

# FORMER PUPILS' SECTION



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# editorial

It is with some sadness that we put on the mantle of Editor this year for we decided over a year ago that this issue would be our last, and we informed the Committee of this intention at the 1993 business meeting. In spite of one or two approaches, no successor has emerged so far, and it was agreed at the 1994 business meeting to meet again after the Dinner in April to review the position.

May we be permitted to quit the editorial "we" for a moment as what we have to say now is personal rather than editorial:

*I have had much pleasure from my association with the members of the Clubs over the 22 years since I took over from the late George Donaldson, and I have enjoyed trying to continue the task of "keeping FP communications going", as he put it with characteristic modesty. My main reason for wishing to retire is that I am becoming increasingly forgetful as the years go by...it is now 9 years since I retired from teaching...and much of the work of the secretary/editor depends on being able to recall details with an acceptable degree of accuracy. This I no longer manage as well as I would wish.*

*There are many people to whom I would like to express my thanks for the help and encouragement they have given me throughout my period in office: both Rectors, Mr Grant and Mr MacLennan, who have presided over our proceedings, have always had a sympathetic ear for FP opinions, and have seen to it that the Clubs enjoyed the best possible relations with the School, and excellent access to, and terms for the use of the reprographic equipment which is now so essential for the production of the magazine. Their Office Staff, Mrs Doris Grant and Miss Rona Milne have also given freely of their time and efforts to ensure that the required stationery etc for circulars and magazines was always on hand and on the most advantageous terms, and that the magazine was printed on time.*

*A special word of thanks also to David Calder, who patiently oversaw our first faltering steps in Word Processing, and was instrumental in the application of the computer to the lists, likewise to Mrs Daphne Ritchie for being most helpful in a variety of ways particularly by acting as FP recruiting agent in School, and for her excellent work in organising the highly successful Christmas Discos, and to Jean Paterson who is a mine of information, and who goes through every Strathie with a fine toothed comb and picks up references to FP's we might otherwise have missed.*

*Finally to the officebearers and members, both locals and exiles, so many of whom have become personal friends and have loyally helped with the running of the Clubs in a hundred different ways, ferreting out information for the magazine, donating something extra to help with the postage and other bills, helping to organize our functions, supporting them, speaking at them, keeping in touch, many from the other side of the world...there are too many to mention by name...but a glance through our "News" columns will illustrate what I mean. It has been for me a source of great satisfaction and pleasure to be associated with you all. I.S.*

Now one or two points of general interest: At the '94 Business Meeting we decided to increase our support of the School Library and Prize Fund to a total of £300 i.e. £150 to each annually, and we are pleased to be able to say that the donations that those of you who order your magazines by post have already sent will cover more than half the total sum. Magazine sales and interest on our investment account will easily cover the remainder. Thank you all for your continuing generosity.

## H.M. SERVICES NEWS AND LIST.

As the number of members we have in H.M. Services has been dropping steadily in recent years (and more quickly since "Options for Change") we have decided to incorporate these members in the Main List and to print their news in "Outposts". We hope this will save us a little space without upsetting anyone!

We noted that a telegram from the Queen was delivered to one of our oldest readers (by George Rafferty in his official capacity as a deputy Lord Lieutenant) and we would like to add congratulations on behalf of our Clubs. Well done Maggie Anderson for hitting the Century!

This has been an exceptionally sad year for the Clubs...we do not remember ever before losing so many members in one year...and so many of them members whose service to the School and the Clubs has been of outstanding quality...a sad year indeed.

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

The MacLURE family, Sandy, Seonaid and Neil, who lost their father in March 1994.

Isobel MACLEAN whose mother died in April 1994.

The OLIPHANT sisters, Beatrice and Marilyn, (Mrs David MacDonald) who suffered a double bereavement last summer, losing both their parents within the space of about a fortnight, just after they had celebrated their Golden Wedding.

Jimmie McLEOD whose sister Elizabeth died in Grandview in June.

Mrs FEARNLEY (Maureen MACAULAY) whose father Alex., a former postmaster in Grantown, died in Elgin in November.

MRS WALSH (RHONA CAMERON) and her sister Yvonne (Mrs Martin Jackson) whose mother died in March 1995.

WALTER GRANT whose wife died, also in March, in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary after a short illness.

## GRANTOWN MUSEUM & HERITAGE TRUST

We are pleased to pass on the following appreciative message from Molly Duckett, Development Officer for the Museum and Heritage Trust: "Through your pages we would like to thank all those who responded to our appeal letter. Of those approached, nearly 20% sent a donation. In addition we received some wonderful memories of Grantown in days past, sent from all over the country and overseas, and we also gained some new members to the Trust. We have now raised over £98,000 and contributions continue to arrive so that we are confident that the target of £150,000 required for the purchase of Burnfield will be in hand by the agreed date - 3/4/95. We then qualify for public sector funding to proceed with the necessary refurbishments to produce a first class Museum/Visitor Centre such as we envisage".

Appeal Office, 14 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HG.

## SPEYSIDE REVISITED IN AUTUMN

I had forgotten how I loved this land  
Of pine and heather, strath and rounded hill.  
Surely the berries never glowed so red  
The leafy branches never flamed so bright  
In other autumns. Tumbling over rocks  
The burns in spate go foaming down the glen  
To pour their roaring waters into Spey,  
The lochs lie silent, ringed about with pines,  
And over all, grey, ancient mountains brood.

The above was written by a Senior Citizen FP who attends a "Creative Writing" class, but who resolutely wishes to remain 'Anon'.

## WHAT'S THE USE OF THE FP MAGAZINE?

We are indebted to JOHN WRIGHT for the following tale:

"The year was 1972 and we were in Toronto. My wife told me that the magazine had arrived. The list of exiles was immediately perused to see who was where, and I saw the name of Hugh Tulloch (Civil Servant) listed as living in Toronto. We had been good friends during our schooldays, but I hadn't heard of him for about 30 years. At the office next morning I looked up the Telephone Directory, and there was Hugh's name, and on the facing page, exactly opposite, was my own name! And, as if this were not coincidence enough, his office was in the building next door! We made contact and had lunch together that day and quite often subsequently. One day we crossed the road to the Bell Telephone Building. They ran an excellent cafeteria for their staff which also tolerated "outsiders", so we had lunch there, and discovered that the manageress of this excellent eating place was none other than Patsy Ross (née MacDonald)!"

All three still live in different parts of Ontario. Addresses in Main List. We rest our case! (Ed.)



# Obituary

## JOHN L. PATERSON

Inverallan Church was filled with mourners on a fine day in April when Grantown gathered to bid a fitting farewell to one of its favourite sons. The congregation represented the many different spheres in which JOHN L. ("JOCK") PATERSON moved and was held in respect and affection. He was a businessman, having been active in the family glassing firm throughout his life, apart from the period of his war service during which he served with the Royal Engineers in France and Belgium and came through the evacuation from Dunkirk. He held civic office as a town councillor, as Dean of Guild, and as a Bailie and J.P., he was a keen sportsman, maintaining and passing on the family tradition of prowess in curling, and he was a devoted follower of football, particularly of Aberdeen F.C., again sizing and passing on his enthusiasm by his work for the local branch of the A.F.C. Supporters' Club for which he helped to organise and run buses to matches. There was a tear in many an eye as Jock's body was carried from the Church to the strains of a tender rendering on the organ of "The Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen". To his wife, Rita, his daughters Joan and Mairi, his sons Ian, Neil and Grant, and his sisters Jean and Marion we send sincere sympathy on behalf of our members.

## CATHERINE DONALDSON

It was in April also that the sudden but peaceful death occurred in the Ian Charles Hospital of CATHERINE ("CATH") DONALDSON, another of our members of long standing. She belonged to the family of the late Mr and Mrs W.G. Donaldson who ran the innmongery business in the High Street which still bears their name. Although she was a qualified nurse, and served for a time as Matron at Winchester College, it is from her work in the family shop and in the Garth Hotel, which they also ran previously, that most of our members will remember her. A keen motorist all her life, she acted as an ambulance driver in London, and locally drove all over the area delivering gas supplies from the Shop. She also operated a car service under the auspices of the WVS for those requiring transport to hospital etc. To all her friends and relatives we send condolences on behalf of the Clubs.

## ROBERT MACKINTOSH

The Club lost one of its most faithful members with the death last May, in St. Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh, of ROBERT ("BERT") MACKINTOSH at the age of 79. Bert was dux of the School in 1911, and went on to Edinburgh University where he took the degree of M.A., specialising in Geography. After wartime service in the R.A.F., he taught for a time in Mallaig, in Inverness High School, and later became Principal Geography Teacher at Ainslie Park School in Edinburgh. While there he set up a very successful Young Farmer's Club for his city pupils. In retirement he devoted much of his time to work as treasurer of the Edinburgh Branch of the United Nations Association and in supporting the Unitarian Church and the Strathclyde Railway Association.

Always a staunch supporter of our Clubs also, he was one of the speakers at the Biennial Dinner of 1976 and, in spite of his failing health, he continued his hobby of writing, and members will remember that he contributed a nostalgic article to last year's magazine. Bert was unmarried, but will be sadly missed by his relatives and his many friends.

## THOMAS HUNTER

We lost another most faithful member and another former dux (1935) with the death in Essex in June of TOM HUNTER. Son of the former Rector of the same name. Tom studied Medicine at Aberdeen University and, after military service, went on to take a degree in Surgery at Edinburgh. He spent most of his professional life as Senior Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Romford in Essex. Tribute to his 36 years of devoted service in this capacity was paid at a memorial service held in the Old Church Hospital Chapel in October. Tom deeply loved to return to Grantown and meet with the friends of his school days. Many will remember how feelingly he

spoke of this at the Biennial Dinner in 1982. Tom also maintained a keen interest in the work of the School and regularly donated the Prize for Sixth Year work as a memorial to his late father. Tom's health had not been good for some time and he died peacefully in one of the hospitals in Essex where he had practised. To his wife, Roma, his son Scott, and his sister Netta (Mrs Guthrie Booth) we extend sincerest condolences on behalf of the Clubs.

