

# FORMER PUPILS' SECTION



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Honorary President - Mrs MARGARET ROSS M.A.

Honorary Vice-Presidents - Mr A.M. GRANT; Mrs JOHN GRANT; Miss JEANNETTE I. MUNRO;

Miss JEAN PATERSON.

President - Mr MALCOLM MACLENNAN B.Sc.

Vice-Presidents - Mr F. CALDER, Mrs S. ARCHIBALD,

Past President - Mr LEWIS GRANT M.A.

Committee :

Mr JOHN DUNCAN; Mrs A.M. GRANT;

Mr I. MACPHERSON; Mrs M. MASSON;

Mr W. MITCHELL; Mrs J. MITCHELL;

Mrs D. RITCHIE; Mr. J.R. STUART.

Sec. & Treasurer: Mr J.R. SMITH M.A.



# editorial

We cherish the pious hope that our esteemed readers may discern in our scribbles this year a new maturity...as if we had just come of age, for in fact, we are now taking up our (electronic!) pen to make a start on our 21st attempt at an Editorial! In our more realistic moments of self analysis we are more honest, and picture our readers saying to themselves: Hmm yes, he's definitely getting to be past his "sell by" date! Mais, revenons à nos moutons!

This has been quite a successful year for our clubs. Our finances are in a healthy state for a number of reasons: many of our "exile" members generously include a donation to Club funds when ordering their magazines, which is a great help in meeting our considerable postage bills, and is much appreciated by the Committee; we enjoy extremely favourable terms (and a great deal of practical help) from the School, when the magazine reaches the production stage, and this ensures that it still runs at a profit; and in the past two years we have had a most welcome boost to our finances from the Christmas Disco which has been organised on both occasions by Mrs Stephen Ritchie (Daphne Duncan) and Mrs Gordon McConachie (Alison Grant). The result of this healthy situation has been that we have been able to contribute £100 towards the provision of School Prizes and a further £100 for the purchase of books for the School Library in each of the past two years.

The Christmas Disco has had another beneficial spin-off for us in that nine new members were recruited on that occasion this year...a welcome transfusion of young blood, just when the Committee was beginning to be worried about the increasing average age of our membership! We trust that this momentum can be maintained, for our future existence as a club depends upon it.

Substantial alterations are in progress on the Cromdale Road side of the New School. These are in fact the new Entrance and Changing Rooms for the Swimming Pool which have become necessary because of the decision to allow a certain amount of public access to the Pool, when it is not in use for educational purposes. This has meant an interruption in the activities of the FP Swimming Club, which has been so ably administered for many years by its Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs Margaret Masson. Guess how many years?? Yes, it is 21 again! And we must say she wears her years of office much more winsomely than your editor does! Congratulations Margaret, and many thanks on behalf of legions of swimmers!

We are grateful to our occasional contributor J.R.A. who has produced another article which he describes as a collection of items caught in a few sweeps of "the butterfly net of my memory".

Finally, may we enlist the help of our readers in correcting any inaccuracies in our lists. If you spot anything wrong in your own entry or in that of any of your friends, please do let us know and we will be very pleased to make the necessary corrections. Updating of addresses is particularly important.

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\* BIRTHS \*  
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We are delighted to announce the following "Happy Events":

In May,  
a daughter to Mr & Mrs IAIN BEANGE, and also  
a daughter to Mr & Mrs WILLIAM CHISHOLM (JANE DUNLOP)  
In July,  
a daughter to Mr & Mrs ALASDAIR CALDER  
a son to Mr & Mrs GRAHAM GRANT  
In September,  
a daughter to Mr & Mrs HEW DALRYMPLE (JANE MORRIS)  
In November,  
a daughter to Mr & Mrs DAVID McCULLOCH (SHONA GRANT)  
In December,  
a daughter to Mr & Mrs STUART ARCHIBALD and also  
a daughter to Flt. Lieut. and Mrs ANDREW LIGGAT.  
In February 1993,  
a son to Mr & Mrs DEERE WALKER.

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\* ENGAGEMENTS and MARRIAGES \*  
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Congratulations and Best Wishes to the following on their engagement:

FIONA McCAFFERTY who is engaged to be married to Adie Adamson in Shetland in July,

and to the following on their marriage:

in July, ALISTAIR MacDONALD and Grace Koch in Adelaide.

in August, JOHN SMITH and Karen I'Anson in St Andrews.

In September, CLAIRE McCANN and Tony Alonge in London.

MIKE ANDERSON and Gillian Gorman.

in October, MARK CLARK and Marianne Plenderleith in Lanark.

## SILVER AND RUBY WEDDINGS

Congratulations also to Mr and Mrs Jim Laing (KATHERINE TEMPLETON) who celebrated their Silver Wedding in October:

and to Mr and Mrs Peter Spalding (ISOBEL GUNN) who celebrated their Ruby Wedding, also in October.

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## \* NEW RECRUITS \*

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We are very pleased to welcome to the membership the following: ---

Mrs W. Atkinson (Wendy Shand) Summerhill:

38 Springfield Ave Aberdeen. Aberdeen Journals.

Russell Ferguson Drummuor Boat of Garten:

176 Crown St Aberdeen. Hydraulics design engineer

Donna Flannery, 17 Castle Road East: P.E.

and Community Studies at Telford College.

Alistair Laing, 123 High Street, General

Agricultural Advisor with the Elgin Office of the Scottish Agriculture College. (He is shortly to set up house in Lossiemouth.)

Mr and Mrs Ian Laing (Wendy McBeath). Ian is a butcher with Jackie Farquhar, and Wendy teaches Primary at Nethybridge.

Deane Lawson, Beechend, Mossie Road.

Building trainee with W. Lawson

Helen M. Loftus (formerly Woodside Cottage, Carrbridge)

now 257 Seaside, Eastbourne, E. Sussex BN22 7NT.

Helen is doing a working training course in Business Admin. and Management with a placement at the General Hospital.

Evan MacDonald Iona, Mossie Rd. Student in

Maths and Physics at Warwick University.

Fiona Shaw, Congash: 22 Burnbank Gdns Glasgow G20 6HD.

Student (Primary Teaching) Jordanhill College

Nicola Smith Cambrae, Cromdale. Catering Assistant,

Grandview & Day release student Elgin College.

Frank Souter, Glen A'an, Ballindalloch.

Gamekeeper.

We are very glad to welcome also, just as we are about to go to press:

Mr and Mrs Iain Smith who have recently retired to Lentrane (between Inverness and Beaulieu). Please see Main List and Outposts for details.

Please note: Some of the information contained above arrived after the closing date, and after we had printed the main list. The entries will be updated in the next issue we promise! And please keep us posted about changes!

Date of publication. For the last six years we have been publishing around the beginning of April, but some members still look for a magazine at Christmastime! Just to explain: our timetable is as follows: Despatch of circulars about the end of November (to avoid the Christmas rush). Deadline for the return of slips: 15th March. Then, last fortnight of March: hectic scramble to get everything finished off, duplicated, assembled, labelled and posted as close to 1st April as we can manage!

# Obituary

## PETER McNICOL

Peter McNicol died suddenly at his home in Quebec City on 26th March 1992. He was 70 years of age and had been retired from his work in the Merchant Navy for some twelve months. His sudden passing came as a severe shock to his family and friends on both sides of the Atlantic, the more so as he had been in excellent health and had paid a visit to Grantown only about a month previously.

Peter loved travel and had many stories to tell of the places he had visited. Nevertheless he remained loyal to his roots in Scotland and to the old friends of his schooldays in Grantown, crossing the Atlantic on several occasions to be able to be present at our functions. We will remember also his many kindnesses to another "exile" Former Pupil, Mrs Squires (Isa Moyes), who has been unable to move far from the Home in Laval West where she has lived since being severely injured in a road accident.

To Peter's French-Canadian wife Lucille, to his son Ian, his daughter Fiona and his sister Margaret we send the sincerest condolences on behalf of our members. We mourn the passing of a good friend and one of our most loyal members.

## MARGARET (PEGGY) LEGGE

Peggy Legge died suddenly on 5th August 1992 at Woodberry Cottage, Speybridge, where she had for many years made her home with her lifelong friend and former teaching colleague, Mariel Grant. Peggy and Mariel retired together 25 years ago this year, after Peggy had served for 34 years in the infant department, latterly also holding the post of Deputy Head of the Primary School. Peggy was an outstanding infant teacher who gave unstintingly of her talents to ensure that the many hundreds of pupils who passed through her hands had the best possible start to their schooldays and indeed to their lives. But it was not only in the Infant Room that her influence was felt, for it was evident to any new arrival on the staff that the doughty duo from Speybridge was at the very centre of activities in the Grammar School, be it in the classroom, at School Concerts, Christmas Parties, Morning Assemblies or even in the kitchen at Glenmore Camps, they were the worthy lieutenants to two Rectors, Mr Hunter and then Dr. Bain. Both ladies maintained firm links with the School and with our Clubs in their retirement, regularly supporting many functions and lending that note of continuity which is so basic to the idea of a school.

To Peggy's niece Catherine, and to Mariel who is struggling bravely to overcome her sense of loss, we extend the sincerest sympathy on behalf of all our members.

