

FP Magazine 2004

EDITORIAL & FOREWORD

Here we are almost at the end of 2004. Hope to see a large turnout for the 2005 Biennial Dinner on 9th April. Many thanks to all contributors to the Magazine and generous donations received. All the best to all F.P.'s for 2005.

Margaret Masson

COMMITTEE

President – Malcolm MacLennan
Honorary President – Miss Jean Paterson
Mr A Martin Grant, Mrs Chrissie Grant, Mrs Betty Grant,
Mr Frank Calder, Mr Bill Templeton, Mrs Margaret Ross,
Mrs Seonaid Vickerman, Mr Ian Smith, Mrs Shirley Findlay,
Mrs Daphne Ritchie, Mrs Margaret Masson

Extract from Committee Meeting 8th November 2004:

A short committee meeting was held in the staffroom of Grantown Grammar. Accounts showing a healthy balance were discussed and approved. Draft magazine was passed round for checking before final printing. Discussions on co-opting further members of committee and various names put forward. Venues, dates and prices for the 2005 Biennial Dinner discussed and 9th April decided upon. Speakers were to be approached. Request for old school ties was brought up and Bill Templeton was in negotiation with several firms. New constitution was drawn up for Former Pupils' and Old Guard Clubs. Mr MacLennan thanked the committee for donations to the school which had been used for prizes and updating stocks in the Library.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT 2003-2004

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD GUARD CLUBS

2003	RECEIPTS	2004	2003	PAYMENTS	2004
£ 1,213.49	Balance - Deposit Account	£ 1,303.80	£ 650.00	School Donation - Library/Prizes	£ 700.00
£ 2,335.21	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£ 2,340.89	£ 177.80	Postages (including mailshot 2003)	£ 150.26
£ 0.95	Interest- Deposit Account*	£ 0.79	£ 76.36	Photocopying (Mag and WT's letter)	£ 153.62
£ 5.68	Interest - Flexible Savings Account	£ 4.01	£ 11.99	Envelopes and Labels	£ 14.08
£ 248.00	Magazine Orders	£ 174.00	£ 46.56	Paper/Plastic combs	£ 49.30
£ 156.00	Lomac Sales	£ 220.00	£ 1,038.50	Dinner	£ 0.00
£ 666.00	Donations	£ 420.91	£ 11.13	Badges for Dinner	£ 0.00
£ 12.00	New Recruits	£ 38.00	£ 18.80	Advert for AGM	£ 0.00
£ 0.00	Disco Profit	£ 0.00	£ 1,303.80	Balance - Deposit Account	£ 1,090.24
£ 1,038.50	Dinner Tickets	£ 0.00	£ 2,340.89	Balance - Flexible Savings Account	£ 2,344.90
£ 5,675.83		£ 4,502.40	£ 5,675.83		£ 4,502.40

* Interest payable 20/11/2004 (estimate)

GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL FORMER PUPILS' AND OLD GUARD CLUBS

2005 BIENNIAL REUNION – SATURDAY 9th APRIL 2005

in

THE BEN MHOR HOTEL, HIGH STREET, GRANTOWN ON SPEY

at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Tickets will cost £16.00 each and should be ordered from Mrs Margaret Masson, Hon Secretary, 18 Macgregor Avenue, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3ET by Saturday 2nd April.

Members and Guests are requested to be seated promptly by 7.30 pm for a short General Meeting prior to the meal being served.

The Ben Mhor Hotel is offering discounted bed and breakfast for £18.50 pp. Contact the hotel - Ben Mhor Hotel, 53-57 High Street, Grantown on Spey PH26 3EG. Telephone 01479 872056.

Please note that arrangements have been provisionally made for two speakers to address the Members and Guests after the meal. They are Mrs Nancy Forsyth (nee Gray) and Mr Michael H McTaggart.

Arrangements are also being made for a visit to the present Grammar School at 11 am on Saturday 9th April. Please indicate when ordering tickets if you wish to take part in this visit.

Finally it is hoped to have an informal GOLF OUTING on Sunday Morning, 10th April on the Grantown-on-Spey Course. This will take the form of a Texas Scramble – hopefully with mixed

teams. Lunch will be available in the Clubhouse afterwards - where players can be joined by others attending the Reunion!! Names for the golf will be taken during the meeting on the Saturday evening.

Late news: Efforts to find a supplier of OLD GUARD TIES (in scarlet and silver, of course!) have hopefully produced results and a limited number of ties could become available in early January 2005.

MRS ELIZABETH BREMNER (MACKENZIE) (1942-1955)

I'm deadly dull! Thoroughly enjoying retirement and having time to be with my five grandchildren. Also enjoy golf - still singing - hill walking and visiting the Alps and Dolomites. Have threatened to go to a computing class for idiots! So far haven't had the courage!

MRS MARGARET BROCKLEHURST (McWILLIAM) (1922 - 1936)

My daughter - Dr Hilary Johnstone - died 23/04/04. Very sad loss. Cancer claimed another victim unfortunately.