## RICHARD SURTEES

The death in July of RICHARD SURTEES meant the loss to the School and the Clubs of yet another good, faithful and generous friend. Richard started as an apprentice mechanic with Ross Bros. in 1934, but later joined the Metropolitan Police as a constable. His police career was interrupted by service in the R.A.F. in which he achieved commissioned rank as a pilot. On returning to police service he resumed his successful career, rising to the rank of inspector before he retired to Eastbourne, and took up another career as a vehicle examiner.

We were personally greatly indebted to Richard for starting the tradition that School parties en route to the continent were met in London by a reception committee of F.P.'s (and their families!) and taken on a guided tour of various sights before continuing the journey to the coast. Richard then, on his retirement, passed this torch on to the Ross boys (Walter and Alex, who were likewise carving out successful careers in the Metropolitan Police) and who ably maintained the tradition.

Richard also gave an entertaining speech at the F.P. Reunion Dinner in 1980, and it was at this time that he and his two brothers, Alistair and the late Robert, made a generous endowment to the School Library.

Richard's ashes were interred in the family plot at Inverallan Old Cemetery.

We send, on our members' behalf, our sincere sympathy to Richard's wife, Joyce, to his son, Stuart and his family (to whom Richard was a devoted grandfather), and to his brother Alistair.

## MARIEL GRANT

In speaking of MARIEL GRANT we once said to a comparatively new arrival in Grantown that she was "a big figure in the history of the School", quite unaware that the paradox of her tiny stature would immediately strike him and raise a smile. But then he lacked our perspective, for he did not know that she had an impressive record of forty years service, her entire teaching career, in Grantown Grammar, starting in 1927, when Mr Thomas Hunter became Rector, and stretching right through his rectorship, and most of that of his successor Dr Bain, and ending only in the year (1967) when the Secondary Department moved up to the New School. Having come as an assistant in the Mathematics and Science Departments, she branched out to teach also Arts and Crafts, and later successfully presented pupils for "Highers" in Botany and Biology. Her value as a lieutenant to both Rectors in the capacity of senior lady teacher was recognised by her appointment as lady adviser in 1965.

But it is in the relationship that Mariel established with her pupils that we can see her real greatness. We wrote of her in our 1989 issue: "Many teachers earn some degree of respect in the eyes of their pupils, but it is only the exceptional who inspire genuine affection." And one has only to listen to Mariel's former pupils to gauge the sincerity and depth of that affection. Shortly before her death we were privileged to be able to convey to Mariel an expression of it in a greeting sent from Canada to us by Isa Squires for delivery to Mariel. It was the last time we were to see her. She died peacefully in Raigmore Hospital just before Christmas, having refused to have surgery for an intestinal obstruction. The last message she gave us for her Grantown friends was: "Tell them I'm just as impudent as ever!" A great and courageous lady.

Mariel was interred at Duffus beside her mother and father who formerly practised medicine at Hopeman. Among the wreaths was one in the School colours from the School and the FP Clubs.

## MRS DAVIDSON (MARGARET McBEATH)

MRS DAVID DAVIDSON (MARGARET McBEATH) (formerly of Station Cottages) died in Dumfries in February after a period of illness about which she informed us on the FP slip which she returned only a week or two before her death. She suffered the loss of both kidneys and in the last year was on dialysis. Mrs Jean Lugg, one of our members who lives in Stranraer, describes her as "a lovely person who was loved by all" and paid tribute to the good work she did in visiting patients in Dumfries Infirmary. To her husband David, her three sons and her twin brother Donnie, sisters Isobel (Mrs McCallum) and Elizabeth (Mrs McIver) and all her friends we send sincere condolences on behalf of our members.



## BIRTHS

We are delighted to announce the following "Happy Events":  
 in April (1994),  
 a son to Mr & Mrs EDDIE DUNCAN and  
 a son also to Mr & Mrs CHAY ROSS  
 in May,  
 a son also to Mr & Mrs BOB ATKINSON (WENDY SHAND)  
 in June,  
 a son to Mr & Mrs W. CHISHOLM (JANE DUNLOP) and  
 a daughter to Mr & Mrs RAYMOND McINTOSH (SUSAN  
 MARTIN) in Freemantle, W. Australia.  
 in August,  
 a daughter to MR & MRS PETER HENDERSON, in Perth,  
 Western Australia and  
 a daughter to MR & MRS JOHN G.F. SMITH (ex Burnfield) in  
 Edinburgh.  
 in October,  
 a son to MR & MRS TONY ALONGE (CLAIRE McCANN) at  
 Chelsea & Westminster Hospital,  
 in November  
 a son to MR & MRS JOHN McLURE (HELEN GORDON) in  
 Bewdley, Worcs.  
 in January (1995).  
 a son to MR & MRS MALCOLM SMITH (SAMMIE  
 PETTIFER).  
 in February  
 a son to MR & MRS DAVID CLARK (SHEONAI  
 MacGREGOR) in Macclesfield Hospital, Cheshire.

## NEW RECRUITS

Shortly after the '94 issue was printed we had a visit from the first of our New Recruits for 94-95...not a recent leaver, but a lady who was Dux of the School in 1939, namely:

Mrs THOMSON (VERA MORTIMER) and we are delighted to welcome her to the membership along with two other "veterans":

Mrs C.H.C. SHAW (CONNIE GORDON) formerly of Stonefield Cottage, and;

JOHN E. McINNES who has almost completed training for the Priesthood at Scotus College in Glasgow (more details in "Outposts")

and also the following recent leavers: ---

GILLIAN BEVERIDGE who was Head Girl in 93-4 and who is "taking a year out to work in Cyprus" before entering either Community Education, Social Work or Nursing.

JOHN S. MACLEAN from Dulnain Bridge who intends to go to do Management Studies at Heriot Watt University,

JENNIE MATHIESON whose parents are both departmental heads in the School, and who intends to do Psychology & Management Studies at Stirling University. Incidentally Jennie was chosen to be the 1994 Show Queen at the Farmers' Show last summer.

JAMES MIDDLEWICK who is to go to P.E. College with a view to entering the Forces or becoming a teacher.

DONALD MURRAY from Carrbridge who was Head Boy in 93-94, and who is to go to study Furniture Craftsmanship at Fife College of Technology.

COLLEEN SMITH who is to go in for Nursery Nursing.

We wish them all every success in all their undertakings.

## ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the following on their engagement:  
 LYNN MacGILLIVRAY to Scott Henderson of Gifford.

and to the following on their marriage:

Alistair A. MacDonald from Newtonmore and SUSAN LOW (April 1994)  
 ANDREW DOBSON and Jane Christie from Hatch End near London (May 1994)  
 David Hannan from Thirsk and FRANCES BEANGE (August 1994)  
 Hamish Duncan and LOUISE FORBES (7th January 1995)

## GOLDEN & RUBY & SILVER WEDDINGS

Congratulations to

MR & MRS W. McCURDY (ALICE KING) whose Golden Wedding was celebrated in October 1994. (Details in "News from the Outposts".)

We learned from their Bridesmaid's slip that MR & MRS ARTHUR FEARNLEY (MAUREEN MACAULAY) celebrated their Silver Wedding in April 1994. Congratulations! The Bridesmaid in question was MRS IAN SMITH (JANETTE MACDONALD).

Congratulations also to the other MRS IAN SMITH (your editor's wife) who has been putting up with him now for well over 40 years. Our Ruby Wedding Anniversary took place in fact just too late for a mention in last year's issue!

## News from the Outposts

Dr JIMMIE ALLAN promises to let us know "when (not "if" please note!) he wins the National Lottery!" and we promise to sell the info to The Sun and retire to the Riviera! The same gentleman, who is definitely well into the second flush of youth, won the Darvell Trophy during the Grantown Golf Week last year.

From her home in Biggar MRS M. ALLAN (MONA McLEAN) writes that she "still finds the School Magazine of great interest" and sends best wishes to all, and especially to her own age group.

"Parenthood is suiting us well," writes new Mum MRS ALONGE (CLAIRE McCANN) who is meantime on maternity leave after the birth of her son in October. She intends to resume her work as a book designer with a publishing firm next April. Clare tells us she has been studying Italian, but doesn't speak it as well as her brothers Peter and Neil who both spent a year in Italy, in Sicily and Tuscany respectively...and Neil is now engaged to a Tuscan girl. Congratulations and best wishes!

STUART ARCHIBALD has a new address in Edinburgh and a new job as an accounts manager with British Telecom.

We enjoyed two pleasant meetings with BRUCE BAIN during the past twelve months, one in Grantown in February and one in November in "Morlich", the old family home in Elgin, which Bruce has kept on, though his family ties are now in Belgrade where he has his home with his wife Mira and daughter Tanya. Tanya attends the American School in Belgrade and is bilingual in Serbo-Croat and English (with an American accent, Bruce admits!) Bruce travels a good deal in Eastern Europe to attend to the affairs of the business consultancy which he runs from Budapest.

MRS BAHZAD (CHRISTOBEL TERRIS) reports a meeting in December "with my old Science teacher MRS EDITH MACKINTOSH who at 90 looks hardly a day older and even brighter than when I saw her last!" We don't know either what elixir



of youth she has discovered, but it certainly is effective! Though based in Aberdeen, Christobel and her husband "continue with our travelling life-style...USA twice, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal in 1994. Looking forward to Italy in March 1995!" Some itinerary!

MRS BECKETT (CAROL STUART) had the whole of the autumn term off from her teaching post after suffering a brain haemorrhage last August. Mercifully she is "now fully recovered and back to normal, though", she adds, "something like this makes you look at life differently!" Now she is back at school as acting head "just to make things more complicated!" We hear a reunion is

planned in Aberdeen this summer "hopefully including Kathleen Miller, Ann Stewart, Catherine McGregor and Christobel Tennis"...we wouldn't mind being a fly on the wall there once the tongues get going! Best wishes to all!