## NICHOLAS SPENCE

Nicholas Spence was killed tragically in a horrific motor accident on the M90 while he was driving to work on the morning of 19th October 1992. He was struck head-on by a vehicle which had gone out of control and crossed the central reservation. He was 50 years of age.

Nick was in many ways a model Former Pupil. He overcame early disappointment when his original ambition to join the Navy was thwarted by his failure to pass the medical examination. Instead he became an apprentice at the Bristol aviation works, and it was there that he began to forge an extremely successful career in the aircraft and defence industries. During his entire career he kept faithfully in touch with his old school and contributed regularly to our magazine. We remember an article describing his activities at the Bristol factory, another describing the test firing of a missile, yet another with details of his work in Munich where he was involved not only with an international consortium cooperating in aircraft production, but also in education as president of the Parent/Teacher Association of the International School there. Following this he moved to Ankara, where he represented a large number of companies in the GEC/Marconi group, and it was from his base in Turkey that he returned to contribute, as one of the speakers, to the success of our 1991 Biennial Dinner.

Nick had since then been appointed to a post as Head of European Marketing for GEC/Ferranti and had only recently returned to Scotland to set up house in Abernethy (near Perth) with his wife Margaret (née MacLennan) whom he married some three years ago.

To Margaret, who has had to face this appalling tragedy which has come upon her so soon after her marriage to Nick, to Shona and Jamie, Nick's children from his previous marriage, and to his stepdaughter Catherine we send the sincerest sympathy on behalf of our members.

Nick was buried in Carrbridge Cemetery in the grave next to that of Margaret's father, the late Hugh MacLennan who will have been known to many of our members as the former policeman at Carrbridge.

We extend condolences on behalf of the Clubs to the following members who have suffered bereavement in the course of the past year:

DONALD MCGILLIVRAY who lost his wife Janet in July.

MRS CHAPMAN (ELIZABETH MacDONALD) whose mother died in October

SANDY McLURE and the other members of the family on the loss of their grandmother, Mrs Margaret Ross. She died in the local hospital in her 108th year

MRS BRAID (PAMELA GIBSON) who lost her husband in January.

GILLIES CAMPBELL who lost his mother in January also.

the McMURRAY family, RAYMOND, MAUREEN and EVELYN who lost their father in the same month.

GORDON MCGREGOR whose mother died in February. Gordon played a Scott Skinner air sensitively on his violin at the funeral of his mother in Inverallan Church. The air, entitled "Cradle Song", was written to celebrate the birth of Gordon's mother, who herself became a noted musician.

We noted with regret the death in May of REV. DAVID HOGG (formerly of the Baptist Church and also briefly of the Music Department in School)

and also in July that of REV. JAMES BOYD, (formerly of Abernethy Church) both of whom will have been well known to many of our members.

All of his former pupils will have been saddened to learn of the early death in December of FRANK SANDERS, formerly Principal Science Teacher. Frank died in the Highland Hospice after a long and courageous struggle against failing health.

We send our sympathy to his son Mark, a former Dux of the School.

Ian Macpherson drew our attention to the death of PAT GARROW MBE, a former pupil who had a distinguished career in the Forestry Commission which culminated in his tenure of the office of Chief Forester of the Rannoch estate which covers 14,000 hectares.



# LOCAL NEWS

If one is seeking confirmation of the theory that global warming is occurring, the evidence from Grantown's weather over the past year is quite difficult to interpret. The fairly frost free spring and early summer of '92 subsequently brought great results from the tatties and bedding plants, but then the summer seemed fairly average...Grantown Show got a dreich day, and Nethy Games enjoyed a good one (which lasted just long enough!) October and November seemed to have swapped roles...then, the week before Christmas, came the biggest overnight snowfall since the big storm of 1978. There was a level fall of about 18 inches which broke branches off trees, blocked roads and closed schools. The snow didn't last long however, but it was followed by a continuous spell of hard frost which gave ideal conditions for one of the biggest bonspiels ever...There were some 200 participants...of course nearly everyone was on holiday, and there was excellent ice and beautiful sunshine! We hear that the curlers are now making plans to host the Grand Match at Morlich next winter. A big undertaking with about ten times as many taking part!

We were barely into the New Year when the storms that played such a fateful part in the Shetland oil tanker shipwreck brought even worse conditions on roads all over Scotland as hundreds of motorists became trapped in the drifting snow. Shortly afterwards the Perth area was swamped by huge floods. When February came, it pretended to be March right till the end when we had more snow and frost. The only constant over the past twelve months seems to us to be more and stronger winds than we used to expect...Global warming? We reserve our judgment!

Still on an environmental tack, we have been pleased to see the success of the local bottle banks (the Grantown one is in the Burnfield car park) and we hope that the provision of collection points for drinks cans do so well. Local builders McLeods are building a central compound for them at the Grainish tip.

The walk by the Kylintra Burn downstream from the Silver Bridge has been considerably improved by drainage work, the construction of two bridges over the burn and the planting of a large number of trees on the marshy meadow adjoining the Cemetery Wood. Grant Park promises to become a very interesting and attractive amenity area once the effect of the new planting can be fully seen.

The hard times for farming and business show little sign of coming to an end and, just after New Year, came the news of the impending closure of Balmenach distillery and the Pittyvaich plant as well. These are bound to have considerable repercussions over quite a wide area.

Other talking points locally have been the hot water the RSPB got itself into for changing the colour scheme of Forest Lodge from the familiar old black and white to something more muted but less striking; the eviction order served on the present owner of Castle Grant...another twist in a tortuous tale! And on a much more constructive note, the various steps taken to commemorate the contribution to the life of the area by Karl Fuchs, the late ski-ing pioneer. A considerable sum has already been gathered towards the construction of a dry ski slope in the Glenmore area.

In the sphere of local football Grantown has enjoyed a vintage year, collecting McLean, Capaldi and Cruickshank Cups in the process, and breaking United's run of four in a row as far as the McLean Cup is concerned.

"Old-timers" among our members will no doubt have been struck by two recent developments in the school activities: rugby has reappeared on the PE curriculum, and in each of the past three years there has been a theatrical production. Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose!

As we near our publication date, School and Community have been greatly alarmed by cost cutting proposals from Highland Region which, if implemented as proposed, would have had a devastating effect on staffing levels in the Region's smaller secondary schools, leading perhaps to the closure of some departments. The general concern was expressed from many quarters, by the Rector and the School Board, by means of a public petition, by our Regional Councillor, by letters in the Press from pupils and staff and by representations to the Education Committee. We are hopeful that these efforts are beginning to bear fruit and that the situation of the smaller schools like for example Kingussie, Plockton and ourselves will receive special consideration.

On now to the doings of local members:

Both the F.P. Swimming Club and the Pensioner Swimmers took part in the national Swimfit campaign to raise funds for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The F.P.'s raised £432 and the Pensioners £328.

VERA CAMPBELL has been having quite a bit of press coverage this year. Together with her inseparable friend and former colleague Margaret Jack, they made the national press in Norway this summer because of the regular visits they have paid annually to Norwegian friends over the past 35 years. The story was of course duly reported in the "Strathie", complete with picture, but this was outdone by another "Strathie" picture of Vera, Margaret Cruickshank and Sheila Wilson, all in bathing costumes, flanked by a bevy of handsome, youngish looking men which included JOHN DUNCAN and the editor of this publication! The occasion was the charity swim by pensioner swimmers in the School Pool mentioned above. And gossip in the Gents' Changing Room has it that the ladies were hoping the picture would appear on PAGE 3!

MARGARET CRUICKSHANK is also one of a group of ladies who have taken enthusiastically to long distance walking over the past year. Their most notable exploit so far was the conquest of the 45 miles of the Speyside Way over a three day period. Other members with FP connections are Mrs May Stuart and Mrs Chris Low.

ANGUS GORDON has taken over as convener of Badenoch and Strathspey District Council on the retirement of Alistair McCook after 25 years in local government. Angus was returned unopposed at last year's election. One of his recent duties was to accept a congratulatory certificate for the success of the District's efforts in glass recycling. Do we have an above average number of empties to dispose of we wonder?

MARTIN and CHRISSIE GRANT will be missed at the Dinner this year as they are to be off to Australia to visit their son Robert who now runs two Sports Equipment shops in Sydney. We wish them "Bon voyage!"

For a long while last year in the window of the Post Office were displayed two photographs, one small and one greatly enlarged, of STEWART GRANT in the act of demolishing a banana. We always intended to ask Stewart whether these were an advertisement for the enlarging skills of Aviemore Photographic or propaganda for the reducing effect of the banana diet!

We noted in the Strathie in December the announcement of the engagement of Margaret, the daughter of Mrs George Hamilton (EVELYN MACKINTOSH) and we send our best wishes. MRS HOGG (JEAN CRUICKSHANK) is active as president of the local Senior Citizens' Association.

GORDON JACK had a long spell in hospital last year with circulation troubles in his foot, but has made a very good recovery.

CRAIG LAMBIE is part of a real family business at the Skye of Curr Heather Centre which his father and mother began to build up some 20 years ago. They are assisted also by Craig's younger brother Ian and by his grandmother. They are kept busy by some 30,000 visitors per year mainly brought to them by the coach tour operators.