MRS MARGARET CARSTAIRS (McWILLIAM) (1943-1953)

Sorry I missed the 2003 Biennial Dinner but my sister Marlene attended and told me all the local news, also Vera (Mortimer) enjoyed her reunion and keeps me up to date with news. Looking forward to our visit this June up to Grantown. Bill and I will be grandparents again this August so still kept busy with family who all live locally round about us. Glad the warmer weather is due. Bill will be bowling again every weekend - I sit and watch. Enjoyed your 2003 magazine - keep up the good work.

MRS R JOHN CHAPMAN (ELIZABETH McDONALD)(1947-59)

Reading through the FP's list GGS people seem to be scattered all over the world. Not bad for a "smallish" town! Our son and NZ daughter-in-law visited from London over Christmas 03/NY04.

MRS IRENE CHAPMAN (EDWARDS)

I enjoyed the 2003 Biennial Dinner very much and was amazed to see my photo (along with others) in the December magazine. Hoping to visit Grantown in 2004 as Mum is now a resident of Grant House.

ROSEMARY M CHARLISH (Masson)

Kyle is doing well working in Australia. Kayleigh just left school and training as an Electronic Technician. Have the "empty nest syndrome" as Ellen has now started school!

ALISON CLARK (Ronaldson)(1933-44)

Nothing new to report. Son Graeme still at Heathrow Airport commuting from his home in Bracknell. Recent school photo in "Strathspey Herald" of year 1937 brought back happy memories.

WILMA COWAN (IRVING)(1942-54)

Had my hip replacement at the end of September 2003. All went well and it's nice to be pain free again. Good to get out and about walking again. Off to Germany this week (May) on a coach trip for 8 days. Looking forward to it. We are visiting Sauerland which is new territory for us.

MRS LORNA CRICHTON (FORBES)(1972-78)

Presently working as a Religious and Moral Education teacher in Kirkintilloch High School. Married to Murray who is Superintendent Radiographer in the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow. We have two children - Alasdair who is 15 and in the middle of his Standard Grade exams at the time

of writing this and Ailsa who is 14. Both are in Lenzie Academy. We enjoy being part of a Scripture Union team in the summer and will be returning to Arran in August for a week under canvas. Our family holidays are spent camping in Europe, so we're used to roughing it camping! Scripture Union camps are something I wish I had known about when I was growing up and which have been influential to both Alasdair and Ailsa. We still support a child in a Children's Home in north India which we have visited several times in the last few years.

FIONA DONN (1955-62)

Nothing much of interest has happened over the year. Unfortunately I continue to experience vision problems and dizziness so I am not able to venture out very much. However I am thankful that sitting still things aren't quite so bad and I am able to quilt and do my patchwork - spend most of my time at this!

DOUGIE EDWARDS (1996-2002)

In my second year at Napier studying for a BA Hons in Popular Music. Sharing a flat in Edinburgh with two school mates, Sam McLeod and David Baird. Enjoying the course and Edinburgh night life.

SHIRLEY A FINDLAY (Masson)

Our three girls now all in Secondary. Still running them around to their various activities. Had a great holiday in Bulgaria this year.

JANE A (NANCY) FORSYTH (Gray)

Another birthday come and gone - however still "knipin" on with many of the symptoms of old age, so I enclose "What are seniors worth?" sent to me by a friend.

"What seniors are worth"

Did you know that old folk are worth a fortune? Silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last. A few changes have come into my life. Frankly I have become a frivolous old girl - I am seeing five gentlemen every day!

As soon as I wake up Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I visit John. Next it is time for Mr Kellog followed by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley or my other friend I just call by his initials P.G.

Then comes someone I do not like - Arthur Ritis. He knows he is not welcome, but he insists, and what is more he stays for the rest of the day. He does not like to stay in one place at a time so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a busy day I am really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! The minister called the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him "Oh I do, all the time. No matter where I am, in the bedroom, kitchen, sitting room or even in the garden, I stop and ask myself....now where am I here after?"

ELSPETH M FRASER (Mitchell) (all school days to 1947)

On 9th May we fly to Toronto. Stanley Livingston is kindly meeting us at Toronto Airport. We have 9 days in Toronto area then go via rail across Canada to Vancouver with 6 days in Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise area en route, continuing via rail to Vancouver and 10 days there.

MARLENE A FRASER (McWilliam)

Allan and I are enjoying our retirement 8 years on and still manage up to Grantown-on-Spey frequently between March and November. I had a great night at the Seafeld Lodge Reunion 2003. I met many friends and spoke to David Ross (Dava) whom I hadn't seen for approximately 54 years. Regards to all.

PAMELA GLASSE (MAIN) (1964-77)

As a family we've taken up rock climbing and had some lovely climbs in Derbyshire in the summer. We're looking forward to trying some in the Grantown area. The children are growing up fast, Jamie (15), Hannah (12) and Alex (6) and keep me busy with all their various activities. Henry is currently training to fly in the British Paramotoring Championships in June and I will be doing the "Moonwalk" power walk marathon in aid of breast cancer on 15th May. Let's hope I make it to the finish line!