CRAIG BEVERIDGE is still with 17 Port and Maritime Regiment stationed at Marchwood, Southampton, but he had been off to Norway on an exercise which he sums up as "all right...but the skiing was GREAT!"

Craig's sister GILLIAN BEVERIDGE has been "waitressing" in Cyprus for three months, but came home because of the lack of holidaymakers! However she writes that she is about to return to Limsol and hopes to see many Grantonian visitors there!

Our thanks to MRS ERAID (PAMELA GIBSON) for a nice letter enclosing her slip and also her cheque for the Gibson Essay Prize which she has continued to donate to the School since the death of her mother who instituted the prize.

MRS BRAZENDALE (EVELYN McMURRAY) now has both children at school and has been able to increase her nursing hours "in a busy accident & emergency dept. in Somerset." Besides this, she is "enjoying planning, designing and labouring for a new house due for completion in Sept...Perhaps then we'll return to Grantown for a holiday!" she adds. Sounds as if she will have earned it! Good luck!

MRS BROCKLEHURST (MARGARET McWILLIAM) had just returned from a tour of Sri Lanka and Colombo when she wrote her slip. "An eye-opener," she writes, "Poverty everywhere, but great faith is being put in the new, young prime minister and hopes are high for change. Spent 3 days in Dubai on the way home...a total contrast...oil riches jump out at you everywhere you go."

IAIN BROWN is busy on a College of Estate Management surveying course together with his job as property manager for an Edinburgh law firm, but he still finds time to play five-a-side football...and the guitar!

JOHN CALDER is now working as estimating manager for a mechanical services firm in Whitburn.

GILLIES CAMPBELL was among the first to order tickets for the forthcoming Dinner. Of course he is no stranger to the Ben Mhor, having been one of the speakers at the 1986 function. We look forward to welcoming him again.

Civil engineer NORMAN CAMPBELL is currently working with McWlen Northern Construction on a Strathclyde Sewerage contract in Weymouth Bay. He is also enjoying his third season of playing shinty for Glasgow Mid Argyll and "still trying to win a Camanachd Cup medal!"

DOUGLAS CARSE came back to the School last summer on his first visit in 20 years "to take the children swimming now the pool is open to the public". Douglas himself is still with Tarmac Construction "mainly involved in refurbishment work".

MRS CHAPMAN (IRENE EDWARDS) played a hunch last year at a Customs & Excise National Sports day (which was organised by her husband incidentally!). She approached one of the (male!) participants with the "highly original line" (her own words!) "I feel I know you!" "Alan Grant", came the reply. "Advie?" Irene enquired - a surprised "Yes", so Irene introduced herself and they then proceeded to catch up on the last 28 years in the 10 minutes before Alan was due to take part in a veterans' hundred yards! Later on he

took part in the 3000m and came a creditable second. Irene puts down Alan's failure to recognise her to her "rapidly whitening thatch", while he had hardly one grey hair! There's no justice in the ageing process, we fear! Irene and husband Ralph plan to visit sister Amelia and Ernie (Oakes) in August.

Our other MRS CHAPMAN (ELIZABETH McDONALD) reports (from N.Z.) a summer that was "just great with l-o-n-g hot sunny days and a wonderful day in January for the wedding of our son Richard". Richard is studying for a B.E. degree in Christchurch.

Agrichemical Specialist MARK CLARK reports "a very uneventful year in Kirriemuir" apart from the arrival in his family of a Labrador called Brodie! We trust he will be more manageable than our Lab who is impervious to S.V. (= Schoolmaster's Voice)! Mark's firm has just been sold by Shell, so it will now be a much smaller outfit to work for.

MRS FRED CLARK (ALISON RONALDSON) once again sent us a comprehensive bulletin on the doings of the Ronaldson clan and also a personal tribute to the late Mariel Grant's qualities as a teacher..."strict and fair"... "kindly and sympathetic"...and "ready with the highest praise when it was due". Alison still treasures a cushion cover made to a design which earned this praise. Alison's husband Fred suffered a heart attack last year which landed him in Raigmore and, although he was discharged looking thin and poorly, subsequent blood treatment has helped him make "a marvellous recovery". Alison's sister, JESSIE "hasn't hung up her Bible", though she has retired as a Sunday School teacher after 47 years service in Grantown, Wick and Inverness. We remember her in action in the South Kirk when we came to Grantown more than 37 years ago! And she is still active as an Elder in the Barn Church!

Brother MICHAEL and his wife have recently become grandparents again with the birth of Aimée in Norfolk. We hope we may see some representation from the family at the Dinner this year...we are sure there will be plenty to talk about! So do come!

MRS COWAN (WILMA IRVING) wrote us an interesting account of the visit she paid to Nepal to see her eldest son Alasdair who is completing a 2 year tour there with the Army. "Kathmandu", she says, "has 50,000 inhabitants, and we came to the conclusion that they all came out at the same time with their vehicles...a seething mass, and with the dust and fumes the pollution was unbelievable. The majority seem to live in total squalor, but they are nevertheless a very happy people. The river flowing through the city was used for washing clothes, bodies, animals and vehicles!" A visit to Pokhara yielded some marvellous views of the Annapurna range, "an awesome sight, something never to be forgotten!" The one black spot on the trip was the theft of Wilma's passport from her bag as she walked through a market, but son Alasdair managed to arrange at the Embassy for a temporary replacement to allow her to return home.

MRS MURRAY CRICHTON (LORNA FORBES) tells us she is "a housewife again, but I have plenty to keep me busy". Her son and daughter are now 6½ and 4½ respectively, and her husband is to be off to Israel in April to do a sponsored cycle trip for the British Heart Foundation so they are occupied with fundraising for that too. We send all good wishes for success.

GRANT CUMMING continues to practice as a vet up in Rogart, Sutherland.

We noted that Speech Therapist KIRSTEEN CUMMING had a spot with her sister Marie in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme last year. They gave a programme of poetry, prose, songs and harp music which they entitled "No Spring Chickens". Kirsteen now lives in Bridge of Earn.

MAIRGHREAD DAVIES who is in the Churchill Theatre Company in Bromley reports that she is still with "The Woman in Black" and has been "on" lots of times and "loved every minute of it". She is also busy on work for "another degree, this time in Law...and who knows what next?!"

GEORGE DIXON has not given up on the return to Moray campaign...he writes, "Even though I got many hundreds more local electors on the Moray side than the Councillors got for Highland,



the Scottish Office wasn't - this time - listening. I remain enough of a democrat to believe that the majority will win eventually though."

We look forward to meeting **ANDREW DOBSON** and his wife Jane at the Dinner in April. They were married at Nethybridge in May of last year and they now live at Old Woodstock near Oxford, where Andrew is with the Engineering Services Dept of the Oxford City Council.

We learned by the good offices of Sheena Ogilvie that Hospital Matron **MARGARET DONALD** has very recently gone off out to Malta to take over the running of a new hospital which is just being set up there. Margaret has a flat with a garden, so will be able to enjoy the Mediterranean sunshine! Best wishes to the enterprise! (New address in Mainlist)

A new recruit to the **DUNCAN** clan is physiotherapist **LOUISE FORBES** who married Hamish Duncan on 7th January this year. They live in Leith, and Louise works at the Western General in Edinburgh. Her husband is with the Bank of Scotland.

Mrs **EDMUNDS-JONES (JANET DIXON)** continues her work as a tutor at Avon & Glos. College of Health, Bristol.

**NIGEL ELRICK** is now working in Hertfordshire as manager of a 46 bedded private nursing home. He had previous experience of residential care in his former job in Aberdeen, and writes that he enjoys very much caring for the old folks.

Twin brother **CLIVE ELRICK** who runs a driving school in Elgin, writes that he is still trying to improve his driving! And explains that he means on the golf course, not on the road! Just keep swinging!

MRS **M.E. EWEN (BETTY ROBERTSON)** recalls a nostalgia-filled meeting with Mrs Shaw (Connie Gordon) last summer after which she gave Connie her copy of the '94 magazine, and this led eventually to Connie's appearance in our **NEW RECRUITS** column! We look forward to welcoming them both to the Dinner in April. Betty remembers meeting Mrs Wilson (Ada Imray), one of our speakers at the function of course, when the latter was Almoner at the Infirmary in Aberdeen.

MRS **FEARNLEY (MAUREEN MACAULAY)** has had a trying year with the sudden death of her father in November, and a worsening of her arthritis which she fears will prevent her return to teaching. However she tells us that she has now become a dog owner "so I manage a walk most week days!" Let's hope the retriever will help you keep the joints mobile! And looking after a lively pup is quite like keeping a class in order (as we well know!) It must be that feeling of "Can't turn your back for a minute!"

Health Board services manager **TOM FERGUSON** has had a busy year with his hospital moving to Trust status, but found time nevertheless to pay a visit to his brother-in-law (**ALISTAIR MACDONALD**) in Brunei. "Very, very hot," he comments, "but the beer and G & TS went down well!" Tom feels the fact that his daughter Claire has started driving ages him a bit. Never mind, it may be handy to have a driver if you feel the urge for G & T! Our apologies to **MRS TOM FERGUSON (PAMELA MACDONALD)** for crediting her with an MBA degree which she doesn't have! But her job description is "MBA Admin Asst" which confused our ageing noddle! Sorry! We'd grant you an honorary one if we could! Pam enthuses about the Brunei trip too, and being able to take in Penang, Singapore and Hong Kong en route.

**RUSSELL FERGUSON** has moved from central Aberdeen to a new address in the Bridge of Don Area. Please see Main List.

"Live wire" **MRS FORSYTH (NANCY GRAY)** is involved in a multitude of organisations including the SNP, the local Horticultural Soc. and the R.N. Mission to Deep Sea Fisherman for example, and she is quite frequently to be found expressing her opinions on Radio, T.V. and in the Press. Her energies have also been directed in the past year to promoting "K 9 Katz", a scheme to encourage the neutering of pet dogs and cats. Nancy sent us some publicity material for this cause which she has herself devised and illustrated, and she remembers fondly the late Mariel Grant's encouragement of her drawing skills.