GORDON MCCONACHIE has left farming to take up a post as a civil servant with the Agriculture and Fisheries Dept. of the Scottish Office based in Aberdeen. We have continued to treat him as a local member meantime, as his wife (née ALISON GRANT) and he are still in the process of house-hunting in 'Aberdeen an' twal mile roon!' This involves Granny and Granda Grant in a bit of extra baby-sitting!

JIM MCKENZIE celebrated his 87th birthday last year with a family gathering. It followed a holiday undertaken by this enterprising octogenarian on a longboat on the English canal system. He is also in his 70th year as a church choir member and regularly turns out for practice and services.

STUART MCKENZIE continues to enjoy his work with Badenoch Land Management.

After lying almost derelict for a good number of years, Lynmore (Spey Avenue) has undergone a complete and tasteful refurbishment to become the home and place of business of MR & MRS HUGH MCLEMAN (DIANNE DUNCAN). Following some years spent abroad in the Solomon Islands and later in the Turke and Caicos, where Hugh was Crown Counsel, they have now returned to Grantown, and Hugh has rejoined his former "boss" Gordon McCulloch to set up the new legal firm of McClema and McCulloch. We wish them every success.

ALISTAIR MCLEOD had a wedding in the family in November when his son Norman was married in Cheshire.



# News from the Outposts

**MRS ALLAN (MONA McLEAN)** "determined not to be late with the elip this year" was in fact one of the earliest returners. She is "happy to be still fit and well", and assures her friends that she is still in Biggar, in case they thought she had gone elsewhere!

**MRS TONY ALONGE (CLAIRE McCANN)** who was married last August, writes that she and her husband are considering a move elsewhere in the UK as they "have to follow the jobs." They have now been 5 years in London. Claire is also brushing up her French and Italian "for use in the job market."

**MRS ANDERSON (SHONA MACDOUGALL)** has moved to the Black Isle and is enjoying her new home there. Her husband and she are also looking forward to a trip "down under" in March during which they are due to become grandparents. We send all good wishes.

**MRS ANGUS (ELLA WOOD)** replied promptly to our November mailing with "every good wish for a successful evening" at our reunion in April and apologies for her inability to attend.

An immaculately hand-printed envelope brought the reply from **MRS/DR BAHZAD (CHRISTOBEL TERRIS)**. Christobel easily outstrips all competition as the neatest writer we encountered in over thirty years of marking exercise books, and it seems that the passage of the years and the pressures of medical practice have not impaired that skill! We remember feeling some pangs of conscience if we did on the odd occasion have to write something in our rather slovenly hand on one of Christobel's exercises! Although she complains about its cold winds, she continues to live in Aberdeen, but visits old friends in the U.S. twice a year.

**BRUCE BAIN** is recovering from the disc troubles which have plagued him for some time and is hoping to resume work in Central Europe. He has also decided to keep on the family home in Elgin. Like most of the rest of the continent, only more so because of their personal involvement, Bruce and family are hoping for an acceptable solution to the troubles which beset the former Yugoslavia.

**Mrs ADRIAN BANKS (LORNA STEPHEN)** was in Grantown over Christmas and New Year for her mother's move from The Larches to Woodside Court. Lorna's Mum, **MRS STEPHEN (NELLIE BYERS)** had an unfortunate fall at home in October which landed her in hospital for a spell, but she has recovered sufficiently to enable her in her new surroundings to regain the independence which she values so much. We send her every good wish. Lorna's daughters continue with their university courses: Caroline (Maritime Studies at Cardiff) is having a year's practical experience with Canada Maritime, while Madeleine is doing Business Studies at Bristol Poly, now renamed the University of the West of England.

**MRS FRANCES BEANCE** has transferred from the Lewisham Station of the "Met" to the North Yorkshire Police Force. Big brother **IAIN BEANCE** is "currently operating on the MV Exemplar between Taiwan (Newcastle) Australia and Rotterdam." His company is Newcastle-based. He also has a new address in Blyth. Please see list.

Our sympathy goes out to **MRS BRAID (PAMELA GIBSON)** whose husband died in January after a long and very trying illness. She hopes to be in Grantown for Easter, at Glenwhern with her family.

**MRS BROCKLEHURST (MARGARET/MABEL McWILLIAM)** spent a 4 week holiday on the island of Sentosa (a 10 min. ferry ride from Singapore) "and enjoyed it tremendously...the constant heat did wonders for the old arthritic bones!"

**IAIN BROWN** is now "leaving football and rugby to the younger fry and concentrating seriously on his guitar. He claims to be highly thought of by his teacher and leader and is sometimes even allowed to sing! How's that for the musical dunce of Primary 5? Eat your heart out, Chay Ross!"

**JOHN CALDER** is now working in Glasgow where his thermal insulation firm has opened a branch office. He came up to Grantown at Christmastime, and then headed even further North to Thurso to visit his sister Alison and her policeman husband Keri.

**SANDY CALDER** retired from Scottish Telecom in Inverness last year and, according to daughter Eileen, "is enjoying retirement very much". He will be kept busy as a Grandad too with the arrival of another grandchild last July. Please see Births for details.

**GILLIES CAMPBELL** describes 1992 as "an unremarkable year" and goes on to elaborate by adding, "Reports! reports! and more reports!" Yes, we knew Munn & Dunning meant a decade's work, and we felt the schools would need reasonable peace for about as long again to digest it properly, but instead...reports to the power "n"! We look forward to seeing Gillies at the Reunion.

On a snowy morning in early March there arrived from

**MRS CHAPMAN (ELIZABETH McDONALD)** "Greetings from a very warm New Plymouth!" (NZ) Elizabeth was home last August and enjoyed her visit "despite the rain"! She reckons she doesn't do anything exciting, but keeps busy with "house and (optional!) garden, Riding for the Disabled and Scottish Country Dancing. Nice stamps again. Thank you!"

**MRS CHISHOLM (JANE DUNLOP)** counts 1992 as "an eventful year" and the reason is duly reported in our "happy events" column! She feels sure that the "practical experience" of childbirth will have improved her midwifery skills and looks forward to returning to part-time nursing when little Rachel is old enough.

**Mrs ALISON CLARK** Please see "Ronaldson Family".

"Yet again a busy year," writes **DAVID CLARK**, "although we have had time to become expectant parents! Our baby is due in April and this should provide an additional incentive for our Scottish relatives to travel south!"

All good wishes...we look forward to reporting the birth! David's brother **MARK CLARK** also sent us a cheerful slip expressing satisfaction on several counts: his move to Kirriemuir a year ago, the completion of five enjoyable years with CSC Crop Protection, and above all "taking the plunge" last October and getting married to Marianne, an excise officer in Dundee. Our best wishes to you both!

**MRS COWAN (WILMA IRVING)** nearly forgot to return her slip this year till she had a timely reminder from brother John. Wilma is still in Darlington.

**MRS CRAIG (DOROTHY CALDER)** sent us an order for two magazines from her home by Glsnesk Distillery, Montrose. Our thanks for your support.

We were pleased to hear from **MRS CRICHTON (LORNA FORBES)** as we knew she was moving away from Aberdeen, and wondered if our slip had reached her. The move was initiated by her husband's promotion to a Superintendent Radiographer's post in the Cardiology Dept. at Glasgow Royal. So they are now in Lennoxton at the foot of the Campsie with an address which makes us think Lorna must sometimes feel she is back at Balmenach in the shadow of the Cromdales! They have a son and a daughter, one starting school, and one going to nursery, so Lorna hopes to be able to find a part-time job.

**MRS HEW DALRYMPLE (JANE MORRIS)** moved to her new home in East Lothian last May, but her big event of the year was the birth of her third child, Theophania in September.

**MRS DAVIDSON (MARGARET McBEATH)** was shattered at the changes she found in Grantown on her last visit..."50 years away, and I don't know anyone in Grantown now," she remarks, "and not even a slate left of the Station Cottages! But I did enjoy a visit to the Museum!"

**GEORGE DIXON** checked in (just in time!) from the Central Regional Archives in Stirling. He expresses a real historian/archivist's fury at the Edinburgh solicitors who have destroyed the only surviving estate papers relating to the founding of Newtonmore. One of the salient lessons of the Antiques Road Show seems to us that one man's treasure is another man's rubbish! And George was seeking these papers to complete his interrupted series of "Strathie" articles.

**(MARGARET DONALD)** "missed visiting Grantown this year ('92)" but hopes to remedy this in '93. Unfortunately she can't manage the Dinner, having been bidden to a wedding that day. Good luck to that celebration as well! We are grateful to his sister Sheina for an update on the doings of the family of **KEITH DONALDSON**. His three girls are at the student stage, doing Law, Optometry and Business Studies respectively.

**EDDIE DUNCAN** is still supervising buses in Fife Region but has moved from Dunfermline to a new address in East Whitburn, West Lothian.

**MRS PETER EDMUNDS-JONES (JANET DIXON)** is a tutor in Avon College of Health, Bristol, with their Paediatric Team.



## LOCAL NEWS

(CONTINUED)

MRS DONALD MAIN (ELIZABETH MCGILLIVRAY) defeated both SNP and Labour opposition to retain her seat in the District Council election last May with a healthy majority.

ERNIE OAKES is still employed at Balmenach meantime overseeing the business of closing the distillery down, after which he is to take early retirement this summer. It is good to learn that the company has been responsible in its treatment of the workforce, offering early retirement to older employees throughout the area and jobs in other plants to the younger ones.