MAIRI GORDON

Still working as a secretary at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Edinburgh. Doing two correspondence courses: one aiming for a Diploma in Adult Psychology (last year I got a Diploma in Child Psychology) and also working towards a Certificate in Christian Studies at International Christian College in Glasgow. Studying for an HNC in Child Protection. I befriend a 12 year old boy in Edinburgh.

FIONA & SHELAGH GRANT

Life goes on as usual in Edinburgh. We have been wandering again. Spent two weeks in Majorca in June and we are off to New York and Washington in October. Best wishes to all.

MRS JOHN GRANT (M E Templeton)

My sister Margaret Cropp was home from Vancouver in May. She was pleased to meet up with Winnie (Anfield) and Margaret (Ross) her friends of yester year. Edward Illingworth called in past to order his magazine and left a donation - thanks Edward. Hope to see many of you at the 2005 Biennial Dinner. As I was about to deliver my slip to Margaret I learned with sadness that Geoffrey Selman, husband of my friend Elise (Kirk) had died on 23rd August.

MARGARET GRANT (TELFER) (April 38-July 50)

Recovering well after heart surgery. Preparing for yet another visit to New Zealand and Australia.

PATRICK GRANT (1961-67)

The years roll on but fortunately we stay fit and healthy - still climbing hills and even getting round the odd slow 10k run. Daughter Sarah graduated in Medicine from Edinburgh in summer 2003 (like her Mum 28 years earlier!) Son Andrew's in 4th year Medicine, also at Edinburgh - but no room for hypochondriacs!!

MRS VINCENT GREENWOOD (Mary I Winchester) Nothing to report.

GILLIAN HENDERSON (1956-62)

Feb.04. Am in residence at Nethy for 3 weeks after my Mother's latest hip operation! Really enjoyed the last magazine. Otherwise still living in Perth, west Australia with my husband and children, Katie 15 and Hamish 12.

PETER HENDERSON (1964-68)

Continue to enjoy living in Perthshire where the family are all trying to improve their golf.

MRS P.A.M. HIGGINS (Pam MacPherson) (1949-56)

Arrival of the Mag brightened up a dark winter day. Had immediate gratification of out of body experience, from pensioner back to schooldays in the old school. Can't believe that Brenda McHattie and I have recently exchanged 60th birthday cards! Greatly appreciate the efforts of the FP's who send in contributions and the hard work of the committee who put it all together. We continue to embrace new experiences, the most recent being the arrival of our first litter of

(Border Terrier) puppies.

MRS JEAN HOGG (Cruickshank)

Have been busy with family visits during the summer holidays. Had a lovely time reminiscing with old friends from NAAFI days at Cromdale and laughing at old photos taken at Head Office in London.

ADAM IRVINE (1992-98)

Currently reading for a Masters in Molecular and Cellular Biochemistry at Lincoln College, Oxford (Trying to organise delivery of Old School ties and will be in touch - MM)

JOHN IRVING (1936-48)

Had replacement shoulder joint last year as a result of arthritis and now have at least 65% mobility.

SARAH JACK (1994-2000)

I am currently in my final year studying for an honours degree in Business Studies at the Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. Fingers crossed hopefully graduate in July of this year. I then plan to take up the offer of employment by Gyrodata Ltd. in Bridge of Don, Aberdeen as Operations Assistant.

GRACE M KIRK (1934-39)

Taking part in an Age Concern Project - assessing the introduction of the elderly to computer skills! Not yet utterly confounded.

LINDSAY LAING (WOOD)

Have given up Fork Lift sales in Hamilton, after 15 years with the Company, and have been living in Tunbridge Wells for the last three years running the Post Office, attached to son Nick's convenience store at High Brooms. My younger son Julian, works in Qatar, Persian Gulf, with the State Oil Company. He and Sam, whom he met there, are to be married in October. She is a Primary School Teacher and comes from Surrey. Brother Paddy's daughter is also getting married in Inverness at that time so we will have some driving about that fortnight. I'm sorry I missed the Reunion at Seafield Lodge. Obviously my mail was not re-directed.

IAN D MASSON

Daughter Elise now one year old. Just trying to get through a busy workload and spending as much time as I can with Sam and Elise. Second year up at the Garage and am very pleased with the way it is going. Would be stuck without Mam there! Had a great couple of weeks in Canada playing in the Pipe Band for the first week and relaxing second week with Sam's family. Work on the house almost completed - just need Sam to finish the painting and we will be there!!

MARGARET J MASSON (Stuart)

Still managing to keep busy with the Magazine, membership of the Grantown Heritage and all the grandchildren. Had some time off from helping Ian at his garage when I had my second knee replacement. Certainly makes life much easier!

ELIZABETH D MUTCH

Life goes on much as usual. I'm coping well thanks to my many friends and helpers. I enjoyed last year's magazine very much thanks to Jimmy Allan's reminiscences, most of which were my reminiscences also. Kind regards.

