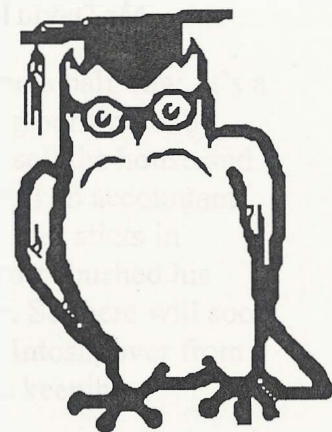
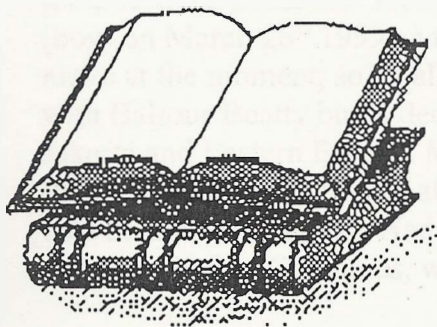


GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD
GUARD CLUBS
MAGAZINE
1999



EDITORIAL AND FOREWORD

A very successful Biennial Dinner was held again in the Coppice Hotel. As it was decided not to have a speaker everyone mingled, exchanging news and reminiscing, updating addresses and with promises to keep in touch more often with old friends. Old magazines with various photographs were circulated causing great hilarity. Grateful thanks to Maree Thompson for her continued support and hard work editing the magazine. She also attended the Biennial Dinner but what she thought of all the more "mature" FP's giggling and laughing at the old photographs, she kept to herself! To help Maree keep addresses up to date we would be grateful if former pupils, or their families living locally, could advise us of any changes. We are also open to any fresh ideas. We must also thank George Dixon for his Millennium update on the origins of the magazine and to all who enclosed donations. All the best to our readers for the year 2000 and look forward to your continued support.

Margaret Masson

Secretary

1999 has been a very busy year, so my apologies for being a bit later than usual with the magazine. There was also a lot more replies this year to work my way through. I will be able to take responses via email from now, although you will still need to send your slip in to receive your magazine. You can email me on maree@dannysclown.freemove.co.uk with any news pieces you have. Please mark your emails GGS Mag in the subject field.

Maree Thompson

COMMITTEE

Mr A Martin Grant, Mrs Betty Grant,
Miss Jean Paterson, Mr Frank Calder, Mrs Shirley Findlay,
Mrs Chrissie Grant, Mr Malcolm MacLennan,
Mrs Margaret Masson, Miss Sheena Ogilvie, Mrs Daphne Ritchie,
Mr David Ritchie, Mrs Margaret Ross and Mr Ian Smith

J R Allan

Mr Allan has submitted a piece about the area. I have included it with George Dixon's update. Thanks (Editor)

Mona M Allan (McLean)

Just glad to be fit and alive.

Michael Anderson

Enjoying life in New York for two or three years of courtesy work.

Mrs F E Anfield (Winnie Shaw)

It seems a lifetime since I got my diploma in domestic science. All that training on how to cook. Now we have succumbed to M&S, the tin opener, and all mod cons.

Wendy Atkinson (Shand)

Nothing to report.

Lorna Banks (Stephen)

Apologies for not making the dinner. It's quite a shock to realise its nearly 40 years since I left school.

Mrs L D Pamela Braid (Gibson)

Another very interesting magazine and well worth the increase in price. My thanks to the committee.

Evelyn Brazendale (McMurray)

Recent new appointment as practice nursing sister, working with GP's in a busy surgery. Both children Paul, 11 and Fiona, 9 are growing up fast. Hoping to return north at Easter to do some skiing.

Mrs M Brocklehurst (Margaret McWilliam)

Nothing eventful has occurred of late. Life has just progressed on a fairly even keel.

Jill Bruton (Lennon)

Have been working in Chingford Police Station for a year and a half now. It's a lot quieter than Kentish Town was. Mind you, I am expecting our first baby (boy) on March 28th 1999 so that helps. We're also trying to sell the house and move at the moment, so its all change. My brother robin is still an accountant with Balfour Beatty but is deciding where to work for them after stints in Jakarta and Eastern Europe. My other brother Greig has almost finished his PhD re Shonigen's Disease at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee. So there will soon be a doctor in the house. Had a surprise visit from Lorna McIntosh, over from Australia before Christmas, which was great. I think she was keeping a

watchful eye on her growing Godson and expanding friend! Hopefully, we'll get over to Sydney to see her before we have to pay full price for junior. This will be my Mum and Dad's first grandchild and Adams' Mums 7th and there is another pending for later this year too. We'll never want for advice or equipment.

Irene Chapman (Edwards)

Elder daughter left home and working, the younger one has just started at University. Peace until they come home for holidays!

Mrs A Clark (Alison Ronaldson)

Thanks to everyone involved with the production of the magazine. Nothing new to report this year. My son Graeme still enjoys working at Aberdeen Airport as a Duty Manager.

Mark M Clark

Since the last issue we now the proverbial "brace" – Jennifer Megan was born on October 2nd 1998 and Andrew is almost 3 – Labradors are much less hassle. It has been 12 months now since I took up residence in CSC's head office in Perth which has been a culture shock after 9 years of agronomy life in the field. Looking forward to our annual visit to Grantown-on-Spey in August.

Wilma Cowan (Irvine)

I forgot to return my form last year but my brother John passed his magazine on to me. Had a family reunion with him at the end of January at the wedding of my youngest son, Neil. My oldest son Alasdair couldn't make it as he is out in Brunei for 2 years with the army. Hope to visit him next year, all being well. My other son, Adrian, is at present spending 4 months in the Falkland Islands with the RAF. When he returns to Germany in the summer, we plan going over to see him and his family. We get to see many parts of the world courtesy of their service postings.

Mrs Dorothy Craig (Calder)

Nothing to report.

Mrs Lorna Crighton (Forbes)

Hoping this summer to graduate with a B.A in Theology from the International Christian College in Glasgow or perhaps go back to do Honours. At the time of writing this I am working with a Church of Scotland in Whiteinch.