MRS **FRASER (ELSPETH MITCHELL)** writes that her "two remaining sons are getting married, one this year and one next! Glad they aren't daughters!" she adds with some relief!

**DAVID FRASER** has moved from Middlesex to Newton Mearns (new address in Main List) ...his slip was returned undelivered this year, but some prompt sleuthing in Dulgair Bridge by Martin Grant soon provided us with an up to date address!

MRS **FRASER (VALERIE GRANT)** is still in Edinburgh.

We had a nice chat with **ROBIN FRASER** when he delivered his slip in person. We reminisced about the days when he provided accordion music for the Primary Christmas parties in the Old School some 35 years ago, so we weren't too surprised when he said he was considering taking retirement from Boots in 1996. An experienced grandfather, he now has two granddaughters at school in Stirling!

**JOHN GILL** sent us some newspaper cuttings about present day standards in mathematics which had prompted him to enquire of his 14 year old grandson whether he knew about the theorem of Pythagoras. He was reassured to discover that he did! We are sure that such things are not neglected in GGS today. The current Rector was after all previously Principal Teacher of Mathematics!

MRS **GORDON (ANN PATON)** returned her slip from her home in Huntly just in time to meet the deadline.

"We survived the recent floods," writes industrial chemist Dr. **JIM GORDON** from Holland, "because the area we live in is near the sea!" Double Dutch? No, apparently true, since the coastal areas were less severely affected. We noted that Jim's local address has changed to Glendoran, with the retirement of his parents from the farm at Delliefure. "My work is going well," Jim reports, "but it is relatively easy, compared to looking after young Hannah who is full of energy!"

We were very delighted to have a card from Martin's son **ALLAN GRANT** who is still running his sports shop in Sydney and coaching "soccer", (NB not known as "football" down under!) Martin and Chrissie will unfortunately miss our Biennial Dinner, as they are planning to visit Allan in April '95. Allan and Di have plans to be in Strathspey in June '96 however, when there will be a Golden Wedding to celebrate!

**WPC DENISE GRANT** is another member with a change of address this year...her slip also came back to us undelivered, but a quick phonecall to her Dad put us on the right track. We just noticed in time Denise, that we had labelled you as a PCW (not a WPC!) when we realised that that is the abbreviation for a word processor!

**DONALD GRANT** reports a quiet year, but tells us he is about to go into hospital for a "full service" on his right shoulder necessitated by his "not acting his age". Intriguing, but he doesn't specify any further, so we'll just hae tae speir! It transpires in fact that Donald has now dislocated that shoulder FOUR times, most recently by "falling off The Cobbler", so the surgeon decided that something would have to be done to help him break the habit! Best wishes for a successful "op"! We had originally written "outcome", but decided that was perhaps an injudicious choice of word!

**GRAHAM GRANT** who works for the Cromarty Firth Port Authority sent us an impressive list of the 18 Cruise Liners which are due to visit Invergordon between mid May and early September. He marked a dozen of them as "worth seeing". Two of them merited two asterisks: "Royal Viking Sun" (26th Aug.) AND on 4th Sept the QE 2! "Up to 10,000 people are expected in the town that day just to see her, and a host of activities is planned," writes Graham who now serves on the Invergordon Community Council. He also promises another important event towards the end of May, "the arrival of a brother or sister for Christopher (2½)". Best wishes! It isn't surprising that with all these commitments he has postponed trying for an LLB degree for the moment, though he has almost completed his Maritime Law course.

**JENNIFER GRANT** was "temping" in Edinburgh when she wrote, but was due to be off back to Turkey in April. She is to be in charge of admin for all Sunworld arrivals at Antalya airport and is "hoping for a quieter season with no fraud cases or bombs!" She continues to try to persuade Mum and Dad to holiday out there, but says, "Farming is still a very good excuse to get out of most things!"

MRS **GREENLEES (SALLY GRANT)** continues to have a foot in both camps. Since she married her husband who is a bobby



stationed at the Inverness HQ, and has set up home there (ie in Inverness, not in the nick!) she counts as an "exile", but she still works locally in the Grantown Police Station! She contends that her home is in the Grantown "Commuter Belt"! We note that she continues to maintain the family interest in the "roaring game" too.

Our thanks to MRS GREENWOOD (MARY WINCHESTER) for a friendly greeting from Todmorden in Lancashire.

MRS GREIG (MARGARET GRANT) and her husband must be intensive gardeners when they are at home, as they seem to be able to fit in repeated success in winning and retaining horticultural show cups between frequent trips abroad! Last year it was Como "after the shows" and now they have been off to Cyprus for an extended stay hoping "to come home to good weather".

Our thanks to MRS GRISTWOOD (CINDY MASSON) for bringing us up to date on her doings...she studied Information Technology at Queen Margaret's, Edinburgh, and now works for the WM Company in Edinburgh in the Network/Communications Dept. She was married in 1992 "to a Penicuik boy and have been here (i.e. Penicuik) since then."

We look forward to seeing DONALD GUNN at the Dinner in April.

Our congratulations to MRS HANNAN (FRANCES BEANGE) whose marriage we reported earlier in this issue and who has now set up home in Thirsk. She is still active as a WPC with the N. Yorks Police, but thinks she may be joining the Dog Section in the near future. Vision of stout hearted Alsatian leaping under total control through a burning hoop, while we are still struggling to convince a ten year old Lab that HE isn't the boss!

ALBERT HASTINGS ordered his mag from his HQ in Nairn, but had no news.

From Auckland NZ IAN HERD reports that he has just returned from "an exploratory visit to 'sunny' Queensland (except that it rained most of the time!)" This was in the course of an investigation of the job situation in Australia, and has led to a decision to move to Brisbane in June. Our good wishes go with you! Please keep us up to date on your change of address.

MRS MALCOLM HIGGINS (PAM MACPHERSON) writes of renewed contact (after 32 years!) with Brenda McHattie and reflects that in 1999 it will be 50 years since they started under Miss Legge in Primary 1. She wonders if any former class-mates would be interested in a 50 Year Reunion in 4 years time? From a practical point of view we suggest it could take place in conjunction with the next Biennial Dinner but one. Any takers?

MRS HENDERSON (ELAINE DAVIDSON) says her teaching career seems to have been put on hold since her return to Scotland, but they have just moved house again, and with her two youngsters, Carrie (9) and David (7) at Glasgow Academy, she has her work cut out "simply being a housewife and parent"! Her husband Sam is with Allied Dunbar.

PETER HENDERSON has a new address in Brisbane where he is now the Distribution Manager for a major pipeline company. "We are enjoying Brisbane very much," he writes, "and looking forward to my family visiting later this year". His other big news item is in the "Births" column!

MRS HOBBS (GILLIAN HENDERSON) enjoyed a six month stay in Nethy which ended in January. Her ecologist husband Richard had a sabbatical which allowed him to work on a book about global problems and which also allowed the family to experience life in Shetland. She reports enthusiastically, "Katie loved P2 at Aberdeen, and Hamish enjoyed the Playgroup...and it was wonderful to catch up with family and friends, and to manage two days skiing...would have loved more!"

ANDREW HOWLETT tells us (in the third person) that "in his declining years he fell off a push bike on a gentle Nethy brae last August, breaking his collar bone and ostentatiously wearing a sling for the next fortnight. He wishes to thank HARRY MACGREGOR for his timely reminder to take more water with it!"

DUNCAN HOWLETT feels he is now a native of Aberdeen, and was recently seen to be sporting a professorial beard! He would welcome any reminiscences from former GGS cronies, so come on, pens out boys!

GEORGE ILLINGWORTH "holidayed and golfed in Grantown last year" and praised the "superb condition" of the course. We look forward to seeing him and also brother EDWARD at the Dinner.

From North Carolina MARR ILLINGWORTH wrote that he hopes to pay a visit to Grantown this summer. We trust the plan will duly come to fruition! Bon voyage!

ARTHUR INNES tells us he has now retired and "weather permitting, I spend most of my time on the golf course!" We trust it will benefit your game!

JOHN IRVING, now retired, ordered his magazine from his home in Bolton.

Congratulations to FIONA JACK who won the Oldfold Cup for the most improved student on the Equestrian Course at the Clinterty Centre of the Aberdeen College of Agriculture during the 93-94 session. Well done!

Ordering her ticket for the Dinner prompted the following reflections from GRACE KIRK: "Having long since reached 'senior' status, looking back over the years seems a particular pleasure...and the meeting of the 1939 leavers at the last reunion was a very nice occasion. How well we have all worn! (I think!)"

We trust the '95 meeting will maintain the standard! (Ed.)

Our thanks to MRS LAING (KATHERINE TEMPLETON) for her good wishes. She is still active as a Community Midwifery Sister at the Eastern General in Edinburgh.

We had a nice chat with SANDY LEDINGHAM when he delivered his brother WILLIAM's slip and mag. order early in March. William, now living in Banchory, spends a lot of his time bowling, both indoors and out, while Sandy is a regular at the Snooker tables in the Y.M.

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT ANDREW LIGGAT "returned from Germany (the land of cheap beer and taxfree goodies!) in September" and has set up home at RAF Honington, the new training depot for the RAF Regiment. On the family front he predicts a new arrival just shortly after we go to press in April. We send all good wishes.

SQUADRON LEADER ARCHIE LIGGAT now commands 19 Squadron at RAF Valley, his previous squadron having been disbanded in the current shrinking of the Air Force. No 19 trains flying instructors on the Hawk trainer, and comprises 23 staff and, appropriately enough, 19 planes. Archie's second daughter Kirsty was christened in Inverallan on Christmas Sunday. Archie is of course to be one of the speakers at this year's Dinner and will no doubt have plenty of stories to tell. He told us recently that he has decided to leave the RAF and to move into the civil aviation field in order to be able to continue flying, and has in fact already been taking some new qualifications to prepare himself for this.