ELIZABETH M McCLELLAND (Lawrence) (1947-53)

Nothing to report this year.

ALISON McCONACHIE (Grant)

It has been much of the same since we last wrote in to the Magazine. I am still a playgroup leader helping the under 5's. The kids are great to work with - pity same couldn't be said for the mothers!!! The kids are getting older with Bruce in his last year at school. Keri is very much into horses at the moment with Rachael enjoying primary school.

GORDON McCONACHIE

I still work for the Scottish Executive keeping all the farmers in line. Am now Secretary of the SEERAD section of Prospect throughout Scotland and a member of the Scottish Branch Executive. I continue to be involved with the local gala and the local Community Council as well as retaining my links with the Grantown Show as Cattle Convenor.

JAMES MacDONALD (1943-45)

We have recently returned from a cruise along the north African coast visiting ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine sites. I think I have now seen as many piles of old stones that I want to see. For something more up-to-date we visited the War Cemetery at Benghazi and the battle site, the museum and cemetery at El Alamein. The holiday finished in Athens from where we flew home. Driving through Athens we wondered if the sites would be ready for the Olympic Games in two month's time. They didn't seem to have this problem in Nethy Bridge last August for the Games which were held on a very hot day. If they had Highland Dancing and Piping at the Olympics we would surely win some medals.

WILMA MacDONALD (WATT)

Back in Scotland again.(Aug 2004). Got up to Aberdeen for a couple of days but didn't make it to Grantown - just had too much on my plate. Actually came over to support my grandson when he was competing at the World Pipe Band Championships at Glasgow Green on August 14th. He plays pipes with the Beroni High School in South Africa and despite being very nervous at Worlds with 1,000 pipers and over 230 bands competing at different levels, they gave a very good account of themselves. They intend building on their present experience and hopefully come back to try again in 2 years time. While we were over here, Davis managed to arrange for my granddaughter to compete at Highland Gatherings. She has only been learning Highland Dancing for 16 months and at Dunfermline won the Trophy for her level, age 11 yrs and under. It's good to see their Scots blood coming to the fore in faraway South Africa. Managed to spend quite a bit of time with Jim (Thomson, 104 High Street) but all credit to Davis for all the organisation she did for events for the "South African invasion". Fortunately as everyone dispersed I did manage to get some free time with Davis, but I think we pulled our weight by helping her to move house, in all the confusion. I am also moving house for just Tom and I in S.A. and have abandoned Tom to get on with that himself! I love my native Scotland but I miss South Africa's sunshine. I'm now off to my daughter Catriona in Germany, then back to SA's blue skies.

DOUGLAS McINNES (Fifties!)

Retirement continues - with three ski holidays in different parts of Italy this season! Our social life has included attending a sixtieth birthday party for Duncan Howlett and a visit to the excellent "Strathspey in May" musical events. On a sad note, Andrew Ross died recently. Andrew was the son of Mrs Ross who was the Matron of the Ian Charles Hospital for many years. Although he wasn't an F.P. of Grantown, Andrew was frequently in the town and always at the Revack beating when he was a "loon". Andrew was a cheerful, good-natured friend to many of us from the late fifties onwards.

IRIS McINTOSH (Forbes) (1948-61)

Another busy year under our belts! Both Harry and I have had an enjoyable and action-packed twelve months - nothing exceptional but always on the go. Visits to Spalding, Links to see our two grandsons take up a lot of time and although our son is only 5 minutes walk away he too often calls with "Mum/Dad are you doing anything?" My own Mum landed in Ian Charles Hospital in December 2003 having had a nasty fall. She lost her confidence completely and is now awaiting a place in Grant House. Naturally visiting Grantown has taken up a lot of our time too. However, generally we have coped and are only glad we are both able to complete our list of "things to do"!!

LORNA McINTOSH (1976 - 1980)

Still working as a chef, although on third year of studying to become a counsellor. Been with my Aussie partner for ten years, still going strong. Very sadly lost my Dad in January, will miss his cheeky, jovial ways. I cycle to work, as I've done most of my working life, not as hazardous as when I used to cycle in London. Although my last trip home was horribly sad, it was also incredibly heartwarming, with the incredible support of family, friends and locals alike, I'll never forget that.

DONALD McINTRYE (1939 - 1941)

website: www.mcintyre.me.uk

Giving talks on geology to local groups. Now the "Father" of the Edinburgh Geological Society (elected Fellow in 1943). Revised and extended my website (address above) and made many interesting contacts through it. Share computing interests with my brother (Ranald) in Falkirk, Newsletter editor for Prostate Cancer Support Groups, Scotland.

RANALD McINTYRE (1939-43)

Delighted (after 51 years!!) to see the name John Holmes in the 2003 magazine. I only knew John for the 11 months and, John if you see this issue, the VERY best to you and yours. There are a few other names, who have been regular contributors, and perhaps they will excuse that I have not included a mention. Still active in all sorts of local issues in the Falkirk area. Bitterly disappointed that the "Falkirk Wheel", Europe's biggest tourist attraction, has not been developed as it should for the benefit of Falkirk and Scotland. Busy with the world of computers, and the wealth of good information available. Research of family tree has slowed down, back to early 1700's on both my parents' sides and also those of my wife. Now have 874 individual names. Regards to all who help in producing the magazine and everyone connected with the Grantown-on-Spey area.