Mrs E M Cropp (Margaret Templeton)

I enjoyed a visit home in August 1998 and joined in a very happy Templeton Family Reunion. I brought over my granddaughter and her baby son, my first great grandchild, to meet their Scottish relatives.

Iain and Fiona Cumming (Fiona Ledingham)

No changes in work, we had two very enjoyable barbecues with Rhona Walsh (Cameron) and her family in Florida last summer. Needless to say there was lots of Grantown chat.

George A Dixon

Took early retirement from my post as Archivist in 1998. I was also elected chairman of the Scottish Local History Forum in October 1998.

- George has submitted a piece on the origins of the FP's magazine. You can find this at the end of the news.

William Dobson

I can occasionally be seen flying around the Spey Valley in a Hercules, as I am now boss of one of the squadrons based at RAF Lyneham.

Fiona Donn

I took early retirement in August 1997 as my parents were becoming pretty frail and needed more support than I could manage whilst teaching as well. In April 1998, Mum and Dad celebrated their Diamond Wedding. We all enjoyed a lovely gathering of a good number of our relations at our home to mark the occasion. Although life continues to be very busy, I still manage to find time for my patchwork, appliqué and quilting interests.

Janet Edmunds-Jones (Dixon)

Have had to retire due to ill health from my post as a lecturer at the University of the West of England. Happily I had graduated with an MSc. Two years previous, and achieved a long held wish. I'm enjoying the freedom to read and sew, although the energy levels are poor. Louise, Lesley and I keep in very close touch.

Mrs Maureen Fearnley (MacAuley)

I am looking forward to a new lease of life – I am getting two new knees later in the year, so I hope to get back to walking the dog, golfing etc. without the pain. Still waiting for visitors down this way.

Sine H Fergusson

Nothing to report.

Mrs I Findlay (Shirley Masson)

Still working in Primary School canteen. Girls now in Primary 3, 5 and 7. Kept busy taking them all to their after school activities.

Donna Flannery

Working in Donaldsons, Ironmongers

Mrs Nancy Forsyth (Nancy Gray)

We are great grandparents now. Preparations well ahead for the Garden Walk, around mid-July. The money raised is to go to the British Legion and Avoch amenities. Spoke to pupils of Fortrose Academy on Scottish history. We have managed to neuter double the amount of dogs and cats this year on the K9KAT2 neutering scheme, which is now eight years old. Received award from the Political Animal Lobby, for work done with animals.

Elsbeth M Fraser (Mitchell)

The highlight of the past year was the celebration of my Mother's 100th birthday.

Valerie Fraser (Grant)

Nothing to report.

Pamela Glasse (Main)

Nothing to report.

Alistair Duncan-Grant (son of "Dash")

I left school to join RAF. I have two daughters, one 19 who is at University the other is 17. I am now a university lecturer in cognitive-behavioural psychotherapy, University of Brighton with degrees BA (Hons) Psychology & Social Science (1986), MA (Psychotherapy) (1991), Ph.D. (1999). Hello to Joe Hendry (Geography teacher). Remember me? I forgive you for running me over with your bike! I went on to bigger and better things.

Fiona M Grant

Still working as an Ophthalmic Nurse in Edinburgh.

Graham Grant

Recently promoted to Coxswain/Marine supervisor, responsible for pilot launches, crews and their running and supervision of all Marine staff on shift. I have just completed SVQ level 3 management and a Certificate in Supervisory Management - the first person in the British Ports Industry. There's nothing like blowing your own trumpet. Christopher is now six and doing well at school. Margaret is four and is a holy terror! After a major health scare last year, life is now a peach.

Mrs John Grant (M E Templeton)

Always kept busy, the family and grandchildren love to come home to Grantown for holidays. They all love to come on our long walks.

Shelagh M Grant

Still working as Ground Staff Customer Care Personnel for British Midland Airways.

Mrs Vincent Greenwood (Mary Winchester)
Nothing to report.

Sally Greenlees (Grant)

It has been quite an eventful year. Gordon and I are just thrilled with the arrival of our twin daughter and son, Emma and Fraser born on September 12th 1998. I am now a full time Mum, after 18 years as support staff with the Police Station in Grantown. Enjoying every minute of my new life. Also, we had to move to a larger house in North Kessock in March. I am looking forward to the twins' christening, to be held in Inverallan Church.

Donald Gunn

Still enjoying walking my dog, "Shelley"!

Mrs Ronald Harris (Kathleen Dunn)

Still teaching at Maisondieu Primary School in Brechin, Primary 1's again this year but only 25 compared to 33 of previous years. Our school was one of a few in Angus to receive an extra teacher to reduce class sizes (in the early stages.) My daughter Jill is still enjoying playing the piano and violin, which she plays in County Schools Symphony Orchestra. The family is involved in discussions re course choices for Higher Still subjects! Like millions of others we look forward to winning the lottery and retiring early.

Gillian Henderson

Celebration of Silver Wedding in September 1999. Gillian, husband and children to celebrate by visit to Nethy in July 1999. Now in email contact regularly with Janet Henderson (an Imac convert). Taking the children to Colorado and Disneyland on return from Scotland to Australia.

Mrs Malcolm Higgins (Pam MacPherson)

One Monday morning as I prepared to start another week with my class of 7 year olds in Chesterfield, one of my little boys came up to my desk and delved into his satchel. "I've got something for you!" he announced. Imagine my amazement when he pulled out the Grammar School Mag! "I recognise that" said I. "You're in it, said he, "and so is my Gran's friend Alice!" Alice turned out to be Mrs Chambers of Clay Cross, about 5 miles from my home – Lachie Stuart's sister. The magazine is a wonderful and unique publication, much envied by less fortunate mortals who have no such access to their roots. Lang may your lum reek.

Jean Hogg (Cruickshank)

Nothing to report.

D M Marr Illingworth
Nothing to report.