JOCK PATERSON has had more than his share of health problems in the past year and nearly missed the big Moy Hall Trophy bonspiel altogether, having only been discharged from hospital that morning with his leg in plaster. However he did pay a visit, albeit in a wheelchair, and had the pleasure of knowing that the family reputation for curling skill was in safe hands... son Ian was in the winning team, and 14 year old grandson David MacArthur (son of JOAN PATERSON) was the youngest curler on the ice!

SHEILA SMITH tells us that she had a trip to London and to the Frankfurt area last year. In Germany she was visiting the widow of a German prisoner of war who worked for them on the farm at Auchernack during his captivity. JOHN STUART sent us a nice PC from Cyprus where May and he went for a winter break. The weather had been a bit mixed, but they found plenty of interesting things to visit.

BILLY TEMPLETON will be having a busy year as secretary of Abernethy Golf Club in this its Centenary year. In preparation for this important event, £25,000 has been splashed out (!) on a computer operated watering system!

## H.M. Services News

CRAIG BEVERIDGE writes that he is enjoying service life both ashore and aboard the H.M.A.V. Ardennes. Ports of call in the past year have included Faslane, Uist and St.Kilda. "The 'bird' life at the latter was not quite the same as down south!" he comments. We had not realised he was such a keen ornithologist! His ship has also made two trips to Norway, and there may be a trip to the "Med" in the offing.

MAJOR JOHN CLARK reports that his Engineer Regiment (which deals with the dangerous business of Explosive Ordnance Disposal) is moving its HQ to Wimbish (Cambs.) this year and at the same time (unlike the rest of the Army) is doubling in size under the "Options for Change" scheme. "The work load will now vastly increase, and golf will take a back seat for a while!" he reflects ruefully.

ARCHIE LIGGAT, now promoted to Squadron Leader, had a busy year as display pilot for the Phantom in its last year of service. We hear that he was greeted with champagne when he landed at Leuchars after the last public appearance of the Phantom. Subsequently however, as he watched his aircraft being taken off to the breakers, he says he felt more than a little like a cowboy who had been forced to shoot his horse! Following his promotion, he is now in charge of a training squadron flying Hawks (the aircraft used by the Red Arrows aerobatic team) and he is occasionally seen over Grantown, wagging his wings as he flies down Mossie Road.

We enjoyed watching his wee daughter Catriona taking a keen interest in the proceedings at the Christmas Day service for children in Inverallan.

Flt. Lieut. ANDREW LIGGAT who serves in the RAF Regiment, seems bent on avoiding the joys and duties of parenthood as, since the birth of his daughter, he seems to be spending all his time marching his men up to the top of hills and persuading them to slide down again, or visiting exotic (?) islands like the Outer Hebrides or the Falklands. However we hear he does hope to present Beth Amelia Irene to the assembled family before we go to print!

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dance, then set off for home, Chad and Margaret in the front with me, and, I think, Bobby in the back. I promptly fell asleep, to be wakened and told we were approaching Grantown... but it turned out to be Dufftown! and this at 4am on the Sunday morning!

Shakespeare tells us that "old men forget", but who could forget those eventful days?

J. R. A.

## SCHOOLDAYS

### IN THE INTER-WAR YEARS

#### MEMORIES GRAVE AND GAY.

**MY FIRST DAY AT GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.** I was aged eight when I transferred from Dulnain to Grantown School, and only the day before school opened, a bicycle was bought for me at "Shaw's" (later "Boyd's") at the top end of the High Street. It was ridden home to Dulnain by my elder sister, and I had then to learn to ride it by the following day. All went well on my first trip until I reached the steep brae at the bottom of the High Street. I had almost reached the top when, distracted by a crowd of boys at the end of a close, I fell off! The jeers of the onlookers were quickly stilled by the arrival of a "knight errant", the biggest boy in the group - Willie Laing, who came to my rescue, picked up my bike, and walked with me up the hill. Dear Willie - many years later, when he was the farmer of Gaich, he would often chat to the nannie who took my younger sister out in her pram. They married... and Jean and he lived happily ever after.

**A TRAGIC ACCIDENT.** The spot where I fell off my bicycle was the scene only two or three years later of a fatal accident, when the little girl Ledingham was knocked down and killed by a car. Was this, I wonder, Grantown's first road accident fatality?

**THE DANGEROUS SPEY.** Another tragedy involved the Silver boys, three brothers who lived with their parents at Broom Cottage, opposite Craggan Mill. One very warm summer day the three boys went down to the Spey to bathe, and only one returned. Nowhere on the Spey is safe for bathing.

**ANOTHER KNIGHT ERRANT.** In my early days at Dulnain Bridge School I was fortunate to find another rescuer when, in the playground, I became entangled in some barbed wire. This brought about a large and embarrassing tear in the seat of my trousers! I remember standing in confusion with my back to the wall, suffering the guffaws of my classmates, till Chad Ross appeared and took me in to Miss Cameron, who did a running repair with safety pins!

**OF TEACHERS AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES.** In Grantown we were blessed with sympathetic teachers, under the Rector Mr. MacLennan - Miss Lawson, dear old Miss MacGregor and Miss Campbell - then on to the Higher Grade. Here, for most boys, the centre of the universe was a newcomer, Bob Wilson. Arriving about 1928, he transformed the sporting life of the school. We suddenly found to our delight, not only football being organized, but also new games - rugby and cricket - and the necessary equipment provided. Athletics too blossomed for the first time, and to encourage competition, the House system was initiated and the Old Guard Club set up. Isabel Grant of Ballinluig was the outstanding athlete of my time... thank goodness I never had to race against her!

**CONTEMPORARIES.** Grizel Dean of Advie, Ella Wood and Jack Cooke of Cromdale, Ian Forbes of Connage - and two who sadly were early casualties of the war... quiet, modest and industrious Harry Fraser of Nethybridge and John Laing. Edwin Munro figures on the Dux Board, and though John Milne, Jimmie McLeod and Jock Paterson do not, all three have done their teachers proud in later life. I remember how Jimmie was unlucky enough to lose a finger in a crash while sledging on the 14th fairway, and it was about that time that his father (or was it Jock's father? The memory plays tricks!) became "world famous" as far as we boys were concerned by skipping the Royal Carsebreck Bonspiel Team.

**PERSEVERANCE IN ADVERSE WEATHER - A GGS TRADITION!** No matter how severe the weather, we could never leave school before 4pm. With very heavy snowfalls we were occasionally forced to leave our bicycles at the old LMS station and walk home to Dulnain along the railway line. The bus service did not appear till I was about 12. Yet on the only two occasions when I figured on the prize list, it was for... "perfect attendance"!

**PLAYING FOR DULNAIN TEAMS.** I confess I found football much more interesting than Science or Latin! At one time the GGS team had six boys from Dulnain: two Mackintosh cousins, two Ross brothers, Donnie Fraser and myself, so it follows that at that time Dulnain had the best boys team in the Strath. A later memory is of a MacNiven Cup final at Tomintoul after which we attended the village

(Concluded at foot of left hand column.)



CLIVE ELRICK has moved out of Elgin to "the sticks" as he terms Orton, "hopefully to prevent a nervous breakdown due to the stresses of being a driving instructor!" He has also taken to coming to Grantown to play golf. Probably not as therapy we think, as he apologises in advance for any stray balls which may hit the School!

MRS EWEN (BETTY ROBERTSON) admits to having arthritis problems, which she describes as "the sore back syndrome of older nurses". She misses seeing her grandchildren who live in London, a situation we are also familiar with, but it is something of a consolation to think that some of our members have to cross half the world to see their nearest and dearest. Betty still maintains her interest in the work of S.S.A.F.A.

MRS FARQUHAR (AMANDA MUNRO) is still working as Practice Nurse at the Oldmeldrum Medical Centre and is "grateful to have a job that is both rewarding and enjoyable," but her big news item is that she will be going on maternity leave at the end of May. Daughter Siobhan who starts school in August is looking forward to being a big sister around that time. We send all good wishes to you all.

MRS FEARNLEY (MAUREEM MACAULAY) reports that "one nestling has flown the nest...but there are still two to go!" For her own part, she is still supply teaching, doing a six month maternity leave vacancy in Nursery, "and really enjoying it." She is looking forward particularly to the Reunion and seeing "old classmate Neil and 'little' bridesmaid Janette."

Mr & Mrs TOM FERGUSON (PAMELA MACDONALD) are still living in Currie, Midlothian. Tom is Operation Services Manager with Lothian Health Board and Pamela an Administrative Assistant at the Esms Fairburn Research Centre at Heriot Watt University.

GEORGE FINDLAY in Sydney had a visit from his parents during the festive season, and we understand, on very good authority, (his Mum!) that he intends to be home for next Christmas.

MRS W. FORSYTH (NANCY GRAY) writes as an enthusiastic Granny with printer's ink in her veins! She has just had her first short story published, and has now completed the manuscript of the story of her first 21 years (including her Grantown days), AND her grandson Malcolm came 4th in Scotland in a poetry contest with a poem now published in a national anthology! We wait with interest the story of her next 40 years which she says is even more exciting than the first 21!

MRS FRASER (ELSPETH MITCHELL) called on us one day towards the end of February when she had been down to Grantown again to help with her mother's return to her own place. Mrs Mitchell senior had been seriously ill and in hospital both locally and in Raigmore but has made a good recovery and is determined to retain her independence (with support from the family!)