ANGUS D MACKINTOSH (1942 - 1954)

Now happily retired to Strathspey. Keep active and busy walking the old, familiar hills, glens, moors and forests; meeting old and new friends and researching the Mackintosh and Grant family histories. Sadly, however, I must record the death of my mother, Edith Mackintosh BSc (1st class Hons, St Andrews 1925) teacher of Science, English and Primary subjects in GGS c. 1950 to c. 1966. She died in May 2004, just eight months after her 100th birthday celebrations, physically rather frail but mentally acute right to the end.

GILLIAN MACLEAN (ROSS) (1951 - 1964)

Our second grandchild was born on the 22nd March, a little brother for Hannah. Vikki is having a well earned break from her teaching job at the moment. Craig continues to do well at the cycling. This is Olympic year so all his efforts will be concentrated on doing well in Athens. We will be going out to support him and the rest of the British Track cycling squad.

ISOBEL MACLEAN

Seem to have lost touch since I moved from Glasgow four years ago. Enjoying my time in this

small seaside village.

MRS ELIZABETH E R McLEOD (MACGREGOR)

2003 was a very sad year for me and my family. Donnie, my very brave husband, lost his battle with the cruel illness Motor Neurone disease on 3rd January 2004.

MICHAEL McTAGGART

Getting older, but not wiser. Travelling and enjoying, skiing, photography, mountaineering (mild), grandchildren (five). Mother (Elsa McTaggart of Easter Gallovie) died at age 98 in January 2004 having then surviving 6 sons, 27 grandchildren and 38 great grandchildren. Have got within 500 miles of North Pole and hope to reach a similar distance from South Pole next year.

RACHEL NEWBOULD (SMITH) (1966 - 1978)

Still doing garden maintenance four days a week and my aromatherapy and reflexology on the other day. No longer involved with Golf Club so no more early mornings!Yeuk! Lots of celebrations this year with Mum and Dad's Golden Wedding and my eldest daughter's 16th birthday. Always busy with children, DIY, gardens etc. etc. Life is never quiet for a working Mum!

MARGARET OLLASON (GRANT) (1932-38)

I thoroughly enjoyed the 2003 magazine and thanks to all for the work.

BEATRICE OLIPHANT (1962 - 1966)

Spent a wonderful trip visiting relations in New Zealand and Australia. Attie and Betty Grant (formerly The Dairy) and family - Alistair, George and their families enjoy the lovely life style the NZ has to offer as do Jimmy and Nan Grant (formerly Spey Valley Hotel) and their families in Australia. I was excited to meet up with cousins who lives in the beautiful Blue Mountains north of Sydney and Ann and Alison in Adelaide. I was the surprise birthday present that turned up at Ann's 50th birthday party - a memorable night! I spent four glorious days with Alan and Di Grant in Sydney and both were first class tour guides. Alan and I had a wonderful afternoon chatting about Speyside and characters whilst enjoying champagne and oysters at Sydney Fish Market! Now back in Rogart I wouldn't mind going back for second helpings!!

ISOBEL ORFORD (Calder) (1937 - 1948)

It's almost May and we're still having snow flurries. We had our first green Christmas in 13 years and oh boy we have paid for it, the snow shovel worked overtime. Still keep busy with volunteer work, and as our son Les has just started up his own business we help out where we can. I enclose a cutting from our volunteers newspaper.

Now that I'm older, here's what I've discovered
I started with nothing, and I still have most of it.
My wild oats have turned into prunes and All bran.
I finally got my head together, now my body is falling apart.
If all is not lost, where is it?
I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.
If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees.

CATHERINE PARROTT (DOUGLAS) (1948-60)

Will be moving by end of summer to a retirement community in North Florida.

Dr R PHILIP

In 2005 the American Clan Grant Association are planning to return to Grantown and the Nethy Bridge Highland Games. I plan to be there again.

DAPHNE RITCHIE (Duncan) (1964-77)

Another year has sped past doing the same things – teaching, golfing, playing on my iMac, looking after spouse, etc. (Note the order of priority there.) Dramatic changes to my classroom can be seen on the school website www.ggschool.com. Look under Subjects, new business studies website, location, room 12. There's a new layout, new computers and even new colours on the walls. That will be my project for the Christmas holidays – developing that website and one for the Former Pupils' Club.

DAVIS ROBERTSON (THOMSON) (1958 - 1964)

Another great family reunion this summer when Wilma (Watt), daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren come over from S Africa for Pipe Band World Championships in Glasgow in August. Her grandson Chaylin (14) is playing with his school band Beroni High School Band. Her granddaughter Cendra (9) will also be competing at various Highland Dancing competitions. It takes us all back to our traditions in Grantown!! My brother Jimmy and wife will be up to join us as well so I won't weary during my summer HOLIDAY!! this year.