Edward Illingworth

I flew around the world last year on a two-month trip. The highlight was four days in the Kruger National Park, South Africa. The animals and birds were magnificent.

John Irvine

Had a family reunion when attending Wilma Cowan's youngest son's wedding at Darlington in January.

Rodena Kelman

I have now completed my Diploma in Management Studies at Kingston University and was amazed at the graduation ceremony to meet Andrew Dobson (Nethy) who was obviously at the same University at the same time, but our paths did not cross over the two years. I am taking a break from study before I consider finishing off with an MBA, so I have rewarded myself with a new sports car. Now all my studying is concentrated on the geography and location of speed cameras! May I use the magazine to wish all my classmates a very happy 40th birthday – a hideous thought for us all.

Grace Kirk

No news really – just carrying on contentedly. Greatly enjoyed your news from the outposts.

Katharine Laing (Templeton)

Nothing new to report this year.

Lindsay Laing (Wood)

Nothing to report.

Archie Liggat

I have changed jobs once again, this time to British Airways (Longhaul) flying the Boeing 747, to 400 destinations worldwide from Los Angeles to Sydney. Girls still enjoying school and various clubs in St. Andrews. My wife Liz is a part-time Learning Support teacher for dyslexic pupils at Madras College. I get up to Grantown as often as practical. Hopefully it will be more often in the future.

Karen Low

Still in the same house, same place and same job, but everything is going well. I was in Tasmania, New Zealand and Australia in November 98 to January 99 – Mum came with us. I was back home for a few days in January. In fact you had so much snow the road was closed for two days and I couldn't get up north!

Mrs Jean Lugg (Burgess)

Nothing to report this year – living the quiet life but I get out when I wish. I have had visitors from America and lots of family visits. I still keep up my classes, sewing etc. and spend spare moments on crosswords. Keep in touch with my friends in Grantown – but they get fewer.

Derek McCulloch

Derek is still hanging on with Halliburton, surviving the third downturn in 24 years. Jean continues to discover more of the hands on approach to complementary health. Caroline has left school and is studying Law and Management at Robert Gordon University. Craig is taking a year out to fulfil his personal goals in water-skiing before going to Nottingham Trent University to study Sports Science.

Shona McCulloch

Presently working as a relief district nurse/midwife for Grantown and Aviemore. (R.G.N, R.M.N, S.C.M)

J MacDonald

As a registered inspector for OFSTED my wife travels to many locations mainly in the north of England. I have become her driver so that together we frequently include pleasure with business and see much of England. Last year we went walking, we visited friends and family in France and Switzerland and finished the year on a QE2 cruise to the Med. Altogether ten countries. this year Spring has come early to Surrey. Already the grass need cutting and the weeds are taking over so its gardening for the next few weeks. However we've booked to see the Norwegian fjords this year and perhaps might fit in a visit to Scotland. Life was less hectic when I was working.

Rhona MacDonald

I got my R.G.N and, wait for it: I am working in Cardiology and Coronary Care in the John Radcliffe Hospital. It's amazing. The patients are given the best care this nation can offer and if that fails they are painfree guaranteed! Oxford itself is a quiet, happening place if you know what I mean. Although Oxford United are not quite Rangers F.C and they call last orders at 10.30pm.

Susan McDonald

Nothing worthy of note – other members of the family have all the news.

Ian MacGillivray

Ten years retired – and still enjoying it!

Annette McGregor (Hogg)

Following a recent promotion I am now in charge of my own branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland within Perth. I am still heavily involved with the local swimming club sometimes coaching three times a week. Eilidh has successfully achieved "A" grades in swimming, hoping and training hard for a National time. Kim is continuing to improve his rugby skills and slowly beginning to enjoy the cleaner sport of swimming.

Iris McIntosh (Forbes)

Continuing to enjoy retirement, particularly being able to visit my little grandson, Alistair, whenever I need a "grandson fix"!! Have also added a Westie puppy to the family fold, by the name of Corrie and he of course requires regular walking – not noticing too much difference in the waistline.

Thomas Donald McIntosh

Nothing to report.

Ranald C McIntyre

Similar to last year, still helping with Electric Scotland and Falkirk Net. Both are WWW sites, the latter is local to the Falkirk area. Was very sad to read the death of old classmate Mary Manson (Tulloch). My thoughts go to all family connections.

ranaldin@electricScotland.com or A3473070@infotrade.co.uk

Elizabeth McIver (McBeath)

Very little of interest to report. My big sister Isabel (Mrs McCallum) is doing well and always on the go. Brother Donnie surviving in Aberdeen. I am just back from wintering abroad and deciding where to go next – anywhere warm and dry. I love to get your magazine though my age group are becoming a bit scarce.

Keith McKerron

Nothing to report

Hugh Mackintosh

Now coaching North Schools under 15's Rugby team and hoping to take a Highland under 14 Rugby team to Italy in the October holiday.

D P McLean

Nothing to report.

Isobel A MacLean

Nothing to report.

Mrs Donald A McLeod (Elizabeth MacGregor)

Nothing to report.

Helen McLure (Gordon)

Still working part time for Boots the Chemist. Alex is now four. He starts school after Easter. Charlotte who is two keeps us entertained with non-stop talking and singing.

Peter MacPherson

Nothing to report.

Neil McTaggart

Greatly enjoying having a grandson, who is in Glasgow and a granddaughter in Aberdeen. I am delighted that Holyrood Abbey Church now has a new minister, formerly of Ullapool – vacancy filled.

Donald McTaggart

I am now retired after 28 years. I was at the Department of Geography, Arizona State University for the last four years as Director of International Programs previously I was at the Department of Geography University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur. (1963-1970)

Barry Main

Nothing to report.