ROBIN FRASER describes 1992 as "eventful" with the arrival of grandchild No.3, and an operation for a hiatus hernia on himself in September... "almost fully recovered," he reports. Just before his op he spent a holiday in Rothiemurchus and "enjoyed visiting old haunts in the area."

SHONA FRASER continues her nursing career at Ninewells in Dundee.

MRS GLASSE (PAMELA MAIN) is enjoying life in Suffolk, bringing up her two youngsters, Jamie and Hannah. In keeping with family tradition, she has taken up upholstery which she has been doing at night school.

MRS GORDON (ANN PATON) has still kept silent about why the street she lives in is called Glamourhaugh Ave. We doubt we may yet have to enlist the aid of Huntly

Councillor Jimmie Cullen (Yes indeed, he of the Airborne beret, who left GGS to become head of PE at the Gordon Schools in Huntly) to solve this problem!

Congratulations to industrial chemist JAMES GORDON who has had his post upgraded together with a move to Lever Development. This means that his stay in Holland will last another 2-3 years.

James's sister MAIRI GORDON is still working as a medical secretary at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.

DENISE GRANT tells us she has almost completed her sixth year as a WPC with Tayside Police in Dundee. Doesn't time fly when you are enjoying yourself? Judging from the chirpiness of our WPC members, a policeWOMAN'S lot seems to be quite a happy one!

FIONA and SHELAGH GRANT are both still in Edinburgh, but recently enjoyed a weekend trip to Paris...we quote: "hopefully the first of many this year." We gather that

Mum has been dropping hints that it would be nice to be included!

GRAHAM GRANT is on cloud nine about the birth of Christopher Graham last July...mind you a boy weighing in at 9lb 2oz is certainly worth celebrating, even though Graham admits he doesn't inherit his stature from his dapper little Dad! (Editor's choice of adjectives!). Graham says the recession is still biting in Invergordon, but there are 18 cruise liners booked in to call this year, so that should certainly help.

MRS LEWIS GRANT (SARAH MACDONALD) had a wedding in the family last May when her son was married in Alvie Church to Sara Jane Trumper from Ontario.

MRS GREENWOOD (MARY WINCHESTER) is still in Todmorden, Lancs but had no news of note.

MRS W.J. GREIG (MARGARET GRANT) reports from St Andrews that her husband had a successful year at local flower shows, winning several cups, after which they set off for a coast to coast American trip due to be followed by winter visits to Malta and Cyprus. Who looks after the plants we wonder? It's always a problem in our house! Our thanks to DONALD GUNN who, from Dingwall, sends greetings to all and good wishes for the success of the Dinner.

ALBERT HASTINGS is still running "The Gift Shop" in Nairn.

IAN HERD has a new address in Auckland, New Zealand, in a district called Balmoral! Please see list for details.

Anxious MumMRS HIGGINS (PAM MACPHERSON) writes: "I am writing this in bright sunshine (dated 27th Feb), but I see from the forecast that blizzards are sweeping across the Grampian area, and yet again I am attempting to dissuade my climbing-mad student son from renewing his affinity with the Cairngorms until early summer. No doubt Grandad (Peter MacPherson) will be on the phone to echo my sentiments...his words carry much more weight than mine, as much of his youth was spent getting to know these mountains." And no doubt his nearest and dearest were equally anxious!

MRS HOBBS (GILLIAN HENDERSON) has returned to her physiotherapy work (part-time) after the birth of her son Hamish in January 1992. His birth coincided with the heaviest rainfall ever recorded in 24 hours in the Perth (Australia) area! We are not quite sure what that might be an omen for...maybe a career in duck farming!

ANDREW and DUNCAN HOWLETT checked in from their usual addresses but had no news of note to report.

Mrs JOHN HUNTER (FIONA HENDERSON) writes that she gave up her social work post in February 1992 to be able to spend more time with the children, but she now finds that she is working just as hard (on a voluntary basis) trying to set up a Children's Hospice in Scotland. More power to your elbow! (Ed.)

We were delighted to find among the earliest slips to be returned one from TOM HUNTER as we knew from his sister Netta (Mrs Guthrie Booth) that he had been seriously ill and was making a slow recovery. We were even more pleased to learn that he hopes to be able to attend the Reunion. You can be assured of an enthusiastic welcome from all your Grantown friends, Tom, so do take care!

EDWARD ILLINGWORTH writes that he has just returned from a visit to his brother Marr in America. He found Marr extremely fit and well after the serious operation he underwent last year, and looking forward to a visit home next summer.

GEORGE ILLINGWORTH returned his slip on the eve of his departure for a four week sojourn in California with his wife Elaine and David and Isobel Ross...so they will be back just in time to be ready for the Dinner! George writes "Thought my winning days at golf were over, but managed to win the R. & A. Monthly Medal Finals at St. Andrews last year." Congratulations! George also reports having seen a very rare bittern at Leighton Moss RSPB reserve. Did it boom for you we wonder? Our Moral Phil. prof. at Aberdeen, talking about theories of perception, was wont to ask: "But how do we know it was a bittern?" then the triumphant response: "Because it booms!"

Aforementioned MARR ILLINGWORTH has had a new house built

in North Carolina to which he moved just before Edward's visit in October. Both enjoyed the "breathtaking views of the Smoky Mountains with all the trees changing colour." Marr keeps in touch with Alice King and her husband Bill and passes on good wishes to all from them.

ARTHUR INNES has a new address, having moved from Edinburgh to Torrance, Glasgow. Please see list.



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**MRS JESSIE MACKENZIE** mislaid her slip but sent us a nice card to order her mag. A former Homecraft teacher, she is now retired in Aberlour.

**DR SANDY MACKENZIE** has many social commitments to cope with besides his work for the Department of Health. He is currently serving as president of the Aberdeen University Alumni Association and has also been elected to the Business Committee of the University's General Council... and he has duties with the Rotary Club as well! Obviously a busy man! Unfortunately for us it means he



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We have a new address for **GRAHAME MACKENZIE** who is still with the Registers of Scotland in Edinburgh.

Grahame's brother **JOHN** is to sit his professional exams later this year. He is with Chartered Surveyors, Bell Ingram, and has been dealing with compensation claims for farmers affected by cross country pipelines, pylons etc. We wish you every success.

**MRS JESSIE MACKENZIE** mislaid her slip but sent us a nice card to order her mag. A former Homecraft teacher, she is now retired in Aberlour.

**DR SANDY MACKENZIE** has many social commitments to cope with besides his work for the Department of Health. He is currently serving as president of the Aberdeen University Alumni Association and has also been elected to the Business Committee of the University's General Council... and he has duties with the Rotary Club as well! Obviously a busy man! Unfortunately for us it means he



has to send his apologies for the Dinner. Better luck next time, we hope! We look forward to hearing the hilarious (Sandy's adjective) tale of how he escorted Michael Bentine to the loo at a Rotary function!

KEITH MACKERRON paid a visit to his sister Connie (now resident in Florida) in January. "We reminisced happily about our days at GGS (1936-40)," he writes, "and Connie sends her regards to all her old friends." We hear from another source that Keith's family arranged a marvellous celebration in Duffus Village Hall for his 70th birthday. It was on the lines of "This is your life" with an unsuspecting Keith walking into a darkened Hall!

BERT MACKINTOSH was interested to receive from Moira Hughes, the sister of Edward Reid, (late of Heathfield) a 1930 picture of a school choir... "there I was with John Milne and Mr Hunter beside me, and only three other boys, but 21 girls!" Bert used to see Ian Reid (now sadly no longer with us) frequently even after the family moved south. Bert sends his apologies that he is unable to attend the Dinner.

Former Science Teacher MRS EDITH MACKINTOSH replied to our mailing on her own behalf and that of her daughter Marjory with whom she makes her home in Helensburgh. "Mrs Mac" was saddened by the loss last year of her sister Beth with whom she often went on trips. Indeed they enjoyed a visit to Grantown together last May. We offer our condolences.

EVAN MACKINTOSH has now retired from his surveying partnership and appears to be concentrating on gardening and painting, the artistic variety... in oils too! He has also been compiling a record of the work done in Strathspey by his builder father Donald Mackintosh. "Golden wedding looms in June" is his final remark... we wonder if he checked that choice of verb with the other member of that partnership! Our congratulations to both.

ISOBEL MACLEAN is still kept busy at the Stakis Grosvenor in Glasgow which is being completely refurbished in the off-season. She also has a new private address. Please see list.

MRS JOHN McLURE (HELEN GORDON) had no change to report from Bewdley Worces.

IAN MACPHERSON (Jnr) reports that he is "continuing as a struggling artist". Recent reports about Rosyth would seem to confirm that he was wise nevertheless to sever his connection with the M.U.D. We wish you all possible success.

PETER MACPHERSON says "Thank goodness for North Sea gas" as he has just suffered in Burrelton "a real Grantown snowstorm" of the kind ex-Provost McGregor used to say "cam' oot o' Achosnich!" No schools, no buses, no electricity, no post! Roads to Perth, Dundee and the ski centres blocked, and a snowman ten feet tall in the schoolhouse garden! If it is any consolation, Peter, it was nearly as bad as that in Grantown and GGS had two days off and one 3 o'clock closing during the two storms of December and January!