ALEXANDER ROSS (1957 - 1960)

Retired - nothing newsworthy to report

MARGARET ROSS (DAVIDSON)

Some Ross Family news. Gill's Vikki cheered us all up by adding a son (Jack) to her family in March. Meantime Hannah (5) started school and loves it - irrepressible! Disappointment for Craig with his continued health problems due to glandular fever, which unfortunately struck in this Olympic year. Despite hard training he had to relinquish his team place at the last minute. Knowing Craig's dedication and persistence I believe he'll bounce back before too long and certainly hope so. Johnnie's Nikki - after 3 years in Hong Kong much enjoyed, is home to Edinburgh where she hopes to teach Pure Maths and is at present offering her services! Calum continues work as Editor in Monarch of the Glen for a further year after which he is to do likewise in London for another theatrical presentation. Chay's family grows apace - Zoe added a son on May 22nd - another Calum to add to daughter Charley - Jackie and he are kept busy as it is with their two young boys Chay (10) and Struan (7) whose interest lie in tennis and rugby, swimming, cycling, badminton and trampolining - life is never dull for the Grannies in the family and they love it!!

MARGARET A ROSS (1940 - 1945)

From time to time I exchange letters with some of my GGS classmates of the 1940's. I have enjoyed TV's "Monarch of the Glen" especially when the train arrives at Glenbogle station. Folks are amazed when I tell them it is Broomhill, both of my childhood and the present Strathspey Steam Railway.

MRS CONSTANCE P SHAW (Gordon) (1928 - 1936)

Bank Officer retired. I haven't much news this time as I have just returned home after being in hospital for over ten weeks on bed rest with my leg ulcer. I amused myself with my "Travel Scrabble". I still do educative "scrap books" and also Sunday School ones. Best wishes to all my former class mates.

ELISE SELMAN (KIRK) (1934 - 1939)

During my years from 1933 to 1939 at G.G.S. a number of events of national importance both sad and joyful, took place. I remember on the death of George V, going to school between high walls

of cleared snow, wearing a black armband. Am I right in remembering a gathering in The Square to hear the announcement of the abdication of Edward VIII? Events like the coronation of George VI and Queen Elizabeth were celebrated with fancy dress parades up the High Street and I remember getting a lot of fun out of watching a slow cycle race with bicycles decorated with streamers of crepe paper. Every year (?) we had a lecture from O Henry on British Empire Day when we sat on the floor of the school hall. How things have changed!

IAIN & JOAN (FRASER) SMITH

Here we are - too late for 2003 and too early for 2004!! It was easy to sit back and vote for a continuing of the Biennial Dinner. All we had to do was enjoy a good meal and an evening of fellowship, but as always we are indebted to the committee and office bearers who, by their energy and enthusiasm, keep this club going.

MRS ISOBEL SPALDING (GUNN) (1926 - 1937)

Since a very bad fall at home at the end of October 2003 when I broke my breastbone (sternum) and did other damage to my brittle bones I have been in and out of hospital getting injections and surgery for the dreadful pains, especially around my left hip and thigh, but nothing seems to help. I cannot manage much longer on my own, and may have to move into a residential home or nursing home. I have been shown around one here in Aberdeen, has a waiting list of course. Thought at one time of moving back to Grantown, will have to see what the family say and other things to think about.

BARBARA STOREY (SMITH) (1969 - 1975)

We enjoyed a trip back in Grantown in April to join Mum and Dad in celebrating their Golden Wedding. The Garth Hotel did us proud again and we had a wonderful family weekend. We are now preparing for Catriona to fly the nest as she commences a degree course in Interior Architecture at Nottingham Trent University in September.

THOMAS B STUART (1937 - 1950)

Two family weddings to report. My youngest son Alex, married Julie, an Australian girl he met in Bali while backpacking around the world. They were married in the historic church at Bray (by the Vicar of course) and have now taken up residence in Sydney. Holidays to Australia are now a definite possibility. Then my eldest son Brodie went to Spain on holiday with his long term partner, Clair, and got married secretly in Gibraltar. Two Austrian backpackers, hi-jacked off the street, were the witnesses. They are now living in High Wycombe, so holidays on that front are not too attractive. No matrimonial sounds yet from middle son Lachie. He is too busy working for the Scottish Executive in Edinburgh, trying to solve the Fishing Industry problems.

ALISTAIR SURTEES (1930 - 1942)

Very little to report this year. I am off to Italy in September but apart from that nothing exciting to tell.

ELSPIT SUTHERLAND (McINTOSH) (1944 - 1947)

Enjoyed the magazine - thank you! Have enjoyed all visits to Nethy Bridge, particularly now the water supply has improved! Broken ankle still painful but improving and did not stop us enjoying the Jazz Festival in Bute, a weekend in Pitlochry and we are very much looking forward to visiting friends in Norway. Grandchildren are growing apace and love Nethy Bridge.