Ian D Masson

Have been in France and most recently Canada with the Pipe Band which has also just finished making a CD. Making regular trips to London on Nissan Training Courses. Still playing lots of sport which now includes tennis!
e-mail IDMASSON@CURRANTBUN.COM

Mrs Margaret Masson (Stuart)

Very much enjoying being a lady of leisure though where the leisure comes in I don't know. I haven't got around to doing any of the things I promised myself I would do when I retired. I am still the secretary for the local Arthritis care branch and Former Pupils' Swimming Club and doing a little voluntary work at the newly opened Grantown Museum and Heritage Trust – well worth a visit. Like all "retired" folks wonder how I managed to find time to work (apart from a wage at the end of the week). I enjoy having time to read all the FP return slips from nearby to all over the world. Also have a new granddaughter Ellen, who of course is beautiful! Have had a lovely holiday in Menorca and now looking forward to a return trip to Ghana.

Bill Mitchell

1998 – a year of travelling. In January I spent two weeks in Bali, the journey took 28 hours a long way to go but very worthwhile. Beautiful green country and the butterflies have to be seen to be believed. Some species are as big as my hand. February – I spent two weeks in Spain, it rained all the time – no golf. April saw a flight on Concorde from Kinloss to Heathrow, another ambition fulfilled. July - two weeks in Kitzbühl, Austria playing the Schwartzsee Golf Club with Alistair and Stella McKenzie. I have been involved as a consultant in this course since 1986 when construction started. October – ten days in Belgium and France visiting the graves, a very moving experience not to be missed. 1999 – staying at home.

Denise Mitchell (Grant)

No new news. Still at home with our daughter wishing sometimes I had returned to work.

Mrs Douglas A Mitchell (Jan Templeton)

Moved to Westbank, Old Meldrum. Still keep fairly well. Look forward to family visits.

Michael Moir

I had a pleasant six weeks at the Stanford University Executive Program in California last summer learning new business skills. After 21 years in Hong Kong we will return to Edinburgh in the summer. I am planning to take a break before taking up a new position.

Maureen Murray (McMurray)

Scott is now thirteen years is going into 3rd year of Grammar School whilst Fraser who is eight, is progressing through Grantown Primary. I am still locum pharmacist for the area and increasing my work slowly as the boys require less and less of my time. I am hoping to return to full time capacity soon.

Elizabeth D Mutch

“Tempus Fugit” and old age grows no easier. I am still in control of my own life. I am sorry that I cannot attend the biennial dinner, but I have pleasant memories of the 1997 dinner and very happy ones of those in “the dear dead days beyond recall” before World War II put an end to standard, gracious living and moderation in all things.

Fergus Napier

I am presently employed on the SS Edinburgh Castle cruise liner as Safety deck boy before returning in September to study Naval Architecture and Offshore Engineering at either Newcastle or Strathclyde University.

Rachel Newbould (Smith)

At the time of filling in this slip I am actually in Grantown looking forward to attending the FP dinner: a holiday from the hectic life at home. I am still combining my greenkeeping/catering jobs at North Luffenham Golf Club. Combating the onset of middle age by running three to four miles most days. Though with my eldest daughter ready to start secondary school, I am reminded that the years are hurtling by.

Amelia and Ernie Oakes

Nothing to report.

Beatrice Oliphant

I spent a wonderful holiday last year with the relations in Australia and New Zealand. Thanks to the School Mag I was able to pass on information and answer some of the endless questions of "where is so and so now?" Cousin Ann in Adelaide is now to become a member – look forward to reading her comments. I just wish more of my classmates were FP's to keep contact mind you I live only a mile from Grant Cumming ex-Grantown the local vet and seldom see him so maybe I should practice what I preach. I very much enjoy the School Magazine and wish all FP's a blessed millennium.

Margaret Ollason (Grant)

Great to hear from you – some of us were getting worried! Though getting a bit creaky, I still enjoy travelling and visited Kenya, North India, Nepal and Venice. I also visited the South of France many times, but hope to head for Scotland: Edinburgh, Aberdeen and of course Nethy Bridge.

Isobel Orford (Calder)

I visited Grantown in May 1998 and unfortunately only met one person I knew when I was there. In late July we had a family reunion our own Son, his Wife and Grandson made it out from Sussex for the occasion. We had a lively time. My husband Bryan retires at the end of April so we hope to do some travelling around Canada.

Dorothy O'Connor

This year at the end of January I once again performed the "Address to a Haggis" at several Burns' dinners both here in Seattle as well as over the border in Canada. Believe it or not, Johnny, my American husband gave the "Immortal Memory" a bit of a switch for a professional singer but I guess "showbiz is showbiz!" I recently received a letter from Isa (Moyes) Squires. She lives in Quebec and at 98 years old is writing her memoirs. She made mention of how, during the war, when she was a nurse at Ian Charles Hospital, she helped get me through my appendectomy operation and next morning when she was off duty she walked down to Dunira to let my mum and dad know I was all right. She was fantastic and even helped me to celebrate my 14th birthday in hospital. Actually another GGS FP was also a blessing to me when I had to be

transferred to Inverness Royal Infirmary for peritonitis surgery. I refer to Dr Jimmy Allan who as a young doctor there became my Knight in Shining White coat. God Bless them both – without their T.L.C I probably would not be here.

Jean Paterson

Nothing new, just growing very old.

Margaret Paterson

No news to report. Still supply teaching in the Cumnock area. Kept busy with church activities – President of Guild, secretary of Ayr Presbyterial Council, singing in the Church Choir. I help out in a Christian book and coffee shop in my spare time.

Ron Philip

I was in Scotland in November for my brother Raymond's daughter's wedding at Scone Palace, very enjoyable. My son James flew in from Budapest and my daughter, Sian came up from Bristol, Bob and his family were there to, so we had a great family reunion as well. P.S. the St Andrews Woollen Mill has been sold to the R&A.

Mona Rae (Grant)

1998 was fairly eventful and traumatic too. I went at Easter time on an educational trip with the college to Prague which despite the horrendously long bus journey has well worth seeing. It included a visit to Terrazin Concentration Camp which left profound feelings, for a time I was fortunate to have missed. In September we came back from holiday in Turkey to discover the factory where both my husband and son worked was to close leaving them redundant and myself from my basic part-time job. However providence has been kind to us. Both Peter's have found full time employment. I do not have nearly so much work in the college this year, but enough to keep me ticking over. I have more time to get down to neglected jobs at home. In December I again went on an educational trip to Strasbourg, Luxembourg and Brussels and thoroughly enjoyed it. Unfortunately my mother had a stroke in early December and has been hospitalised. In fact she is now back to the Ian Charles today and hopefully will make a good enough recovery to return home.