ALAN McTAGGART paid us a call in the course of his 1992 "perambulations" round the world. Ports of call included Ohio, Hampshire, Edinburgh, the Isle of Mull and of course Grantown. "Now a double grandfather and enjoying every minute of it," he reports.

We owe to the sharp eyes of our editorial aide Jean Paterson our attention being drawn to a photo of Lossiemouth based FLORA MARSHALL which appeared in the Northern Scot. Flora had been lucky in winning a prize in a draw connected with the Grampian "Healthwatch" scheme.

MRS MEEHAN (LESLEY CRAIB) says she is enjoying immensely dealing with the beginners in last year's P 1 at Rosebank Primary in Nairn whom she has now taken on into P 2. She has also developed an interest in rugby, finding herself to be the wife of the captain of the 1st team of the Kinloss club. One wonders whether dealing with scrums in the infant room has any useful lessons for those involved on the rugby field?? Incidentally rugby has taken root again at GGS after a gap of many years.

JOHN MILNE's apology for absence from the Dinner is neatly couched in verse thus:

"April's Dinner's a no-go for me,  
Though old friends I'd be happy to see.  
It's the weight of each year  
On the eyelids, I fear.  
I'm asleep half an hour after tea!"

The eyelids may be heavy, but we are sure our readers will agree the touch is still delightfully light!

MRS MITCHELL (JAN TEMPLETON) reports having spent a Christmas "en famille" at nearby Muchrach Castle. It brought back, she says, happy memories of former family Christmas parties at Castle Grant with her three brothers and two sisters.

MIKE MOIR sounds a welcome optimistic note from Hong Kong where he says "we continue to enjoy life and are confident of the future despite the most recent turbulence which has followed our new Governor, Chris Patten. Mike's family are growing up, daughter Nicky is 13 and at Fettes, where she is to be joined by brother Stewart (11) in September. Mike has had "several fascinating journeys into China" including one to Shanghai. He enjoyed also meeting Derek McCulloch and David Grant at the Rugby Sevens last April. He hopes to visit Grantown this summer.

SHAW MORTIMER had no news from Lockerbie.

Congratulations to ANNE MUNRO who has added an M.B.A. to her other business qualifications and graduated from Edinburgh University after completing the course at evening classes over two and a half years. She works as a business analyst with Scottish Provident in Edinburgh.

EDWIN MUNRO has given up his car and has the justified complaint that the bus he needs from Elgin to Grantown to call on his pals goes to Tomintoul first! Then one has to hope for a connection to Grantown! Ed says he spends most of his time playing bowls, "so I keep young and healthy!"

JEANNETTE MUNRO reported on a "mini-reunion" with Grace and Elise Kirk (Mrs Selman) last September. "Splendid to see Elise looking so well after her heart by-pass surgery last April," she added.

MRS ANDREW MURRAY (MAUREEN McMURRAY) still manages to do some locum pharmacy in the Dundee area as well as looking after her two boys Scott (7) and Fraser (2). Congratulations to swimmer Scott who won a bronze medal for backstroke at Dundee Swimming Club in November.

MRS BRIAN MURRAY (ANN STEWART) reports that she is having "a year in the Nursery in Inverkeithing" and goes on... "a rest from the Primary School?" We feel that that question mark is perhaps more than just punctuation! Ann is looking forward to a family gathering in Laggan in July when her nephew Robert is to be married.

MRS NAPIER (LINDSEY STEPHEN) paid us a very welcome visit last June when she was home from New South Wales in the course of a sabbatical year. Her slip this year arrived on a fairly mild day at the end of January... Grantown temperature about 5 deg.C. and in NSW Lindsey had been completing her slip at 35 deg. "Vive la différence!" added Lindsey approvingly in spite of the humidity!

MRS NEWBOULD (RACHEL SMITH) reckons she is "starting to integrate into the community" in Burton Le Coggles where she has been since a year past Christmas. She is already secretary of the local playgroup and a member of the village hall committee and in this hall she is running a keep fit class! "Starting to integrate"... we think you are in up to your oxters, lassie!

MRS OLLASON (MARGARET GRANT) sent us her new address in Keshden, Northants. She retired from nursing in 1955 and has an extensive family: 3 sons 2 daughters 12 grandchildren and one great-grandson. What a lot of birthdays to remember! She would love to hear from any of her classmates... so please don't let her down!

BEATRICE OLIPHANT is still active as a district nurse in Sutherland. Her parents are now comfortably established in Mossie Rd. just beside Inverallan Kirk.

MRS ORANDER (MARY CRUIKSHANK) sent us quite a bulletin of family news this year, the highlight being the arrival of a grandson. The Dad is Peter, Mary's younger son who is a lawyer like his father before him. Mary's elder son Ian is a journalist and lives on the South island with his wife and two youngsters, so Mary has to drive via Stockholm to visit them. It seems that this year winter came early in Sweden as well, as Mary was already thinking in November that they might be able to ski without going to the hills.

MRS ORFORD (ISOBEL CALDER) is feeling quite at home since moving to Fergus, Ontario which she describes as "a little piece of Scotland, settled many years ago, where old Scottish traditions are still upheld." It will have come as no surprise to her that she was soaked to the skin during their Highland Games, and that she has had to keep up a Grantown standard of proficiency with the snow shovel!



**MRS PETER PERK (ANN STUART)** had a visit from her Mum **MARION PATERSON** early this year. Marion paid us a call just before she set off to fly out (Glasgow to Toronto) or a stay of a month.

**MR RON PHILIP** must have had a whale of a time celebrating the Quincentennial (of the arrival of Columbus last year) as he gives that as an excuse for having no other news this year!

**MRS RAE (MONA GRANT)** is back at college in Inverness. Having completed the HNC in Information and Office Management, she is now tackling the corresponding HND, "so" she reports, "life is still pretty busy!" Nevertheless she manages to keep an eye on Mum's doings at Ballintua most weekends. Mum is hoping for a hip replacement op before too long so that she can begin "racing about" again!

"Two months of wonderful nostalgia" is how **MRS MYLES RITSON (MINA KEITH)** describes the trip to the UK she made with her husband last autumn. They visited friends and relations in various cities between Inverness and Portsmouth and experienced "a hurried evacuation from London's Oxford Street, courtesy of the I.R.A.! The final two weeks were spent in Grantown with Mina's sister Elsie and it was during this time we met them for the first time when we were invited down to Jean Pat's for a most enjoyable "bit crack". Mina was struck by many things: how many old acquaintances were showing the typical signs of being "senior citizens" (whiter on top and broader round the middle!), the convenience of the new bridges seen on "a wonderful jaunt to Dornoch with Jessie Ronaldson", the Chinese geese Margaret Barry (Gordon) showed them at Upper Delliefure, and... finding her own picture in the Grantown Museum, taken (i.e. the picture!) at the old police station.

**MRS BRIAN ROBERTSON (NICOLA BANS)** confesses that she is still smiling at her dentist (who has a special interest in preserving her smile). She married him in October 1991!

Another **MRS ROBERTSON (DAVID THOMSON)** reports that she is "still working away with bilingual learners from all over the globe". Her son Iain, having survived the trials of SCE exams, has joined the Bank of Scotland "and is now supporting his old mother and father." That's the best teacher's hard-luck story we have heard for a while!

We missed receiving our usual comprehensive résumé of the doings of the **RONALDSON FAMILY** from Alison (Mrs. Fred Clark) last year, but to make up, this time she sent us the 92 and 93 slips together(!) plus a most interesting letter full of items which we can use. Many thanks! So here goes: Alison and Fred enjoyed a weekend at Hopeman last year on the occasion of Keith McKerron's 70th birthday celebration, although Fred has to take things easy after a heart attack last May. Thus they are as yet unsure about the Dinner. We will be delighted if you can make it. Alison was amused at the confusion wreaked among the Invernessians on their housing estate by that 15 inch level fall of snow in January. With a scorn born of years of Grantown training she exclaims: "People either didn't have a shovel or didn't know how to use one. They just drove into the snow and stuck! Son Graeme is nearing his 22nd birthday and has an interesting and varied job installing and maintaining boilers and electrical work all over the north. And we remember tickling him under the chin in the vestry after his christening! Alison has "joined the family retirement brigade" by giving up her voluntary job as WRVS Projects Organiser at Raigmore, but is still willing to visit any Grantown folk in the hospital. **JESSIE** keeps busy with Church work, WRVS, WRI and Indoor Bowls. She recently met lots of old friends at a match at Dulnain. Both Jessie and Alison greatly enjoyed their meeting with Mina and Myles Ritson and recalling days of ledgers and pen and ink in the Savings Bank and the Town Clerk's office! **MICHAEL** is of course also heavily engaged with Church work as Session Clerk of Inverness Trinity.

Very glad to learn that his granddaughter who had to have a heart operation at ten months is now fit and at school, and that he now has a grandson born last December.

**ALEX ROSS** writes: "With Kenneth Clarke about to reorganise the Police AGAIN, I'm counting the months until Sept 1994! Meanwhile I'm still investigating complaints against the Police... and retirement with a full time working wife looks very appealing! Might be a good idea to enrol him for a course in cookery and housework Dorothy!