BILL & RITA TEMPLETON (MARSHALL)

At the last minute - as usual- with my entry - in fact I got a telling off from secretary Margaret (Masson) for not having this in ages ago - and now here I am in the middle of September trying to catch up! It does not seem a year since the magazine was last prepared and in all truth Margaret

does a great deal of work during the summer and autumn months putting it all together and didn't she make a great job of it in 2003. This past year has flown past - Rita and I had our usual quota of "breaks" with our customary visits to Skye in March, Oban in April and Ullapool in June. Then it was off in July to Ayr and Troon for The Open. We then went on from there to Bamburgh in Northumberland for a very pleasant week - playing golf and touring - including a sail out to The Farne Islands to see thousands of sea birds and visit to the Longstone Lighthouse - famous for Grace Darling's epic rescue of sailors in 1838. No doubt the wander bug will see us having another one or two short breaks before the winter sets in!

MAREE THOMPSON

I'm sitting in an internet cafe in Maastricht, Netherlands. I moved here yesterday from Frankfurt, Germany. I gave up my job with Standard Life for a good opportunity with Clerical Medical International as a Business Analyst. Family wise everything is fine. Mum is selling the house in Grantown, she has already moved to Edinburgh. Gareth is a manager in a bar somewhere and my other half TJ is a Cinema manager/student. All in all things are going well. Hope this finds everyone fine. Hope to visit Grantown either next summer or the summer after - depending on work.

MRS T S B THOMSON (Mortimer)

My husband and I celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary in November 2003. We were treated to a very happy family party at a niece's home in Perth. The guests were mostly Thomsons because I have very few Mortimer relatives now, but Marlene Fraser and Margaret Carstairs (nee McWilliam) were there with their husbands and I think enjoyed fellowship and friendship. Life goes on as usual with the occasional trip up to Grantown meeting a few kent faces. I enjoyed the '03 Biennial very much and hopefully look forward to the next. Thanks to all of you who work so hard to keep us in touch. Current magazine is great.

HUGH TULLOCH (1930 - 1942)

Hildegard had a total left knee replacement about 18 months ago; the Orthopaedic surgeon is very pleased with his work, but she has intermittent pain. She plays a fair amount of Bridge, to which I ferry her in the "mini van" - very comfortable and easy to load with groceries. I do the shopping and breakfasts and dishes (by machine admittedly) and three evening meals per week are delivered by an agency "Helping Hand". Shopping is not, I find, like brain surgery, as the Americans I suppose first put it. Another comparison I used to like was .. "nat like rocket science". All true, but it sure takes time. My health is not at all bad and I sail a bit in my own 13 foot Enterprise dinghy, and in heavier blows in a friend's Catalina 22 feet. We race once or twice a weekend, very informally, but the Club has lately discovered handicaps, which didn't help us much. Christine tells me she has decided against surgery for a third time on her right knee, the patella, because it's not too painful. Her hip operation was successful, as those mostly seem to be. She enjoys the occasional bus tour of England and parts of Scotland and will spend Christmas in Paris with a Glasgow friend, Kate Mulvey. Her daughter, son-in-law and two grandsons are within reach of Swansea in Swanborough, Wiltshire. She has two electric scooters for getting about - the smaller having insufficient battery life for longer trips. I'm unsure about the logic, but possibly the short trip machine was the first to be bought. I use my Pentium II - I forget which - a fair amount; as we know it can be very frustrating at times, but mostly very helpful. I have a history of mistakes, not reading the manual, not listening to good advice. Example: I thought it smart to save letters, spreadsheets, everything on 3.5" diskettes, and have accumulated 400 of them! A huge access database means I can sort them by about seven columns - so what! Slowly I have become convinced by wiser friends, in guise of unpaid gurus, that my documents on the hard drive is the best place to save to; if upgrading from Win98SE to Win ME, as I have recently done, it is so easy to move the entire My Docs to say an Iomega Zip disc, then back again once ME is running. There remains the chore of moving all 400 discs to the hard drive...

MRS ELLA WALMSLEY (SLATER) (1940 - 48)

My husband died suddenly. He had been getting weaker and it was a great shock when he passed away. The family has been very helpful but do not live near so it is difficult. I thought what a bumper event last year's magazine was. Keep up the good work all the helpers.

MRS ANTHONY WICKENS (IRENE LORNIE) (1946-53)

Unfortunately I never received a copy of the mail shot issued by Bill Templeton regarding proposals to hold a Reunion Dinner in March 2003 and only found out about it when I received my copy of the 2003 magazine. I would love to have visited Grantown to attend it. I sincerely hope to attend the next Reunion Dinner in March/April 2005 and I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to meet up again with old friends.