Daphne Ritchie (Duncan)

Sneaking in a line or two as I am about to print Maree's magazine on the laser printer in School, but this means the page breaks will be in the wrong place. Oops. 1998 – where did it go? Golfing, school work and gardening. We had a successful FP Disco in the Waterford last month (December 1999). Made over £300 for Club Funds. And a big thank you to everybody for all the donations to Club Funds. We were able to donate £250 to the School Library and £250 to the Prize Fund again this year. Off to print...

Williamina Ritson (Keith)

Not much to report. 1998 was not the best of years - had to cancel our plans from August due to my having a spell in hospital. Recovered in time to spend a happy Christmas with all our family. Then the first time ever I spend Hogmanay in bed with pneumonia. Feeling good again and much cheered up by hearing from Margaret Ollason and Alison Clark. It is worrying to hear that my sister Elsie is in hospital and has reached the stage when she cannot live alone. We will be celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary in February.

Davis Robertson (Thomson)

Despite the Millennium Review for teachers and the introduction of Higher Still I am still enjoying my job as English as an Additional Language teacher in schools in East Dunbartonshire. Our son Iain has given us our own special millennium event - his wedding next August. Wilma (Watt) and family will be descending on us from S.A and Germany - large mansion to rent required.

Jessie Ronaldson

I was sorry to miss the Biennial Dinner in March 1999. This was unavoidable due to an Indoor Bowling Match with the S.W.R.I members on that day. Thank you for an interesting and clear printed magazine.

Alex Ross

Investigator Kroll Associates, Savile Row, London.

Mairi Ross

Had another child in March 1998. Shaun, so now I have two. Sarah is three and a half. Still working at Scottish Homes currently as Operations and Planning Manager, based in Inverness. Busy in the local community of Kiltarlity writing the newsletter and other such things. Holidays - not very exciting these days.

Margaret A Ross

Regretfully due to illness I was unable to attend the dinner. I also had to cancel my London visit when I was due to meet up with Ella (Slater) Walmsley and her husband. The class of 1945 leavers do remember each other at Christmas while Ella and I keep in touch regularly. I also hear from Marjory (Cattanach) Taylor in the U.S.A. My new E.U. passport has not brought me luck for overseas travel. I keep hoping.

Patricia Ross (MacDonald)

We have moved and are now only 10 minutes away from our son and family so much nicer than having a two-hour journey to see them.

Elise Selman (Kirk)

Nothing to report.

Mrs Connie Shaw (Gordon)

I didn't go on holiday at all during 1998 as I had to have quite a lot of repairs done to my house. Still enjoy scrabble and visits to Inverness.

Iain and Joan (Fraser) Smith

Isn't being retired just great! We enjoy having the time to get around meeting up with friends and talking about old times. Mrs Mitchell's 100th birthday celebration gave a great opportunity for that. On a recent holiday to Tuscany we visited a small hill town there and would you believe, met several people who had lived and worked in the Inverness area. It seemed odd to hear an Italian Lady with an Inverness accent who said it's "a wee small world"

J R (Ian) Smith

Time marches on! By the time this reaches print two of our three granddaughters will be at secondary school pupils and Braid our Labrador could enrol for secondary three. Kindest regards to all friends.

Mrs Peter Spalding (Isobel Gunn)

Nothing to report.

Meta Stevens

Nothing to report.

Lachlan Stuart

Nothing to report.

Marion Stuart (Paterson)

Nothing to report.

Thomas B Stuart

It is hard to realise that come the millennium it will be fifty years since I left school. Despite my good intentions to visit Scotland more regularly, this past year has seen my wife embark on a programme to refurbish our house completely. Therefore I have spent too much time covered in paint plaster and cement to do anything else. However this year will be different.

Alistair George Surtees

Nothing to report.

Elspit Sutherland (McIntosh)

Not the best year. Deaths and illness made their mark and even the weather was awful. Spent 4 weeks in Nethy last summer and on the best day we had to pack up and leave. Returned in October the weather was beautiful. Things are now looking up. My grandson Euan was born on Christmas Day to son Colin and wife Louise. We the grandparents enjoyed a Christmas dinner of cocktail

sausages and beans with granddaughter Catherine in between hospital visits. Was delighted to catch up with Seonaid Vickerman (Grant) last summer. I do enjoy meeting old friends as the saying goes "It's good to talk." Very best wishes to everyone.

Maree Thompson

I attended the Biennial Dinner this year. It was a bit disappointing that there was no one that I went to school with there. Third time unlucky at University. It didn't work either. But I have been working for Standard Life in Group Pensions as a Customer Service Representative for over a year now. So at least that is going well. I have been doing a bit of fund raising for their LIVE175 charity appeal. Standard Life will be 175 years old in March 2000 so we are trying to raise two million pounds for various different charities all over Britain. So far I have sold cakes and performed naked-ish as a Spice Girl. I went to Jamaica in July 99 and came back as white as I went. It's a brilliant place to visit, but you are constantly hassled by locals asking if you want braids or taxis or a bit of something else. My brother Gareth and Marc Mustard now reside with me. They are both at university studying.

James William Thomson

I have just newly secured early retirement but have not yet had time to appreciate it as temporary work has proved quite tempting.

Mrs T S B Thomson (Vera Mortimer)

Nothing of much interest to report. Keep up the good work. I am grateful to you and your committee for the Mag and also to the Strathy for keeping me in touch with news of Grantown. I still make occasional visits home but don't see many "kent faces" for my contemporaries are few and far between.

Hugh R Tulloch

Still hacking my way through the computer jungle, and enjoying it - I think!