DOUGLAS LOW reports that he has undertaken a course at the University of Dundee leading to a qualification (M.Sc.) in Remote Sensing. No doubt this has applications in the environmental fields in which Douglas's interests lie. He is to be off to Cambridge to complete this research. We send all good wishes for success.

We are quite dizzy after studying the Jungfrau brochure sent to us by KAREN LOW. She is meantime working at the Eiger glacier restaurant at a level about twice that of the top of Cairngorm! And in summer she is to move up to the "Top of Europe" restaurant at a height of 11,333 feet! The only drawback is the daily four hours travelling, but, like a true Scot, Karen consoles herself that John Q. Public has to pay some £80 for the privilege of doing what she gets paid for! Karen had about a month off in late '94 which she spent at home before going back to work at Christmas and fitting in a "long-awaited" trip to Venice. Switzerland is a marvellous base to set out from for European travel!



MRS LILLEY (JANE MACAULAY) assures us that she is "still keeping busy" in Aberdeen.

MRS LUGG (JEAN BURGESS) reports that "Iron pills have put new life into me! My angina is now spelt anaemia!" She tells us that she is leading a quiet life, but goes on to say that she gets transported to all her activities...which, if we remember aright, are pretty numerous. Just keep being nice to the chauffeurs! All good wishes!

We noted that SIMON MACAULAY loyally defended Kingussie and Grantown when he commented in the press on the publication of the government's controversial "league tables" of school results. He said that they simply confirmed "what most parents would have already known...that they were good schools," and he cautioned against reading too much into raw statistics and crude league tables. Simon is of course Assistant General Secretary of the E.I.S.

We noted that the effervescent DONNIE McBEATH recently sent in an old Scout photo to the Strathie. It showed a group of Scouts guarding an unlit bonfire at Dreggie in the 1930s and included Donald Gunn, Sandy Ledingham, Donnie himself and surprisingly enough Isobel Gunn (now Mrs Spalding)! Maybe Isobel can explain her presence. Was she perhaps bringing provisions to the guards?

MRS McCLELLAND (ELIZABETH LAWRENCE) tells us she is reduced to talking to the dog since her daughter Karen got married last July! Karen is in her second year of Primary teaching, but, due to the scarcity of jobs, it has all been "Supply" work.

MR & MRS GORDON McCONACHIE (ALISON GRANT) are "all settled in at Inch" and awaiting the arrival of their third child (scheduled for early June...all good wishes!) GORDON says he enjoys "being on the other side of the fence" as he struggles with the "bureaucratic Brussels red tape" for the Ministry of Agriculture.

We learned (through one of Jean Paterson's grapevines!) that MR & MRS W. McCURDY (ALICE KING) whose home is in Massachusetts, had a family party at the Seafield Arms in Cullen last October to celebrate her and Bill's Golden Wedding with her sister Meta and husband (Mr & Mrs Morton Stevens). Thanks again Jean!

From Brunei ALISTAIR MACDONALD writes that he is "enjoying life in the tropics", but he sometimes longs for the dry heat of Australia "and even the cool of Scotland!" He had a flying visit from his "big" sister Pamela (MRS TOM FERGUSON) in the course of her business trip to SE Asia.

EVAN MACDONALD is now well through the third and final year of his B.Sc. degree course in Maths and Physics at Warwick University. We send all good wishes for his forthcoming finals.

We are grateful to Rev. SANDY MACDONALD for taking time out from his busy life as the Parish Minister of Neilston (Glasgow) to bring us up to date on his activities. The copy of the beautifully produced Neilston Parish magazine which he sent us is testimony to the thriving life of his congregation. We have already passed it to Mrs Irene Liggat, the editor of the corresponding Grantown magazine "Bridges", who is always interested to see how other editors go about the job, and who immediately promised a copy of the current issue for Sandy. But there was another enclosure in Sandy's mailing to us for he has "ventured into print" with a small volume entitled "Man of Principle, Alexander Fleming, Minister of Neilston Parish Church, 1804-1844" which, as the title conveys, deals with the life and work of one of Sandy's predecessors in the charge of Neilston. The motivation for the preparation of this book was the decision of the Neilston Kirk Session to mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Alexander Fleming by a Memorial Service which took place on 12th June 1994.

JAMES MACDONALD told us of an interesting trip he and his wife made last year in which the destination and the point of departure were both Waterloo! They went from Waterloo station in London, through the Channel Tunnel to Brussels, where James's sister lives, then on to visit the battlefield at the other Waterloo! We look forward to meeting James at the Dinner in April.

IAN MacGILLIVRAY, we were pleased to hear, is "still enjoying retirement with golf, curling etc...and the old overseas holiday!"

DOUGLAS McINNES is "still well, and still ski-ing...Kitzbühel with the school (Millburn, where Douglas is Principal Guidance Teacher) in February, and hopefully Cervinia at Easter...sometimes we manage a Christmas trip too" and he adds, just a touch offhandedly we feel, "Of course Cairngorm's good too!"

New recruit JOHN McINNES comes to us through the good offices of former GGS teacher Mrs Edith Mackintosh who set the ball rolling by advising him to drop the Secretary a line. On leaving school John completed a photography course at Napier, and became for a few months a photo technician at Edinburgh University. Finding this unsatisfactory, he eventually became a civil servant for 19 years, working mainly with the Scottish Record Office and later with the Schools Inspectorate. Experiencing nevertheless a "spiritual restlessness" he became a Catholic in 1985, and "finally plucked up courage to apply for entry to seminary at the ripe old age of 40!" Now he is to be ordained as a deacon on 18th June and D.V. as a priest the following summer. We offer our congratulations and best wishes for success and fulfilment.

Congratulations to Business Administration student NEIL McINNES on the completion of his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Retired Group Captain ANGUS McINTOSH is still in Barnton.

From Aberdeen DONALD McINTOSH sends his apologies for being unable to attend the Dinner and wishes the function every success.

MRS HARRY McINTOSH (IRIS FORBES) wrote to say that she will not be able to make the Dinner this time as she has to attend a wedding in Ireland. With the changed situation over there that will certainly be an enjoyable celebration too. Best wishes!

We are looking forward to seeing DONALD McINTYRE and his wife Ann at the Dinner. "Retired" Professor Donald keeps busy with a multifarious collection of interests, and is to be off to Texas in June for a computer conference. Before then he has a paper to do for the British Computer Society and five lectures for St Andrews University...besides this he continues to research the Kinfauns Sword, a weapon from the days of William Wallace, which he has been invited to go and photograph at Darnaway by the Earl.

Donald's brother RANALD McINTYRE describes himself as "partly retired" as he works AM with a computer firm in Grangemouth which deals with connections from home/business computers world-wide...he then goes on to say "I still have an interest in assessing vehicle accidents..." adding "Who said nothing to do when you retire? It's a full time job!" And he's only semi-retired!

Our thanks to MRS McIVER (BETTY McBEATH) in Oban for her help in preparing the obituary notice for her late sister Margaret (Mrs David Davidson).

MRS IAN MCGREGOR (ANNETTE HOGG) tells us she is now Service Quality Coordinator for her branch of the Royal Bank, adding "grand title for the one who receives all the complaints - and compliments for the branch!" Daughter Eilidh carries on the family tradition with swimming-training five times a week, while son Kim is now "a budding Gavin Hastings" having taken up rugby. Methinks there couldn't be a better model after Paris and Murrayfield!

Our thanks for her good wishes to former Homecraft teacher MRS JESSIE McKENZIE (PEGGY CAMPBELL) who lives in Aberlour.

Dr SANDY MACKENZIE is having a busy year in his capacity as President of the Alumnus Association of Aberdeen University because of course the University is celebrating its quincentenary, and numerous functions are being organised throughout the year. We offer our congratulations to Sandy also on his recent appointment as a Burgess of Guild of the City of Aberdeen.



MRS McKENZIE (JEAN McLACHLAN), in a Christmas note to JEAN PATERSON, sent greetings from a very warm Melbourne to MRS WILSON (ADA IMRAY) and MRS JOHN GRANT (BETTY TEMPLETON) which were duly passed on to us by Jean.

"After 400 years of pen and inkpot, we're all struggling with the new computer at the Registers of Scotland", writes GRAHAME McKENZIE ruefully...Never mind, we are sure you will grow to love it - it doesn't get your forefinger all inky, even though it may cause some squariness of the eyes!

We congratulate Graham's brother, JOHN McKENZIE who has completed his professional exams while working for Bell Ingrams Chartered Surveyors. Well done!

The third member of the triumvirate STUART McKENZIE is off to sample life "down under" for a year. "Good on ya, clobber!"

KEITH McKEPORN writes that his wife and he "fulfilled a long-standing ambition last year by making a trip round the world in about 90 days". India, Thailand, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, Los Angeles and Florida were all on the itinerary, and in the last named he visited his sister Connie and family.

ANGUS MACKINTOSH reports that he has now retired from his post as secretary of the Scottish Universities Council on Entrance, but has "immediately resumed working (part-time) as 'Officer for Scotland' of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)", the new organisation which replaces the former UCCA. "Part-time employment has already proved extremely congenial," he comments, "particularly as it allows more time for excursions to the Cairngorms!" We offer congratulations and best wishes for happy climbing!

Angus's mother, MRS EDITH MACKINTOSH (formerly of the GGS Science Dept.) reports that she was present when her youngest grandchild Fiona graduated in July with a B.A. (Hons) from the Business School at Strathclyde University, where a buffet lunch was provided afterwards by the Business School.

ISOBEL MACLEAN reports that she has taken early retirement from her post in hotel management and is "enjoying every minute of it". Like many another of the retired she wonders how she ever found time for work! Since the death of her mother in April, she has made fewer trips North, but still makes time to visit "The Brothers".

MRS McLURE (HELEN GORDON) has her main news in the "Births" column this year with the arrival of her 7lb 5oz son Alexander David in November. Congratulations! She hopes to see more of her parents now as they retired, also in November.

IAN MacPHERSON Jnr. writes that he is "still lancing away freely" with his art work in Rosyth. We saw one or two of his pictures when we visited Ian (Snr.) at Greenhill recently and were very favourably impressed by their quality.