We are reliably informed that an addition is expected in

the family of **CHARLES ROSS** and his wife Jackie, but please don't hasten to our Births column... the addition is a Welsh Mountain pony for daughter Zoë! We note that Jackie has recently successfully completed her nursing course and we offer our congratulations..

We had a nice nostalgic chat with **DAVID ROSS** about our early days in Grantown when he called one day in February to pick up Dinner tickets. David and Isobel Ross were our nextdoor neighbours during our first year in Grantown when we lived in 47 High St., and of course David and Isobel were hotel keeping in the Ben Mhor. They are still "in the trade" in Forres, but nowadays restrict their activities to B & B.

David and Isobel's son **DONALD ROSS** is carrying on the family tradition of hotel keeping in the Sunninghill Hotel in Elgin where he has been busy recently extending and refurbishing his premises.

**MARGARET ROSS** and her sister have been reliving childhood days at Broomhill Station in the 30's and wartime 40's in order to produce an article for the "Strathspey News", the Journal of the local steam railway. Doesn't the age of steam have an unfading romantic fascination? Most people seem to hanker for those engines which had so much character and in which power seemed to be purposefully, peacefully and yet safely under the control of man.

**WALTER ROSS** expresses satisfaction with his "retirement" job as Chief Officer of the Royal Parks Constabulary.

From Benff **MRS JAMES SCOTT (ALISON STUART)** reported with extreme brevity on the arrival or impending arrival of grandchildren nos. 4, 5 & 6. "Can't stop now," she apologises, "Must keep on knitting!"

**DR. BILL SELLAR** announced his retirement from the N.H.S. w.e.f. January this year. We send all good wishes. May it be long and happy! His daughter Sonja has joined the working world as a psychologist, and twins Barry and Peter are still studying, respectively, Business in Aberdeen, and German Law at Regensburg University. Please make sure Peter learns to sing "Als wir Jüngst in Regensburg waren..." with appropriate movements!

**MRS SELMAN (ELISE KIRK)** sent us a lovely cheerful slip which we are glad to quote verbatim: "Recovery from Coronary By-pass surgery was greatly assisted by a holiday in Nethybridge last September with husband Geoffrey and sister Grace. It was a delight to revisit Loch-an-Eilan, Loch Morlich and Loch Garten... and Glen Beg (scene of many happy Guide hikes in the 1930's where we always did some country dancing on the bridge!) Reunions with Betty and John Grant and Jeannette Munro were much enjoyed, and it was fun to be neighbours for a short while with Billy and Rita Templeton."

**Mrs JORGE SEQUIRA (RITA STUART)** is still in Bangkok working for UNESCO. Recent visitors to Rita have been John Smith (Auchernack) who was en route to Australia, and Rita's sister Elizabeth and her husband, who flew out for a fortnight.

**MRS D. SMITH (SUSAN MCGILLIVRAY)** formerly of East Croftmore, now lives in Milltimber, just outside Aberdeen.

**MR & MRS IAIN SMITH (JOAN FRASER)** are our most recent recruits and we look forward to meeting them at the Dinner in April. Iain served for some 30 years with the Metropolitan Police, and Joan describes herself as a "refugee from Education Reforms" having been a head teacher in Enfield Middx. They have bought a croft near Beaulieu and have settled in with a few sheep, a pony and a dog. "Life," they say, "is bliss!" One of the pleasures of this more leisurely lifestyle is meeting old friends at that Mecca for shoppers, the "CO-OPie" at Inshes!

**MRS IAN SMITH (JANETTE MACDONALD)** has been doing a little supply teaching in the Northampton area since her move there last year. As regards her own family, she is finding that there are educational problems with zones and catchment areas and so-called two- and three-tiered schools. We trust that a satisfactory solution will emerge. We look forward to seeing and hearing her at the Dinner... and YES, she has promised to sing for us too!

**JOHN SMITH (ex-Burnfield)** whose marriage is already reported in the matrimonial column, tells us that he played golf with his future father-in-law on the St. Andrews Old Course on the eve of his wedding, and then, on the wedding morning, he played on the New Course with his best man and future brothers-in-law. He doesn't mention however what effect the unusual circumstances had on his game! He does however forecast a return to Scotland in May when he will be joining Concept Systems,



a small software company in Edinburgh as Business Development Manager. The company deals with computer systems for seismic vessels.

We missed seeing **MRS SPALDING (ISOBEL GUNN)** when she called on us in February and left payment for her Dinner tickets, but fortunately Sheila Archibald was able to supply! Isobel and Peter had the wedding of their son Neil last June plus an important occasion of their own. Please see editorial page!

We were delighted to hear again from our veteran supporter in Laval West, Canada **MRS SQUIRES (ISA MOYES)**. Now over 91 and almost unable to see, she still manages to fill in her slip and to write an interesting letter, although she is unable to read because of Glaucoma. She tells us that Ian Macpherson got over this difficulty by sending a taped message. Well done Ian! What a good idea! Isa also mentions hearing from Lucille McNicol and from John Stuart.

**MRS STEVENS (META KING)** sends best wishes to the Mag as she basks (in Cullen) in the glow of a Moray Firth sunset feeling that "at our stage we should be pleased to have nothing to report!" But that is seditious talk to an editor who much prefers to choose the titbits from a well-filled slip rather than to have to try to make something out of nothing!

**MRS STOREY (BARBARA SMITH)** writes: "My job with Booker Tate was changed slightly last year making me more involved with admin for our overseas staff, and in order to give me first hand experience of expatriate life, the firm kindly despatched me on a familiarisation trip to our sugar estates in Kenya and Uganda... certainly the highlight of my year, and much envied by the rest of the family!" All right, we do confess to a fair tinge of greenness! (Ed.)

In East Grinstead **ANGUS STUART** is "seriously thinking about the reunion in April", but is deterred by the thought that it is "a long, long journey". Courage, mon brave! We'd love to see you!

**JOHN STUART** has a new address in Cupar and a new job as well. He is now with GTC Gas Turbines in Dundee as Technical Administrator dealing with the repair of Tornado engines. We look forward to seeing him at the reunion when he comes to support his "wee brother" who is to be one of the speakers.

From his home in Portgordon **LACHLAN STUART** sent "greetings and good wishes to all who may remember me".

That was what Lachlan wrote on his slip, but not long before we went to press he paid us a visit in person accompanied by a cousin of ours who had known him professionally in Banffshire, when their respective police and social work paths sometimes crossed. We always enjoy meeting members with whom we have corresponded for years and the more so when they are as charming and gentlemanly as Lachlan. Unfortunately he is troubled with failing eyesight, but his memory and love for the old days in Grantown are undiminished. Haste ye back!

In John Stuart's entry the "wee brother" referred to is of course Examination Officer **NEIL STUART** who warns all members to be wary of allowing their relatives to serve on FP Committees as it may lead to their being asked to play a leading role in Club functions. Honest.... Judy and Bill had nothing to do with it! We believe the secretary is generously pardoned for occasional mistakes.... and even white lies!

**ALISTAIR SURTEES** made use of his Grantown agent (Margaret Ross!) to order his magazine this year, but did also promise to pay a visit to Grantown in summer. We look forward to seeing you.

**MRS SUTHERLAND (ELSPIT McINTOSH)** announces the birth of a granddaughter and thinks "being a grandparent combined with retirement is the best thing since sliced bread!" She goes on: "Fortunately they live not too far away, so we can indulge ourselves!" Elspit is planning a break at Nethy at Easter.

We send a friendly greeting to **JAMES TEMPLETON** who "doesn't go far afield now, but still enjoys visits from his family and friends".

**MRS VICKERMAN (SEONAIID GRANT)** says she "can't wait" to take up residence in her new Grantown home (Braehead, Woodside Ave.) She tells us too that her daughter Jill "has chosen to be married in Grantown in June." We trust the sun will shine that day.

**WPC FIONA WALKER** writes: "Just when I thought my time in

Orkney was up, Ian (Fiona's fiancé) gets promoted to Sergeant in Kirkwall! Guess I'll be staying put for a "peedie blink" (= wee while) longer! Glad to see you are making good use of your time mastering the local language! An extra tour may make you into a native speaker!

Brother **DEREK WALKER** is still Deputy Manager at Ardoe House Hotel just outside Aberdeen on the south side, but he lives at Ellon which is about 18 miles to the north. His big news of the year is in the "Births" column. We were quite relieved to be able to announce the arrival of Lewis Frederick Watt and Graham Grant's son Christopher Graham coming as they do to interrupt a run of six girls!

Another member with a long standing connection with Norway is **Mrs GEYVE WALKER (SHERIE SUTTON)**. Sherie first went to Norway with the school ski-ing party led by Dr Bain in 1962, and there she struck up a friendship with a Norwegian girl with whom she exchanged letters for some time. The correspondence lapsed however till, last year, when Inger, the Norwegian girl, managed to track Sherie down to her present home in the Lake District and they exchanged visits. Sherie had another exciting time this spring, when her solicitor husband stood as a Liberal Democrat for Parliament. Although he was not successful in gaining election, he acquitted himself very well.

Our thanks to **MRS WALKSLEY (ELLA SLATER)** for her support and her kind remarks. She still lives in Northwood.