Seonaid Vickerman

I retired last June and have enjoyed my first winter back in Grantown. My first Grandchild - Angus was born on March 3rd 1999. He is lovely and I am sure that he is gifted. I am thoroughly enjoying golf, walking and bridge and hope to have time to create a garden.

Derek Walker

Nothing noteworthy to report.

Sherie Walker (Sutton)

I still work for a holiday company organising long distance walks but I am about to transfer to the abroad department of the same company and for the first

time since my degree in Modern Languages will be able to apply my qualifications to my work. This May I sit GCSE Italian – a devil for punishment! I keep contact with Norway where I have many friends and love to go cross-country skiing. This year I am having a big adventure trekking for four weeks along the glaciers of the Karakoram Mountains in Pakistan. Meanwhile my daughter Tricia loves Aberdeen where she studies Law in the footsteps of her father. Lucy works for Crystal Holidays in France. James and Alice are still at home. The former hopes to study P.E. and sits A levels this year whilst Alice is in for GCSE's. Both play in a band. James on guitar and Alice on drums. My B&B business has taken a back seat until quieter times.

Mrs Ella Walmsley (Slater)

I never dreamt when I started writing to Olive May Fulty in California as I left GGS in 1945, that we would still be corresponding in 1999. How interesting it has been learning of her life, her family, her interests, her college days, her marriage and now her grandchildren. I am very grateful to GGS for giving me Olive's address and also to Miss Jamieson the French mistress for a correspondent in St. Quentin. Sadly she is now dead but we had the pleasure of entertaining her daughter and family before they set forth on their first visit to Scotland. What a wonderful surprise, on opening a letter from Margaret Ross to see a coloured newspaper cutting of Speybridge House – known to me as "Viewhill" when I stayed there with the family during the latter part of our time in Grantown. No additions to the house then. I had a bedroom in the front of the house with a magnificent view of the Old Spey Bridge. I remember the steep drive at Viewhill gave a good start to the cycle ride to school – ah happy memories. It was kind of Nan Smith (Hamilton) to send the cutting to Margaret Ross to pass on to me. My husband and I had a pleasant meeting with Margaret Ross in London in March 1998 when we caught up with the news of our former class members.

Wilma Watt

I now have four grandchildren, two of whom live locally in Brackpan, South Africa. The other part of the family live in Germany. We are all converging on Clydebank next summer for Davis's sons' wedding.

I haven't written any news from South Africa for quite a few years. I don't know how much you hear in Scotland about all the crime in this beautiful country, but unfortunately rape, murder and hijackings have become all too common in the past few years. Many people were brought into the country to vote in South Africa's first democratic election in 1994. These people were promised housing, health, education and jobs. The government is taking much longer to fulfil its promised than was initially intended and too many people are homeless and jobless which does unfortunately add to lawlessness. Not all is doom and gloom in South Africa. Let's start with the weather – sunshine all the way. In Scotland, can you imagine hoping for rain! Autumn, Winter and Spring last about five months. Apart from the very poor, from blue-collar workers upwards many people own their own properties mostly bungalows in ¼ acre

gardens, many with pools because of the heat. There is also opulence where the very wealthy have magnificent properties. We have been told by visiting family members that living costs over here are much better than Scotland, but it is not all roses all the way. Like most countries we reckon we are overworked, underpaid and under appreciated. The Kruger National Park is about the same size as Wales where we can spend many relaxing days just game viewing. Cape Town and the surrounding areas are truly breathtaking. South Africa is a beautiful country. It is a vast mixture of good and bad. Come – visit.

* Wilma will be visiting Grantown in 2000 and wonders if we can find reasonable accommodation in the area for a few days. Preferably somewhere homely.

Margaret Webb (Templeton)

Joined A.T.S 1943 to 1945 and was a Staff Car Driver for North of Scotland, stationed at Inverness. I did my training at Newbattle Abbey in Dalkeith then down to London on to Camberley, passed out on parade and was then sent to North Wales as a driver instructor. Short stay and then to Edinburgh did Staff Car Driving there then up north.

Sheina Weston (Donaldson)

Thank you for the magazine. It is very interesting to see where FP's are living now, and whether any are in my vicinity. I am looking forward to the FP reunion it would be great to see some former classmates and friends. I've recently renewed my love of Scotland by attending Burn's Suppers on consecutive evenings. One can only take so much haggis, but I did enjoy the entertainment.

Ada Wilson

Adjusting to living in Scotland again having finished work in Poland after five years. A quick visit to the high school I'd taught in originally confirmed how much fun and pleasure it was to teach there. I am now struggling to come to grips with Polish – attending classes in Perth and Dundee. A sort of back to front situation.

Kay Wilson (Ross)

I moved to Tullibody in 1990 and have two boys – Craig and Cameron. Until 1995 I worked as a Clerical Assistant with Central Scotland Police. I have been a housewife since having Cameron but am now looking for part time work and have interviews looming. My husband is a coppersmith who travels a lot so I am on my own quite a bit, but I have a lot of friends near by.

Herbert John and Shona Wright (Calder)

I was called Bert at school – a name I detested. I have used my middle name since attending University at Aberdeen. I married Shona Calder in March 1951. I have two sons both in Canada. Iain is a consultant in the Ontario Food Industry and Graham is a computer analyst with a major insurance company. I

retired in February 1988. Shona and I have a large trailer (caravan) in the small town of Southampton on Lake Huron, where we spend a good part of our summer playing golf and entertaining our two young grandchildren at weekends. I am also involved in the local artist group there. I acquired a love of drawing and painting at an early age – thanks to Miss Mariel Grant of blessed memory. I now have time to develop what skill I may possess. I also teach watercolour basics at the local seniors' centre in the winter.

Late News

Gregor Allan

My sister, Eunice Atkins, passed on an old copy of the magazine and I realised that I had not been in touch for some years. This shocked me on two counts, the first being that I view my school days as I do an old friend and secondly friends should never be put on the side-line. I continue to be a Chartered Accountant but have “re-treaded” myself to be an investment banker in day-to-day affairs. (Career tip: Accountancy is a launch pad to so many careers!)