We had a nice letter from JAMES MACPHERSON who is now retired from the Police and "living happily in Surrey" where he seems to be cultivating a thriving colony of exiled Scots in his capacity as Chairman of the Croydon and District Scottish Association, a lively organisation to judge from their brochure which James sent to us...they celebrate Burns' Night, Halloween, St Andrew's Day and Hogmanay and they have regular ceilidhs, outings, and country dancing sessions and they run a drama group. They even have members resident in Grantown! (Bill & Judy Mitchell if we are not mistaken!) James and his wife hope to visit Grantown later on this year.

PETER MACPHERSON sends "regards to all who remember me", and rejoices that he is "still very fit". The younger generation of the family are seeking further academic qualifications, grandson Graham at Sheffield, and granddaughter Jill at Leicester.

ALAN McTAGGART writes from his Queensland Research Station: "Drought takes its toll on the rural community...and after 3-4 years it gets to the urbanites too!" We hope that there will not be a repetition of the fires that John Holmes described so graphically in our last issue.

NEIL McTAGGART feels regretfully that most events seem to happen to other people nowadays! Nevertheless he will soon be

involved again and studying "l'art d'être grandpère", as Victor Hugo put it, because his daughter Elspeth and her husband Stuart, now minister of Partick Trinity Church, are due to provide a grandchild in June! Our very best wishes! Neil's other son-in-law is now a "fully fledged C.A." and his son Ranald is "seeking entry to the legal profession". "And Mother is to be 90 in April!" As an experienced Grandad we can assure Neil that there is lots of satisfaction in simply being an enthusiastic spectator at such events!

New Recruit JENNIE MATHIESON is now a first year student at Stirling University. She tells us that she is to join the Rowing Club...we can vouch that it is very good for the tummy muscles! Though it's a long time since we heard the commands, "Sit the boat all! Come forward all! Ready...Paddle!" Good luck go with you!

MRS MEEHAN (LESLEY CRAIB) has had a bit of a chequered year...she caught chickenpox (a well known hazard for primary teachers and sometimes for their spouses too!), had an appendectomy just before Christmas, and was busy with an extension to the house with a view to "staying put in Forres" when the RAF unit where her husband works lost the Nimrod contract and made it probable that he would be posted! Nevertheless she has still been teaching P6 and doing a bit of French with them too. We trust next year will be plainer sailing

MIKE MOIR reports "the family all well and still enjoying life in Hong Kong". He is confident about the future of Hong Kong and about the opportunities for businesses in China. He writes that his own group is now investing heavily there, including a project for which he is responsible in Shanghai, "a fascinating city". He also finds time to be Chairman of the HK Football Club, and to serve for a year as Chieftain of the St. Andrew's Society. He asks to be remembered to "all my old friends in Grantown" and goes on: "I still have very fond memories of my schooldays". He is now both a director and General Manager of Swire Properties.

SHAW MORTIMER is still at Cleughhead near Lockerbie.

We were delighted to receive a Dinner booking from JEANNETTE MUNRO who had to miss the last one, and therefore has a four year backlog of news to catch up on! So she is doubly welcome!

Besides his job with Hydro Electric ALASTAIR MUTCH is also kept busy with "gigs" for the local (Carrbridge) Anne Dickson band which has recently issued a new CD and cassette with their favourite tracks.

Our thanks to MRS NAPIER (LINDSEY STEPHEN) for a nice Christmas card with a greeting in five languages which came to us from "down under" in answer to our circulars. Lindsey finds that our request on the info slips for "humorous items" is "enough to make my mind go a complete blank"! Sorry, it isn't meant to be threatening...the idea is to save the editor from trying to be inventive!

MRS NEWBOULD (RACHEL SMITH) writes "'94 was a good year, if somewhat hectic!" She decided to take the gamble of "going self-employed" by undertaking the catering and bar franchise of the Golf Club at RAF North Luffenham "which has proved to be profitable and enjoyable too". She also passed her driving test and astonished her parents by transporting their grandchildren from Lincolnshire to Grantown two days later! "My running had to be set aside for a while," she adds, but she is to be back on the road again shortly with a 7 mile sponsored run for the PTA of the local school. In fact she managed to raise £200.

BEATRICE OLIPHANT checked in from Rogart in Sutherland where she is active as the District Nurse.

MRS OLLASON (MARGARET GRANT) is pleased to be "still in touch with Mina Keith", and has heard several times from Margaret Ross (ex Broomhill). "What an energetic lady she is," she comments, "It was interesting to hear of her long rail journeys across Canada." Our thanks for your good wishes which we reciprocate.

MRS ORFORD (ISOBEL CALDER) has two big events to report, the marriage of her nephew Graham Wright, and the celebration of her Mum's 91st birthday (Congratulations!) while the latter was with them in Fergus Ont. Isobel tells us she is enjoying doing voluntary work for the local hospital, and also that they were still digging themselves out of snow (in March). Maybe you got some of the snow that seems to have missed Grantown this year!

We have a new address for MRS JOHN PATERSON (MARGERY MACAULAY) whose minister husband has now taken up the Church of Scotland charge of Cumnock Old, Ayrshire, so Margery will have embarked on the busy life of the Lady of the Manse. We offer them both every good wish in the tasks that lie ahead of them.

Dr. RON PHILIP is "planning a trip to St Andrews in July for the "Open" and also a visit "with" (Amer. we suspect he means "to") my two brothers Raymond and Bob at the Woollen Mill". Ron also sent us a mouthwatering picture of himself holding aloft a 42



pound yellowfin tuna he caught last November. Ron's grin was almost as extensive as our envy!

We were pleased to read last year of the graduation (with honours in Modern History) of TIM POTT. We have since heard from Tim that he is now doing teacher training at Jordanhill and "enjoying the placements, but finding the course rather uninspiring". 'T' was ever thus we fear! The transition from the rarified atmosphere of Senior Hons to the practicalities of the school room is almost bound to be something of a come down! Tim hopes to find a post as a History or Modern Studies Teacher, possibly abroad.

MRS RAE (MONA GRANT) is still kept busy relief lecturing at Inverness College and is hoping for a more permanent position. All her youngsters are now away from school, Peter is a maintenance/electrical apprentice, Heather, her younger daughter, is an au pair in Washington DC where her elder sister hopes to join her for a holiday this September. Mona still "pops up to Grantown just about every weekend to see Mum who was 80 just before Christmas and is amazingly well".

Thanks to IAN RITCHIE for his return sent from his home in Saffron Walden, Essex. He had nothing new to report.

Our thanks also to MRS MYLES RITSON (MINA KEITH) for her complimentary remarks about the magazine which we much appreciate. She reports, "1994 was a healthy year for Myles and myself". She records also her sadness at the death of Mariel Grant and recalls fondly the visit she paid her during her last trip to Grantown in autumn '92. She keeps in fairly close touch with local affairs as Betty and Chrissie McIntosh send on interesting photos and cuttings from the Strathie, and she writes also of renewed contact with former classmate MRS McCALLUM (ISOBEL McBEATH)

Conscientious readers of our lists will know that Detective Superintendent ALEX ROSS is part of what the Police call the "International & Organised Crime Squad", but we were astounded to learn from a report in "The Mail on Sunday" last November the sort of thing that this job involved. Alex was sent to the Caribbean island of St Kitts to investigate the disappearance of a U.N. diplomat, but thereafter the story becomes something like a cross between a Graham Greene novel and a James Bond film with nine murders, including that of a police chief who was en route to talk to Alex, political intrigue, drugs, corruption, money laundering, a mass jail break (150 prisoners including the murder suspect escaped) the Deputy Prime Minister's resignation, bodies found in a burnt-out car in a sugar cane field where Alex found himself trying to preserve the evidence guarded by two firearms specialists armed with machine guns and surrounded by an angry crowd. Alex kept his cool and managed to get the car out. He is quoted as saying: "It is naturally of concern to me that the police officer from whom I have taken over was assassinated for pursuing the same lines of inquiry. So we are taking precautions". (Surely a classic of laconic understatement!) Alex was home just before Christmas, but has since been back to the island to carry out further investigations. We hope we have managed to give you the flavour of the story of "Our Man in St Kitts", and we wish him a successful conclusion and a safe and speedy return...the more so as he is now due for retirement from the Police! After we had written the foregoing we were shown an even fuller account of the story which was published later in the Sunday Telegraph...then still later we were able to get Alex to vet our version of the tale, as he was back in Grantown after a trip to Jordan! Yes, he gets around a bit "when constabulary duty's to be done, to be done"!

Big brother WALTER ROSS having retired from the "Met", is nevertheless still on constabulary duty as well, as head of the Royal Parks Constabulary.

MARGARET ROSS(ex Broomhill) has "notched up another railway" during a Canadian trip. It took her 100 miles through the Agawa Canyon, and was followed by a boat trip through the locks of Lake Superior to Georgian Bay, "and finally Toronto and home". She also found time to visit the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, and pursue some enquiries about the history of the Canadian Forestry Corps in this country during the 39-45 War. We look forward to seeing Margaret and some of her contemporaries at this year's Dinner.

VICTOR ROSS was the first to return his slip this year. He writes that he had a "marvellous" trip to Canada with his daughter Carole, touring in British Columbia and Montana. He also reports that he has now retired as President of the Bearsden Fiddlers after an eleven year stint.

MRS SELMAN (ELISE KIRK) confesses that she has been retired from her Nursery Teaching job since 1985, but had forgotten to let us know. "I'm sure everyone will be relieved to know that Lothian Region doesn't have a policy of employing geriatric nursery teachers!" she quips. We have amended the Mainlist accordingly!

MRS SEQUIRA (RITA STUART) is still in the Far East working in Macau as an Admin & Programme Officer for the UN University International Institute for Software Technology, but retains her base in Bangkok.

We ran into JAMES SHAND recently when he was home on holiday from Australia with his wife Diane and family. James is looking well and enjoying life down under. He is running his own painting & decorating business just as he did in Grantown and getting plenty of work.

