durnain, but especially bowling. Elsie Keith had an eye operation in February, but is making a good recovery. The last we heard of Craig Lambie who helps in the family Weather Centre business,

was that he was off on a bee-keeping course. Hope you didn't get stung Craig! Sandy Ledingham is, we are reliably informed, among the best of the local snooker players. Jim and Ailie McKenzie make light of advancing years and turn out for Grantown Society meetings. We noted that Barry Main was following in father's footsteps not only in business but also in senior Masonic office. Sandy McCook also acceptably follows Dad in winning photographic awards. Both father and son were recently on a Church trip to India, again with lenses at the ready.

Bill and Judy Mitchell have integrated themselves into all sorts of aspects of local life since their return last year and are certainly useful and agreeable additions to the community. When Fireman George Paton retired last April after 31 years as Station Officer he was presented with a mounted fire axe to mark the occasion. James Shand is another of the fire station team, who, apart from running his painter's business, finds time to chair the local ambulance committee. Contractor David Ritchie is Chairman of Carrbridge Community Council. Curler Jock Paterson looked really downcast in a 'Strathie' photo as he surveyed the melting ice on the pond with Hamish McLeod and Nigel Grant just when they had marked out all the rinks for a bonspiel! One of these quick changes to a South win was responsible! Sheila Smith is looking forward to retirement this year. We can assure you you'll enjoy it Sheila! Keen flower arrangers Mrs. Margaret Ross and Mrs. Sheila Wilson take part in the summer flower festivals which decorate local churches and raise some funds in so doing.

MAGAZINE PAYMENTS FROM ABROAD.

Our financial advisor (Ann in the Savings Bank!) tells us that the best way for our overseas subscribers to pay for their magazine is to ask their banker to prepare a banker's foreign draft for the required amount. We are assured this method is the most convenient and the least costly in bank charges.

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* LATE NEWS EXTRA *
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Mrs. Davidson (Margaret McBeath) missed inclusion in "Outposts" as our typist/secretary/wife had already passed the "Macs", so here she is in "Late News". She still stays in Dumfries. Derek Walker is now full-time in the Swallow Hotel in Chollerford, near Hexham. He has moved into accommodation in Hexham with his wife and baby daughter. Susan Low tells us that she hopes to resume her work as a W.P.C. with Lothian and Borders Police in April. Susan has had maternity leave for the birth of her daughter Kirsty who was born last October. "I must admit I have better returns from gardening (won four out of the five cups this year at the Bulb and Craft Show) than I do at politicking!" wrote Nancy Forsyth. The editor dares to suggest that a change of party might do the trick!

Sandy Calder just missed inclusion in "Outposts" but was still in time to get a mention. He writes from Inverness "Everyone is 'as usual' and we have no real news to report." "I am sitting my diploma exam in Anatomical Pathology Technology this April" reports Andrew Duff. We wish all success to you. Richard Surtees reports that his 18 year old grandson James is now the proud owner of Richard's old car. Richard taught him to drive, and has promised to maintain the car and tax it for him! We can foresee other grandfathers being informed of Richard's generosity by hopeful grandchildren!

Bill Johnston is now the Senior Schedules Officer of Lothian Regional Transport, dealing with computerised bus schedules. His own preferred transport, we hear, is either a Land Rover - he plans to cross the Sahara in one this summer - or of course a hot air balloon. Sister Catriona (Mrs. Stewart Harvey) whose daughter Natalie is now seven is enjoying part-time work in an antiques shop in Guardbridge. Our apologies to Mrs. Napier (Lindsey Stephen) - we forgot to tell the computer about her additional M.S.M. qualification, but we promise to remedy this next year.