My wife, Wilma, a Huntly lass, and I have been in Jersey some sixteen years and gained residency some years back. Seemingly this makes us tax-exiles but I continue to see a clean lining in my sporran! Our daughters, Claire (16) and Grace (6) attend Jersey College for Girls and both enjoy their school very much. Many things that remind us of home surround us, including a Scottish Society, Past President, a Pipe-Band, of which I am Treasurer and piper, and a Scots Kirk (of which we are both elders).

I am a director of Schroders, the investment bank, in the island and am one of a team of fifty, including an office in Guernsey. Work involves a lot of travel and is fun! My eldest brother, Max, a vet, also lives here so the place is a home from home. My nephew is studying Zoology at Aberdeen and my niece is at the Royal Bank in Jersey.

We visit home at least once a year, though the immediate family has gravitated to the Aberdeen area where Eunice works as a lecturer at the university. Twin brother Sandy, who should also be in the club, continues with his snow and ice climbing in Chamonix and Nepal. His love for the mountains is a magnet that will always attract us back to the Spey Valley and the Cairngorms. We continue to receive the Strathy and so are able to keep up with the folks, and so getting caught up with the club is another strand for us to hold on to whilst down here. I send my regards and good wishes to all involved in the magazine.

This piece was submitted by Mr Allan.

Are visitors to Grantown aware that there is an interesting walk from the town, back into the mists of antiquity – perhaps back 4000 years? You can travel the first mile by car, to the peaceful Old Cemetery by the banks of the Spey at Inverallan, to start a delightful walk up the riverside.

We halt opposite the first small croft on the far bank – the Boat of Balliefurth. This ferry ceased to exist in 1920. Before reaching this spot we have on our right hand side the stunted remains of a wood, at the extreme end of which – where we are now standing, there is the first of three Pictish stones. The second, a few yards east on a small hillock, can be easily seen from the Dulnain Bridge road, and a third lies close, by partially covered by moss. The two upright stones are each close to six feet high.

I quote “In the absence of public buildings, the court of the sheriff was usually held at some familiar landmark, and such megalithic remains as ‘standing stones’ provided the meeting place for the Royal and Baronial Courts. These well defined spots, with recognisable antiquity, would enhance the dignity of the proceedings with ancient feelings of respect and awe”.¹

In support of this there is mention of the Ballintomb “Hanging Tree” – also used for the lesser punishment of nailing a miscreant’s ears to the tree.²

These stones at Ballintomb are very similar to the stones at Callanish in Lewis – the remaining thirteen stones there form a circle thirty seven feet in diameter. “These stones were erected by Neolithic people around 3000 BC!”³ “The Scots veneration for the sites of Standing Stones lasted far into the middle ages”.⁴

At the site of the farm, two large rectangular stones – 5’ x 3’ – with distinct Pictish markings were found. One – the “Ballintomb Stone” – is in the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. The other can now be seen a few yards from the front door of Lower Finlarig House.

On our return, we walk through the stunted stumps of the wood and, slightly into the eastern half; we come to a large oval depression. This was the site of the cattle market until, in 1765, the Laird – Sir Ludovic Grant, began the planning and building of Grantown. This was carried on by ‘The Good Sir James’ (1773 – 1811), and subsequently the market moved there.⁵

¹ Dr I.F. Grant “Periods in Highland History” P41

² Forsyth “In the Shadow of Cairngorm”

³ Collins “Encyclopaedia of Scotland” P502

⁴ Dr I.F. Grant “Highland Folk Ways” P6

⁵ Lord Strathspey “A History of Clan Grant” P37

As we are approaching the centenary of the first Grantown Grammar School FP's club formed on Tuesday, 2nd January 1900, I have submitted a transcript of the "Grantown Supplement's" report of that founding meeting. One of the office bearers then elected was, half a century later, my old Mentor in local history, Mr Hame Grant, Garden Park, at the time of the founding still in his late twenties. The three signatories of the advertisement calling the meeting were "James Rose Burgess, BA, MA, late Vice Master of Merchiston Castle School in Edinburgh, and formerly senior scholar of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, born 18th October 1853 died 28th April 1902" as his Inverallan Churchyard gravestone narrates. He bought from the School Board in 1890 the former Female School at Burnfield which is now Grantown's second Heritage Centre. "George Harvey MA who died 7th November 1927 aged 72 years" as his Inverallan gravestone records; a retired teacher, he gave money to fund the Harvey Dux prize in the Grammar School and the "Reverend William Thomson, BD, who died 26 May 1914" as his Cromdale gravestone states. He was a son of the Strathspey Estate wood manager for about half a century, John Grant Thomson, builder of Mount Barker, and he died of Tuberculosis while still in middle age.

I believe this first FP club faded out some time before the present one was established as its successor about the time "Tom Tiger", as his staff used to call him. "Thomas Hunter OBE died 19 April 1974 aged 84", as his New Cemetery gravestone notes, succeeded Mr MacLennan as rector in 1927.

George A. Dixon

Late News - James Gordon

After 9 years we have left the flat lands and city life of Holland for the peace and beauty of the Lake District. I am now working for Robert McBride plc who make supermarket own label detergents and am in charge of the Development Department. My family have settled in well and Hannah and Neil find it easier with no language problems.

Late News - Mairi Gordon

After 11 years in the Department of Diabetes at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh I have just started as medical secretary in the Cardiology at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. Still enjoying taking my Brownie Pack.

"The Grantown Supplement"

Saturday 6th January 1900, p4

Grammar School Club

A meeting of former pupils of the Grantown Grammar School was held in the Anteroom of the Public Hall on Tuesday evening for the purpose of considering the institution of a Former Pupil's Club. There was a good and representative attendance. Mr James R. Burgess, Merchiston Castle, who was called to the chair, explained the objects and advantages of such a club. It would form a bond of union between former pupils and would be the means of tracing out and securing a record of such. It would also tend to promote the educational interests of the school by establishing a prize or prizes for some branch of Physical or Mental culture. There would also be from time to time a social gathering of members.