We are grateful to **JAY WARD** for a comprehensive up-date on the doings of the family. Jay himself covers an almost incredible 60,000 miles annually as a divisional sales manager for Premier Beverage Products. His two elder children are both at university, Elaine (20) doing pharmacy at Strathclyde and Mark (18) accountancy at Stirling. "One more to go," writes Jay, "and then perhaps I'll have some discretionary income!"

Jay's brother **GRANT WARD** who has been working in Saudi Arabia for a number of years, has returned to GB and taken over as mine host of the Pack Horse Inn at Southowram near Halifax, where, according to Jay, he "dispenses beers, wines and spirits at ridiculous prices and bonhomie (free!) to anyone willing to listen!"

Jay also mentions his sister Mary who is in Melbourne, where she is "boss lady" of the meals on wheels service. Unfortunately, Jay, she does not figure in our membership list, but maybe you can "faire jouer le charme" and

persuade her, or even better, use some of that forthcoming discretionary income and make her a present of membership!

**WILMA WATT** has reverted to her maiden name following her divorce some years back. She was in Scotland at the end of November and says it is a wonderful country still, but she nevertheless prefers the sunshine of South Africa. "The political situation there," she goes on, "is certainly a worry, but we can only hope that it will resolve itself with as little violence as possible."

**MRS WEBB (MARGARET TEMPLETON)** duly took part in the big reunion and parade of ATS veterans at Guildford in March 1992. 2000 took part, and Margaret "had the pleasure of meeting and shaking hands with the Queen Mum" who took the salute along with the Duchess of Kent. We look forward to seeing Margaret at our reunion this year.

We look forward also to meeting **MR & MRS ROY WESTON (SHEINA DONALDSON)** at the Dinner. This will be their first visit back to Grantown since the death of Mr. Donaldson in December 1991. Sheina's family seem to be bent on forging as many French connections as possible: Ian recently gained an M.B.A. at Fontainebleau, Peter, who graduated last year, now has a job in Orthez near the Pyrenees, Roy is doing French at 'A' Level, and Brian entertains by singing French songs! Vive la République! It sounds as if continental holidays may be on the menu before too long!

**MRS WILSON (ADA IMRAY)** was off to Poland late last year to teach English in a high school, "A marvellous experience", she says, "standard of English surprisingly good, students genuinely interested and a pleasure to teach. I'd recommend it to any retired teachers!" We wonder if any of our readers are tempted?

**DAVID WILSON** is a member of the banking group of City solicitors Theodore Goddard, and as such was involved in "the biggest corporate rescue ever undertaken in the U.K.", that of the Brent Walker leisure group. Gripping stuff!



WALSH Mrs R. (Rhona CAMERON) M.A. Westering Lane; 1322 Golden Bear Forest Cove Kingwood Texas 77339.  
 WARD Grant G. 7 Church Dr B. of Garten; Pack Horse Inn Southowram nr Halifax Yorks, Publican.  
 WARD John J. B.A. 7 Church Dr B. of Garten; 3 Forest Grove Kilmarnock KA3 1UP, Div. Sales Manager Premier Beverage Products.  
 WATT Wilma J.F. 109 High St.; c/o Box 14096 Bredell 1623 Transvaal RSA.  
 WEBB Mrs M. (Margaret J. TEMPLETON) 21 The Square; South Ct Allanton Duns Berwickshire TD11 3LA.  
 WESTON Mrs Roy (Sheina M. DONALDSON) M.A. Morven; 79 Pinewood Dr Lancaster Pk Morpeth Northumberland NE61 3ST.  
 WHITE Mrs Nicholas J. (Marjory E. MACKINTOSH) B.D.S. Bracklinn; 6 W. Montrose St Helensburgh G84 9NB, Dental Practitioner.  
 WILLIAMSON Margaret E. M.B.Ch.B. M.R.C.P. 13 Kylintra Cresc; Ingrebourne Centre Hornchurch Essex, Consultant Psychotherapist.  
 WILSON Mrs A.J. (Helen A.K. SCOTT) Mountlea Balmenach; The Bungalow Denhead of Orrock Balmedie Aberdeen A94 0YN, Teacher  
 Albyn School (Retd.)  
 WILSON David LL.B. (Hons) Drumrunie B. of Garten; 30 Balfern Gr. Chiswick W4.  
 WILSON Mrs David L. (Ada R. IMRAY) M.A. Dip. Soc. Sc. A.M.I.A. Somerville High St; Oakbank Montrose Rd Auchterarder PH3 1BZ.  
 WILSON Mrs John (Audrey MURRAY) Wester Gallovie; 65 Rose St Aberdeen. Teacher Culter Primary School.  
 WOOD Barry 9 Dulaig Ct; Journalist Sunday Express Glasgow.  
 WOOD Michael A. Dip. Tech. Ed. 9 Dulaig Ct; 2 Kelttyhill Cresc Keltty Fife KY4 0LD. Teacher St Columba's H.S. Dunfermline.  
 WOOD Patrick G.C. Seafield Lodge; 6 Moray Pk Ave Culloden IV1 2LS. Highland Region Employee.  
 WRIGHT Alison B.Sc. (Hons) Valleyfield Tormore; 21 Claremont Gr. Aberdeen AB1 6RF, Microbiol. Lab. Manager  
 Grampian Food Tech. Centre.  
 WRIGHT Alan M.A. (Hons) C.A. Valleyfield Tormore; 12A Devanha Terr Ferryhill Aberdeen, Accountant BP Petroleum Dyce.  
 WRIGHT Herbert John B.Sc. (Eng.) C.Eng. M.I. Mech. E. M.A.S.M.E. High St; 79 Esther Ave Cambridge Ont. N1S 4L6 Canada.  
 WRIGHT Mrs H.J. (Shona CALDER) 3 Macgregor Ave; Address as above.  
 WRIGHT Stanley 33 The Square; Millhead Riverside View Spring Gardens Frome Somerset, Fuse Development Manager Beswick Ltd.  
 YOUNG Mrs Stuart (Elizabeth WALLACE) R.G.N. Spey View B. of Garten; 5 Arne Walk Blackheath London SE3.

## H.M. Services

BEVERIDGE Craig Broomfield South St; Royal Corps of Transport (Maritime Navigator Section)  
 CLARK John S. B.E.M. 30 High St; 9 Raigmore Ave Inverness; Major QM 33 Engineer Regt. (Expl. Ord. Disp.) Lodge Hill Camp Chattenden  
 Kent ME3 8NZ.  
 DOBSON William B.Sc. (Agri) Milton Nethybr.; Chapel Corner Garsdon SN16 9NW, Squadron Leader Hercules Pilot RAF Lyneham.  
 LIGGAT Andrew Brierlea Mossie Rd; Flt. Lieut. RAF Regt; Box 273 Off. Mess R.A.F. Laarbruch BFPO 43 Germany.  
 LIGGAT Archie M.S. B.Sc. (Hons Ae. Eng.) Brierlea Mossie Rd; RAF Valley, North Wales, Squadron Leader i/c Hawk Training Squadron.  
 McMILLAN Peter K. 13 Ellanwood Rd Carrbr.; 12 Argus Pl Bishopmill Elgin, S.A.C. RAF Lossiemouth.  
 ROSS David A.F.M. 4 Railway Houses Dava; 3 Garsedown Cl Whitehill Bordon Hants GU35 9QH, W.D. Parachute instructor.  
 STUART Thomas B. C.Eng. M.I. Mech. E. M.I. Prod. E. 8 Grampian Cresc B. of Garten; 41 New Rd Sands High Wycombe HP12 4LH.  
 Squadron Leader Engineering Officer.

### -SWIMMING CLUB MEMBERS-

Fraser Cameron; Susan George; Laurie May Hogg; Carol McGucken; Darren McLean; Dawn McWilliam; Amanda Muir; Sammy Neal;  
 Lyn Sim; Neil Varner, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs Margaret Masson;

### -LATE NEWS EXTRA-

Accountant MIKE ANDERSON starts a new job with HSBC Bank in Luxembourg in April. He also recently (Sept '92) started married life with fellow accountant Gillian Gorman who hails from Aberdeen. Best wishes to both ventures!  
 Our thanks to IAN RITCHIE for his return from Saffron Walden. He had no news of note.  
 New address for JOHN G.F. SMITH w.e.f. May will be; 16 Great Stuart St, Edinburgh EH3 7TN.  
 Our thanks also to GORDON TEMPLETON and MRS FRASER (VALERIE GRANT) for their returns from Aberdeen and Edinburgh respectively.  
 We enjoyed a chat with MRS CHAPMAN (IRENE EDWARDS) who telephoned her apology for missing the deadline from home in Nottingham. She is now one of the square-eyed with a new job in a medical practice where she has to cope with a patient information computer.  
 DENA KELMAN got caught up in a military coup in Venezuela in November and fortunately emerged unscathed although she admits "stress levels were quite high"! Now she is safely home in Wimbledon.  
 Mrs David Davidson (BETTY KIRKWOOD) has two sons with their eyes set on B.Sc. (Hons.) degrees one in Chartered Surveying and the other in Industrial & Business Systems. Betty herself is Welfare Officer for the Charity "Old Ben".  
 As MR & MRS GORDON MCCONACHIE (ALISON GRANT) are, so to speak, in limbo, (i.e. neither exiles nor locals) while they are house hunting in the Aberdeen area, (and as we were running out of space on the local list!) we have removed them temporarily and promise them a place in the Main List just as soon as we receive their new address.