Since she joined the Club, recent recruit MRS SHAW (CONNIE GORDON) records having had "a memorable day" with Mrs Ewen (Betty Robertson), and an August trip to Grantown when she enjoyed meetings with Vera Campbell, Jean Paterson, Nellie Stephen, Kay Sutton and her former neighbour Mrs Williams. "Everyone looked so young!" she comments, "it must be the Grantown climate!" We look forward to seeing Connie at the Dinner.

We have two new addresses for English teacher MRS E. SMITH, (ELSPETH GOW) one in Singapore and one in Aberdeen. She reports that she is "still teaching...18 year olds!" and she adds that she is now a grandmother. Congratulations! And thanks for the nice New Year card.

The other MRS IAN SMITH (JANETTE MACDONALD) sent us a lovely slip brimming with news like the Silver Wedding celebration last April of Mr & Mrs Arthur Fearnley (Maureen Macaulay)... "great fun and much enjoyed". Janette herself has a new job at an upper school in Northampton, teaching "Integrated Humanities" which we are glad to say she explained was a "mish-mash of sociology, history and economics with a dash of geography thrown in"! They hope to go back to History and Geography next year however. "Thank goodness!" comments Janette. She has also moved house (New address in list!) and tells us her "little baby starts school at 4 years and one month this year" and all her youngsters are due to change schools in September. The bill for School Uniforms looms large!

We look forward to seeing MR & MRS IAIN SMITH (JOAN FRASER) from Lentrane who are to be at the Dinner again this year. They report having had a visit last summer from TOMMY STUART whom they had not seen since 1949!

JOHN G. F. SMITH has his big news of the year in the Births column. "Holly is a happy baby," he writes, "but despite being the youngest and hence nearly the smallest in our NCT group, she makes more noise than all the rest put together! I can't imagine where she gets this from," he adds innocently. John now has a new post as an oil analyst with Wood Mackenzie, part of the NatWest Markets. We look forward to seeing him at the Dinner.

MRS SPALDING (ISOBEL GUNN) delivered her slip personally and told us that Committee Member Sheila Archibald had supplied her with two tickets for the Dinner, so we look forward to welcoming her and husband Peter there. On her slip Isobel talks of her happy memories of classes (especially Maths and Art) under the "expert tuition" of Mariel Grant. She also sends kindest regards to all.

We exchanged one or two letters with MRS SQUIRES (ISA MOYES) around the turn of the year. Isa, who is in her 94th year, has had an operation for cataract which has given her back a good deal of vision and enabled her to write more clearly. She keeps up contact with a number of FPs...Betty Mutch, Ian MacPherson, John Stuart, Lu Barclay and Mae Marshall are among them, and she is a



supporter also of the plans for a Museum. Of the late Mariel Grant he wrote "She certainly was a wonderful, devoted teacher, and her life will remain a tender memory to those who knew her."

**MRS STEVENS (META KING)** was reminded that she is "seriously middle-aged" (a common complaint, and seems to be spreading too) when her sister and brother-in-law came over from the States to celebrate their golden wedding. (Please see under **McCURDY**) Meta and her husband are to be off on a cruise to the western Med. soon. She sends good wishes to all her old (ie middle aged!) classmates

**MRS STOREY (BARBARA SMITH)** writes that her job of looking after the expatriate staff of Booker Tate is "going through an interesting phase" as the firm has taken on two new projects in Saudi Arabia and China, "two completely new countries within their portfolio", so there is quite a lot to learn. Add to this a new computer network and a new personnel database...so "we are all going to have our brains completely befuddled with new technology over the next few months!" Daughter Catriona has been having more than a little success with raising stick insects...the population having risen from one to 106 at its peak...now mercifully back to a more manageable 10. Gran remembers something very similar happening with white mice at The Gables!

We had a nice note from **LACHLAN STUART** with Christmas greetings and a request that we supply an extra copy of the magazine for his sister Alice, (now Mrs Chambers of 18 Bertrand Avenue, Clay Cross, Derbyshire) "She's old enough to have a copy of her own now!" comments Lachie.

**THOMAS STUART** is still doing part-time work for the Bucks Probation Service. He reports the meeting with "old classmate Iain Smith at Almadenich" which we mentioned above. Apparently they recognised one another readily after more than 40 years!

Our thanks to **ALISTAIR SURTEES** for help in composing the obituary for his brother Richard which appears in this issue. Alistair seems to spend quite a lot of time travelling since he retired. He was in Crete last summer, and plans "a trip to the Opera in Italy (Verona) next year" (1995).

Full marks to **MRS SUTHERLAND (ELSPIT McINTOSH)** for finding time to return her slip in the midst of preparations for a filming! New address already in the List! "We decided to move to a smaller house and garden before we became too geriatric!" she explains, and of course she needs time to sing to her granddaughter, "the only member of the family who applauds and asks for more when I sing!" And Elspit hopes to be a Grannie again in September...and no doubt gain another member of her fan club!

She sends best wishes for "a good evening" on 22nd April.

We offer congratulations on behalf of our members to Former Headmaster at Alves **JAMES TEMPLETON** and his wife Barbara who celebrated their Golden Wedding last year. Unfortunately James has been in failing health for some time and is now permanently in hospital. "Always a quiet person," his wife writes, "he is even quieter now, but when young brother Bill appears, the eyes can light up and he can laugh at a joke." We send our kindest regards.

Recent recruit **MRS THOMSON (VERA MORTIMER)** went to stay with her sister Marion for a time last July when the latter lost her husband Bob, and during that stay she reports that she "met up with Jean Mortimer and Alice Stuart (Lachie's sister). Jean had a copy of the "Strathis" containing the picture of some very smart cricketers of yesteryear...That set us reminiscing about our days at GGS...I think we remembered more of the good than the bad - teachers et al!"

**JIM THOMSON** reports from Kent that his wife and he have discovered the joys of "activity holidays", Bowls and Ballroom and Latin Dancing, for both of which they have been winning awards. It's certainly nice to have hobbies you can share.

**MRS VICKERMAN (SEONAI GRANT)** had a "great holiday" this past year...she went cycling in France. "Btm not too sore!" she adds. She sends her apologies for missing the Dinner...she is to be golfing in Spain around that time.

**JANE WALLACE** has now been 6 years with The Scotsman Publications, selling advertising space and is "still enjoying it!"

**RONA WALLACE** (Jane's sister) has decided to move back North to her roots after having been "walkabout" for a spell. She is to be with the Scottish Tourist Board Marketing Dept based in Inverness.

We were sorry that we did not meet **MRS WALMSLEY (ELLA SLATER)** at the funeral of the late Mariel Grant of whom she was a second cousin. "Mariel was my last family tie with Grantown," Ella writes from her home in Middlesex.

We look forward to seeing Mr & Mrs **JAY WARD** at the Dinner in April. Jay is now National Account Manager (Chemist Sector) for his firm, Premier Brands...they seem to give him a new title every year! I hope the frequent changes mark upward revisions of salary! He rejoices nevertheless that his eldest daughter "is now a pharmacist and self-supporting!" His son and younger daughter are both potential accountants at Stirling University, the young lad having just been accepted for honours. Jay now feels himself to be in "advanced youth" and wonders about the timing of the onset of middle age. If it is any guidance Jay, your editor feels he is about 28... till he tries to remember something he was told ten minutes ago!

We look forward also to seeing **MRS WEBB (MARGARET TEMPLETON)** at the Dinner. It has just occurred to us that the W's are doing well for the success of the function! Margaret's order for tickets is the middle one of three members in a row (see above and below) each taking a pair of tickets! Surely a gold star for the W's!

We had a lovely 'newsy' letter from **MRS ROY WESTON (SHEINA DONALDSON)** when she ordered tickets for the Dinner. Roy and she were in British Columbia in August for the wedding of her brother Keith's daughter Sally. "A lovely occasion". Sheina comments, adding "At the reception the Bride's elder sister Victoria acted as M.C., and made a very good job of it." We have an apology to make to Roy as, in our last issue, we credited the pass which HE achieved in 'A' Level French last year to one of his sons. Bravo Papa! Félicitations attardées, mais d'autant plus chaleureuses!

We have a new address for **MRS JOHN WILSON (AUDREY MURRAY)** who teaches in the Primary School at Culter just upstream from Aberdeen on the River Dee. Please see Main List.

Freelance journalist **BARRY WOOD** who has in the course of his career been involved in investigative reporting for Granada TV, has published a paperback account of the so-called "Jersey murders" entitled "A Blood Betrayal". Barry now intends to divide his time between journalism and writing books.

We acknowledge our indebtedness to **MRS NICKY WHITE (MARJORY MACKINTOSH)** for valuable help in preparing the obituary for her uncle, the late Bert Mackintosh, which appears in this issue, and take this opportunity to express condolences to the family, both personally and on behalf of the Clubs.

**MRS DAVID WILSON (ADA IMRAY)** who is to be one of our speakers at the forthcoming Biennial Dinner, writes that she is "enjoying a second spell in Poland, teaching English in a language school affiliated to a branch of the University of Silesia which concentrates on music and art, and provides me with a cultural balance...paintings in the corridors, pleasant musical sounds of choir singing and instrument practising emanating from the rooms...and some super carol singing before Christmas." Ada was also delighted to have had visits from Mary and Christine Tulloch (Mrs Mason & Mrs Bass respectively)...real nostalgic chat, with Christine catching up on a backlog of 50 years!"