On the motion of Captain Grant, seconded by Provost MacPherson Grant, it was unanimously resolved that a club be formed, and Sir Felix Mackenzie, as one of the oldest and most distinguished pupils, was appointed the first Honorary President. The following were made Honorary Vice Presidents – Rev. Dr Forsyth, Rev. Dr Chas Macgregor, Dr T.A. Stewart, Mr R Grant of Muckerach; Mr James Grant, late of Balliefurth; Capt. Grant and Provost Grant.

A committee to carry out the details of organising the club were appointed as follows – the office bearers, Messrs J. R Burgess, James Grant, James Grant Spey-Bridge; Wm Mackintosh, National Bank; Affleck Macpherson, D. Samson J. G. Sharp. Joint Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. W. Thomson and Geo. Harvey. Subscription for members was fixed at 2/6.

Before separating Mr John G. Sharp conveyed to the meeting the greetings of Dr T.A. Stewart, H.M. Chief Inspector of Schools, to whom he has mentioned the proposed formation of the club. Votes of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting, which was very cordial throughout, to a close.

"The Grantown Supplement"

Saturday 30th December 1899

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A meeting of Former pupils for the Grantown Grammar School will be held in the AnteRoom of the Public Hall on Friday evening at 8 o'clock with the view of forming a Former Pupils Club. Former pupils are requested to be present.

J.R BURGESS
G. HARVEY
W. THOMSON

"The Grantown Supplement"

Saturday 30th December 1899 page 4 col. 2

We may draw the attention of Former Pupils of the Grantown Grammar School to a notice in our advertising columns to-day of the contemplated formation of a Former Pupils Club. Similar clubs in connection with other schools have been successfully organised and besides forming a helpful bond of connection between former pupils they have served to further the educational interests of the school. We trust a sufficient amount of interest will be manifested to make to club a success.

New Members

Lauren Anderson Career intentions – Midwifery

Mrs Janet Flannery (Laing)

Kept busy as a Home Carer and involved in various voluntary work for local organisations.

Emma Macdonald Career intentions – Language Interpreter and Translator

Joanna Mackenzie Career intentions – Interior Design

Mrs Ann McHugh (Grant)

(formerly Spey Valley Hotel)

OBITUARY

Mrs Jeannie Calder

Mrs Calder who died this year was an able and respected music teacher in Grantown School for a good number of years. Her childhood centred around Buckie where her father was a fisherman and she was the eldest of five children. She moved to Aberlour when a teenager and her parents took over a shop opposite the church. She married her husband who was a barber in 1932 and had three children. They moved to Grantown in 1953 where Mrs Calder developed her own gift of music to the full. Many people today owe their love of music to her skill as a musician and teacher. She taught music in many schools in the area for a good number of years. Rather than lose her as a teacher, the authorities encouraged her to go to college in Aberdeen where in 1965 she gained the necessary certificate to allow her to continue her teaching career. She was a great asset to this area due to her musical skills accompanying country dance evening classes, conducting choirs, taking the school choirs to festivals, entering the Grantown Gaelic Choir for the National Mod and helping at school parties and trips. The church also played a big part in her life and again she willingly used her musical talents. She would cycle from Aberlour to Inveravon to play the organ each Sunday and was organist and choir mistress at Aberlour for many years before moving to Grantown where she led worship and played the organ until the mid 80's. Until her retirement she seldom ventured abroad when she surprised everyone by embarking on three adventurous trips to Australia and New Zealand, stopping off on her own at Singapore and Hong Kong, taking it all in her stride. Mrs Calder was a warm hearted, kind, considerate person who taught her family and pupils by example and encouragement.

Miss Evelyn Grant

Evelyn Grant was school secretary, first at Grantown Primary then at Grantown Secondary for 27 years. She was also for many years secretary for the Nethy Sheepdog Trials. She taught typing at night classes for a time. While living at her home in Dulnain Bridge she baked and decorated cakes at Christmas for the elderly in the village. After retiring she moved to Coppice Court, Grantown-on-Spey and spent the last two years of her life in Grand View Nursing Home where she died peacefully at the age of 79 years on 22 July 1999.

Miss Jessie Elspet Fraser

Jessie Fraser was born in Nethy in 1916. After her schooling in Nethy Primary and Grantown Grammar, Jessie attended Aberdeen University where she graduated with an MA degree. Teaching was the chosen profession for both her and her younger sister, Margaret. Following a spell teaching in the Borders and Elgin respectively, they returned home to look after their father and taught in the Primary and Secondary departments of Grantown Grammar School until

their retirement, which was keenly felt in both their schools. Throughout her long teaching career Jessie was much respected as a traditional primary teacher who devoted her skills mainly to Primary 4. Highly industrious and exceptionally caring for her charges, she was a very popular member of staff. A staunch supporter of the Church she steadfastly adhered to the Christian ethics throughout her life. She also supported many charities and organisations, particularly the Church Guild and the Red Cross. Inveterate travellers, Jessie and Margaret travelled extensively throughout the world, often to New Zealand. Jessie will be much missed in Grantown where she was a daily figure, forever with a friendly word and a smile.

George Cameron, 38 The Square, Grantown-on-Spey.

Mrs John Boyne (Doris J Cameron, Willowbank), 237 Auldhouse Road, Newlands, Glasgow.

John Cumming, Shimara, Grant Road, Grantown-on-Spey.

Mrs J. J. Grant (Netta Duffner), Rosedene, Woodside Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey.

Donald E McGillivray, Creamonaidh, Grant Road, Grantown-on-Spey.

Sympathetic Mention

To Ian MacPherson on the death of his wife Isobel on 7 April.

To Bill Mitchell on the death of his mother Mrs Mary Mitchell on 8 August and who had reached the age of 100.

To John R Stuart on the death of his brother Angus, East Grinstead

To Mrs Davis Robertson (Thomson) whose husband died suddenly.