SHEINA WESTON (DONALDSON)

I have put my brother's new address on my form. He is still in Kamloops and has retired, but is still doing locum work. Of Keith's three daughters, two are married and live in Vancouver. The eldest lives in Switzerland and works for the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. We have three sons and the youngest was married this year to his partner of 12 years! You can imagine the comments - "about time too!". The eldest was 40 the day after Peter's wedding, so we had quite a lot to celebrate. I want to pay a compliment to one of my fellow classmates. From my school friend May McKenzie, I got a book at Christmas. It was entitled "Skirlie & Tatties" by Nancy Forsyth, whom I remember as Nancy Gray. I enjoyed the book very much, not only because it brought back memories of my happy schooldays, but also because I enjoyed her story. My Grandmother had a farm near Keith, and the descriptions and dialect words made me very nostalgic about my youth and holidays on the farm. My Mother, too, made skirlie. We look forward to meeting up again at the next reunion with classmates. Roy has been to so many reunions that he feels quite at home, despite being an Englishman! Thank you for all the work done by the committee in Grantown.

KAY WILSON (ROSS) (1976-81)

Still working with the Education Dept. of Local Council but have increased my hours and am now also working at one of the local Secondary Schools, two days a week. Didn't go down so well with my eldest boy Craig but he's found out that it's quite handy having Mum in the school!! Boys are now both playing rugby for Alloa and are doing well. Contemplating what to ask for my 40th Birthday later in the year. Anyone interested in a reunion, who was in school with me can meet up at the Grantown Show marquee dance on 12 August. (Too late for this year I'm afraid!-MM)

NEW RECRUITS

Lawrence Nicolson Carlo Belleni, Craggan Mill, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3NT. Aquatic Bioscientist or Marine Biologist

Mathew Grant Bettoli, Bisley, Woodside Avenue, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3JR. Don't know as yet. Going to take a year out to think about it. Maybe Sports Management.

Hannah Gordon, Eilean-Donan, Coulnakyle, Nethybridge PH25 3EA. Going to study Sport and Exercise at Heriot Watt.

Jamie D R Harrower, St Michaels, Station Road, Carr Bridge PH23 3AN. Chemical Engineering.

William James Laird, Holmlea, 1 Forest Road, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HE. Mechanical Engineer.

Danielle Elizabeth MacKenzie, Kintail, Main Street, Carr-Bridge PH23 3AA. Going to Napier University to study Marketing Management hopefully.

Jamie MacKenzie, Kintail, Main Street, Carr-Bridge. RAF, Lossiemouth.

Robert William MacCaskill, 37 Lynstock Crescent, Nethy Bridge PH25 3DX. Go to Strathclyde then become a Civil Engineer.

Faye Christine McLeod, Monadhliath, Old Speybridge, Grantown-on-Spey. Possibly University to study Health Care in the near future or take a gap year.

Moray Robert Notman, 45 Strathspey Drive, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3EY. Heriot Watt University to study International Management or gap year.

Martin James Ross, School House, Cromdale Road, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HT. No idea as yet. Taking a year out to decide.

George Kenneth Shannon, Kenan, Mossie Road, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3HE. Occupational Psychology or Human Resource Management.

Tana Walker, Drumullie Steading, Boat of Garten PH24 3BX. Something related to horses.

Malcolm Weir, 6 Crannich Park, Carrbridge PH23 3BD. Gap year.

Hollie Wilkinson, 17 Grampian Crescent, Boat of Garten PH24 3BJ. Taking some time off to work with horses then either to Uni or straight to joining the Met Police.

Gemma Robertson, East Lodge, Castle Grant, Grantown-on-Spey PH26 3PS. Going to Aberdeen to study Primary Education.

Amy Louise Butler, Seafield Cottage, Station Road, Carrbridge PH23 3AN. Abertay University - Computer Arts.

Finlay Murray, Braevar, Main Road, Carrbridge PH23 3AA. Information Technology - Network Analyst

Ben M S Harrower, St Michaels, Station Road, Carr-Bridge PH23 3AN. Game Keeping/Estate Work

OBITUARY (we apologise for any omissions)

Miss Jeannette Munro formerly 38 Kyalintra Crescent and latterly of Mount Barker, Grantown-on-Spey

Sympathetic mention to Angus Mackintosh and Marjory White on the death of their mother, Mrs Edith Mackintosh BSc (Honours), formerly of Bracklinn, Grant Road and latterly of 6 West Montrose Street, Helensburgh.

Mrs Elizabeth MacGregor on the death of her husband Donnie.

Mrs Elma Walmsley on the sudden death of her husband.

Mrs Margaret Brocklehurst on the sad death of her daughter.

Mrs Elise Selman on the death of her husband Geoffrey

Lorna MacKintosh on the death of her father Andy.

Michael McTaggart on the death of his mother.

CONTRIBUTION by JRA

Travelling from Nethy Bridge to Grantown - 200 yards past the entrance to Balliefurth farm on our left we see, at the edge of the road on the opposite side, a small cairn. On the 24th April 1860 the farmer of Tomdhu was travelling home on his horse and cart from Auchernack. The horse arrived - but no farmer. The cairn marks the spot where his body was found - he presumably having died of a heart attack. He was John Allan, my great grandfather. It would be of interest if readers know of other cairns in the district.