**MR & MRS JOHN WRIGHT (SHONA CALDER)** wrote us from Cambridge Ontario to order tickets for the Dinner, so we look forward to welcoming them there. John also gave us some details of his career in Engineering with Babcock & Wilcox in England, Canada, Brazil and Mexico and latterly with the Ministry of Labour till his retirement in 1988. His work was mainly concerned with boilers and the safety of the same. Shona and he have two sons, both graduates, one in food science, and the other in computer science. Since his retirement John has been "trying to develop some skill in painting", an interest stimulated in him, as in many another,



by the efforts of the late Mariel Grant. John must be more expert than he makes out, as he is currently instructing a class of Senior Citizens "in the mysteries of watercolour". He also has a caravan by the shores of Lake Huron near a sandy beach and surrounded by golf courses! Like so many of us conditioned by UK ideas of distance, he is still amazed at the size and diversity of Canada...the Rockies are 3 long days drive away...in 1945 we spent 3 days in a train and, having set out from Nova Scotia in the East, found we had only reached the middle (Winnipeg)! But what marvellously hospitable people...particularly towards Scots!

We had a nice long letter from STANLEY WRIGHT with lots of news...his plans for family Christmas celebrations were interrupted by illness, happily overcome by New Year... 1994 was a busy year for them, as both "BOYS" (Alasdair 29 and James 27!) went back to college as mature students, Alasdair qualifying with a B.Sc. in Building Surveying and just starting to work at Worthing College, while James should complete a B.A. in architecture this summer and plans to get married in September. "1995 looks like being another busy year," comments Dad with justifiable pride. Stanley still keeps in touch with Roy and Sheena Weston (née Donaldson). Of course Sheena's parents George and Jeannie Donaldson would have been the next door neighbours of the Wrights when they stayed at 33 The Square.

## LOCAL NEWS

Summer was long in arriving in the strath in 1994...there was a level 18 inch fall of snow in one night in APRIL, and more fresh snow on the Cairngorms as we set off south to visit the family on the last weekend in June! But when the summer did arrive it was worth the waiting, and it was followed by the mildest back end and January of the 37 winters we have now spent in Strathspey. So we are tempted to begin to think there may be something in the theories of global warming after all!

Probably the thing that will strike the returning exile most readily this year is the progress of the road building work on the Grantown by-pass due to be ready by summertime. It starts by the dam at Craggan, passes behind the New Cemetery, crosses the burn where the sawmill used to stand and continues along the riverside encroaching on the riverbank (and indeed on the river itself!) down to the New Bridge. Fishers are wondering what effect it will have on Poll a Gearan and Polnagour! At the latter the sandy hole (where many a fish fell to the worm) has been dug out and filled with boulders.

Then on the other side of the river, a new ten acre industrial estate is being laid out at Achnagonalin, and this has led to services being laid on from the town and across the bridge to supply it. The main tenant on the site will be the Spey Valley Smokehouse with a 3,000 sq. ft. factory which is to replace their present premises at Cromdale, as these no longer meet stringent EEC regulations.

And while all this is under way, planning has also started for a Dulnain Bridge by-pass which will include a new bridge over the Dulnain.

Local hackles were raised by a suggestion to modify the shape of the High Street by "traffic calming" step outs, an idea the Heritage directors described as "outrageous". When the by-pass removes most of the thundering big lorries, the traffic should be much more acceptable.

Work is in progress as we write on a play area behind the "Institute". It has been levelled and is to be surfaced and fenced off. The Strathspey Railway Company volunteer squads have been busy laying track back from the rebuilt Broomhill Station towards Aviemore as the next step in recreating the link with Grantown.

Last June saw a restructuring of the arrangements in School to provide end of term functions which would be more meaningful for both award winners and school leavers. Our President, Rector Mr Malcolm MacLennan, explained these in detail to Committee members at our Business Meeting in October. Three functions were held: informal Awards Ceremonies for S1/2 and S3/4, held at the time of regular Junior and Senior Assemblies, and a Leavers' Graduation Ceremony incorporating the S5/6 Prizegiving. Each leaver received his/her Record of Achievement along with any individual prizes which had been won. To achieve cordiality through less formality, there was no platform party, parents were invited, and the ceremony was conducted from the floor of the Hall. It was generally felt that the new arrangement had achieved its main object in providing occasions which would involve the pupils more closely in what was taking place.

Our members will see too that, although the organisation has been

changed, the need for the provision of prizes remains at least as great, and in view of this, the Committee decided to increase the contribution for prizes made by the Clubs to £150 this year with a similar sum going to the School Library.

About the time we go into print there will be elections going on for the new Highland Council which is to replace both Highland Regional Council and its eight District Councils when it finally comes into power in April 1996, after a year of "shadowing" the existing authorities.

A new plan for a network of woodland pathways and bridleways linking Grantown and Aviemore has been described as "exciting, imaginative and innovative"...lets hope it doesn't get lost in the confusion of the administrative changeover we have just described!

On now to the doings of our local members:-

**CALUM BEANGE** is one of our members with a foot in both lists so to speak, as his HQ is still at home, but his job is with the HRC Finance Dept. in Inverness. Calum also plays in the popular Anne Dickson Band, well known on the local pub and club circuit, and now venturing into the recording business.

**MRS BETTOLI (SUSAN GRANT)** uses her skills as a beautician to cheer up visitors to the Holmhill Multiple Sclerosis Holiday Centre. "They like to choose the brightest colours!" says Susan.

**FRANK CALDER**, one of our Vice-presidents, had the arrival of another grandchild to celebrate last September. Thea Emily Mary arrived somewhat earlier than expected, and Frank's daughter Alison (who is married to Thurso policeman Keri Jones) gave birth in the ambulance at the roadside between Thurso and the Caithness General Hospital in the early hours of the morning! Both well! Carefully chaperoned by Mary, Frank also has a regular date with Jean Paterson when he chauffeurs her for shopping trips!

**MRS CALLAM (SANDRA PATERSON)** has left the Bank of Scotland and has a new position at the Ian Charles Hospital.

We were delighted to see that **GEORGE CAMERON** was enjoying much better health and was able to move back into his old home at the top of Forest Road.

Although bothered by stiffness in her knees, nevertheless **VERA CAMPBELL** is one of the most regular of the Pensioner Swimmers. Another regular is **MARGARET CRUICKSHANK** who also keeps the books for the Group.

Our current Honorary President **JOHN DUNCAN** and his wife Anne have decided to retire from the B & B business which they have successfully run at Dunallan for many years, and Dunallan is now up for sale. It was Anne (long noted for her skills as a flower arranger, and who decorated the Assembly Hall for Prize Day for many a year) who prepared the wreath in the School colours for the funeral of the late Mariel Grant.

Final year student **JENNIFER EVEREST** was one of the attendants to the Farmers' Show Queen at the 1994 Show.

**MARTIN & CHRISSIE GRANT** will not be able to make the Dinner this year, as they are off on a trip to Australia to visit Allan in Sydney. We wish Bon Voyage! We noticed incidentally from the Strathie that Chrissie has been doing well in the Carpet Bowling at Dulnain, landing awards both in the Pairs and Individual competitions.

**STEWART GRANT** has a handsome new dog with a coat so fluffy we feel it could make a fortune advertising shampoo or soap powder!

**SANDY LEDINGHAM** has had his house at The Clachan completely rebuilt. He had considerable help from his son-in-law Iain Cumming (Fiona's husband) when it came to the decorating stage.

We noticed that **HARRY MCGREGOR** was one of the curlers taking part in the first outdoor bonspiel of the season at the local rink. The surprising absence of prolonged frost this winter had delayed the start till after New Year. What a contrast with 1994! Harry and **PADDY PATERSON** were also members of the rink which later lifted the John Marshall Trophy at a bonspiel on the floodlit outdoor rink. **BARRY MAIN** is another local curler who has been enjoying continued success. For the second year running his Strathspey rink won the Grampian Province Knock-out title.

**JIM MACKENZIE** is still a keen plantsman, raising his own seeds and usually managing to produce an eye-catching display in the conservatory at the front of Kenmore.

Concluded on Back Page



## LOCAL NEWS (Continued from page 12)

MRS HUGH MACLEMAN (DIANNE DUNCAN) has been doing a very useful job as Secretary of the Swimming Association which was formed to look after the interests of the Swimming Pool user groups since the building of the extensions and the opening of the pool for public sessions.

Congratulations to local builders McLeod Building on their continued success in the Housebuilder of the Year Awards, their fourth success since 1988. JIMMIE, in spite of his poor health, will be proud of his lads.

ISA McPHAIL now enjoys the comforts of the Mount Barker Residential Home.

HAMISH MARSHALL has retired from his job with the River board and has added mountain biking to his many interests.

There was a nice picture of a smiling BILL MITCHELL in the Strathie last year to celebrate his successes at the Snooker table over a long period, stretching in fact from 1952 to 1994. No wonder he was smiling! Bill is another who may be seen sometimes atop a mountain bike. Appropriately enough for someone of Bill's stature the frame bears the name "Giant"!

It was Bill's wife JUDY STUART who moved the congregation by her tender rendering of "The Northern Lights" on the organ at the funeral service for the late Jock Paterson.

MRS NOTMAN (MAIRI PATERSON) has undergone a free transfer from the Main List to the Local one. (It's a painless operation, we assure you, unless you are involved in the flitting, as we are sure Mairi will agree!) Her husband Ross has a new job with the Highlands and Islands Fire Brigade, and they are to make their home at 45 Strathspey Drive from early in January. Good Luck!

The Club is much indebted to Committee member MRS STEPHEN RITCHIE (DAPHNE DUNCAN) for the work she and her squad put in at Christmastime to make the Disco for our younger members such a success. The "squad" consisted of her husband Stephen, her sister Dianne and her husband Hugh. Not only was the function a social success, but it brought us a welcome boost to funds as well...and Daphne later saved the Clubs a printing bill by producing the Dinner tickets on her word processor. Many thanks!

Our best wishes for success go to MRS SINCLAIR (LISI FUCHS) who has recently opened a restaurant business in a stylish looking new building situated close by the Kinveachy fork on the Aviemore road, where the road to Carrbridge branches off. It is appropriately named Lisi's Country Restaurant.

MRS STUART (MARION PATERSON) enjoyed a trip to Canada over the festive season to visit her daughter ANN (MRS PERK) and family. Ann's eldest daughter has now started at university. Marion is another keen pensioner swimmer and has recently progressed so well that she has abandoned her armbands.